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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Oregon City Masonic Lodge

other names/site number Multnomah Lodge #1

2. Location

street & number 707 Main Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Oregon City ☐ vicinity

state Oregon code ____ county Clackamas code ____ zip code 97405

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this __ nomination _X_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

__ **national** __ **statewide** _X_ **local**

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 3-5-14

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property __ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official — Date

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

__ entered in the National Register

✓ determined eligible for the National Register

__ determined not eligible for the National Register

__ removed from the National Register

__ other (explain:) ____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action 5/15/14

Oregon City Masonic Lodge
Name of Property

Clackamas, OR
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [X] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [X] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	**0**	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall
COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS
COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: CONCRETE
roof: ASPHALT: Built-up
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraphs

The Masonic Lodge of Oregon City, known as Multnomah Lodge #1, is a four-story, reinforced concrete building. It is rectangular in plan and located in the center of a prominent block on Main Street in downtown Oregon City. The building is a two-part commercial block with classical ornament. The primary facade is divided into three bays. The first floor's southern bay provides street-level access to the upper floors. To the north are two wider, retail storefronts with matching, tiled bulkheads, recessed, central entry doors, and large aluminum-frame display windows. Fenestration on the upper floors is symmetrical and the building is topped by a curvilinear parapet wall cast with the years "1907" and "1846," as well as the name of the lodge and the Masonic Lodge symbol. Secondary elevations are minimally ornamented. The building's most prominent ornamental detail is the unique pattern cast into the skin of the building's primary façade, which includes geometric patterns like the Greek Key, quoins, and keystones..

Currently, the building's second floor is devoted to leasable office space. The third and fourth floors were historically devoted to lodge activities and the activities of other fraternal groups. The third floor includes the Lodge Hall, a Tyler's Room, and a Preparation Room (the three rooms necessary to support Blue Lodge activities). The upper floor includes a renovated dining hall and kitchen, as well as offices and storage. The building's basement stores systems equipment and historically held leasable space.

The building's interior has been modernized. Alterations have occurred primarily to leasable spaces and to the fourth floor. Spaces devoted to fraternal activities retain their original configuration and some of their symbolic ornament. The building's exterior includes replacement, vinyl-clad windows, and its original cornice has been removed.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Masonic Lodge is centrally located downtown on a block between 7th and 8th streets. On the south, it is flanked by one and two-story commercial blocks. On the north are an alley and parking lot. On the west, the building faces first a second parking lot, then McLoughlin Boulevard, and then a peaceful stretch of the Willamette River. On the east, the building faces Main Street and contiguous one and two-part commercial blocks, including the ornate, three-story, Bank of Commerce on the corner of Main and 7th streets.

At four stories, the Lodge is one story taller than the most prominent commercial blocks in the historic downtown. It is fronted by a sidewalk and parallel parking along Main Street, which is a two-lane thoroughfare.

The Masonic Lodge sits among Oregon City's most recognizable landmarks. The grand Art Deco-style Clackamas County Courthouse is located one half-block to the north, and the beautiful Oregon City-West Linn Bridge is located one half-block to the south. This 1922 concrete bridge was designed by Oregon state bridge engineer, Conde B. McCullough.The Masonic Lodge is also highly visible from the bluff above downtown, and from the Municipal Elevator's observation deck one block to the east.

Oregon City's commercial downtown developed from south to north and features an industrial district on the south end of Main Street that includes the former Blue Heron Paper Mill south of Main and 5th streets. To the north, the two-block-wide strip of commercial development continues for another eight blocks north of the Masonic Lodge. It is dominated by 20th-century development, including public buildings like the Clackamas County-Community Corrections building at 1024 Main Street, which has the year 1923 inscribed in its parapet wall, as well as commercial showrooms and service stations from the mid-20th century.

Physical Description

The Lodge is a rectangular building atop a daylight basement. It has a footprint of 5,900 square feet, with a total area of 28,000 square feet. It was designed as a two-part commercial block.

East Elevation with Storefronts[1]

The basement is not visible on the east elevation. On the first floor, the narrow southern bay is clad in coursed, rock-faced stone with narrow beaded joints. A recessed entry sits behind a stone arch. Fit into the soffit of the arch is a flat-paneled sign with raised metal letters that read "Masonic Temple". The arch's soffit is clad in dark marble panels. A cast, flat cornerstone south of the arch reads "LAID BY/ M. W. GRAND MASTER/A.F & A.M./AUGUST 27, 1907". Recessed behind the arch is a tiled entry with ceramic tile walls and a ceramic tile floor. The floor is made up of white tiles bordered by red tiles. Red wall tiles are bordered by a band of black at the foot and two narrow black bands near the top. Above the tile, the wall and ceiling are smooth concrete. A square, recessed light fixture is installed in the center of the ceiling. Entry doors are paired, hinged, wood doors with clear glass panels. A difference in varnish color suggests that the doors recently included kick plates and push plates or handles.

The central bay recently featured a deeply recessed entry installed in 1968. The bay featured a south wall, square posts, and planter boxes clad in irregularly coursed sandstone with shallow joints. In spring 2013, the central bay was restored. The sandstone entry was retained in place and enclosed behind a new storefront of tile and glass. The new storefront is flush with the skin of the building and with the original bays to the south and north, as it appears in original drawings by the architect. Other elements of the sandstone façade that remain in place include a metal-lined depression with a metal ledge set into the bay's south wall. This is evidence of a former telegraph office that once operated out of the building's basement.

The central bay's new storefront is clad in black tiles with a narrow band of yellow and black tile in the bulkhead. Large display windows are metal-framed. The store includes a central, recessed entry with canted display windows flanking a single hinged metal door. The storefront is topped by a band of new, aluminum-frame transom windows with applied aluminum muntins and metal mullions. The entry floor is clad in ceramic floor tiles. The entry door is slightly off center and the entry's ceiling is made up of painted wood boards.

The northernmost bay is original and provided the inspiration for the central bay's renovation. A recessed entry door sits between bulkheads and large metal-framed display windows. Bulkheads are clad in black tile with a narrow band of yellow and black tile near the top of the bulkhead. The display windows cant towards a central entry door with a black tile surround. Two wall sconces encased in metal screens flank the door. A similar light fixture is embedded in the paneled wood ceiling above the entry. The floor of the canted entry is scored, poured concrete that resembles ceramic tile. Aluminum-framed transom windows with applied muntins and aluminum mullions top the storefront and wrap the northeast corner above large display windows.

Above the storefronts, the east elevation is divided into a wide, central bay with narrow wings. The central bay is defined by shallow pilasters, smooth on the second floor and fluted on the third and fourth floors. Pilasters also appear on the façade's corners. Horizontal divisions are suggested by minimal ornamentation. Simple sill courses of projecting concrete separate the first floor from the second and the second floor from the third. Between the third and fourth floors, the third belt course does not break the vertical line of the fluted pilasters.

On the second through fourth floors, window openings are consistent. A band of four windows appears in the central bay on each floor. Two windows appear on each floor of each wing. Some windows have been replaced. On the second floor, original one-over-one-light, double-hung, wood-sash windows remain on the north half of the façade. On the south, they've been replaced with one-over-one-light, vinyl-frame windows. On the third floor, all eight windows are vinyl-frame, one-over-one-light windows. On the fourth floor, the original

[1] Note that the front façade of the building actually faces southeast; however, it is referred to as east in the original architectural drawings, which was important for the internal layout of the Masonic Building. This convention is retained here throughout the nomination.

short sixteen-over-two, wood-sash windows remain in the north half of the façade. In these windows, the upper sashes are divided into three rows of six lights each. The lower sash is vertically divided. Windows on the south half of the façade have been replaced with vinyl-frame, one-over-one-light windows. Two windows include exterior air conditioning units.

The façade's distinctive wall surface has been referred to as "vaguely Egyptian" on inventory forms. However, the geometric designs may also be read as an expression of Greek ornament. Window detailing replicates stone surrounds, with flat keystone arches and decorative bands suggesting fretwork. The dominant decorative motif is the "key," a running band of interlocking geometric shapes sometimes referred to as a "Greek key" ornament. This motif appears also in Egyptian style ornament.

The surface treatment appears to be unique in Oregon City. No other building was found that uses cast concrete to produce an ornamental geometric pattern on primary wall surfaces.

Pilasters terminate above the fourth floor. An original cornice, along with the Ionic capitals atop the pilasters, were removed in 1913 for unknown reasons, though cornice removal was a common practice as they were difficult to maintain. The building's flat roof sits behind a curving parapet wall that includes the name of the Masonic Lodge, the date the Lodge building was constructed (1907), and the date the Multnomah Lodge received its charter and began operating in the Oregon Territory (1846).

North Elevation

The north elevation faces an alley and a parking lot. It is highly visible from the public right-of-way. The wall is smooth, board-formed concrete and includes little exterior ornament, with the exception of simple, projecting, concrete belt courses between the first, second, third, and fourth floors.

This elevation includes window openings on all four floors and in the daylight basement. Basement window openings are shallow with segmental arches, but the windows have been boarded up with wood panels. Windows on the first floor include four two-light, awning-style windows with segmental arches. The second floor includes eleven narrow, one-over-one-light, double-hung, wood sash windows, three with exterior air conditioning units. The windows are consistent in size, with the exception of a window enlarged to access an attached metal fire escape. On the third floor are seven one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows. One window's lower sash has been enlarged to accommodate a door to the attached fire escape. As on the primary elevation, fourth floor windows are shorter than those on the intermediate floors. There are seven windows on the fourth floor. Three are original, eighteen-over-two, double-hung, wood sash windows. Two openings have been paneled over, and an exterior light has been attached to one of the panels. A fifth window has been replaced with a louvered vent. A sixth, near the northwest corner, has been converted to a door accessing the fire escape. A lamp has been installed above the non-contributing, metal fire escape. On this elevation, the parapet wall steps down toward the west, and is topped by simple coping.

West Elevation

The west elevation faces a paved parking lot and the Willamette River. The parking lot is surrounded by a retaining wall that obscures the Masonic building's basement level. McLoughlin Blvd. runs between the parking lot and the Willamette River. To the southwest of the Masonic Lodge is the Oregon City-West Linn Bridge, which exits onto 7th Street in Oregon City, one half-block north of the Masonic Lodge.

The western exterior wall is smooth, board-formed concrete and includes little exterior ornament, with the exception of simple projecting concrete belt courses between the first, second, third, and fourth floors.

There are two basement level entries on the west elevation, one for the Lodge in the south portion of the building and one for the retail business in the north. They are both accessed by wells in a concrete retaining wall. The retaining wall is topped with a metal hand rail on the south well and a wooden railing on the north well. The wells are narrow, with concrete stairs leading down to single doors and boarded-up windows. Each

basement level door is paired with a door to the first floor. These are slightly raised above grade, with shallow concrete stairs and wooden handrails. The first floor doors are simple metal doors topped by boarded-up transom windows hung with exterior light fixtures. The west elevation is the "back" of the building. Trash and recycling bins are stored here under a non-contributing, corrugated plastic shed with a wood frame. Two large air conditioning units have been installed in former window openings, and utility boxes are attached near the north corner. Along with the two doors, the first floor includes five windows. The three northern windows are one-over-one-light, double-hung, wood windows covered with metal bars. The two southern windows are vertically divided, two-light, wood-sash, awning windows.

The second floor includes twelve windows. All are wood, one-over-one-light, double-hung windows. Windows on the south half of the building are generally larger than those on the north half. Fenestration is similar on the third floor. On the fourth floor, windows have been replaced with vinyl-frame sliding windows. One remaining eighteen-over-two, double-hung, wood window sits near the northwest corner. Near this window is evidence of a former window opening that has been permanently sealed.

This elevation also includes two fire escape ladders. They are accessible from the roof, and connect to wrought iron balconies on each floor. The ladders terminate below the second floor balconies. From the west elevation, a deteriorated chimney is visible near the center of the flat roof. On this elevation, the parapet wall steps up to the south, and is topped by simple coping.

South Elevation

The southern elevation is the plainest. Its exterior wall is smooth, board-formed concrete and it includes no belt courses and no variation in its flat-topped parapet wall. The building's southern wall is shared by a single-story commercial block to the south. There are no windows and no exterior access points for the basement or first floor. The second floor includes a central band of five vinyl–frame, one-over-one-light windows, as well as a sixth window of the same type near the southwest corner. The third floor includes four boarded-up windows and two vinyl-frame, one-over-one windows near the southeast corner. The fourth floor wood windows have all been replaced with vinyl-frame windows. The two nearest the southwest corner are sliding windows. The other four are one-over-one, vinyl-frame windows. The wall is capped with simple metal coping.

Interior Description

Summary

The building is a two-part commercial block, with commercial uses on the bottom floor, leasable office space on the second floor, and rooms historically devoted to Multnomah Lodge and other fraternal organizations on the third and fourth floors. The basement has been used for storage, for building systems, and for numerous business ventures. The building was constructed and managed by Multnomah Lodge #1 until 2012, when the building was sold. The lodge rooms are now in transition. They are occasionally used by tenants with short-term projects. Some spaces on the second, third and fourth floors are still leased. The Order of the Eastern Star retains offices on the fourth floor, though no other fraternal organizations retain offices in the building.

Storefront elements on the first floor, including floors, walls and windows, have been altered, along with the general floor plan of the building's retail spaces. Office spaces on the second floor have also been altered. However, spaces on the third and fourth floors retain their original wooden staircases, access to the building's original elevator, and many historic finishes, including the ornate ceiling of the original Lodge Hall, transoms over interior doors, an Arts and Crafts-style fireplace and wood floors in the library, and wood trim pieces throughout. Original traffic patterns through the rooms associated with the lodge have been maintained.

First Floor Storefronts:

The Lodge's first floor is divided into unequal parts. The Lodge lobby is located in the south third. From the exterior, paired hinged doors lead to a round vestibule tiled in blue and gray ceramic tiles topped by a band of bright blue quarter-round tiles. The tile is capped by a circular, painted cornice decorated repeatedly with the lodge symbol. The lodge symbol is universally recognized, and consists of a square, compasses and the letter "G". The vestibule's shallow, domed ceiling consists of concentric rings of gold painted plaster. Doorways are squared, requiring squared openings in the round wall. This is achieved by flaring the curvature of the wall around two pairs of swinging double doors. Darker tile is used to highlight the resulting corners that appear in this otherwise round room. The vestibule's floor is clad is linoleum or other synthetic floor tiles. Paired swinging double doors with large glass panels lead west from the vestibule to the Lodge lobby. The lobby floor has been stripped in preparation for a new finish. The lobby's blue tile walls are topped by a band of brown quarter-round tile, with painted plaster above and on the ceiling. The lobby includes access to upper floors along the building's south wall. An elevator door with diamond-pane window sits south and west of the entry doors. The elevator is original and dates to the building's construction. Beside it, to the west, is a wide staircase. The first step, bull-nosed, runs the length of the lobby's southern wall. The wide first stair is topped by a platform where the stair makes a quarter turn, runs west, makes another quarter turn, and then runs north to connect to the second floor. The stairs are wood with simple, square, wood newel posts and square balusters with closed stringers. Round wood hand railings with decorative ends are attached to the tiled wall. The lobby also provides access both to the basement and to the central bay's storefront and back offices. On the west wall of the lobby is a simple wood door leading to a short north-south corridor. On the south, the corridor leads to a stair to the basement. To the north, the corridor opens into an east-west double-loaded corridor with offices on the south and storefront and offices on the north.

The first floor's central retail space features a recently redesigned floor plan. In the east, it is made up of two rooms separated by a north-south wall with an embedded one-way mirror. The wall is painted drywall and includes a wood sliding door that runs along a metal track above the door opening. Finishes are consistent in the retail spaces. The wood floors are new or recently refinished. Walls are freshly painted. Ceilings are high. Track lighting or pendant lighting has been installed.

