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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name McLoughlin Promenade
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 7.8-acre park running along Singer Hill bluff, 1 block west of High St. not for publication
city or town Oregon City vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Clackamas code 005 zip code 97045

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

[Signature] 3-5-14
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

 Signature of commenting official Date

 Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
- other (explain.)

[Signature] 5/15/14
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		district
1		site
3		structure
		object
4	0	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.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor
recreation

RECREATION AND CULTURE: work of art

LANDSCAPE: park

LANDSCAPE: natural features

TRANSPORTATION: pedestrian-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor
recreation

RECREATION AND CULTURE: work of art

LANDSCAPE: park

LANDSCAPE: natural features

TRANSPORTATION: pedestrian-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Stone and Concrete Waterfall

Other: Stone and Concrete Staircase

Other: Stone and Concrete Promenade

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: STONE:Basalt; METAL:Steel;
CONCRETE

roof: N/A

other:

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The McLoughlin Promenade is a historic park site along the edge of Oregon City's prominent bluff which was donated to the people of Oregon City by Dr. John McLoughlin in 1851. Between 1936 and 1939, the contributing park site was improved by three distinct but connected contributing structures constructed of locally quarried basalt and concrete. These structures are locally significant, as examples of Oregon City's direct response to trends in local, state and national history. The first element is a 2,300-foot-long, multi-use, stone and concrete pathway that runs along the bluff approximately 100-feet above historic downtown Oregon City.¹ The path includes approximately 1,400 linear feet of stone parapet wall. The second element is known as the Grand Staircase. It consists of a stone and concrete stairway at the north end of the multi-use path that leads down the bluff and curves south to meet the Municipal Elevator tunnel north of 7th Street in downtown Oregon City. A second leg of the Grand Staircase, known as the Singer Hill Road underpass, crosses below Singer Hill to the east of the Promenade, and rises through two short flights of stairs to the grassy lawns surrounding the McLoughlin House. The third structure is a man-made waterfall consisting of five concrete shelves over which Singer Creek flows from the bluff to downtown. It sits just north of the Grand Staircase and the two intertwine on the steep descent. The waterfall terminates above 8th Street in downtown Oregon City.

By the end of 1939, all three elements had been constructed on the site of features that predate Euro-American settlement, including paths used by Native Clowwewalla, Cashhok and Molalla tribes for hundreds of years. The promenade's current features were constructed of local basalt and concrete with the help of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The park has been well maintained by the City of Oregon City, as well as by local residents who take pride in caring for its landscaping. The Promenade was recently restored by stone masons who were able to repair degraded stone and concrete elements while retaining the rustic character of the original materials. The landscape features and the three contributing structures retain excellent integrity.

Narrative Description

URBAN SETTING

Oregon City possesses a unique and dramatic topography atop a series of bluffs rising east of the Willamette River. This challenging landscape shaped the patterns of city development and the development of the McLoughlin Promenade. Downtown Oregon City sits on a narrow basalt shelf near Willamette Falls. A sheer cliff wall covered in natural vegetation, including grasses and shrubs, along with some native trees and basalt outcroppings, rises east of this narrow shelf. In 1851, Dr. John McLoughlin donated a narrow strip of land along the city's dramatic bluff to the people of Oregon City to be used as a public park. The same boundaries remain in place today. The Promenade's walkway runs along the bluff's edge. The stair and waterfall provide the public with an opportunity to appreciate the dramatic natural beauty of the cliff and its native vegetation. Each of the promenade's three structures, along with the unique details of its setting, is described below.

MCLOUGHLIN PROMENADE

General Setting

The Promenade's primary walkway runs largely north and south along the western edge of the city's steep basalt cliff. This location provides spectacular views of downtown, the power-generating Willamette Falls, and the Oregon City-West Linn bridge, one of the first bridges designed by Oregon's renowned state bridge

¹ The multi-use path is paved and usable by pedestrians, wheelchair users, and bicyclists.

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engineer, Conde McCullough. The path also provides views of the natural vegetation growing along the basalt cliff. The walkway forms the western edge of a manicured park that provides a narrow barrier of varying widths between the residential and commercial buildings to the east and the cliff's edge to the west.

East

East of the park, the city's second level is fully developed with a mix of commercial, civic, and residential buildings. These include a commercial corridor on 7th Street, which runs east and west and connects public buildings including City Hall, the Oregon City Carnegie Library, and the historic McLoughlin House museum, part of the first National Historic Site in the west. The area atop the bluff also includes many of Oregon City's historic homes. These late-19th and early-20th century buildings are now part of the McLoughlin Conservation District, as is the McLoughlin Promenade. The McLoughlin Conservation District is bordered on the west by the bluff and includes roughly nine developed blocks to the east, ending at Van Buren Street. The district is bound by Clinton Street on the south, and by 14th Street on the north.²

The narrow Promenade park encompasses the pathway and includes mature shade trees, plantings, and grassy lawns, along with occasional rock outcroppings. Picnic areas and resting points are fitted with non-contributing metal benches and non-historic signage commemorating the conservation district and the volunteers who donated time and materials to landscaping the park. Twelve non-contributing light posts were added to the park in 1972.

The promenade is easily accessible from the east-west streets that terminate at the park's eastern boundary.

West

To the west, the pathway offers breathtaking views of downtown Oregon City below. The Promenade looks directly over the Willamette Falls, as well as historic industrial buildings most recently associated with the Blue Heron Paper Mills. North and south of the falls are unobstructed views of the Willamette River. Other views along the path include the historic downtown, the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, which run along the foot of the bluff and are still in use by commercial and passenger rail, and a small stretch of Oregon 99E, a WPA project.

North

Near the northern boundary of the walkway is the 1955 Oregon City Municipal Elevator, a unique, futurist, outdoor elevator tower that carries passengers between the bluff and the historic downtown below. North of the elevator, the Promenade runs beside Singer Hill Road, the primary vehicular corridor between the city's two main levels. The promenade runs north along Singer Hill Road only briefly before turning west and connecting with the Grand Staircase, which is cut into the bluff and leads pedestrians down into the historic downtown.

South

At its southern boundary, the pathway terminates at a parking lot for the Clackamas County Veterans Memorial Building, a Quonset hut placed at the south end of the Promenade's park in 1949 (note that the Quonset hut is not a part of the Promenade park district). Here, the grade changes, the walkway, and parapet end north of Tumwater Drive, and the landscape returns to developed city blocks with amenities including the Museum of the Oregon Territory. Near its southern terminus, the Promenade's walkway meets a metal catwalk, or pedestrian bridge, that passes west over Oregon 99E and connects to stairs down to the city's first level. The pedestrian bridge was likely constructed as an improvement to the Pacific Highway, or Oregon 99E, which runs along the foot of the bluff and was widened in 1936-37 to four lanes as part of an historic paving

² The McLoughlin Conservation District was designated in 1986, after residents began to fear for the historic building stock in the neighborhood atop the bluff. It includes many city landmarks, including the McLoughlin (1846) and Barclay houses (1849), which sit together on a National Historic Site, and the Ermatinger House (1845). These three buildings were moved up to the bluff from their original locations in downtown. A map of the district and details concerning a possible future National Register District are available on the city's website, currently accessible at <http://www.orcity.org/planning/mcloughlin-conservation-district>.

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project.³ The pedestrian bridge, with concrete deck and metal railings, was constructed sometime between 1936 and 1950, the first year it appears on historic maps.⁴ Unlike the Promenade improvements, the pedestrian bridge includes no stone elements, is not rustic in style, and is not included within the boundaries of the McLoughlin Promenade.⁵

Southwest of the pedestrian bridge is a viewpoint for the Willamette Falls. The viewpoint features parapet walls of locally quarried basalt constructed in the 1920s. These predate the Depression-era improvements made to the McLoughlin Promenade. These are low stone walls with wide arches, similar to other historic parapet walls constructed in Oregon in the early years of the 20th century. The walls define the Willamette Falls viewpoint and line the roadside. They appear to have been moved west to accommodate the widening of Oregon 99E in the 1930s.⁶

Pathway

The Promenade features a graded, ten-foot-wide walkway with a concrete sidewalk edged on the west by a basalt parapet wall with posts and rails. The wall's stonework varies along its 2,300-foot length. The primary pathway flows north and south with the contours of the bluff, forming the western edge of the 7.8-acre linear park.

On its northern edge, the Promenade begins with a sidewalk along Singer Hill Road. Approximately half way up the bluff, the city sidewalk widens into a 10-foot-wide, concrete path. There, a permanently installed sign commemorates the Singer Hill Trail, which was long used by Native tribes to traverse the bluff. A leg of the walkway veers west and connects with the Grand Staircase and the Singer Creek Falls. The main walkway continues south beside Singer Hill Road. When Singer Hill Road veers east away from the bluff, the pathway veers with it, briefly leaving the cliff and the stone wall before making a wide western curve at the juncture of Singer Hill Road and 7th Street to return to the cliff's edge. The path therefore diverges around a narrow planting strip with grasses, shrubs, and a small, non-contributing, concrete utility building with a curved roof.

The Promenade returns to the cliff north of the Municipal Elevator. Pedestrians can step directly from the Promenade onto the elevator's observation deck. The path continues south along the bluff's edge, passing a narrow strip of Modern office buildings to the east before the park widens, bordered on the east by historic residences. City signs identify the park and the hours of operation. A number of variations are built into the length of the walkway. Where a portion of the cliff juts further to the west, a V-shaped viewpoint was installed with excellent views of Willamette Falls. Further south, the Promenade meets the pedestrian bridge which heads west over the top of Highway 99E to descend into town. As noted above, the Promenade's walkway terminates at a parking lot just north of Tumwater Drive.

Piers, Railings and Walls

The Promenade forms a continuous pedestrian path from the Singer Hill Trail sign south to Tumwater Drive. Though the path is paved in concrete consistently throughout, the railings and walls differ depending on location and the promenade's relationship to its surrounding uses. Variation is found mostly in the northern section.

South from the northern terminus, the railing is made up of 15-inch high basalt walls capped in concrete and topped by two round, horizontal metal rails at the three-foot level. Anchoring the rails are square piers

³ Oregon State Highway Commission, *Fourteenth Biennial Report of the Oregon State Highway Commission for the Period July 1, 1938 to June 30, 1940*, Salem: State Printing Dept., 1940, 45.

⁴ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Oregon City, 1950. Available through the City of Oregon City.

⁵ Though the Oregon 99E improvements are distinct from the Promenade, the two projects do share one interesting element. Both incorporate balustrades of vertical metal rods joined by horizontal bars. This railing flanks the entrance to the Municipal Elevator. The same railing also runs along the western edge of Oregon 99E near the Singer Hill Underpass.

