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NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Klamath Falls City Hall  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 226 South 5th Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Klamath Falls N/A vicinity  
state Oregon code OR county Klamath code 035 zip code 97601

3. Classification

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

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

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register 10/30/89  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Government/City Hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Government/City Hall

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century revivals/  
Beaux Arts Classicism (American  
Renaissance)

foundation concrete  
walls brick  
roof asphalt, built-up  
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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The American Renaissance style Klamath Falls City Hall stands on the northwest corner of Walnut Avenue and Fifth Street and faces in an easterly direction. Built in 1914 from designs by Earl B. Veghte, the building is architecturally distinguished by a buff brick exterior, parapet and fluted Ionic columns. The City Hall clearly exhibits associations with its period of historical significance, 1914 to 1930, a period of intense community growth. In good condition, the building demonstrates integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling -- effectively conveying its important role in the development of Klamath Falls local government.

Located in Township 38 South, Range 9, Section 32 (Assessor's Plat AC) the City Hall stands on lots 9 and 10 in the Klamath Addition to Klamath Falls. The building faces Fifth Street and is bounded on the south by Walnut Avenue and on the north by a parking lot which borders Klamath Avenue. The former Klamath Falls City Library, now the City Administration Building, stands across Fifth Street on the northeast corner of the intersection of that thoroughfare and Klamath Avenue.

The Klamath Falls City Hall, in the American Renaissance style, is symmetrically arranged and constructed of pressed brick in a running bond pattern. The two story building with flat roof, concrete foundation, and a daylight basement is rectangular in shape and measures 54 feet by 74 feet. On the facade and east elevation, four bays are defined by pilastered brick columns. A recessed front entry is flanked on either side by a pair of full size concrete Ionic columns with fluted shafts and spiral volutes. The upper portion of the building carries a brick parapet with shallow corbelling, a concrete cornice with dentils and a frieze with medallions. A small concrete balcony is suspended on the second story above the central entrance. The words "City Hall 1914" are positioned over the entry on the facade. Seven foot high concrete piers, now faced with brick, flank the steps leading to the building. A squarish cupola which originally stood atop the roof was removed about 1950. The original city bell now hangs in an arch at the entrance to Klamath Union High School.

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Concrete voussoirs top eight-over-one sash windows in wooden frames on all elevations. Several of the upper sashes on the first story now contain single lights. A sixteen-light transom, supported by carved brackets, is positioned above the upper balcony; the central entry has a transom and sidelights. There are three window bays on the north and south elevations and four bays on the west and rear elevation.

The building's interior basic spatial arrangement remains architecturally intact. Large offices on the ground floor flank the foyer and original glass doors provide entry to these rooms. Partitions have created smaller offices out of large spaces on the first story. The central stairway leads from the foyer to the second story. The stairwell and walls on the upper level retain their original panelling. A dogleg closed string staircase has a panelled wood railing and square newell posts.

The City Hall is bounded on the east and south by cement sidewalks, and on the north by a parking lot. Simple plantings of evergreen shrubbery and annual flowers brighten the central entry. At the building's rear, across across an alley, stands the Klamath Falls Police Department and Jail.

The Klamath Falls City Hall is distinctive architecturally and historically in the community. It retains both character and integrity, making it an important resource that conveys associations with governmental leadership in a period of intense development in Klamath Falls.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Politics/Government

Period of Significance  
1914-1930

Significant Dates  
1914

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Veghte, Earl Beach

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

City of Klamath Falls \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 0.24 Klamath Falls, Oregon-California 1:62500

UTM References

A 

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6	0	0	6	2	5
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4	6	7	5	0	7	5
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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located in SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 32, Township 38S, Range 9E, Willamette Meridian, in Klamath Falls, Klamath County, Oregon. It is legally described as Lots 9 and 10 in Block 75 of the Klamath Addition to Klamath Falls, Oregon, and is otherwise identified as Tax Lot 600 at said location.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated area of approximately one-quarter acre is comprised of the entire urban tax lot occupied by Klamath Falls City Hall from 1914 onward.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Katherine C. Atwood  
 organization N/A date February 1989  
 street & number 102 South Pioneer Street telephone (503) 482-8714  
 city or town Ashland state Oregon zip code 97520

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The historic City Hall in Klamath Falls, Oregon is located at the northwest corner of 5th and Walnut Streets in the central business district. The two and a half story brick building is faced with buff-colored brick. It was built in 1914 from plans prepared by a young architect named Earl Veghte, who, though newly arrived in the city, came from a family of builder-contractors in nearby Ashland.

