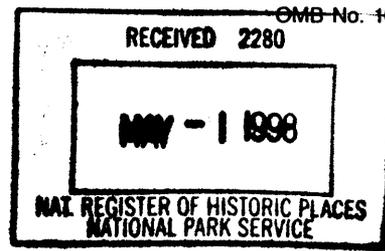


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Hood River County Library and Georgiana Smith Park

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 502 State Street N/A not for publication

city or town Hood River N/A vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Hood River code 027 zip code 97031

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] April 20, 1998

Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO Date  
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 5/29/98

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**HOOD RIVER COUNTY LIBRARY (1913-1914)**

502 State Street

Hood River, Hood River County, Oregon

**COMMENTS OF THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

The Hood River County Library in Hood River, Oregon was completed and opened for use in 1914 from a design in the tradition of academic historicism by the Portland firm of Sutton and Whitney. It occupies the southeast corner of a landscaped park of approximately two thirds of an acre at State Street and a vacated section of 5th Street near the heart of the central business district. The parcel was acquired as the site for the first building in the county seat designed specifically for library purposes. The County Library, together with its setting, Georgiana Smith Park, commonly called Library Park, meets National Register Criterion C as the city's earlier of two clear-cut examples of historic period architecture in the Jacobethan style. The library meets National Register Criterion A in the area of social history as the main branch of the county-wide library system through the Depression and period of the Second World War and as Hood River County's principal manifestation of the far-reaching influence of the Carnegie Foundation of New York upon local library movements. Established by steel magnate Andrew Carnegie, the foundation fostered on a national scale the construction of community libraries large and small in the early 20th century.

Briefly characterized, the library building is a two-story, rectilinear volume resting on a partial basement and it has ground plan dimensions of 52 x 68 feet. Its walls are constructed of unreinforced masonry, and exterior elevations are finished with brick and cast stone. The long axis is oriented south to north. Because the site slopes to the north, in the direction of the Columbia River gorge, the main entrance on the south, State street facade, is at ground level. There are two historic secondary entrances at the lower level, one at the north end giving access to the basement steam heating plant, and the other, on the east elevation traditionally giving access to community meeting space. In 1969, during a major renovation, a front deck enclosed by a low brick wall was added along with a ramp to a handicapped-accessible main entrance on the west elevation. The new front entrance is announced by a cube-like vestibule volume faced with brick and fronted by plate glass entry doors. The attachment is distinguishable from original work in its basic angularity and straightforward finishing details.

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The library was modest in scope, as was dictated by the mid-sized grant of \$17,500 and the community's requirements to satisfy conditions set forth by the Foundation. Nevertheless, the Sutton and Whitney design evokes an air of collegiate Gothic dignity appropriate to a public place of learning. Principal distinguishing characteristics of the Jacobthean style are the shallow central end pavilions with parapet gables which are partially stepped. Within these sections are straight topped Palladian window banks in the late medieval vein which have heavy mullions and transom bars, label molding, and pivot windows composed of many small leaded panes. In addition to window trim, cast stone is used for belt courses, parapet coping, and the offset portico with its Tudor arched portal and pedimented entablature. The basement entry has an ogee Tudor arch head and multi-light transom.

The ground story interior is organized as a main reading room with a double-pitched ceiling and flat-ceilinged side aisles separated from the main space by Tudor-arched arcades. The 19-foot tall ceiling of the central space is decorated with dark-stained, boxed longitudinal rib and cross beams, an encircling cornice, and brackets -- all in the spirit of late medieval vocabulary. Typical wall finish is plaster. Originally, the circulation desk was freestanding in the center of the reading room. Today, it is located with a small office in the southwest corner. A stairway to the lower level is along the east wall. Consistent with Carnegie Foundation recommendations for libraries of this class, the basement was designed originally as an auditorium space with platform on the south wall and class room and conference room along the north wall. Today, the space is used for book stacks, lounges, and a children's reading room along the north end.

Other modifications carried out in the 1969 renovation and in 1993 include addition of two lower level entrances on the west elevation, certain window replacements and reversals of non-historic window replacements.

The Hood River County Library is an important public project associated with the second wave of upbuilding in the County seat brought on by completion of the Columbia River Highway through the gorge, between the east side of the Cascade Range and Portland, in 1913. As was usual in civic endeavors of this kind, ground-breaking was preceded by years of debate and promotion aimed at bettering the community's initial provisions for a public reading room or lending library. The Hood River Library Association was formed as early as 1895, and the Hood River Woman's Club launched the movement for library construction in 1908. The unfolding story of negotiation and fund-raising is well delineated in this application, which documents a sometimes strained partnership of City and County governments. A pivotal event marking the movement's progress was enactment of state enabling legislation of 1911, which authorized county governments in Oregon to establish levies in support of country library services. In 1912, library supporters in

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Hood River succeeded in getting an City ordinance passed authorizing vacation of 5th Street between Oak and State for a building site. The vacated parcel was to augment lots offered for sale by pioneer businessman Ezra L. Smith from his large residential holding. With a City-County library organized and operating on an interim basis in rented rooms of E. L. Smith's business building [earlier listed in the National Register of Historic Places], the construction campaign was initiated under the leadership of Avis Stewart, daughter of E. L. and Georgiana Smith. In due course, in 1935, the Smith daughters would donate the park area north and west of the library to the County in memory of their mother. Georgiana Smith Park, shaded by oaks, conifers, maples, birches and a stately copper beech tree, it is pointed out, is the only green open space of scope in downtown Hood River. The Ezra L. and Georgiana Smith House of 1896 still stands on the western portion of the historic Smith holding, although it was altered and adapted for use as a funeral home beginning in 1928. To make clear the relationship between these historically associated buildings, it may be mentioned the Smith House stands on privately-held property adjoining the nominated area on the west, but it is not included in this application.

The Hood River County Library is one of 31 public libraries in 25 Oregon communities assisted during the high point of outreach by the Carnegie philanthropy, between 1906 and 1916. Albert Sutton, principal of the architectural firm which furnished the design, had been a resident of the Hood River Valley from 1910 to 1912 before relocating to Portland and joining Harrison Whitney in partnership. The firm came into real prominence in the 1920s after expanding to include the inspired designers Aandahl and Fritsch. Two of the firm's outstanding works are the Portland Masonic Temple (1924-1925), and the Fruit and Flower Day Nursery (1928). The latter has been entered in the National Register, as was an early work of Albert Sutton in the Hood River Valley, namely, the Oak Grove School of 1912-1913.

Hood River's later example of public architecture in the Jacobethan style is the distinctive former Hood River High School of 1927 designed by Raymond Hatch. The High School today is occupied as Hood River Middle School.

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

- building(s), district, site, structure, object

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Education: Library

Education: Library

Landscape: Park

Landscape: Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Jacobethan

foundation Concrete

walls Walls - brick

roof Asphalt (built-up)

other Trim - cast stone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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### SUMMARY

The construction of the Hood River County Library in Hood River, Oregon was funded by the Carnegie Corporation and constructed in 1913-14 in the Jacobethan style. Designed by Albert Sutton and his associate, Harrison A. Whitney, the library was the first building specifically designed for library purposes in Hood River County. Georgiana Smith Park, in the nominated area, is historically tied to the library grounds and was given to the county for park and library purposes. The library and the park are listed on the State of Oregon Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings and listed as a contributing resources in the locally designated Hood River Downtown Historic District. The building still serves as the main branch for the Hood River County Library system.

### SETTING

The Hood River County Library is located at 502 State Avenue (tax lot 10200) on a sloping lot overlooking the Columbia River to the north. Georgiana Smith Park (tax lot 10300) is sited directly west of the library and is included in the nominated area which is in Block 12, Second West Addition to the City of Hood River. The tax lots in the nominated area extend north-south between State and Oak streets. Concrete sidewalks extend along both State and Oak streets.

The majority of the lot (tax lot 10200) the library was constructed on was created from a vacated portion of Fifth Street. A residence abuts the library on the east and the former E.L. Smith House, now used for commercial businesses, is west of the library park. The center of downtown Hood River is northeast of the library.

The library building is sited on the southeastern edge of the nominated area. The small lawn area that was originally in front of the library was replaced with a deck and is used as an outdoor reading area. A low brick wall encloses the deck and extends along the northern edge of the sidewalk. A driveway and walkway are located on the eastern edge of library. In 1990, the County deeded a revocable right to landscape easement to the residential property to the east. A walkway on the eastern edge of the property was constructed in 1942. Arborvitae extends along part of the eastern property line.

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The library park, known as Georgiana Smith Park, is the only green space in downtown Hood River (with the exception of small pocket parks constructed as part of the 1990s urban renewal project). A winding asphalt path cuts diagonally through the lawn area from the southwest corner of the park to the northeast corner.

Trees and a variety of shrubs and flowers have been planted over the years throughout the park. Flower beds line the western and northern edge of the library building. Some of the trees such as the oak and fir trees date from the historic period. Of special note is the massive copper beech tree in the northeast corner of the nominated area. This tree was most likely planted when the library was built. A mature cedar, oak, and fir tree are located near the copper beech. The library has recently planted a small copper beech in the center of the northern part of the lot.

Other trees in the park include spruces, oaks, and a maple. Birch trees are planted near the southern property line; one birch is located in the center of the pathway leading to the entrance and another birch is located in the middle of the deck in the front of the library building. Oaks trees and shrubs line the western property line. A river rock retaining wall associated with the Smith House to the west lines part of the western property boundary.

Concrete benches dating from the historic period are dispersed throughout the lawn area. Classic light standards are also in the park. Stairs in the northwest corner of the park lead from the sidewalk lining Oak Street into the library park. Concrete benches have been built into the retaining walls along Oak Street. These features also date from the historic period. The commemorative Georgiana Smith Park plaque is near the center of the park. This was placed in the park in 1936, a year after the park was donated to the County.

### **HOOD RIVER COUNTY LIBRARY PLAN**

The Jacobethan style Hood River County Library is rectangular in plan with a more recent entrance added on the west side of the building. The building, of brick construction, measures approximately 52 feet (east-west) by 68 feet (north-south). The side entrance portico measures approximately 9 feet 2 inches (east-west) by 10 feet 7 inches (north-south). The building is two-stories in height; the front facade (south) is one-story in

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height and the rear (north) elevation is two-stories in height. The building has a partial basement which is accessed from an exterior door on the north elevation. The foundation is concrete.

### EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The library has a central gable roof with lower flanking flat roofs (slightly canted). The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Built-in gutters extend along the west and east elevations on the inside of the parapet. Constructed of brick with rough brushed finish laid in a stretcher bond, the library has cast-stone trim detailing. The main and ground floor levels are visually separated by a projecting cast-stone beltcourse.

The front (south) and rear (north) elevations have prominent stepped gable parapets, trimmed with cast-stone copings. The cast-stone coping on the flat portions of the parapets have been covered with metal flashing. An interior brick chimney is located on the east elevation.

The majority of the windows open on pivots; the bottom of the windows swing out. The window sash is recessed slightly from the exterior of the building surface. Most of the windows retain the original leaded glass multi-pane sashes.

The large tripartite windows on the south (front) and north (rear) facades on the main floor are divided into thirds by wide cast-stone mullions. The series of windows are further divided by wooden mullions that separate the individual window units. These window units have leaded glass multi-pane sashes. Cast-stone trim, painted white, surround the windows which provide a stark contrast with the brick facade.

The windows on the north and east facades retain the original multi-pane leaded glass sashes. The leaded glass windows on the west side have been replaced with single panes of glass and all but one of the ground floor openings have been enclosed. Two of the original window openings have been enclosed with a door unit and a small aluminum frame window. These openings are below grade on the west elevation.

The windows on the south (front) elevation were also replaced with single panes of glass, however, replacement leaded and stained glass windows (1993) were installed in the large central windows.