West of the storefront, the double-loaded corridor and offices include wood floors, simple wood doors, painted plaster or drywall, and lowered ceilings with embedded fluorescent lights. Some interior corners are curved. Some office spaces include steam radiators. Kitchen and single-unit bathroom are located along the western wall. Fixtures are newly installed. The building's floor plan has been recently altered to entirely separate the two central bays from the northern bay.

In the northern bay, spaces are larger and recently renovated. The northern retail space includes carpeted floors, painted plaster and wallboard, and lowered ceilings with ceiling tiles and embedded fluorescent lights. Some posts and beams are visible. Some interior corners are rounded. West of the retail space are stacked offices with similar features. Large windows wrap the northeast corner. Along the western wall is a bathroom with linoleum floor, toilet, and sink and new ceiling light fixture. Windows are trimmed in wood. Some cabinet units have been installed in offices. In the northwest corner is a stair to a small attic space with access to mechanical, etc., systems. Stairs are carpeted and lined with wood balustrades.

Second Floor

On the second floor, offices are grouped around the stair and central lobby. As on the first floor, the wide stair includes simple square balusters. The second floor newel post is ornamented with paneled sides and dentils below the wide, square cap. The stair rises into a central square lobby with zigzagging hallways running east and west. The corridor includes visible posts and beams. Floors in the lobby and offices are original wood floors, sometimes carpeted. Added walls divide the second floor into numerous multi-sized office spaces. Some office doors have decorative trim and include frosted or clear glass sidelights facing the interior lobby. Walls and ceilings appear to be painted plaster with dividing walls of painted drywall. Original steam radiators remain in place. Pipes and uncovered light fixtures are visible along the ceiling. Within offices, walls are

plastered or painted drywall and include tall baseboards and occasional picture rails. Lights are a combination of school house pendants and suspended fluorescent lighting. A few original doors are surrounded by decorative wood trim and topped by boarded-over transoms.

The second floor lobby includes a wide second stair that is also wood, with square balusters and ornamental newel posts. This stair is located northwest of the stair between the first and second stories, and once provided access between the second and third floors. It is now blocked half way up by an added wall with locked double door. Locked doors installed in the east-west corridor also interrupt access to offices and toilet rooms in the western portion of the building.

The second floor also includes elevator access. The elevator door is similar to that on the first floor, with a diamond-paned window and original hardware.

Third Floor

The plan of the third floor is particularly significant to this building's history as a Masonic Blue Lodge. A blue lodge serves Masons of the first, second and third degrees. To function, it must have a Lodge Hall, a Tyler's (or Tilers) Room and a Preparation Room. All three remain in the Oregon City Masonic Lodge. The third floor has an added detail labeled in original plans as a "trap door" in the floor. The trap door, according to contemporary members of Multnomah Lodge #1, was recently uncovered. It accesses a narrow shaft. The trap door may have been used by other Masonic groups like the York Rite during initiation rituals.[2] On original plans, this trap door is identified by a skull and crossbones (See Figure 8 in Additional Documentation).

The third floor is only accessible by elevator or from the fourth floor, as the wide wooden stair between the second and third floor is now blocked by a locked double door in an added wall. The third floor is split nearly in half by a double-loaded, central, east-west corridor. North of the corridor is the Lodge Hall. South of the corridor along the southern wall are numerous Lodge rooms, including the library (identified as the "board room," in Figure 8 in Additional Documents), the lounge (identified as the "recreation room" in Figure 8), and the former offices of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF). In the western portion of the building, behind these primary uses, are bathrooms for men and women, storage spaces, and a large wooden stair that leads up to a dining room and kitchen on the fourth floor. This stair matches other staircases in materials and treatment.

On the third floor, treatments vary by room. Bathrooms and some office spaces feature linoleum floors. Floors along corridors and in the Lodge Hall are carpeted; the board room includes original wood floors. Throughout, doors are surrounded with decorative wood trim. Transoms remain in place above interior doors. In toilet rooms, stall doors and dividers are made of wood. In the corridor, a series of wooden picture rails recently held portraits of youth group leaders. In Lodge rooms, permanently installed bookcases remain in place. These are also constructed of dark, polished wood.

The Lodge Hall, Tyler's Room and Preparation Room

The Lodge Hall is a large, open, rectangular space, following the requirements of interior lodge halls around the U.S. The dais is located on the east wall facing west. It is raised and accessed by shallow carpeted stairs. Fabric upholstered, wood-framed banquettes sit atop shallow rises along the north and south walls for general membership. The center of the floor is left open now that the Masonic altar has been removed. Walls are painted plaster with applied wood paneling. Pendant lights and fans are installed in lowered ceiling panels. Wide base boards and chair rails are painted white to match the walls. Doors are topped by architraves with applied lodge symbols including the level, the plumb bob, and the square, significant lodge symbols.

The Tyler's Room is located directly west of the Lodge Hall. It is a rectangular room with access to the men's and women's toilet rooms. Transoms remain above wood-trimmed doors. Its floor is covered in linoleum or

[2] William Anton, Secretary, Multnomah Lodge #1. Personal interview by Chrisanne Beckner, Portland, OR, May 22, 2013.

other synthetic tiles. Walls include deep baseboards, chair rails, and picture rails. Walls are plastered. A radiator and original ceramic drinking fountain are installed in this room. The trap door identified in original plans is visible in the floor directly before the door to the men's toilet room.

The final significant room is the Preparation Room. It sits just west of the Lodge Hall and north of the Tyler's Room. All three significant rooms are accessible from every other room. The Preparation Room is carpeted, includes permanent wood storage cabinets and plaster walls with picture rails. Doors are topped by transoms. From the Lodge Hall, the transoms are not visible, as if they've been paneled or otherwise covered over and the new surfaces painted.

Though the board room, or library, is not considered essential to the work of a Masonic Blue Lodge, the board room in the Oregon City lodge retains significant integrity and is associated with lodge activities. The board room is a pleasant space with windows facing south and west and an Arts and Crafts-style fireplace with tile surround and hard wood mantel with dentils. The board room includes original wood floors, deep baseboards, plaster walls, and wood trim around the windows.

Fourth Floor

The western third of this floor is a large rectangular room on a north-south axis. It includes the lodge kitchen and dining hall, along with a wide, open stairwell to the third floor. The eastern portion of the floor is divided on an east-west axis. The north half sits above the Lodge Hall. When the ceiling was dropped, it created an attic crawl space. The ornate, original ceiling remains in place. It includes a grid of boxed beams that extend down the wall to end in ornate plaster corbels. The ceiling is painted blue with stars to remind members of a starry sky. The ceiling appears to be in good condition.

South of the attic crawl space are offices and the elevator in the building's southeast corner. The elevator faces an L-shaped corridor with carpeted floors, tall baseboards, and plastered walls. In the southeast corner of the building are offices still used by the Order of the Eastern Star. The office floors are carpeted; the doors and door frames are heavily trimmed in painted wood. Doors are flanked by single or double sidelights. Walls are painted plaster or wall board with tall wooden baseboards. Ceilings are generally dropped with fluorescent lighting. Storage closets include doors with frosted glass panels.

This floor includes an interesting design feature: a pair of central east-west corridors running side by side. The primary corridor is bordered by a north wall with obscure glass windows. Beyond this wall is a narrower, hidden, parallel corridor. It accesses private rooms including a personal washroom, a dressing room, and three utility or storage closets. The washroom and dressing room have been remodeled. The floor is linoleum, and walls are painted, with wide baseboards and wide picture rails. The bathroom includes a wall-mounted sink with separate spigots and a toilet. The dressing room includes linoleum tile floors and a large, wall-mounted mirror above a permanently-installed vanity shelf.

The primary corridor opens on its western end to the large dining room and kitchen. The dining hall was remodeled at an unknown date in the last half of the twentieth century. The floor is carpeted and the walls are clad in wide, vertical, wood paneling that terminates below dropped ceiling tiles. The ceiling is hung with pendant lights. Windows face south and west and have all been replaced with vinyl-clad, sliding windows. Between the dining hall and the kitchen, the wide wood stair leads east from the fourth to the third floor. The stairwell is surrounded by wood paneled half walls. A banquette is installed along the southern wall of the stair. The east wall includes a planter that is currently filled with artificial flowers. The banquette is long with attached side tables and cushions upholstered in artificial leather. On the north side of the stair is a smaller dining room and an enframed opening that looks into the lodge kitchen. The kitchen floor is covered in the same linoleum found in the fourth floor bathroom. The industrial kitchen includes large metal sinks, a kitchen island, and a combination of metal and linoleum-topped counters with aluminum trim. Wood cabinets are mounted on the walls.

Along the northern wall is a shallow set of stairs leading to an attic door that accesses the ceiling above the Lodge Hall on the third floor.

Basement

The Lodge basement is accessed from a stair on the first floor that runs south from the Masonic Lodge lobby before making a quarter turn and running east along the building's south wall. The stair is wood with simple wood newel posts and square balusters. The south wall has a wainscot. The stair reaches a square platform and makes another quarter turn at the elevator to the basement floor. The stair and elevator face a short, single-loaded corridor running east and west. Rooms off the corridor include concrete floors and reinforced concrete walls. Some interior walls are finished with drywall, vertical or horizontal boards, or wood paneling. Some include private, lockable doors, as they were at one time individually leased. A large boiler is surrounded by walls of red brick in the large open room in the western portion of the building's basement. The boiler is stamped with "Gardner and Kendall Heating Co/Portland Ore 1907". Near the boiler is a toilet room, a utility sink, and a bathroom sink. A new boiler has recently been installed in the southwest portion of the basement. Some rooms are being used for storage. Wood shelving has been installed against some walls. Doors are inconsistent. Some are wood with wood panels. One includes a glass panel.

Alterations within the Period of Significance

According to Oregon City's archived permit logs, interior spaces in the Lodge have been altered occasionally for tenant use. The Lodge remodeled the building's fourth floor to add offices in 1943. In 1956, portions of interior tile were repaired or replaced. Other alterations that may have occurred in this period likely include the renovation of the Lodge Hall, dining room and kitchen, as well as the renovation of tenant spaces in the basement, first floor and second floor.

On the exterior, an original projecting cornice below the parapet wall was removed in 1913, along with the Ionic capitals that originally topped the building's pilasters.[3] Fire escapes were altered in 1949.

Alteration outside the Period of Significance

Ground floor retail spaces were altered in the 1960s and 70s. The retail storefront at 709 Main Street (north bay) added new fixtures and finishes to its retail space in 1977 and reconfigured back offices in 1997. Unit 707A (central bay) was remodeled in 1986 for a sound and TV studio that added sound protection. The heating system was replaced in the basement in 1998.[4]

The sandstone entry was added to the central retail bay on the first floor in 1968.

The building has also received recent updates. In 2002, fire sprinklers were installed. Other systems were updated in the 21st century, including plumbing, gas and electrical. In the 21st century, wood windows were replaced with vinyl-frame windows on the upper stories of all four facades.

In 2013, the central bay was restored to its original design.

Furnishings including carpeting, linoleum, and permanently installed furniture including banquettes may have been installed outside the period of significance, but the dates are not known.

[3] Ionic capitals appear in historic photos and in original elevations prepared by the architect C. C. Robbins in 1907.
[4] City of Oregon City. *Building Permit Index, Main Street, 1939 – 2001*, unpublished. Records held by the City of Oregon City.

Oregon City Masonic Lodge
Name of Property

Clackamas, OR
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] 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 Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1907 - 1963

Significant Dates
1907, Date of Construction

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Robbins, Christopher C., Architect

Period of Significance (justification)

The building was sponsored by the oldest Masonic Lodge west of Missouri and constructed in 1907 as a prominent commercial block and a highly-visible lodge hall. It served as a commercial block and as a fraternal lodge for more than 100 years. The Period of Significance extends from the 1907 construction date for the building to 1963, as the social and commercial trends with which the property is associated continues beyond the 50 year mark, but does not rise to the level of exceptional significance that would support a Period of Significance extending beyond the 50 year mark.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The locally significant Oregon City Masonic Lodge is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A: Commerce, and under Criterion C: Architecture. The Oregon City Masonic Lodge was constructed in 1907 by Multnomah Lodge #1, the first Masonic Lodge established west of Missouri. It is an excellent example of a building type, specifically a fraternal lodge built to host commercial activity on its bottom floors while offering private spaces upstairs for Lodge business. The Masonic Building in Oregon City retains lodge-specific rooms on the third floor, including the Lodge Hall with its highly-ornamented ceiling, as well as the Tyler's room and Preparation room. The building is also an excellent example of an early commercial block in reinforced concrete constructed in a prominent location downtown Oregon City. It retains its character-defining features, including its cast concrete façade, its street level storefronts, and Masonic symbols that appear on both the exterior and interior of the Lodge. In these important details, the building retains integrity in design, materials and workmanship. The Lodge also remains in its original, prominent location and retains integrity in site and setting among key Oregon City structures, including the Oregon-City-West Linn Bridge and the Clackamas County Courthouse. The building also served as a Masonic Lodge and commercial block for more than 100 years and continues to express its character through feeling and association.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Multnomah Lodge #1 was established as the first Masonic Lodge west of Missouri. It attracted some of the most important civic leaders in Oregon City when it was founded in 1846, and it continued to bring influential men together in fellowship throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

Multnomah Lodge #1 prospered in the first decade of the 20th century as the membership outgrew its existing building. At that time, members chose to construct the tallest commercial block in town on a prominent city lot. Oregon City's Masonic Lodge remained the membership's home from 1907 to 2012. Though the Lodge's membership experienced periods of expansion and contraction throughout the 20th century, the rituals of Freemasonry have remained the same. The Masons who met in the Masonic Building in the early 21st century are tied to those of the mid-19th century through a consistent practice, a consistent set of rituals, consistent codes of conduct and consistent teachings. The building continues to express the importance of this legacy through the design and materials of its interior spaces. The Lodge rooms on the third and fourth floor continue to tell the story of Freemasonry as it was practiced in an early-20th century Masonic Blue Lodge. Specific significance comes from the traffic patterns between the three primary rooms, their orientation, the ornament above the doors, and the raised platforms on which officers and members were seated. The building also celebrates and honors the Masonic traditions through its elaborate entry, ornamented with high-quality materials including stone and marble, as well as through the building's size and prominence in the historic downtown.

Criterion A: Commerce

The Masonic Building in Oregon City was designed not only to house the Lodge, but to be a highly-visible commercial block, a retail icon in the historic city center. The building was designed to be taller than its neighboring buildings, to feature a highly ornamented façade, and to devote most of its interior square footage to leasable uses including offices and street-level retail. Storefronts were designed to be clad in clean, modern materials like tile and plate glass. Large display windows were incorporated into the design to display goods and lure shoppers into the retail spaces. This emphasis on commercial activity identifies the Oregon City Masonic Lodge as an excellent example of an important trend in fraternal building design. By constructing a prominent commercial block, Multnomah Lodge #1 was maximizing its investment and creating streams of revenue to support the membership for decades to come. The building successfully contributed to the broad development of Oregon City by housing businesses and civic groups of various types from 1907 through the historic period.

