United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received   AUG   8 1984

date entered   SEP   7 1984

1. Name

historic   Astoria City Hall (old)

and/or common   Clatsop County Heritage Center

2. Location

street & number   1618 Exchange Street   N/A not for publication

city, town   Astoria   N/A vicinity of   First Congressional District

state   Oregon   code   41   county   Clatsop   code   007

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	_X_ museum
_X_ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	_X_ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	N/A in process	_X_ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	N/A being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name   Roderick Gramson, George Brugh, Charles A. Taggart and Harry Claterbos

street & number   1618 Exchange Street

city, town   Astoria   N/A vicinity of   state   Oregon   97103

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.   Clatsop County Courthouse

street & number   749 Commercial Street

city, town   Astoria   state   Oregon   97103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title   Statewide Iventory of Historic Sites & Buildings   has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes _X_ no

date   1976   ___ federal _X_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records   Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, 525 Trade St. SE

city, town   Salem   state   Oregon   97310

7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Astoria City Hall is a Colonial Revival style building constructed between 1904 and 1905 by the city of Astoria for its new city hall. Measuring 87 feet north and south on 16th Street, by 67 feet on both Duane Street to the north and Exchange Street to the south, the two story building served the city approximately 35 years before Astoria moved its municipal headquarters to a more central location in the downtown section of the city. Designed by noted Portland architect Emil Schacht, the building is in fair condition.

Oriented to the west, the building occupies a sloping site in a mixed use neighborhood which once was the focal point for development away from the historic city center to the west. Located in the NW¼ of the SE¼ of Section 8, Township 8 North, Range 9 West of the Willamette Meridian, the building occupies a 100 x 125-foot parcel otherwise known as Lots 5 and 6 of Block 120, Shively's Addition to the City of Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon.

Constructed on a random ashlar stone base, the rectangular mass is constructed entirely of wood and is topped by a truncated hipped roof from which single, centered barrel-vaulted dormers appear on each elevation. The exterior is sheathed in narrow weatherboards and wood is used for the major decorative elements.

Using a typical Beaux-Arts design formula, the entry and center bays are recessed on the major elevations. The west (front) facade is divided into five bays by the use of corner pavilions and colossal pilasters. These lead to a full Classical entablature with blank frieze, dentil course, and projecting cornice supported by block modillions, above which appears a paneled parapet.

Windows on all elevations are single or paired one-over-one sliding sash of varying dimensions. On the first floor, windows are identical and heavily framed. They are distinguished by a generous cornice molding supported by consoles. Window surrounds on the second floor are also identical.

On the west elevation, unfluted Corinthian columns support the full entablature porch roof with pierced balustrade. On the south elevation, a similarly-designed porch is remarkable for its broken pedimented roof with urn decoration. Immediately above, a recessed porch is notable for a pierced balustrade, bracketed entablature, and short Tuscan Doric columns, a feature which appears again on the north elevation.

Additionally, the Corinthian capitals on the colossal engaged pilasters are missing on each elevation and a one-story garage-type structure has been added to the north elevation. Originally, there were wrought iron brackets supporting lighting fixtures on each side of the west entrance, but these have disappeared.

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On the north side of the building, there is another entrance through the stone foundation wall. This leads from Duane Street into the basement which, when the Old Astoria City Hall was built, held the city jail, furnace and fuel rooms. Many of the old cells are still in place, although in poor condition. Later, a caretaker's apartment was added to this basement complex, but it also has deteriorated.

Originally, the building was designed to be used by the officers and official groups of the city of Astoria so all of the rooms in the building are large, well-lighted, and each has a wide access into the main hallways which run north and south on each of the two main floors. The first floor has two huge rooms facing west with a hallway leading to the western entrance dividing them while a similar situation exists on the second floor, although here there is no dividing hallway. On each floor, there are somewhat smaller corner rooms on the northeast and southeast corners, and between these are a series of smaller rooms serving as individual offices, restrooms and utility rooms.

There are three large safe rooms, built in with walls and doors of steel, two on the first floor and one on the second. The single staircase leading from the first floor to the second is at the northeast end of the main hallway. It is a wide, wooden stairway which doubles back on itself at the halfway point.

Since the Old Astoria City Hall has had several different owners through the years, a few changes have been made in the basic structure, although most of these were interior alterations.