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This window has a cast-stone label molding. The window directly west of the central window does not have the original leaded glass panes intact; a single pane of glass has replaced the original window.

There are several entrances to the library. The original main entrance is on the east side of the south elevation. This entrance was closed in 1969 when the new entrance was built on the west elevation. The original cast-stone entrance portico projects about 1 1/2 feet from the building surface; the double entrance doors are recessed in the Tudor arch portico. The doors are composed of vertical boards in the central panels surrounded by plain stiles and rails. Original wrought-iron door hardware is intact. The transom area above the door is constructed of vertical boards. The portico is embellished with a date block which is inscribed with "1913" in the center. A recessed panel in the spandrel above the door says, "County Library". The county library inscription is flanked by quatrefoil motifs. Original lanterns flank the entrance. The front face of the western portico plinth block has the inscription, "Erected AD 1913". The inscription, "Andrew Carnegie Donation" is on the east side of the portico.

A deck and brick half wall currently encloses the area which was once the front lawn of the library. The deck is the level of what was originally the first landing of the entrance stairs. Part of the original concrete entrance stairs are under the deck. The brick half walls which once flanked the lower portion of the entrance stairs are still intact as is the majority of the original pipe stair railing. The new brick wall now extends across a majority of the front elevation at the edge of the sidewalk. A wrought-iron gate with quatrefoil motifs was installed in 1987 across the location of the original entrance stairs.

A new entrance, on the west elevation, was constructed in 1969 to accommodate wheel chair access. The entrance is set back from the main building volume and is constructed of brick which matches the masonry used in the construction of the library. The small entrance has double metal doors on the south side that lead into an entrance vestibule.

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Two other entrances are located on the west elevation. These entrances are below grade on the ground floor level (second and third openings from the northwest corner). These entrances were constructed within the original openings; the trim details have been retained. A metal door and smaller aluminum window are now in these openings. These entrances are accessed by a narrow walkway along the base of the west elevation. A concrete retaining wall is on the west side of the walkway.

The entrance to the basement is on the north elevation near the northeast corner. Concrete stairs, extending north-south, lead to the hollow metal door that opens to the basement. High concrete block walls and a flat roof shelter the stairs. The stairs were re-configured in 1969; the original exterior basement stairs descended from the northern end of the east elevation. The original coal chute is west of the basement stairs.

Another entrance is on the east elevation. This was originally used as the main entrance to the auditorium which was located in the ground floor. The double doors are composed of vertical boards in the center panel and have a leaded glass transom above. The doors are slightly recessed from the building surface and the top of the door forms a Tudor arch. The arch is constructed of cast-stone. A sidewalk with a pipe railing leads to this entrance.

### INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

#### *Main Floor*

The main floor plan is composed of a central reading room flanked by two aisles and the charging area which includes the staff restroom, circulation desk and workroom, book lift, and librarian's office. The original front door is in the southeast corner; a new accessible entrance was added to the west elevation. Stairs descending to the ground floor are along the eastern side of the central reading room. The staircase is separated from the reading room by a wall with windows on the upper portion.

#### *Entrance Vestibule*

The entrance vestibule was constructed in 1969 on the west side of the main reading room and has brick walls with carpeting on the floor. A small narrow window is on the north elevation of the room and a built-in wooden bench is along the west wall. Metal frame glass doors leads into the main reading room.

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### *Reading Room on the Main Floor*

The main reading room is divided into three main areas. The central room is flanked by two aisles that are separated from the main space by columns that form Tudor arches. These arches open into the side aisles. The room created by the two isles are divided by metal shelving which house the book collection. Metal shelving also extends around the perimeter of the lath and plaster walls.

The high ceiling in the main room measures 19 feet to the peak; the roofs that shelter the aisles measure about 12 feet high. The central cathedral ceiling is embellished with stained wooden beams that terminate with decorative brackets and a wide crown molding. Strip florescent lights and ceiling fans hang from the ceiling which is covered with acoustic ceiling tiles. The original cork floors are covered with carpeting. A majority of the original high baseboards were replaced with four inch baseboards when the metal shelving was installed.

Large windows punctuate the north and south ends of the main reading room. Wooden mullions separate the window unit which are composed of several multi-pane leaded glass windows. The majority of the windows pivot open for ventilation. The original leaded glass windows on the south elevation were replaced at one time with single pane windows. These single panes were replaced in 1993 with small leaded glass panes matching the original window configuration; decorative geometric stained glass were also added to the windows in the unit (Louise Fawbush Memorial Windows). Some of the leaded glass windows on the north side have been replaced with newer leaded glass windows due to deterioration. The leaded glass windows along the west wall have been replaced with single panes of glass; the windows along the east wall retain the original leaded glass panes. These windows retain the original stained wood trim and brass hardware. Storm windows have been installed on the interior of most of the windows.

### *Librarian's Office, Charging Area, and Staff Restroom*

The librarian's office, charging area, and staff restroom are located in the southwest corner of the main reading room adjacent the current entrance door. This area was installed when the library was renovated in 1969. Extending east-west, the circulation desk is in front of the work station, librarian's

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room, staff restroom, and book lift. The walls and counters of this area are constructed of oak veneer plywood. The librarian's office is in the southwest corner of this area and is separated from the charging area by a door with a sidelight. The restroom abuts the librarian's office on the east and the book lift is north of the office.

### *Staircase to Ground Floor*

The staircase extends along the eastern elevation of the library. Swinging doors with large brass hinges separate the main reading room from the stair hall. The double Tudor style doors are constructed of wood with central panes of glass. A brass kickplate lines the lower rails of the doors. Leaded glass windows flank the stair hall. The windows are on the interior west wall of the hall and on the east elevation. The original high baseboards (nine inches) are in the stair hall. The balustrade, on the west side of the stairs, is composed of turned balusters, a molded hand railing, and square newel posts with pyramidal caps. The balustrade and baseboards retain the original wood stained finish. The stairs have been carpeted. A round wooden hand railing is on the east side of the staircase.

### *Ground Floor*

The ground floor was renovated in 1969. At that time, the original configuration of the floor was altered. Originally, an auditorium with stage and dressing rooms were in the southwest corner of the ground floor, a work room/pantry in the southeast corner, and the men's lavatory under the staircase on the east wall. Three rooms (a committee room, a county patron's room and storage/fixing room), a corridor, the women's lavatory, a book lift, a fumigating room, and stairs to the basement's boiler room were originally in the northern one-third of the ground floor (see original plan). Currently, the ground floor includes the children's room, staff lounge, stacks, office, restrooms, and meeting room.

The east side entrance door leads to the children's room. The double doors are designed with a Tudor arch and are composed of vertical boards. The staircase to the main reading room is directly south of this side entrance.

The children's room has leaded glass windows on the north elevation and is open in plan with the exception of a wall near

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the side entrance and support poles. The brick walls are sheathed with plaster which over the years have spalled due to moisture problems. Carpeting covers the floors. The ceiling has been lowered and acoustic tile panels and florescent lights installed. Stairs lead to an exit door on the west wall of the children's room. The circulation desk separates the children's rooms from the back room which include the stacks, meeting room, staff lounge, office, and newspaper storage room.

Some of the original wooden book shelves, originally used in the main reading room, are now utilized in the stacks. The staff lounge is in the southeast corner of the ground floor and the office is in the southwest corner. The meeting room is directly north of the office. Low partition walls separate the office and meeting room from the stacks. The ceiling in the meeting room, stacks, and office are higher than the lowered ceilings in the children's room. The ceiling is covered with acoustic tiles. A picture rail is on the west wall of the meeting room. An exit door is also on the west wall. The window in the meeting room has been changed to a aluminum sliding window (ca. 1976). The men's and women's lavatory are under the staircase and are accessed from a corridor directly west of the staircase.

### *Basement*

The basement houses the heating system for the library. Stairs on east side of the north elevation lead to the partial basement. The walls are constructed of board form concrete and the floor constructed of poured concrete. The main room houses the boiler which is fueled by oil. The two rooms north and east of the boiler room are used for storage; the eastern most room is actually built under the east side walkway. The room in the southwest corner of the basement once housed the interior staircase that lead to the ground floor. The area at the west end of the boiler room was originally used as the coal room. According to the 1968-69 renovation plans, the staircase was taken out and the floor patched at this time. Currently, the only entrance into the basement is from the north side. Originally, the stairs descended from the east side of the library; the stairs were re-configured in the 1969 renovation.

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*Mechanical Systems*

The library is heated by steam heat; the majority of the radiators are still intact on the main and ground floors. An oil fueled boiler (originally coal) feeds the radiators. The lighting and electrical system have been updated throughout the years.

**MAJOR ALTERATION AND RESTORATION**

*Exterior*

The majority of the alterations to the library occurred in the 1969 renovation. These included: the addition of a new entrance on the west side; closing off the original entrance doors and adding a fence to deter use of original entrance; and re-configuring the exterior entrance stairs to basement. The Friends of the Library funded the construction of a wooden deck, brick wall, and wrought-iron fence that extends along the front (south) elevation of the library. The fence was installed in 1987 and designed with the same quatrefoil design used in the cast-stone entrance portico. The fence makes the original entrance more visible (replaced the high wooden fence installed in the 1969 renovation).

Over the years, some of the original leaded glass windows on the west and south sides were removed and replaced with solid panes. The front (south elevation) single pane windows were replaced/restored in 1993 with the leaded and stained glass windows (matched the original windows pane size). Some of the replacement single pane windows on the north side were restored with the installation of new leaded glass multi-pane windows. Openings on the ground level on the west side have been altered. The third opening from the north, where the meeting room is now located, were enclosed with a replacement aluminum frame window and a metal door.

*Interior*

When the new entrance was constructed in 1969 on the west elevation, a window and a radiator were removed to accommodate the entrance design. The interior of the library was also renovated and re-arranged at this time. The original librarian's office, book lift, and coat rooms were removed from the northeast corner of the main reading room. A new charging area with circulation desk, work area, staff restroom, book lift, and librarian's office were constructed in the southwest corner of the reading room.

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The children's section, originally at the south end of the main reading room, was moved to the ground floor. New lighting and acoustic ceiling tiles were installed, and metal bookshelves replaced the original wooden shelving (currently located in the ground floor stacks area). The eastern most door in the original double entrance door was sealed off and book shelves placed against the original opening. One door remains intact with the addition of a panic bar (both doors look visually intact from the exterior).

The ground floor was remodeled during the 1969 renovation. Three smaller rooms in the northern one-third of the floor were removed to provide a more open plan for the children's area. The ceilings were also lowered. The women's restroom was moved to the area under the staircase and the men's room re-configured. A new charging desk was added on the south side of the children's area that separates the area from the stack room, meeting room, office, and staff lounge. Partitions were added to form the meeting room (ca. 1976) and the office partition was added in 1997.

**CONDITION**

The Hood River County Library is in fair-good condition. Most of the deterioration of the exterior masonry and interior plaster work have been caused by drainage problems in the roof and gutter systems. Large areas of the interior plaster walls are in poor condition on both the main and ground floors due to moisture problems. The County has recently approved funding of an analysis/structural report that will address some of these problems.

**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.)

- 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.
- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1913-1945

**Significant Dates**

1913

1914

1935

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Sutton & Whitney

L.A. Woodward

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Hood River Co. Library Archives

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hood River County Library, erected in 1913-14, meets National Register criterion "A" as a lasting testament to the early work of Hood River residents to establish a public library system. The development of a public library was promoted by the woman's club, the local library board, and other community supporters. With a \$17,500 grant from the Carnegie Corporation, the Woman's Club succeeded in their efforts to build a public library in Hood River. The Hood River County Library became a gathering place in the community for reading, research, meetings, and community events. Georgiana Smith Park was dedicated to the County in 1935 by the heirs of pioneers E.L. and Georgiana Smith for use as a "park and for library purposes". The park is an integral part of the library site and is included in the nominated area.