Criterion C: Architecture

The building is also eligible for its unique expression of its function. The building was designed by Christopher C. Robbins, a successful Portland architect and a Mason, who designed the two-part commercial block with classical details. The building is also one of the first in Oregon City to be constructed of reinforced concrete, thereby representing an innovative use of materials that would become common by mid-century. Robbins used smooth, poured concrete as a surface on which to create an illusion of varied materials and applied ornament. The most recognizable decorative elements include the Greek key, which is cast into the primary façade's surface, running in bands between the second, third and fourth floors and between the south, central and north bays. The technique was also used to replicate stone and masonry elements like quoins, flat arches and keystones around windows on the second, third and fourth floors. Though this treatment gives the building a unique look, the ornament replicates familiar symbols of classical architecture and design. For instance, the façade incorporates fluted pilasters that once held Ionic capitals below a full entablature. While the lower level storefronts were designed to incorporate tile and glass, the narrow entry to the Masonic Lodge was clad in rusticated stone and marble. This unique expression of the building's dual character, as both a fraternal building and a commercial building, is unlike any other in Oregon City. The building is also significant for the design of its internal spaces. The building retains its rectangular Lodge Hall with its dais and painted ceiling with decorative corbels. It retains the Tyler's room, as well as the Preparation room. These spaces continue to express their function through their original size, location, orientation and ornament, including, for instance, lodge symbols above the doors in the Lodge Hall. Other rooms related to Masonic practice also retain a high level of integrity, including the library (board room), which retains its original Arts and Crafts fireplace, its wood floors and wood trim.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The Founding of Multnomah Lodge #1

On February 5, 1846, the *Oregon Spectator* released the first edition of a newspaper produced in Oregon. It contained a notice: "The members of the Masonic Fraternity in Oregon Territory are respectfully requested to meet at the City Hotel in Oregon City on the 21st inst. [sic.] to adopt some measures to obtain a charter for a lodge." The notice was submitted with three names attached: Joseph Hull, Peter G. Stewart, and Wm. P. Dougherty. These early proponents were joined by four other Masons at the City Hotel, where the members drafted and signed a petition requesting a charter to establish the first Lodge in Oregon Territory. Because western expansion was in its earliest phases, the Masons had to send their request to the Grand Lodge of Missouri. The request was carried by a member of the Hudson's Bay Company, and the charter was granted. Joseph Hull was named the first Worshipful Master. The charter established Multnomah Lodge No. 84 of the Grand Jurisdiction of Missouri.[5]

Pierre Cornwall, a Mason, was entrusted with bringing the charter to Oregon City from Missouri. He began his overland journey in April 1848. However, Cornwall decided to follow others to the gold fields in California. He entrusted the charter to his traveling companion, Joseph Kellogg, who was also a Mason. Kellogg placed the charter in a "small rawhide covered, cylinder shaped trunk of his own make for safe keeping and proceeded to Oregon City, where he arrived on the 11th day of December, 1848."[6]

The Masons of Oregon City gathered that day to accept the charter and to form the first Masonic Lodge in the northwest. At that time, the charter was deemed to cover "territory bounded by the Mexican boundary on the south, the Canadian boundary on the north, the summit of the Rocky Mountains on the east, and the Pacific Ocean on the west, probably the largest jurisdiction ever enjoyed by any constituent lodge."[7]

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[5] Earnest P. Rands, *A Brief History of Multnomah Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M., Oregon City, OR, 1846-1930* [Oregon City: Knoll-Kundret Co: 1930], 1-5.
[6] Ibid.
[7] Ibid, 4.

The location of Lodge meetings changed over the first years. The Lodge met first at a "log store building" near the south end of Main Street. In spite of the crude conditions, the Masons found a way to hold fast to the rituals of their organization. As the story of the first meeting appears in *A Brief History of Multnomah Lodge No. 1*, "The furniture was necessarily crude and of an improvised nature. It is related that the Altar was a rough packing box, the Master's pedestal a barrel of flour, the Senior Warden's pedestal a barrel of whiskey, and the Junior Warden's pedestal a barrel of pork, symbolizing to our pioneer brethren, the corn of nourishment, the wine of refreshment, and the oil of joy."

This first meeting of Multnomah Lodge #84 was said to last sixteen hours and to include the initiation of numerous new members. Over the next few years, the Lodge held meetings throughout Oregon City's historic downtown. They met over stores, in hotels, and in a building constructed by Dr. John McLoughlin on the south end of Main Street. This building burned in 1860, taking the Lodge's original charter with it. At the time of the fire, the Masons were constructing their first permanent lodge on the southwest corner of 6th and Main streets in downtown Oregon City. However, the new Lodge also burned, this one in 1885. Between the two fires, many of the early records of the Lodge were lost. The Masons reconstructed the building in brick on the same site, and it was dedicated in February 1886.

This lodge building served until the early 20th century, when fraternal groups in Oregon City and throughout the country were growing in prestige and adding numerous new members. In Oregon City, fraternal organizations were essential to the social and commercial health of the region. Men participated in freemasonry to be initiated into a fellowship of moral, ethical public leaders striving for good citizenship. They applied the symbolism of masonry to their own goals for personal behavior. As contemporary Masons explain, many of our current metaphors for good civic behavior come from the Masonic interpretation of symbols like the bob, the square and the level. These symbols remind Masons to be "straight up," or "upstanding," to be "on the level," or fair and honest in all negotiations, and to offer a "square deal" in all business transactions.[8] The lessons of Freemasonry were embedded in rituals that were performed for the benefit of Lodge members. These rituals still follow the same texts, provide the same lessons, and are performed in the same way today. The importance of Freemasonry to Oregon City is evidenced by the number of prominent Oregonians who were members. The list includes Lot Whitcomb, who built the first steamship on the Willamette River and founded the city of Milwaukie; J.C. Ainsworth, one of the founders of the Oregon Steam Navigation Company and the founder of the Ainsworth National Bank in Portland; and Dr. Forbes Barclay, an early pioneer fur trader and surgeon who also acted as an early Oregon City mayor.

Multnomah Lodge was not only the first lodge in Oregon Territory, but also instrumental in bringing masonry to men in communities throughout Oregon and Washington. While the Multnomah Lodge was establishing its membership, the fraternal organization was growing throughout the west.[9] Oregon City's Lodge was the only lodge in Oregon for approximately two years. It did not have the power to charter other lodges, as that honor rested solely with "Grand Lodges," and a Grand Lodge could not be established in a state with fewer than three Masonic lodges. In 1851, the new Grand Lodge of California granted a charter to a lodge in Portland, and then a second charter to a lodge in Lafayette. These two lodges, along with Multnomah, formed the Grand Lodge of Oregon, which held its first meeting in Oregon City in 1851. From that point forward, charters were granted under the Grand Lodge of Oregon, and Multnomah Lodge was renamed "Multnomah Lodge #1." Immediately, Masonic lodges began to crop up in the expanding West. The Grand Lodge of Oregon granted their first charter to a lodge in Olympia, Washington in 1852.

According to a thorough history entitled, *The Masonic History of the Pacific Northwest,* the Oregon lodges experienced a period of slow growth in the mid-19th century, partly due to the loss of members who headed to

[8] William Anton, Secretary, and Jeff Schatz, Worshipful Master, Multnomah Lodge #1, interviewed by author, Portland, OR, May 22, 2013.

[9] Albert Gallatan Mackey, MD, *The History of Free Masonry: Its Legends and Traditions, Its Chronological History* [New York: The Masonic History Co., 1898], 1466-1467.

California during the Gold Rush.[10] In 1852, the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Oregon noted that Multnomah Lodge had sixty members, making it the largest lodge in Oregon.[11] As lodges began to appear in other cities, Milwaukee, Salem and Portland among them, annual meetings of the Grand Lodge began to circulate to other locations. For many years, Portland hosted all Grand Lodge meetings. By 1875, there were representatives of fifty-five distinct lodges in attendance at Grand Lodge meetings. During the 1880s, the construction of new lodges in Oregon leveled off, but with sixty-six lodges in the state, membership continued to grow.

The Masons of Oregon City were active and honored participants in civic life, evidenced by the respect they received during public events. For instance, in 1885, Clackamas County constructed a new courthouse in Oregon City. The Masons were allowed to place a list of current officers in the building's cornerstone, and notable Masons were invited to give speeches along with other city leaders. High levels of civic engagement were common throughout Oregon. By the turn of the century, when the Grand Lodge had been active for fifty years, Oregon had a total of 102 active lodges and a membership equaling 5,644 across the state.

In the early 20th century, Oregon City's Masons were too numerous to fit comfortably in their 1886 building. The Masons purchased a new site from Dr. Barclay's daughter, Andrina Catherine Barclay, who is known for building the Barclay Block at the corner of Main and 6th streets. Sanborn Fire Insurance maps from 1900 show a dwelling on the site of the current Masonic Lodge. The Sanborn Map also shows that other fraternal organizations were locating in the same area, and following the nationwide practice of sharing their lodge buildings with commercial enterprises. In 1900, the 1886 Masonic Lodge was sharing its building with a clothier. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, located on the same city block, shared their building with businesses selling jewelry and bicycles.

Though the Masons were planning to replace their brick Lodge building of 1886, the building was to remain in use after the Masons sold it to Mr. Phillip Street for $12,700. The Masons even secured the rights to meet in their former Lodge Hall until February 1908, when they held their first meeting in the new Lodge. As late as 1930, the 1886 Lodge remained home to a retail outlet called "Joe Swartz and Sons," according to Rands' history, "*A Brief History of Multnomah Lodge No. 1.*" The building was destroyed in 1935 during the construction of a new building directly to its south.[12]

To replace their 1886 Lodge, Oregon City Masons formed a building committee and requested plans from a number of architects. They chose Christopher C. Robbins, a Portland architect who grew up in Clackamas County, to design their new lodge.[13] The original plan was for three floors above a full basement. A fourth floor was later added to the original plans.

Even before the Masonic Lodge in Oregon City was completed, retailers were showing interest. As early as January 4, 1907, a full year before the first Masonic meeting would be held in the new lodge, the local newspaper ran an article entitled, "Many Want Space in New Masonic Temple." The subhead read, "Financial Committee Embarrassed by Number of Applicants of Renters."[14]

The Masons held their first meeting in the current Masonic Lodge building in February 1908. Amongst the earliest tenants was the influential Commercial Club, which leased the entire fourth floor and installed the

[10] Though many texts reference the legendary founding of the first Masonic Lodge in Oregon, they include elements of the same story. The most complete history of the Lodge, the subsequent Grand Lodge, and the associated lodges throughout the Oregon Territory can be found in the 1901 history, *Masonic History of the Pacific Northwest*. It is accredited to four grand masters, John Milton Hodson of Oregon, William H Upton of Washington, Jonas W. Brown of Idaho and Cornelius Hedges of Montana. See bibliography.

[11] John Milton Hodson et al., *Masonic History of the Pacific Northwest* [San Francisco: The History Publishing Company, 1901], 275.

[12] Michelle L. Dennis, *Historic Resource Survey Form for 517 Main Street* [May 2000].

[13] Robbins was a successful Portland architect and designed a number of buildings in Oregon. However, not much is known about his early life. These few details were reported in the *Portland Oregonian*. "Masonic Temple in Oregon City," *Portland Oregonian*, March 12, 1907.

[14] "Many Want Space in New Masonic Temple," *Oregon City Enterprise*, January 4, 1907.

building's elevator, which remains in place. As an article in the *Portland Oregonian* reads, "When the structure was completed several months ago, an elevator shaft was made, but there was no necessity of a car for the offices on the second floor nor the Masonic hall on the third floor. The elevator will be of the latest type, and will run from the top floor to the basement, where bowling alleys may be located to be operated in connection with the Commercial Club."[15] The John Adams department store moved to the first floor of the building in 1908, and is responsible for publishing some of the earliest sketches of the building (see Figure 13). The Oregon City Reading Room, a 300-book library, was housed on the third floor with the lodge and opened to the public in 1909.[16] The Masonic Lodge was likely chosen as the host for the new reading room because the Oregon City Library Association was formed in the offices of Judge Thomas R. Ryan, who kept offices on the second floor.[17] The Oregon City Library Association would within three years secure the funds for the Oregon City Public Library, the city's Carnegie library.

An Oregon City directory from 1916 identifies Masonic building tenants as Bannon & Co, a department store; Contractors Supply Company; a lawyer named Clarence Eaton; a tailor named Alex Sheirman; and an osteopathic physician named J. A. Van Brakle.[18] The building also housed a civil and hydraulic engineer named T. W. Sullivan, who served as Chief Hydraulic Engineer for the Portland Railway, Light and Power Company. Both the TW Sullivan Dam and the TW Sullivan Power Station were named in honor of the engineer's work on hydroelectric power at the Willamette Falls.

As a prominent commercial building on a highly visible block in downtown Oregon City, the building was also an important landmark, appearing in news articles, for instance, as the site for Red Cross donations during World War I.[19]

Future city directories identified tenants from 1953, including the Boy Scouts of America, two different dentists, and Oregon City Photo Processing and Oregon City Printing and Stationery Co. By 1953, the Lance Department Store had moved into the highly-visible northern bay. Historic photos shown neon signs and display windows full of well-dressed manikins.[20] By 1960, the Portland General Electric Company had moved into the building, as had Oregon Nursing Homes, Inc., the Physicians Association of Clackamas County, as well as a local chapter of Job's Daughters.[21]

The Masons continued to grow throughout the first half of the 20th century. By 1930, there were nearly 400 members in Multnomah Lodge No. 1.[22] National trends including the return of soldiers after World War II added to the membership rolls of the Multnomah Lodge. Soldiers who were reintegrating into civilian life appreciated the fellowship and were attracted to the Lodge's spiritual teachings. Increased membership dues and increased activity occurred in lodges throughout Oregon. This popularity is somewhat responsible for a general decline in the later years of the 20th century. Though Freemasonry follows strict texts and rituals, lodge management changed and evolved over the years. Recruitment is discouraged among Masons, which also makes it difficult to attract new members. As the men of the mid-century age, the lodges they leave behind continue to function, but with much smaller memberships and fewer financial resources.

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[15] Staff, "Elevator in Oregon City," *Morning Oregonian*. (Portland, Or.) December 28, 1908, Image provided by: University of Oregon Libraries; Eugene, OR.

[16] Workers of the Writers' Program of the Works Projects Administration in the State of Oregon, *A History of Clackamas County Libraries* [Clackamas County Libraries Association, 1941]: 3.

[17] Staff, "McBain at Head of a new association," *Oregon City Enterprise*. (Oregon City, Or.) December 03, 1909, Image provided by: University of Oregon Libraries; Eugene, OR.

[18] Bahns & Woodbeck's Clackamas County and Oregon City Directory, 1916-1917.

[19] Staff, "Old Clothing is Wanted," *Morning Oregonian*. (Portland, Or.) January 12, 1920. Image provided by: University of Oregon Libraries; Eugene, OR.

[20] Salisbury's Oregon City and Vicinity Directory 1953 [T. W. Salisbury and Co., 1953].

[21] R.L. Polk and Co., Polk's Oregon City Directory [Los Angeles: R.L Polk & Co., Publishers, 1960].

[22] Earnest P. Rands, *A Brief History of Multnomah Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M., Oregon City, OR, 1846-1930* [Oregon City: Knoll-Kundret Co: 1930], 17.

Maintenance for the Oregon City Masonic Lodge became more challenging as the building aged, though the first floor retained its retail use and the second floor continued to support business offices. In the early 21st century, the Masonic building's 100-year-old boiler had to be replaced, and the Masons of Multnomah Lodge eventually made the difficult decision to sell their building and relocate to a Masonic Lodge in Portland. They currently lease space in the Sellwood Masonic Temple.

Designing for Masonic Practice

Masonic Lodges in the heyday of Freemasonry took one of three paths to securing a location for their meeting site. Either a lodge established itself in an existing building, as a tenant, or it bought an existing building and transformed it. If the lodge was supporting a healthy membership and had ready capital, it might take a third route and construct an independent lodge building. The fact that Multnomah Lodge #1 built its own building in the center of downtown speaks to the organization's health and success in the early 20th century. Oregon City's Masons chose to construct a building taller than any other commercial building in its immediate vicinity. Oregon City Masons were establishing themselves and their lodge as pillars of local life. They also chose to construct the building in the very heart of Oregon City's historic downtown, making the building a landmark among landmarks in the commercial center of the city.

Masonic lodges built during the heyday between 1870 and 1930 were not constrained by any particular architectural style or outward stylistic ornament. Many of the East Coast lodges were built in Greek Revival or Colonial styles because classicism was considered appropriately dignified, formal, and had historic roots. Masonic lodges were also attracted to Egyptian symbolism. Past inventory forms have suggested that the cast ornament on the primary façade of the Oregon City Lodge may be Egyptian in nature. However, the building never incorporated familiar Egyptian elements like colossal columns or a Cavetto cornice. It was also constructed before the Egyptian Revival period, which is generally tied to the discovery of King Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922.

