NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property	
historic name <u>Portland Railway, Light & Power Sellwood Division Carbarn Office and C</u> other names/site number <u>Carmen's Clubhouse</u>	Slubhouse
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street & number 8825 S.E. 11 th Avenue not for publication city or town Portland vicinity state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 9720	
======================================	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as ame certify that this \underline{x} nomination \underline{x} request for determination of eligibility meets the dostandards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered at the National Register Criteria. In the commend that the property be considered at the National Register Criteria.	ocumentation the procedural x meets ed significant
Signature of certifying official Date	
Signature of certifying official Date	-
State or Federal agency and bureau	-

In my opinion, the property meets continuation sheet for additional comments.)	does not meet the National Register criteria. (See
Signature of commenting or other official	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	
I, hereby certify that this property is: entered in the National Register 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 Keeper Date of Action (a) 20/07
======================================	=======================================
Ownership of Property X_private public-local public-State public-Federal Category of Property X_ building(s) district site	
site structure object	
Number of Resources within Property Contributing Noncontributing buildings sites structures objects Total	
Number of contributing resources previously	listed in the National Register0 ' if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)N/A
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6. Func	tion or Use			
	Functions Fransportation		Rail-related	
- - - -				- - -
Current	Functions			
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====== 7. Desc	ription			
Archited	ctural Classification a 19 th and Early 20 th Century Americ	an Mo	ovements (Commercial Style)	
Materia	ls			
	undation Concrete			
Ro				
Wa				
Coi Por	rnice <u>Tin</u>			
POI	ch <u>Brick</u>			

Narrative Description (See continuation sheet, Section 7)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1	Portland Railway, Light & Power Sellwood Division Carbarn Office and Clubhouse
	name of property
	Multnomah, OR
	county and state

Description of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Sellwood Division Carbarn Office and Clubhouse:

The Portland Railway, Light & Power Company Sellwood Division Carbarn Office and Clubhouse, known as the Carmen's Clubhouse, is a simple Commercial style building situated in the Sellwood neighborhood of Portland. The clubhouse occupies a .4-acre parcel at 8825 S.E. 11th Avenue (Sellwood Station Townhomes, Lot 10), in Multnomah County, just north of the Clackamas County line. There is asphalt paving around the building, and to the west is a grouping of coniferous trees. Surrounding the clubhouse are mixed-use properties; in the immediate area, light industrial activity predominates. Running along the south side of the clubhouse is trackage belonging to the Oregon Pacific Railroad. Beyond the north lot line are a row of new townhomes. Directly east of the clubhouse, across S.E. 11th, is a historically related building, the Sellwood Carbarns. Behind the barns on S.E. 13th is the Oregon Water Power and Railway Company substation, another associated resource. All are separately owned, including the railroad tracks, and all are connected by their history. The subject property, the Carmen's Clubhouse, retains the highest degree of exterior integrity among the buildings.

The rectilinear-massed brick building is set on an east-west axis. The volume of the main mass is approximately 30 x 76 feet, with the lengthiest exposure fronting an existing rail line. Photographic evidence suggests that tracks once ran along both elongated (north-south) exposures of the building, perhaps accommodating a rail turnaround or train car storage in this area. The building envelope is constructed of red running brick set on a concrete basement foundation, which is finished in stucco to resemble dressed stone. The brick is unreinforced, and masonry load-bearing walls carry their own weight, plus interior framing. Detailing on the lengthy exposures consists of four sections set out with brick pilasters and variations in the vertical plane. Horizontal bands are located at the main and second floors. Near the roofline is a metal cornice which is partially intact. There is a small chimney in the southwest quadrant of the building.

Fenestration on all exposures and at all levels occurs in a regular pattern; openings at the ground and second level are highlighted by cast stone lintels. In-kind replacement wood sash windows, 1/1 with lamb's tongue details and energy efficient lights await installation after original windows were removed by a former owner. Basement lights, paired and hinged sash uniformly located under first and second floor lights, are generally in poor condition or missing. Entrances exist on the east, north and south elevations. The public entrance to the building is on the S.E. 11th Avenue (east) elevation, but on the elongated southern exposure, three additional doors suggest that carmen may have entered here from the strip of abandoned trackage beside the building. Two of these doors are glass and wood panel. Other exterior details include cast stone lintels; recessed panels at the bays; staggered brick door surrounds with soldier brick at the top; and a belt course. The built-up roof is asphalt-finished.

