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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 13 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Tribal Hall of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw
other names/site number Empire Community Hall Indians
Coos Bay Community Building

2. Location

street & number 338 Wallace Street N/A not for publication
city, town Coos Bay (Empire District) N/A vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Coos code 011 zip code 97420

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date February 7, 1989
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Bennie C. Keel 3/29/89

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social: Meeting Hall
Recreation and Culture: Auditorium
Agriculture/Subsistence: Food processing
Health Care: Clinic

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social: Meeting Hall
Recreation and Culture: Auditorium
Health Care: Clinic
Education: School

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial (Cape Code)
English Cottage

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Wood, shingle
Wood, board and batten
roof Wood, shingle
other Windows: glass, double hung,
true divided light
Chimneys: brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage, Native American
Politics/Government
Social History

Period of Significance

1940-1941

Significant Dates

October 5, 1941

Cultural Affiliation

Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua
and Siuslaw Indians

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

United States Department of the Interior,
Office of Indian Affairs

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

Tribal Office, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
388 Wallace Street, Coos Bay OR 97420

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 6.12 acres Emoire, Oregon 1:24000

UTM References

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3	9	7	5	6	0
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4	8	0	4	5	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 20, Township 25S, Range 13W, Willamette Meridian, Coos County, Oregon. It is identified as Tax Lot 2200 at said location and is more particularly described as follows.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated area is comprised of the Tribal Hall and the entire 6.12 acres of Federal Trust Indian Reservation upon which it is located.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carl L. Sandstrom, Jr., Associate Economist

organization Crow/Clay and Associates date June 27, 1988

street & number 833 Anderson telephone (503) 269-9388

city or town Coos Bay state Oregon zip code 97420

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D E S C R I P T I O N

OPENING STATEMENT

The Tribal Hall of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians is located on a 6.12-acre Federal Trust Indian Reservation in the Empire District of Coos Bay, Oregon, and is presently owned by:

Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower
Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
455 South Fourth Street
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420

The original use of the structure was a multi-purpose Community Building designed to address economic, social, health and political needs of an unorganized group of Indians in southwestern Oregon. It contained:

1. Auditorium (Meeting Hall) seating approximately 300 persons
2. Kitchen for canning foodstuffs
3. Clinic for community health nurse and visiting doctor
4. Carpenter shop, primarily designed for boat construction

The building is a simplified version of the Cape Cod Colonial style with a suggestion of the English Cottage style in its steeply-pitched gable roof. The blend of American Colonial and Medieval forms and details was characteristic of a great many Federally-sponsored architectural projects in the United States during the 1930's and early 1940's. Buildings of the State Fish Hatchery erected at Bonneville on the Columbia River in 1936 are more elaborate examples of the eclectic "Colonial" type promulgated under the New Deal.

The building construction began in late 1940, and continued for approximately one year. Formal dedication ceremonies were held October 5, 1941, and at that time the exterior was substantially complete. The building architect(s) is unknown. Indian Agency records refer to the building plan as "U. S. I. S. Plan No. 402".

The abbreviation "U. S. I. S." stands for United States Indian Service, an antiquated synonym for the former Office of Indian Affairs (now known as the Bureau of Indian Affairs). A search of the National Archives in Seattle Washington, D.C. has failed to locate the plan.

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The building's general condition today is excellent because a total rehabilitation project has just been completed. The building's multi-purpose use today, outlined below, has been maintained similar to its original use.

1. Auditorium (Meeting Hall)
2. Kitchen
3. Health Clinic
4. Classroom
5. Offices
6. Restrooms

SITE

The building is located on a 6.12-acre parcel of land within the City Limits of Coos Bay, Oregon, in Section 20, Township 25 South, Range 13 West of the Willamette Meridian, Coos County, Oregon. The property consists of Lots 10-18, inclusive, Block 13 of the Unrecorded Plat of Empire Commercial Tracts. Since the plat is unrecorded, the property is legally identified by a Metes and Bounds description. See attached legal description.

The property is shaped like a right triangle and lies 200 feet southwest of Ocean Boulevard (Empire-Coos Bay State Highway No. 240). Its West boundary (the hypotenuse of the triangle) runs North and South along Woolridge Street. Its southeast border is formed by Wallace Street. A portion of Woolridge Street has been vacated and the remainder is undeveloped. Wallace Street is unimproved from Ocean Boulevard to the property line and the remainder is undeveloped. Current property access is from the West through an adjacent subdivision and across undeveloped Woolridge. Future property access is proposed directly from Ocean Boulevard by the extension and improvement of Wallace Street. Woolridge was named for Earl Woolridge, Salem Indian Superintendent during the period of property acquisition. See Statement of Significance for historical detail.

The property is a Federal Trust Indian Reservation, having been accepted into trust for the Confederated Tribes by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, in 1987. The building is located in the southern portion of the property, approximately 500 feet northeast of the South corner. The building's roof ridge lines run northwest-southeast, paralleling the northeast property line and nearby Ocean Boulevard.

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The site slopes down from the building toward the North with a difference in elevation of about 30 feet between the building and the North property corner. The structure sits approximately in the center of a circular clearing of 2/3 acre. The remainder of the property is covered with natural reproduction fir trees established subsequent to 1940, and with native vegetation. The adjacent land to the northeast in the 200-foot strip between the property line and Ocean Boulevard is principally occupied by small retail businesses. The land adjacent to the property on the southeast and West is used for a mixture of residential purposes.

BASIC SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS

As originally constructed, the building's ground plan formed an ell (photograph #4). The ridge line of the gable-roofed main volume ran northwest-southeast a distance of 35 feet with full-length shed extensions on either side, for a total building width of 60.5 feet. The "foot" of the ell was formed by a gable-roofed extension 22 feet wide projecting northwest from the southwest corner of the main volume a distance of 26 feet. The ridge line of the extension paralleled the ridge line of the main volume and the southwest slope of its roof was a continuation of the shed extension roof on that side.

The structure had a covered but unenclosed front porch at the center of the northeast side, a covered but unenclosed rear porch at the southwest corner of the main volume and a small enclosed water pump house with a shed roof at the southwest corner. The porch roofs were an extension of the adjacent shed extension roofs. As originally constructed, the building contained a total of 2,689.5 square feet, not counting porches or pump house, all on one floor (photograph #7 through #10).

Sometime during the period of occupancy by the U.S. Naval Reserve (late 1950's) two major building additions were constructed, the entry points were changed and the pump house was removed. The first major addition was a second gable-roofed extension to the main volume from the northwest corner of that volume running parallel with the original extension for the same distance. Although similar in appearance to the original extension, the second was wider and it extended 5.5 feet beyond the original northeast exterior wall. Because of its greater width, the second extension's roof line did not match the shed roof of the main volume on that side and protruded above it. The second major addition was the enclosure of the area between the two extensions.

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This enclosure was also gable-roofed and its ridge line was centered on the ridge line of the main volume (photographs #19 through #21).

The Navy's modification of the building entrances consisted of the following actions: (1) Removal of the front doors and enclosure of the original front porch area, (2) Construction of a 5.5 foot wide addition to the northeast side of the building between the East corner and the porch (photograph #17), (3) Enclosure of the original back porch area, (4) Construction of a porch and stairs for the doorway at the end of the original building extension (photograph #21), and (5) Construction of a porch canopy over the southeast door to the main volume (photograph #15).