⁶ The date of construction for this stretch of 99E is in dispute. Some sources suggest it was constructed between 1934 and 1935, as in "A Chronological History of ODOT, 1899-1993," [<http://archive.is/v7U8Z>], accessed January 2014.

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constructed of rock-faced stone. Walls and piers are ornamented with prominent beaded joints. This wall form continues south and then terminates once the path has made its wide turn to the west. The western-most portion of the turn includes a shallow stone curb. When the path rejoins the cliff, it meets a solid wall of roughly dressed, random-coursed basalt with the same large, prominent joints. This wall form continues only briefly, ending approximately 100 feet north of the Municipal Elevator. There, the wall is replaced with a metal fence consisting of 1-inch-square, vertical rods tied by horizontal bars to rock-faced, coursed-stone piers. These piers are 4-feet-tall and 14 inches square, set about ten-and-a-half feet apart. This fence continues to the elevator's observation deck, and then continues south of the elevator for another hundred feet.⁷ Across the Promenade path from the elevator, a rock wall was constructed along the path's eastern edge. This wall separates the Promenade from the modern-era office buildings to the elevator's southeast. This basalt wall proceeds south from the Elevator for approximately 100 feet. This wall is coursed rubble, 42-inches high, capped in concrete, between piers approximately four-feet-high and 18-inches square. The remainder of the promenade wall, approximately 1,300 feet long, follows a distinct pattern. It includes a 15-inch high base of basalt capped with concrete and, as described in a 1993 Request for Determination of Eligibility, "square reinforced concrete bars set horizontally at the two foot level, angled to resemble a wooden split rail fence."⁸

GRAND STAIRCASE

Setting

The Grand Staircase is cut into the rock of the basalt cliff separating Oregon City's two primary levels. It is supported near the top by tall walls of randomly coursed basalt. The Grand Staircase begins north of the Municipal Elevator on the bluff at the northern terminus of the McLoughlin Promenade. The stair leads west from the Promenade to make a wide southern arc down the hill. It terminates in a smooth pathway leading into the northern tunnel to the Municipal Elevator, just north of 7th Street in downtown Oregon City. The Grand Staircase is surrounded by native vegetation growing on the face of the basalt cliff, including grasses and mature oak trees. Natural outcroppings of basalt are visible. The Grand Staircase also intertwines with the Singer Creek Falls, allowing pedestrians to get a close look at the manmade falls of concrete and stone. The Grand Staircase was constructed along the path once used by Native Americans who descended from the bluff to trade and fish on the banks of the river. Views from the Grand Staircase include downtown Oregon City, the Municipal Elevator, and the railroad tracks cut into the foot of Singer Hill.

Staircase

On the bluff, the staircase begins at the terminus of the McLoughlin Promenade. The stairs lead down the cliff, dropping quickly out of sight of the roadway and its traffic noise. The stair quickly makes a half turn and heads south. As the stair heads south, it runs along a solid east wall of coursed, rock-faced basalt. A concrete platform sits at the bottom of the first flight of the Grand Staircase and the Staircase splits into two legs. One leg leads into the square opening of a pedestrian tunnel in the rock wall heading east. The tunnel is known as the Singer Hill Road underpass. The tunnel's walls are made of coursed, rock-faced stone. This underpass, lit by lights recessed into the smooth concrete ceiling, runs east under Singer Hill Road and climbs up a series of concrete steps to the grounds of the McLoughlin House on the east side of Singer Hill Road. On the east side of the Singer Hill Road underpass, walls and stairs are consistent with those of the Grand Staircase. Walls are made of coursed, rock-faced basalt with wide, beaded joints. Steps are concrete with a shallow rise. As the stair rises east of Singer Hill Road, the stair splits into two flights, one rising east toward the McLoughlin House, and one rising south to connect with pedestrian sidewalks on the east side of 7th Street.

⁷ The metal fencing does not match any other fencing along the Promenade. From historic photos, it appears that the metal railing was a safety improvement installed in association with the city's first municipal elevator, which met the bluff at the same location when it was completed in 1915. The railing is similar to other rails constructed in Oregon City in association with Oregon 99E improvements dating from the early decades of the 20th century.

⁸ A request for determination of eligibility was prepared for the Promenade and the Municipal Elevator by Christine A. Curran for the Department of Transportation in October 1994. It detailed materials and measurements, and can be referenced through the state of Oregon's Historic Sites Database: <http://heritagedata.prd.state.or.us/historic/>.

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The second leg of the Grand Staircase heads southwest, leading down the cliff, where it terminates at the Oregon City Municipal Elevator's northern tunnel at 7th Street and Railroad Avenue downtown. The main leg of the Grand Staircase is wide, with concrete stairs with a shallow rise. The stair is supported on either side by 15-inch high walls of rock-faced stone capped in concrete. These are topped by two round, metal rails at the three foot level. These tie to square, basalt piers of coursed rubble. The Grand Staircase's wall and railings match those running along the northern section of the McLoughlin Promenade pathway in design and materials.

The staircase includes an unusually shallow rise, reflecting an earlier era. According to a quote from an Oregon City staff member, "They have a strange rise and run – a very short rise and long run. That's because they were originally constructed to allow horses to go up them."⁹ The rise appears to be less than six inches, and the run is approximately eighteen inches. The stairway is roughly eight feet wide.

SINGER CREEK FALLS

Setting

Singer Creek once ran freely atop the bluff. It ran west toward the cliff and dropped to the city's first level on its path to the Willamette River. Much of Singer Creek is now running underground. Though the creek is no longer visible atop the bluff, a waterfall was incorporated into the Grand Staircase to showcase the water's path down the hill.

The waterfall is surrounded by natural vegetation, including the grasses, shrubs and trees of the cliff face. The water collects in a pool near the railroad tracks that are cut into the bluff's foot at the intersection of 8th Street and Railroad Avenue. A smooth, concrete retaining wall divides the waterfall from the street below. That retaining wall includes a non-contributing public art project defined as a "stainless steel bas-relief sculpture" designed by local artist Lee Kelly and installed in 2011 by the Rotary Club to mark the falls' 75th year.¹⁰ The sculpture consists of large, abstract stainless steel geometric figures adhered to the retaining wall. The sculpture is called "Moontrap," and the artist is quoted in a newspaper article saying that his inspiration was the movement of water over the falls.¹¹ (see Photo 15 in Additional Documentation)

Waterfall

Singer Creek Falls is a manmade waterfall that directs Singer Creek into a tiered channel flowing down the bluff and running underground again at 8th Street in downtown Oregon City. The water gushes through a square opening in the staircase's eastern wall of basalt. The water flows north under a leg of the staircase and enters a tiered, man-made waterfall that directs the water down the bluff. The waterfall is cut into the surface of the bluff and consists of a concrete-lined channel that directs the water over a series of five concrete shelves flanked by low walls of locally quarried basalt and concrete. The shelves themselves are flat, concrete slabs, approximately 20 feet wide, with ten to twelve feet between them.¹² A pool at the bottom of the staircase drains to an underground system that diverts the creek to the Willamette River.

CONDITION

The city has maintained the McLoughlin Promenade since it was completed in 1939, but deterioration has occurred over time. By the turn of the 21st-century, the Promenade's stone wall and rail were in need of restoration in order to maintain the safety and usability of the structure. A contractor completed a survey of

⁹ Laura Butler, quoted in an article by Justin Carinci, entitled "Promenade wall won't come tumbling down." *The Daily Journal of Commerce*, June 4, 2010.

¹⁰ "Internationally Recognized Sculptor brings public art to Oregon City," *The Portland Oregonian*, November 1, 2011.

¹¹ "Internationally Recognized Sculptor brings public art to Oregon City," *The Portland Oregonian*, November 1, 2011.

¹² No plans were found associated with the original construction of the waterfall and pathway. These details are taken from a series of articles from the *Portland Oregonian* from May of 1936.

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the Promenade's condition in 2001, and found severely weathered mortar joints, rusted iron railings, cracked and spalling concrete, missing and broken concrete rails, and rusting rebar.¹³

The City took a phased approach to restoration. Phase 1, completed in 2004, refurbished the iron rails, replaced portions of sidewalk, and repaired large holes and missing stair nosings. Phase 2, completed in 2005, resulted in the mortar joint restoration on the east wall of the Grand Staircase. Later phases, completed in 2010, included stonework (graffiti abatement, repointing of joints, resetting of cracked stone); concrete repair (repaired spalling; replaced failed railings); and repairs along the Grand Staircase (replacing concrete slabs; rebuilding the Grand Staircase).

No documentation has been found regarding earlier restoration work. However, local historians believe that the Promenade went through a similar repair project in the 1960s.

Alterations within the Historic Period

- 1936-1939: Construction of the Promenade, the Grand Staircase and Singer Falls
Ca. 1955: The Grand Staircase was altered with the construction of the new Municipal Elevator
1960s: Possible restoration project.

Alterations outside the Historic Period

- 1969: The Kiwanis Club of Oregon City begins restoring Promenade Park by clearing overgrown brush
1972: Twelve light poles are added to Promenade Park to light the pathway
1974: A marker is installed commemorating the work of the Kiwanis Club volunteers
2004: Phase 1 restoration is completed
2005: Phase 2 restoration is completed
2010: Final restoration is completed
2011: An art installation is completed along the retaining wall below Singer Creek Falls by the Rotary Club of Oregon.

¹³ This condition assessment taken from internal city documents on file with the City of Oregon City, undated.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

CRITERION A: Politics/Government

CRITERION A: Recreation and Culture

CRITERION C: Engineering

Period of Significance

1939 - 1963: Date of Construction

Significant Dates

1939: Date of Construction

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Franzen, John L.: Designer

Period of Significance (justification)

The Promenade was constructed between 1936 and 1939. It was a WPA project designed to beautify the linear park donated by Dr. John McLoughlin to the City of Oregon City, and to provide work for Oregonians during the Great Depression.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraphs (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The McLoughlin Promenade is defined as the walkway, Singer Creek Falls, and the Grand Staircase, along with the Singer Creek underpass, which are all set within historic park lands. Locally significant, the Promenade is eligible under two criteria with three Areas of Significance. As a WPA project, it is significant under Criterion A: Politics/Government for its association with Oregon City's local response to the Great Depression and the resulting New Deal programs that kept Oregonians working through the turbulent 1930s. Also under Criterion A, the Promenade is eligible under the theme of Recreation and Culture for its longtime use as a public park. The Promenade is also significant under Criterion C: Engineering as an excellent example of materials and methods of construction used in rustic stone masonry along transportation routes and on city park sites throughout Oregon in the early 20th Century.

