

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

AUG 8 1988

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 Valley Hospital  
other names/site number Klamath Valley Hospital  
Warren Hunt Hospital Building

2. Location

street & number 405 Pine Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Klamath Falls N/A vicinity  
state Oregon code OR county Klamath code 035 zip code 97601

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 August 4, 1988  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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:) \_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]* Entered in the National Register 9/8/88

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Health Care/hospital

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Work in progress

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)20th Century Revivals/Georgian

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

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walls brick

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roof asphalt/built up

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other 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Valley Hospital in Klamath Falls, Oregon, was designed by Portland architect Elmer E. McClaran for Warren C. Hunt, M.D. The hospital was built in two phases, in 1919 and 1925. It occupies a prominent site at the corner of Pine and Fourth Streets in the downtown core. An adjacent building, the Valley Convalescent Hotel, built in 1928, is under separate ownership and is not included in the nominated area. The original unit, at the street corner, is a three-story building. The second unit is an identical three-story building, and a one-story unit connects the longitudinal volumes at the Pine Street frontage. Each of the units was constructed by R. E. Wattenburg, local building contractor, and is faced with red brick with buff colored brick as trim. The brick was locally manufactured by Klamath Brick and Tile Company. The building is situated on a site which slopes to the southeast and it is, therefore, backed into the hillside. Instead of a basement, there is a crawl-space at the front of the building and only second and third floors are above grade in the back. In 1925 a three-story hallway was added at the rear of the one-story unit. This addition has a cream-color stucco exterior. Windows are unframed on exterior elevations and are fitted with double-hung sash with one-over-one lights.

Stylistically, Valley Hospital represents a scaled-down version of American Renaissance architecture in the Georgian vein and is distinguished by its bilateral symmetry, its Classical corbelled cornice and pedimented entrance surrounds, its staggered quoins in contrasting face brick, and the fanlights in the arcade of the one-story unit. The interior is organized on a double-loaded corridor plan and is plainly finished.

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Interior

Interior design elements are minimal in that McClaran designed an institutional property which was to be servicable and functional. The greatest flourish that exists is a decorative balcony rail in the center one-story building, which has been retained and maintained well. All of the original, very plain, window casings also survive. The interior is post and beam construction and apparently intended to provide an accommodation for function changes in the hospital as the complex was enlarged. A one-inch overlay of concrete over the unfinished wooden floors was apparently done to provide ease of cleaning and sanitary conditions in the hospital. Each floor featured a collection of patient rooms and surgical suites on the two upper floors with an elevator connecting the 2nd floor with the 3rd floor. The ambulance entry was on the second floor from the alley. The first floor featured the hospital waiting area, registration, doctor's offices and a pharmacy. After the second addition was started this configuration was changed.

Alterations

1925: With construction of the second addition, functions within the hospital were altered. The hospital entry and pharmacy were moved to the center one-story addition and more small doctor's offices were developed. The ambulance rear alley entrance was changed from the second floor in the original building to the second story of the new one. The reason for this was that a triage (emergency treatment zone) was built to serve patient needs. Previous to this, the patients were brought into the emergency entrance and shifted to operating suites on the second and third floors for treatment. The triage left the operating rooms open for the growing surgical needs. With the building of the second three story unit, the maternity section took over the entire second floor of the 1919 wing (exception elevator area).

1930: With the construction of the Medical-Dental Building in Klamath Falls, physicians offices were eliminated in Klamath Valley Hospital and the space given over to administrative and other health care needs.

1952: The original elevator of the hospital located in the 1919 wing was removed. A replacement elevator was installed in the three-story connecting hallway and an elevator housing constructed on the rooftop. This new Otis self-operating elevator improved the movement of hospital patients.

1970s: Floor space changes are made to accommodate Klamath County division of State of Oregon Department of Human Resources and other state offices officing needs. Many ceilings lowered for efficient lighting installation. No weight-bearing posts or beams are removed. Public restrooms developed from original hospital central patient bath areas. Exterior remains the same, except for addition of thermal pane windows.