The recently completed renovation has re-established the main volume exterior wall nearer its original location by (1) Removing the enclosure of the original front porch and siting the front doors in their historic location, (2) Removing most of the later addition to the northeast side between the East corner and the front porch (photograph #24), (3) Removing the enclosure of the back porch (photograph #25), (4) Removing the porch canopy over the southeast door, and (5) Re-configuring the stairs and porch at the end of the original extension. The renovated building is nearly square (longest dimensions: 67.5 feet by 60.5 feet) and contains 3,960 square feet on one floor.

BASIC STRUCTURAL DETAILS

The foundation under the original construction was a continuous concrete wall, approximately 6 inches thick, around the perimeter of the building, poured integrally with a below-grade concrete footing. Three more similar walls were spaced under the main volume parallel to the ridge and one of these walls continued down the middle of the original extension (photograph #3). Floor joists of 2 x 12 material placed 16 inches on center were supported by the walls and were diagonally sheathed with 1 x 8 sub-flooring (photograph #4). Porch foundations were also concrete--either solid slabs or poured perimeter walls partially filled with earth and capped with a slab. A portion of the later second gable-roofed extension was constructed using a poured slab on grade at a lower elevation as both foundation and floor. With the exception of this portion, all later additions conformed to, and were on the same level as, the concrete wall-joist-subfloor design followed in the original structure. During the renovation, the floor in the extension built on a slab was raised so all floors in the renovated structure are at the same level.

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Exterior and interior bearing walls were framed with 2 x 6 studding on 16 inch centers. Exterior walls were diagonally sheathed with 1 x 8 lumber. The interior bearing walls around the perimeter of the auditorium were balloon-framed and carried above the height of the shed extension ceiling joists to provide rafter support at the break in the roof pitch (photographs #5 and #6). The rafters were 2 x 8 lumber on 16 inch centers, braced to the ceiling joists to form a series of triangles for rigidity and support. The roof was sheathed with spaced 1 x 6 lumber, covered with building paper and clad with sawn red cedar shingles exposed 5-1/2 inches to the weather.

SALIENT FEATURES OF EXTERIOR

The exterior is dominated by the steep roof and the high ridge line of the main volume. The effect of this upward sweep is enhanced by enclosure of the main volume gables with vertical boards and battens. The roof slope is broken at the edge of the main meeting room to provide full-length, eaveless shed extensions (photograph #23).

The original and two subsequent extensions to the main volume follow the roof slope of its sheds. Although these three extensions represent a substantial part of total building area, their shape and symmetrical placement has allowed the continued dominance of the main volume's ridge (photograph #21). Despite changes over time, the building's style, a simplified version of the Cape Cod Colonial style with a suggestion of the English Cottage style, is still easily recognized. This blend of American Colonial and Medieval forms and details was characteristic of a great many Federally-sponsored architectural projects in the United States during the 1930's and early 1940's.

The exterior walls of this building were originally clad with sawn red cedar shingles exposed to the weather about 8-1/2 inches. In the building's nearly half-century of existence many of these shingles had deteriorated, were broken by vandals or disturbed by the many building alterations (photographs #15 through #18). In addition, shortly after construction the walls were painted white, and after 1973 they were substantially covered with painted Indian art. Removal of this paint was not practical, and the selective

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replacement of deteriorated, broken or missing shingles would have resulted in a patchwork appearance, at best, and compromised the waterproof integrity of the walls. The renovation, therefore, included the replacement of all shingles in a fashion to precisely match the original materials and layup.

The roof covering of the main volume and original extension to it consisted of sawn red cedar shingles exposed 5-1/2 inches to the weather. Later additions during the U.S. Navy's occupancy followed a similar treatment. As the original shingles deteriorated, most of the roof received a second cover of rolled or built-up roofing materials. The renovation included the removal of all roofing materials down to the original roof sheathing and the installation of new shingles again to precisely match the original materials and layup.

SPECIFIC FEATURES

The original structure had a front porch and an entrance to the main volume extension on the northeast side, an entrance to the main meeting room on the southeast side, a rear porch on the southwest side and an entrance to the boat shop extension at its northwest end. The roof of both porches was a continuation of the shed roof. The meeting room and extension entrances were uncovered. Additions by the Navy resulted in elimination of the front porch, enclosure of the back porch, elimination of the northeast entrance to the extension and use of the meeting room door as the principal building entrance. The renovation located the main entrance to its historic location at the front porch. The original exterior doors were wood paneled with four-light glazed panels at the top. The front door was a double door and the doors at the end of the extension were two solid leaves. Since the original doors, jambs and trim have long since disappeared, all doors have been replaced to match the historic doors as nearly as current manufacturing permits.

The major space of the central volume was lighted by three large double hung (sixteen over sixteen) windows centered on the end elevations (photographs #6 through #8). Most of the remaining window openings were fitted with paired double-hung wooden window sash, six over six. A few of the smaller windows were not divided at the lower frame. The second and third building extensions by the Navy eliminated the large windows on the northwest side. At the time renovation began, all of the window openings had been boarded up as a result of vandalism. Only one original window sash, a 16-pane section, remained intact and it had broken glass.

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The owners elected to fit all window openings with wooden sash, true divided light, insulated windows to replicate the appearance of the original windows.

The building was originally constructed with two tall brick chimneys. The larger chimney served both the meeting hall wood heater and the kitchen wood range. The smaller chimney was used with a wood stove which heated the boat shop extension. Sometime during the Navy's occupancy a third, shorter brick chimney was added to the exterior near the East corner. During the building's rehabilitation, this chimney was removed. The original chimneys are sound, functional appliances and will remain in place but, due to code and functional considerations, will not be used in the renovated building. In the future, a heat pump will provide climate control and the kitchen will be all-electric.

As originally constructed, the building had a small five-foot square attached "water supply" with a shed roof at its South corner. This must have contained the well pump because the site was not served by a public water supply and a well was originally proposed for the building's use. Remains of an abandoned well have been discovered.

The building exterior did not and does not incorporate decorative elements or contain other architecturally-prominent features. It is a very simple, but attractive building. This attractiveness flows from its very simplicity which allow the building's form and volume to dominate. It is a study in form, not a study in detail.

INTERIOR

The photographs (#1 - #14) taken during the period of building construction are not dated. It is a simple task to assign reasonably accurate dates to the exterior photographs but the interiors (#11 - #14) present a problem. The newspaper account of the dedication ceremonies (Bibliography No. 9) reported:

"The building is unfinished on the interior, in two of the rooms, but Supt. Fredenberg said he thought the work ought to be completed within two or three weeks." [Emphasis added]

However, all of the available interior photographs (#11-#14) show apparently completed rooms. The original building contained separate rooms for a meeting hall, kitchen, boat shop and two office rooms, one of which was designated as the "Clinic". Based

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on the photographs alone, it is reasonable to conclude that the meeting hall, kitchen, clinic and part of the boat shop were finished at the time the photographs were taken. When were they taken? This question cannot be answered with precision. The other office was finished, if at all, at an unknown later date. The issue is complicated by copies of two letters from the Superintendent found in Agency files. The first, a letter dated August 19, 1942, directs one of the Agency staff to take one more table to the building and, while there, move the "sawhorses and unsightly material" out of the building and into the shed nearby. This letter seems to indicate that significant interior work was, or recently had been, going on nearly a year after dedication. The second letter, dated October 11, 1944, was to a Marshfield contracting company, Schroeder & Hilderbrandt, asking them to hurry and finish their work so the kitchen's canning equipment could be installed. This letter indicates that the kitchen was not completely functional as late as three years after dedication. For these reasons, interior photographs #11-#14 showing apparently completed rooms are assigned dates as late as 1942.