The Hood River County Library also represents the far-reaching effects of the Carnegie Corporation in helping communities establish libraries across the nation. The library was one of ten Carnegie libraries constructed in Central and Eastern Oregon during the second decade of the 20th Century.

The Hood River County Library is also significant under criterion "C" as an excellent example of a Carnegie library built in the Jacobethan style. The library displays characteristics of the Jacobethan style in its brick construction, central stepped gable parapet, cast-stone trim details, and multi-pane leaded glass windows. The library was designed by the Portland architectural firm of Sutton and Whitney. The firm was responsible for the construction of many prominent buildings in Portland including the Meier and Frank Warehouse and the Scottish Rite Temple. The firm also designed buildings in California and Washington. Albert Sutton was once a resident of the Hood River area and designed other buildings in the valley.

The period of significance dates from 1913 to 1945. The 1913 date represents the construction start date of the library and the end date represents the year the basement of the library began its use as the Hood River County Circuit Courtroom, thus altering the original use of the basement as a public auditorium. The areas of significance include education and architecture.

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### EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF HOOD RIVER

Mary and Nathaniel Coe were Hood River's first permanent European settlers, claiming 319.92 acres in 1854. The Coe home served as the community center, courthouse, church, and funeral parlor. Mary Coe is responsible for naming the river settlement, Hood River after majestic Mount Hood to the south.

Dependent on the river for transportation, Hood River developed slowly until 1882 when the railroad was completed through on the south side of the Columbia River Gorge. The railroad connected the settlement with other towns across the nation. Hood River was platted in 1881 as a result of the coming of the railroad and the commercial core developed around the railroad depot. The completion of the railroad ushered in a new period of growth. The population more than tripled from 201 people in 1890 to 622 people in 1900.

The population continued to increase after the turn of the century as people from all over bought the fertile lands of the Hood River Valley. The completion of the Mt. Hood Railroad from Hood River to Parkdale in 1910 further improved the transportation system in the region and brought more business into Hood River.

The buildings in downtown Hood River reflect the influx of wealth that occurred in the first two decades of the 20th century as the tourism, fruit, and timber industries grew. Between 1901 and 1914, half of the commercial buildings in downtown Hood River were built. These brick structures represent the second building phase in the town's history when brick buildings slowly replaced smaller wooden structures. Fruit warehouses, depots, fraternal and commercial buildings, and the public library were constructed during this period of rapid economic growth.

The next building boom occurred in the second decade of the 20th century as a result of the introduction of the automobile and the completion of the Columbia River Highway from Portland to The Dalles. The automobile changed the face of Hood River as service stations and car dealerships were built in the mid-teens through the 1930s. Governmental buildings such as the Hood River City Hall and the U.S. Post Office, and fruit packing, canning, and cold storage warehouse were built during this age of the automobile.

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Hood River's downtown core was locally designated a Historic District in 1995. The buildings in the district represent Hood River's rich past based in the fruit, timber, and tourism industries. These industries are still apart of the Hood River's economic base. The Hood River County Library and associated Georgiana Smith Park are integral parts of the Hood River Downtown Historic District. The library and park are contributing features in the district.

### **A LIBRARY SYSTEM FOR HOOD RIVER**

Newspaper articles bear witness to a long-existing interest in obtaining a library in Hood River. Pioneer E.L. Smith told of his wife selling ice cream from the back of a wagon at a July 4th picnic in the 1870s; the proceeds went to buy magazines and books to establish a reading room. In 1895, a Hood River summer resident donated \$25 from his home in Ohio after reading a newspaper story about fund-raising for a library. The push for a public library began before the turn of the 20th Century.

In February, 1895, the Hood River Library Association adopted laws and regulations which were published in the *Hood River Glacier* newspaper. Membership was open to any person with the payment of one dollar or the donation of one bound book worth not less than one dollar. The management of the association was made up of representatives of fraternal, religious, or charitable organizations who paid one dollar or one book for every member in their group. This gave the group the privilege of one board member. Members with overdue books were fined ten cents. Library membership was revoked if a book was not returned within a month of the check-out date. Books were purchased by the board or library committee, and they had the authority to reject any donated volume of doubtful morality. Under librarian Martin Nickelsen's leadership, the library claimed a collection of one hundred volumes.

Forty-eight volumes of the Criterion Library Series of histories and biographies were donated to the Hood River Library in June, 1901. Reading rooms and borrowing libraries were organized around the little community, some charging a borrowers fee per book, some charging by the month, and most limiting the number of books that could be checked out.

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The Hood River Woman's Club started their movement to obtain a library in 1908. Their library committee motto was "Far more seemly were it for thee to have thy studio full of books, than thy purses full of money". Library Day was one of their annual celebrations. Mrs. Charles Castner was put in charge of the campaign to obtain funds from the city to buy books and Mrs. William Stewart, former Avis Smith, was chair of the library committee. Mrs. Castner was granted \$700 to purchase books.

By 1911, at least two "circulating libraries" existed in Hood River. Slocum's Book and Art Store advertised a growing membership and growing collection in their circulating library with the cost set at two cents a day, or fifty cents a month. The second establishment operated from Pifer's Book Store, and claimed 600 volumes of "the latest and most popular fiction". Readers expecting to be out of town could rent several books at a special reduced rate.

At this same time, a public library committee attempted to obtain funds from the County for maintaining a library. The County Court informed the city library board that they would consider their appeal for money to buy books if the people of Hood River showed they wanted a library.

The Woman's Club, continuing their efforts towards city improvement, petitioned the City Council for vacating Fifth Street between State and Oak streets. The adjacent property owners had joined with the Woman's Club, with an addition to the petition, asking that a twenty-foot passageway be left along the east side for a thoroughfare for teams and pedestrians. The property owners agreed to accept a lesser amount of space in their reservation if they were shown it was adequate. The petition passed on October 2, 1911 and was signed by recorder H.R. Langille, and Mayor E. H. Hartwig. The common council passed the petition on January 1, and the new mayor, E.O. Blanchar, signed it on January 7, 1912.

In May of 1912, the Woman's Club had planted roses and vines in the park area secured by the closing of Fifth Street between Oak and State streets. A bench had been donated by R.B. Blagg at a cost of \$2.75, and the ladies requested several more benches if anyone wished to donate to the cause.

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Silas Soule, owner of the music and piano store, angrily announced in the newspaper in July, 1912, that he was being forced out of business so that the building could be used for the Hood River Public Library. Due to this event, he decided to "close out everything in stock regardless of price". Two weeks later the *Hood River Glacier* carried a news article about the piano and music store of S.H. Soule moving from the Smith building on the southeast corner of Oak and Third streets to the Bell building on Oak. The public library would occupy Mr. Soule's vacated store.

A communication from the secretary of the Oregon Library Commission, Miss Cornelia Marvin, arrived on May 30, 1912. Marvin encouraged the community in their progress towards establishing a library, but suggested the funds available were inadequate. She approved of a joint city-county project, with a recommendation the county board contract with the city library board, the commissioners becoming ex-officio members of the city board.

Marvin continued that the contract with Hood River was made with the explicit understanding that the City would open a public library with a trained librarian, no later than September 1, 1912, with services provided to all communities in the county. At least one branch library would operate from the central library.

The city library board, at this time, had \$600 in their treasury to spend on providing quarters, buying magazines, and service. The County would buy books and provide service in each community providing a room and magazines.

The State Library Board recommended there be a special book fund of at least \$500 to buy and prepare books before opening day. An annual income of at least \$600 from the City, plus a 2/10 mill county fund should provide adequate funding according to the State Library Board.

Mayor Blanchar had appointed a city library board in April, 1912 consisting of L. H. Huggins, Dr. F.A. Brosius, J.P. Lucas, Professor J.O. McLaughlin, Mrs. Avis Stewart, and Miss Mary McLaren. They held their first board meeting on May 1, electing L.H. Huggins president; Avis Stewart, vice president; and Professor McLaughlin, secretary-treasurer. They then appointed committees for buying books and securing rooms for housing the collection. It had been recommended by Cornelia Marvin that no

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negotiations be entered into with the Carnegie Corporation for a building until a public library had been established, as Mr. Carnegie didn't provide homes for books until some effort had been made by the local citizens.

A contract between the City and County was signed on May 3, 1912, for maintenance and operation of a public library that would be free to all residents of the Hood River County. The library board would consist of the city library board appointed by Mayor Blanchar, and the County Court. The contract called for the library to be open not less than three days a week with the board given authority to care for buildings, hire and fire, and fix salaries. The board was to maintain branches, deposit stations, and traveling libraries, and write a yearly report to the county on expenditures of the library fund.

All books purchased from the tax base would belong to the county. All books bought with money not from the tax base, such as gifts, were to be marked City of Hood River. The county would pay the librarian's salary, transportation, and traveling expenses. The agreement was to remain as long as the County Court would levy and collect a library tax for not less than 1/10 of a mill. The county-city contract was signed by County Judge George Culbertson, G.A. McCurdy, O.H. Rhoades, and city library board members L. H. Huggins, and J.O. McLaughlin. The board planned to open the public library in August with the State Library Board's help in choosing a suitable librarian.

Until a library building was constructed, rooms had been rented from E.L. Smith on Third Street between State and Oak streets. Della Frances Northey, with a degree of Bachelor of Library Science from Illinois State Library School, was selected as Hood River's first librarian. The new park situated on the vacated Fifth Street between State and Oak had been dedicated for a building site in the event a grant was received from the Carnegie Corporation.

The anticipated August opening did not occur. Purchased books were slow in arriving, processing the books took the librarian longer than anticipated, and volunteer help didn't always materialize. The library finally opened its doors on September 13, 1912, even though half of the books still had not arrived. Library hours were Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10 until

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12 a.m., from 1 until 5 p.m., and from 7 until 9 p.m. The building was open on Sunday afternoons from 2 until 5 p.m. No books were circulated on Sundays, as that day would be for reading purposes only. Miss Lottie Kinnaird was hired as an apprentice to the librarian.

Opening day the library was lavishly decorated by the library committee of the Woman's Club. Applications for 115 library cards were made the first day. The shelves held 1,000 volumes, of which 350 had been donated. Since some districts of the county were considered remote, stations were established with fifty or sixty books. Seven traveling libraries were loaned to the County by the State Library Commission.

Interest in the new library grew as word spread that it was free. Within two weeks of opening, eighty books were checked out in one day. Sunday afternoon became a popular time for men to come in to read magazines. Miss Northey, in her weekly library column in the *Hood River Glacier*, requested that persons with interest in library stations in their neighborhood were invited to confer with the librarian so she might know their interests and needs. Arrangements were made to have a telephone installed in the library so that a book could be sent by mail.

The following week, plans were announced to place stations in Cascade Locks, Parkdale, and Dee. Cascade Locks showed considerable enthusiasm, but suitable quarters seemed to be a problem, as the school was considered too remote for the convenience of most patrons.

Dr. Thomas Eliot, a well-known Portland resident, visited the Hood River Library, leaving praise and a \$50 donation for the purchase of books. A Century Dictionary and Encyclopedia was donated, as was a set of the Library of Universal History books. Old magazine donations were requested as a Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature had been purchased, but the library only owned current magazines. The Home Telephone Company generously supplied a telephone for the library, allowing contact to the stations, and making it possible for borrowers to renew book loans by mail. The phone number was 168-L.

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Excitement in the County soared over the arrival of book stations. The evening the book station arrived in the community of Dee, the lumber mill closed and forty men and women arrived for the reception at the Dee Hotel. The hotel manager offered the use of the parlor for a reading room and library. Men of the community volunteered to build furniture. Twenty-five of the fifty books available were loaned that night.