On the primary exposure, there is an oversized light to the left of the main entrance. Five wooden stairs lead to the recessed landing, where the interior walls and ceiling are wood paneled. A centrally mounted light fixture that once hung here has been removed. The solid core wood door is surrounded by original wood panels and sidelights; beside it to the left is another door, which has been boarded. The elongated south elevation contains two basement windows and a metal door at the base of the stairwell. On the ground level there are 11 window openings and two original panel and glass doors. At the second level there are 13 window openings. At the rear (west) exposure there is a pair of window openings at each level. The length of the north elevation reveals 11 openings on each of the two levels

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including 10 windows and a solid core wood door in the center of the building. A section of the sheet metal comice is missing from this elevation.

The interior contains 7,914 square feet of space, including the basement. Framing consists of fir floor and roof joists running the width of the building. Floors are 1x4-inch tongue and groove fir, currently unfinished and in poor condition. Original spatial divisions are apparent, as are exposed brick walls that were originally covered by lath and plaster. Still visible are a reception area off the main entrance; two glass and wood paneled offices; and the tongue and groove stairwell with chamfered newel post at the landing. On the second level, the stairwell leads to two large open spaces at the rear (west) and one at the front of the building. Original steam radiators on the ground and second levels have been disconnected and await rehabilitation and relocation where appropriate. The basement, which houses the mechanical works of the building, contains several original doors and window openings; remnants of an original communal urinal; asbestos-wrapped pipe; and a kitchen built c. 1961.

The building is in fair condition on the exterior. It last functioned as a U.S. Forest Service Experiment Station where employees worked until 1984. Records indicate the building was next used for storage, then vacated, and eventually a victim of deferred maintenance. In 1996 the property was sold by the government to a private party. Since then, two successive owners attempted rehabilitate the building. When the current owners acquired the property in 2000, damaged wall surfaces and original windows had been removed, although most of the original spatial divisions were retained on all levels. Ample photographic and physical evidence exists to guide a sensitive rehabilitation of the exterior. On the interior, nearly all existing original fabric will be retained in a manner complementing the future use of the building as office space. New materials will be sympathetic to the period and style of the original construction. As of this writing the building is in the process of rehabilitation. Work on the building is occurring in consultation and coordination with the City of Portland, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, and the National Park Service.

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<u>X</u> A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
c	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.
Criteria Cor	nsiderations
A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
В	removed from its original location.
c	a birthplace or a grave.
D	a cemetery.
E	a reconstructed building, object,or structure.
F	a commemorative property.
G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.
Areas of Sign	gnificance Transportation ———————————————————————————————————
Period of S	<u>1910-1938</u>

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Section <u>8 </u>	1 Portlan	d Railway, Light & Power Sellwoo	od Division Carbarr	Office and Clubhouse	
		name o	of property		
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		county	and state		

Significance:

The Carmen's Clubhouse, built in 1910, is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of the Sellwood neighborhood in Portland and the rise and fall of the electric interurban railway system in Portland. The clubhouse was part of a complex that also included carbarns and a power plant created at approximately the same time. The development occurred at the highpoint of the "golden age" of the electric street railways and interurbans in the Portland area. In 1938, dwindling ridership forced the closure of the clubhouse, although railway service in Sellwood continued until 1958.

The Sellwood area was opened up by Henderson Luelling, who settled on five acres in February 1848. Later Alfred Luelling, son of Henderson Luelling, claimed additional land in the area. In May 1868 the Reverend John Sellwood bought 321 acres from the Luelling heirs. In 1882 the Reverend Sellwood sold the tract to the Sellwood Real Estate Company. Only after this sale did the area gain the name of Sellwood. Sellwood developed as a service area for an agricultural region. Water transportation for landings on the Willamette River at the foot of Umatilla and Spokane streets connected with Portland and other communities on the river. Overland transportation was furnished by the Milwaukie Road from the mid-1840s forward and by the steam railroad (the Oregon & California) from Portland to Salem and the south after 1870. Along with transportation improvements, manufacturing came to Sellwood in these years with the establishment in 1885 of the Sorenson and Young Saw and Planing Mill (after 1900 named the East Side Lumber Mill).