During World War II, the building was used as a U.S.O. facility and was at that time physically attached to an armory which had been built on the property directly to the east of the Old Astoria City Hall. Additional toilet and shower facilities were installed in the building during this time, and an entrance was made through the walls of the building which allowed free passageway from the armory into the Old Astoria City Hall. These have since been sealed.

Later, the Columbia River Maritime Museum used the Old Astoria City Hall as a museum, again without changing the basic structure or floor plan. Basically, the layout of the city hall proved to be ideal for a museum.

And today, the Clatsop County Historical Society is using the Old Astoria City Hall as an office and planning for a future museum facility in the old structure, again to be done without changing the basic floor plan or design.

Even though the building has deteriorated in places and badly needs repairs, the basic struture is still sound and can be used for many years to come. It is a charming, attractive old building in a good location, and a source of pride for the citizens of this historic city.

8. Significance

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Astoria City Hall, located at 1618 Exchange Street in Astoria, Oregon, was constructed between 1904-1095 in the Colonial Revival style. Of wood frame construction over a stone base, the building was designed by Portland architect Emil Schacht and built by local contractors Ferguson and Houston.

Due to its association with a hoped-for shift of the city center to the east, and as the center of government activities in Astoria for 35 years, the Old City Hall is locally significant under Criterion "a." In addition, it is a fine example of Colonial Revival architecture designed by a noted Portland architect, retaining a high degree of integrity, and is thus eligible under Criterion "c."

Originally, the city of Astoria had its city all located farther west in what was then the downtown section of the city. But, as the city grew, these quarters, built in 1878, became inadequate and around the turn of the century, the city began looking for a new location on which to eret a new and larger city hall. At the time, there were those who were trying to build up a section of the city near 16th Street, six blocks east of the city center. A new hospital building had been put up by St. Marys on 16th Street a few years before, and other commercial interests had been developing nearby properties. It was inevitable that a site in this area should be considered for the proposed new city hall.

Actually, the chosen site is historic in its own right. The first American cemetery west of the Mississippi River was built there by members of the Astor party in 1811. These graves were moved to another location later, but when the Old Astoria City Hall was built, the tombstone of Donald McTavish, the first British governor of Ft. George, was displayed in a special iron cage near the southeast corner of the building. McTavish drowned while crossing the Columbia River in 1814.

In January, 1904, the Astoria city council, over-riding a veto by the mayor, purchased Lots 5 and 6, Block 120, Shively's Addition to the city of Astoria, as a site for the new city hall. Ferguson & Houston were chosen to build the new building from a design of Emil Schacht, with the cost set at $40,000 (including the price of the lots). James Ernest Ferguson also designed and built many other buildings in town including the Grace Episcopal Church while his father Albert W. Ferguson designed and built the first Astoria city hall in 1878.

Constrution was completed by the middle of June, 1905, and a dedication ceremony was held there on July 4, 1905. Lighting was not installed until a month later, however, but in the meantime all of the city offices as well as the City Library had been moved into the new building. For the next 35 years, the Old Astoria City Hall was the center of the city's official business operations.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Astoria, Oregon-Washington

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A |1,0| |4,3,6,3,9,0| |5,1,1,5,1,1,0|
   Zone Easting   Northing

B |__| |__,__,__,__,__| |__,__,__,__,__|
   Zone Easting   Northing

C |__| |__,__,__,__,__| |__,__,__,__,__|
D |__| |__,__,__,__,__| |__,__,__,__,__|
E |__| |__,__,__,__,__| |__,__,__,__,__|
F |__| |__,__,__,__,__| |__,__,__,__,__|
G |__| |__,__,__,__,__| |__,__,__,__,__|
H |__| |__,__,__,__,__| |__,__,__,__,__|

Verbal boundary description and justification The Old Astoria City Hall occupies a 100 x 125' lot and is located on Lots 5 and 6, of Block 120, Shively's Addition to the City of Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon, otherwise sited in the NW¼ of the SE¼ of Section 8, Township 8 North, Range 9 West of the Willamette Meridian.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | None | code | county | code |
| state | None | code | county | code |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rogert T. Tetlow - Historian and Writer

organization Clatsop County Historical Society   **date** March 1, 1984

street & number 1832 Exchange Street   **telephone** 325-4083

city or town Astoria   **state** Oregon 97103

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:
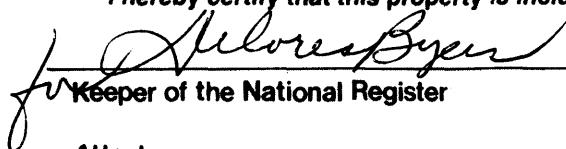
____ national   ____ state   _X_ local