The McLoughlin Promenade was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office on October 31, 1994. A Request for a Determination of Eligibility, prepared by the Oregon Department of Transportation, documented the connection between the Promenade and the work of the WPA, noting that construction of the basalt wall along the Promenade was one of three WPA projects from 1938 to encourage city-wide growth, development, and beautification.¹⁴ The stone masonry wall and railing structure are also significant for their style and means of construction. Park architecture of the Great Depression often followed principles of rustic design developed by the National Park Service during the early decades of the 20th century. The McLoughlin Promenade is an excellent, regional example of the rustic style. It expresses its character through natural materials, rough-hewn surfaces, and subtle ornament that blends into the landscape to enhance the natural beauty of the site. The Promenade structures are significant park enhancements built by WPA workers to highlight the beauty of Oregon City's dramatic bluff, to enhance a historic park enjoyed by Oregon City residents since it was donated in 1851 by Dr. John McLoughlin, and to put Oregonians to work during the nation's most severe economic crisis to date.

The McLoughlin Promenade has received in-kind repairs over the years, and a small number of non-contributing improvements, including light standards, have been added to the park land. The stairway was altered near its termination at the foot of the bluff to accommodate a new municipal elevation in 1955, but the pathway, the stairs and the waterfall otherwise retain their original design, materials and workmanship. They remain in their original locations and retain integrity of site and setting, continuing to enhance the natural assets of the park. The Promenade also retains significant integrity of feeling and association.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Politics/Government

The McLoughlin Promenade is significant under Criterion A: Politics/Government for its associations with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Great Depression. The WPA was a nationwide, federal program that helped states and local communities respond to the Great Depression with a combination of construction and service projects designed to provide work relief for men and women of various skill levels. Federal programs like the WPA, and the Public Works Administration (PWA), had a tremendous effect on Oregon, building the Bonneville Dam (1933-38), Timberline Lodge (1937), and Oregon's state capitol building (1938). The WPA also employed researchers, writers and artists through programs like the Oregon Federal Theater Project and the Oregon Federal Writers Project.

In Oregon City, the urban landscape was permanently altered by WPA and PWA construction projects, including road work on Oregon 99E, including the construction of an underpass through Singer Hill (1937), the construction of the Clackamas County Courthouse downtown (1937), and the construction of the McLoughlin Promenade (1939). The Promenade project was managed by Oregon City's City Manager, J.L. Franzen, and

¹⁴ Christine A. Curran, *Request for Determination of Eligibility for the Oregon City Municipal Elevator and McLoughlin Promenade*, Oregon Department of Transportation, October, 1994. Accessible through the Oregon Historic Sites Database.

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constructed using public funds over a period of three years in one of the most significant parks in Oregon City. The park's improvements met a number of the WPA's primary goals: it put people to work near their homes; it employed skilled and unskilled craftsmen; and it improved a city park with compatible structures that highlight the city's natural assets, including the Willamette River, the bluff, and Singer Creek.

Projects like the Promenade were also thought to have a positive psychological impact on both workers and park visitors. The Promenade features views of the city's industrial district, providing residents with an opportunity to reflect on the historic downtown and its patterns of commercial and industrial growth. Added viewpoints look over the Willamette Falls, the historic inspiration for the early settlement site. The project also provides opportunities for visitors to engage with the natural landscape of the bluff, enjoying unique views from the walkway and from the Grand Staircase. The Promenade is a unique park site and a unique amenity in Oregon City. The WPA project highlighted the park's assets and provided a lasting legacy for residents and visitors.

Criterion A: Recreation and Culture

The Promenade structures are eligible as improvements to a significant historic park. The walkways, stairs and waterfall improved public access and safety along a city park donated by Dr. John McLoughlin to the people of Oregon City in 1851.¹⁵ The Promenade appears in local newspaper as early as 1866, when the *Oregon City Enterprise* noted that "all the open or vacant space fronting on lots and blocks west of High Street have been donated for the use of a public promenade. This was truly a wise provision. The principal portion of residences in Oregon City will eventually be upon the bluff, and the view is most commanding for miles up and down the river. Even now, in its primitive state, a grand sight is presented to the public from this promenade."¹⁶

The site has been used as a public park continually since the city's platting. The site retains unparalleled views of downtown and the Willamette River, and provides places to walk, run, or ride a bike. Because of McLoughlin's donation, development was restricted along the bluff. McLoughlin's foresight allowed Oregon City to retain public ownership of one of its greatest scenic assets, and to preserve the public's access to this dramatic location. The park not only provides views of the city and the river, but it allows the bluff to retain its distinctly rustic qualities, providing some continuity between the paths walked by Native tribes and the park's contemporary users, who walk a similar path today.

Criterion C: Engineering

The Promenade is also significant under Criterion C: Engineering. Constructed of locally quarried basalt, the Promenade walls, stairs and waterfall are excellent examples of rustic design as it was developing in Oregon in the early 20th-century. Made to blend into the landscape, to make use of local and natural materials, and to enhance views and public recreation opportunities in natural settings, rustic park architecture was maturing in the years before the Great Depression.

Under President Herbert Hoover, the National Park Service began devoting resources to landscape design and to the development of a sympathetic architectural style that fit naturally within wild western lands. The federal government thereafter built roads, picnic shelters, park administration buildings, and paths in scenic national parks throughout the west, using natural materials like stone and wood to help these structures blend into the beauty of their surroundings. When President Franklin D. Roosevelt took office in 1933, he continued this effort, establishing federal programs like the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC), which employed young men to plant trees, cut trails, fight fires and build roads, picnic shelters, and other park enhancements including bridges and ranger stations on federal lands in Oregon. These federal projects helped refine the principles of rustic design, which became a popular choice for WPA projects. It was against this background

¹⁵ The text defining McLoughlin's intentions appears on the original plat map prepared by Robert Short and filed by McLoughlin in 1851. The map appears in Bert and Margie Webber, *Oregon City (By Way of the Barlow Road) at the end of the National Historic Oregon Trail* [Medford: Webb Research Group, 1993], 42.

¹⁶ Staff, "A Public Promenade," *Oregon City Enterprise* (Oregon City, OR.), December 15, 1866. Image provided by: University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene, OR.

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that the Promenade project was conceived and constructed. It followed on the heels of similar projects, including the Columbia River Highway and Rocky Butte, two Oregon projects that also made use of local basalt to beautify pedestrian and vehicular corridors with stone parapets and viewpoints. The Promenade is an excellent example of rustic architectural principles used to beautify and blend naturally into a scenic city park.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Foot paths along Oregon City's dramatic cliff predate western settlement of the United States. The bluff, the bank of the Willamette River, Singer Creek, and the foot paths between them were used by native tribes, particularly the Molalla, for thousands of years before non-native Americans came west.

When Oregon City's plat map was first recorded by Dr. John McLoughlin in 1851, it included a narrow, 7.8-acre park dedicated as "a promenade for the inhabitants of Oregon City" along the bluff's edge.¹⁷ This park, labeled "Promenade" on the original plat map, retains its original boundaries today.

Previous Conditions

The park, as well as all three structures of the Promenade, existed in a utilitarian, minimally improved form before the Promenade project of the 1930s. The Promenade consisted of a walking path along the edge of the bluff, surrounded by the site's natural trees and grasses. Early utilitarian railings along the bluff appear in one historic photo to be split rail, wood fencing in poor condition. A 1938 City report detailing the Promenade's improvement mentioned that before the construction of the rock parapets, "the purpose of the Promenade was not being fulfilled because there was not a suitable and safe place on which to walk. Therefore this project was designed to provide the necessary sidewalk."¹⁸

The first municipal elevator in Oregon City predates both the current elevator and the Promenade improvements of the 1930s. The first elevator was completed in 1915 and moved people between the promenade and downtown. To reach the elevator from the bluff, residents walked west over a pedestrian bridge constructed high above the railroad tracks below. From the bridge, they could enter an elevator car that would lower them to the intersection of 7th Street and Railroad Avenue downtown. The elevator relied on the Promenade park lands for public access, and it appears that an early railing was constructed near the opening to the 1915 pedestrian bridge. Historic photos from the 1920s suggest that the same basalt piers and vertical metal rods that flank the 1955 Municipal Elevator today were in place at that time.¹⁹

As with the pathway, the Grand Staircase improved an early, utilitarian feature of the bluff. The site of the Grand Staircase was once covered by a wood stairway added to the cliff's face in the 19th-century to help residents travel between the two levels. These stairs were in the same location as the current stair, but continued down the bluff to the foot, where pedestrians dashed across the train tracks to reach downtown. This stair appears within a few feet of the train tracks in historic photos.²⁰ Singer Creek, located at the northern end of the promenade at the Singer Creek Falls, was not originally an underground creek, as it is today, but an aboveground power source. It drained from Mount Pleasant and ran

¹⁷ The text defining McLoughlin's intentions appears on the original map but is difficult to decipher. The text above comes from a transcribed copy included in: Bert and Margie Webber, *Oregon City (By Way of the Barlow Road) at the end of the National Historic Oregon Trail* [Medford: Webb Research Group, 1993]: 42.

¹⁸ *City Report for 1938: Engineering and Street Department*, internal documents held by the City of Oregon City, 1938.

¹⁹ Photos from the early and mid-1920s clearly show the elevator and an associated railing, though the details are indistinct (www.oldoregonphotos.com). Only a single dated image shows both the original elevator and clear images of the current railing. The photo is hand-dated 1935 and appears in a scrap book entitled "Ore. City from the air, bluff [sic] west linn elevator on-hill." Held by the City of Oregon City. This photo presents the clearest evidence that the railing flanking the elevator predates the 1936-1939 construction project.

²⁰ Unknown, "Payroll Train at 7th St. Station, Oregon City - 1895," www.OldOregonphotos.com.
<http://www.oldoregonphotos.com/payroll-train-at-7th-st-station-oregon-city-1895.html> [accessed January 2014]. E.Meresse, "Steps on the Bluff at 7th Street," 1892, published in Wilmer Gardner, *Over One Hundred Years of Old Oregon City* [Oregon City: Clackamas County Historical Society, 1976], 27.

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north and west through the upper level of Oregon City and under 7th Street "to turn Singer's flour mill stones at the top of Singer Hill."²¹ It then splashed naturally over the bluff near 8th Street. William Singer started his mill near Singer Creek in the 1880s, after working as a mill operator for Dr. John McLoughlin in the 1840s. His mill building was three stories tall, and Singer was popular among Oregon City residents for opening up a part of the building for local dances.²² After the Singer family moved from Oregon City, the mill atop the bluff was lost to fire in 1897.²³ At an unknown date, the creek was piped and diverted so that the former mill site could be redeveloped. The site is now a well-established, residential neighborhood, and the only remaining evidence of Singer Creek is the waterfall on the bluff.