In 1882 Sellwood became caught up in an important development in the history of the metropolitan region. This was the expansion of Portland's East Side suburbs, caused in large part by the availability of electric streetcars. The first bridge across the Willamette River, the Morrison, was opened in 1887. In 1889 Portland's first electric line ran from Portland to Albina across the Railroad (later the Steel) Bridge. Connections between both banks of the river were an important ingredient in the annexation of East Portland and Albina to Portland in 1891. In 1892 Sellwood became a station for the East Side Railway Company that ran electric trains from Portland to Oregon City, reaching the last community in 1893.

The City of Sellwood incorporated in 1887. But it lacked a sufficient population and tax base to furnish adequate services. The last straw was the defeat of a bond issue for a public school in 1892. In 1893 the citizens of Sellwood succeeded in being annexed to Portland. The neighborhood grew slowly during the depression years of 1893 to 1897, but the new century opened with boom times for all of Portland. In Sellwood the Oregon Water Power & Railway Company catered to the growth of the area. In 1897 the Waverly Golf Club was founded just south of the neighborhood limits of Sellwood. The railroad provided a stop, known as Golf Junction, to reach the club at 13th Avenue and Ochoco Street. In the early twentieth century Sellwood's increasing significance as a transportation point was marked by the construction of new railroad buildings. In 1905 a power substation for the railroad was constructed at 8856 SE 13th Avenue. In 1910 the railroad built a carbarn facility at 8823 SE 11th Avenue and the carbarn office and clubhouse at 8825 SE 11th Avenue. These transportation buildings remain today as the only surviving electric railroad company complex in the Portland area.

Known among employees as the Carmen's Clubhouse, the building was dedicated on 15 June 1910. It was a twostory brick structure designed for multiple purposes. The first floor was used as a train dispatcher and trainmaster's office, a record storage area, and a lost and found for passengers' goods left on the train. On this floor were also

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three shower-bath rooms and one bathroom. The second floor was the real "clubhouse," which offered amenities to PRL&P's conductors and motormen, collectively known as carmen. The building contained a reading room with books, desks, and writing materials. It also had a gin rummy table, three billiard tables, and several emergency sleeping rooms. In the basement were the furnace, toilet, and safety deposit boxes. The purpose of the clubhouse was to provide a comfortable area for men waiting to go on duty or waiting between shifts. The paternalism of the streetcar company was designed to keep employees content and to deter them from frequenting saloons.

As a well-equipped facility, the clubhouse was an exception to the general way that employees of PRL&P were treated. Streetcar historian Martha Bianco described the grueling working conditions of the railroad: "Many employees were working seven days a week, 365 days a year. Before the independent union (created in 1917), there was no regard for craft specialization; a man could be pulled away from any job and be asked to perform another, as long as he had the ability. . . .Working in the barns at night meant working a graveyard shift, from 8:30 P.M. to 4:30 A.M. A single man might be responsible for cleaning up to fifty cars per night. . . . Motormen, who operated the cars, were responsible for stopping and starting when signaled, opening and closing the doors, and keeping an eye out for any obstruction or problem on the tracks. . . Conductors were responsible for collecting fares and making change, selling tickets and passes, issuing transfers, signaling the motorman when to start and stop, and making reports at the end of the shift regarding fares collected." [pp. 288-289.]

Carmen were routinely scrutinized by company inspectors, and their service—good or poor—was often noted by writers to the editor of the Portland <u>Oregonian</u>. At the clubhouses and in their specialized publication, "Portland Carmen," the employees commiserated with one another about their treatment. Amenities such as the clubhouse (and the company union which was founded in the late nineteenth century to collect money to benefit workers injured on the job) provided a partial shield against the rigors of the job and a means for the company to forestall the creation of an independent union. Particularly challenging for motormen were some 200 grade crossings on the lines, where the increasingly popular automobile posed a threat to the welfare of the trains. Conductors and motormen were under enormous pressure to keep their cars running on schedule; trains ran 15-minutes apart on the city lines but less frequently on the interurbans.