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

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer   **date** July 7, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register   **date** 9-7-84

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300 (11-78)

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received

date entered

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The city center, however, did not move eastward to the 16th Street area, and by
the late 1930s it had become apparent that it never would. The Old Astoria City
Hall was isolated back to the downtown area. A bank building was purchased and
from that time on to the present, the Astoria city hall has been in the downtown
area of the city.

During the early years of the 1940s, an armory had been built on the property
just east of the Old Astoria City Hall. The city of Astoria turned over the 16th
Street property to the State of Oregon which in turn used it as a part of the
armory complex. The U.S.O. was eventually installed in the old building which hd
been attached to the armory with passageways opened between the two buildings.
During World War II, these two buildings were the center of the military and
social activity in the area.

After sitting idle for a number of years, the Old Astoria City Hall was brought
back to life in 1962 with the establishment of the Columbia River Maritime
Museum. The large, well-lighted rooms were a natural facility for a museum and
it prospered. The basement area was not used at this time exept for utilitarian
purposes. Probably, many of the tourists who came to the museum were as much
interested in the old building as they were in the maritime exhibits.

In 1982, the Columbia River Maritime Museum moved into a new building along the
Columbia River waterfront, two blocks north of the Old Astoria City Hall, and the
building was vacant once again. meanwhile, the state had sold both the armory
and the city hall property to private parties who in turn leased the Old Astoria
City Hall to the Clatsop County Historical Society which promptly moved its
offices there and began making preparations to convert the old building once
again into a museum, this one to be devoted to the general history of Astoria and
the Lower Columbia area.

Despite the years of use and the years of neglect, the Old Astoria City Hall is
still a beautiful old building, structurally sound, and in a good location.
Because of its architectural beauty and its soundness of construction, the old
building deserves a place in the list of the city of Astoria's historic buildings.

ARCHITECT

During his 40 yeas of practice in Portland, Schacht was responsible for many
notable buildings. The building for which he is perhaps best known is the
Oriental Building which was built for Portland's Lewis and Clark Exposition in
1905. Done in an ornate Spanish Renaissance style, the building was torn down
when the fair grounds were demolished a few years later. Other buildings inlude
Old Central Police Headquarters at 2nd and Oak Streets (1912); the early Elks
Temple at 329 Stark and the Perkins Hotel at 422 SW 5th (demolished).

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The Cachot Therkelsen Collection in the Special Collections department of the
University of Oregon Library in Eugene, Oregon, shows in its index 122 blueprints
of projects by Emil Schacht, 49 by Emil Schacht and Son, 19 by Martin Schacht, 24
by Schacht & Bergen, and 1 by Schacht & Linde. Included in the list are many
titles which are missing in the inventory.

Surviving buildings in Astoria by Schacht:

North Pacific Brewing Co. beer storage building, 1896, remodeled in
1928-29 for Uppertown Fire Station
Old City Hall, 1904-05
Frank I. Dunbar House, 1911
Scandinavian American Bank Building, 1912. Burned in 1922, but rebuilt
as old U. S. National Bank
First National Bank (Schacht & Bergen), 1923. Modernized both inside and
outside.

Emil Schacht was born in 1854 in southern Denmark. He studied at Hanover,
Germany and at Copenhagen, Denmark. He moved to New York City in 1874 where he
was a draftsman for six years, returned to Denmark for one year where he married,
then moved to Omaha, Nebraska. In 1884, he moved to Portland where he worked
alone at first, then after with his son Martin. He died suddenly in 1926.

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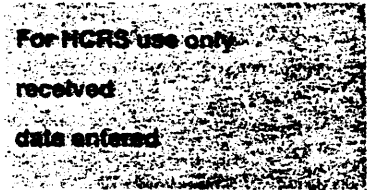
Continuation sheet OLD ASTORIA CITY HALL   **Item number**   9   **Page**   1

Astoria Daily Budget

     November 21, 1903
     December 15, 22, 29, 1903
     February 10, 1904
     June 3, 4 and 17, 1904
     July 16, 1904
     August 8, 10, 13 and 17, 1904
     November 28, 1904
     December 24, 1904
     January 17, 1905
     June 7, 1905
     July 3, 1905

Daily Morning Astorian

     November 3, 1903

OLD **BULKHEAD**

APPROX WATER LINE

300 150

400 401

S P & S

600
0.09Ac.