Until the 1930s, McLoughlin's gift to the city remained a minimally-improved park looking over the bluff to the industrial district below. The Great Depression, and the federal response to the economic crisis, provided the city with an infusion of federal funds specifically provided for the employment of local workers and the improvement of the community's public assets. The Promenade is one of Oregon City's most prominent WPA legacies.

Oregon City and the Great Depression

Fueled by a skyrocketing stock market, the Great Depression officially began on October 29, 1929, when the stock market collapsed. At this time, Oregon was already suffering from post-war declines in key industries, including shipbuilding. Though World War I supported industry and manufacturing, it also depressed demand for state products that were usually shipped through Portland. Competition with Seattle also hurt Portland's—and the state's—economy. Oregon agriculture had also fared poorly in the 1920s as drought and a decrease in demand stressed local farmers. In the months and years after the stock market's crash, banks began to fail, foreclosures mounted, families joined the relief rolls, and even healthy businesses struggled to employ workers during years of declining sales.²⁴ In one assessment, unemployment was approximately three percent before the stock market crash, but rose to more than 23 percent within three years.²⁵ The Great Depression would officially continue another seven years, until 1939.

Oregon's State Emergency Relief Agency (SERA) took the lead in important local programs to aid those facing unemployment by providing both work and public assistance. Early construction projects in Oregon City begun under SERA put men to work painting high schools and building a public swimming pool, while a cannery was established downtown to process locally produced vegetables for hungry families. Additional projects improved the natural environment along the Willamette Falls, including a month-long project in 1934 that repaired the fishway over the Falls to support local salmon. This project was paid for by a partnership between SERA and the County Relief Agency.²⁶

However, by the early 1930s, it was already clear that local and state efforts could not meet the need for employment in Oregon City, or in other Oregon towns. As early as 1932, Oregon's governor, Julius Meier, was pleading with President Herbert Hoover for public aid. However, Hoover's efforts were cautious and slow to provide relief.²⁷ When President Franklin D. Roosevelt took office in 1933, he promised to be bold and experimental in his response to the economic crisis. In 1935, Congress passed the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act, which paved the way for the Works Progress Administration. In that same year, Oregon City projects begun under Herbert Hoover were taken over by the WPA, which was managed by tiers of local, regional, state and federal offices. In Oregon City, City Manager John L. Franzen took responsibility for planning and implementing WPA projects sponsored by the City of Oregon City. J.L. Franzen was Oregon

²¹ Vera Martin Lynch, *Free Land for Free Men: A Story of Clackamas County* [Portland: Artline Printing, Inc., 1973]: 216.

²² Staff, "Singer Hill Path Now Wide Street," *Oregon City Enterprise-Courier*, Elevator Dedication Edition, May 5, 1955.

²³ Vera Martin Lynch, *Free Land for Free Men: A Story of Clackamas County* [Portland: Artline Printing, Inc., 1973]: 442.

²⁴ Tom Fuller and Art Ayre, *Oregon at Work: 1859 – 2009* [Portland: Ooligan Press, 2009], 104.

²⁵ Karyle Butcher, *The Works Progress Administration in Oregon: An Administrative Overview*, A Thesis Submitted to Oregon State University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, July 9, 1990, 1.

²⁶ Fish Commission of the State of Oregon, "Biennial Report of the Fish Commission of the State of Oregon for 1933 and 1934, held by the City of Oregon City, 1935.

²⁷ Neil Baker, "Portland's Works Progress Administration," *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Winter 2000, Vol. 101, No. 4, 414-441.

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City's first City Manager. He was a registered engineer, and considered an excellent administrator. After serving as City Manager in Oregon City for twenty years, Franzen accepted an offer from the Salem City Council in 1947 and became Salem's first City Manager.²⁸

Road work and construction projects proved particularly popular in Oregon City. As stated in a 1936 report from the Oregon State Highway Commission, which provided relief work, "the classes of work which could be most effectively performed on highways are roadside clean-up, landscaping, slope protection and the construction of buildings of various kinds."²⁹ These projects removed workers from the relief rolls by putting skilled and unskilled laborers to work immediately, and in locations relatively near their homes or near temporary housing. These projects were also "useful," a concept that was fairly flexible and led to a great variety of outcomes under the WPA.³⁰

Projects like the McLoughlin Promenade also employed great numbers of skilled and unskilled workers, and they were easy to launch, as workers could use hand tools or equipment readily available from their sponsors, which were usually cities, counties or the state. According to historian Neil Barker, many early projects focused on "improving and developing city parks." As Barker notes, "Armies of relief workers descended on city parks and municipal golf courses to build rock walls, fences, comfort stations, trails and footbridges."³¹

WPA workers and PWA funds helped local communities, including Oregon City, hire both skilled and unskilled labor for public improvement projects like the Promenade, which put Oregonians to work and provided lasting public benefits to the community. In this way, the construction of the Promenade was similar to other important relief efforts that left a lasting aesthetic mark on the landscapes of the west.

Constructing the McLoughlin Promenade

Oregon, and its neighbor Washington, benefited greatly from large WPA and PWA projects, including the construction of massive regional assets like the Bonneville Dam, as well as tourist attractions and regional landmarks like the Timberline Lodge.

Typically, WPA projects were reviewed first by a district and then by the state, and Portland quickly grew into the regional hub for WPA activity. Portland was both the site of the greatest unemployment and the greatest source of capital.³² Projects began to funnel through the Portland office and through the hands of E.J. Griffith, the State Works Progress Administrator. Griffith was a former timber broker and Democratic fund raiser credited with launching and managing the local WPA effort. He oversaw the WPA as it matured, eventually tackling enormous projects that spanned multiple counties, including the Wilson River Highway and the Wolf Creek Highway, not completed until 1949.

WPA projects became incredibly diverse as program managers realized that many unemployed people had diverse sets of skills. The WPA employed construction workers, but also writers, artists, actors, architects and seamstresses, as well as metal craftspeople, as noted by the Oregon Historical Society: "Skilled iron workers were employed in a workshop on Boise Street to make doors, door handles, keyholes, and other artifacts for the new Timberline Lodge, a WPA project on Mt. Hood, as well as the decorative iron gates for the University of Oregon Library."³³ Though the projects were varied, construction remained attractive under the WPA, and

²⁸ Frank Maulden, *Sweet Mountain Water: The Story of Salem, Oregon's Struggle to Tap Mt. Jefferson Water and Protect the North Santiam River* [Salem: Oak Savanna Publishing, 2004], 254.

²⁹ Oregon State Highway Commission, *Twelfth Biennial Report of the Oregon State Highway Commission for the Period July 1, 1934 to June 30, 1936*, Salem: State Printing Dept., 1936, 47.

³⁰ Karyle Butcher, *The Works Progress Administration in Oregon: An Administrative Overview*, A Thesis Submitted to Oregon State University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, July 9, 1990, 40.

³¹ Neil Baker, "Portland's Works Progress Administration," *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Winter 2000, Vol. 101, No. 4, 414-441.

³² Karyle Butcher, *The Works Progress Administration in Oregon: An Administrative Overview*, A Thesis Submitted to Oregon State University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, July 9, 1990, 56.

³³ William Toll, *The New Deal in Oregon*, www.ohs.org/the-oregon-history-project/narratives/a-history-of-portland/the-federal-connection/new-deal-oregon.cfm [Accessed August 5, 2013].

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the Promenade was devised as a parks improvement project that was both practical and artistic, relying on skilled craftsmen to beautify the city's most dominant feature, its 100-foot-tall bluff.

Few city records remain that detail the original 1930s plan to build the parapet wall along the bluff, along with the Singer Hill Creek waterfall and Grand Staircase. However, the project was described in a newspaper article in the *Sunday Oregonian*, dated May 19, 1935. The article claimed that "City Manager J. L. Franzen announced this week that two new SERA projects have been submitted for approval, one involving the building of a park along the bluff near Singer Creek. It would have five artificial falls to be lighted at night and trails along the cliff, and the other the grading and rocking of 55 more blocks of city streets this summer. The city will provide supervision and materials and will pay the compensation insurance, the labor being provided by SERA."³⁴

The project bridged two public relief efforts but was eventually completed under the WPA, as the *Oregonian* explained, reporting on the project again on May 28, 1936:

Designed by City Manager J. L. Franzen, a series of waterfalls will feature the Singer Hill park project which was started last Monday under WPA. These falls, formed by diverting Singer Creek into a series of five drops by means of natural stone incased in cement, probably will be lighted and will constitute one of the most beautiful spots in the country, either day or night. The WPA crew which is working under the direction of Mr. Miller, foreman, and which will be augmented Monday with additional workers, will brush out the bluff for approximately two blocks between what would be the extension of the alley between Ninth and Tenth and between the railroad and Singer Hill highway. Trails along the bluff will also be built.

Under a subhead entitled "Course 20 Feet Wide," the story goes on to report:

The new course for the water which now plunges down the hillside from the outlet at the head of the stairs at Seventh and Singer Hill will be 20 feet wide. It will include four 10-foot drops and the other a 12-foot drop. Water will be picked up where it goes under the stairs, carried over the falls which will be just south of the present stream, then dumped into a pool at the foot of the falls. Stone for the falls and the pool will be obtained from the city quarry on Center Street."³⁵

Michelle Dennis noted in her inventory form for the waterfall and the Grand Staircase that the two were planned and completed together for a total cost of \$2500.³⁶

The McLoughlin Promenade walkway was much more expensive. A copy of a city proposal submitted to the Portland office for the WPA requests \$16,513 in November 1937 to "construct 2575 feet masonry parapet and pathway along McLoughlin Promenade, grade and surface driveways and landscape area between walk and property line."³⁷ Fifty-four laborers were approved for the project, almost half of which were skilled construction workers and craftsmen. The list of workers employed on the project includes 30 unskilled laborers, six stonemasons, two men on jackhammers, two truck drivers, a crusher feeder and a powderman, among others. No landscape architect was mentioned.

The proposal is one of the few documents that detail the Promenade construction project, but internal documents held by the City of Oregon City show that most WPA projects were more practical in nature,

³⁴ Staff, "City Park Planned for River Bluffs," *Portland Oregonian*, May 18, 1935.

³⁵ Staff, "Five Waterfalls Planned in Park: Oregon City Project to Be Made Thing of Beauty," *Portland Oregonian*, May 24, 1936.