The City Hall is a locally distinctive example of Beaux Arts, or Academic Classicism in the tradition of the American Renaissance. As such, it meets National Register Criterion C. It has a boxey, formally-composed palatial configuration atop a rusticated concrete base course and basement. Exterior elevations are enriched by wide, continuous strip pilasters rising the full height of two stories between structural bays. Contrasting with the brick are concrete trim elements, including flat-arched lintels with raised keystones and voussoirs, a full Classical entablature, and the four colossal fluted Ionic columns of the pronaos in antis, or shallow recessed portico. A lantern-like belfry, which historically rose above the flat roof in alignment with the center of the primary facade, was removed about 1950.

The City Hall is significant also under National Register Criterion A as the headquarters of municipal government during most of the period of major growth and upbuilding in Klamath Falls, the years from 1910 to 1930. This period of promise was ushered in by the rail connections which were in place by 1905 and vigorous promotion of commercial development and settlement by rail lines and land companies. The City Hall is a generally well-preserved expression of Progressive era values which called for a modern and efficient building to house the administrative functions and services demanded by an influx of population. Among the major public works efforts effected in the ten years between 1914 and 1924 was the paving of 15 miles of city streets. In 1918 building permits were instituted, and a local building code was adopted in 1927 at the height of new construction. Like its counterparts in communities everywhere in this period, the Klamath Falls City Hall was planned as a functional yet stately edifice befitting the seat of local government. In 1930 Klamath Falls ranked as the fourth largest city in the state. This high point of expectation would be dashed by economic depression and drought.

In recent years the city government has outgrown its historic seat. The fire department and jail now are housed elsewhere, but the building continues in use by the municipality.

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The American Renaissance style Klamath Falls City Hall constructed in 1914, is locally significant under Criteria A for its historic associations with events that contributed to the broad patterns of Klamath Falls' development. That flourishing community's expansion during the first two decades of the century demanded the construction of a modern, well equipped public building to house city offices. The new City Hall achieved its significance between 1914 and 1930, an intense growth period in Klamath Falls. The resource is significant in the area of politics/government as the signal community building to represent local government. The City Hall retains its integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling and clearly conveys its historic associations.

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

On November 11, 1882 Klamath County was formally recognized with Linkville as the county seat. By the time the city charter was granted in February, 1889, the town had 384 people. (2) The economy thrived, but a series of disastrous fires between September, 1889 and July, 1894 devastated the town, now known as Klamath Falls. The fires' destruction effectively ended development during the last decade of the century.

The new century brought new life to Klamath Falls. The Klamath Addition was platted in 1900 and the same year the Klamath Basin irrigation project promised extensive agricultural development of rural areas. During 1901-1903 the first railroad to enter the county was built to serve the lumber mills. (3) In 1904 one million acres of public land became available for agricultural use, and construction of a railroad line from Weed, California to Klamath Falls was announced for 1905. New additions were platted and soon eighty buildings were under construction including two large schools, a hotel, and several commercial buildings. (4) A Southern Pacific firm, the Klamath Development Company, acquired



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

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

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

Klamath Falls' first city hall building was constructed about 1895 by Goeller and Son, at the corner of Third and Main Streets. The wooden building was later moved across the block to the northwest corner of Fourth Street and Klamath Avenue. The structure was also temporarily used as the county high school and as the headquarters of the volunteer fire department.

