

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 11 1981
DATE ENTERED APR 22 1981

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Multnomah Falls Lodge and Footpath

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

NE of Bridal Veil on

STREET & NUMBER Old Columbia River Highway *Highway*

CITY, TOWN Bridal Veil *vic.* VICINITY OF NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3rd

STATE Oregon CODE 41 COUNTY Multnomah CODE 51

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*
U. S. Forest Service/Department of Agriculture, Mt. Hood National Forest

STREET & NUMBER 19559 S. E. Division Street

CITY, TOWN Gresham VICINITY OF STATE Oregon

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Multnomah County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 1021 SW 4th

CITY, TOWN Portland STATE Oregon

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN Salem STATE Oregon

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Multnomah Falls Lodge was built in 1925 by the City of Portland to capitalize on the booming tourist trade through the Columbia River Gorge which was opened to automobile travel July 6, 1915. The stone Tudor style lodge, built at the base of Multnomah Falls, was designed by A. E. Doyle, a highly regarded Portland architect of the first half of the 20th Century. The structure was built by the Waale-Shattuck Company for \$40,000. Presently, the lodge is in excellent condition, being under the watchful eye of the U. S. Forest Service. It is still being used, as it has been over the past 50 years. to serve the wants and needs of those who visit Multnomah Falls and the Columbia River Gorge.

Multnomah Falls Lodge is located 33 miles east of Portland just south of Highway 84 on the Old Columbia River Gorge Scenic Highway. The lodge is situated roughly 100 yards north-northwest from the base of Multnomah Falls in Section 7 of Township 1, north, Range 6 east of the Willamette Meridian. The building lies on an east-west axis with the front elevation facing north. The structure sits alone in a natural surrounding of trees, shrubs and moss covered rock with Multnomah Falls and footbridge forming the backdrop. The Old Columbia River Gorge Scenic Highway runs through the parking lot in front of the lodge separating the building from the railroad tracks.

Multnomah Falls Lodge rests on a cement foundation. The exterior of the building is primarily built of native split fieldstone laid irregularly varying in natural color from black and gray to various shades of brown and red. Wood used throughout the exterior, with the exception of two doors on the front elevation, has invariably been painted gray. Above all ground level and some upper level exterior openings are stone, flat or arch radiating voussoirs with keystones. Several different shingled roof types cover the structure. The main portion of the lodge has a high gable roof while that over the snack bar to the east, is an irregular hip roof. The roof over the bathrooms is also a gable type with a hip on gable roof over its entrance. There are three exterior chimneys made of split, gray fieldstone and capped by shield-like copper hoods.

On the far west end of the north elevation, a straight red tile stairway leads through an arched, tunnel-like stucco entryway up to an orange painted wood door with nine glass panels on the second floor. Opening to the outside of the main structure, from what is now the gift shop on the ground floor, are three large arches which originally were doorways. Two of these have been converted into windows leaving one entrance in the center.

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These modern windows are aluminum sash type with the space remaining below filled with vertical wood strip siding. The original door has been replaced with an orange plain molded, wood door with many glass panels and glass panel sidelights.

The fenestration, now irregular as a result of changes to the building, was originally made up mostly of six panel, wood sash, single and double casement windows. Several of these have survived. Prominent on the second floor of the main structure above the arcaded entries are three projecting rectangular window bays, filled with aluminum sash windows, constructed out of cement and covered by a shed dormer type roof. These bays extend the dining room area on the second floor through what originally had been an open veranda with a wooden railing. The dormer type roof is an adaptation to the original roof made necessary by the modification. Just to the left of the three bays is an arcaded window which also had been a portion of the veranda.

The snack bar is open to the outside on the north by two large entryways. A mansard dormer projects from the roof with a decorated stone lugsill below. The original fenestration has been replaced, again, by aluminum sash windows. Two more dormers, one above the other, are located on the far west end of the north elevation. These are shingled shed dormers with two, nine panel, wood sash casement windows each.

The door to the men's restroom is recessed into an eastward projecting entrance. The original door has been replaced by a plain wood swinging door with metal kickpanel below. To the right of the entrance, facing east, is a six panel wood sash casement window.