**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)

Health/Medicine

Period of Significance

1919-1930

Significant Dates

1919

1925

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Elmer E. McClaran, Portland, architect

R. E. Wattenburg, contractor

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

The three-story brick-faced building at Pine and Fourth Streets in Klamath Falls, Oregon was built as the Warren Hunt Hospital Building in 1919. In 1925 it was enlarged, according to plan, by an identical longitudinal three-story block and a one-story central, connecting unit with a tripartite arcade fronting on Pine Street. From 1920 onward the building was known as Valley Hospital or Klamath Valley Hospital.

The building was designed by Portland architect Elmer E. McClaran in the tradition of the American Renaissance. With its bilateral symmetry, its Classical cornice and pedimented entrance surrounds, its staggered quoins in contrasting white exterior face brick, and its fanlights in the openings of the one-story unit, it was a simplified version of Georgian architecture. The medical complex at this location was further enlarged by an adjoining single-story connecting unit and third three-story longitudinal block on the east in 1928. The latter portion, known as Valley Convalescent Hotel, is not included in the nomination owing to its separate ownership. The hotel volume nonetheless was an integral part of the design. It was operated separately from the hospital, although its purpose was complementary.

While Valley Hospital represents a scaled-down version of American Renaissance architecture in the Georgian style which is noteworthy in Klamath Falls, it is primarily significant under Criterion A as the community's foremost medical facility prior to the construction of Hillside Hospital and the Medical-Dental Building, which was also a banking facility. The appearance of the new facilities in 1930 marked the end of Valley Hospital's historic period of significance as the primary modern hospital in the Klamath Basin.

Valley Hospital was not the first sanitarium or hospital development in Klamath Falls, but it was the first major facility of its kind -- the first to offer a full range of medical services. Its development was a direct result of organization of the medical profession locally. The earliest physicians were those who had come to serve the Klamath Indian Agency and those who worked independently under contract to area timber companies. In 1919, three of these professionals, Warren C. Hunt, who was Klamath County Medical Officer, his

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one Klamath Falls, Oregon 1:24000

UTM References

A 

110	601031810	41671511810
Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

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B 

Zone	Easting	Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description** The nominated area is located in SW $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 32, Township 38S, Range 9E, Willamette Meridian, in Klamath Falls, Klamath County, Oregon. It is comprised of Lot 4 and the southerly portion of Lot 3 of Block 8 of the Original Plat of Linkville (now Klamath Falls) and is otherwise identified as Tax Lot 8400 of said location. The area is more particularly described as follows.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated area is comprised of the entire parcel, measuring 120 x 102 feet, which was developed for the first modern hospital building in Klamath Falls. The nominated area includes the original three-story longitudinal unit of 1919 and its mirror image addition of 1925 with the single-story unit connecting these at the street front. Not included is the neighboring Valley Convalescent Hotel and its single-story connecting unit which expanded the ensemble on the north in 1928. The  See continuation sheet latter may be nominated separately in due course.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title <u>W. LouEllyn Kelly</u>	
organization <u>N/A</u>	date <u>March 15, 1988</u>
street & number <u>PO Box 1241</u>	telephone <u>(503) 883-2421</u>
city or town <u>Klamath Falls</u>	state <u>Oregon</u> zip code <u>97601</u>

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brother-in-law, L. L. Truax, and George A. Massey, joined in founding a hospital with local backing. The hospital was planned by the architect and his physician clients as a phased or incremental project to include the convalescent hotel. Local contractor R. E. Wattenburg would complete all units by 1928.

The nominated building remained in service under its original management to 1946, and was finally closed in 1966, when the modern Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital was opened. Thereafter, Valley Hospital was converted to office use. It is undergoing renovation for government offices at the present time.

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Valley Hospital, built in 1919 and expanded in 1925, is significant as the first modern hospital facility in the Klamath Basin.

There were no hospitals in Klamath County at the turn of the century except a "lying facility" operated by a nurse in her home on 11th Street in Klamath Falls that sort of served that purpose, "it was near the cemetery." There were fewer than a dozen doctors and most didn't stay too long. The terrain they had to traverse to serve their patients was exceptionally rough, so were many of the settlers and the winters were "not kindly to the poor doc on horseback" (quotes of interviews with sons of Merryman and Hunt, early day doctors here). At this time, most of the doctors that came and settled were ones originally brought in by the Klamath Indian Agency, north of Klamath Falls about 32 miles near Chiloquin.