A floor plan of the structure, as completed, is not available. The meeting hall was, obviously, in the main volume. Interior photographs established the kitchen location within all or most of the southwest shed extension to the main volume, extending from the South corner of the building, to or past, the rear porch. The kitchen and hall stoves, separated by an interior wall, were back-to-back on the same chimney. The "clinic" office and second (likely unfinished) offices were located on either side of the entrance foyer under the northeast shed extension to the main volume. The clinic was at the left front of the building, between the front porch and the East corner. The boat shop was, of course, located in the original building extension.

During the period of Navy occupancy the second and third extensions were added to the northwest end of the building and some interior walls in the original structure were changed. With the closing of the front porch entrance, the two offices and foyer in that shed extension became three rooms, one quite large and one very tiny. The meeting room in the main volume and the boat shop extension were not changed. The kitchen became three rooms, one of which still served as a kitchen. The second extension on the northwest corner was divided into a maze of seven spaces of varying sizes. The third ("in-fill") extension contained one large room.

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The renovation has eliminated the interior walls added by the Navy and returned the spatial organization of the structure closer to historic design. With the re-establishment of the front entrance in its historic location, the northeast shed extension now contains restrooms and a large foyer. With the exception of a small office, most of the southwest shed extension has been returned to its historic use as a kitchen. The original boat shop extension has become the new health clinic. The seven-space maze in the second extension was completely eliminated and this space is now used for two large offices, janitor/storage and as an extension of the foyer. The third extension is now a classroom with folding doors allowing its use in concert with the main meeting hall (photograph #27).

An Agency survey of the building in 1944 reported that the floors were finished with either 1 x 4 tongue-and-groove fir or linoleum and the ceilings were covered with plywood and insulation board. This survey and the four interior photographs are the only sources of information about the original interior.

The meeting hall photograph shows plywood walls, the 1 x 4 floor and also a wainscoting not mentioned in the 1944 survey. At the time the renovation began, the floor, plywood walls and plywood ceiling remained but most of the wainscoting had been removed, disfigured, painted over or otherwise damaged beyond restoration. No evidence of the ceiling "insulation board" was found. The photographs of the kitchen, clinic and view through the boat shop show the 1 x 4 flooring and a wallcovering consisting of vertical wood strips approximately six inches wide. The boat shop ceiling also appears to be covered with strip material rather than plywood as indicated by the survey.

With the exception of the flooring, none of the original interior fabric remained in the rooms other than the meeting hall when renovation began. Generally the interiors were an uncoordinated mixture of original flooring, linoleum and tile on the floors, and plywood, paneling, boards, acoustical tile and sheetrock on walls and ceilings.

The fact that the building interior was not fully completed during the original construction coupled with the disappearance of what interior fabric had been placed and the diversity of later finishes, provided the opportunity for a new, consistent interior treatment during renovation. With the exception of tile in the foyer, sheet vinyl in the kitchen and restrooms and the original wood floor in the meeting hall, the floors are carpeted. Wall

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surfaces are now gypsum board. The plywood ceiling in the meeting hall has been retained. Other ceilings are gypsum board.

The building's strongest interior character defining feature is the high-ceilinged meeting hall in the main volume. This ceiling height is the interior acknowledgement of the building's exterior form--the simple, unadorned upsweep of the main volume's classic roof.

OUTBUILDINGS

At the time of building dedication in 1941 no outbuildings had been constructed but a caretaker's cottage was being discussed. (Please see the Statement of Significance for more information.) The 1944 Agency survey reported that both a cottage and garage/woodshed were in existence at that time. The information which follows is from that survey and is the only known information about those two structures. No physical evidence of their existence or location exists at the present time.

The caretaker's cottage was a rectangular, gable-roofed structure 18 feet wide and 24 feet long with a small covered porch. It was built in 1942 at an estimated cost of \$355. The exterior walls and roof were clad with wood shingles to match those on the community building and the interior was finished with 1 x 4 tongue-and-groove flooring, plywood ceilings and wall board. It was heated with a wood stove. The surveyor reported its condition as "fair" in 1944.

The garage/woodshed was also a rectangular gable-roofed structure. It measured 17 feet by 20 feet and was constructed in 1942 at an estimated cost of \$187. The roof was clad with wood shingles but the exterior walls, interior partitions and ceilings were all 1 x 8 shiplap. The floor was simply noted as being constructed of "wood".

IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONMENT

The only significant feature of the building's environment also happens to be an important feature. The building is located on a 6.12-acre site which has historical significance paralleling and reinforcing that of the building. The site is a Federal Trust Indian Reservation completely surrounded by the incorporated city of Coos Bay, Oregon. It was the original acceptance of this site by the Federal government which allowed the building construction grant funds to become available.

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In a sense, the site has developed during the past near half-century in much the same way the Indian nation has developed. Back in 1940 when building plans first got underway the site was a logged-over patch of old growth fir stumps (photograph #1). Now much of the site is covered by natural reproduction second growth timber. This renewal of the timber resource during the lifetime of the building is symbolic of the renewal of the Indian nation during the same period as a direct result of this building's existence.

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The Tribal Hall of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians occupies a tract of 6 acres near the intersection of Newmark Avenue and Ocean Boulevard in the Empire district of Coos Bay, Oregon. It was erected in 1941. The hall and the land together served as the rallying point for tribal members in a thirty-year struggle for restoration of their status as an Indian nation following passage of the Western Oregon Termination Act. The Federal law, which was aimed at assimilating the Native American Indian population, resulted in the confederated tribes being stripped of their tiny Federal Trust Reservation, and the trusteeship being awarded to the City of the Empire.

While the confederated tribes never accepted the terms of the Termination Act, it was not until 1973, when the City of Coos Bay, having annexed Empire by that time, deeded the property to the corporate entity which had been formed by the tribes. Finally, in 1984 Congress acted to recognize the corporation's status as an Indian nation.

Construction of the hall on the logged over tract was begun in 1940. It was among the first such betterment projects sponsored by Indian Affairs Commissioner John Collier under Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration. It was a "make work" project which put unproductive land to good use and provided jobs for skilled workers in addition to producing a functional community hall. It is believed the tribal hall is the only one of its kind in Oregon dating from the Depression era.

The social significance of the hall is discussed in detail in the following context statement. The building is less than 50 years old but the property as a whole meets National Register standards for exceptional significance under Criterion A as tangible evidence of the manner in which the New Deal responded to social needs during the Great Depression and as the symbol of an uncommon stand against termination taken by a western Oregon Indian nation.

Architecturally, the tribal hall was designed to be functional, rather than imposing or ceremonial. The white-washed, shingle clad building was a blend of Cape Cod Colonial and the kind of institutionalized English Arts and Crafts style employed by Federal agencies in thousands of public works projects across the country.

During the time the trust reservation was held by a local unit of government, the building was leased to the United States Navy and enlarged. Upon its return to the confederated tribes in 1973, the hall was altered further, and east and west elevations were decorated with traditional Native American art work. During periods when it was unoccupied, the building had deteriorated severely in the rainy coastal climate. Renovation of the hall was completed in 1988 with the assistance of a Department of Housing and Urban Development community development block grant.

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Owing to its complete deterioration, the shingle siding shown in original construction photographs was comprehensively replaced. Original exterior doors and most window assemblies were no longer extant and thus those in use were replaced with factory-made doors and double-hung windows very closely approximating those of 1940. Finally, very little historic interior finish work survived the intervening adaptations. The renovation was nonetheless successful and reflects well in both spirit and exterior detail the building of the Depression era.