A paved path leads around the east side of the building gradually sloping up to the second floor level where it joins a red tile walkway. Behind the snack bar, on the south elevation, the building becomes rather irregular in design with shingled walls, metal sash frosted windows recessed into the roof and projecting dormer type doorways. In the tile walkway, just before reaching the patio, is a large mosaic made of small colored tiles depicting a covered wagon crossing the plains. On the wall in back of the mosaic, the southeast corner of the main structure, is a wrought iron and brass lantern to the left of a gray, plain molded, wooden doorway with a vertical board door. On the south side of the walk is a fairly recent one room wood frame structure. Formerly, this building was used as a bar for the patio and then as a storage space for patio chairs and tables. It is presently being operated as a manned visitor center by the U. S. Forest Service, after undergoing interior refurbishing.

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At the end of the tile walkway is a large covered red tile patio almost completely surrounded by a stone retaining wall. Four very tall, glass panel arcaded wood casement doors with fixed transoms lead from the lodge onto the patio. To the left of these, two tile steps lead through another gray wooden doorway. The flat patio roof, added in 1967, is of open, square beam construction with two rows of four, round, white glass, light fixtures hanging down.

A fire escape runs from the uppermost attic windows along the exterior of the west elevation. Added to the northernmost part of the west elevation in 1946, is an L-shaped, one story woodframe wing with a flat roof used for storage.

Although the interior of Multnomah Falls Lodge has undergone major changes, only enlargement of the dining room on the second floor has contributed to a noticeable change in the exterior appearance. Most of the room are still being used as they were originally. Rooms on the ground floor presently consist of a snack bar on the northeast with restrooms behind, a large gift shop further to the west and a storage room at the far west end of the structure. The snack bar and restrooms were added to the original building as the lower level of a major addition made less than two years after the lodge was built. Historical photos show that prior to this change, a makeshift tent with wooden poles for support and canvas roof was set up at least temporarily on the site. It's purpose is not documented. The snack bar has a cement floor with a service counter in the center of the room running parallel with the front of the building. Against the back wall are modern cooking appliances. The gift shop, originally an indoor picnic area, and a fountain and sandwich shop, has been remodeled so that none of the original features are in evidence. The use of the west end of this level for a gift shop began in 1946 when the lodge reopened after being closed during the war. This west end is now in use as storage space. A news release written in 1952 tells of the use of the former coffee shop as additional gift shop space. An L-shaped indoor stairway runs from the west wall of the gift shop to a point just to the left of the main entrance upstairs. Another indoor stairway begins inside the storage room and runs behind the kitchen on the second floor up to rooms on the third level and in the attic.

The second floor consists of a small lobby just inside the main door where the cashier's booth sits. There is a large dining room to the east with restrooms just beyond and coffee shop and kitchen to the west. The dining room was remodeled and expanded in 1968 through

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three north facing, arcaded doorways, opposite those on the patio, onto which had been the veranda across the front of the building. The floors have been carpeted, the walls plastered and painted white, and a wood partition set up to screen the bar area from the dining room. A few things have remained the same, including a huge stone fireplace on the east side of the room, the high pitched open wood beam ceiling and six 1930's era W.P.A. paintings. Originally, 27 of these paintings hung in the lodge, now only eight remain. The whereabouts of the missing 19 paintings is not known.

A 1945 blueprint indicates that the restrooms were originally sleeping quarters and the proposed change to restroom facilities is shown in a 1950 plan draft and mentioned in a 1952 memo.

The coffee shop was added in 1952 leaving the east end at that time for dining and banquets. It was advertised that the seating for the dining area including the outdoor patio could accommodate 300 people. The coffee shop has table seating as well as a counter on the west side. It has a tile floor which may have replaced an earlier vinyl tile floor which was installed in 1954. There is a square wood beam ceiling and a stone fireplace above which hang the final two W.P.A. paintings. The modernized kitchen lies through a set of swinging double doors to the south.

To the right of the cashiers booth, directly across from the stairway up from the gift shop, run a set of stairs to rooms upstairs. Originally, the upstairs rooms were used as the manager's apartment, four assistants' bedrooms, women's dormitory and a bathroom. These very plain rooms with wood floors and finish work, have remained virtually untouched through the years. All the rooms on this floor are vacant except a room used as the manager's office and a room occupied by the maintenance man. At the far east end of the floor is a balcony with wood railing which overlooks the dining room. In the attic is another large plain room used until 1977 as a men's dormitory.

