

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received AUG 8 1984
date entered SEP 7 1984

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

1. Name

historic Grants Pass City Hall and Fire Station (Old)

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 4th and "H" Streets N/A not for publication

city, town Grants Pass N/A vicinity of Second Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Josephine code 033

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name City of Grants Pass

street & number 101 Northwest A Street

city, town Grants Pass N/A vicinity of Oregon 97526

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Josephine County Courthouse

street & number NE Sixth Street

city, town Grants Pass Oregon 97526

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Inventory of Historical Sites and Buildings has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Oregon State Parks & Recreation

city, town Salem Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The two-story Grants Pass City Hall and Fire Station (Old), located at 7th and "H" Street in Grants Pass, was the second design of architect W. F. Bowen of Ashland. Constructed in 1912, it served the city for 63 years. It has been unoccupied since 1983 and is in deteriorated condition.

Constructed in brick from the Willamina Brick yard in Yamhill County, the elevations display classicized detailing reminiscent of the American Renaissance style. The building is oriented to the east and occupies a 65 x 100 foot parcel composed of all of Lots 23 and 24 and the eastern 15 feet of Lot 22, Block 47 of the plat of Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon.

The site was purchased from the Salvation Army with cash from the sale of the Old City Hall on 6th Street to the "Golden Rule Department Store" for \$10,000. The first building designed by architect W. F. Bowen was a 60 x 80 foot two-story building with white "plastic" brick on front and both sides and the rear of common brick. The floors of corridors and toilets were to be of terrazo.

The final design was 50 x 60 feet and was constructed to house the City Hall, Jail and Fire Station, and included a fire hose drying tower. The north side of the ground floor was a garage for the fire truck with sleeping quarters above for the firemen. The Council Chambers were also on the second floor; southwest corner of the building.

The white exterior brick used were dry pressed and waterproofed, a new design by Willamina Brick Company of Willamina, Oregon.

The foundation is concrete, as is the first floor of the fire engine garage and the jail. The remainder of the first floor and second floor is constructed of wood joists, board sub-flooring and wood flooring. The roof is wood construction with hot mopped asphalt roofing. The original fire hose tower was reduced in height to 6' above the roof.

The shallow front porch is dramatized by a full classical entablature which is supported by two stylized Doric columns. Upper friezes are plain and textural relief is provided by a dentil course which also appears on the upper cornice. The entrance porch is flanked by paired six-over-one, double-hung sash windows with fixed transom panel. Most other windows on all other elevations are also in a six-over-one configuration. Their disposition on the elevations does not reflect a formal symmetry except on the south. Horizontality is emphasized by raised belt, sill and lintel courses.

Toward the northeast corner, an original narrow garage door, leading to the fire station, has been replaced by a wider storefront-type entrance c. 1950, composed of paired one-over-one windows which flank a glass and panel door. A classicized cornice projection extends across this feature. The new firehouse building is attached at the first floor level to the west elevation, but no other exterior changes are evident although there is a difference in the parapet as evidenced by comparison with historic photos.

The interior walls are of wood lath and plaster and the interior has been altered several times as City departments grew and relocated within the building.

In 1950, the City added a new fire station to the rear of the building. At this time the Water Department took over the fire engine garage on the northeast corner. The original

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet GRANTS PASS CITY HALL AND
FIRE STATION (OLD) Item number 7 Page 2

vault is in operating condition and the interior trim is in place and has been altered on some interior partitions.

The City moved out of the building (after occupying it for 63 years) in 1976 when the City built a new City Hall at 6th and A Streets.

The Fire Department moved out of the fire station, built in 1950 at the rear of the property, in 1983.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1912 **Builder/Architect** M. J. Clark, builder/W.F. Bowen, architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Grants Pass City Hall and Fire House, located at the corner of 4th and "H" Streets in Grants Pass, Oregon, was constructed in 1912 in a simple American Renaissance style. As the focus of governmental activity and decision-making in Grants Pass for 63 years, the building meets National Register eligibility Criterion "a."