The Sellwood Division headquarters housing the carbarn office and clubhouse was similar to three other complexes serving the Ankeny, Piedmont, and Savier divisions. At the height of the streetcar era in 1915, the Sellwood Division maintained 110 city cars and 30 interurban cars. By 1926, carmen at Sellwood commanded 70 cars on the city lines and 22 on the interurban lines. The same year, there were 223 platform men based at the Sellwood Division. The city line ran through Sellwood from the carbarns to Bybee Avenue, Milwaukie Street, East 11th, and Hawthorne Avenue to the Alder Street loop in downtown Portland.

Sellwood figured prominently in the history of the East Side electric railways. Their growth was a chapter in the proliferation of these railways in the Portland area, an expansion that by 1915 had given Portland the third most extensive electric railway system in America. The reasons for this rapid growth were prosperity after the close of the 1893-1897 depression that caused farmers to seek easier access to the attractions of urban life, and the desire of local speculators to sell land in these suburban developments.

The first major interurban electric line in the United States served the East Side of Portland including Sellwood. This was the Oregon City and Southern Railway (OC&SR), incorporated in 1891 and renamed the East Side Railway

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Company in 1893. In February of that year the trains made their first trips between Portland and Oregon City. This auspicious beginning was not indicative of the immediate future, however. A depression flattened the entire country. Locally, the company suffered the worst accident in Portland transportation history to that time when a motorman failed to see in time—in a heavy fog—that the Madison Bridge was open. When he belatedly saw the signal, the brakes were unable to stop the train on the icy tracks. Seven passengers were drowned. Because of these disasters (including law suits from the accident) the company went into receivership. The line continued to operate, however, but in 1902 a strike reduced revenues and a new corporation, the Oregon Water Power and Railway Company was formed. In 1906 Portland Gas and Electric merged with all the interurban and streetcar companies in Portland including Oregon Water Power and Railway Company. The new combined company, called the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company, was, according to Bianco, "one of just two interurban networks in the country that was affiliated with a city transit and light and power monopoly." (The other was in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.)

The interurbans had a steady pool of commuters to draw from during the six-day work week. But revenues fell off sharply on Sunday. Many of the interurban lines accordingly built recreational areas to lure people on their day off. One of the most popular of these areas is Oaks Park in Sellwood—the only one that survives to the present—was inaugurated on Memorial Day 1905. Not coincidentally, the amuseument's opening day was timed to coincide with that of the Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland. Many visitors to the exposition also took time to go to the park, which had 350,000 visitors during its first summer.

The optimistic days of the interurbans began to wane after 1912. No single factor was responsible for the decline of this service. There was a depression in Portland from 1912 to 1915. The trolley system's trackage peaked in 1916 with 192 miles of lines in Multnomah and Clackamas counties. When competition from jitneys arose, both city and state regulators began to take an interest in the company's affairs. In the 1920s another danger to the interurbans became increasingly menacing—the popularity of the automobile. By the 1930s the bus and trolley coach had made serious inroads upon the interurbans. Portland Railway, Light & Power became Portland Electric Power Company (PEPCO) in 1926. The use of the Carmen's Clubhouse was discontinued in 1938. PEPCO operated the railway system until 1946, when it was sold to the Portland Traction Company. Portland Traction ran the line until closure. The last train to Sellwood was run in 1958.

