

**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 21 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:	Portland City Hall
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 1220 SW 5th Avenue				Representative Edith Green			
CITY OR TOWN: Portland				CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Oregon Third Congressional District			
STATE Oregon		CODE 41	COUNTY: Multnomah		CODE 051		

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:	City of Portland		
STREET AND NUMBER:	Portland City Hall, 1220 SW 5th Avenue		
CITY OR TOWN:	Portland	STATE:	Oregon 97204

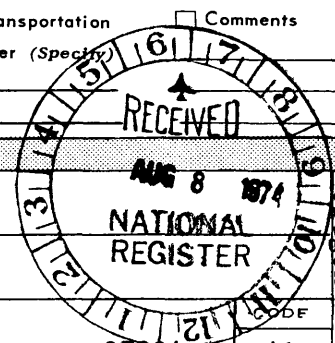
**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:	Multnomah County Courthouse		
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	Portland	STATE:	Oregon 97204

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:	Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings		
DATE OF SURVEY:	1970	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	Parks and Recreation Section		
STREET AND NUMBER:	Oregon State Highway Division		
CITY OR TOWN:	Salem	STATE:	Oregon 97310

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered  Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated on a square block in downtown Portland at 1220 SW Fifth Avenue, the Portland City Hall is an important example of the Renaissance Revival style of architecture prevalent in the late 19th century. It is today, as when completed in 1895, the seat of the city government.

Original plans for a City Hall by Henry J. Hefty called for an eclectic Romanesque Revival/Second Empire structure on a site adjacent to Chapman Square previously occupied by St. Helen's Hall, an Episcopal Girls' School. The annexation of Albina and East Portland caused a re-evaluation of the function of the city hall and abandonment of the original design, even though the foundations had already been constructed, and the architectural firm of Whidden and Lewis was engaged to re-design the building.

The City Hall occupies a square city block bordered by Fourth and Fifth Avenues and Madison and Jefferson streets. The main block of the building is four stories in height and measures 200 feet long by 110 feet wide. The four storeys of the granite facade are clearly articulated. The ground and second floors are rusticated. The third floor is plain with sharply incised window mouldings. The whole is topped by an Ionic entablature with a bracketed cornice and ballustrade. Stone urns atop the ballustraded mark the corners of the main block. Medallions, rustication, and pedimented shields are among the high Renaissance mannerist devices employed.

Because of the slope of the ground, the West, or Fifth Avenue front is only three storeys above grade, and the entrance on this side is one storey higher than that on the four-storey East front. Entrance from the west is through a porte-cochère one storey in height supported by dustered rusticated Doric columns and surmounted by a Doric entablature and ballustrade. The coffered ceiling of the porte-cochère is of copper. An open loggia with sixteen paired Ionic columns runs along the central portion of the top floor on the West front.

A three-storey apsidal-ended wing flanked by two one-storey rusticated and ballustraded pavilions is attached to the east on Fourth Avenue front. The bottom floor of this wing, which corresponds with the ground floor of the main block, is open and this forms a vestibule for the east or Fourth Avenue front. The bottom floor of this wing, which corresponds with the ground floor of the main block, is open and forms a vestibule for the east entrance. It is supported by two concentric wings of Doric columns, the outer of which has rusticated blocks in polychrome granite. The engaged columns and entablature of the wing, which measures 44 x 56 feet, are of the Ionic order. The flanking pavilions extend 32 feet. The vestibule floor tiles are of red and white marble with a coffered plaster ceiling above. A ballustrade fence at the street along with the flanking pavilions creates a forecourt for the vestibule.

Within, two sets of stairs and elevators are placed symmetrically on either side of the entrance axis. Original plans called for (continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		Oregon
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	NOV 21 1974	

(Number all entries)

PORTLAND CITY HALL (CONTINUED)

2. Location

The Portland City Hall is in the NW 1/4 Sec. 3, T. 1S., R.1E., of the Willamette Meridian, Multnomah County, Oregon, Portland, original platt, Block 56, Assessor's Map #3029.5.

7. Description

a 200 foot tower to rise above this axis on the longitudinal axis of the building, but it was never erected. There were originally two light wells symmetrically placed on the longitudinal axis, but these have since been filled in to create additional office space. Various offices were more or less symmetrically placed about the axes and light wells, with the city council's chamber in the apse above the vestibule. There have been some alterations to the interior over the years, consisting of the partitioning of spaces and various adaptations to meet changing needs. The original cast bronze stairs with marble triads remain, though the original open-cage elevators have been replaced. The appearance of the main halls and many rooms remains, and the appearance of the exterior is the same as originally constructed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Vaughan, Thomas, and McMath, George, A Century of Portland Architecture, (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1956) pp. 103-05, 200.

Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780, (Cambridge, The MIT Press, 1969) pp. 155-158.



**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1895

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Government</u>
<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 type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Portland City Hall is an outstanding example of the Classicist High Renaissance Revival style of architecture of the decades around the turn of the twentieth century. It is also a masterpiece of Whidden and Lewis, a prominent firm of Pacific Northwest architects. Both William H. Whidden and Ion Lewis worked for the office of McKim, Mead & White, who developed the Neo-Renaissance style. Whidden and Lewis came to Portland in the late 1880s to supervise construction of the Portland Hotel by McKim, Mead & White. Upon its completion they decided to remain in Portland and formed a partnership. Their first important commission was the Portland City Hall.

Apart from its stylistic importance, the City Hall is significant in other ways as well. It was conceived to be a fireproof structure. It was centrally heated, wired for electricity, and piped for gas, and provision for public telephones and elevators was considered from the planning stage in 1892. All rooms were to be well ventilated and readily accessible, and considerable thought was given to conveniences such as toilet facilities. Noteworthy for Portland is that the new City Hall was planned as a purely administrative facility for the rapidly growing city, with activity facilities such as police and jail to be located elsewhere, a major departure from the earlier plan by Hefty.

Also noteworthy is that the Portland City Hall is a very early example of a steel frame building, that is, floor and roof loads are not carried by the exterior walls. This indicates that Whidden and Lewis employed the latest engineering techniques of the time. Floor loads between horizontal members are carried by terra cotta arches, concrete infill.

The Portland City Hall is one of Oregon's most architecturally significant buildings from the viewpoints of planning and engineering as well as stylistic importance. It, along with the nearby Pioneer courthouse, is an architectural gem set in downtown Portland and a worthy monument to the spirit of government in Oregon.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Oregonian, "The New Portland City Hall" May 22, 1892, p. 13.

Ross, Marion D., "Architecture in Oregon, 1845-1895," Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. LVII, No. 1, March, 1956, p. 64.

Ross, Marion D., "125 Years of Building" AIA Journal, June 1968, pp. 178-79.

(Continued)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

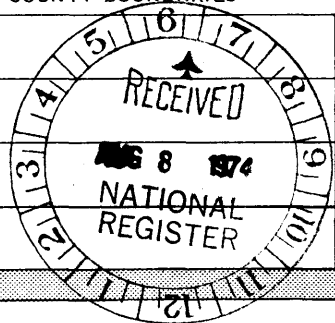
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		45 0 30	122 0 40 39 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

UTM  
10/52516  
504002  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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 B. Hartwig, Park Historian and D. W. Powers III, Temporary Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Parks and Recreation Section DATE: July 31, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Division

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

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

*J. A. Roberts*  
 Title State Parks Superintendent  
 Date August 2, 1974

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

*A. R. Montrose*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/21/74

ATTEST:  
*Wm. S. Montoye*  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date 11-18-74