Renovation and modification of Multnomah Falls Lodge has been taking place almost from the day the building was completed. A 1926 photograph shows the completed lodge without any of the wings which today join the east elevation of the main structure. In another photograph, from the next year, the building appears as it basically stands today. A great deal of remodeling and renovation took place while the lodge was temporarily closed during World War II. It was during this period that nearly all of the major changes to the structure took place.

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The gift shop addition in 1946 has been mentioned, this accompanied by plastering and painting done by the permittee. Other documented alterations include the addition of a 5-6" thick wall of concrete along the south basement stone wall to control leaking. Money received by the Forest Service as a yearly fee from the concessionaire has been used to maintain the lodge and keep it up to standards.

In 1954, the lodge's west side storage space was expanded 150 square feet by removing part of an earth slide and building on to the original structure using a concrete retaining wall and concrete blocks for the walls. Improvements were made to the existing storage space using cement blocks to make the room leak proof and rat proof. Between 1954 and 1957, a new boiler, radiator, and rain gutters were installed and a new 24" shake roof replaced the old shingle roof. The dining room floor was replaced with tongue and groove maple and the flat roof on the rear dormer was changed from composition to tin. In 1957 the restrooms were remodeled and work was done on their flooring and roofing.

Changes in the 1960's resulted in more visible alterations. The east gift shop was remodeled in 1963. The rear wall was removed and the shop was expanded into space that was originally a kitchen. Addition of a permanent roof over the patio and expansion of the dining room in the late 60's made necessary by ever increasing use, has enlarged the capacity of the restaurant facilities though they have changed the exterior appearance of the building from the original.

Remodeling of the gift shop and dining room has also modified the interior by replacing the original decor with a more modern one. Changes in the 1970's have also helped to make the lodge safer and more efficient. In 1972, a corner of the lodge was reinforced and the kitchen was modernized. In 1974, a new sprinkler system and a new sewer system were added and in 1976, the water system was renovated. The most recent visible change was the expansion of the gift shop in 1978. This was made possible when the heating system was changed from oil to electric and the boiler room provided the additional space. Although these changes have occurred, the building continues to retain the charm and elegance it was built with and remains a unique building in the region and of its era.

The hiking trail to the top of Multnomah Falls is the first 1.1 miles of the 6.5 mile long Larch Mountain Trail. It was surveyed and built by the U. S. Forest Service under the direction of Thomas H. Sherrard and R. S. Shelley in 1915. The trail begins from the observation and

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information area, built in 1965, to the south and east of the lodge. After crossing Multnomah Creek between the upper and lower falls on the cement Benson footbridge, it ascends the steep hillside. The route is a steady climb with many switchbacks at a steepness of not more than 15 per cent through portions of sections 7 and 18 of the same Township and Range as the lodge. The trail was made wide enough so that it could accommodate both hikers and pack animals.

Through the years, several repairs, modifications and additions have been made. In 1937, the railing on the footbridge fell into disrepair. This was remedied the following year with no real change being made in the bridge's appearance. In 1965, the area south and east of the lodge was improved with the addition of an information building and a cement and stone observation area. This included stone walls, benches and steps fitting the area's landscape and incorporating a drinking fountain, dedicated to the pioneers of Oregon by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1916, into the design. This fountain features water piped in from beneath the falls. In January, 1969, a 20 foot high ice wall blocked the creek resulting in extensive damage to the information center. Besides repairing the information building, in 1971, \$50,000 was spent improving the trail. Rock retaining walls were built in addition to the ones originally in place, and the trail was paved with cement to the top of the falls where an overlook platform of wood with benches and a metal bar railing was erected. These improvements have given the area a neater appearance and one which is much more easily maintained. Since the area is so extensively used, ease of access around the lodge, observation area and up to the top of the falls is a necessity.

This accessibility is being enhanced further by modifications to the path leading from the east of the lodge to the observation area in front of the lower falls. In 1979, ramp access which led to the base of the lower falls was extended to the intermediate level below the observation area. In 1980, this barrier-free access was further extended to the visitor center. These changes, in keeping with existing trail construction on the site, have incorporated native rock into the curbing and retaining walls. The final stage of the project is under construction and will extend the ramp to the observation platform.