As train service declined, the Sellwood facilities were sold off. In 1939 the United States Forest Service took over the clubhouse for the use of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Both the clubhouse and car barns were purchased by the agency in 1942. Until it was vacated in 1984, the clubhouse functioned as a forest pest research center and as a storage site for construction and maintenance operations. Over time a number of other buildings were added to the lot, including a u-shaped covered carport (c. 1947; upgraded 1971) and wood-frame workshop. The property was used for storage by the Forest Service until 1993. In August 1996 The Forest Service sold the property with a protective covenant, ensuring the clubhouse's continuance as an historic resource. The building has been under three ownerships since passing into private hands. During this time, a .25-acre portion of the original acreage was severed from the parcel and developed into rowhouses along the northern perimeter of the tract. As late as 1998, the property retained all of its interior features. When the building was acquired by the current owners, the damaged fabric on the interior of the clubhouse had been largely removed, as well as the outbuildings on the lot.

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Within the related three-building complex, only the substation has remained under ownership of Portland General Electric (which emerged from PEPCO). The windows of the plant have been boarded and the rusticated concrete block building has been painted. The carbarns were sold by the Forest Service in 1956 to Paragon Packing Company, now known as Molded Container Corporation. The carbarns continue to occupy a 1x2-block area and appear in fair condition on the exterior. The large building has been altered along its 11th Avenue elevation with incompatible material, while windows have been boarded on the 13th Avenue exposure. All three buildings are listed on the Portland Historic Resources Inventory (1984) and in the Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources. The Carmen's Clubhouse is the best preserved of the ensemble.

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
Cultural Affiliation
Architect/Builder <u>Unknown</u>
Narrative Statement of Significance (See continuation sheet, Section 8)
9. Major Bibliographical References
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS) X 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 # Primary Location of Additional Data State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University X Other Name of repository: Portland General Electric Archives
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Acreage of Property .40
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing 1 10 527070 5033785 3 2 4 See continuation sheet

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Books:

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- "Carbarns Being Built." Sellwood Bee, 12 June 1909.
- "Close P.E.P. Station.." Sellwood Bee, 19 April 1927.
- "Council Ends Trolley Cars in Sellwood." <u>Sellwood Bee</u>, 9 June 1955.

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- "Old Car Barns Filling Up." Sellwood Bee, 25 August 1939.
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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area consists of the parcel described as the Sellwood Station Townhouses Lot 10, in the Sellwood area of the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. The said property begins at the NW corner of Lot 10, South 40', Southeasterly 11.80', continuing Southeasterly 105.95' to the SE corner of Lot 10. The North 125' to the NE corner of Lot 10, then West to the point of the beginning.

Boundary Justification

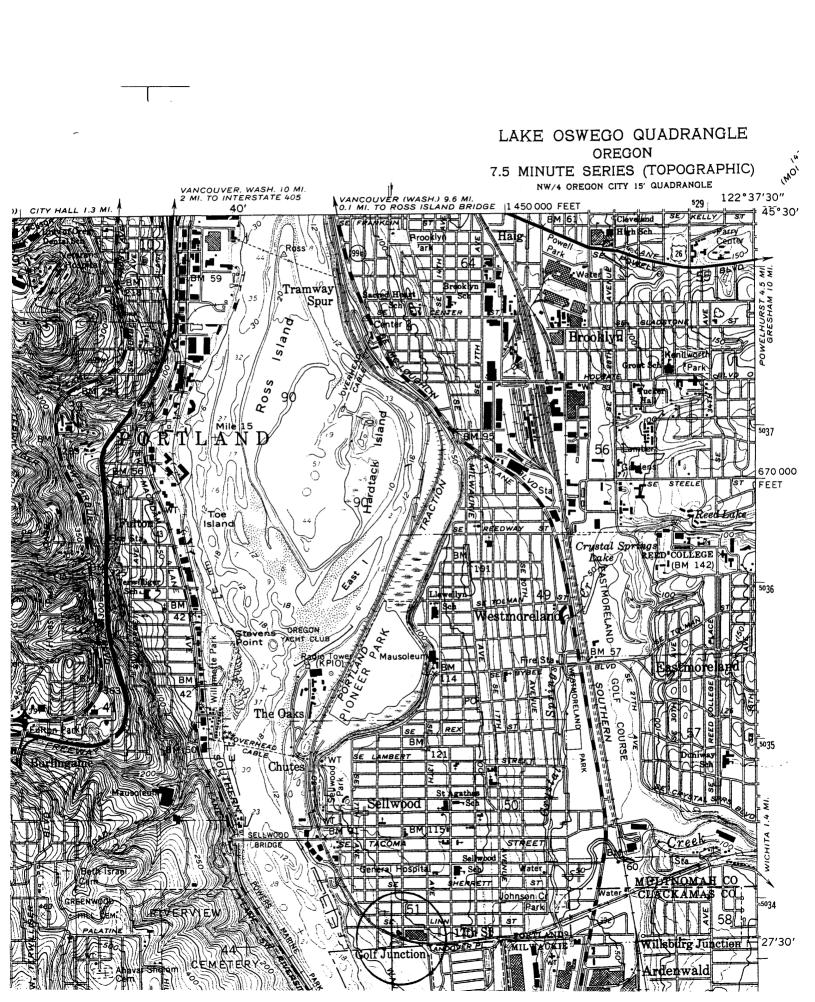
The nominated area is the entire urban tax lot that contains the historic Portland Railway, Light and Power Sellwood Division Carmen's Clubhouse.