The building is unique because of this unusual surface ornament. However, it may also be the first building in Oregon City constructed of reinforced concrete. As early as 1901, the *Portland Oregonian* noted "concrete for foundation walls for houses of small and medium size is becoming quite common, and every house of any pretensions now has a cellar floor of concrete."[23] However, in Oregon City, concrete was still primarily associated at this time with large industrial projects like the Oregon City-West Linn Bridge. In a completely different mode, the Masonic Lodge was constructed to highlight the ornamental possibilities of reinforced concrete in the construction of commercial blocks, appearing long before it became a common material for such construction locally. For instance, a list of surveyed buildings found within the Oregon Historic Sites Database suggests that the next Main Street building to be constructed of concrete didn't appear until 1917.[24]

The Masonic building was originally planned in brick, but details were continually evolving. The building was also planned at three stories, but a fourth story was added some time in 1907 and appears in original architectural drawings (See Figure 10). A small story in the *Oregon Daily Journal* noted that "The Oregon City Masons are preparing to erect a $35,000 Masonic temple. The building will be 70 by 90 feet, three stories in height and will be constructed of reinforced concrete and brick."[25] Though no articles have been uncovered that describe the unusual surface treatment, or that marvel at the use of reinforced concrete as the primary construction material, reporters regularly refer to the building as grand, magnificent, or impressive. The *Oregon City Courier* referred to it as "the pride of the town. It is to be the handsomest structure here, and inviting meeting place for the Fraternity responsible for its construction, a good business enterprise, and more than all this, it will be a splendid monument to the public spirited organization that took a peep beyond the sluggish rut we have gotten into and laughed boldly out on the open sea of progress."[26]

[23] Staff, "Concrete for building," *Morning Oregonian*, June 2, 1901.

[24] Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, "Architectural Survey Data, City of Oregon City," search results from 10/17/2013, provided to Chrisanne Beckner by email from Diana Painter, 10/17/2013.

[25] Staff, "New Temple for the Oregon City Masons," *The Oregon Daily Journal*. (Portland, Or.) March 17, 1907. Image provided by: University of Oregon Libraries; Eugene, OR.

[26] Staff, "A Step Forward," *Oregon City Courier*. (Oregon City, Or.) September 06, 1907. Image provided by: University of

The ornamented surface of the façade is somewhat mysterious, but there are clues to its construction. Quoins, columns, and keystones are details that were historically crafted in stone. By 1907, reinforced concrete was known to be strong, inexpensive and durable. Its ornamental possibilities, however, were still being explored. Secondary elevations of the building show the raised, roughened seams of board-formed concrete, but the primary façade is smooth. Though no records were discovered that describe the process of casting ornamental concrete for this building, catalogues of the era were advertising a variety of machines in cast iron for casting concrete on a construction site. A copy of *The National Builder* published in January of 1906 advertises machines that cast roof tiles in concrete, machines that cast concrete bricks or stones, and one for "Bovee's cut stone slush cement system of building" that claims to produce cast concrete blocks with a "perfect cut stone appearance, costs only one half as much as cement blocks," and "costs about one-third the price of brick. Produces the most ornamental and beautiful building known."[27] Other ads showed examples of rock faced concrete block, or concrete cast into an egg and dart pattern. These examples suggest that there was both the machinery and the expertise to cast such ornament as is found on the Masonic Lodge on the construction site.

The Roots of Contemporary Freemasonry

Unlike some other fraternal organizations, Freemasonry was not founded for the sake of philanthropic activity or other civic work. Freemasonry is a deeply personal and spiritual fellowship. Masons support one another and use secret rituals to teach members how to be good leaders of their families and their communities. Freemasonry is considered a brotherhood, a fellowship among men that relies on lessons from ancient biblical stories for guidance in contemporary society. While the original Masons that figure into the myths and rituals of contemporary Freemasonry were literally skilled craftsman, contemporary Masons practice "speculative masonry."[28] They may come from any walk of life, but they agree to follow a set of principles that use symbols and teachings from architecture and the building crafts as metaphors for guidance. For instance, it's understood that the Masonic rites shape the character of members the way a mason shapes a rough stone into a perfect ashlar.[29]

Freemasonry traces its roots back to ancient times, and tells the stories of skilled craftsmen who roamed Europe, learning about the religions of the world while perfecting architectural craft and forming a set of spiritual beliefs and practices, many of which are highly ritualized and considered secret. Stories describing the founding of Masonry are often repeated in texts concerning the Masons in America, which trace their history to lodges founded in England in the late 17th century, "where political disputations ceased and polemical discussions of sectarian religious beliefs were rigorously hushed and barred, and Nature's humanity and loving kindness were given a chance to bring good men of opposite opinions together, who might have forever remained at perpetual distance from one another."[30]

Lodges began appearing in the US around the 1730s and attracted such members as Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Paul Revere. The objects of Freemasonry even today remain: liberty, equality, fraternity, brotherly love, truth, relief to the widow, the orphan and the distressed.
The stories that guide current Masonic practice point to the importance of Masonic symbolism. For instance, according to the *Masonic History of the Northwest*,

> *The blade of the trowel of the Master Mason reminded him of the form of his coffin, upon which, in the lines from the points at right angles, if a Christian, he could discern the symbol of his faith, and in the handle, he grasped the ever-living acacia, which again placed in the ground at the head of his grave, like*

Oregon Libraries; Eugene, OR.

[27] *The National Builder*, Vol. XI, II, (Chicago, IL) January 15, 1906. Advertisements, 3-10.

[28] William D. Moore, *Masonic Temples: Freemasonry, Ritual Architecture, and Masculine Archetypes* [Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2006], 4-5.

[29] Moore, *Masonic Temples*, 7.

[30] Hodson, *Masonic History*, 13.

> *Aaron's rod, would take root and bud and bloom anew in full strength and fragrance, the symbol and type of his immortality.*[31]

The repetition of certain symbolism in the architecture of the Masonic Lodge in Oregon City was meant to remind members of guiding tenants. For instance, according to contemporary Masons, the original ceiling of the Lodge Hall was painted like the night sky to remind members that their charity should be as expansive as the heavens.[32]

The early emphasis on the craft of masonry has led to a symbolic language that is shared among lodges, and is readable in the symbols and internal uses of space. Freemasonry historian William D. Moore claims that the constructing of temples fascinated lodge members in the early 20th century because the activity "gave physical form to the fraternity's ceremonial metaphors."[33] In the United States, the primary era of growth and popularity for the Masons is generally defined as 1870 to 1930, a period similar to the growth of the West.[34] Establishing a lodge in the west in the 1840s was a way of bringing the light of freemasonry to a young community so that its members might receive an education in these key concepts and might be shaped into perfect ashlars, or pillars of new cities like Oregon City.

Ornament in Oregon Lodges

A review of the Oregon's Historic Sites Database identified 57 Masonic lodges that were constructed between the years 1880 and 1930. This period includes all buildings constructed during the heyday of Masonic lodges as well as lodges that might have served as a model for C.C. Robbins as he designed the Oregon City lodge in 1907. Of those buildings that were photo-documented, none included the distinctive cast concrete that characterizes Oregon City's Lodge. Most were of masonry construction, and four of the lodges included similar classical elements, including pilasters topped with Ionic capitals. The most commonly shared element was prominent stone surrounds on upper-story windows. In other examples, including the Canby Masonic Building (1912) and the former Masonic lodge building at 902-918 SW Yamhill St in Portland (1907), the window surrounds are constructed in stone.

The exterior ornament of Masonic lodges varies, but they were built with a number of interior similarities associated with the rites of Freemasonry. Lodge Halls were especially relevant. This is where new members were initiated, and where meetings were held. A Lodge Hall must be longer than it is wide, and it must be built along two perpendicular axes. Where the two intersect, the altar is placed. The altar supports a Lodge bible and is surrounded by three candles representing the "lesser lights" of Freemasonry.[35] Photos of Oregon City's Lodge from 1930 show the altar in place, with candles. It also shows that a number of furnishings were placed as appropriate (See Figure 4). Chairs for the membership faced each other across the hall and members' chairs were identical, to reinforce egalitarianism and brotherhood among members. Currently, the Oregon City Lodge Hall includes banquettes, designed to be of equal shape and size, facing each other across the long Lodge Hall. The dais was built off the ground at the room's east end. Lodge Hall ceilings were designed to be high and ornamented, as the covered ceiling in the Oregon City Lodge remains. Private preparation rooms were significant because they provided members with space to prepare to present key allegories to the Lodge's members. The Grand Master sat on the dais in the east, facing doors in the west wall from the Tyler's and Preparation rooms. Each doorway is topped by a lintel with Masonic symbols: the trowel, the compass, the square, the plumb bob and the level. In all these details, the Oregon City Lodge meets the standard for Masonic Lodges identified by historians.[36]

Not only was the Lodge Hall consistent with others of its type, but the symbolism embedded in the building was meaningful and carefully designed. The round anteroom at the entry to the Lodge includes the Masonic

[31] Hodson, *Masonic History*, 13.
[32] William Anton, Secretary, Multnomah Lodge #1. Interviewed by phone by Chrisanne Beckner, July 24, 2013.
[33] Moore, *Masonic Temples*, 120.
[34] Moore, *Masonic Temples*, xv.
[35] Moore, *Masonic Temples*, 20.
[36] Moore, *Masonic Temples*.

symbol replicated numerous times in a band around the building's ceiling. The symbol includes a square and compasses, tools of the craft.

Architect C. C. Robbins

Not much is known about the professional training of architect Christopher Crittendon Robbins, who designed the Masonic Lodge. He was born in Stafford, Clackamas County in 1852 and spent the rest of his life in Oregon. In 1900 he was living with his wife Anna (32) and son Archie (3) in Portland. At this time he referred to himself as a wood worker.[37] He opened his architectural office in 1903 and practiced in Portland until he apparently retired in 1939.[38] He was a member of the Portland Association of Architects, and served as treasurer in 1907, the year he designed the Masonic Lodge.[39] He undertook a number of notable commissions. Robbins designed the Central Christian Church in Portland, Oregon, as stated in an article entitled "Plans Completed for $50,000 Edifice." The short article included Robbins' design of the primary façade and claimed that the popular church would now be able to host up to 1,100 people.[40] He also designed the McMinnville Masonic Lodge, according to a 1912 issue of the *Pacific Coast Architect* and a number of homes for prominent Portland residents in the early 20th century.

The 1913 McMinnville Masonic Lodge is also a two-part commercial block. It is three stories tall, of buff colored brick, and includes storefronts on the bottom floor. However, its primary façade is less ornamented than the Oregon City Lodge. It includes no cast concrete, no window surrounds, and its cornice is constructed of corbeled, cut brickwork.

One article in the *Portland Oregonian* announced Robbins' new Oregon City Lodge by saying, "Plans from C. C. Robbins, the Portland architect, have been received and approved. Several Portland architects were asked to submit plans, and those drawn by Mr. Robbins were selected as the best. This is especially gratifying to Mr. Robbins, for the reason that he was born in Clackamas County nearly 41 years ago."[41]

Not much is known about Robbins' Masonic involvement. However, his obituary states that memorial services for Robbins were to be held at the Lutz Colonial Mortuary in Portland under the auspices of Harmony Lodge No. 12, A.F and A.M.[42]

Conclusion:

The Masonic Building is significant under Criterion A: Commerce. It was, during the period of significance, strongly associated with commercial trends in the historic downtown, namely the early development of commercial activity along a commercial corridor. The Masonic Building replaced a dwelling along Main Street, adding to the commercial uses along the corridor and supporting the transition from a mixed-used downtown to an almost exclusively commercial downtown. It is also strongly associated with broad social trends, including the founding of the Oregon City reading room, a step toward the city's current Oregon City Public Library. The building is also eligible under Criterion C: Architecture as Oregon City's earliest reinforced concrete commercial block, ornamented with classical motifs and designed to meet the specific interior specifications of a working Masonic lodge.

Registration Criteria:

The building retains sufficient integrity to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It retains its original form, its orientation to the street, its rectangular plan, and its clear separation between the public first floors and private upper floors. It continues to contribute to the surrounding commercial core with public access to the first floor. The building also retains original window openings, including transom window openings, though materials have been replaced in some cases. The building retains many of its original wood-

[37] US Census, 1900.

[38] Richard Ellison Ritz. *Architects of Oregon: A Biographical Dictionary of Architects Deceased – 19th and 20th Centuries* [Portland: Lair Hill Publishing, 2002]: 335.

[39] *The Architect and Engineer of California*, Vol. VIII, No. 1, February 1907, 75.

[40] "Plans Completed for $50,000 Edifice," *Portland Oregonian*, July 12 ,1908.

[41] "Masonic Temple at Oregon City," *Portland Oregonian*, March 12, 1907.

[42] "Robbins—Christopher C.," *Portland Oregonian*, February 1, 1943.

frame windows, and its historic northern storefront. The building also exhibits its original roof design and parapet wall with significant identifying marks including the dates and name of the lodge and the Masonic symbol on interior spaces. A majority of the building's historic ornament remains in place, including decorative cast concrete. The interior of the building also retains excellent integrity, retaining its original primary lodge rooms, lodge symbols above the doors and in the round vestibule, the ornate Hall ceiling with decorative corbels, and the original elevator. The building retains a high degree of integrity in its character-defining features.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Books:

Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jennings. *American Vernacular Buildings and Interiors, 1870-1960*. New York: W.W.Norton & Co., 2009.

Hodson, John Milton et al. *Masonic History of the Pacific Northwest*. San Francisco: The History Publishing Company, 1901.

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Workers of the Writers' Program of the Works Projects Administration in the State of Oregon, *A History of Clackamas County Libraries* Clackamas County Libraries Association, 1941.

Newspapers and Magazines:

Arts & Architecture, Volumes 3-4, American Institute of Architects, San Francisco Chapter, 1912.

The National Builder, Vol. XI, II, (Chicago, IL) January 15, 1906.

Oregon City Courier, various editions, as cited in text..

Oregon City Enterprise, various editions, as cited in text.

The Oregon Daily Journal, various editions, as cited in text.

Morning Oregonian, various editions, as cited in text.

Public Documents:

City of Oregon City. Building Permit Index for Main Street, 1939 – 2001, held by the City of Oregon City.

Dennis, Michelle L. *Historic Resource Survey Form for 707-709 Main Street*, Oregon City, OR, May 2000, www.orcity.org/planning/707-main-street-masonic-temple-multnomah-no-1 [Accessed July 25, 2013].

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, "Architectural Survey Data, City of Oregon City," October 17, 2013.

Other:

Anton, William, Secretary, Multnomah Lodge #1. Personal interview by Chrisanne Beckner, May 22, 2013.

Oregon City Masonic Lodge
Name of Property

Clackamas, OR
County and State

Civilis Consultants and emerick architects, PC. *Adaptive Reuse Case Study for Masonic Lodge*, Oregon City, OR, undated and unpublished, held by building owner, T5 Equity, LLC.

Multnomah Lodge #1. Lodge Minute Books, 1900-1960, Lodge Archives, Portland, OR. Records are held by Multnomah Lodge #1.

Schatz, Jeff, Worshipful Master, Multnomah Lodge #1. Personal interview by Chrisanne Beckner, May 22, 2013.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Oregon City, Oregon. 1884, 1888, 1890, 1892, 1900, 1911, and 1925, updated to 1950. Online resource available through the City of Oregon City.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____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 # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
_X_University
_X_Other
Name of repository: Archives for Multnomah Lodge #1

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
(Follow similar guidelines for entering the lat/long coordinates as describe on page 55, How to Complete the National Register Registration Form for entering UTM references. For properties less than 10 acres, enter the lat/long coordinates for a point corresponding to the center of the property. For properties of 10 or more acres, enter three or more points that correspond to the vertices of a polygon drawn on the map. The polygon should approximately encompass the area to be registered. Add additional points below, if necessary.)