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HISTORICAL CONTEXT STATEMENT

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT

This property is generally significant under National Register Criterion "A" because it is directly associated with the needs manifested by the Great Depression and the Roosevelt Administration's "New Deal" response to those needs. Both the Great Depression and the New Deal were milestones in 20th Century United States history: events that have made a significant contribution to its broad patterns.

The property has specific significance in the areas of Social History, Native American Ethnic Heritage and Politics/Government. It has social significance because many New Deal social programs were tailored to the needs of specific groups and this property is an example of such a program. Indians benefited from, among other programs, the Work Projects Administration (WPA), the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (IRA) and the Indian Division of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC-ID). A combination of these three programs enabled the construction of this property. The IRA was a complete reversal of prior Federal policy toward Indians.

The property has specific heritage and governmental significance for two reasons: (1) It required the recipients to take the first formal steps to re-form as a sovereign nation and (2) it served as a rallying point for that nation to sustain itself in a 30-year successful struggle to oppose the Western Oregon Termination Act of 1954. Simply stated, the property both created and preserved a nation.

The property achieved its significance during the period 1940-1941, a period within the past 50 years. However, it is considered of exceptional importance under Criterion Consideration "G" because (1) It is the last known surviving intact New Deal Indian Community Building left in Oregon funded as a result of the WPA and the IRA, (2) It caused the re-birth of an Indian nation and (3) It sustained that nation in a long successful struggle through a period of opposition to the Termination Act.

ORGANIZATION OF STATEMENT

This Statement develops the historic context of the property by placing it within the broad pattern of events which culminated with

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the New Deal. This placement requires substantial background information and begins with a brief history of the Federal government's policy toward Indians prior to the New Deal. This is followed by a biographical sketch of John Collier, Roosevelt's Commissioner of Indian Affairs from 1933 to 1945. Collier is considered the "architect" of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. Although this property is not nominated under Criterion "B" as being associated with a significant person, it is a fitting monument to Collier. An understanding of his ideas about social organization is essential for a complete understanding of New Deal Indian programs.

Significant facts about the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of 1934 are discussed next and this discussion is followed by a chronology of the local events before, during and immediately following the construction of the Community Building. The Statement concludes with a discussion of the property's later role as a rallying point during the period of Termination beginning in 1954.

FEDERAL INDIAN POLICY BEFORE THE NEW DEAL

The United States government has never had a consistent long-term policy in dealing with its native citizens. Some critical historians go so far as to say that a policy of any sort has never existed at any time! During the past 200 years Federal actions have been ranged from open warfare to benevolent paternalism to studied indifference. This history is well documented and will not be repeated here. The paragraphs which follow are considered the minimum necessary for a background of the New Deal.

The War Department was the first Federal department to supervise Indian matters and it discharged its duties with military efficiency from 1789 until 1849 when Congress transferred its Commissioner of Indian Affairs to the Department of the Interior. After the transfer, the office was known as the Office of Indian Affairs (OIA). In 1947 its name was changed to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

During the 19th century, Superintendencies and Agencies were the two principal types of field jurisdiction in the OIA. Superintendents were responsible for a large area, usually a Territory. Agents looked after the affairs of one or more tribes and usually reported to a Superintendent. The Oregon Superintendency was established in 1848. During the 1870's the system of interposing Superintendents between Washington, D.C. and

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Agents in the field was phased out and all Agents reported directly to the OIA. The title "Superintendent" replaced that of "Agent" in the early 1890's.

The number and jurisdiction of Oregon Agencies varied in the first three decades of the 20th Century. The beginning of the New Deal found by Grand Ronde, Silteez and Southwestern Oregon Indians jointly under the supervision of an Agency at the Chemewa Indian School in Salem. In 1938, a separate Salem Agency was opened and the events associated with the construction of the Community Building passed through this Agency during 1939-1941. Earl Wooldridge served as Salem Agency Superintendent during most of this period. He was succeeded by Ralph Fredenberg in mid-1941.

From the 1800's until 1934 the Federal government put strong pressure on Indian tribes to discard traditional customs and assimilate the majority white culture. The instrument of Federal policy (if any policy existed) during this period was the General Allotment Act of 1887 (The Dawes Severalty Act). This Act permitted the breaking up of tribal or reservation land into individual allotments if the President of the United States believed the land could be more advantageously utilized. Each Indian head of family was eligible for 80 acres of agricultural land or 160 acres of grazing land. The deed to the land was retained by the Federal Government for 25 years, or longer if the President believed an extension was necessary. At the end of this period, title to the land was given to the Indian along with his citizenship. Lands not allotted to individual Indians were declared "surplus" and opened up to homesteading. The government believed forcing Indians to become individual farmers would accelerate their assimilation into the dominant culture.

The Indian social upheaval caused by the Dawes Severalty Act was compounded by the Burke Act of 1906 which allowed certain allottees to receive a patent in fee which permitted them to sell or lease their land. The practice of fee patenting grew and between 1915 and 1920 a Federal "Competency Commission" ordered the issuance of 20,000 patents to Indians of less than one-half blood, despite the protests of the recipients who would be unable to pay taxes on the land. Because many Indians had little interest in agriculture and their farms were too small to yield an adequate income, many allotments were sold at low prices. Many parcels left Indian hands because of questionable dealings between Indian Agents and local whites. By 1933, when allotment sales and the issuance of fee patents was ordered stopped by the OIA, 91 million acres, or two-

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thirds of the original Indian land base, had passed into non-Indians hands! (Bibliography -1)

JOHN COLLIER (1894-1968)

John Collier, a colorful, controversial figure in the New Deal, was the "architect" of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (IRA), the primary instrument of New Deal policy toward Indians and the Act which enabled the Community Building to be built. An excellent work on his life, beliefs and accomplishments is listed as Bibliography reference #2. The facts about his life presented here are limited to those required for an understanding of the development of his social theories and efforts to preserve Indian tribal culture.

John Collier was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on May 4, 1884, and attended Columbia University in New York City. The exposure to New York's "melting pot" social structure during this period of mass immigration to the United States left a strong and lasting impression on this young student. He devoted the rest of his life to the task of creating a sense of community life in an industrial society. In 1907 he became a social worker at the People's Institute, an organization in New York City which attempted to give immigrants a sense of solidarity in local neighborhood communities.

After seeing some of his social work negated by the "Americanization" drive of World War I, he moved to California in 1919 to lead that state's adult education program. In 1920 during the "Red Scare" he found himself under surveillance by the Department of Justice because of his lectures about community life and its relationship to the Russian Revolution. He resigned his position to visit the wilderness of Mexico. It is uncertain if he simply wanted to get away and rethink his ideas or if he felt compelled to flee the country for a time. His Mexican visit was brief, however, because, also in 1920, he was contacted by a Bohemian lady he had known in Greenwich Village during his days of social work there. She persuaded him to join her near the Indian Pueblo at Taos, New Mexico.

Collier's fascination with Indian culture developed as a result of this stay at Taos. He came to believe the Pueblo Indians had, at one time, developed integrated social structures which provided an ideal community life; i.e., they had discovered how to be both communists and individualists at the same time. Collier concluded that Pueblo culture, and perhaps tribal life in general, offered a

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model for white society, a meaningful alternative to the fragmentation of that society brought about by industrialism and urbanization.