On November 24, 1913 Klamath Falls voters approved a \$50,000 bond issue for a new city hall to replace the inadequate older building. At its February 9, 1914 meeting the city council awarded R.M.. Grant and Company of Chicago the bonds. (9) Earl Veghte was chosen architect for the building, described in the local newspaper as two-and-a-half stories with a basement. The basement was planned to house the jail and heating plant, the first and second stories would contain offices and the fire department quarters would be installed between the second floor and the roof : (10)

Klamath Falls new city hall is to be extremely convenient and useful, besides being decidedly ornamental, according to plans drawn by Earl Veghte, local architect. (11)

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Veghte, a third generation Oregon builder, was an Ashland native, born in July, 1889 to Charles H. and Ida Beach Veghte. Charles Veghte, a prominent Ashland contractor, was responsible for construction of several homes and businesses in the community. Ida Veghte was the daughter of Baldwin Beach, a skilled carpenter who lived and worked in Ashland for several decades. (12) \*

Earl Veghte, aged twenty-five when he planned the new city hall building, had moved to Klamath Falls about 1912 and established himself as an architect and builder. On March 18, 1914 the Evening Herald announced:

Sometime this week, Earl B. Veghte, architect, expects to finish a perspective of the new city hall. Mr. Veghte has the plans completed and these are open to the public at his office in the first Trust and Savings Bank Building. (13)

Work on the new city hall was underway by mid-June with Fred Cofer of Cofer Brothers, Klamath Falls builders, in charge of construction. The first floor was completed by August 22, 1914. Although the contractor predicted that the building would be complete by New Year's Day 1915, work continued until early March. On March 9, 1915 the local paper announced that the city council had agreed to pay Cofer Brothers \$5000 of \$7500 owed them although exterior painting and some facing work remained to be done. (14) The following week city employees began moving into the new building. The old firebell was removed from the former fire hall and installed in the new quarters. (15)

\* The home Beach constructed for his family on Hargadine Street is on the National Register of Historic Places. (1978)

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For the next fifteen years, through Klamath Falls' period of greatest growth, the City Hall served the community as the center of local government, housing city officers, the fire department and the jail. In 1930 Klamath Falls stood briefly and proudly as the fourth largest city in Oregon. Within months, however, the city's prospects changed. Samuel Dicken, Oregon geographer, described the economic situation:

Shortly, the economy of the Basin was affected; commodity prices fell and the demand for lumber and agricultural products, crops and livestock, declined sharply, and unemployment increased. The effect was heightened by the drought. Several businesses failed, as did some banks. (16)

City Hall continued to function during the difficult years. Not until preparation for World War II began did the Depression's effects lighten in Klamath Falls. At war's end, however, immigration to the city and a rising birth rate brought renewed business and governmental activity to the city.

Klamath Falls City Hall has fulfilled its purpose for over 70 years. About 1950 the building's cupola was removed and the city bell transported to Klamath Union High School where it remains today. The fire department left the building and moved to new quarters in the city. In 1952 the basement jail's poor condition encouraged construction of a new city police department and jail west of the city hall. \*\*

\*\* Charles Howard, former police chief of Klamath Falls, provided information regarding the removal of the cupola, the re-establishment of the fire department, and the construction of the new jail building in 1952. (Communication January 24, 1989)

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The Klamath Falls City Hall retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The building remains in its original prominent location and retains its historic relationship with the community. The resource retains original elements of style, form, proportion, scale and ornament. The exterior has received little alteration and remains in good condition.

The City Hall architecturally conveys the feeling of its historic period of significance and remains the place where critical events and significant daily activities shaped the history of Klamath Falls. The City Hall stands today, as it did in concept, a symbol of the people it serves.