601
0.13Ac.

700
0.08Ac.

800
0.08Ac.

900
0.32Ac.

1000
0.24Ac.

DB

ST.

ST.

1001

COMMERCIAL (WALER ST.) **MARINE** 1-01

2901

3000
5 | 4 | 3 | 2

134

2900

2800
6 | 5

2700
4 | 3 | 2 | 1

133

2600
6 | 5 | 4

0.48Ac.

2600A1

13

SHIVELY'S

DUANE

119

16th ST.

119
5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1

1400
0.86Ac.

120
6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1

17th

1800 | 1700

2000 | 1900

6 | 5 | 4

12
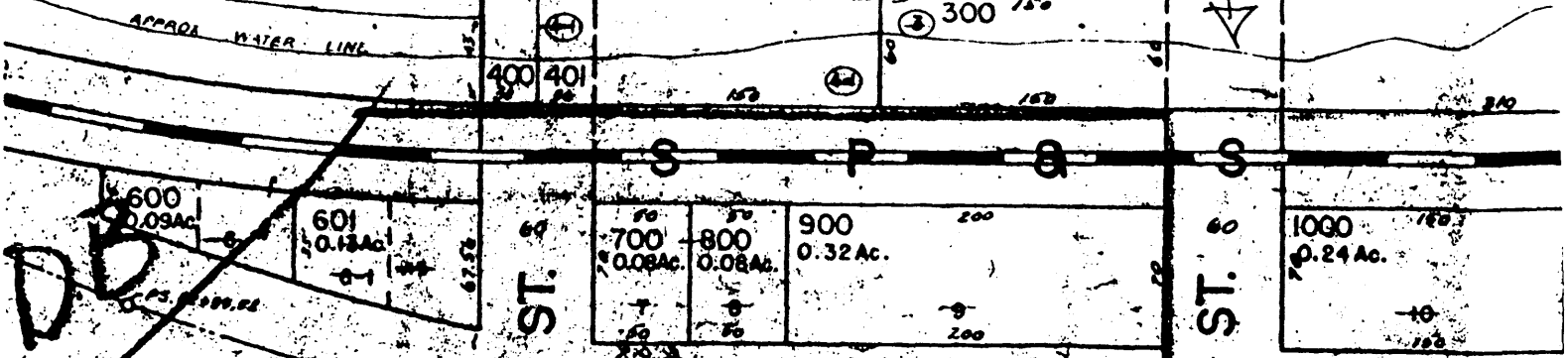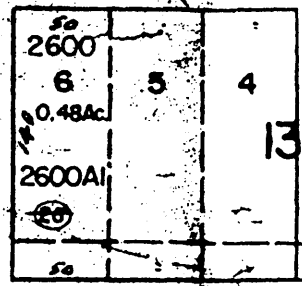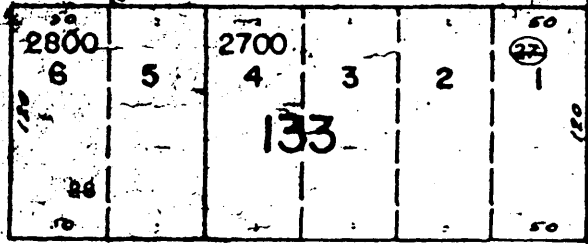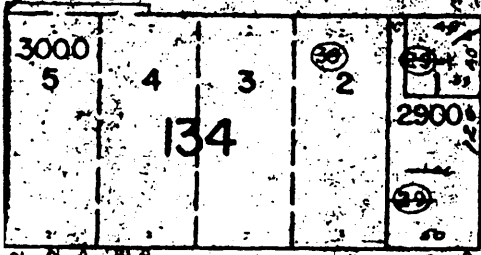
(CUSHING'S COURT)
HISTORIC DESIGNATION
OLD CITY HALL
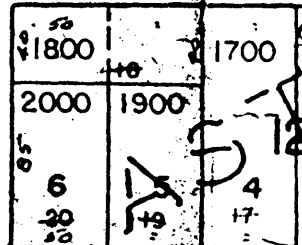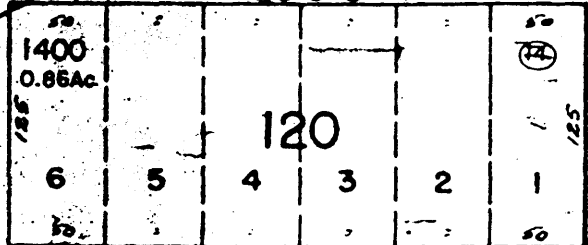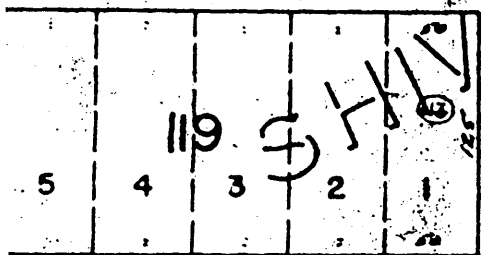
EXCHANGE