In 1932 Collier became Executive Secretary of the American Indian Defense Association and continued his study of Indian social organizations. The social upheaval caused by the Great Depression and the very liberal (socialistic?) New Deal response to it provided the perfect vehicle for Collier's use in putting his social theories into practice. President Roosevelt appointed Harold Ickes as Secretary of the Interior in his first cabinet. Ickes was well acquainted with the problems of Indians, receptive to change and supportive of Collier's earlier social work. Through the personal invention of Ickes, Collier was able to secure the appointment of Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Ickes' department. Collier served in that capacity from 1933 until Roosevelt's death in 1945.

Collier continued his interest in Indian affairs after leaving government service. From 1947 until his retirement in 1954 he was Professor of Sociology at City College, New York. On May 8, 1968, John Collier died at his home in Taos, New Mexico, near the origin of the Pueblo culture he embraced and espoused.

THE INDIAN REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1934

At the time John Collier became Commissioner of Indian Affairs in 1933, a combination of circumstances existed which enabled him to implement his ideas with a minimum of delay. The nation was staggering under the effects of the Great Depression and Indians were especially vulnerable. The nation had a new Democratic president particularly receptive to liberal new ideas and the Democratic Party controlled both houses of Congress. A private concern, the Institute for Government Research, had already examined the plight of Indians under the Dawes Severalty Act and its report, known as the Meriam Report, provided reformers with needed ammunition when it was published in 1928. By 1933 Congress was considering a Senate committee report, instigated by publication of the Meriam Report, which represented a four-year study and called for major changes in the Indian Service (OIA). In his first annual report Commissioner Collier outlined the policies he proposed to pursue: abandonment of land allotments, consolidation of allotted lands for tribal use, financial aid to

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cooperative Indian groups, a trend away from boarding schools for Indian children, decentralization of the OIA and more self-government encouraged among Indian societies.

On June 18, 1934, Congress passed the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (also known as the Wheeler-Howard Act for its Senate-House sponsors) and the Act was promptly signed into law by President Roosevelt. This Act did not force a change in Federal policy on Indians but rather permitted them to take advantage of its terms if they so voted. The Act's major terms were:

1. It became operative if a majority vote of members of a tribe adopted it at a formal election.
2. The allotment acts were repealed, the land trust period continued indefinitely and the unsold lands remaining after allotment were returned to the Indians.
3. Authorized appropriations of \$2 million per year to purchase new land for Indians.
4. Created a revolving loan fund for Indian agriculture and industrial projects.
5. Provided for the recognition of properly elected and constituted tribal governments, constitutions and business corporations.

After the Act's passage Collier set up a series of six Indian "Congresses" across the country to promote the Act and allow input from Indians. Reaction was mixed. Some large Indian groups that were more nearly assimilated into the majority culture in 1934 opposed the Act. The most noticeable opponents were the Navajos and some of the Oklahoma Indians. In Oregon, the Grand Ronde accepted the Act and the Siletz rejected it. In southwestern Oregon the individual Indians did not have a governmental entity in place to call for or conduct an election and they did not, therefore, have an opportunity to vote. Before the New Deal ended, 258 Indian elections were held on the IRA and over two-thirds of the eligible tribes voted to accept it. Ninety-two of 258 tribes wrote constitutions as a result of acceptance.

The IRA was controversial in its day and remains so among historians to the present time. Even though Collier was successful in obtaining passage of the IRA, he had many critics in the U.S.

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Senate. Collier has been accused--and probably rightly so--of using forceful, unethical administrative tactics and of coercing or deceiving tribes into ratifying the IRA. The Act itself did have some serious deficiencies: it did not provide enough money to purchase and consolidate needed Indian lands or properly fund the revolving loan program, it failed to solve the problem of land allotted before 1933 and it led to the growth of a centralized Indian bureau for the provision of expanded social services. This contradicted earlier promises that the Federal government would encourage and respect tribal sovereignty and the right to self-determination. Nevertheless, the Act was a significant milestone in Federal Indian relations and a significant event in the series of events which culminated with the construction of the Community Building proposed for Register nomination here. The money to build the building came from the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act of 1939 and site work was provided by CCC-ID funds. The IRA was simply the instrument which formalized the change in Federal attitude toward tribes and enabled relief funds to be directed at this effort. Lawrence C. Kelly, a student of Indian Affairs, appraised IRA in a positive way:

"Collier's success in circumventing the limitations on Indian self-government and the revitalization of cultural life stemmed largely from his ability to obtain funds from a host of New Deal relief and recovery agencies . . . which kept Indians on the reservation and stimulated their involvement in industries devoted to traditional arts and crafts. He employed men and materials authorized by these agencies in the construction of community centers and tribal headquarters, in an effort to strengthen, and in some cases create, tribal political activity." [Emphasis added] (Bibliography #3)

The continuing controversy surrounding Collier, the New Deal and the IRA's ultimate impact on Indians can be summarized by quoting two recent, somewhat divergent, points of view.

"The reforms of the Indian New Deal failed to endure because, in the last analysis, they were imposed upon the Indians, who did not see these elaborate proposals as answers to their own wants and needs. The most durable legacy of the Indian New Deal, the tribal governments established under the Indian Reorganization Act, evolved into a form far removed from that which Collier and his fellow reformers intended or anticipated . . ." (Bibliography #4)

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"It is difficult in analyzing the period to determine which events were products of the IRA as such, which resulted from the changes brought about during the Depression Era, and which should be traced to the activities the Indians engaged in as a result of the war. Whatever the origin of a particular activity, the period from 1933 to 1945 was one of growth for the Indians of the United States. As a people, the Indians were better prepared to manage their own affairs in 1945 than they were in 1933." (Bibliography #5)

LOCAL EVENTS (1939 - 1941)

Information about local events in southwestern Oregon during the period 1939-1941 was obtained from selected records of the Office of Indian Affairs, Grand Ronde-Siletz Indian Agency and Portland Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, located at the Federal Archives and Records Center, Region 10, Seattle, Washington. The record inventory exceeds one hundred cubic feet. Many records of the Grand Ronde-Siletz Agency were dispersed into the records of the Portland Area Office during the Termination period and all of them have not been located or properly placed. Research is further complicated because the Area Office records are still in the process of being arranged. However, preliminary inventories are available to guide research. See bibliography reference #6.

Local events impacting the Community Building and its Indian owners following World War II are summarized from Dr. Beckham's excellent history, The Indians of Western Oregon: This Land Was Theirs, (Bibliography #7) and from local Indian records.

By 1939 the OIA had reached the point in its program where it could begin to look at the needs of smaller, obscure groups of Indians. On March 25 of that year Commissioner Collier instructed Salem Superintendent Earl Wooldridge by letter to begin preliminary work on a detailed study of the needs of Indians under his jurisdiction. Collier named a study committee for this purpose consisting of Wooldridge; Fred Baker, San Francisco Land Field Agent; a credit agent and two general field agents. Collier specifically directed the study committee to explore the desirability of purchasing a tract of land "for the benefit of Public Domain Allottees in Southern Oregon, which could later serve as a Reservation." [Emphasis added].

The study committee acted promptly. On May 5, 1939, it submitted a written report of its findings to Collier. Based on several

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meetings and a trip around the Agency's jurisdiction (which included a visit to Empire), the committee reported: (1) the U.S. government had recognized Southern Oregon Indians in the past, (2) a census of these scattered tribes, although incomplete, had been maintained, (3) the census and individual land holdings should be updated, and (4) the San Francisco land division would begin investigating land needs about June 1.