In Parkdale, the traveling library had temporary quarters in McIsaac's store but a meeting of fifteen women organized a library association to plan for a permanent library and reading room. The traveling library arrived in Cascade Locks on October 15, 1912. Odell was next. By the end of 1912, library stations or branches included Odell, Parkdale, Mount Hood, Oak Grove, Cascade Locks, Fir, and Dee, plus collections sent to the schools. The county library now owned 1,200 volumes and received forty periodicals a month.

### **THE HOOD RIVER COUNTY LIBRARY BUILDING SITE**

The library system was now established and functioning. The Woman's Club could start work on a grant from the Carnegie Corporation. Avis Stewart, daughter of pioneer E.L. Smith, was chairperson of the library committee, and led the grant project.

A telegram for the library board arrived on December 17, 1912. The Carnegie Corporation of New York agreed to give \$17,500 to Hood River to construct a library building. The agreement stipulated that no less than \$1,750 per year be provided for maintenance and purchase of books. Also it required that building plans be approved by the Carnegie Corporation before any expenditure took place; the building lot also had to be supplied.

Della Northey, librarian, made plans to visit Cornelia Marvin over the Christmas holidays to discuss plans for the new library building. Marvin was considered one of the best-informed library workers on library architecture.

The library building committee hit their first snag in February of 1913. The building lot, forty feet wide, was not large enough to meet requirements. E.L. Smith offered to sell four lots to the city for \$4,000 or the entire block for \$16,000, which was considered reasonable by the City Council. The first arrangement between City and County for library support was for the County to

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pay 2/3 of the required \$1,750 and the city to pay 1/3. That was not satisfactory to the Carnegie Corporation, so the County agreed to take over the \$1,750. Under these circumstances, it was recommended that the City assume the cost for the additional land needed.

The following week E.L. Smith withdrew his offer of the entire block, as his daughters did not wish to sell the house. Smith made a counter offer of a 75x200-foot lot for \$6,000. The Woman's Club pressed for a city election on the matter. The City Council issued a statement, "We cannot, according to our charter which does not provide for park bonds, call a special election to vote such bonds. In our present financial condition, with times pinching, we cannot pay for the site out of the general fund". The matter was tabled.

The public library in the Smith Building continued its operation, experimenting with opening seven days a week during January and February, 1913. It was deemed so successful that it was continued. Miss Lottie Kinnaird, the first apprentice assistant, was hired in March following her six month apprenticeship. Non-residents were given the option of privileges in the library system for the yearly payment of \$1.50, allowing residents of Underwood and other neighboring towns across the river to borrow books. The weekly library column told of every chair in the library being filled and boys sitting in the windows to read. A children's room was needed.

Meanwhile, a special election was held to amend the City Charter enabling the city council to call for a vote on a bond issue not to exceed \$7,000 for the purchase of a library site. Professor J.O. McLaughlin, school principal and library board member spoke at a meeting held to acquaint the public with the need for a library site. McLaughlin advised the gathering that 395 books were borrowed during the first two weeks the library was in operation. After six months, with branches established in the valley, a total of 2,200 books per month were circulated. The borrowers in the city had grown to 977. The grant from the Carnegie Corporation was based on the County population. Mrs. J. E. Ferguson, who was active in securing the Odell branch, reported 112 borrowers at their branch.

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The amendment to the City Charter went down to defeat. In an appeal for help in this project, the Woman's Club made a plea for the people of the City to come forth with cash donations to secure additional land. If the 75' x 200' lot could not be purchased for \$4,000, could donations of \$2,000 be raised to purchase 25' x 200' feet? The four daughters of E.L. Smith, Mrs. Avis Stewart, Mrs. Jessie Watt, Mrs. O.J. Nelson, and Georgiana Rand each contributed \$200, provided the additional \$1,200 was secured.

The end of May, 1913 brought the necessary donation of funds and the additional land for the building site was purchased. A building committee was formed and included the County Court, Judge Castner, Mr. McCurdy, Mr. Putnam and Truman Butler. Other members were E. O. Blanchar, Mrs. H.R. Davidson, Miss Mary McLaren, and Miss Della Northey served as secretary. With money now in hand, work on the building could progress.

### **THE HOOD RIVER COUNTY LIBRARY**

Architect Albert Sutton, of the firm of Sutton and Whitney of Portland, was chosen to design and superintend the construction of the library. Sutton had an office in the Hall Building on Oak Street and was paid \$525 for his services. Carnegie approved the architect's blue prints, but all bids were over the allowed amount, as stipulated in the grant, \$1,210 had to be withheld for the architect's fees and other expenses from the \$17,500.

In August, 1913, L.A. Woodard was awarded the contract for the construction of the building. His bid for \$15,000 covered building, heating, plumbing and wiring. The rest of the grant would be spent on furniture and shelving. The bid for electrical work went to Morrison Electric for \$235. Bert Kent was awarded the bid for \$1,848, for painting, tinting, and the staining the interior. The library lot, now 65' x 200', was officially known as the library and park site.

The construction contract allowed four months for the builders to complete the project including excavation, masonry, carpentry work, footing, sheet metal work, ironwork, and plastering. The building was to be roofed in by October 1, 1913. The agreed price was \$12,417.

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August 28, 1913, ground-breaking ceremonies were held. One of the beautiful old oak trees had to be removed, and the remaining trees were trimmed to allow adequate space for the work to commence. Representatives of the Woman's Club, the library committee, County Court, and Mayor Blanchar were present for the ceremony, as well as the building committee. E.J. Bloom took a photo of the group.

Mrs. Charles Castner, president of the Woman's Club gave the opening speech, then presented Miss Mary McLaren with a shovel tied with green and white ribbons. Miss McLaren had difficulty digging into the virgin earth. Laughing, she commented that it had been hard work getting a library from the start. She struggled until she turned over a shovel full of dirt.

The county library system, in a little less than one year, had grown to 1,591 borrowers, and the collection now included 3,000 books and bound pamphlets. Circulation had surpassed 16,000.

As September, 1913 drew to a close, the concrete work was finished and the brick work begun. Plans were made for the ceremony to lay the cornerstone. The second Saturday of October, 1913, the cornerstone was laid. Beneath it were placed a 1913 year book from the Woman's Club, a 1913 penny, current issues of the *Hood River Glacier*, *Hood River News*, *Oregonian*, and a picture of little Ruth McClain (Guppy), the youngest child of a member of the Woman's Club.

The Hood River band played a selection to open the ceremony. Chairs had been set up on the improvised floor of the structure for the large crowd. Truman Butler served as master of ceremonies. Mayor Blanchar gave the address, advising the public to "Let it be the duty of every citizen to interest themselves in this library, its maintenance and management. Use it. Plan for its welfare. Be a citizen, not merely a resident of the City, and the result will be that we will soon wonder how we did without the free library during the years now past".

The mayor's speech was followed by Judge Castner, then by J.P. Lucas, chair of the library board. Mrs. Charles Castner spoke for the Woman's Club, and finally E.L. Smith placed the first mortar at the base of the large stone, then delivered his address. Speaking of Carnegie, E.L. Smith said, "He acquired his wealth by straight forward business methods and he considers that he had

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held it in a kind of trust, and the libraries and institutions of learning over the land are being endowed for the benefit of the people".

By October 23, 1913, the building contractor announced that the building would be under cover by the first of November. No mention was made of the signed contract saying it must be under cover by 1 October 1913. December 31, 1913, the County Court pared \$500 from the budget that had been earmarked for completion of the lower floor of the library. An auditorium had been planned with a capacity of approximately 200 persons, and a room for rest and relaxation for orchardists' wives when they made trips to town. The \$500 appropriation was deemed an "extravagance, and entailed unnecessary and burdensome taxation upon the taxpayers".

After the library was finished, the library board published a list of needed shrubs, requesting donations to the planting committee. The grounds crew organized a work party to be held March 21, 1914. It was requested that helpers bring their own rake, hoe, shovel, and wheelbarrow.

The opening of the new library in March, 1914 brought rave reviews in the local papers. The Woman's Club provided chairs, drapes, and a piano. They also provided stone benches on the grounds. At the opening, chairs were not yet available to furnish the auditorium. The reading room covered the entire second floor with the exception of the northeast corner where the librarian's office was located.

The charge desk stood in the center of the room and there were shelves for magazines, fiction, and reference books. In the southeast corner were the children's bookshelves with two large, low, round tables and small chairs. A book lift was installed to transport books from the "fixing room" up to the reading room. A fumigating cabinet was placed in a closet so books could be fumigated from time to time to kill germs. The lecture room on the lower level was outfitted with stage, dressing rooms, and a pantry for luncheons.

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The north side of the lower floor held the "Fixing room" and the resting room for County patrons. In the northwest corner was the committee room, where story hour was held. The east entrance to the lower level was reached from Library Lane, which remained closed, except in the event of a lecture or public entertainment.

The library board published a list of rules for Library Hall. The use of Library Hall would be granted for civic and educational purposes only. Use was free if no admission was charged, but if refreshments were served, one dollar fee would be charged for the use of the kitchen. If admission was charged, then a \$5 was charged for the use of the hall. The Woman's Club would be allowed to leave their dishes in the cupboard as long as the board wasn't responsible for them. The piano belonged to the Woman's Club and could be rented from them.

The library staff started their summer schedule with doors open from 9:00 until 9:00. In October, the librarian announced that the Hood River library was now a depository for Oregon State publications and public documents. The library also was classed as a station of the Oregon State Library, which gave local patrons borrowing privileges from the state library.

The stairs leading to the library's lower floor were covered with "cork carpet". At about this time, the library experienced its first theft when the typewriter and fifteen dollars were stolen.

### **OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

In the 1914 Annual Report for the library, Della Northey reported a circulation of 21,164, a 20% gain over the previous year. The total number of volumes owned was 3,876 and the total number of borrowers was 2,196. Chairs had been loaned, on a temporary basis, from the Electric Theater for meetings in Library Hall. In addition to her other duties, in June, the county librarian was made school librarian and purchasing agent for the city school libraries, as well as being put in charge of cataloging, classification, etc. of school library materials.

The County Court voted to cut library funding in January, 1915, from \$2,500 to \$1,800. The librarians wages were to be cut back from \$90 a month to \$75. The yearly book budget was cut to \$600; periodicals, \$70; binding, \$150; postage, \$50; travel expense, \$30; and salaries, \$900. The library board was furious. They

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maintained that the County Court had no power under state code or local library contract to specify how the library budget would be spent. Refusing to cut Miss Northey's salary, they announced the difference would be taken from the book budget. And further, after an evaluation, if it was felt the library could not operate on the reduced budget, the board would resign as a body.

The County Court failed to bow to the demands of the library board. Miss Northey submitted her resignation in March of 1915, saying she would remain until June 1, if necessary, allowing the board time to find a replacement. In May, she accepted a new position in Baker City, with a salary increase. The library board requested their attorney, George Wilbur, to file suit against the County Court to determine the validity of the contract between the County and the library board.

In the course of this lawsuit, the County Court demanded that the city no longer be given a voice in the library administration. The city announced if this happened they would withdraw all city support from the library. Judge Bradshaw requested that the matter be settled out of court if possible. In August, Judge Bradshaw ruled that the contract between Hood River County and the library board was legal and binding, thus giving the library board full jurisdiction over the spending of the library fund.

Due to the harsh feelings between City and County officials over this dispute, a new contract was written. Under the old contract, city officials paid one-third of the library budget and provided six members to the board. This was due to the fact that city residents were taxed twice, first as city taxpayers and again as county taxpayers. The county provided two-thirds of the budget and placed three members on the board. Under the new contract, each body would provide fifty percent of the income and three board members. The board would then choose a seventh member who would only vote in case of a tie. The board would have control of expenditures.