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Notes

- (1) McArthur, Lewis A., 1974. OREGON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES, (Portland, Oregon: Oregon Historical Society), p. 433; AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF CENTRAL OREGON, EMBRACING WASCO, SHERMAN, GILLIAM, WHEELER, CROOK, LAKE AND KLAMATH COUNTIES, STATE OF OREGON. 1905. (Spokane, Washington, Western Publishing Company), p. 977.
- (2) Good, Rachel Applegate, 1940. HISTORY OF KLAMATH COUNTY, (Klamath Falls, Oregon) p. 63.
- (3) Dicken, Samuel N., Emily F. 1985. THE LEGACY OF ANCIENT LAKE MODOC; A HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE KLAMATH LAKES BASIN, pp. I-13; I-14.
- (4) Tonsfeldt, Ward. Klamath Falls Cultural Resource Survey, 1986, p. 60.
- (5) Ibid.; KLAMATH ECHOES, NO. 5, Centennial Issue Part II, (1967) p. 78.
- (6) "Population of Oregon Cities and Counties and Metropolitan Areas, 1850-1957," (Oregon State University: Bureau of Municipal Research and Service, Information Bulletin No. 106.) p. 4.
- (7) Ibid.
- (8) Klamath Falls Evening Herald, July 13, 1917.
- (9) Ibid., November 22, 1913, p. 1; February 9, 1914, p. 1; February 10, 1914, p. 1.
- (10) Ibid., February 13, 1914.
- (11) Ibid.
- (12) U.S. Federal Census, 1900 (Klamath County)
- (13) Klamath Falls Evening Herald, March 18, 1914, 4:1.

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- (14) Ibid., June 9, 1914, 1; August 22, 1914, 1; August 27, 1914, 1:2
- (15) Ibid., December 21, 1914 1:3; March 9, 1915, 1; March 16, 1915, 1:1
- (16) Dicken, 1985. p. 5-4.

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An Illustrated History of Central Oregon, Embracing Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler, Crook, Lake and Klamath Counties, State of Oregon. 1905 Spokane, Washington: Western Publishing Company.

Dicken, Samuel N. Emily F., 1985. The Legacy of Ancient Lake Modoc: A Historical Geography of the Klamath Lakes Basin.

Good, Rachel Applegate, 1940. History of Klamath County, Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Evening Herald (Klamath Falls) November 22, 1913; February 9, 1914; February 10, 1914; February 13, 1914; March 19, 1914; June 9, 1914; August 22, 1914; August 27, 1914; December 21, 1914; March 9, 1915; March 16, 1915; July 13, 1917.

Klamath Echoes, No. 5, Centennial Issue Part II, (1967)

McArthur, Lewis A., 1974. Oregon Geographic Names, Portland, Oregon: Oregon Historical Society.

Tonsfeldt, Ward, Klamath Falls Cultural Resource Survey, 1986.

SEE MAP 38 09 32AB

1/16 COR.

6TH

2900 ST.

4700

2608

3800

3900

4000

4100

4200

4300

1732

1600

1500

1400

1300

1200

1100

1000

900

GC

300

2600

2500

2400

2300

2200

2100

2000

1900

1800

1700

1600

F

AVE

ST

100

200

300

400

500

600

700

800

ST.

WALNUT ST.

LINKVILLE

KLAMATH

WALNUT ST.