Datum if other than WGS84: NAD 83
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Latitude: 45.357702 Longitude: -122.609569

Latitude: Longitude:

Latitude: Longitude:

Latitude: Longitude:

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	10	530485	50228742	3			
2				4			

Oregon City Masonic Lodge
Name of Property

Clackamas, OR
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property encompasses Tax Lot 5200, defined as Lot 3, Block 6 in Oregon City, Township 2S, Range 2E, Section 31AB. The nominated property includes the entire lot, which is 66 feet wide and 105 feet deep.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property was purchased by Multnomah Lodge in 1907. It was improved by the Lodge with the construction of a four-story lodge building. The entire property remained in the hands of the Multnomah Lodge until 2012.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Chrisanne Beckner, Architectural Historian
organization Sole Proprietor date June 1, 2013
street & number 1307 Jasper Ave. NE telephone (360) 878-5335
city or town Olympia state WA zip code 98506
e-mail chrisannebeckner@earthlink.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

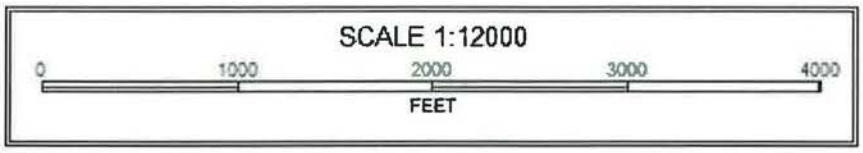
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

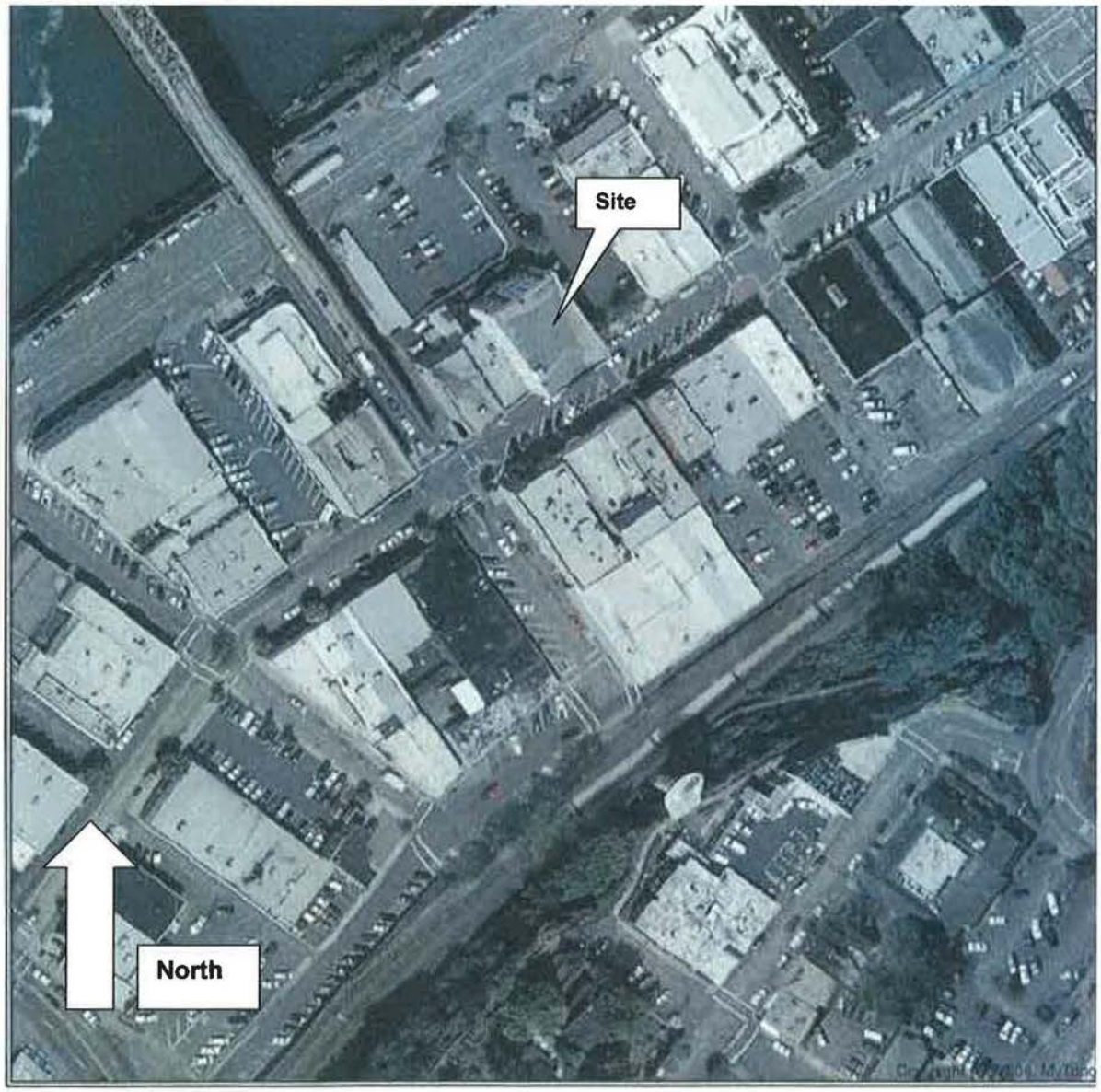
- **Continuation Sheets**

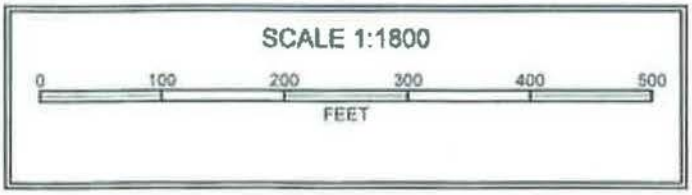
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Map 1: General vicinity map, Latitude/Longitude Coordinates: 45.357702 / -122.609569



Map 2: Site map, Latitude/Longitude Coordinates: 45.357702 / -122.609569





Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Oregon City Masonic Lodge

City or Vicinity: Oregon City

County: Clackamas **State:** Oregon

Photographer: Chrisanne Beckner

Date Photographed: March 13, 2013 – May 8, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo 1 of 15 OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMasonicLodge_001
East Elevation, Looking West

Photo 2 of 15 OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMasonicLodge_002
Lodge's Northeast Corner, Looking Southwest

Photo 3 of 15 OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMasonicLodge_003
North Elevation, Looking South

Photo 4 of 15 OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMasonicLodge_004
West Elevation, Looking East

Photo 5 of 15 OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMasonicLodge_005
Lodge's Southwest Corner and Parking Lot, Looking Northeast

Photo 6 of 15 OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMasonicLodge_006
Lodge's Southeast Corner and Neighboring Building, Looking Northwest

Photo 7 of 15 OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMasonicLodge_007
Masonic Lodge Recessed Entry, Looking West

Photo 8 of 15 OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMasonicLodge_008
Lodge's Northern Commercial Storefront, Looking West

Photo 9 of 15 OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMasonicLodge_009
Masonic Lodge and Willamette River, Looking West

Photo 10 of 15 OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMasonicLodge_010
Lodge Room, 3rd Floor, Looking East

Photo 11 of 15 OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMasonicLodge_011
Tylers Room, 3rd Floor, Looking West

Photo 12 of 15 OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMasonicLodge_012
Stair and Hall, 3rd Floor, Looking West

Photo 13 of 15 OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMasonicLodge_013
Dining Hall and Kitchen, 4th Floor, Looking Northwest

Photo 14 of 15 OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMasonicLodge_014
Vestibule, Facing East

Photo 15 of 15 OR_ClackamasCounty_OregonCityMasonicLodge_015
Original fireplace from Third Floor

Property Owner: (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name T5 Equity LLC

street & number 7924 Summerton Street telephone (503) 997-9952

city or town Wilsonville state OR zip code 97070

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Figure 6: Existing 1st Floor Plan, taken from emerick architects' Adaptive Reuse Case Study.

Figure 7: Existing 2nd Floor Plan, taken from emerick architects' Adaptive Reuse Case Study.

Figure 8: Existing 3rd Floor Plan, taken from emerick architects' Adaptive Reuse Case Study.

Figure 9: Existing 4th Floor Plan, taken from emerick architects' Adaptive Reuse Case Study.

Figure 10: Original drawing of the Masonic Lodge's Primary Façade, C.C. Robbins, 1907.

Figure 11: Original Drawing of the Basement Floor Plan, C.C. Robbins, 1907.

Figure 12: Original Drawing of the Masonic Building's 3rd Floor, C. C. Robbins, 1907.

Figure 13: A Sketch of the Masonic Building, Appearing as early as 1909 in Ads for the John Adams department store.

Figure 14: 1918 Photo of Downtown Oregon City with Masonic Building.