The other attractor of doctors was the timber industry. Agriculture was just beginning to be established - so that initially, the economic mainstays were ranching and timbering (Klamath County Historical Society History and Helen Helfrich interview). The timber industry from forest to mill was very physical, dangerous and demanding. When injuries occurred, they were desperate and doctors were immediately needed. The result of this was that the varied timber companies began offering physicians exclusive contracts to service the millworkers/timber harvestors needs. With this occurrence, more doctors came into the area, began demanding medical care facilities - this then, caused more families to move to the area to work in timber. Then, the families began to demand medical care facilities.

As 1915 approached, timber was a flourishing industry with more than 40 mills in Klamath County (Klamath County Clerk's Incorporation Records and Helen Helfrich) and by 1920, there were more than 60. Competition for the medical contracts with the mills became intense. Two distinct physician groupings began to emerge as did the leadership of those groups. In the meantime, a fellow named Alex Lyle came to the area from Minnesota. Lyle had hospital experience, so he planned the building of a hospital (Blackburn Sanitarium, 1912) and opened a temporary one until construction was complete (Samaritan, 1911). It is not known if this hospital was backed financially by a group of physicians or a timber company (interview Alexis Lyle Runyan, daughter of Alex Lyle).

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During this time period, Warren C. Hunt, M.D. had come to Klamath County as a physician at the Klamath Indian Agency (1912-13). (Note here: information about Hunt and Truax, brother-in-law of Hunt, gained from interviews with Hunt's sons and other local residents. Sons were less than cooperative, including failing to provide dates of births and deaths of father and uncle - stated they didn't know.) Hunt had written his brother-in-law, L.L. Truax, M.D., to join him - which Truax did within the year of 1912 as a rural physician in Bonanza (a community east of Klamath Falls, in Klamath County - about 16 mi.). In 1914, both Truax and Hunt moved into Klamath Falls in the hopes of getting timber contracts - survival was not easy until they became acquainted with Rufus Moore (3/7/1855 to 11/6/1931, Oregon native) and Charles S. Moore (1/8/1857 to 7/20/1915, Oregon Native). The Moore brothers were the sons of Oregon timber pioneer William S. Moore and owned the Moore Brothers Mill on Link River, which they purchased from their father in the 1800s).

The Moore brothers were very influential in the development of Klamath County beyond the timber industry. They, along with Evan Rogers Reames and George Baldwin, brought in the first electric power and telephone service in the county. In addition, they worked to establish a school system - all put up their funds for the construction of the first county high school. The Moore brothers donated property to establish the first city park (later named Moore Park) and were the energy behind street paving, sewer development, street cars and bringing in the railroad (Charles died prior to seeing some of his dreams occur).

In the hopes that the doctors in the area could be unified, Truax established the Klamath County Medical Society in 1914. The competition for timber contracts simply deepened and so did the friendship of Truax and Hunt with the Moore brothers. Truax was well enough liked by his fellow physicians and served as the first president of the medical society. In 1918, George A. Massey, M.D. (b. 1882, d. 1973) came to Klamath County (History of Klamath County, pub. 1941, pg. 459-460). From research, it appears that he knew Truax and Hunt prior to coming here. Massey was primarily a maternity physician (a specialty desperately needed in the area) and immediately teamed up with the other two doctors. According to the records, Massey immediately became involved in the community - serving on the school board, as head of the local and state medical societies and eventually serving as president of two hospitals medical staffs in order to unify, once and for all, the doctors of the area.

With the linking up of Truax, Hunt (serving at this time as Klamath County Medical Officer) and Massey, Rufus Moore committed to backing the doctors in building another hospital. Hunt purchased for \$10, a lot from Sophie Henley (a friend of the Moores and pioneer in the area) located at the corner of 4th and Pine Streets on May 16, 1919. The three doctors then contracted with Elmer E. McClaran, a Portland architect, to design a hospital. On August 12, 1919, the building contracts were let to R.E. Wattenburg. From interviews, although it cannot be proven at this time, it seems that all the people involved intended the hospital as one that would grow in stages so that McClaran designed a u-shaped complex of two three-story wings to be joined



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by a one-story unit. The first project would be the building of one three-story unit directly on the corner of 4th and Pine. It also appears that from the beginning, interior space functions would be altered as the complex grew (post and beam construction and 14-inch exterior walls). Wattenburg would build all the subsequent additions - including a convalescent hotel which was attached and does not appear to be a part of McClaran's plan. The hotel is not a part of this registration. Initially, the hospital was to be known as the Warren Hunt Hospital, however, somewhere between 1920 and 1924, it became Valley Hospital (then later Klamath Valley Hospital). The only record of the building being known as Warren Hunt Hospital is in the newspaper accounts (not even the Hunt brothers were aware of this). On March 21, 1920, the hospital opened, apparently there had been labor problems that delayed the opening.

