

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0698938

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 5 1979
DATE ENTERED	MAR 5 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Oak Grove Schoolhouse

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION** SW of Hood River at

STREET & NUMBER 2121 Reed Road

CITY, TOWN

Hood River

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
2nd

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oregon

CODE  
41

COUNTY  
Hood River

CODE  
027

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME William P. & Marlieluse V. Macht

STREET & NUMBER 2121 Reed Road

CITY, TOWN

Hood River

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

Oregon STATE 97031

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hood River County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER State Street

CITY, TOWN

Hood River

Oregon STATE 97031

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties

DATE 1978  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Salem

Oregon STATE 97310

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated five miles southwest of the city of Hood River on a knoll at the base of the heavily forested western slope of the Hood River Valley, the Oak Grove Schoolhouse was designed in 1912 by a Portland native, Albert Sutton, who, after a sojourn in San Francisco and Hood River, returned to Portland to become a principal in the noted firm of Sutton, Whitney, Aandahl and Fritsch. Described by historical newspaper accounts as in "Renaissance style", the schoolhouse indeed has a carefully proportioned Palladian plan. Yet fitting its rural site, it is constructed almost exclusively of local materials--brick fired in a Hood River kiln and Douglas fir logged on the western slope and milled in Oak Grove. Used as a school for ten grades originally and later four until 1969, it then fell into disrepair and was abused and vandalized. In 1975, it was purchased by the present owner, a professor of land use planning law, who restored it for use as a private residence and office for his consulting practice.

The site adjoins the county-owned Oak Grove Park to the east, Anjou pear orchards to east, south and west, and the community of Oak Grove to the north. Although principally oriented towards the Park, the schoolhouse also overlooks Mt. Hood, 20 miles to the south, and Mt. Adams, 38 miles to the north.

The schoolhouse is a two-story rectangular structure of two-to-one proportion in plan, 50' by 100'. In elevation, the cornice line is 25' above eastern grade but the top of the belltower cupola is 50' above eastern grade. (Western grade slopes to 10' below eastern grade and Reed Road is cut around the rear an additional 15' below western grade). The foundation is native rock supporting solid brick walls 2½' thick at the lower courses. Windows on the north and south sides have arched brick lintels. The hipped roof is framed with 32' long clear Douglas fir rafters.

The massing of the windows is a salient exterior and interior feature of the schoolhouse. Individual double-hung windows each 7' wide and 9' high are grouped in banks of three creating, in effect, window walls in each classroom. The belltower cupola is a visible vertical landmark for the community. A hand-carved stone medallion is flanked by black marble insets.

In order to restore the visual strength of the original Sutton plan, two wooden fire escapes and platforms have been removed; two firedoors have been replaced with glass, extraneous gutters have been removed and a roof projection for the old heating system has been removed. The soft local brick has been repointed and repainted the original white. Storm windows have white frames and mullions designed to match those of the window walls.

The original internal spatial organization has been preserved notwithstanding rehabilitation for domestic and office use. The auditorium on the south and the gym on the north are each 30' x 50' carefully proportioned to the Golden Section. Where partitions were necessary for closets or kitchen, they are freestanding and unadorned. Each of the four classrooms is 25' x 30' with 13' high ceilings and has a 23' x 9' window wall. Cloakrooms serving each classroom have been adapted to bathrooms, laundry and storage rooms. A massive T-shaped central hall 40' x 33' is used for the display of large wall hangings and sculpture platform.

(continued)

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Oak Grove Schoolhouse, Hood River, Hood River County, Oregon

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

All interior finishes have been restored to enhance the original spatial concepts of the architect. Lath and plaster walls and ceilings were repaired and the mixture of former colors (pink, chartreuse, yellow and green) has been eliminated and replaced with white to emphasize the form and light of the spaces. Maple floors on the second floor and clear vertical grain Douglas fir floors on the first floor have been refinished. Florescent lighting fixtures have been replaced by the original concentric circle diffusers and supplemented by accent spotlights.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES                      1912 - 1913                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Albert Sutton

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Oak Grove Schoolhouse is significant to Hood River County as an intact rural schoolhouse dating from the period before the First World War and utilizing a carefully proportioned Palladian plan and local materials. This unusually sophisticated building was the work of a professionally trained architect who enjoyed the support of a strong local Finnish community which desired to build spaciouly and well for the fifty children then in its school district.

Albert Sutton, a native of Portland, Oregon, left his architectural practice in San Francisco in 1910 in order to remove his twin daughters from their mother, his divorced wife. Under an unusual 1909 California divorce decree, Sutton had been granted complete custody of the children. However, Sutton's wife had clandestinely taken the children from Sutton's San Francisco house and took them, in the company of Sutton's chauffeur, with whom she was having an affair, first to Vancouver B.C. then to New York, then to England, then to France and finally to Belgium. Sutton followed her to Belgium, secured the children, returned to San Francisco, and then moved to Hood River, where he lived in the western hills above Oak Grove. In 1916 he returned to Portland, where he prospered in his profession, becoming a principal in the noted firm of Sutton, Whitney, Aandahl and Fritsch, designers of such Portland Landmarks as the Masonic Temple (1924-1925) and the Fruit and Flower Day Nursery (1928).

On February 28, 1912 Sutton was selected to be the architect for the schoolhouse. Three months later he had finished the plans, but on May 30, 1912, bids were rejected as being too high. On June 20, 1912, L. D. Boyed was selected as contractor at a cost of \$20,000, and construction started shortly thereafter. While the building was substantially completed by November 28, 1912, the schoolhouse was not opened until February 12, 1913. It was formally dedicated on April 12, 1913.

Initially, the schoolhouse was used for the first through the tenth grades. The large open spaces functioned well as a forerunner to the open classroom. Eventually, with school consolidation, the schoolhouse served only grades one through four. However, the schoolhouse functioned throughout its life as a community school and cultural center holding plays, concerts, recitals, lectures, adult classes, political meetings, dances and dinners.

While Sutton designed the Hood River Carnegie Library in 1913 and houses for the evangelist Billy Sunday and pioneer city-builder Captain McCann, the Oak Grove Schoolhouse is the only local work remaining in substantially unaltered condition. Moreover, it is the only schoolhouse dating from an early period in the history of Hood River designed by a leading architect and restored in accordance with its original spatial concepts.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hood River Glacier, November 28, 1912, p. 1  
 Hood River News, December 27, 1911, p. 1; February 28, 1912; April 16, 1913.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.68 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	10	609180	5056870	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point 82 rods North of the quarter corner common to Sections 16 and 17, Township 2 North, Range 10 East of the Willamette Meridian in the County of Hood River and State of Oregon, said point being also the most Easterly Northeast corner of that tract conveyed to Mabel Francis Burke by deed recorded December 21, 1923 in Book 17, page 577, Deed Records Hood River County; thence West along the most Easterly North line of said Burke tract 197 feet; thence North along the most Westerly East line of said Burke tract 143 feet to the center of the County Road; thence Northeasterly along the center of the

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	William P. Macht	DATE	October 1978
ORGANIZATION	William P. Macht Associates	TELEPHONE	(503) 386-1636
STREET & NUMBER	2121 Reed Road	STATE	Oregon 97031
CITY OR TOWN	Hood River		

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ LOCAL XX

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*David G. Galbraith*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE January 25, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *William P. Macht*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5/15/79  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE March 2, 1979

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**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

County Road to a point that is North 14 rods and 20 links and west 4 rods and 34 links to the East line of said Section 17; thence South along the East line of said Section 17 a distance of 14 rods and 20 links to the point of beginning; EXCEPT that portion lying in roads and highways.-----