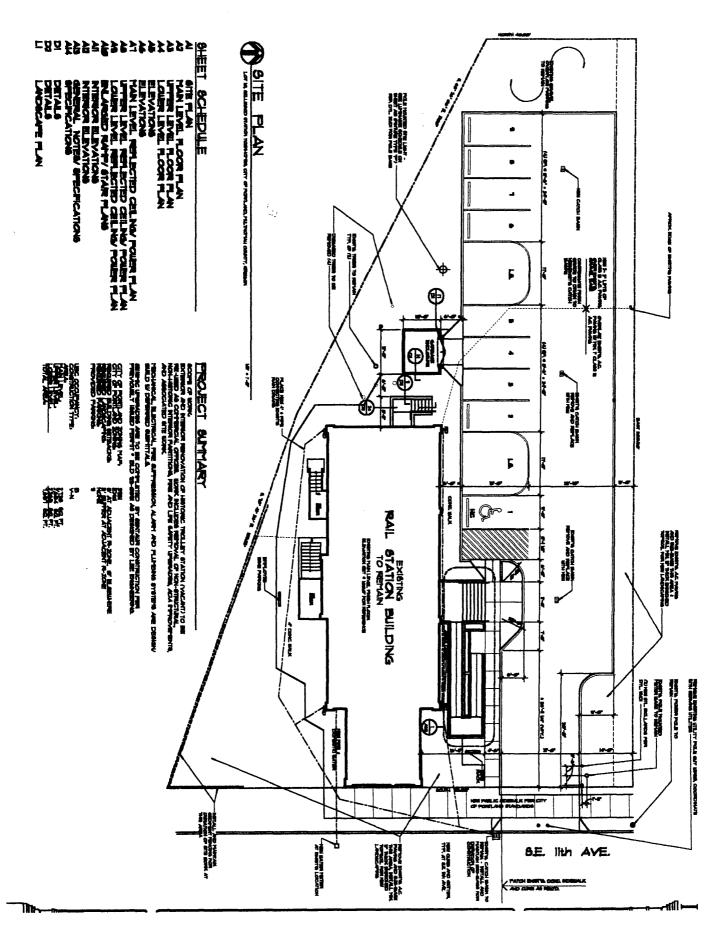
Boundary Justification (See continuation sheet, Section 10)								
11. Form Prepared	By							
name/title Linda a	nd Gordon Dodds, Prese	ervation Consu						
organization	ganization date 1 June 2001							
street & number	3127 N.E. 38 th Avenue		_ telephone(503) 288-1290				
city or town Portle	and	state	OR zip code	97212				
Additional Docume	======================================			=======================================				
Submit the followin	g items with the comp	leted form:						
Continuation Sheet	S							
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.								
Photographs Representative	black and white photo	ographs of the	property.					
Property Owner								
name	ame							
street & number	et & number01901 S.W. Carey Lane telephone (503) 699-1166							
city or town	Portland	state	OR zip co	ode 97219				
	Act Statement: This in		_	• •				

Verbal Boundary Description (See continuation sheet, Section 10)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.





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