Hospital features were very modern. The first floor featured the hospital registration/waiting area, a full service pharmacy and officing/exam rooms for Hunt, Truax and Massey. The second floor combined the maternity section, medical care, nursery, diet kitchen and x-ray section. The third floor featured the operating rooms, surgical recovery units, the kitchens. An elevator connected the second and third floors. An emergency entrance to the hospital was from the second floor where the building abutted the alley. On opening day, Truax entered town with a brand new Cadillac ambulance which he had brought up from Los Angeles. The garage was built next to the hospital (it would be torn down when the second addition was built in 1925).

In 1924, Rufus Moore again backed the building of another section to the hospital (Klamath County Clerk's Mortgage Records) - this time with a mortgage to the doctors directly. The addition was desperately needed since both medical factions had done more than their share of attracting doctors to fill the timber contracts (note: there were also doctors kept out because of the factions holding all the contracts). The new wing opened in May, 1926. Built as appears to be an after thought, is a three-story hallway in back of the one-story unit, linking both three-story wings together. The emergency entrance was changed to the second wing to feed directly into the new triage unit (emergency room). Also in this wing - 2nd floor - the medical care unit was moved. The third floor was devoted to surgery while the old wing 2nd floor was devoted to maternity. On the first floor, the pharmacy and hospital registration was moved to the new one-story unit and more doctor's offices and examination facilities were added in both first floor wings along with administration offices. These offices for doctors were closed in 1930 with the opening of the Medical-Dental Building and were then used for administration and convalescent care.

In 1928, four events occurred. First, Blackburn owner Lyle died; second, his widow sold the Blackburn to Hunt (Hunt immediately closed it, converting the building to apartments); third, George Merryman, M.D., received backing to build another hospital Hillside Hospital, c. 1930); and Hunt added a convalescent hotel (Valley Hotel) to Klamath Valley Hospital (connected by a one-story unit and a three-story hallway thus creating something of a w-shaped complex). Although the hospitals and doctors were

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in competition for timber contracts (the number of companies were beginning to dwindle), a shift began to occur so that Klamath Valley became the primary maternity hospital for the area (from 1920 to 1966 when the hospital closed, it is estimated that about 17,000 babies were born in the maternity section - this by-the-way, is almost the current population of the city limits area of Klamath Falls). Helping to alleviate the competition was that Massey was serving as president of staff in both hospitals and that the Klamath Medical Service Bureau, a physician subscribed insurance program, was developed to open up medical service to both hospitals and replacing doctor-based timber company contracts. In 1946, KMSB purchased both hospitals for \$10 each. KMSB continued operating both until 1966 when the Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital (now Merle West Medical Center) opened. At this time, both hospitals closed.

In the mid-70s, K.V.P. Company purchased Klamath Valley Hospital and converted the facility to state offices.