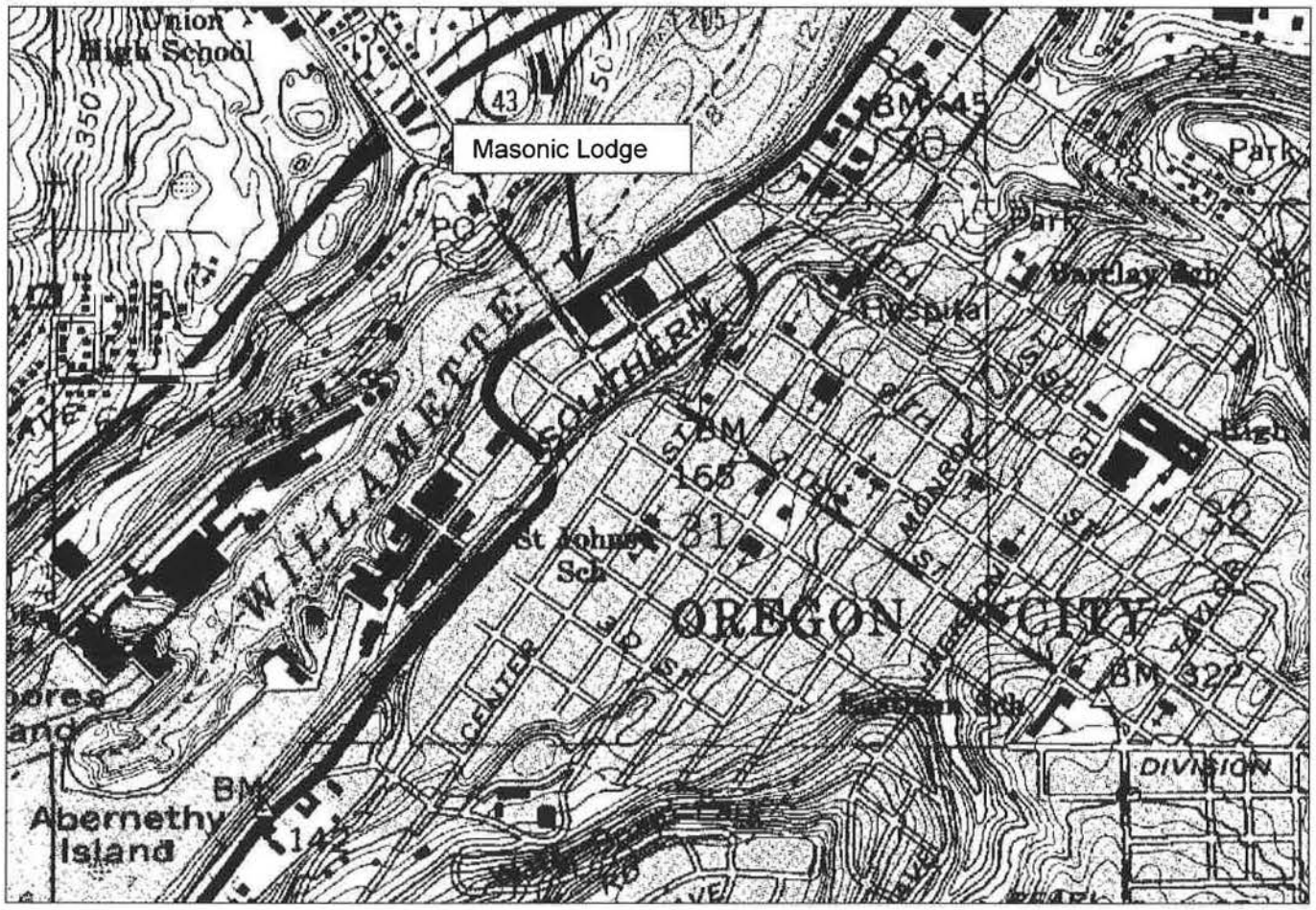


Figure 1: Topographical Map of Oregon City and the Masonic Lodge

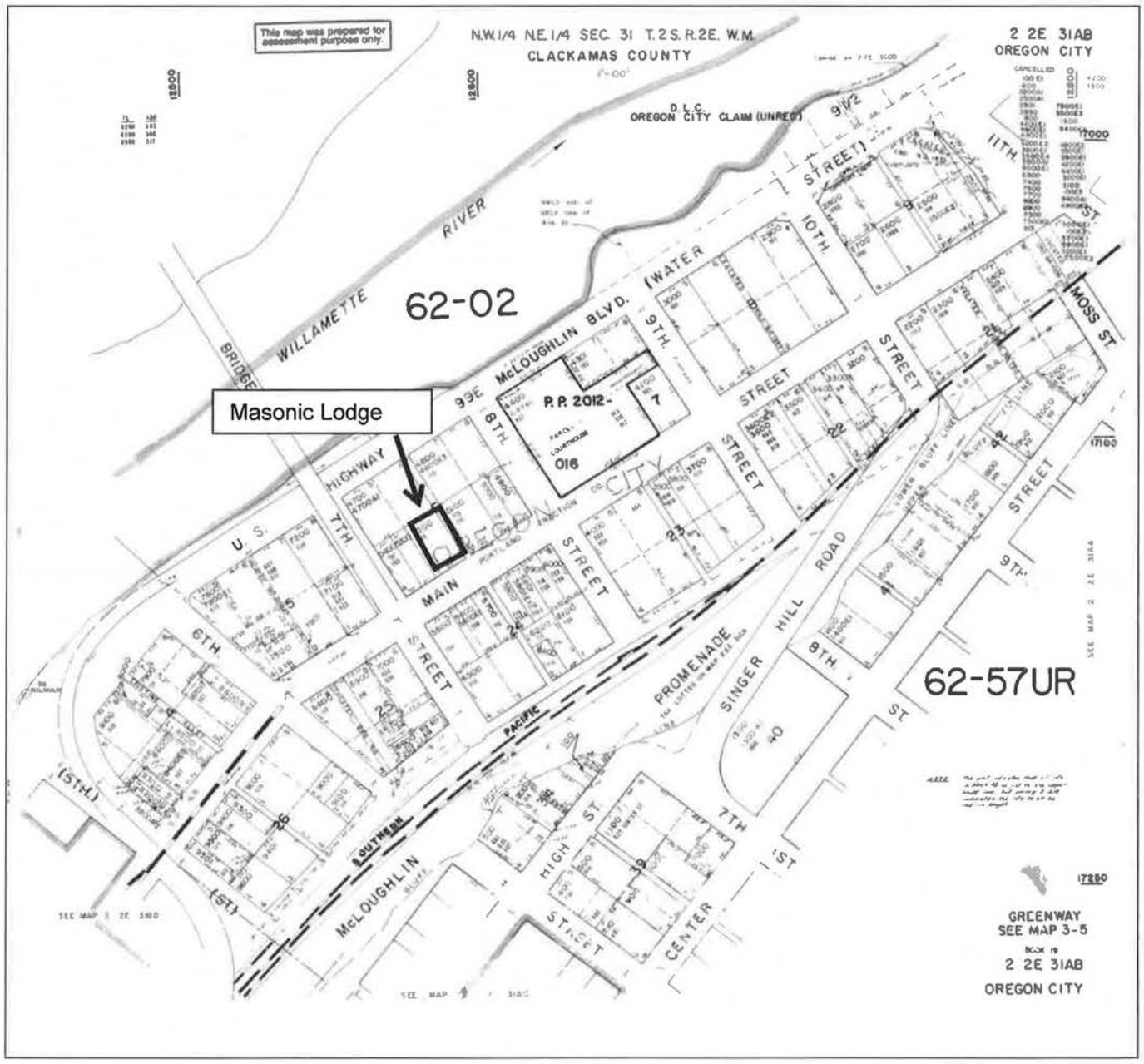
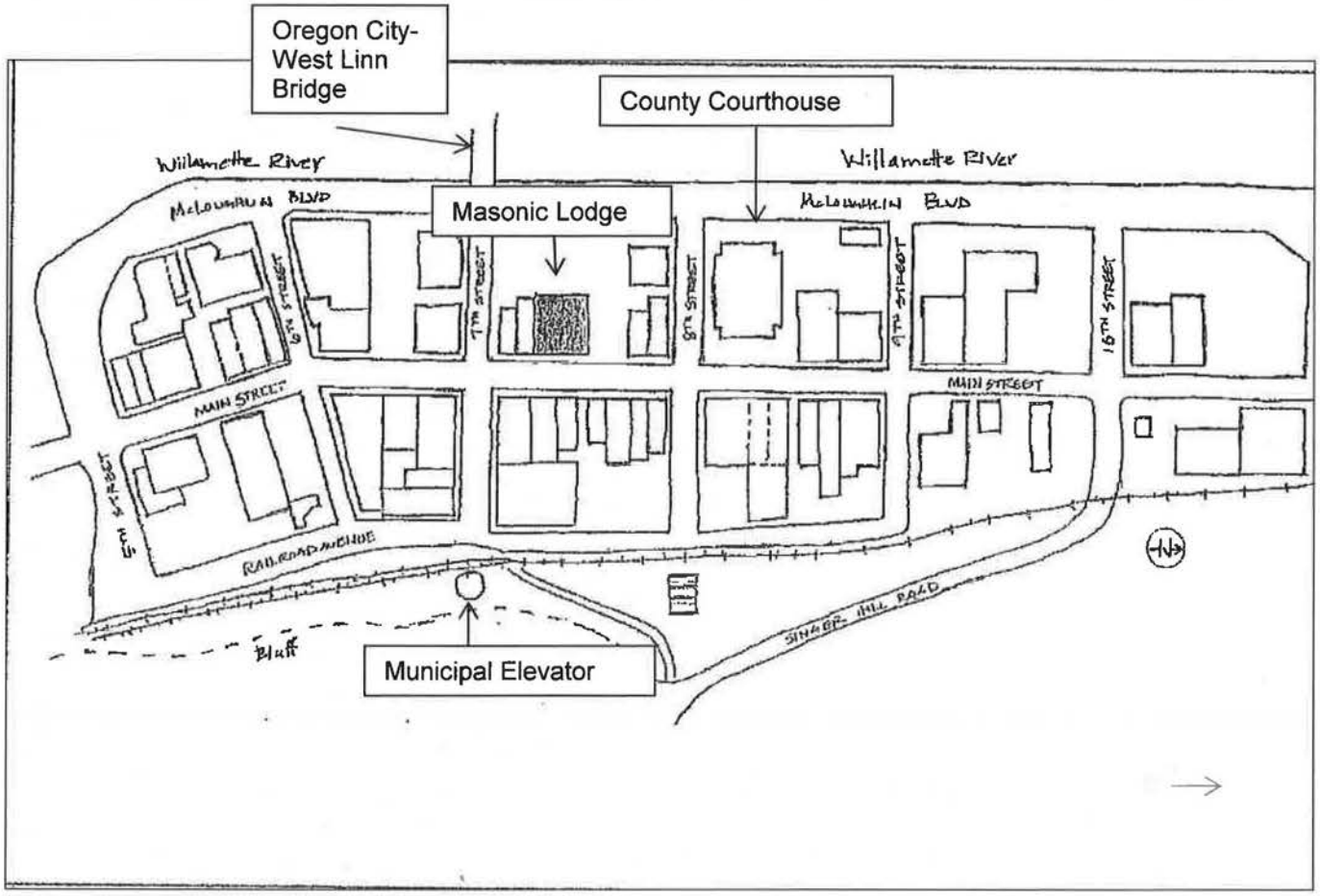


Figure 2: Tax Lot Map with the Masonic Lodge Marked



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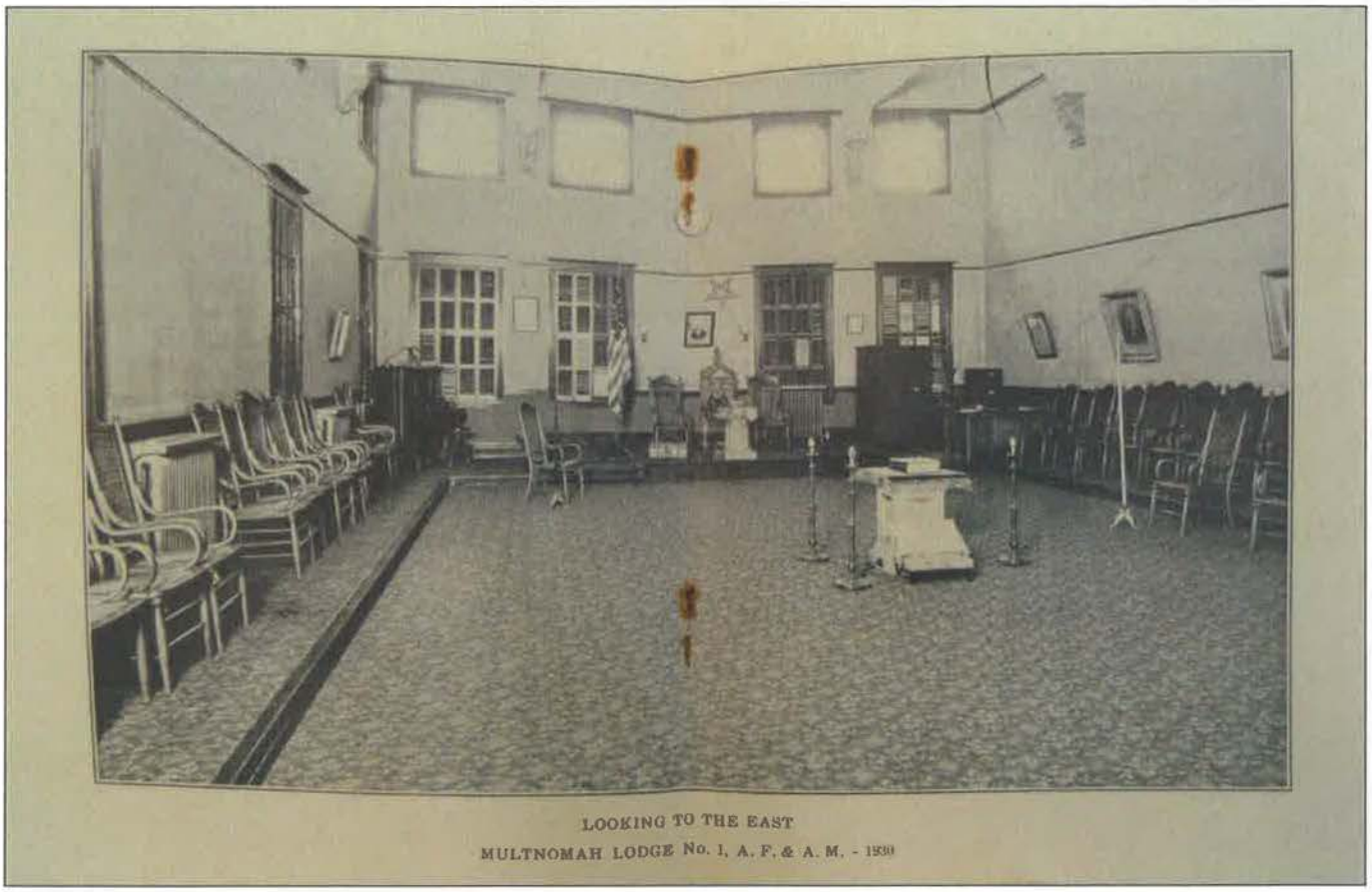
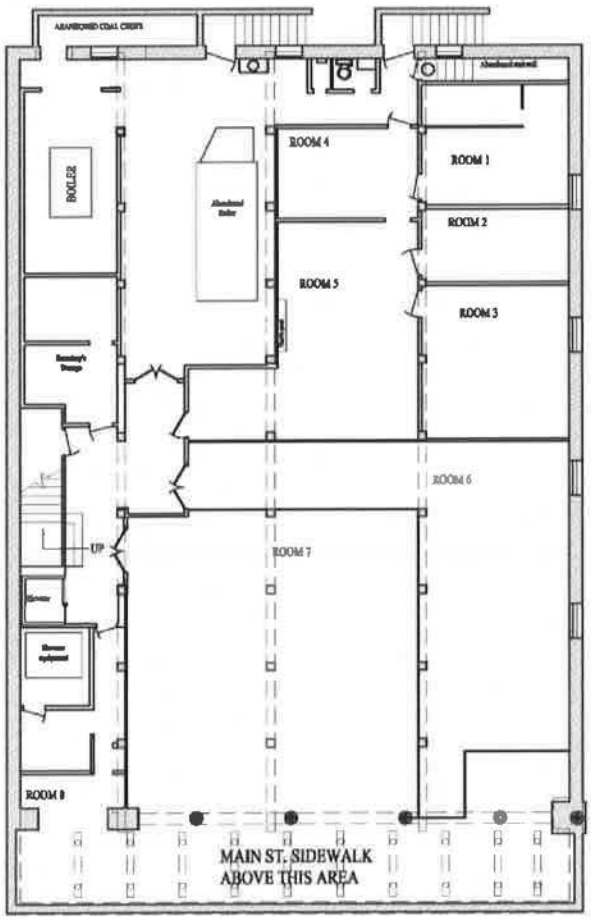


Figure 4: Historic Photo of Lodge Hall, Taken from Ernest P Rands' book, *A Brief History of Multnomah Lodge #1*. See bibliography.

Masonic Lodge Existing Building Schematics



This information is conceptual in nature and is intended for discussion purposes only. Actual existing conditions and building code requirements may vary significantly from what is shown.

Existing Basement Plan

scale: 1/16" = 1'-0"

CIVILIS Consultants

Page 7

Figure 5: Existing Basement Floor Plan, taken from emerick architects' Adaptive Reuse Case Study. See Bibliography.

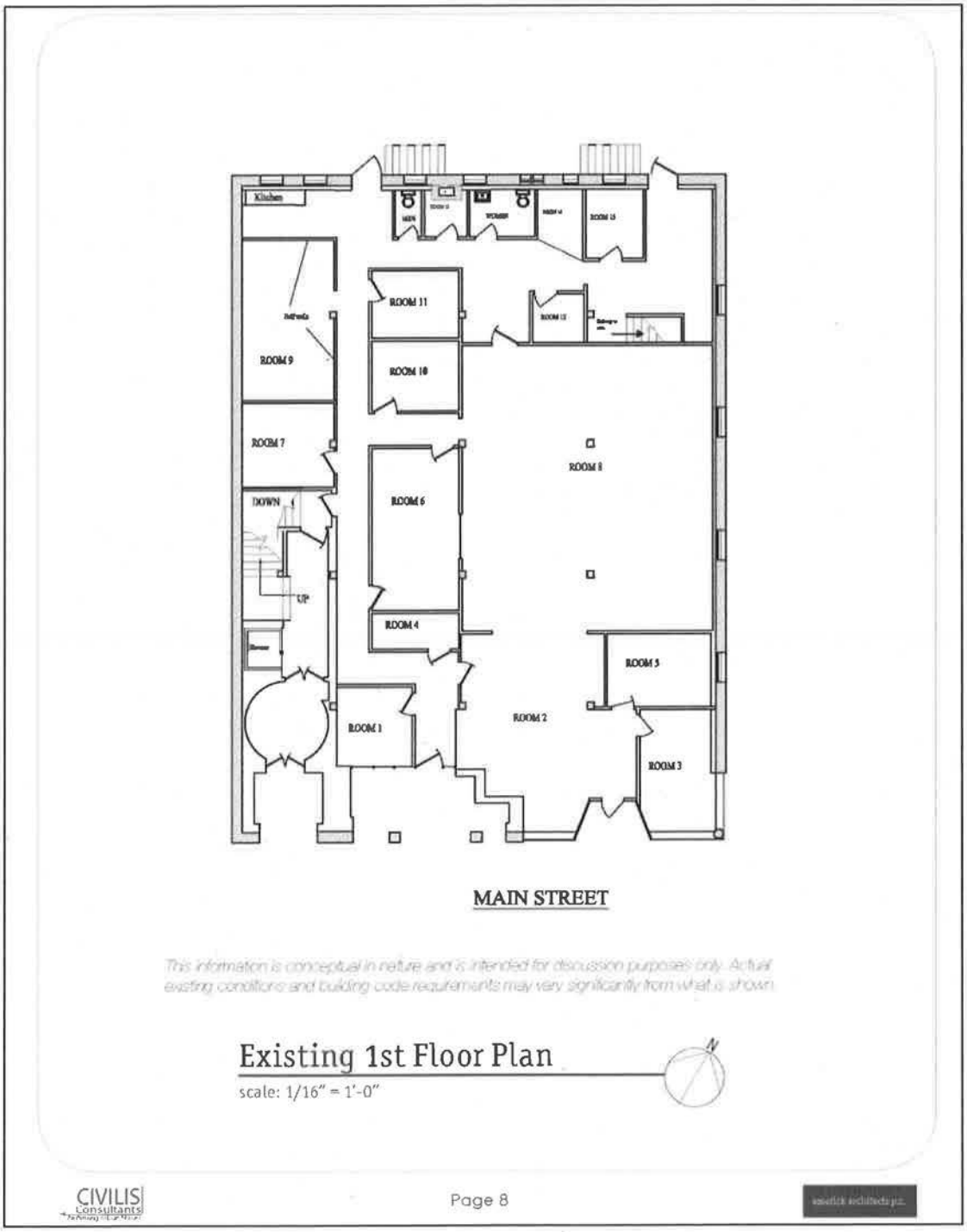


Figure 6: Existing 1st Floor Plan, taken from emerick architects' Adaptive Reuse Case Study. See Bibliography.