8400 | 18300 | 18200 | | 17900

5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1

.25ac

18000

18100

181

184 | 183 | 182 | 189 | 189

114

185-1 | 8801

188-1 | 18900

3700 | 8800
8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12

17000 | | 16900 | | 16700 | 16600

6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2

17100

170

17200

173 | 17400

17300

17800

168

113
7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12

15300

153

15400
6 | 5 | 4

154

15500

155

15600

162

15100

151

161

16100

11

7 | 8 | 9

187 | 188
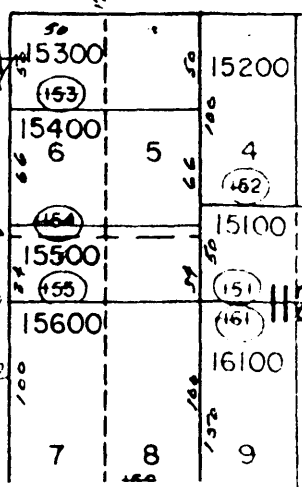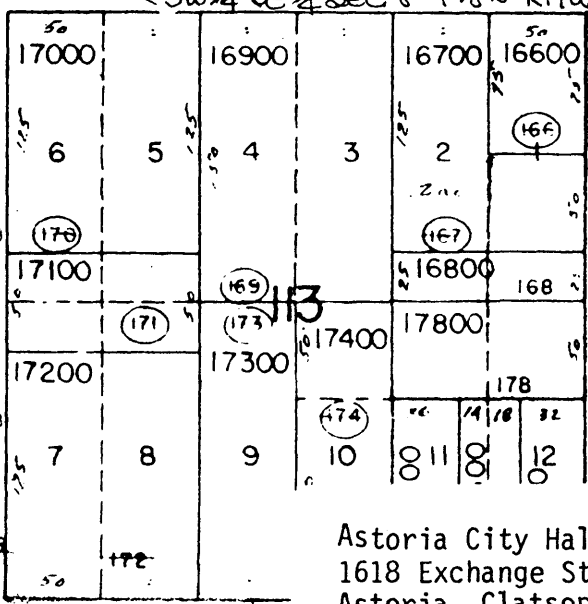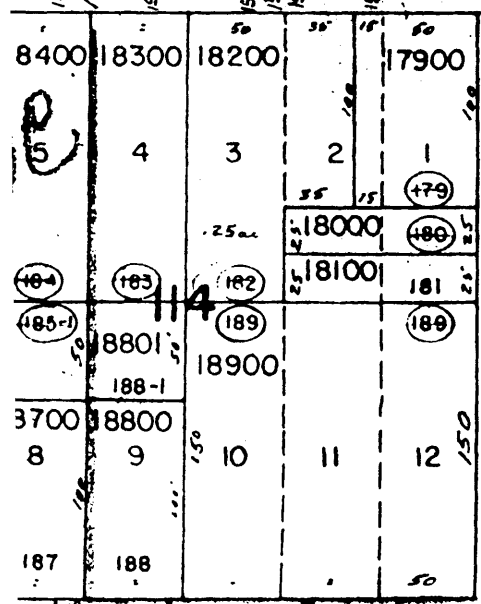
FRANKLIN

Astoria City Hall (Old)
1618 Exchange Street
Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon