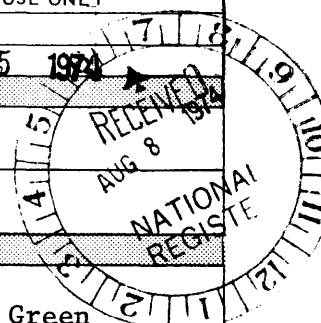


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oregon  
 COUNTY: Multnomah  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: NOV 5 1974



210 2543000

**1. NAME**  
 COMMON: Vista House  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Columbia River Scenic Highway Representative Edith Green  
 CITY OR TOWN: Crown Point CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Oregon Third Congressional District  
 STATE: Oregon CODE: 41 COUNTY: Multnomah CODE: 051

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP  | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both<br>Public Acquisition:<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|  |  |  |  |                                   |
|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial            | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational           | <input type="checkbox"/> Military              | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious         |  |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment         | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum                | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific        |  |                                   |

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
 OWNER'S NAME: Oregon State Highway Division  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon CODE: 97310 41

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Multnomah County Courthouse  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Portland STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings  
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Parks and Recreation Section  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Oregon State Highway Building  
 CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

STATE: Oregon  
 COUNTY: Multnomah  
 ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 5 1974  
 DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

|           |   |   |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|-----------|---|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                                   |   |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair  | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated             | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
|           | (Check One)                                   |   |                                | (Check One)                                       |                                |                                    |
|           | <input type="checkbox"/> Altered              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |                                |                                    |

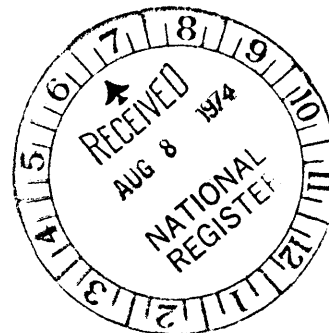
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The official opening of the Columbia River Highway from Portland to Hood River through the Columbia River Gorge marked the completion of a tremendous feat of highway construction. On June 6, 1916 at Crown Point, which is situated 725 feet above the river with a commanding view of the gorge, the highway was dedicated. On that rocky promontary in the same year, construction began on the Vista House, which was to be an observatory and rest stop. It was designed by Portland architect Edgar Lazarus in a style closely related to the German Jugendstil. Construction of Vista House, which is dedicated to early Oregon Pioneers, was completed in 1918. The cost of the house and its appurtenances was about \$100,000.

The dry masonry foundation was laid by native Italian craftsmen. The substructure is 64 feet in diameter. The octagonal superstructure of reinforced concrete is 44 feet in diameter and 55 feet in height. The interior was reported to be electrically ventilated. Floors and walls were faced with marble and trimmed in light cream and pink Kasota stone. The interior of the dome was lined with bronze. A tunnel which connected the structure with the highway on the north, or lower side, was lined with marble. The exterior facing was of light gray sandstone. The roof covering was reported to be Matt glazed green tile. The sidewalls, roadway, embankment and driveway are eccentric circles. The center of the structure is on tangent to the center of the highway. The eight steps of the octagon are concentric.

Exterior alterations to the house have been minimal but the interior has been modified to accommodate a concessionaire. Current plans call for the removal of the concessionaire and the restoration of the building to its original state.

Vista House is owned and maintained by the Oregon State Highway Division as part of the Crown Point State Park and is in good condition.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |  |            |  |
|------------------|--|------------|--|
| STATE            |  | Oregon     |  |
| COUNTY           |  | Multnomah  |  |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |  |            |  |
| ENTRY NUMBER     |  | DATE       |  |
|                  |  | NOV 5 1974 |  |

(Number all entries)

VISTA HOUSE (CONTINUED)

2. Location

Vista House is located atop Crown Point in the SW 1/4 Sec. 30 T.1N. R.5E. of the Willamette Meridian, Multnomah County, Oregon.



**4. SIGNIFICANCE**

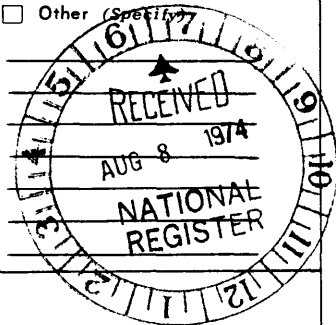
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1918**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Vista House at Crown Point on the old Columbia River Highway is an important phenomenon of the early automobile age in Oregon. Built as an observatory and rest station commanding a spectacular view of the Columbia Gorge, the structure was executed in an appropriately non-historic, or early modern style, closely related to the German Jugendstil.

Samuel Lancaster, Consulting Engineer for the Columbia River Highway, conceived the idea of an observation point at Crown Point, reportedly in connection with plans Richard Temple Dabney was developing for a large tourist hotel. Elaborating on the proposal, W. E. Conklin is said to have suggested the formation of an association to raise funds for the project. The original membership of the Vista House Association was made up by 52 prominent Portland business and civic leaders. It was the Vista House Association which conceived the idea of commemorating Oregon pioneers in the structure. The hexagon walls inside are inscribed with the names of revered pioneers, John McLoughlin, Jesse Applegate, James W. Nesmith, Joseph Lane, Asahel Bush, Mathew Paul Deady, the Rev. Jason Lee and Marcus Whitman. In 1929 a bronze tablet was placed in the Vista House in memory of Lieutenant William R. Broughton of the British Navy, who in 1792 sailed up the Columbia past Crown Point, as a member of Vancouver's Expedition, and named Mount Hood. Vista House was built under the direction of John B. Yeon, Multnomah County Roadmaster.

Designer of the structure was Portland architect Edgar M. Lazarus. Lazarus was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1868 and died in Portland in 1939. During his 45-year career in Portland, he was a member of the architectural firm of Lazarus, Whitehouse and Fouilhoux. During his lifetime he was elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. Other Oregon buildings designed by Lazarus included the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition Agricultural Palace, no longer standing. Reportedly, Lazarus was the local supervising architect for Portland's Italianate US Customs House of 1901.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Ross, Marion D., A Century of Architecture in Oregon. Women's Architectural League of the Oregon Chapter of the AIA, 1959. p. 13.

"Oregon to Honor Rugged Pioneers," Sunday Oregonian (Portland), April 28, 1918, p. 16.

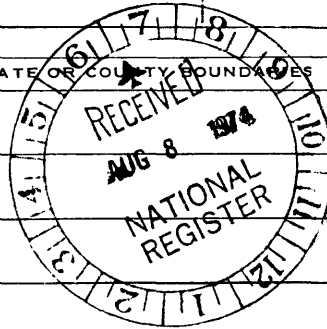
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | 0 . 0                   | 0 . 0                   |        | 45 0 32 . 23 .  | 122 0 14 . 36 .         |  |
| NE   | 0 . 0                   | 0 . 0                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SE   | 0 . 0                   | 0 . 0                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SW   | 0 . 0                   | 0 . 0                   |        |   |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Paul Hartwig, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: Oregon State Highway Division DATE: July 26, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon 97310 CODE: 41

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

*[Signature]*  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title State Parks Superintendent

Date August 2, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

*[Signature]*  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/5/74

ATTEST:  
*[Signature]*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 11.1.74