³⁶ Michelle L. Dennis, *Historic Resource Survey Form for The Bluff at 8th Street* [May 2000]. Nominations are available through the Oregon Historic Sites Database.

³⁷ City of Oregon City, *Works Progress Administration Project Proposal, McLoughlin Promenade*, November 5 1937.

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concerned with roads, alleys, bridges, and sewers. The Promenade may have been the city's premier park enhancement project in the late-1930s. A hand written summary entitled "1939-Projects" identified seven WPA projects for that year, including the Promenade; "Streets and Alleys"; the "12th Street Bridge"; the "5th Street Sewer"; the "McLoughlin Home"; the "Linn Ave. Sewer Extension" and the "South Fork Project".³⁸ The list also notes the cost of each project and the amount born by the WPA vs. the sponsor, which was Oregon City in the case of local projects. For the Promenade, \$6,084 was supplied by the WPA, and only \$1,985 by the sponsor. The most expensive project on the list was roads and alleys, which cost \$92,736, with \$21,753 provided by the sponsor.

The Promenade was completed in 1939, and though not much is known about the stone masons and other workers who labored to quarry the local basalt and construct the walls, staircase, and falls, it is clear that their work transformed the Promenade into an important recreational destination for Oregon City residents. This is evidenced by the care local community groups have provided in the years since its construction. Within the park are signs and markers praising public groups for maintaining the park and its landscaping. From 1969 to 1972, for instance, the Kiwanis Club removed overgrown vegetation, installed twelve lampposts along the walk, placed benches at viewpoints, and installed a plaque. It's also clear from newspaper reports that the waterfall designed by Franzen was an important and well-loved monument, especially when it was lit for Christmas. In 1970, a young resident of Canby noticed that the waterfalls had not been lit that year. She wrote to the mayor: "We like the waterfalls that are colored. Please turn the waterfalls on."³⁹ Her request was granted.

The Oregon City Promenade, its walkways, stairs, and waterfall remain as built, except for one known alteration. By the 1950s, the aging wood and steel elevator constructed at the foot of the city's bluff in 1915 had deteriorated. In 1955, a modernist elevator took its place. The first elevator was located west of the railroad tracks. The new one was built into the bluff east of the tracks. Originally, the Grand Staircase connected to a metal overpass that ran west from the bluff, allowing pedestrians to pass above the train tracks. A stair then deposited pedestrians downtown near the foot of the original elevator. In 1955, the overpass was removed, and the Grand Staircase was lengthened by the addition of a smooth concrete path, running further down the hillside from the bottom of the Grand Staircase to meet a modern, concrete stairwell that provided access to the new elevator's underground entrance east of the railroad tracks.⁴⁰

Stone Masonry in Oregon

One of the McLoughlin Promenade's most distinctive features is its stone masonry parapet walls. The basalt was locally quarried, was laid primarily in random courses, and was allowed to retain its rough-hewn appearance, suggesting that the walls were constructed by skilled craftsmen with hand tools. This is a character-defining feature of rustic design, and the technique was common throughout Oregon before and during the WPA era, evident in large projects like the Columbia River Highway and the Rocky Butte Scenic Drive.

Since the 1913 founding of the State Highway Commission, Oregon has provided access to its wild rivers and scenic lands, while limiting development in these locations. The Columbia River Highway is a great example of a carefully controlled access route through a naturalistic landscape minimally adorned with rustic features that beautify the roadway, including arched stone walls designed by engineer Samuel C. Lancaster and constructed with the help of noted stone mason, Ralph Curcio. As noted in the National Register nomination for the Columbia River Highway Scenic District,

"Inspired by what he had seen in the Rhine Valley of Germany and above Lake Lucerne, in Switzerland, Lancaster incorporated into the highway long stretches of dry masonry walls and rubble parapets with arched openings. These areas

³⁸ "1939-Projects," taken from internal Oregon City documents, held by the City of Oregon City, undated.

³⁹ Sara Wichman, "Youngster's Letter Spurs Oregon City Falls' Lights," *Portland Oregonian*, December 2, 1970.

⁴⁰ Construction photos of the Municipal Elevator, 1955, sent by email from Karin Morey, Oregon City Chamber of Commerce, January 14, 2014. Photos available via the Clackamas County Historical Society.

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were accented by pedestrian overlooks with benches. These adornments to the highway would be duplicated and repeated as the Columbia River Highway was completed eastward. Some of the dry masonry walls would extend to 35 feet in height and 1000 feet in length. According to Lancaster, the dry masonry walls 'add greatly to the charm of the highway.'⁴¹

The primary features of the Columbia River Highway Scenic District are called out in the district's nomination to the National Register of Historic Places: "Most of the major engineering features originally built on the highway still exist, including seventeen bridges, seven viaducts, three tunnels, long stretches of dry masonry retaining walls, rustic rubble parapets, and pedestrian overlooks."⁴²

Though the Promenade's walls do not completely match the Columbia River Highway walls in design, both projects do incorporate long stretches of masonry retaining walls, rustic rubble parapets, and pedestrian overlooks. However, the Promenade was not Oregon City's first masonry project.

As mentioned in a historic resource survey form for Oregon City's South End Road Wall, "In 1922-24, the State Highway Department allocated a total of \$1,625.00 for 'parapet walls' in the immediate Oregon City area. Most of the work was done in the section of the highway in Oregon City and immediately south of downtown. Scenic value was stressed."⁴³ These rock walls were constructed near the Willamette Falls overlook along Oregon 99E, and along a winding section of South End Road, just east of Oregon 99E.⁴⁴ Both of these rock walls are designed in the style of the Columbia River Highway's arched parapets. They consist of low walls, constructed of local basalt with shallow arches, rustic piers, and scenic overlooks. It is also notable that they were constructed a few hundred yards from the southern terminus of the Promenade. If the stone masonry along the Columbia River inspired the parapet walls built in Oregon City in 1922-24, it's likely that the Promenade can also be seen as an extension of the construction practices perfected by engineer Samuel Lancaster and stone mason, Ralph Curcio.

The similarities are commented upon in ODOT's Request for a Determination of Eligibility for the Promenade:

With native materials and a style first established with the stone railings built along the historic Columbia Gorge Scenic Highway, WPA crews used rockwork for wall and railing structures all over the state. Elaborate stone masonry structures built at Rocky Butte in 1937 and retaining walls at Johnson Creek demonstrate WPA rockwork projects in the Portland area, while several examples exist at Oregon City. In 1936-37, WPA crews used native basalt from the Oregon City bluff to build the Singer Hill steps and railing, the city pool, and numerous city park structures.⁴⁵

Many of Oregon's most prominent rock walls are associated with roadways. As noted by author Linda Flint McClelland, "It was the Columbia River Highway, constructed between 1913 and 1922 by Samuel Lancaster, an engineer of the Oregon Highway Department, that established the state of the art for building scenic roads in mountainous areas."⁴⁶

⁴¹ Dwight A. Smith, *National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form for the Columbia River Highway Historic District* [October 3, 1983]. Nominations are available through the Oregon Historic Sites Database.

⁴² Dwight A. Smith, *National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form for the Columbia River Highway Historic District* [October 3, 1983]. Nominations are available through the Oregon Historic Sites Database.

⁴³ Marianne Kadas, Historic Resource Survey Form, South End Road Wall, July 1997. Held by the City of Oregon City.

⁴⁴ It appears that the rock walls have been moved from their original location as the road has been widened and the rock walls now form a slightly curvilinear border at a distance from the roadway, providing extra parking and walking space beside OR 99E.

⁴⁵ Christine A. Curran for ODOT, Request for Determination of Eligibility for the Oregon City Municipal Elevator and McLoughlin Promenade, October 1994. Accessible through the Oregon Historic Sites Database.

⁴⁶ Linda Flint McClelland, *Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916 to 1942*, [Washington DC: National Park Service, 1993], 103.

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However, Oregon City's promenade was one of the many parapet walls constructed in the rustic style not only along road sides, but along cliffs, rims, and other precipices. As McClelland also notes,

"The idea of the walkway with a protective guardrail that followed the natural contour of the land was applied to curvilinear paths and trails along scenic rims such as the South Rim of the Grand Canyon or Rim Village at Crater Lake. Guardrails of masonry piers and log cross timbers were installed as early as 1920 along the Canyon of the Yellowstone. By the 1920s such structures were called promenades and equipped with viewing bays, water fountains, and dust-free walkways that connected with parking areas, nearby buildings, and nature trails."⁴⁷

Other prominent masonry projects in Oregon include the Eagle Creek Overlook site on the Columbia River Gorge; rock walls along U.S. Highway 101 at the Oregon Coast; structures at Cape Perpetua in Lincoln County; and Sea Lion Point in Lane County. One of the most notable examples is the Rocky Butte Scenic Drive in Portland.

According to historian Neil Barker, "In terms of total cost and the number of relief workers employed, the two largest construction projects undertaken by the Portland WPA were the development of Rocky Butte Scenic Drive and the new municipal airport."⁴⁸ The Rocky Butte project was very similar to the Promenade. It included a viewpoint, shallow stairs, and stone walls constructed of basalt quarried from the butte itself. Like the McLoughlin Promenade, Rocky Butte began as a state project and was completed by WPA workers. It was constructed between 1934 and 1939. Parts of the project were completed with simple hand tools, and the final scenic drive was compatible with its natural environment. Rocky Butte also relied on the skills of Ralph Curcio, the Italian stone mason who had worked on the Columbia River Highway.⁴⁹ Curcio was one of numerous skilled Italian stone masons who left their mark on Oregon's parks and roadways. Prominent Oregon projects, including Timberline Lodge, relied on him for beautiful stonework, but it is not known whether he or the men he trained worked on the McLoughlin Promenade. It is clear that the stonework for both the Promenade and Rocky Point use similar techniques of the rustic style. As noted above, one of the WPA's primary goals was to put local people to work on local projects. It is therefore likely that Curcio, or perhaps some of his locally trained stone masons, may be responsible for the deft rustic style stonework visible in the Promenade's walls.

According to Rocky Butte's National Register nomination,

"The contributing features . . . include the roadways themselves and accompanying historic structures, the crest viewpoint structure and the historic aircraft beacon. The structures include stone railings, dry and wet masonry retaining walls, low stone walls, stone drainage structures, an automobile tunnel of unique design, a pedestrian tunnel, stone bollards and the viewpoint fortress itself. The viewpoint structure has parapet walls, bastions and viewing alcoves with light piers, a stone staircase, a ramp, a stone viewfinder and a memorial monument. All of the drive and viewpoint structures were constructed in the style and craftsmanship of the Columbia River Highway."⁵⁰

The Rocky Butte Scenic Drive and its roadside masonry were added to the National Register of Historic Places in August 1991 as part of the Rocky Butte Scenic Drive Historic District. Though Rocky Butte attributes

⁴⁷ Linda Flint McClelland, *Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916 to 1942*, [Washington DC: National Park Service, 1993], 125.