KLAMATH

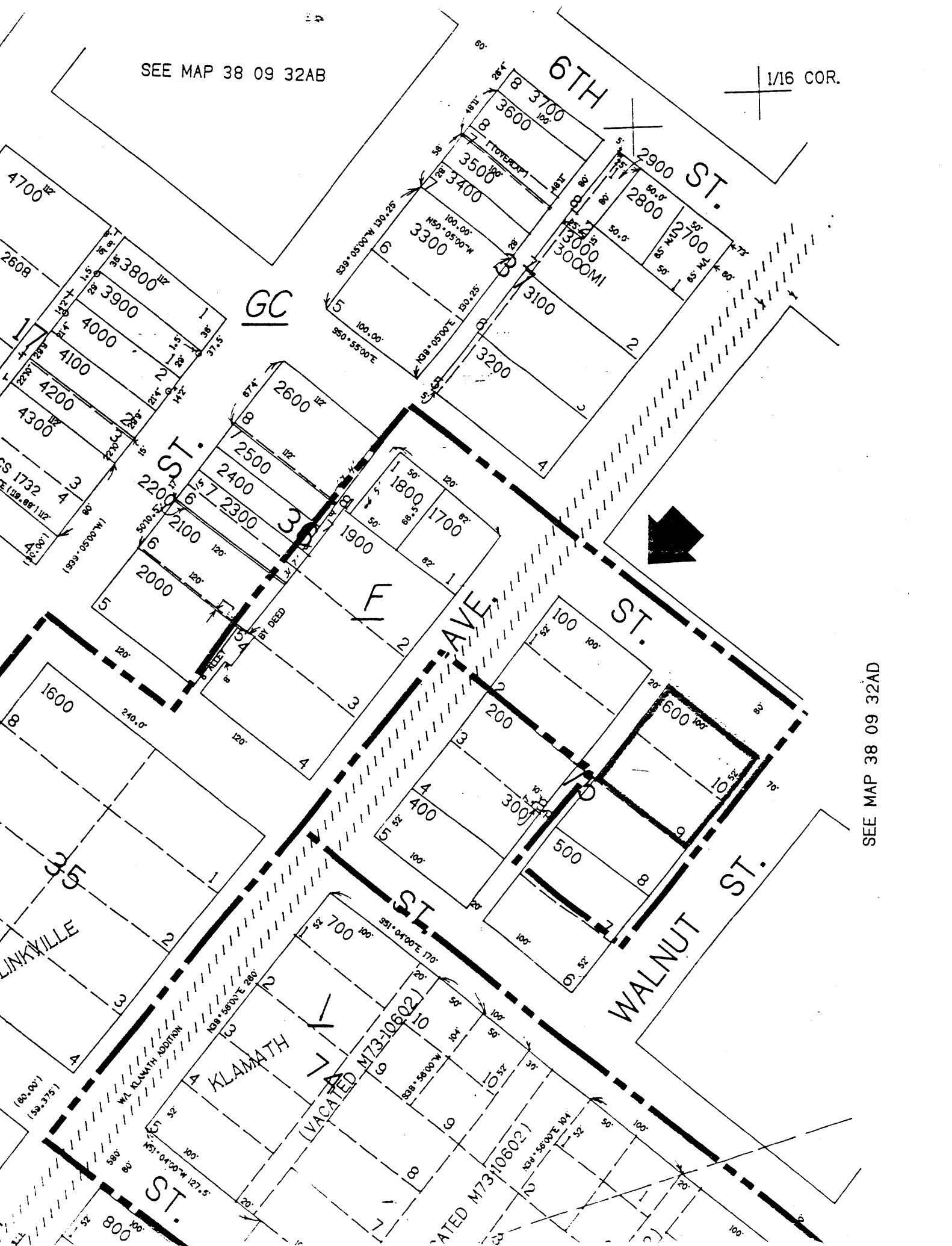
WALNUT ST.

KLAMATH

WALNUT ST.