No matter how much the surrounding area has been developed to accommodate visitors, be it with a unique and picturesque lodge or a beautiful hiking trail, the amazingness of nature's own work, Multnomah Falls, overawes anything man could hope to do. Multnomah Falls Lodge, the first 1.1 miles of the Larch Mountain Trail to the

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overlook and Multnomah Falls make an unbeatable combination for a particularly special place in America.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Trail - 1915 Lodge 1925 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Trail - U. S. Forest Service
Lodge - A. E. Doyle

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the 1880's, as a result of America's industrialization, large numbers of people flocked to our nation's cities. Once settled there, these people looked for ways to temporarily escape the bustle and overcrowding in which they were immersed. For the people of Portland, the nearby Columbia River Gorge, with its scenic beauty, was often the solution for a unique and pleasant day's outing away from the city. The Union Pacific and Oregon-Washington Railway and Navigation Company ran regularly scheduled trains and steamships up and down the Columbia River Gorge enabling a great number of people to enjoy its scenic wonders which otherwise would have been inaccessible. Excursions to scenic areas were heavily publicized by train and steamboat transportation companies in fliers, pamphlets and photographic series giving descriptions and glimpses of what attractions lay along their routes. Not only did they draw local people, but travelers from all over the country and many parts of the world.

Of all the points of interest in the Columbia River Gorge, Multnomah Falls may have been the best known and thought to be the most scenic. A trail ran from the train and ferryboat stops along the west side of Multnomah Creek to a log pole bridge between the upper and lower falls where the present cement Benson footbridge is now located. From the photographic record, it appears that this wooden bridge was built between 1880 and 1883, was reinforced with cables and wood supports by 1891 and then vanished sometime before 1899. In August, 1914, while construction of the Columbia River Highway was underway, a cement footbridge, named in honor of Simon Benson, was erected as one of the first continuous pour bridges made. The process took between 24 to 36 hours to complete. The old trail was also cleared in expectation of increased use of the area once the highway was completed.

On January 28, 1915, Samuel C. Lancaster, engineer of the Columbia River Highway, which would be completed on July 6 of that year, gave a speech and stereo-optic picture show of the beauties traversed by the new highway to the Progressive Business Men's Club of Portland. In his presentation, he recommended that a trail be built from the base of Multnomah Falls to the top of Larch Mountain, a distance of about seven miles, where a beautiful view of the entire region including several snowcapped peaks could be afforded. The members of the club became so

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anonymous, Oregon State Parks Superintendent Oregon State Parks,
Manuscript of Multnomah County Library, Portland.

Allen, Alice Benson, Simon Benson: Northwest Lumber King,
 (Portland: Binfords & Mort. Publishers, 1971.
 (See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 13.7

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1,0</u>	<u>5,6,9</u>	<u>1,2,2</u>	<u>5,0</u>	<u>4,7</u>	<u>2,9,8</u>	B	<u>1,0</u>	<u>5,6,9</u>	<u>2,5,1</u>	<u>5,0</u>	<u>4,7</u>	<u>1,2,5</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING
c	<u>1,0</u>	<u>5,6,9</u>	<u>1,8,9</u>	<u>5,0</u>	<u>4,7</u>	<u>0,2,9</u>	D	<u>1,0</u>	<u>5,6,8</u>	<u>9,0,1</u>	<u>5,0</u>	<u>4,7</u>	<u>1,3,6</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

UTM Reference

Point Zone Easting Northing

E 10 568916 5047232

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jonathan C. Horn and Mary Stuart

ORGANIZATION

U. S. Forest Service, Mt. Hood National Forest

DATE

September 26, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

19559 S.-E. Division Street

TELEPHONE

667-0511

CITY OR TOWN

Gresham

STATE

Oregon

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES X

NO _____

NONE _____

David G. Tolbert
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is X National _____ State _____ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Barry R. Flann
 BARRY R. FLANN

DATE

3/1/81

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Director
 Office of Environmental Quality