That land investigation did not begin as promised. On August 26, 1939, Wooldridge wrote again to the OIA. He stated his belief that a community center was needed and that it should be built somewhere in the Marshfield (now Coos Bay) area. In this letter Wooldridge makes the first mention of a letter he had recently received from Mr. Robertson, President of Robertson Timber Co. in Empire. Robertson formally offered to give the Federal government a site in Empire if the government would build an Indian community building on it. Wooldridge stated he had requested "rehabilitation funds" in his latest budget to construct such a building and asked if Robertson's offer could be accepted.

On October 11, 1939, OIA responded to Wooldridge with confirmation of statutory authority to accept such a gift and a request for Wooldridge's recommendation. By the end of 1939 Wooldridge had still not heard from the San Francisco Field office about the promised land investigation so he wrote Baker again, urging his early visit to Empire.

In the meantime, Wooldridge proceeded with his plans. He organized a meeting of Southern Oregon Indians in Empire which was held on January 25, 1940, and 72 Indians attended. For purposes of the meeting, George Wasson (an Indian and friend of Robertson) was elected chairman and Fred Sandberg (also an Indian) was elected Secretary. Wooldridge explained the possibility of community building construction and the obligations of the recipients in accepting such a gift. Wooldridge stated that OIA procedures required the Indians to pass a resolution requesting OIA assistance with such a building and to elect at least two "Trustees" to sign necessary request papers and assume responsibility for the building. The 72 Indians in attendance passed the requested resolution by a vote of 54 to 5 and elected three trustees: Fred Sandberg, James Siestreem and Edwin E. Sprague.

This date, January 25, 1940, is an important one in the history of Southern Oregon Indians because it marked their first political decision-making response to an offer made to them as a group under

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Collier's "Indian New Deal". It must be emphasized that the action taken by this meeting was not a tribal acceptance of the provisions of the IRA. These Indians did not have a formal tribal government and the OIA was not asking them to create one at this time. It was, however, asking for a group request and the acceptance of group responsibility, administrative "first steps" required by Collier as a means to advance his goals of Indian self-government.

By this time, San Francisco Land Agent Baker had made his inspection visit to Empire and met with both Wooldridge and Robertson. His report on the land, recommending acceptance of the gift, was forwarded to OIA along with Wooldridge's report on the January 25 meeting and the Indian resolution adopted at that meeting.

The Indians had their next meeting in Empire on April 7, 1940. Wooldridge was again present and read a March 4 OIA letter informing him that \$6,000 had been tentatively allocated for community building construction but disbursement was being withheld pending receipt of a second resolution from the Indians, this one agreeing to accept responsibility for building maintenance. Those in attendance engaged in a lengthy, sometimes heated, discussion about ways to generate revenue for maintenance. They considered fund-raising events, renting of the building and, as a last resort, assessing themselves. The meeting finally passed a resolution accepting responsibility for maintenance.

Problems still existed and their exact nature may remain forever unknown. Someone (OIA or Baker?) suggested the possibility of withdrawing the \$6,000 commitment. This prompted a hurried memo from Wooldridge to OIA on April 23. Since that memo shows the difficulties Wooldridge was facing, a portion of it is reproduced here:

"It is also important to us that we continue with present plans at Coos Bay, where several meetings have been held with these people relative to a community hall. They have understood the money was available and if it is now withdrawn, I am afraid the same will be looked upon as a broken promise. We are just starting a program for this group of people and planned to use the community hall and center as a beginning. I realize the land acceptance has been a controlling factor, but Mr. Stewart seems to feel the deed can be accepted within a reasonable short time." [Emphasis added]

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Whatever the problem that existed was apparently resolved, for, on May 13, 1940, Assistant Commissioner William Zimmerman, Jr. made the following letter commitment to Wooldridge:

"This is also to advise you that, subject to acceptance of the final deed and completion of the donation, rehabilitation funds will be made available for construction of the community building".

The project was underway!

Now that he was assured of a building, Wooldridge took a second step in his efforts to organize these people. At a June 16, 1940, Indian meeting he explained the IRA and presented arguments for acceptance of it. He stressed its voluntary nature and told the meeting the first step in acceptance of the IRA would be drafting of a Tribal Constitution. Some interest in IRA was expressed at the meeting but, apparently, nothing was done about it. Wooldridge concluded the meeting with a status report on the community building: OIA was about ready to accept Robertson's deed for the land and \$500 had been allocated in the CCC-ID budget to clear the building site of stumps (photograph #1).

On August 21, 1940, Wooldridge requested an increase in the \$6,000 building grant to allow the purchase of building equipment and additional site work. On September 10 OIA responded, informing Wooldridge that no funds were currently available and suggesting CCC-ID as the best source of site work.

There is, unfortunately, a "gap" in the Agency correspondence records from September 10, 1940, until August 21, 1941, when the new Agency Superintendent, Ralph Fredenberg, reported to OIA that the building was nearing completion and requested additional funds for equipment and further improvements. Correspondence during this construction period may surface as the National Archives continues its classification and placement work. The information available at the present time is presented in the following paragraphs.

A major funding instrument of the New Deal was a series of Emergency Relief Appropriation Acts in 1935, 1937, 1938 and 1939. The Act of 1939 (H. J. 326; June 30, 1939; see bibliography #8) appropriated \$1,477,000,000 to the Work Projects Administration (WPA) to continue funding for the purposes began by the earlier Acts. Section 5(a) "Indian Service" states:

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"In order to continue to provide relief and rural rehabilitation for needy Indians in the United States, there is hereby appropriated to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1940, \$1,350,000.

Section 5(b) prescribes how this money shall be spent:

"The funds provided in this section shall be available for (1) administration, not to exceed \$67,500; (2) loans; (3) relief; (4) the prosecution of projects approved by the President for the Farm Security Administration for the benefit of Indians under the provisions of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1938; and (5) subject to the approval of the President, for the projects involving rural rehabilitation of needy Indians".
[Emphasis added]

Six thousand of these dollars was disbursed by Grant Agreement ER-I-97 Ind-4 to the "Coos Bay Tribe". This \$6,000 represented only four millionths of the WPA appropriation and four thousandths of the BIA appropriation but it was a small fortune in Empire during the closing days of the Depression. An OIA report on the rehabilitation program referred to the building's funds as being a part of "205111-050119, Emergency Relief, Interior, Indian Affairs, Rural Rehabilitation, 1940".

The "Manual of Instructions, Relief and Rehabilitation Program Under the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1939" does provide some information about guidelines used in building construction. Although the identity of the contractor(s)/builder(s) is unknown, hiring preference was given to the Indians and building materials were procured locally, when possible. Funds for construction were conveyed by the grant to an "Individual Indian Money Account", a type of tribal trust fund from which payments for materials and wages were made. Building records do not show a final exact building cost. In 1944 the Superintendent's Office estimated the final cost at \$6,075. In addition, about \$1,500 for site clearing and landscaping was spent by CCC-ID between 1940 and termination of their activities on October 31, 1941. At the time this activity ceased much heavy equipment work to remove stumps and level ground remained to be done.

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The Community Building dedication ceremonies were held October 5, 1941 (See newspaper account, Bibliography #9). Immediately following the ceremonies Superintendent Fredenberg called a business meeting of the Indians to order. The meeting discussed (1) cost of needed electrical service, (2) the future role of the original "Trustees", if any, (3) the question of who should manage the building and tribal affairs now, and (4) a possible cottage for a caretaker (the building had been broken into and vandalized before its dedication!).

On November 2, 1941, another meeting was held. The minutes refer to it as a "Tribal Council" meeting--the first use of that term. Edward Metcalf was Acting Chairman and George Wasson was Secretary. The Council named Frank Johnson of North Bend as custodian of the building and appointed entertainment and refreshment committees for future social events.