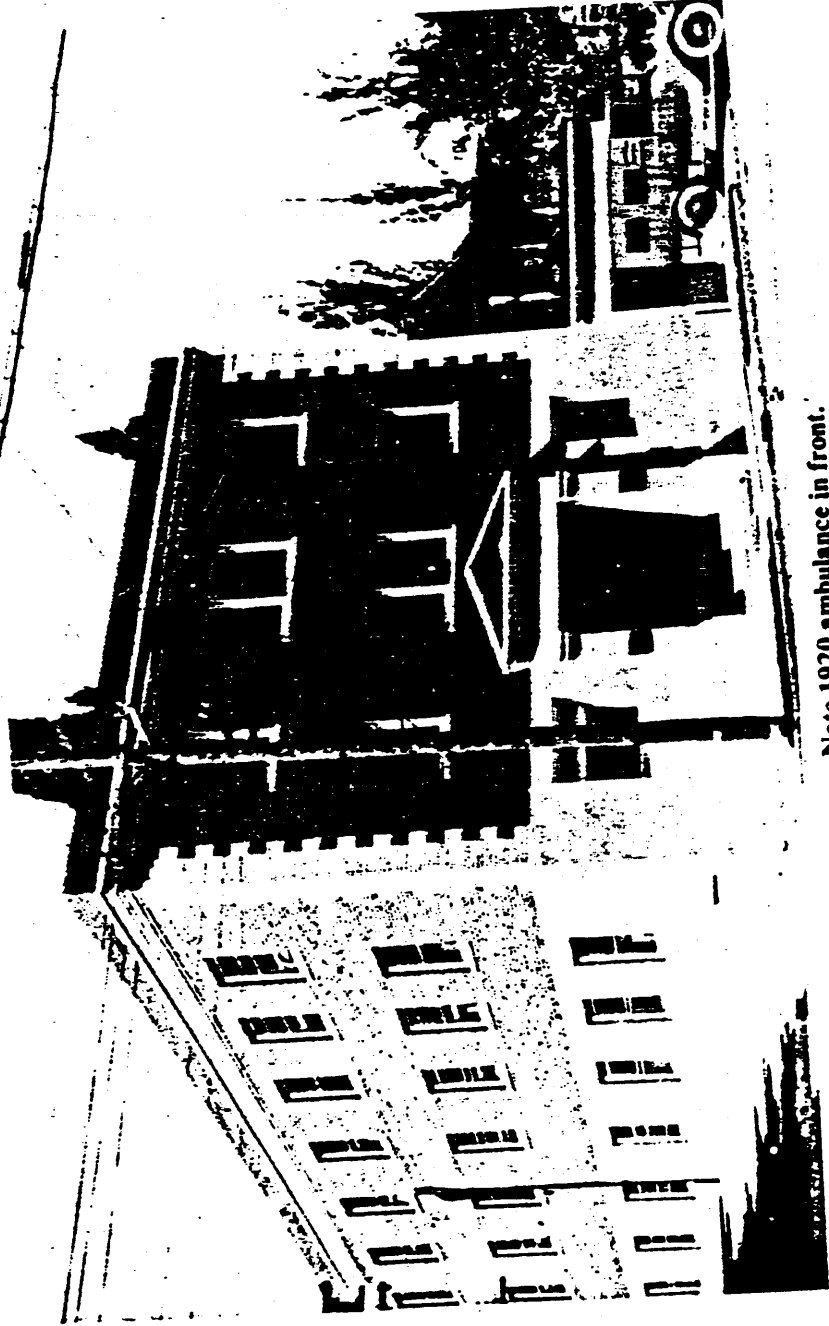
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Beginning at the most southerly corner of Lot 4 in Block 8 of the Original Town of Linkville, platted in 1867, thence North 39 degrees 04' 50" E along the northwesterly line of Pine Street a distance of 102.83 feet to a cross chiseled in the sidewalk; thence North 51 degrees 03' 32" W a distance of 120.0 feet to the northwesterly line of Lot 3 in said Block 8; thence South 39 degrees 02' 39" W along the northwesterly lines of Lots 3 and 4 of said Block 8 a distance of 102.56 feet, more or less, to the northeasterly line of Fourth Street, thence South 50 degrees 55' W along said northeasterly line and the westerly line of Lot 4 a distance of 120.0 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning, containing in all approximately 0.28 acres.



Note 1920 ambulance in front.