⁴⁸ Neil Baker, "Portland's Works Progress Administration," *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Winter 2000, Vol. 101, No. 4, 419.

⁴⁹ Neil Baker, "Portland's Works Progress Administration," *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Winter 2000, Vol. 101, No. 4, 420.

⁵⁰ David Lewis and Kathy Schutt, *National Register of Historic Places, Registration Form, Rocky Butte Scenic Drive Historic District, Portland, Oregon*, February 25, 1991. Nomination forms are available through the Oregon Historic Sites Database.

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some of its significance to its association with recreational vehicular travel in the mid-20th-century, it is also considered significant for its engineering.⁵¹ The same can be said for the McLoughlin Promenade.

The Promenade's character is defined by its materials. The rock walls of the Grand Staircase and the Promenade's parapet walls are compatible with the surrounding environment and are impressively solid and well-integrated into the park landscape. This technique was likely borrowed from other impressive stone projects in Oregon, including the Columbia River Highway Scenic Drive, and possibly Rocky Butte, but they all follow principles of rustic design established by the National Park Service

Rustic Style in Oregon

The Promenade compares favorably with other park structures built in the Rustic style. In Rustic style, local stone was used because it was a natural, easy-to-procure material, but also because it blended into the environment and could be developed into unobtrusive structures that enhance rather than detract from the character of a site. These structures also had a hand-hewn quality to them. Rustic style was defined as "a style which, through the use of native materials in proper scale, and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over-sophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings, and with the past."⁵² This idea is further developed by McClelland, who said that standards for masonry emerged from the rustic movement. "The success of harmonization," she wrote, "depended on the free hand lines and rusticity of the roughly cut stone, the avoidance of right angles and straight lines, the integration of battered stone walls into the contours of adjoining slopes and rock formations, and the curvature of the roadway and adjoining walls to follow natural contours."⁵³

The Promenade is an excellent example of these principles put to use. The Promenade incorporated free hand lines and rustic, rough cut, local stone. The stones are irregular in shape and are joined without reliance on right angles and straight lines. The parapet walls, staircase, and waterfall are also constructed in meandering, snaking patterns that follow and enhance the natural contours of the slope.

According to ODOT, "The wall and railing structure at the McLoughlin Promenade exists as an intact example of a site-specific interpretation of a popular building technique and style. It compares favorably to the best examples of stone masonry craftsmanship that characterized the work of the WPA crews in Oregon during the 1930s."⁵⁴

Sometimes referred to as "National Park Service Rustic style," the Rustic style was maturing as the country moved steadily toward the Great Depression. The Crater Lake Lodge (1914), for instance, was rustic in design and materials, intended to blend into the landscape with a first story clad in stone.⁵⁵ As the Rustic style matured, its proponents continued to incorporate stone into park lodges and administration buildings, including the Yosemite Administration Building (1924) constructed with a first floor of battered stone, and Mount Rainier National Park Administration Building in Washington, which was constructed with a stone façade on the first floor in 1928.⁵⁶ Rustic style was, however, making its way into many public projects during the WPA era. Not

⁵¹ David Lewis and Kathy Schutt, *National Register of Historic Places, Registration Form, Rocky Butte Scenic Drive Historic District, Portland, Oregon*, February 25, 1991. Nomination forms are available through the Oregon Historic Sites Database.

⁵² William C. Tweed, Laura E Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, *National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942* [San Francisco: National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, 1977].

⁵³ Linda Flint McClelland, *Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916 to 1942*, [Washington DC: National Park Service, 1993], 127.

⁵⁴ Christine A. Curran, *Request for Determination of Eligibility for the Oregon City Municipal Elevator and McLoughlin Promenade*, Oregon Department of Transportation, October, 1994.

⁵⁵ William C. Tweed, Laura E Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, *National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942* [San Francisco: National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, 1977].

⁵⁶ William C. Tweed, Laura E Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, *National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942* [San Francisco: National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, 1977].

McLoughlin Promenade

Name of Property

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County and State

only was it used for enhancements including park structures, it was the chosen style for the Oregon Department of Transportation Region 1 Headquarters building in Oregon City's neighboring town of Milwaukie. This building was sited along Oregon 99E, designed as a "super highway" through Oregon City. Oregon 99E was completed by the WPA, as was the ODOT Region 1 Headquarters building. The ODOT building was such a fine and rare example of Rustic style administrative building that the State Historic Preservation Office determined it was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places before it had turned 50 years old (1981).⁵⁷

The Rustic style is said to have emerged from the national effort to improve the great national parks of the west, which had lacked basic amenities before the early decades of the 20th century. National Park Service (NPS) historians associate the style with a department directive: "In the construction of roads, trails, buildings, and other improvements, particular attention must be devoted always to the harmonizing of these improvements with the landscape. This is a most important item in our programs of development and requires the employment of trained engineers who either possess a knowledge of landscape architecture or have a proper appreciation of the esthetic value of park lands. All improvements will be carried out in accordance with a preconceived plan developed in special reference to the preservation of the landscape, and comprehensive plans for future development of the national parks on an adequate scale will be prepared as funds are available for this purpose."⁵⁸

According to NPS historians, "Taken as a whole, the above paragraph represents nothing less than the charter of the NPS rustic architecture program of the next twenty years."⁵⁹

The Rustic style was a popular choice for WPA construction projects in parks and along roadways in Oregon. Not only did it enhance the natural beauty of its surrounding landscape, but Rustic style was labor-intensive, slow work that relied more on hand-crafting than on massive machinery. A single project could employ many men over a long period, providing the greatest number of man hours to the local workforce as possible.

This emphasis on craftsmanship is also visible in the stonework of the McLoughlin Promenade. The rough-hewn quality of the basalt, its irregular course, and the wide joints suggest the work of a local craftsman. The materials and design also celebrate the natural character of the bluff. The locally procured basalt melds easily into the rock cliff face, and the landscaping around it continued to change with the seasons. The railings are designed not as solid walls, which would block views, but as low fences with slender verticals that allow for a full appreciation of the surrounding landscape. Though rock walls surrounding the tunnel and waterfall are tall and solid, they blend into the surrounding colors of the bluff and remain unobtrusive additions.

Conclusion

The Grand Staircase, the Promenade walkway and the Singer Creek Falls compare favorably to other examples of rustic architecture in Oregon. Like Rocky Butte, the Promenade is constructed of local materials hand-hewn by craftsmen under the WPA. It was constructed, like Rocky Butte, with an eye to the innovative rustic parapet walls already in place in the Columbia River Gorge and along Oregon 99E in Oregon City. The stonework meets the highest ideals of rustic architecture, as defined by the NPS, and retains its original materials, design, workmanship, as well as its original location and setting. The structures of the Promenade also retain not only the feel of the original design project, but protect and enhance the feel of the natural historic park they augment. Finally, they continue to tell the story of their association with WPA work projects that kept Oregonians working through the Great Depression.

⁵⁷ *Historic ODOT Region 1 Headquarters Building*, Internal documents held by the City of Oregon City, undated.

⁵⁸ William C. Tweed, Laura E Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, *National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942* [San Francisco: National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, 1977].

⁵⁹ William C. Tweed, Laura E Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, *National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942* [San Francisco: National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, 1977].

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Integrity

The Promenade is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A: Politics/Government, under Criterion A: Recreation and Culture, and under Criterion C: Engineering.

The Promenade retains excellent integrity of site, setting and feeling. The walkways, parapets, stairs, and waterfall are enhancements to the park donated to the people of Oregon City in 1851. The park retains its original boundaries, its natural character, and its spectacular views, which are central to retaining the original feeling of the site and its setting, along with its historical associations.

The Promenade also retains excellent integrity of materials, design, and workmanship, including the locally quarried basalt, which is of primary importance. All repairs have been in kind. Elements constructed of concrete also retain their original materials, design, and workmanship. Character-defining features including rails and stone pillars with wide beaded joints remain in place. The Grand Staircase and the Singer Creek Falls have been restored, and the only known alterations date from the historic period, namely 1955, when the Grand Staircase was slightly altered to accommodate the new Municipal Elevator.

McLoughlin Promenade
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Books:

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Webber, Bert and Margie Webber. *Oregon City (By Way of the Barlow Road) at the end of the National Historic Oregon Trail*, Medford: Webb Research Group, 1993.

Newspapers and Magazines:

Baker, Neil. "Portland's Works Progress Administration," *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Winter 2000, Vol. 101, No. 4.

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Public Documents:

Beckner, Chrisanne, Diana Painter. *Oregon City Historic Preservation Program Update, Phase 2: Nominations*. August 2011, held by the City of Oregon City.

City of Oregon City. Works Progress Administration Project Proposal, McLoughlin Promenade, November 5 1937, held by the City of Oregon City.

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Curran, Christine A. *Determination of Eligibility for the Oregon City Municipal Elevator and McLoughlin*

McLoughlin Promenade
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Promenade, Oregon Department of Transportation, October, 1994, accessible through the Oregon Historic Sites Database.

Dennis, Michelle L. *Historic Resource Survey Form for The Bluff at 8th Street*, May 2000. Inventory forms are available through the Oregon Historic Sites Database.

Fish Commission of the State of Oregon. *Biennial Report of the Fish Commission of the State of Oregon for 1933 and 1934*, 1935, held by the City of Oregon City.

Lewis, David and Kathy Schutt. *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Rocky Butte Scenic Drive Historic District*, Portland, Oregon, February 25, 1991. Available through the Oregon Historic Sites Database.

Oregon State Highway Commission, *Twelfth Biennial Report of the Oregon State Highway Commission for the Period July 1, 1934 to June 30, 1936*, Salem: State Printing Dept., 1936.

Oregon State Highway Commission, *Fourteenth Biennial Report of the Oregon State Highway Commission for the Period July 1, 1938 to June 30, 1940*, Salem: State Printing Dept., 1940.

Historic ODOT Region 1 Headquarters Building. Internal documents, held by the City of Oregon City, undated.

Kadas, Marianne. *Historic Resource Survey Form, South End Road Wall*, July 1997. Inventory forms are available through the City of Oregon City.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Oregon City, various dates as noted in text. Held by the City of Oregon City.

Smith, Dwight A. *National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form for the Columbia River Highway Historic District*, October 3, 1983. Nominations are available through the Oregon Historic Sites Database.