In consideration for the City signing this new contract, the County Court had agreed to settle the lawsuit concerning Miss Della Northey's salary out of court. The City Council chose not to sign the contract, due to very heated discussions over the library appropriation and tax expenditures in general. Judge Bradshaw, on December 15, 1915, ruled in favor of the library

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board, awarding them \$468 to pay Miss Northey's back wages. The contract was eventually signed and remained in force until June 1952.

In the biennial report of the Oregon State Library to the legislative assembly, the only pictures included were three of the Hood River County Library. The report stated that "One of the most attractive small library buildings, that at Hood River, is illustrated in this report, that it may serve as a model for others who are planning small buildings". The report stated that, compared to the number of volumes owned, Hood River Library was used more than most in the state. The total number of card holders 2,114, being about one-fourth of the county population.

Hood River District Attorney, Kenneth Abraham, sent the library contract to Oregon's Attorney General for a judgment on its legality, in 1952. The Attorney General's three page letter could be summed up in one of his paragraphs which follows:

*It is difficult, however, to dismiss that document without comment on the amazing provisions thereof, such as the attempt to direct that taxes be turned over to the library board 'as fast as the same are collected', the blithe disregard of the 1913 county budget law, and the flouting of official audit. And how it could be supposed that the City of Hood River might have authority to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a system of branches and depot stations and traveling libraries throughout Hood River County passes understanding.*

The letter went on to say that city money could not be spent supporting libraries in Cascade Locks and Parkdale. Also city funds had to be disbursed by the city recorder, and the county funds by the county clerk. There were no laws allowing library boards to disburse city or county tax money.

Following this communication, the County assumed responsibility for the library, with the City making a lump-sum payment directly to the County for any support, instead of providing services.

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**HOOD RIVER COUNTY LIBRARY: THE LAST 50 YEARS**

The Hood River County Library continues to serve the City of Hood River and Hood River County. Over the years, changes have occurred in the layout of the building and in the use of the areas within the library, however, the defining characteristics of the building remain intact.

In October, 1945, the Hood River Circuit Court moved from the courthouse into the auditorium on the lower floor of the library. The Court was convened there until construction of the new courthouse was completed in 1954.

A major renovation of the library occurred in 1969. The children's room was moved to the lower floor, a new charging area and librarian's office built, and a new entryway constructed on the west side of the building allowing for handicapped access. The original front entrance on the southeast corner was first enclosed with a wooden fence to discourage use. As the bushes grew up around the fence, the place became a sleeping area for homeless people. For the sake of safety, the bushes were cut down and the wooden fence removed. In 1986, an wrought-iron fence and a low brick wall were built that enclosed the wooden deck off the southeast entryway. Chairs, benches, and a picnic table provide a shaded outdoor reading room. Some of the concrete benches on the lawn were moved to new locations in the park which afforded a view of the river.

In the 1990s, another addition was made to the library. A stray cat decided to make the library its home. The staff decided to keep the cat and named it Huggins after Henry Huggins, a character in a juvenile fiction book. Research for a later project showed that Huggins was not the first owner of this name in the history of the Hood River library; the first library board chairperson shared his last name with the library cat.

**CARNEGIE LIBRARIES IN OREGON**

Andrew Carnegie, the United States steel magnate, began his philanthropic ventures in 1886 in the United States. In the later part of his life, Carnegie gave money for public libraries throughout the English speaking world. He donated \$56 million for 2509 library buildings world wide: \$40 million of that granted for 1670 library buildings in 1412 American cities.

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Carnegie libraries throughout the United States were designed in various styles. Although specific design criteria was not stipulated by the Carnegie Corporation, general recommendations and standards for efficient library layouts were issued by the Carnegie Corporation in the form of guidelines. In ca. 1911, James Bertram, the Secretary of the Carnegie Corporation, met with leading authorities on libraries management and design and produced guidelines for communities to follow when designing libraries. The publication was called "Notes on Library Buildings". These guidelines were sent to communities requesting funds from the Corporation. Mr. Bertram claimed that these notes and "judicious pressure on architects in communities usually resulted in a desirable building" (Bobinski, Carnegie Libraries).

Twenty-five communities in Oregon received grants from the Carnegie Corporation for the construction of 31 public libraries. Portland received funding for seven branch libraries. The first library in Oregon to receive funds for the construction of a library building was the City of Eugene. The city received \$10,000 in 1906 for their public library.

From 1909 to 1916, the Carnegie Corporation granted funds for the construction of libraries in the Eastern Oregon communities of Baker, Enterprise, Hermiston, Hood River, La Grande, Milton, Ontario, Pendleton, The Dalles, and Union. The Hood River, The Dalles, Ontario, and Pendleton libraries served as the headquarters for a county library system. These grants ranged in size from \$5,000 for the Hermiston Library to \$25,000 for the Baker and Pendleton libraries.

Hood River was awarded \$17,500 for the construction of the Hood River County Library in December, 1912. The Carnegie Corporation stipulated that the County had to budget at least \$1,750 a year to maintain the facility and a "suitable" building site had to be secured. By August, 1913, all the criteria for construction had been met and bids were solicited for the erection of the new library building. The building was constructed in the fall-winter of 1913 and the new Hood River County Library was finished by the spring of 1914. The east face of the cornerstone, on the southeast corner of the library, states "Andrew Carnegie Donation".

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### **THE HOOD RIVER COUNTY LIBRARY: THE JACOBETHAN STYLE**

The Jacobethan Style was based in 16th and early 17th century styles during the reigns of Elizabeth I, 1558-1603, and James I, 1603-1625 (Clark, *Architecture Oregon Style*). The Jacobethan style, popular in the United States in the first decades of the 20th century, was a favorite period building style for many larger university and public buildings. The style was popular in Oregon from approximately 1910 to 1935.

The Hood River County Library, built in 1913-14, was the earliest building constructed in Jacobethan style in Hood River. Designed by the prominent Portland firm of Sutton and Whitney, the building's size was dictated by the mid-sized grant of \$17,500 from the Carnegie Corporation. The building is a good example of the Jacobethan style and is a tribute to the efforts of the citizens of Hood River to establish a county wide library system.

There are only two buildings designed in the Jacobethan style in Hood River: the Hood River County Library and the former Hood River High School, built 1927, (currently the Hood River Middle School). The Hood River County Library building is a smaller, more modest example of the Jacobethan style; the Hood River High School is reminiscent of larger, more formal academic buildings designed in the first two decades of the 20th Century in larger cities such as nearby Portland, Oregon. Although the two buildings were built almost fifteen years apart, they share similar characteristics of the style in their brick construction, decorative masonry trim and coping details, operable multi-pane windows, parapet gables, Tudor-arch entrance portals, and formal massing. The Hood River County Library represents a modest example of the Jacobethan style, more common in smaller communities throughout Oregon.

### **ARCHITECT: ALBERT SUTTON, SUTTON AND WHITNEY**

The Hood River County Library was designed by the firm of Sutton and Whitney. Albert Sutton was the lead architect on the Hood River Public Library. Sutton was born in Victoria, British Columbia on June 6, 1867 to John and Anna Dolan Sutton. John Sutton died in 1873, when Albert was only five years old, leaving his wife and nine children. The family settled in Portland where Albert Sutton attended public schools and then went to California to study scientific courses at the University of California. He

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then secured a job with the Southern Pacific Railroad designing buildings and bridges for the railroad. After a three years with the railroad, Sutton moved to Tacoma, Washington and worked there from 1888 to 1895.

In 1895, Sutton moved to San Francisco and started a successful architectural practice. Sutton worked in San Francisco until 1910 when domestic problems forced Sutton to leave the city. Sutton was divorced in 1909 and married Maria L. Hewitt of Tacoma. Sutton gained custody of his twin daughters, Alberta and Anna, in the divorce decree. His ex-wife, however, took the children, and finally settled in Belgium. Sutton retrieved the children and, in 1910, moved to Hood River, Oregon, to raise his twins. Sutton lived and practiced in Hood River from 1910 to 1912 and designed several buildings in town and the valley during this time. Sutton designed the Oak Grove School (1912-13), the ranch house of the famous preacher, Billy Sunday, the Captain McCann residence on Tucker Road, and the Hood River County Library. In the 1910 Hood River City Directory, Sutton was listed as living at 615 Cascade Street and maintained an architectural office in the Hall Building on the southwest corner of Second and Oak streets. He also owned a ranch in the Hood River valley near Oak Grove where he also made his residence.

Albert Sutton remained in Hood River until 1912 when he moved back to Portland and formed a partnership with Harrison A. Whitney. The firm, Sutton and Whitney, began a successful partnership together that spanned over a decade. The firm also established an office in Tacoma, Washington. Sutton divided his time between the Portland and Tacoma offices. On July 8, 1919, Sutton received his architectural license from the state architectural licensing board (certificate #18). The state board started licensing in 1919; Sutton was the 18th architect to receive a license in the State of Oregon.

Sutton and Whitney designed many prominent public buildings in Portland including the Meier and Frank Warehouse, the Multnomah County Infirmary, the Scottish Rite Temple, and several residences and apartment houses. Albert Sutton also worked in California and was responsible for the remodel of the State Capitol in Sacramento, designing the Farmers & Merchants Bank in Oakland, CA., the John A. Roebling's Sons Company in San Francisco, CA., and the Pacific Hardware & Steel Company.

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Ca. 1922, Sutton and Whitney joined in partnership with Aandahl and Fritsch to form the firm of Sutton, Whitney, Aandahl, & Fritsch who went on to design the Portland Masonic Temple (1924-25) and the fruit and Flower Day Nursery (1928). Albert Sutton's career was cut short, however, by his death at the age of 57 in November, 1923 at his home in Tacoma, Washington.

### GEORGIANA SMITH PARK

In 1912, the Woman's Club created a park on the land that would a year later become the building site for the Hood River County Library. The women planted trees and shrubs on the lot (tax lot 10200) that was given to them after they petitioned the City Council to vacate Fifth Street between State and Oak streets. The women solicited donations for benches placed in the park. The library was built in 1913-14 on the southern end of the tax lot; the land to the north continued its use as a park.

In 1935, daughters (Avis Stewart, and Georgiana Rand) of prominent pioneer business and civic leader, E.L. Smith, donated the remaining vacant lots in the library block to Hood River County. Part of the land was donated for the purpose of creating a park in memory of their mother, Georgiana Smith. The deed dated June 10, 1935 describes the park land as "the west one-half of Lots 1 and 8 and the East 40 feet of Lot 2 and 7, all in Block 12, Second Addition to the City of Hood River". The deed stipulated that the land be used for the "sole and exclusive use and benefit and enjoyment of the public forever as a park and for library purposes, to be known as Georgiana Smith Park."

In 1936, a bronze plaque was placed in the park on a boulder which reads:

*Georgiana Smith Park  
Once the home of Ezra L.  
And Georgiana Smith  
Pioneers of Hood River  
Given to the Public  
By their children*

Over the years, a variety of trees and shrubs have been planted in the park. The concrete benches in the park date from the historic period and there are also classic light standards in the park.

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Georgiana Smith Park is the only park in downtown Hood River. The Erza L. Smith house, constructed ca. 1886, is adjacent to the park land. The house is still standing, although remodeled, and currently defines the western edge of the nominated area.

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Other Libraries in the Hood River County System

Parkdale's library service moved from a traveling station to a branch library in March of 1913 with all persons in the Upper Valley being urged to donate books to help form the nucleus of their collection. The Upper Valley residents eagerly welcomed Parkdale's new branch library. Twenty-four women volunteered for library service, and books and magazines were loaned and donated.