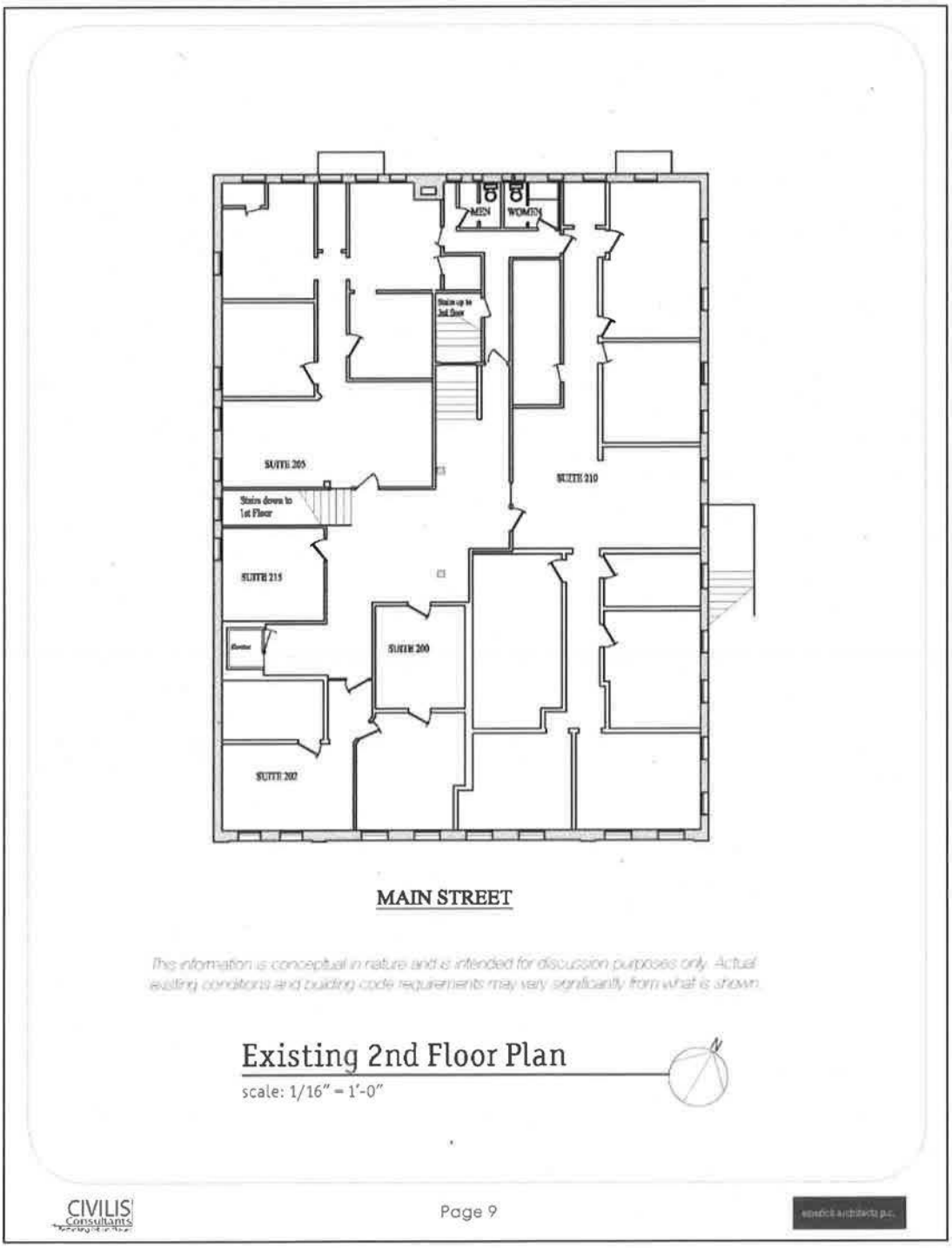


Figure 7: Existing 2nd Floor Plan, taken from emerick architects' Adaptive Reuse Case Study. See Bibliography.

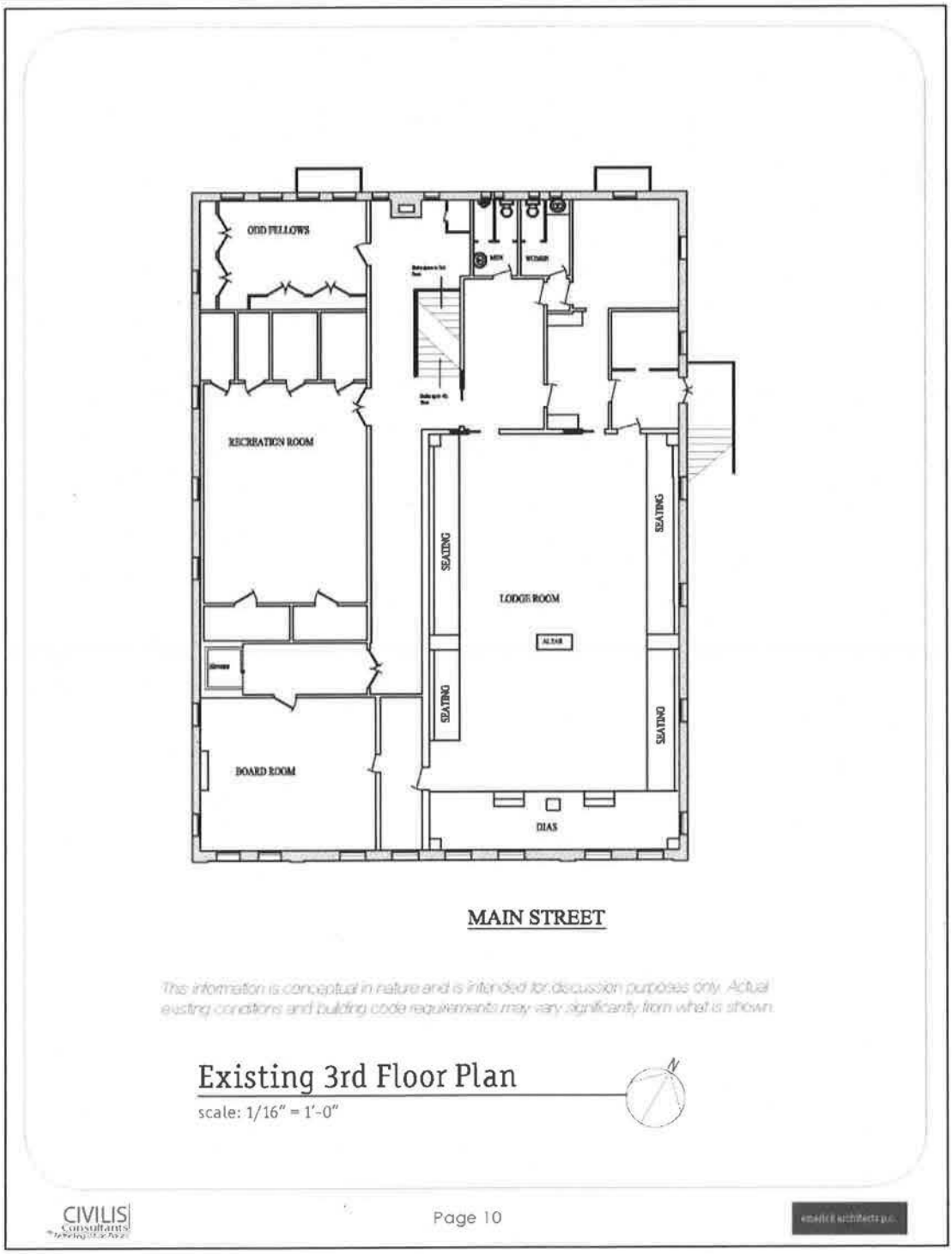


Figure 8: Existing 3rd Floor Plan, taken from emerick architects' Adaptive Reuse Case Study. See Bibliography.

Figure 9: Existing 4th Floor Plan, taken from emerick architects' Adaptive Reuse Case Study. See Bibliography.

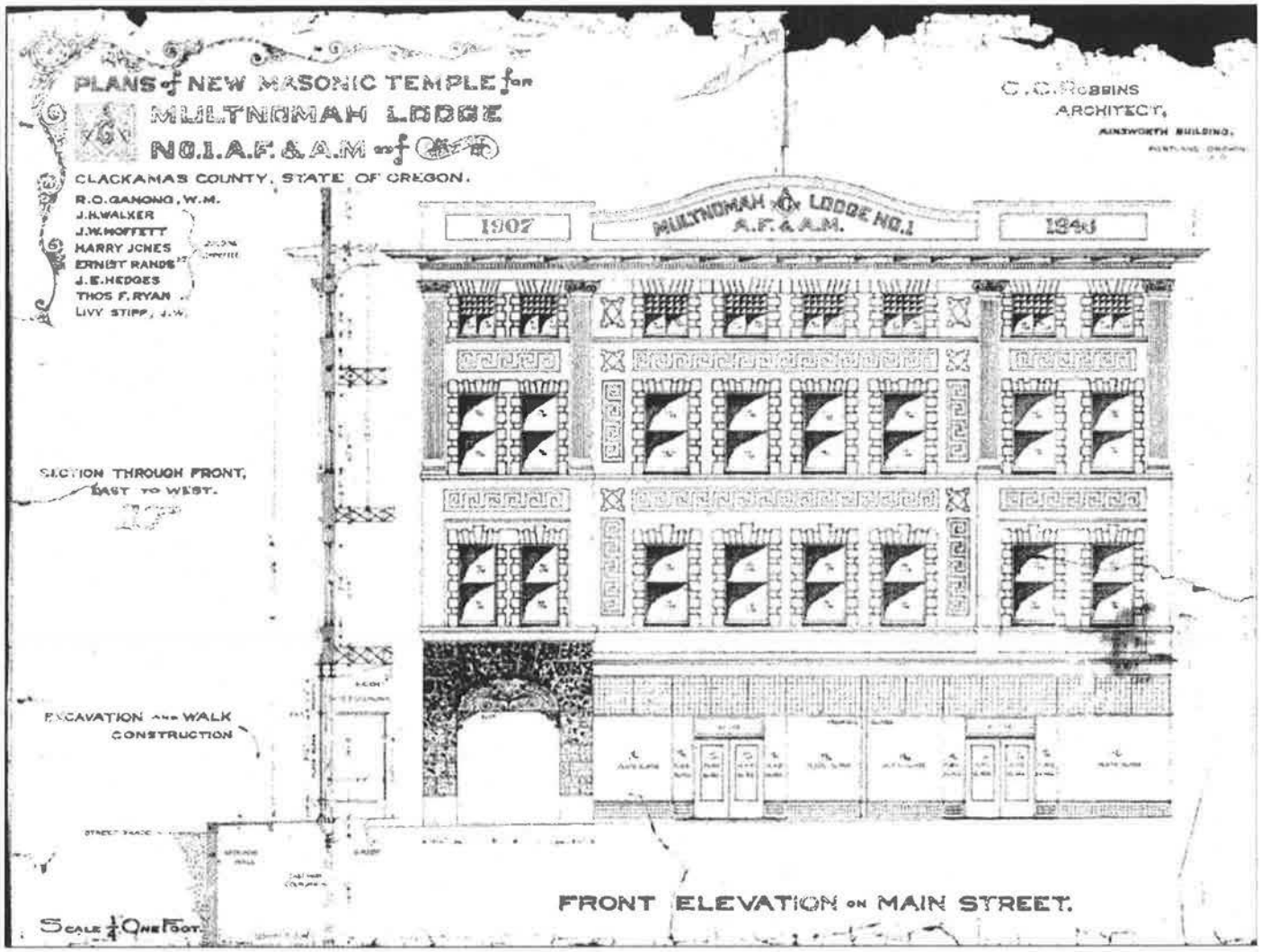


Figure 10: Original drawing of the Masonic Lodge's Primary Façade, C.C. Robbins, 1907.

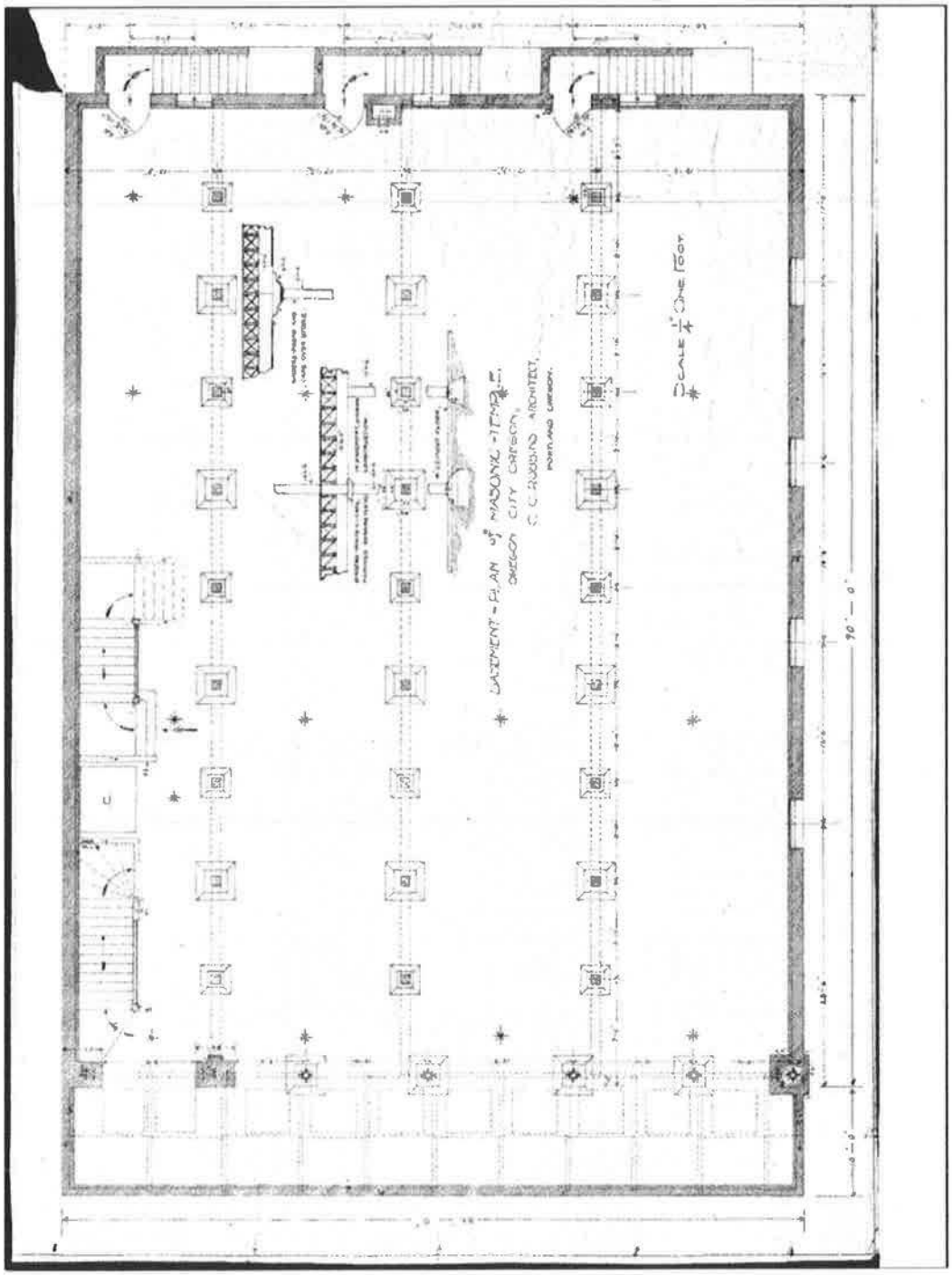


Figure 11: Original Drawing of the Basement Floor Plan, C.C. Robbins, 1907.