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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7.8 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

(Follow similar guidelines for entering the lat/long coordinates as describe on page 55, How to Complete the National Register Registration Form for entering UTM references. For properties less than 10 acres, enter the lat/long coordinates for a point corresponding to the center of the property. For properties of 10 or more acres, enter three or more points that correspond to the vertices of a polygon drawn on the map. The polygon should approximately encompass the area to be registered. Add additional points below, if necessary.)

McLoughlin Promenade
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Datum if other than WGS84: NAD 83
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Latitude: 45.355313

Longitude: -122.609579

Latitude:

Longitude:

Latitude:

Longitude:

Latitude:

Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Promenade consists of a walkway, parapet, stairway and man-made waterfall, set into a contributing site known as Promenade Park. See map and site plan in appendix.

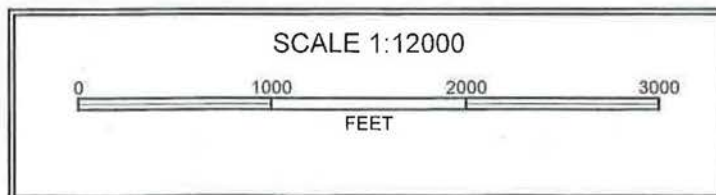
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries encompass all improvements made to public lands along Singer Hill bluff during 1936-39 as part of a Works Progress Administration project.

McLoughlin Promenade
Name of Property

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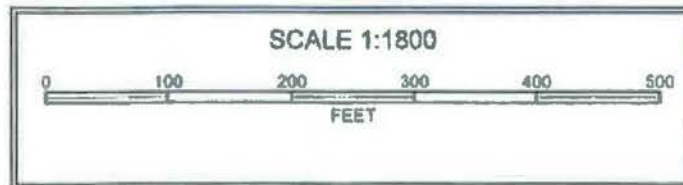
Map 1: Regional Vicinity Map, Latitude/Longitude Coordinates, 45.355313 / -122.609579 (WGS84)



McLoughlin Promenade
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Map 2: Site Plan, Latitude/Longitude Coordinates, 45.355313 / -122.609579 (WGS84)



McLoughlin Promenade
Name of Property

Clackamas, OR
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Chrisanne Beckner, Architectural Historian
organization Sole Proprietor date June 1, 2013
street & number 1307 Jasper Ave. NE telephone 360.878.5335
city or town Olympia state WA zip code 98506
e-mail chrisannebeckner@earthlink.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

McLoughlin Promenade

Clackamas, OR

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: McLoughlin Promenade

City or Vicinity: Oregon City

County: Clackamas

State: Oregon

Photographer: Chrisanne Beckner

Date Photographed: August 8, 2011 – March 12, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Photo 1 of 15 | OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMcLoughlinPromenade_001
Promenade Meets Municipal Elevator, Looking Northwest |
| Photo 2 of 15 | OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMcLoughlinPromenade_002
Promenade, Park and Bench, Looking South |
| Photo 3 of 15 | OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMcLoughlinPromenade_003
Promenade View Point with Willamette Falls, Looking Southwest |
| Photo 4 of 15 | OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMcLoughlinPromenade_004
Promenade Walk with Natural Vegetation, Looking Northwest |
| Photo 5 of 15 | OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMcLoughlinPromenade_005
Promenade Termination Point, Looking South over Oregon 99E |
| Photo 6 of 15 | OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMcLoughlinPromenade_006
Promenade South of Municipal Elevator, Looking North |
| Photo 7 of 15 | OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMcLoughlinPromenade_007
Promenade Meets the Grand Stair, Looking North |
| Photo 8 of 15 | OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMcLoughlinPromenade_008
The Grand Stair and Singer Hill Road Underpass, Looking East |
| Photo 9 of 15 | OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMcLoughlinPromenade_009
McLoughlin House and Promenade, Looking Northeast |
| Photo 10 of 15 | OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMcLoughlinPromenade_010
Grand Stair Near the Top of Singer Creek Falls, Looking East |
| Photo 11 of 15 | OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMcLoughlinPromenade_011
Singer Creek Falls as it Reemerges Under Grand Stair, Looking Northeast |
| Photo 12 of 15 | OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMcLoughlinPromenade_012
Singer Creek Falls on the Bluff, Looking East |
| Photo 13 of 15 | OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMcLoughlinPromenade_013
Grand Stair, Looking Northeast |

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Photo 14 of 15 OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMcLoughlinPromenade_014
Grand Staircase Meets Elevator Underpass, Looking South

Photo 15 of 15 OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMcLoughlinPromenade_015
The Willamette Falls with Public Sculpture and the Surrounding Bluff, Looking East

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

name City of Oregon City
street & number City Hall, 625 Center Street telephone (503) 657-0891
city or town Oregon City state OR zip code 97045

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 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

McLoughlin Promenade
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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 30

List of Figures

- Figure 1: Topographic Map of Oregon City
- Figure 2: Tax Lot Map for South Promenade, Shaded in Blue
- Figure 3: Tax Lot Map for Central Promenade, Shaded in Blue
- Figure 4: Tax Lot Map for North Promenade, Shaded in Blue, with Grand Staircase and Singer Creek Falls Identified
- Figure 5: Site Map

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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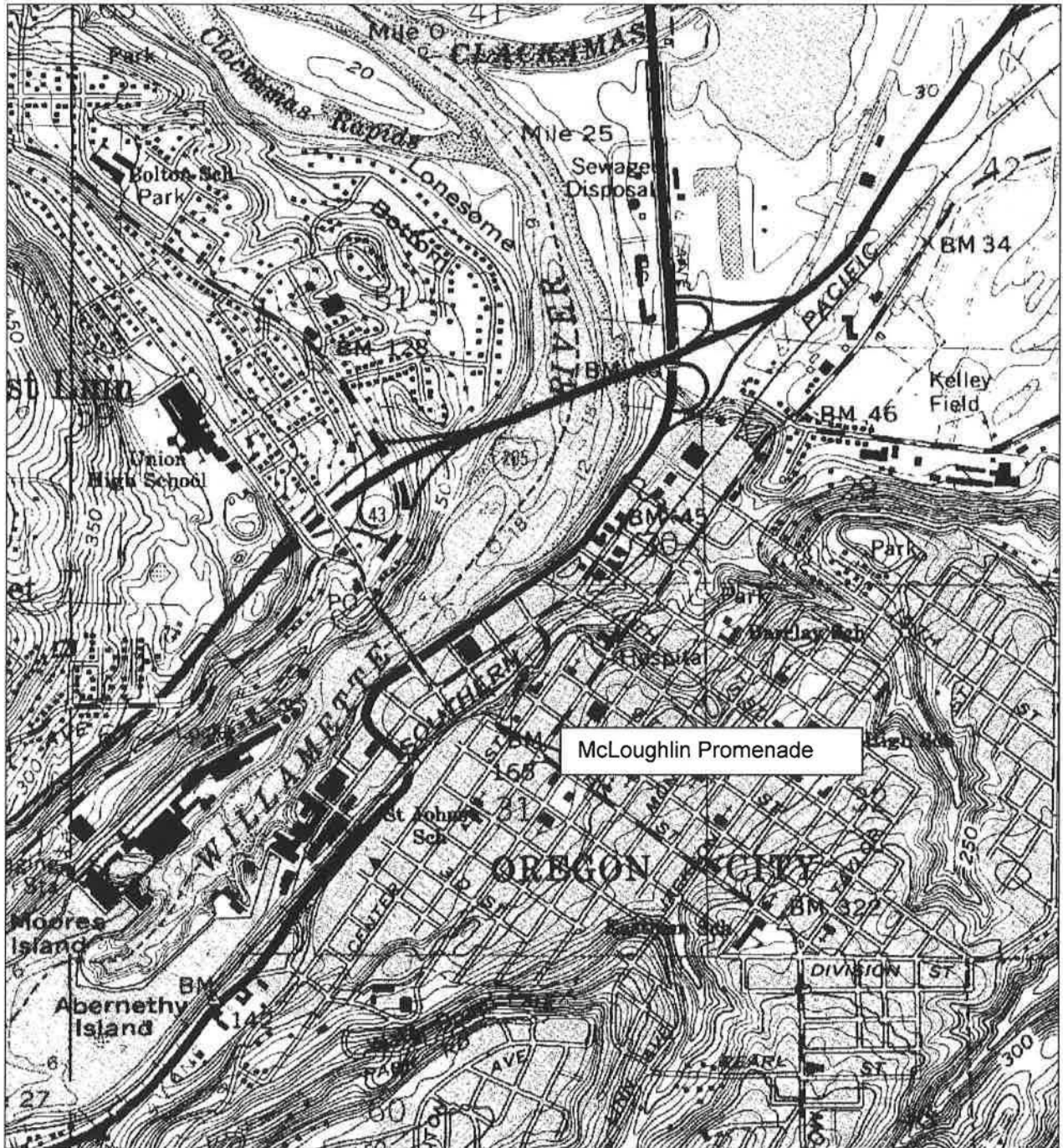