Parkdale's little branch library continued to grow. In May, over 200 volumes were donated, as well as a lovely bookcase. Several hundred volumes were reported to be enroute from friends and relatives in New York. The question of a permanent library building in Parkdale arose. Mothers Clubs were formed by the library in Odell and Oak Grove, and a reading hour was established in Pine Grove, Oak Grove and Mount Hood. In town, children's story hour was established for grades one to four on Tuesday mornings, and older boys and girls on Friday mornings.

Another 300 volumes had been donated to the Parkdale branch the first of October, creating a need for additional shelf space.

The library stations at Dee and Pine Grove were closed during summer, with a small collection placed in the schools for the winter months. Odell was the first station to have a permanent reading room, with plans for one underway at Cascade Locks. The Mount Hood library room adjoined the Odd Fellows Hall and the Oak Grove, Parkdale and Fir collections were housed at the schoolhouses.

A newly appointed librarian, Miss Alice See, moved to Hood River in July from Des Moines, Iowa. Miss See was a graduate of Drake University and New York State Library School.

In February 1915, the Parkdale Public library moved from the school to their new library building. Miss Northey went to Parkdale to supervise the cataloging and arrangement of the collection. Eight Upper Valley women volunteered to operate the branch on Saturdays until funds were available to hire a librarian.

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Library, four sheets, dated: August 1913. Hood River County  
Archives, Hood River County Public Works Department, Hood  
River, Oregon.

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre (.69)

Hood River, Oregon-Washington 1:24000

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

UTM grid 1: Zone 10, Easting 615630, Northing 5062560

UTM grid 3 and 4: Empty grid boxes

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia Krussow and Sally Donovan
organization Hood River County Library date November 1997
street & number 502 State Street telephone 541-386-2535
city or town Hood River state OR zip code 97031

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Hood River County
street & number Hood River County Courthouse telephone 541-386-3870
city or town Hood River state OR zip code 97031

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

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

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### VERBAL DESCRIPTION

The Hood River County Library and Georgiana Smith Park (commonly called the library park) is located on tax lots 10200 and 10300 in Block 12 in the Second Addition West to the City of Hood River, Hood River County, Oregon, Section 25, T3N, R10E, Willamette Meridian. The nominated area covers approximately .69 of an acre.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated area encompasses two tax lots: 10200 which includes the library building and grounds, and tax lot 10300 which encompasses Georgiana Smith Park. Georgiana Smith Park was given to the County for the "benefit and enjoyment of the public forever as a park and for library purposes". The park and the library are integral parts of one another, historically and visually.

**OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM  
COUNTY: HOOD RIVER COUNTY**

HIST. NAME: Hood River County Library  
COMMON NAME: Hood River County Library  
ADDRESS: 502 State Street  
CITY: Hood River, OR 97031  
OWNER: Hood River County  
Courthouse, Hood River, OR 97031

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1913-14  
ORIGINAL USE: Education/Library  
PRESENT USE: Education/Library  
ARCHITECT: Sutton and Whitney  
BUILDER: L.A. Woodward  
THEME: Culture/Education  
STYLE: Jacobethan

T/R/S: T3N R10E S25

MAP NO.: 3N 1025CD TAX LOT: 10200

ADDITION: 2nd West Addition

BLOCK: 8 LOT: 8 QUAD: Hood River

PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: Rectangular

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Concrete

ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: Gable with stepped parapet in front; composition shingles.

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Brick; common bond STRUCTURAL FRAME:

PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: Louvres and multi-paned casement with leaded glass

EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Brick

DECORATIVE FEATURES: Concrete surrounds on windows, stone sills; Tudor arch over double entry doors on

OTHER: south relief patterns in concrete around door; original copper light fixture flanking front doors.

CONDITION: x GOOD FAIR POOR MOVED (DATE)

BLDG x STRUC DIST SITE OBJ

RANK: Primary

NO. OF STORIES: 1

BASEMENT: Yes- full

EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS (DATED): Addition on west side; brick wall added in front of building; entrance changes from south to west side.

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: Park to the north and west of building; large conifers and deciduous (maples, alders, oaks) trees; large open space in downtown Hood River.

ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: The park to the west is associated with the library. It was donated to the county for use as a park in 1935 by the heirs of E.L. Smith in memory of his wife, Georgiana.

SETTING: Facing south on State Street between Fifth and Sixth streets in mixed use area. Commercial core to the north. 12' setback to sidewalk. Park to the west, driveway to the east.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

**Architectural:** The Hood River County Library, constructed in 1913-14, was designed by the Portland firm of Sutton and Whitney in the Jacobethan style. Distinctive characteristics of the style include the stepped front parapet with a concrete coping, Tudor arched entrance, brick construction, leaded glass windows, and concrete window accents. In good condition, the building is an excellent example of its type.

**Historical:** The Hood River County Library was formally opened March 16, 1914. It was designed by the Portland firm of Sutton and Whitney. Albert Sutton was a former resident of Hood River and designed many residences in the town. The contractor of the building was L.A. Woodward. In 1908 members of the Hood River Women's Club petitioned the city council for money to purchase books to start a library in the city. By 1911, the Women's Club received \$700 for book purchases and in 1912 the first library was opened in the E.L. Smith building. In 1913 the library committee secured a grant for the building of a new library from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. The land for the site of the library was donated from Ezra L. Smith. Two months after the grant was received the ground was broken for the construction of the building. On October 10, 1913 the cornerstone was laid by the chairperson of the library committee, Truman Butler. The principal speaker for the ceremony was Ezra Smith. The cornerstone was laid with memorabilia of the day, which included the 1913 Women's Club Yearbook, a 1913 penny, current issues of the Hood River News, the Hood River Glacier, the Oregonian newspapers, and a photograph of Ruth Guppy, the youngest child of a Womens Club member. The formal dedication occurred March 16, 1914. The new library had a collection of 3,000 books when it opened.

SOURCES: The History of Hood River County; Hood River News, 1947; Historic Sites and Building Inventory of Hood River County, 1976; interview with Ruth Guppy, 5/88.

NEGATIVE NO.: Roll 3, no. 10A  
FIELD NO.: 14

RECORDED BY: S. Donovan, N.H.P.A.  
DATE: 5/22/88  
SHPO NO:

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
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COUNTY: HOOD RIVER COUNTY

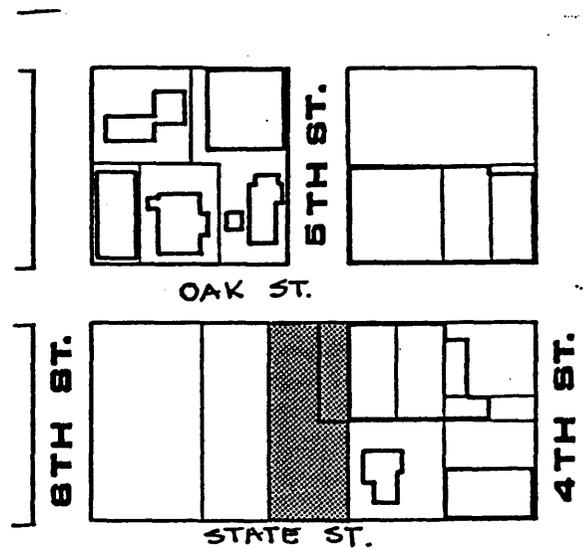
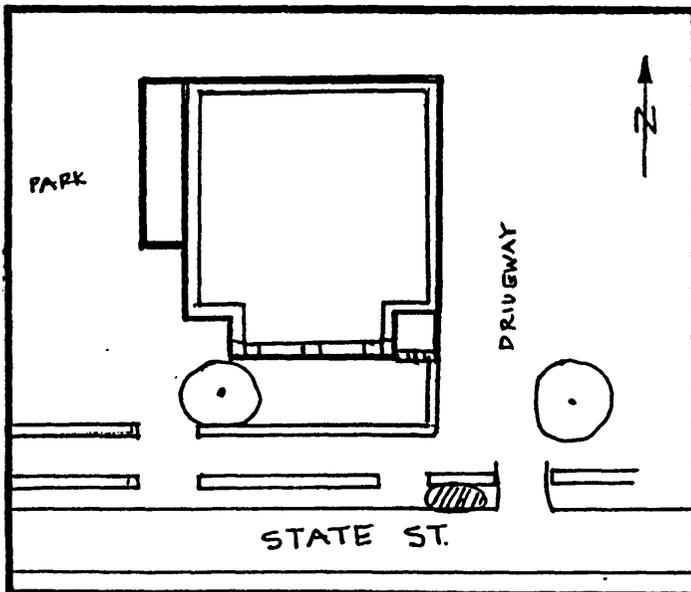
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MAP NO.: 3N 10 25DC  
QUADRANGLE: Hood River



NEGATIVE NO.: Roll 4, no.

FIELD NO.: 15



GRAPHIC & PHOTO SOURCES: N.H.P.A.

SHPO INVENTORY.:



OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM  
COUNTY: HOOD RIVER COUNTY

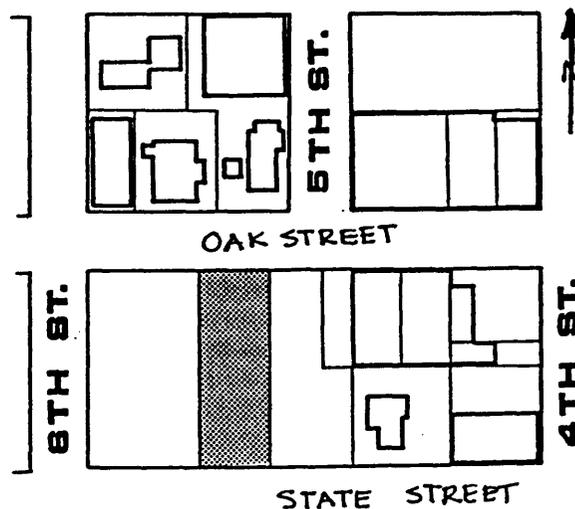
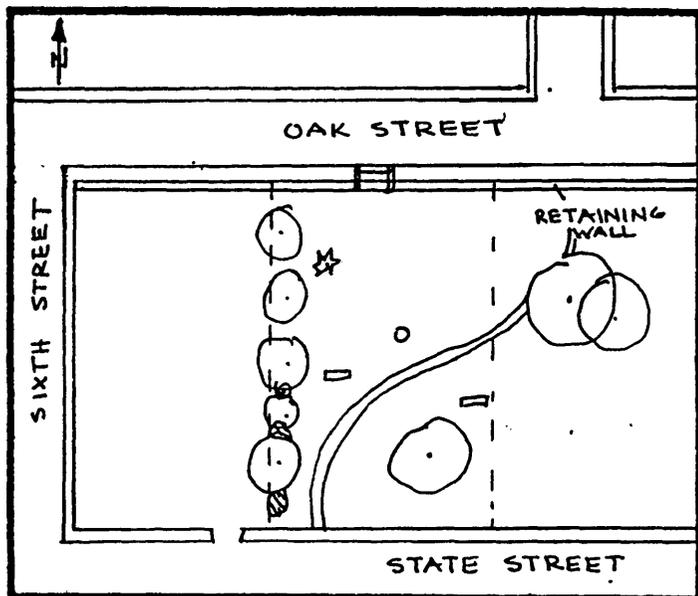
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MAP NO.: 3N 1025CD  
QUADRANGLE: Hood River



NEGATIVE NO.: Roll 3, no.10A

FIELD NO.: 14



GRAPHIC & PHOTO SOURCES: N.H.P.A.