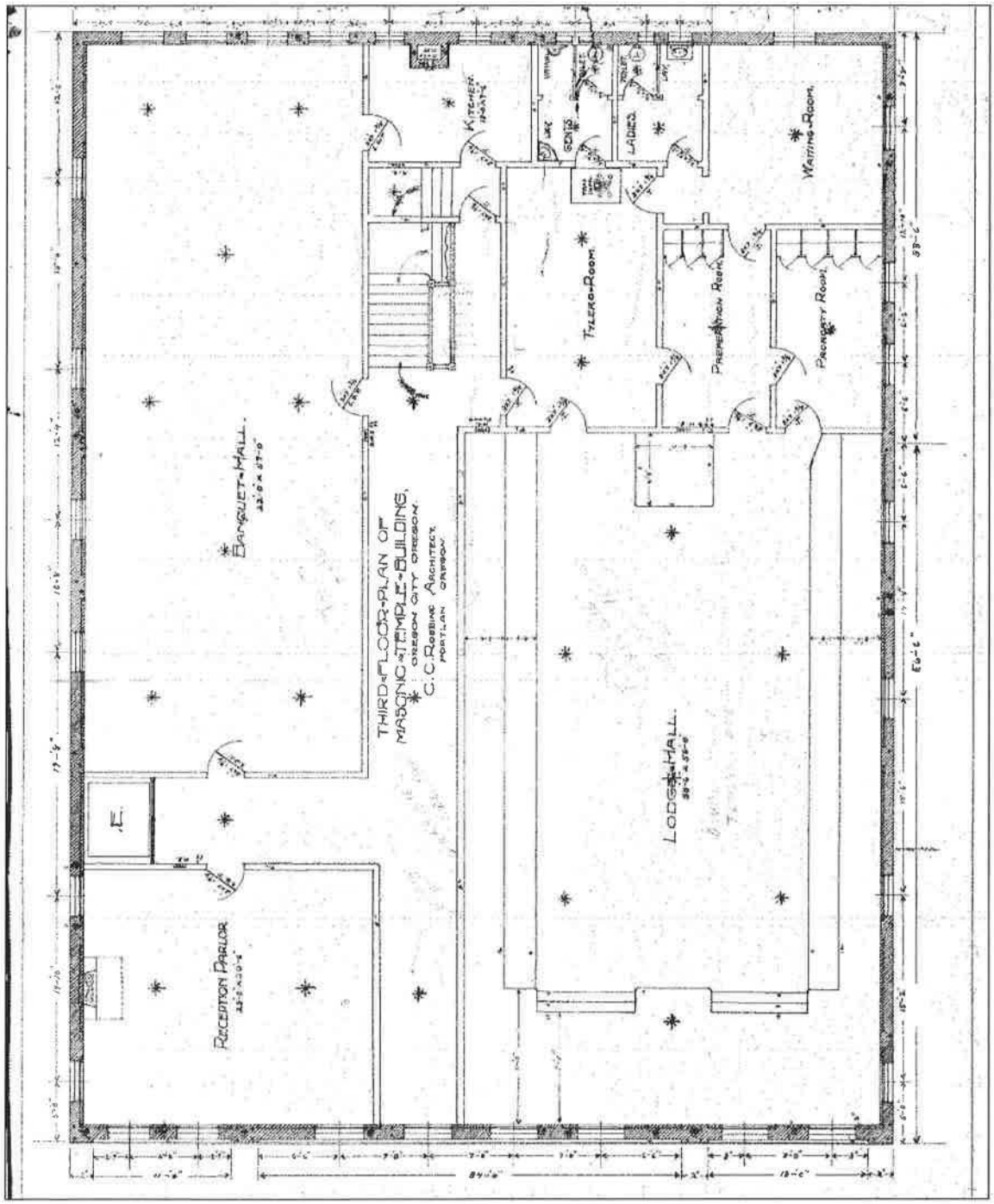


Figure 12: Original Drawing of the Masonic Building's 3rd Floor, C. C. Robbins, 1907. A "trap door" is indicated by skull and crossbones in the Tylers Room.

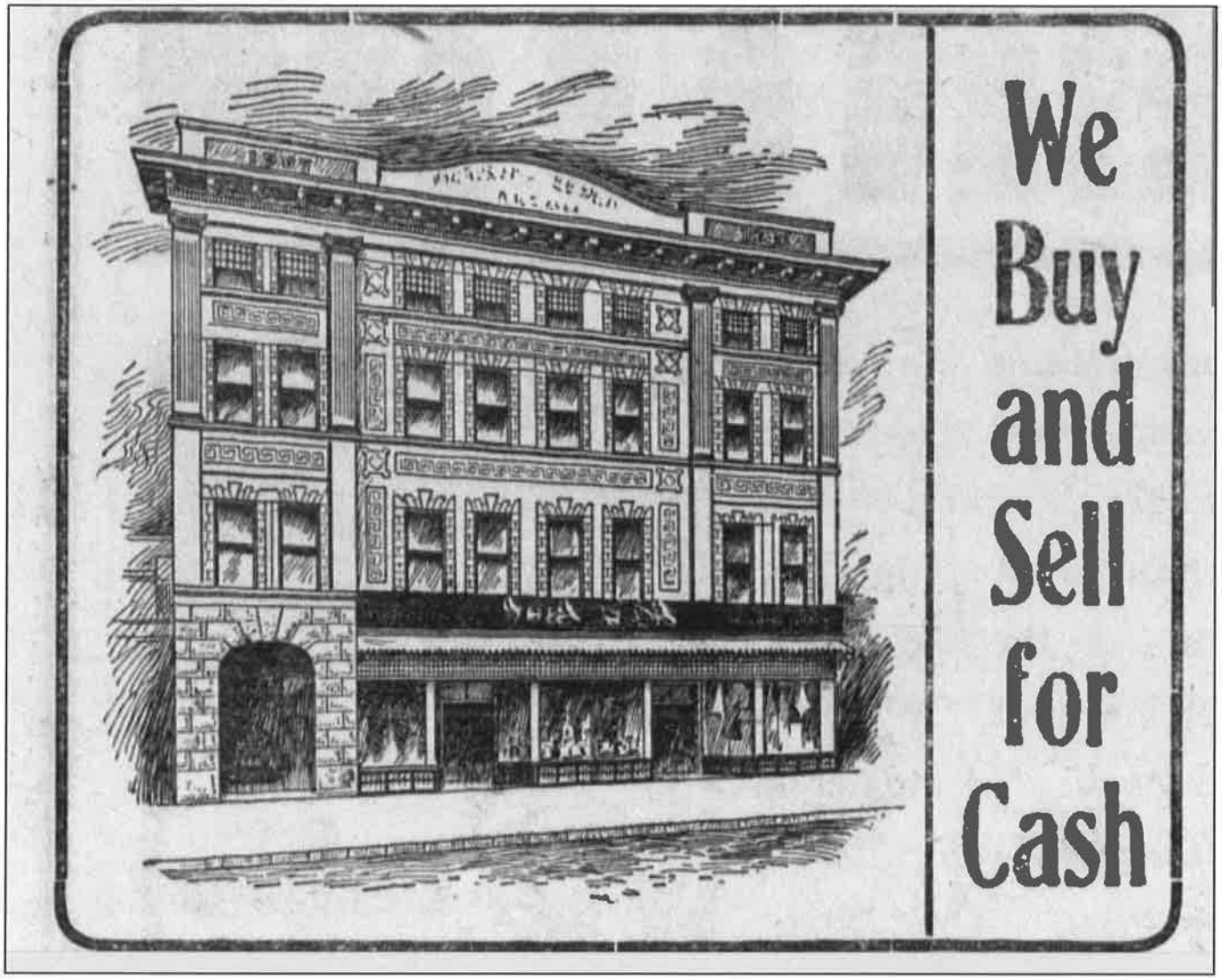


Figure 13: A Sketch of the Masonic Building, Appearing as early as 1909 in Ads for the John Adams department store. *Oregon City Courier*. (Oregon City, Or.), July 17, 1913. Image provided by: University of Oregon Libraries; Eugene, OR. Note the presence of the original cornice, which has since been removed.

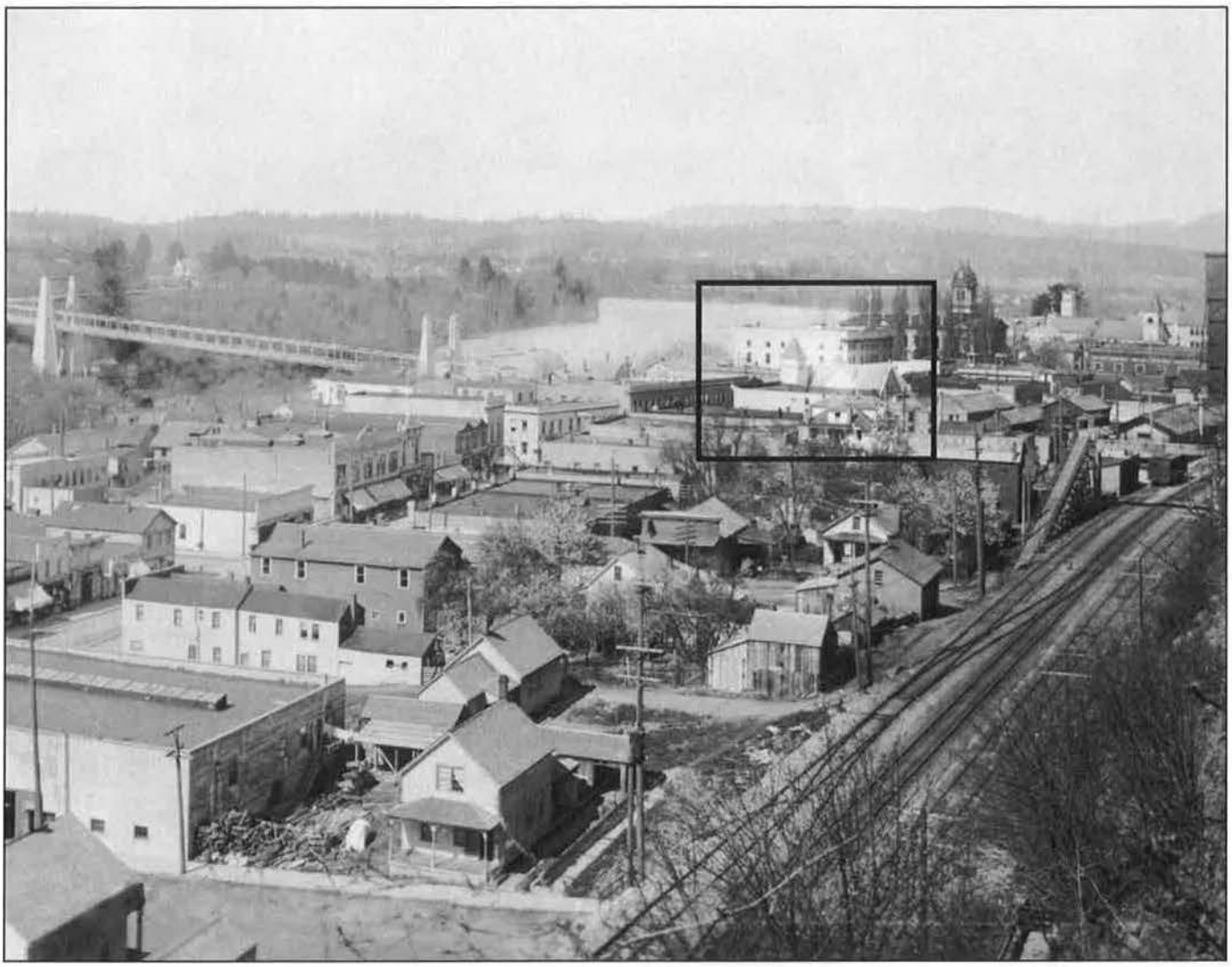


Figure 14: 1918 Photo of Downtown Oregon City with Masonic Building Identified. Photographer unknown. Photo courtesy of Old Oregon Photos, www.oldoregonphotos.com

1907
MULTNOMAH LODGE NO. 1
A. F. & A. M.
1846
MASONIC TEMPLE
QUALITY
FARM TOYS
&
HOBBIES
709
xican Restaurant
EXICAN FOOD

1846
MULTNOMAH LODGE NO. 1
A. F. & A. M.
1907
QUALITY
FARM TOYS
&
HOBBIES
709
Burritos

QUALITY
FARM TOYS
&
HOBBIES

Restricted Private Pa
Unauthorized Vehicles will
RESERVED
PARKING ONLY

Restricted Private Parking Lot
Unauthorized Vehicles will be Impounded
MONTHLY PAR NG
AVAI
659-87 9
TRD SPORT

1907
MULTNOMAH LODGE NO. 1
A. F. & A. M.
1846
MASONIC TEMPLE
El Compadre Mexican Restaurant
ANTI
NSURANCE
El Compadre
MEXICAN FOOD
QUALITY
FARM TOYS
HOBBIES

D BY.
ID MASTER
& A.M.
27. 1907

JALITY
RM TOYS
&
OBBIES
709

1907
MULTNOMAH LODGE NO. 1
A. F. & A. M.
1846

FIRE HOSE
FIRE
EXIT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Oregon City Masonic Lodge DOE

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OREGON, Clackamas

DATE RECEIVED: 5/15/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/01/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000200

DETAILED EVALUATION:

✓ ACCEPT ___ RETURN ___ REJECT 5/15/14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA A+C

REVIEWER [signature] DISCIPLINE Hist

TELEPHONE DATE 5/15/14

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

Oregon
John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department
State Historic Preservation Office
725 Summer St NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1266
(503) 986-0690
Fax (503) 986-0793
www.oregonheritage.org

RECEIVED 2280
MAR 12 2014
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

March 7, 2014

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
USDOI National Park Service - Cultural Resources
1201 "Eye" Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: Multiple Property Document and National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Shull:

At the recommendation of the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, I hereby nominate the following Multiple Property Documentation and accompanying properties to the National Register of Historic Places. The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copies of the following Multiple Property Document and nominations.

COMMERCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL PROPERTIES IN THE DOWNTOWN AND MCLOUGHLIN AREAS OF OREGON CITY, 1845-1963
OREGON CITY, CLACKAMAS COUNTY

OREGON CITY CARNEGIE LIBRARY
606 JOHN ADAMS ST
OREGON CITY, CLACKAMAS COUNTY

MCLOUGHLIN PROMENADE
HWY 99 AND HWY 43
OREGON CITY, CLACKAMAS COUNTY

OREGON CITY MUNICIPAL ELEVATOR
300 7TH ST
OREGON CITY, CLACKAMAS COUNTY

At the recommendation of the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, I hereby request a Determination of Eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for the following property:

OREGON CITY MASONIC LODGE
707-709 MAIN ST
OREGON CITY, CLACKAMAS COUNTY

We appreciate your consideration of this request. If questions arise, please contact Diana Painter, Architectural Historian, at (503) 986-0668 or diana.painter@oregon.gov.

Sincerely,

Roger Roper
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Encl.

UNITED STATED DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: OWNER OBJECTION DOE

PROPERTY NAME: Oregon City Masonic Lodge

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OREGON, Clackamas

DATE RECEIVED: 03/12/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16th DAY: DATE OF 45th DAY: 04/28/14

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000200

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	Y	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

_____ACCEPT ____RETURN ____REJECT 4/28/14 DATE

ABSRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

revised nom. rec'd 5/15/14.

RECOM./CRITEREA

REVIEWER Lisa Deline DISCIPLINE Hist

TELEPHONE DATE 5/12/14

DOCUMENTATION see attsched comments (Y)/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places

Comments
Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: Oregon City Masonic Lodge

Property Location: Oregon City, Clackamas County, OR

Reference Number: 14000200

Date of Return: May 12, 2012

The Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), "Commercial and Institutional Properties in the Downtown and McLoughlin Areas of Oregon City, 1845-1963," requires additional contextual development and clearer registration requirements and will not be accepted at this time. The determination of eligibility (DOE) for the Oregon City Masonic Lodge, submitted under this cover, is sufficiently documented and can stand alone as an individual DOE nomination. However, it is being returned for technical corrections. The following corrections are needed in order to complete review:

Section 5. Classification. Please drop the name of the multiple property listing and use n/a.

Section 8. Page 11-12. Please delete the reference to the Multiple Property Cover in the summary paragraph. The case has not been made for significance under Social History. The text does not demonstrate in what ways the Masons promoted the welfare of society during the period of significance indicated. Consider either providing additional information supporting this area or dropping Social History.

Page 20-21. Revise the information provided in the "Conclusion" section regarding Social History and delete the references to the MPDF.

Section 10. Page 23. Latitude/Longitude Coordinates. The longitude should be a negative number. Please correct.

Contact me if you have any questions.

Lisa Deline
National Register of Historic Places
Lisa_Deline@nps.gov

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

RECEIVED 228
MAY 15 2014
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Oregon City Masonic Lodge

other names/site number Multnomah Lodge #1

2. Location

street & number 707 Main Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Oregon City ☐ vicinity

state Oregon code ____ county Clackamas code ____ zip code 97405

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination _X_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide _X_ local

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

✓ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) ____

Signature of the Keeper 5/15/14 Date of Action