DATE

4/22/81

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

4-21-81

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Regional Reviewer

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enthused that they immediately set to raising funds for the proposed Larch Mountain Trail. On March 2, 1915, promoted by a parade through the Portland business district a few days before, a musical comedy, "The Whirl of the World", direct from New York, was staged at the Heilig Theater with a net gain of \$500. Another money making venture put on by the Progressive Business Men's Club was a railroad excursion to the scenic points of the Columbia River Gorge. At 9 a.m. April 11, 1915, 300 people left the train station at Portland for a day of hiking, music, vaudeville acts, athletic events and free coffee. The highlights of the day included the driving of the first stake for the trail followed by a dance in the baggage car to the accompaniment of a phonograph and player piano and the first authenticated climb of Rooster Rock by T. R. Conway and R. L. McLeod. All this excitement was at a cost of \$1.25 for adults, 65¢ for children 5 to 11, for a profit of \$150. With the money raised by these two events and that from sales of souvenir pencils, the Prgressive Business Men's Club was able to donate \$1,700 toward the building of the trail.

Simon Benson, millionaire lumberman, Portland businessman and owner of the Benson Hotel, and his son Amos pledged \$3,000 for the development of the trail. The United States Forest Service, under the direction of Thomas H. Sherrard, agreed to survey and build the trail as well as help pay for it. \$1,500 was appropriated - \$1,000 for the trail and \$500 for a lookout on the top of Larch Mountain.

The trail was surveyed and work began in April, 1915 under the direction of R. S. Shelley of the Forest Service. There was only one small problem. Title to the land through which the trail was to pass had not been relinquished by either the Bridal Veil Lumber Company or the Crown-Willamette Paper Company. These two interests were afraid the increased number of people into the area drawn by the trail would cause an increased danger of fire. Thomas Sherrard, however, convinced them that the trail would facilitate the fighting of fires by providing access for supplies and manpower and would thereby actually lessen timber loss due to fire. In June and July, 1915, title to the trail right-of-way was finally granted.

On October 3, 1915, after completion in September, the trail was dedicated at the lookout on top of Larch Mountain. Twenty six hikers in three groups made the 6.5 mile hike the rainy night before. At sunrise, an American flag was unfurled from the 85 foot high lookout. Those present at the ceremony decided they would form the Trails Club of Oregon, dedicated to the building and enjoyment of trails in Oregon, and elected Samuel C. Lancaster, the guiding force behind the Larch Mountain Trail - - Oregon's first "civic" trail, their president.

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In the planning stages of the Larch Mountain Trail, a lodge on the bluff overlooking Multnomah Falls was conceived. It was to have been built by Chester J. Hague of Hague and Faulkes architects, who had designed the Oregon building at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. Nothing was built on the bluff, which is 1.1 miles along the trail, until 1971 when a wooden platform with benches and metal railing was erected during a project to improve that first segment of the trail.

Simon Benson was very active in acquiring title to and then donating to the City of Portland large parcels of land in the Columbia River Gorge for recreational use. On Labor Day, 1915, Benson donated a huge tract of land including Multnomah Falls, Wahkeena Falls and what is today Benson State Park. At the base of Multnomah Falls, a small portion of land was held by the Oregon-Washington Railway and Navigation Company. They were convinced by C. P. Keyser, Portland Superintendent of Parks, to donate the parcel of land to the city with the provision that a suitable lodge be built on the site. A few years later, noted Portland architect, Albert E. Doyle was called upon to design such a lodge.

As a youth, A. E. Doyle worked for 12 years with the Portland architectural firm of Whidden and Lewis until he went to Columbia University's School of Architecture in New York. He was also a student for several months in the American School of Archaeology at Athens, Greece and spent a year in foreign travel. After graduating, he returned to Portland where he went into business with W. B. Patterson until 1914. Later, though working independently most of the time, Doyle periodically teamed up with James G. Beach. Doyle had achieved prominence in his field by 1919 when the Oregon Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture selected the ten most notable examples of architectural beauty in Portland. Four of these examples were works of Doyle: the Reed College buildings, the Central Public Library, the U. S. National Bank building, and the residence of F. J. Cobbs. Doyle also designed the Benson Hotel, the Meier and Frank building, and the Lipman and Wolfe department store.