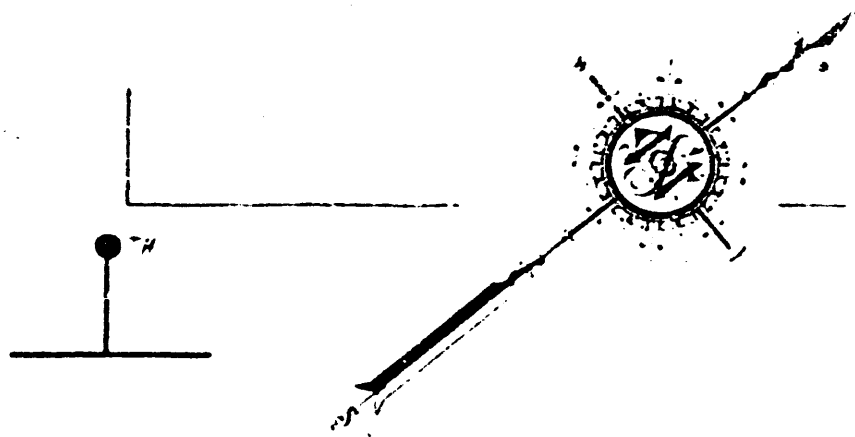


SEE MAP 38 09 32AD

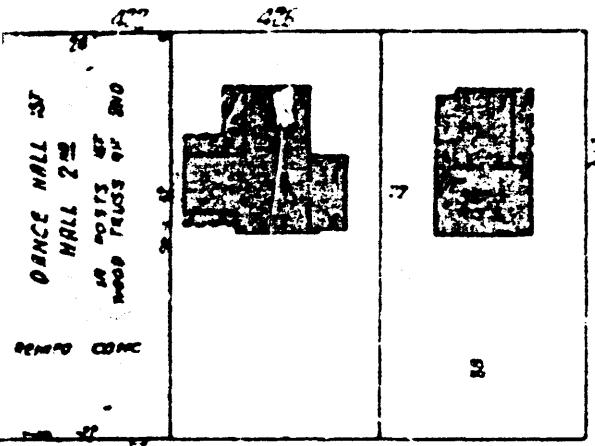




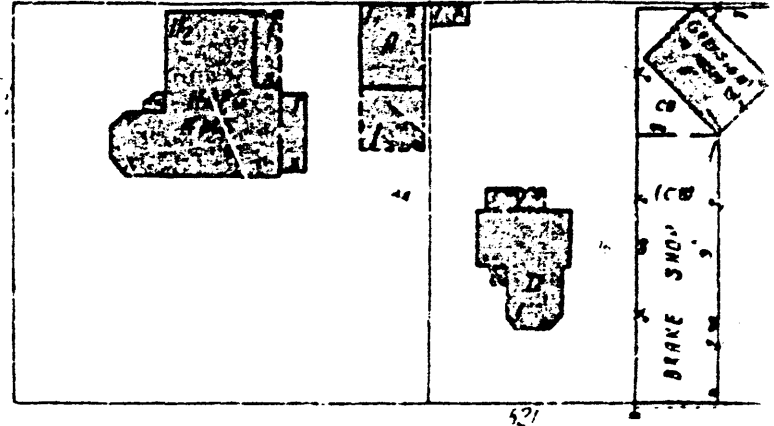
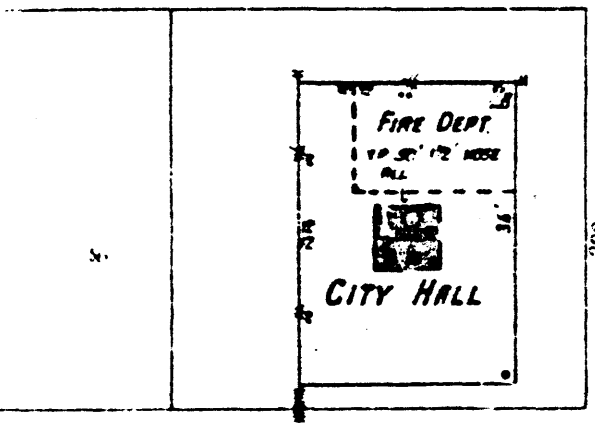
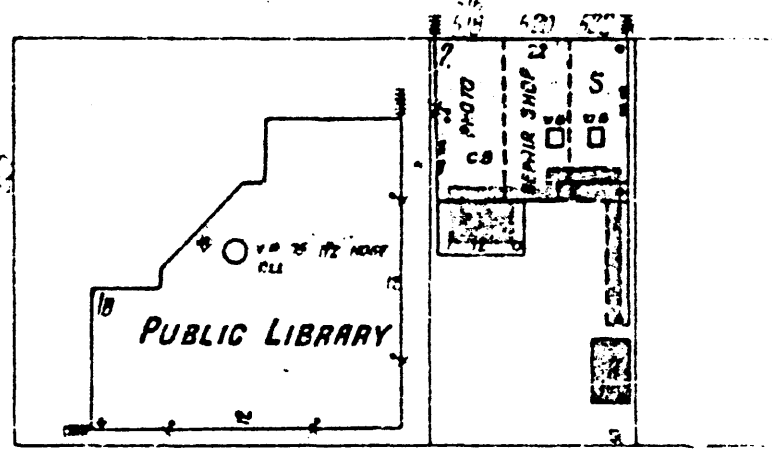
115



ATH AV.



60



JUT AV.

70 ft wide

Klamath Falls  
1931 Sanborn Fire  
Insurance Map