At the City Council meeting on March 22, 1912, a move was initiated to build a new city hall building on lots already owned by the City on Fourth and "H" Streets, for which \$750 had been paid to the Salvation Army. A new building was necessary because the old city hall building on Sixth Street had been sold to Frank Mashburn for his business, the Golden Rule Store. For that building Mr. Mashburn paid the City \$10,000. W. F. Bowen, an architect in Ashland, was retained to draw up plans and specifications. On May 3rd, a contract was let to A. J. Green, a local contractor, for \$19,450 for a building 60 x 80 feet, to be faced with white "plastic" brick, with hardwood floors downstairs, and terrazzo in corridors and toilet rooms. A decision was reached at the May 16th meeting of the Council to reject all past bids and the contract with A. J. Green, on the ground of public objections to the cost. The City advertised anew for bids for a building not to exceed the \$10,000. The Council appointed a City Hall Committee consisting of H. J. Clark, Everton, Herzinger, and Stricker. Architect W. F. Bowen, who designed the first building, was asked to design a new smaller building at the lower cost. The building was to include space for city officials, fire department headquarters, and a jail. On July 3rd, a contract was awarded to M. J. Clark (son of Councilman H. J. Clark), who presented the lowest bid, at \$8,016, for the building. But, on July 24th, at the Council Meeting, a City Ordinance was quoted, which stated that "no Council member shall be interested in any construction project undertaken by the City." Five of the Council members decided that the elder Clark was interested in his son's contract to an extent prohibited by law. Accordingly, H. J. Clark was taken off the Building Committee. M. J. Clark proved himself properly bonded, was awarded the contract, and started building the city hall immediately. The total cost of the completed building was \$8,953.75. This included the architect's fee of 2½ percent. The building located on 4th Street is at the westerly edge of an historic area ("G" Street between 6th and 4th) which predated the City Hall (circa 1850-1900) which fronted the Southern Pacific Railroad.

A number of major developments in Grants Pass' history are associated with the building.

One of the most interesting events was the city's involvement in the C. & O. C. Railroad. It was 1911 when the Grants Pass and Rogue River Railroad was proposed and the acquisition of property began and the first mile of track was laid, but the G. P. & R. R. R. Soon went bankrupt.

In January 1913, a Dr. Reddy of Medford convinced a group of local men to form the Pacific Interior Company which was preceded by a successful vote on a \$200,000 municipal bond issue for the railroad. A resolution was adopted on February 3, 1913, to allow \$2,500 to be transferred from the general fund into an account set up for the construction of the municipal railroad and work started at once.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1870, Cambridge: The M. I. T. Press, 1969 pp. 167-171.
Edna May Hill, "The Old City Hall & Fire Station,": August 26, 1982 & March 8, 1984
Grants Pass Daily Courier, June, 1911 through November, 1912.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6500 sq. ft. - .1492 acres

Quadrangle name Grants Pass, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1: 62500

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The old Grants Pass City Hall and Fire House occupies all of Lots 23, 24 and the east 15 feet of Lot 22, of Block 47 of the Town of Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon.

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

state	code	county	code
None			
state	code	county	code
None			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title D. Lorin Jacobs

organization Afseth, Jacobs & Schmitz, Architects date March 9, 1984

street & number 2950 East Barnett Road telephone (503) 779-5237

city or town Medford state Oregon 97524

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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 30, 1984

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 9/7/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

GRANTS PASS CITY HALL AND
Continuation sheet FIRE STATION (OLD)

Item number

8

Page

2

September 7, 1914, the first passenger ticket was sold at an auction for \$115 and the railroad began its regular runs from Grants Pass to Wilderville - approximately 10 miles. The railroad was run by the city until June 17, 1915 at which time it was sold to the Twohy Bros. Company for the sum of \$1. The Twohys immediately laid an additional 4½ miles of the 40 miles of track that they had contracted to build.

In 1920 the railroad was returned to the city's possession after the Twohys defaulted on their contract. Charlie Demaray, a pharmacist in Grants Pass, ran the railroad for the city for the next 30 years. The railroad made its final run on October 31, 1954.

The State Highway Commission bought the right-of-way from the city in 1957, which is proposed to be used by the state as the city's third bridge route.

Another important event for Grants Pass was the acquisition of the Rogue River Water Company. On September 17, 1914, a letter from the Rogue River Water Company was read at the City Council meeting offering to sell the water plant to the city. There were numerous studies and appraisals done to come up with a mutually agreeable price.

In 1930, the citizens approved a \$200,000 bond issue for construction of new water improvements and acquisition of the existing water system. Construction began, and after a long legal battle the water company property was acquired and incorporated into the system.

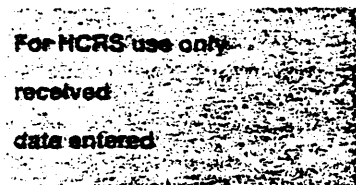
In 1933 the voters authorized the issuance of bond to build a sewage disposal plant.

The last item is our library. In 1912, the Carnegie Foundation offered the city and county \$10,000 to be used to build a library. The citizens voted not to accept the money because of the high cost of running the library.