The next Council meeting was held on December 7, 1941. The minutes of this meeting made the first use of the phrase, "The Coos Bay, Lower Umpqua and the Siuslaw Indian Tribes". The meeting discussed twice-weekly rental of the building to the Baptist Church of Marshfield and Empire and a forthcoming work party to improve the access road drainage and gravel its ruts.

Although tribal meetings in the new building continued in the future, the December 7 meeting is an appropriate symbolic point to conclude the story of the community building's creation. The December 7 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor embroiled the United States in World War II and "brought down the curtain" on the New Deal -- for Indians as well as for whites. President Roosevelt did not have the time to devote to internal affairs and he and Secretary of the Interior Ickes could no longer give Collier the personal support he enjoyed earlier. In 1942 the Bureau of Indian Affairs (as the old OIA was now called) was moved to Chicago to provide more room for the growing war bureaucracy. At this distance from Washington it was not as effective as it had been in obtaining Congressional support for its policies.

World War II encouraged a sense of national unity and social consensus that led to a reduced emphasis on integrating minority groups. This de-emphasis of cultural identity was helped by the migration of 40,000 Indians to urban areas for war-related work and by the 25,000 Indians who served with distinction in the armed forces (Bibliography #10). After the war, most never bothered to return to their old homes. Postwar Congresses responded to this

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change in thinking brought about by the war, the pendulum of Federal "policy" swung yet again and the period from 1945 to 1960 became known as the "Termination Era". Termination is a long, complicated, controversial story all by itself and its general discussion is not properly the subject of this Statement of Significance. It will, however, be discussed briefly later in this Statement. The scope of discussion will be severely limited to the community building's role as a "rallying point" and symbol of identity for the Indian owners as they engaged in a thirty-year struggle to oppose their own Termination as a nation.

And so the "Indian New Deal" ended. What it accomplished, or failed to accomplish, has been debated since Collier first took the helm of the OIA and this controversy will surely continue. Regardless how history finally judges the Indian New Deal, it did leave evidence of its existence. Scattered around the United States today are Indian Nations, lands and buildings were none had been before. One of these buildings is a simple unimposing little Tribal Hall at Empire, tucked away in the trees on a tiny reservation. It has withstood the elements for nearly fifty years and now it has become the last surviving intact Indian Community Building left in the State of Oregon. It is of exceptional significance, not only because it is the last but, because it embodies, in a single structure, nearly the entire social philosophy of the New Deal offered to the American Indian.

ROLE IN TERMINATION

The Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians were among the forty-three bands of Indians west of the Cascades in Oregon which were terminated by the Western Oregon Termination Act of 1954 (68 Stat. 725). In his book, The Indians of Western Oregon: This Land Was Theirs, Dr. Beckham described the Act in one succinct, pithy sentence:

"The law of the land declared that on April 13, 1956, there were no more Indians in Western Oregon."

The implications of this statement were enormous for a tribe about to become a "non-entity". While the neighboring Siletz and Grand Ronde Indians accepted Termination, the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw vigorously opposed it. They were, in fact, the only group to refuse to participate but this refusal did not stop their

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termination. In the years that followed, the economic, social and family lives of many terminated Indians in western Oregon became chaotic.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) was unable to determine what to do with the Community Building (by now commonly known as the "Tribal Hall") and its 6.12-acre site. In 1956 BIA placed both under the trusteeship of the neighboring city, Empire (by now an incorporated city), for "use" by the Indians. The city leased the building to the U.S. Naval Reserve, which constructed several additions to it. Although the city obtained rental income from the building, it allowed it to seriously deteriorate (photographs #16 and #17). The City of Empire consolidated with the larger neighboring City of Coos Bay and tribal leaders saw an opportunity for action. The Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians challenged the status of the trusteeship in 1968. In 1973 the City of Coos Bay named the "Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Tribes of Western Oregon, Inc., an Oregon corporation" as trustee of the property and the Indians became the owners once again.

The Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians pursued their restoration struggle for thirty years before they were successful. On October 17, 1984, Congress passed Public Law 98-481 restoring their status as a sovereign nation, The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. In 1987 the Confederated Tribes received a \$197,600 Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant for rehabilitation of the Hall. Also in 1987, the Federal government "re-accepted" the 6.12-acre property in trust as a formal reservation for the Tribes. The submission of this nomination application has been scheduled to immediately follow the completion of restoration and rehabilitation work on the building (June, 1988).

During the long struggle for restoration, the Hall was a rallying point for the Tribes. Although at the time of termination the Hall had been theirs for only 13 years, it and its tiny reservation were the only tangible reminders of the Tribes' sovereignty in modern times. It became a symbol--a symbol of what had once been and what could be again.

Beginning after termination, William Brainard, a Coos Indian leader, opened the Hall once a month and built a fire in the stove. He performed this symbolic, usually solitary, act year after year. His refusal to "let go" served as an inspiration to others and the restoration struggle continued through the political process:

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courts, appeals, hearings, meetings, testimony, publicity and persuasion. After obtaining Hall ownership again, but before restoration as a nation, the Tribal members did not have funds to maintain the building properly or repair the damage it had suffered during the City's period of trusteeship. They did their best to preserve it using their limited individual resources. Since they could not afford a proper re-roofing project, they were forced to cover the deteriorating original shingles with large rolls of composition roofing material. Windows broken by vandals were covered with plywood.

After the Tribes regained ownership in 1973, the Hall bustled with a variety of activities while it slowly deteriorated. The Tribal Council met here and formulated the strategy which guided the long restoration struggle. In 1973 a Tribal Trading Post was established here to sell groceries at cost to low-income families. In 1974 a Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) grant was received and the program was administered at the Hall. In 1975 a portion of the Hall became a museum for the Native American Research Center. Other Indian organizations used the Hall frequently: The Confederated Indian Tribes of Western Oregon Association, a group formed to seek the overturn of Termination; the Indian Rights Movement, calling attention to what was happening at Wounded Knee, South Dakota; and educational programs funded by a grant under Title IV of the Indian Education Act.

Since the Hall was uninsulated, drafty and difficult to heat, by 1979 the increasing cost of fuel forced members to stop using it during the winter months. By 1980 the roof had deteriorated to the point that the Tribes were compelled to remove the museum exhibits and relocate the Tribal office to a private home.

For the next seven years the Hall sat empty and unused but it had, by now, done its job--not once, but twice--for it brought these peoples together as a political entity and gave them courage in their struggle to remain a sovereign nation.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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7. Beckham, Stephen Dow. The Indians of Western Oregon: This Land Was Theirs. Coos Bay, Oregon: Arago Books, 1977. Pages 171-203.
8. United States Statutes-At-Large, 76th Congress, First Session, 1939; Volume 53, Part 2. Page 927.
9. Coos Bay Harbor. North Bend, Oregon, October 9, 1941. Page 4.
10. Philp, Kenneth R. (Ed.) Indian Self-Rule: First-Hand Accounts of Indian-White Relations from Roosevelt to Reagan. Salt Lake City and Chicago: Howe Brothers, 1986.

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Beginning at a point in the A.N. Foley Donation Land Claim No. 38 in Section 20, Township 25 South, Range 13 West of the Willamette Meridian, Coos County, Oregon, from which point the iron pipe at the quarter section corner on the east boundary of the said section 20 bears South 66 degrees 33 minutes East a distance of 1732.65 feet; and running thence South 42 degrees 51 minutes West for a distance of 748.58 feet; thence North 88 degrees 27 minutes East for a distance of 95.07 feet; thence South 47 degrees 9 minutes East for a distance of 600.0 feet to the point of beginning, containing 6.12 acres, more or less.