SHPO INVENTORY.:

ASSESSMENT PURPOSE ONLY

HO RIVER COUNTY  
JUN 10 1996  
W.M. K.I.U.E.  
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HO RIVER COUNTY  
JUN 10 1996  
W.M. K.I.U.E.  
JUN 20 1996

SCALE 1:2400



CANCELLED NO.'S

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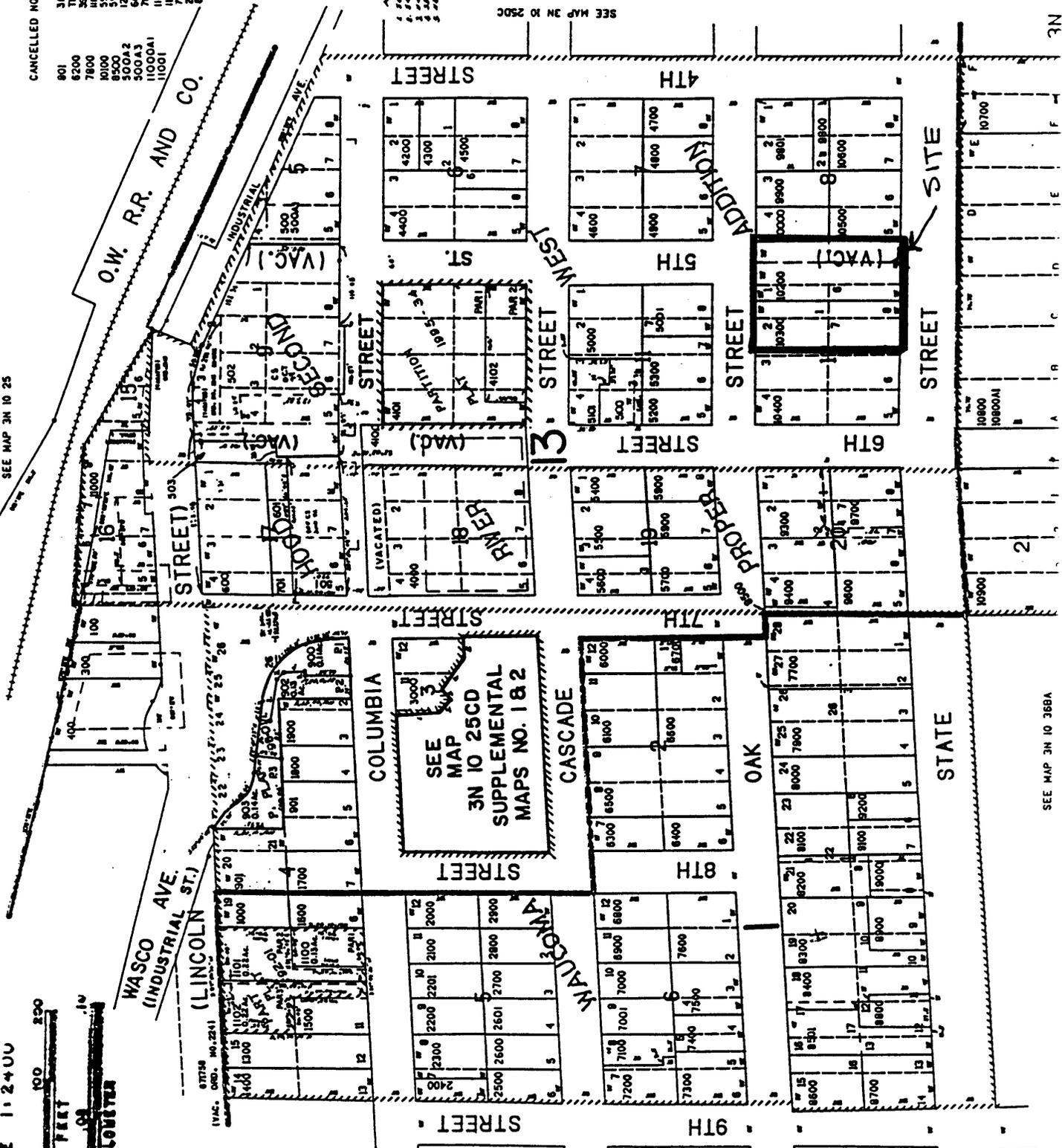
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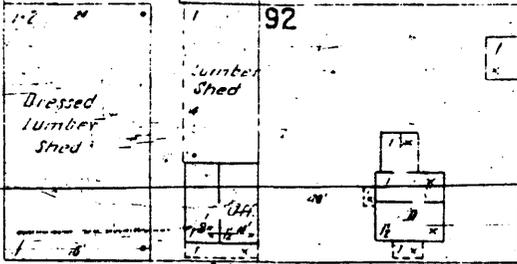
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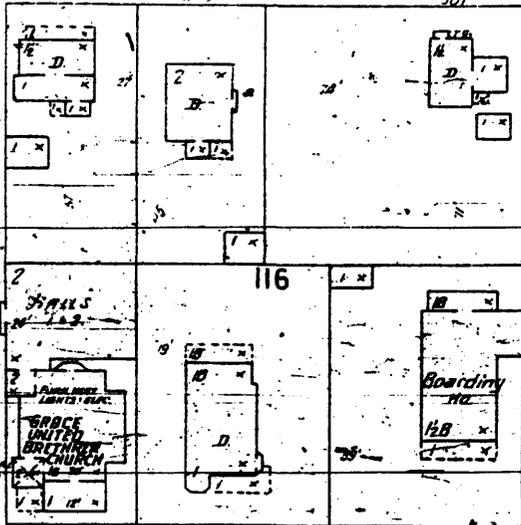
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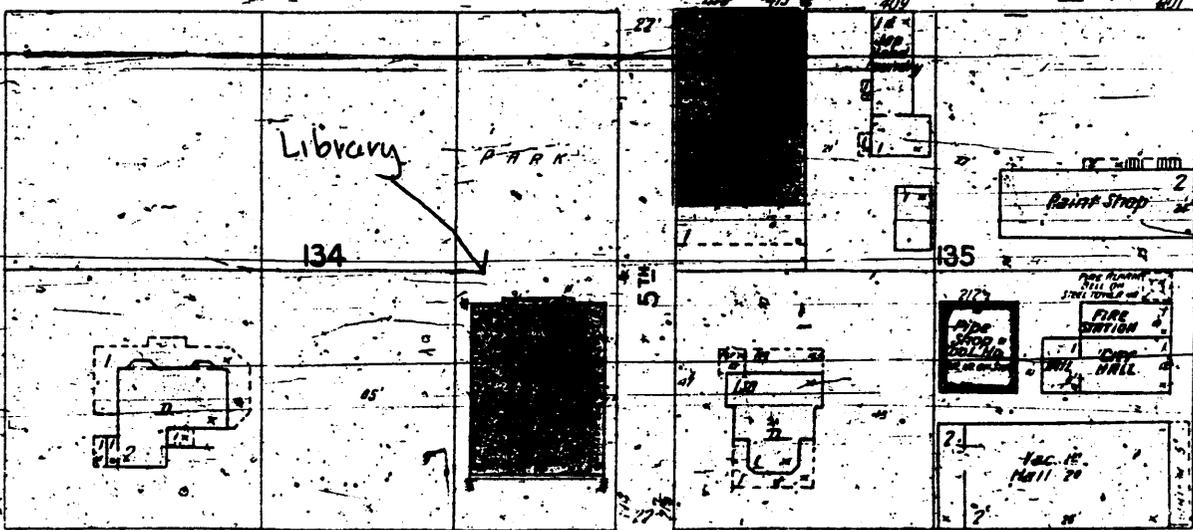
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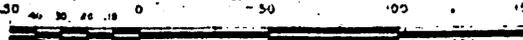
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Library