50 Klamath Valley Hospital c. 1920 photo  
negative missing from Klamath County Museum  
Klamath Historical Society  
History of Klamath County  
1984

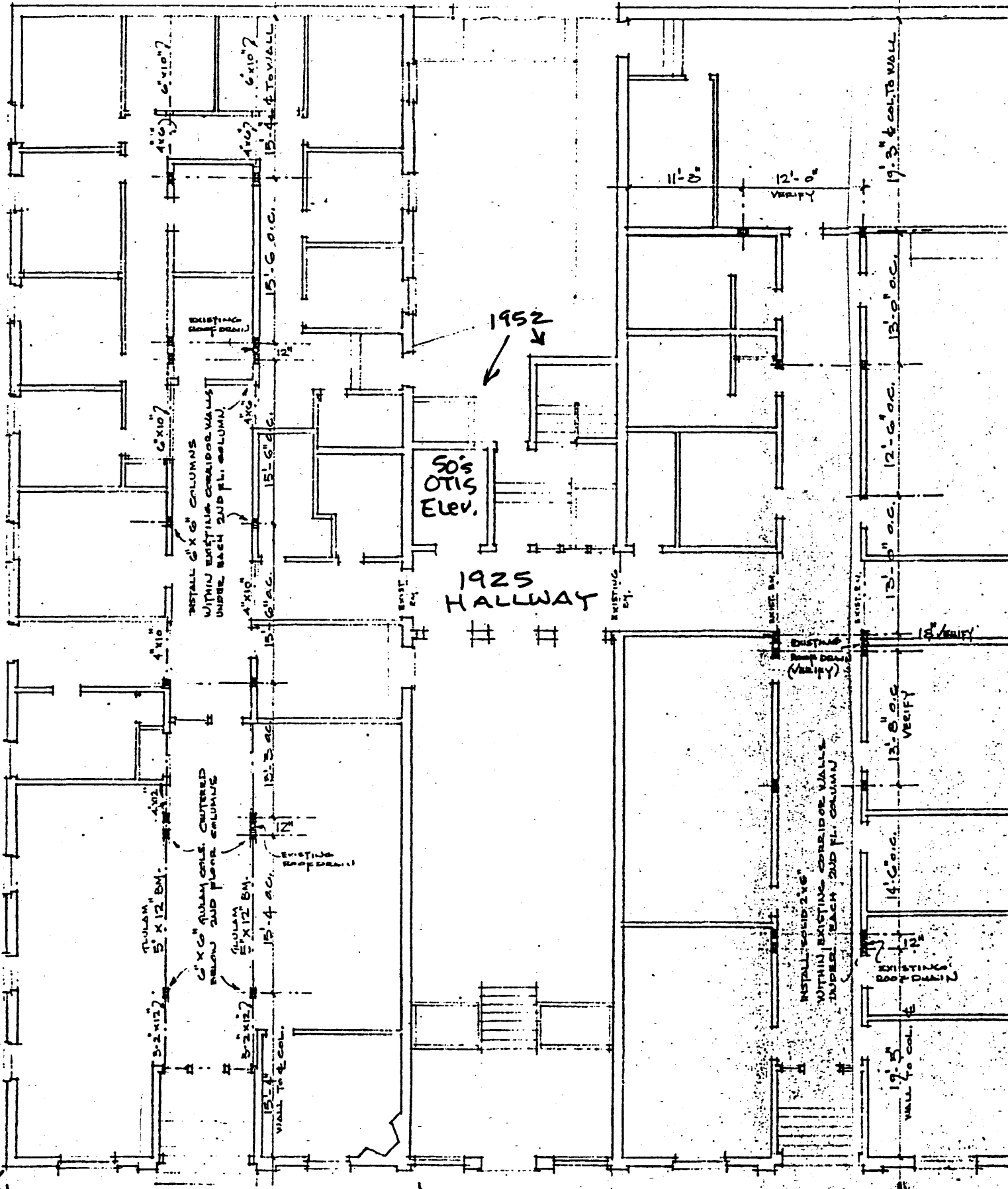


# KLAMATH VALLEY HOSPITAL, KLAMATH FALLS, KLAMATH COUNTY, OREGON

2  
7

A-Z

3



1919

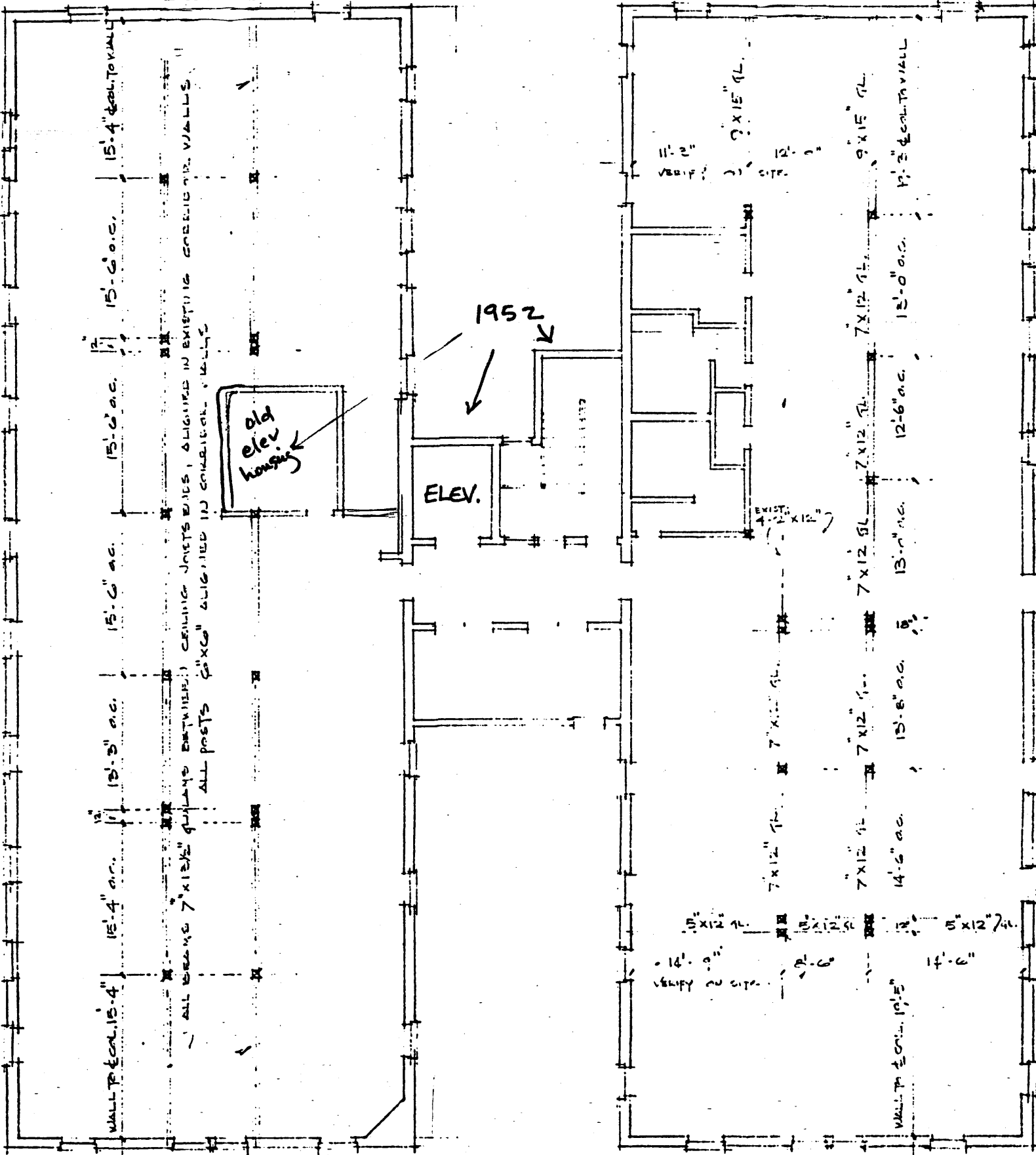
FIRST FLOOR

1925

7







WALL THICKNESS 15.4" | 15.4" o.c. | 15.6" o.c. | 15.6" o.c. | 15.6" o.c. | 15.4" o.c. | 15.4" o.c.

ALL BEAMS 7"x12" girders BRUNNEN; CEILING JOISTS BRUNNEN; ALL WORK IN EXISTING CORRIDOR WALLS.  
 ALL POSTS 6"x6" ALL WORK IN EXISTING WALLS.

old elev housing

ELEV.

1952

5"x12" GL | 14'-0" | 5"x12" GL | 14'-6" | 5"x12" GL | 4'-6"

7"x12" GL | 13'-0" o.c. | 13'-6" o.c. | 12'-6" o.c. | 15'-0" o.c. | 15'-3" o.c. | 15'-0" o.c. | 15'-3" o.c. | 15'-0" o.c. | 15'-3" o.c.

THIRD FLOOR