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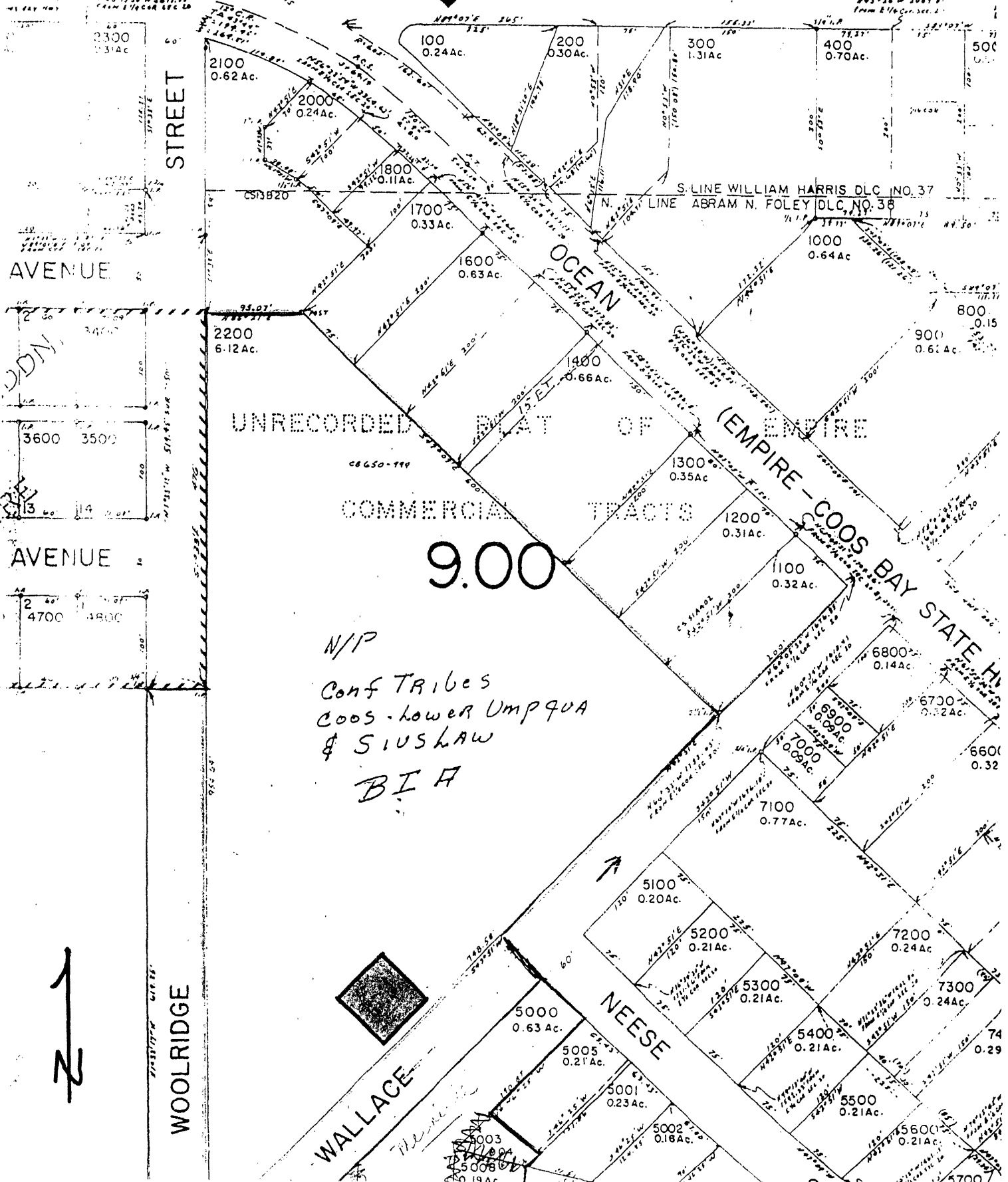
The boundaries of the Reservation were selected as the boundaries encompassing the Tribal Hall because (1) the entire parcel was donated as an incentive for building construction; (2) the entire parcel has a unique, sovereign status; (3) the parcel is completely surrounded by an incorporated city and (4) all portions of the property have equal cultural significance.

SW1/4 NE1/4 SEC. 20 T25S R13W WM
COOS COUNTY

SEE MAP 25 13 20AB

1"=100'

(CAPE ARAGO STATE HWY.) AVENU



UNRECORDED PLAN OF
COMMERCIAL TRACTS

9.00

N/P
Conf Tribes
Coos-lower Umpqua
& Siuslaw
BIA

WOOLRIDGE

WALLACE

NEESE

EMPIRE - COOS BAY STATE HWY



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Section number Photos Page 1

Information for all Photographs:

Subject: Tribal Hall of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower
Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
Location: 338 Wallace Street
Coos Bay (Empire District) Coos County, Oregon
Original
Negative: Crow/Clay and Associates; Architecture and Planning
833 Anderson
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420

Information for Photographs #1 Through #14:

Photographer: Unknown

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Building Site Before Clearing
1940
Direction: North | 6. Window Casing Fabricated
On Job Site
Probably 1941
Northwest Elevation |
| 2. Construction of Foundation Forms
Late 1940 or Early 1941
Direction: North | 7. Exterior Nearing Completion
Mid - 1941
Southwest and Southeast
Elevations |
| 3. Concrete Foundation in Place
Late 1940 or Early 1941
Direction: North | 8. Exterior Near Completion
Late Summer, 1941
Southwest and Southeast
Elevations |
| 4. Installation of Sub-Flooring
Late 1940 or Early 1941
Direction: North | 9. Exterior at Dedication
October 5, 1941
Northeast and Northwest
Elevations |
| 5. Framing
Probably 1941
Direction: North | 10. Same #9
Evening of October 5, 1941
Artificial Lighting |

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- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 11. Kitchen
Late 1941 or 1942 | 13. View from Kitchen into Boat
Shop Extension
Late 1941 or 1942 |
| 12. Clinic
Late 1941 or 1942 | 14. Meeting Hall
Late 1941 or 1942 |

Information for Photographs #15 through #21:

Photographer: William Lemons, Architect
Date: 1987 - Prior to Renovation

- 15. Southeast Elevation
- 16. Southwest Elevation
- 17. Northeast and Southeast Elevations
- 18. Northwest and Northeast Elevations
- 19. Northwest and Northeast Elevations
- 20. Northwest Elevation
- 21. Northwest Elevation

Information for Photographs #22 through 27:

Photographer: Steve Clay, A.I.A.
Date: April 1988 - Immediately after Renovation

- 22. Southwest and Southeast Elevations
- 23. Southeast Elevation
- 24. Northeast elevation
- 25. Southwest Elevation
- 26. Northwest and Northeast Elevations
- 27. Meeting Hall

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89000202 Date Listed: 3/29/89

Tribal Hall of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians	Coos	Oregon
Property Name	County	State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic
Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation
subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments,
notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included
in the nomination documentation.

for Duane J. Noble, Jr.
Signature of the Keeper

3/29/89
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

This nomination lists several groups in the Cultural Affiliation
category, although Bulletin 16 specifies that such groups should
only be entered in cases where criterion D has been claimed on
the nomination form. Because this nomination does not claim
criterion D, no groups should be entered in the Cultural
Affiliation section of the nomination form. This issue has been
discussed over the telephone with Elizabeth Potter of the Oregon
State Historic Preservation Office.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)