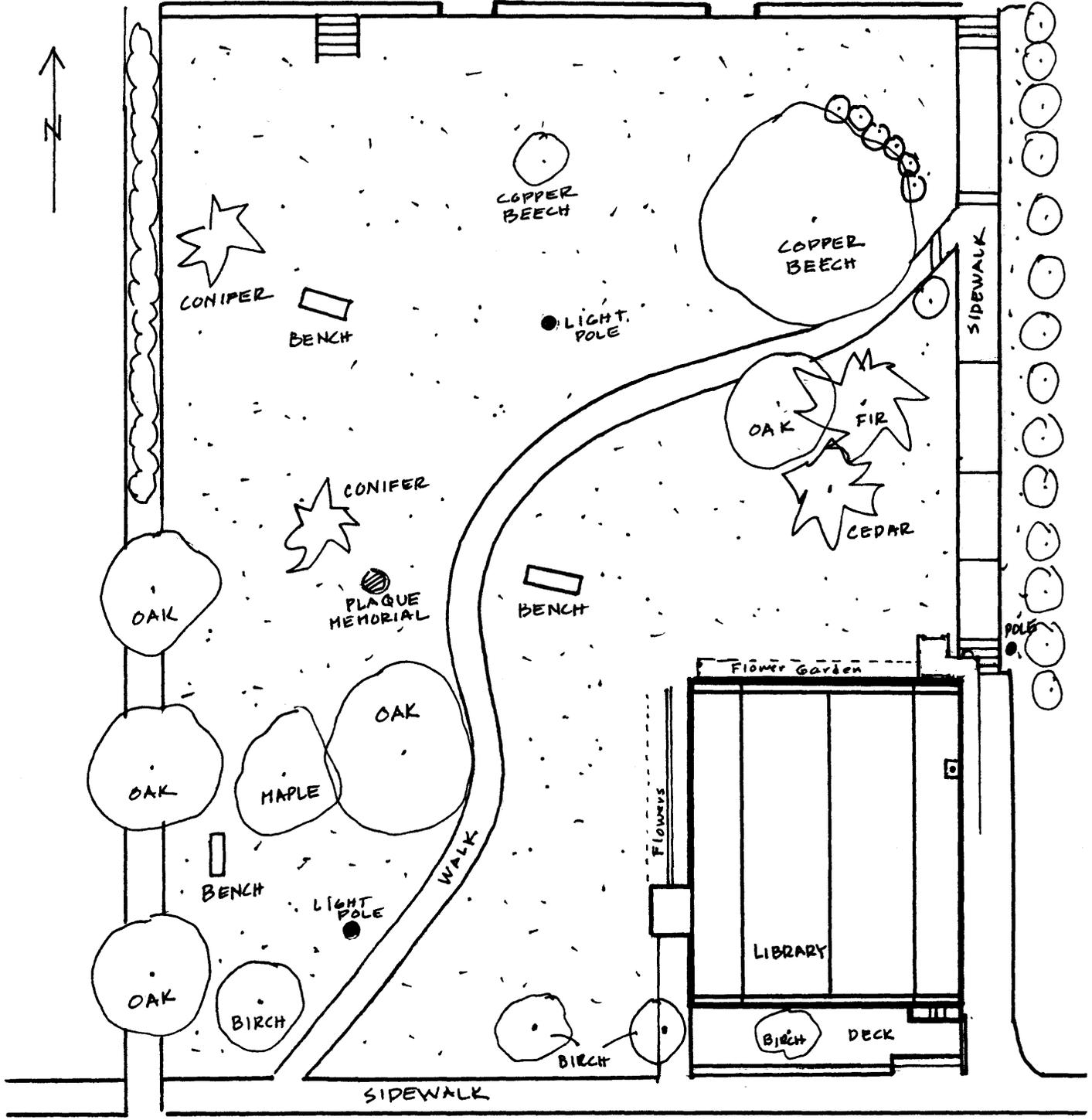
10 STATE

Scale of Feet

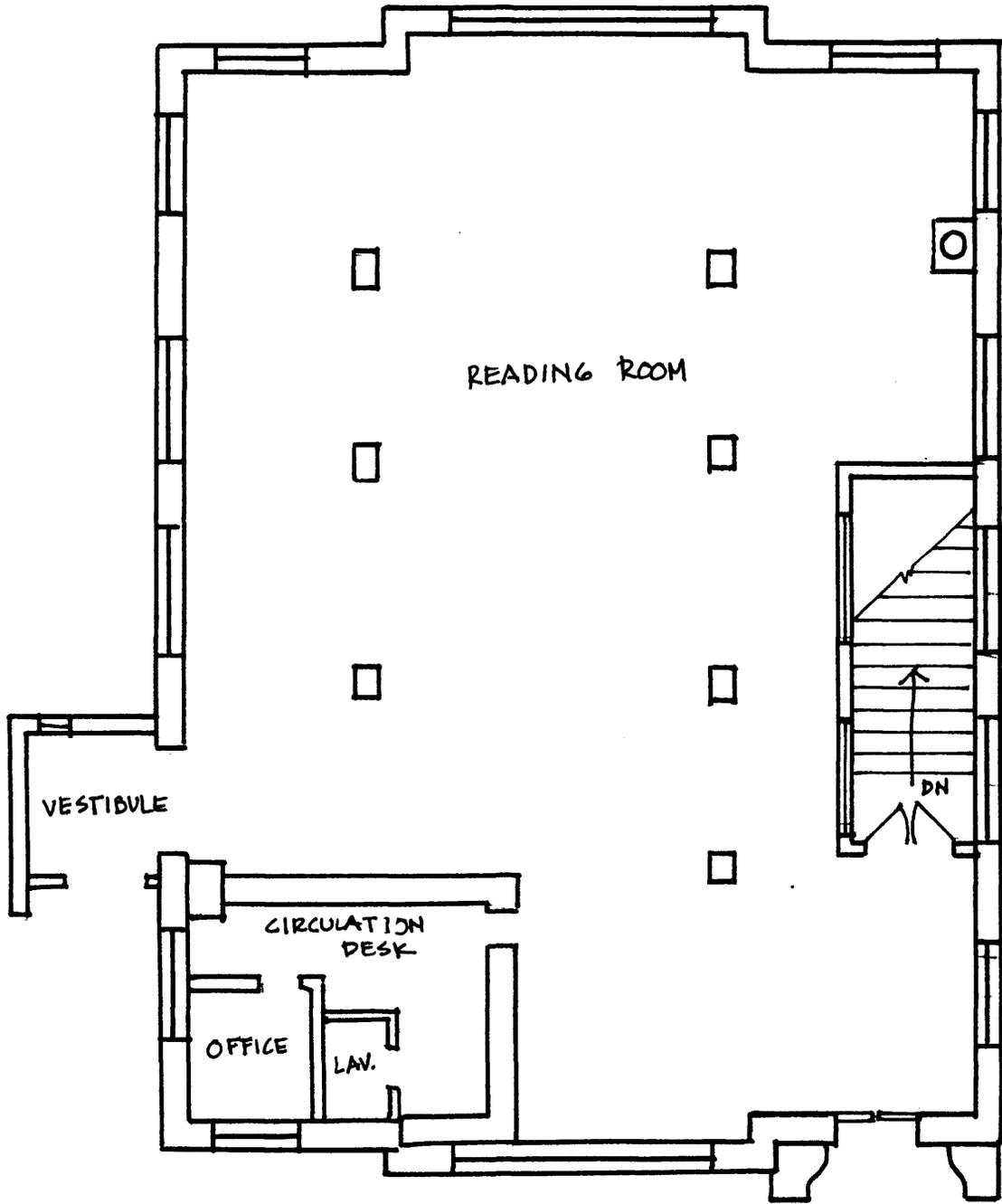


OAK STREET

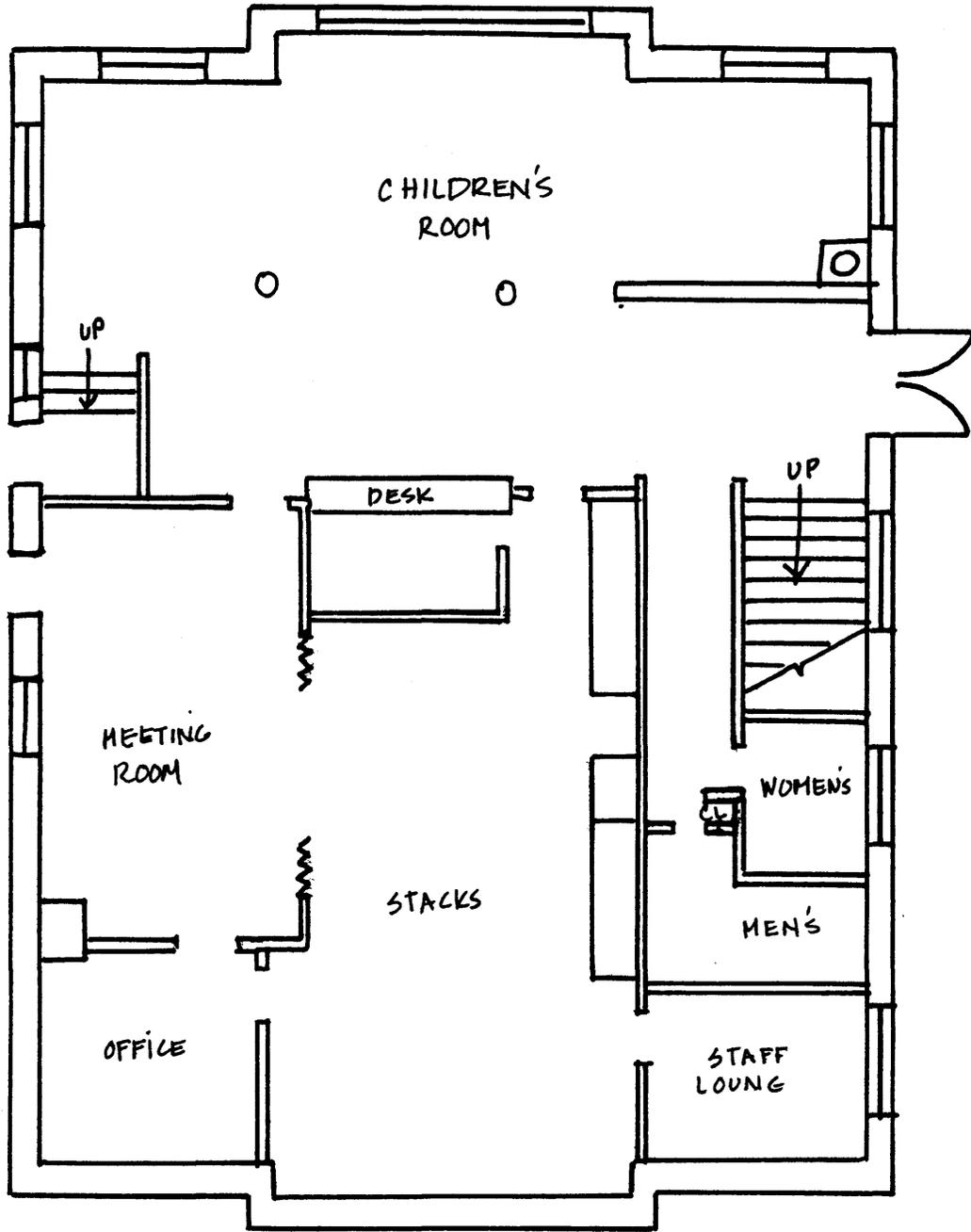
SIDEWALK



STATE STREET  
SITE PLAN: NOT TO SCALE

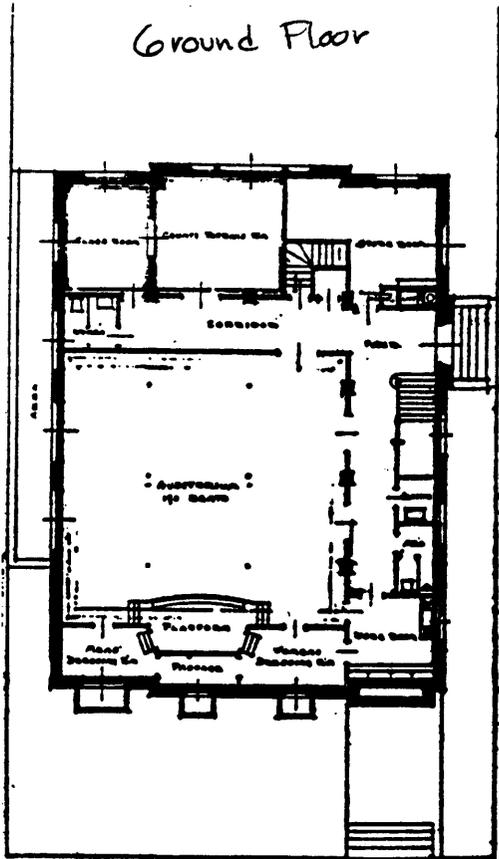


MAIN FLOOR  
NOT TO SCALE



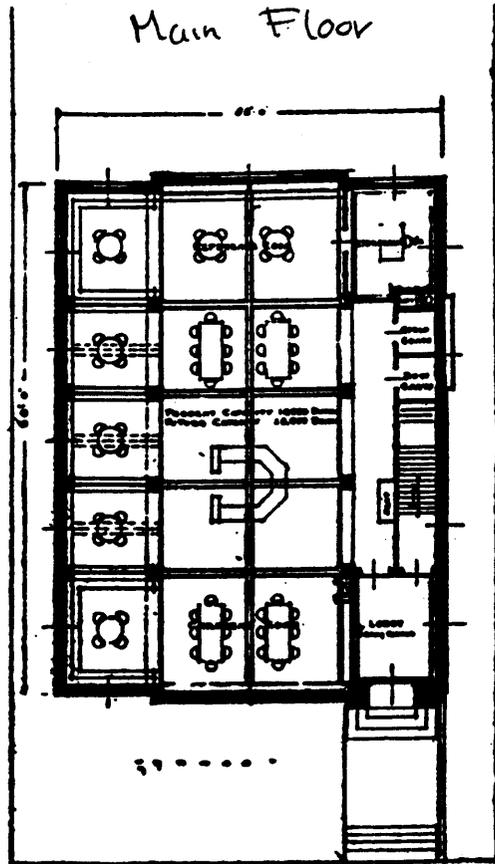
GROUND FLOOR  
NOT TO SCALE

Ground Floor



BASMENT PLAN

Main Floor



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

### Hood River County Library

Sutton & Whitney, Architects, Portland, Oregon.

Ca. 1914

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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**Photographs**

The following information is for all the photographs.

1.    **Name of Building**  
Hood River County Library  
Hood River, Hood River County, Oregon
  
2.    **Photographer**  
Paul Randall Photography  
505 Eugene Street  
Hood River, Oregon 97031
  
3.    **Date of Photographs**  
November, 1997
  
4.    **Location of Photographic Negatives**  
Paul Randall Photography  
505 Eugene Street  
Hood River, Oregon 97031
  
5.    **Current Photographs of Hood River County Library**  
November, 1997  
  
    **1 of 13**  
    South (front) and east elevations, facing northwesterly.  
  
    **2 of 13**  
    Front elevation (south) showing newer side entrance, facing north.  
  
    **3 of 13**  
    East elevation, facing northwestly.  
  
    **4 of 13**  
    North elevation, facing south.  
  
    **5 of 13**  
    West elevation and Georgiana Smith Park from State Street, facing northeast.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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**6 of 13**

Original entrance doors and portico with lanterns, facing north.

**7 of 13**

East side entrance door, facing west.

**8 of 13**

Interior view of main reading room, facing south.

**9 of 13**

Interior, downstairs children's room and east side entrance door, facing east.

**10 of 13**

Interior detail of leaded glass window in main reading room, looking north.

**11 of 13**

Detail of interior bracket on ceiling of main reading room.

**12 of 13**

Staircase: balustrade detail, facing southeast from children's room.

**13 of 13**

Georgiana Smith Park, facing north from State Street.