On July 29, 1939, the City of Portland gave up its land holdings and buildings in the Columbia River Gorge. Benson Park was given to the state while all the land south of the railroad right-of-way, including Multnomah Falls, the lodge and trail were conveyed to the U. S. Forest Service and added to Columbia Gorge Park which had been formed in December, 1915. On December 29, 1943, all the remaining city owned equipment and fixtures were transferred to the Forest Service ending Portland's hold on Multnomah Falls Lodge.

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Businesses housed in the lodge have been run by concession since the building was completed in 1925. From 1925 until 1942, the concession, from the City of Portland, was run by Simmons Restaurants, Inc. They vacated the lodge in 1942 because a slow-down in tourist traffic during World War II made them feel that the future of the business was uncertain. The lodge remained closed from November, 1942 until February, 1946, during which time a great deal of remodeling and renovation took place. In 1946, the concession, by special use permit from the Forest Service, was taken over by Multnomah Falls Lodge and Gift Shop, Inc., owned by Jack Flaucher. They, in turn, were bought out by the Multnomah Falls Co., Inc. in 1963, who at one time operated concessions at Crown Point, Bonneville Dam and Timberline Lodge.

The scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge has attracted millions of tourists over nearly a century. Multnomah Falls Lodge, upon completion, was an immediate success with the tourist trade. Standing at the base of Oregon's highest waterfall, it has always been a natural place to stop to admire the beauty of Multnomah Falls or take a hike to its top, 620 feet above, on Oregon's oldest maintained trail. The lodge, through the years, has offered many conveniences to tourists including restrooms, snack bar and dining facilities, a gift shop and upstairs rooms for rent. The first 1.1 miles of the Larch Mountain Trail has provided the more adventurous a short hike with tremendous vistas culminating at the sheer drop on the brink of Multnomah Falls. Both features, the lodge and trail, add immensely to the uniqueness of, not only Multnomah Falls itself, but the entire Columbia River Gorge area.

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Oregon Daily Journal, 21 June 1925, p. 13, "Highway Lodge To Open July 1".

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Oregonian, 4 October 1915, p. 4, "Larch Mountain Trail is Dedicated".

Oregon Sunday Journal, 18 September 1937, p. 6, "Bridge Repairs at Falls Urged".

Sunday Oregonian, 10 October 1915, sec. 5, p. 1, "Club Launched at Dedication of Larch Trail to Boost Scenic Points".

Sunday Oregonian, 17 October 1965, p. 39, "Oregon's Oldest 'Civic Trail' Celebrates 50th Birthday".

Sunday Oregonian, 11 July 1971, sec. 3, p. 9, "Multnomah Falls Hikers to get Improved Trail Leading to Top".

Oregonian, 21 January 1946, p. 12, "Lodge to Open at Multnomah".

Miscellaneous files of correspondence, newspaper clippings and brochures at Columbia Gorge District Ranger Station, Mt. Hood National Forest Superintendent's Office and the National Forest Regional Office, Portland.

Photograph collection, vertical file, scrapbook collection and pamphlet collection at the Oregon Historical Society, Portland.

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At the quarter-corner of Sections 7 and 18, Township 1 North, Range 6 East, W. M., as monumented and described in the records of the Surveyor General, thence north $36^{\circ} 09' 29''$ east 211.30 feet (calculated) to Angle Point C, point of beginning. Angle Point C is 200 feet south of the top of Upper Multnomah Falls. From POB, the line descends a ridge, bearing north $68^{\circ} 55' 21''$ west 1012.62 feet (calculated) to Angle Point D. Thence the line descends a cliff, bearing north $8^{\circ} 52' 50''$ east 318.76 feet (calculated) to Angle Point E. Thence the line parallels the southern edge of the Old Columbia River Gorge Scenic Highway, bearing north $72^{\circ} 14' 07''$ east 709.67 feet (calculated) to Angle Point A. Thence the line ascends a cliff and steep ridge bearing south $36^{\circ} 42' 38''$ east 705.37 feet (calculated) to Angle Point B. Thence the line crosses Multnomah Creek bearing south $31^{\circ} 47' 56''$ west 386.02 feet (calculated) to Angle Point C, POB. All points, bearings and distances are calculated and subject to minor adjustment in actual field location. It is the intent that the boundary lines should allow as a minimum a 200 foot buffer to ensure adequate protection of Multnomah Falls Lodge and Upper and Lower Multnomah Falls.