Figure 1: Topographical Map of Oregon City

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

McLoughlin Promenade
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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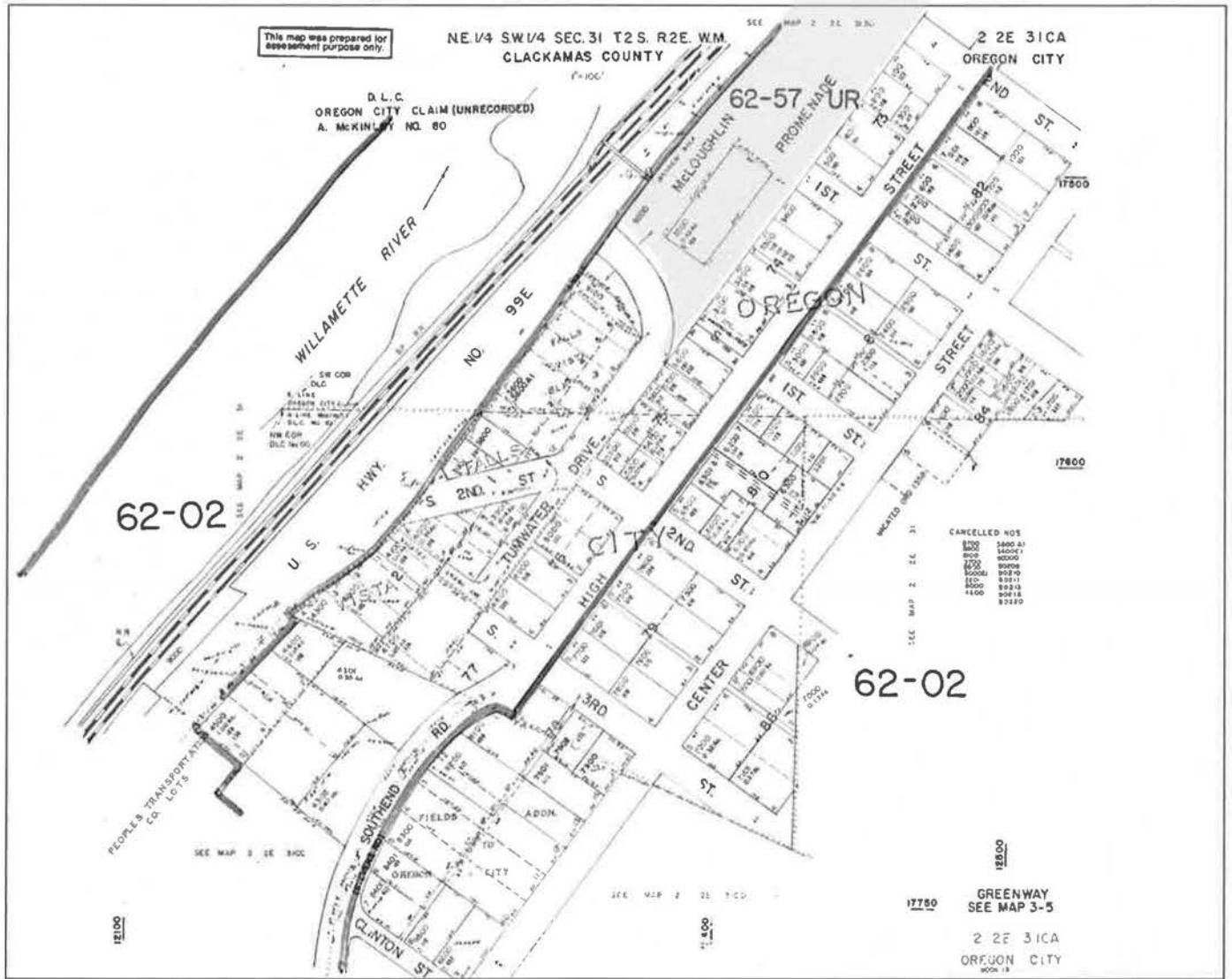


Figure 2: Tax Lot Map for South Promenade, Shaded in Blue

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National Park Service

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Figure 3: Tax Lot Map for Central Promenade, Shaded in Blue

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National Park Service

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 34

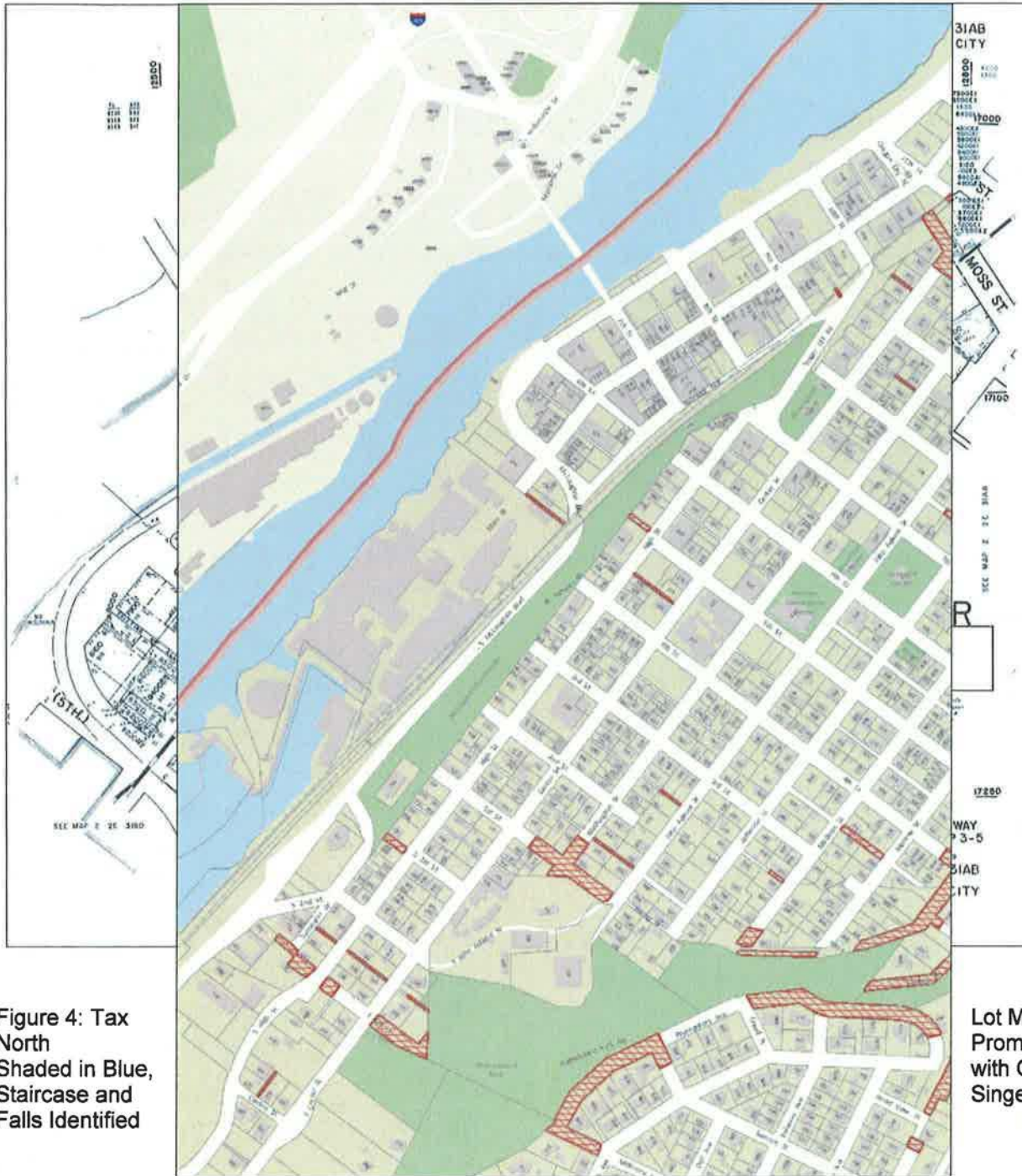


Figure 4: Tax North Shaded in Blue, Staircase and Falls Identified

Lot Map for Promenade, with Grand Singer Creek

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

McLoughlin Promenade
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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure 5: Site Map of the McLoughlin Promenade, Oregon City, OR









VFW #1324
BINGO
EVERY SAT 5:30 PM

NO. 5
WILLAMETTE FALLS
POST 5
THE AMERICAN
LEGION























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: McLoughlin Promenade

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OREGON, Clackamas

DATE RECEIVED: 5/15/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/01/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000179

DETAILED EVALUATION:

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5/15/14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA A+C

REVIEWER [Signature]

DISCIPLINE Hist.

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 5/15/14

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department

State Historic Preservation Office

725 Summer St NE, Ste C

Salem, OR 97301-1266

(503) 986-0690

Fax (503) 986-0793

www.oregonheritage.org



March 7, 2014

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
USDO National Park Service - Cultural Resources
1201 "Eye" Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: Multiple Property Document and National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Shull:

At the recommendation of the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, I hereby nominate the following Multiple Property Documentation and accompanying properties to the National Register of Historic Places. The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copies of the following Multiple Property Document and nominations.

COMMERCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL PROPERTIES IN THE DOWNTOWN AND MCMCLOUGHLIN AREAS OF OREGON CITY, 1845-1963 OREGON CITY, CLACKAMAS COUNTY

OREGON CITY CARNEGIE LIBRARY
606 JOHN ADAMS ST
OREGON CITY, CLACKAMAS COUNTY

MCMCLOUGHLIN PROMENADE
HWY 99 AND HWY 43
OREGON CITY, CLACKAMAS COUNTY

OREGON CITY MUNICIPAL ELEVATOR
300 7TH ST
OREGON CITY, CLACKAMAS COUNTY

At the recommendation of the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, I hereby request a Determination of Eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for the following property:

OREGON CITY MASONIC LODGE
707-709 MAIN ST
OREGON CITY, CLACKAMAS COUNTY

We appreciate your consideration of this request. If questions arise, please contact Diana Painter, Architectural Historian, at (503) 986-0668 or diana.painter@oregon.gov.

Sincerely,

Roger Roper
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Encl.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name McLoughlin Promenade

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 7.8-acre park running along Singer Hill bluff, 1 block west of High St. not for publication

city or town Oregon City vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Clackamas code 005 zip code 97045

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: McLoughlin Promenade

MULTIPLE NAME: Commercial & Institutional Properties in the Downtown & McLoughlin Areas of Oregon City MPS

STATE & COUNTY: OREGON, Clackamas

DATE RECEIVED: 3/12/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/07/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/22/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/28/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000179

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: Y PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 4/28/14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*revised nom
rec'd
5/15/14*

RECOM./CRITERIA *Return*
REVIEWER *McD*
TELEPHONE _____

DISCIPLINE *df*
DATE 5/12/14

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places

Comments Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: McLoughlin Promenade
Property Location: Oregon City, Clackamas County, OR
Reference Number: 14000179
Date of Return: May 12, 2012

The Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Commercial and Institutional Properties in the Downtown and McLoughlin Areas of Oregon City, 1845-1963," requires additional contextual development and clearer registration requirements and will not be accepted at this time. The nomination for the McLoughlin Promenade, submitted under this cover, is sufficiently documented and can stand alone as an individual property nomination. However, the nomination is being returned for technical corrections. The following corrections are needed in order to complete the nomination review:

Section 5. Classification. The park is a district. Please change the category of property. The text mentions a Quonset hut at the park's southern boundary. Clarify whether this was considered in the property count. Please drop the name of the multiple property listing and use n/a.

Section 7. Page 2. Since the National Register has yet to define designed landscape terminology, simply use: "Other: Promenade." For clarity in the summary paragraph on page 3, drop the word "site" and simply refer to the property as a park. The last sentence can read, "The landscape features and the three contributing structures retain excellent integrity." It is unclear whether the McLoughlin House is part of this park district. If it is, please indicate this in Section 5 under "Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register."

Section 8. Page 9. Areas of Significance. Please replace "Social History" with "Politics/Government." Please delete the reference to the Multiple Property Cover in the summary paragraph and replace "Social History" with "Politics/Government." Make this same correction under the narrative Statement of Significance.

Page 21. End this section with the "Conclusion" paragraph dropping the "Eligibility" paragraphs and MPD references.

Section 10. Page 22. Latitude/Longitude Coordinates. The longitude should be a negative number. Please correct.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

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