A library was then set up in a room on the second floor of the city hall and its doors opened January 19, 1914. The library was moved in June, 1921 to the new Carnegie Building at Fifth and B Streets, and is still located on that site.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

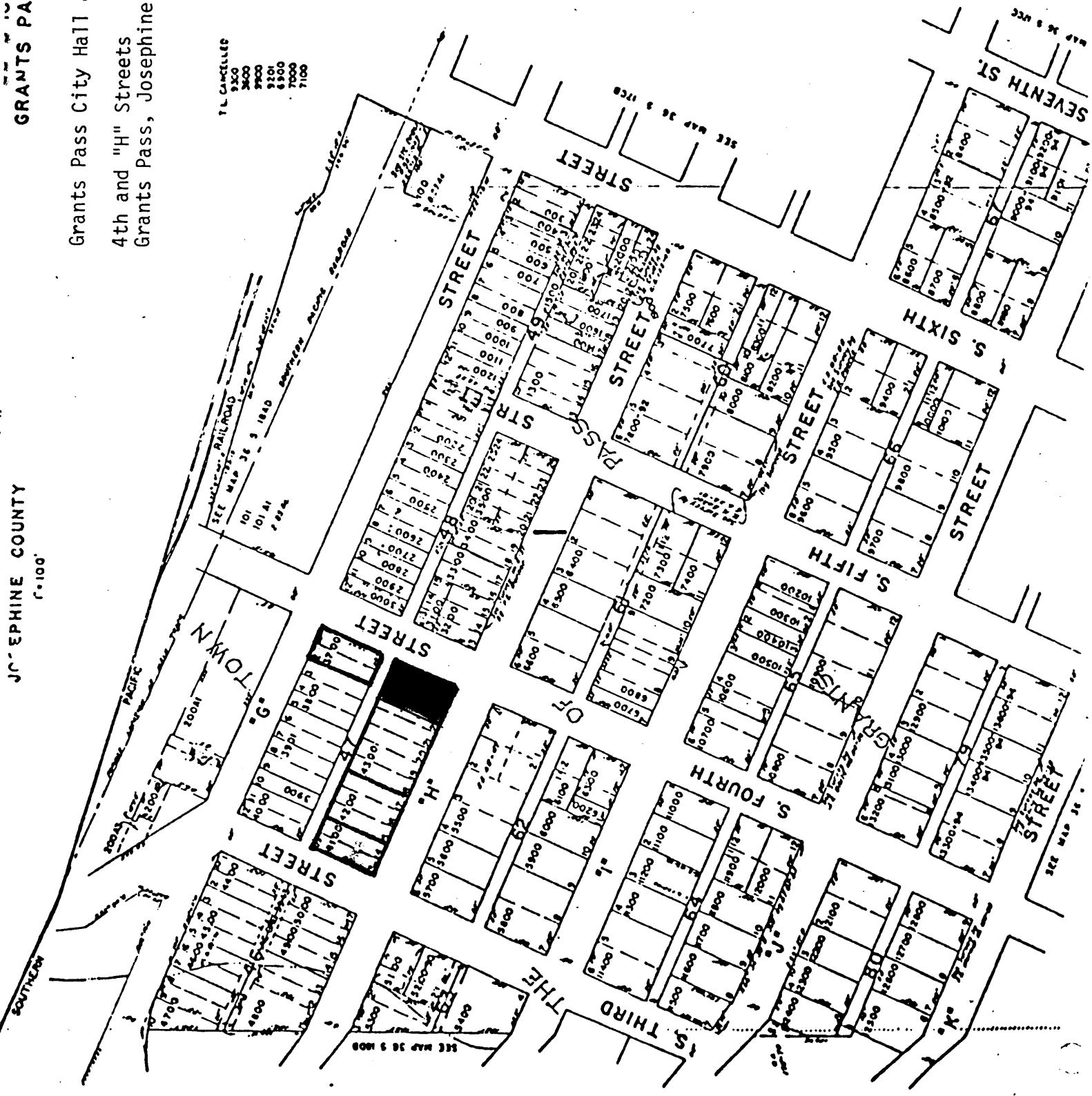
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet	GRANTS PASS CITY HALL AND FIRE STATION (OLD)	Item number	9	Page	2
--------------------	---	-------------	---	------	---

Grants Pass City Council minutes, January, 1911 through March 13, 1913

Grants Pass City Hall and Fire House
(01d)
4th and "H" Streets
Grants Pass, Josephine Co., Oregon



TL CANCELLED
 9300
 9400
 9500
 9600
 9700
 9800
 9900

SEE MAP 36 S 184D
 101
 101A1
 102A

SEE MAP 36 S 180B

SEE MAP 36 S 183C

SEE MAP 36

SEE MAP 36 S 182E