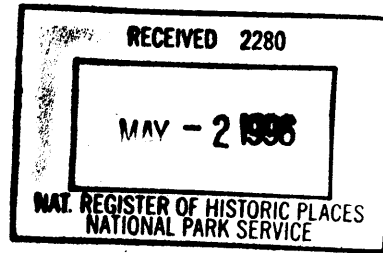


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name WINCHESTER DAM

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

2. Location

street & number North Umpqua River at Hwy 99 [26S-6W-25]  N/A not for publication

city or town Winchester  N/A vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Douglas code 019 zip code 97495

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Sam Hamrick  
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO Date April 22, 1996  
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 for additional comments.)

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

4. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action 6/3/96

Entered in the  
National Register

Winchester Dam  
Name of Property

Douglas County, Oregon  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		sites
1	1	structures
		objects
1	1	Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

none

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry; Waterworks; Dam  
Industry; Energy Facility; Hydroelectric Dam

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry; Waterworks; Dam

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other [Functional/No Style]

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Wood; Log  
walls  
roof  
other

**Narrative Description**

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

*Please see attached continuation sheets*

United States Department of the Interior  
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 7 Page: 1 Winchester Dam, v. Winchester, Oregon

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The Winchester Dam is an approximately 450' long concrete, steel, and wood structure that spans the channel of the North Umpqua River at Winchester, an unincorporated community five miles north of Roseburg in Douglas County, Oregon. The dam was first constructed at this site in 1890 and employed a log-crib construction method. Although cyclically modified and repaired over its 106 years of the existence, the dam at Winchester remains the oldest existing dam in Douglas County, is among the oldest in the State of Oregon, and retains portions of its original log crib foundation within its later improvements.

### NOMINATED AREA:

The nominated property includes two separate tax lots on opposite banks of the North Umpqua River plus the physical structure of the Winchester Dam that ties them together. On the south bank a .49 acre irregularly shaped parcel, identified on Douglas County Assessor's Plat 26-6-25AC as Tax Lot 200, is the site of the original powerhouse and its operable gates. The north end of the dam meets the bank at an irregularly shaped 1.73 acre parcel identified on Assessor's Plat 26-6-25 as Tax Lot 300. The total nominated property (Tax Lots 26-6-25AC-200 and 26-6-25-300) totals 2.22 acres PLUS the physical structure of the Winchester Dam that spans the North Umpqua River between them. Two adjacent parcels also owned by the Winchester Water Control District, are located just outside the nominated area and provide a public stairway access to the parking lot that is owned by the State of Oregon.<sup>1</sup>

### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Like most industrial facilities of its type, the Winchester Dam has been the focus of substantial improvement and repair over its period of existence. Evolution and cyclical upgrades of the structural elements of the Winchester Dam reflect both improvements in technology and a desire to increase electrical generation in the early years. In recent years efforts have focused more on the need to correct damage from the constant erosion a structure of this type inherently faces. The present dam at Winchester is the sum of those

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<sup>1</sup> The stairwell access crosses two narrow 8' wide tax lots, both owned by the Winchester Water Control District, that are identified on Douglas County Assessor's Plat 26-6-25 as Tax Lots 102 and 501. The State of Oregon parking lot area, accessed directly north of the Booth Bridge on State Highway 99, is identified on the same Assessor's Plat as Tax Lot 400.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 7 Page: 2 Winchester Dam, v. Winchester, Oregon

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efforts and the physical development of the facility is best detailed by the following chronology of its construction history.

### *1890 — Original Development of the Winchester Dam:*

Although at least some references to an earlier “weir” dam at this point on the North Umpqua River were found during literature review, the nominated dam at Winchester dates from 1890 and the beginnings of the industrial development undertaken by Henry Dumbleton (of Victoria, British Columbia) and Henry M. Dumbleton (of Douglas County, Oregon). The latter served as the former’s attorney and was likely a son, although this is not entirely clear.<sup>2</sup> In early May 1890 one or both of these individuals purchased the essentially defunct Winchester townsite, filed a new plat and began to offer building lots based on their intent to dam the North Umpqua and establish an industrial-based community around the supply of ready power.<sup>3</sup> In early June Dumbleton advertised for bids to construct a “mill dam” and Charles A. Briggs, a contractor and sawmill operator from the Coles Valley area, was the successful bidder. Construction was apparently begun immediately.

The Briggs’ dam was built of log cribbing. There “...were lots of big pine trees above the bench of land along the river and on the bench down next to it. These trees were to be used in making the dam. They were handled with pulleys and blocks.” (Bakken, 1976:11)<sup>4</sup> By August 1890 the work of excavating and building the pier and seat for the great turbine had been completed, a process described as being “...tedious [with] rapid percolation of waters [and] bailing with buckets as the pumps were inadequate.” (Roseburg

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<sup>2</sup> Few references are clear on the fact that there were two Henry Dumbletons involved in this action. The original “Plan of the Town of Winchester” indicates that a Henry M. Dumbleton of Douglas County, was serving as the attorney for Henry Dumbleton of British Columbia and is the basis for the above conjecture. (See Douglas County Plat Records, 1:57) This situation is further complicated by occasional references to “Harry” Dumbleton and the “Dumbleton Brothers” although there is no historical basis for the former and the latter makes little sense for two men of the same given name.

<sup>3</sup> The 1890 development at Winchester is discussed in greater detail in Section 8 of this nomination. There is some confusion as to whether this original development was based around water power rather than electric generation. (See Taylor, 1964:1)

<sup>4</sup> Bakken’s account is based on the written account of W. R. “Billy” Vinson, a Winchester area resident who left an account of the original dam construction.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 7 Page: 3 Winchester Dam, v. Winchester, Oregon

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*Review*, 28-August-1890)<sup>5</sup> The Winchester Dam was completed in late October 1890 and its opening was celebrated by a huge festival along the banks of the North Umpqua.

Last Sunday was a gala day for Winchester...People came from every direction and by noon the town presented an appearance not unlike a Fourth of July celebration...The dam is a massive structure...timbers consist of huge pine trees not less than four feet in diameter...flooring laid with planks about a half inch apart to prevent swelling...to be filled with sand and natural debris..." (*Roseburg Review*, 2-November-1890)<sup>6</sup>

Designed with a seven foot head, the Winchester Dam employed a 104 inch diameter Leffel turbine that weighed 16,000 pounds, a turbine reported at the time as "...perhaps the largest ever brought to the Pacific Coast." (Bakken, 1976:11) The dam powerhouse, located at the extreme southern end of the project, produced some 2000 horsepower to serve the industries attracted to the Winchester site by the Dumbletons.

1904-1907:

The plans to turn Winchester into an industrial center were substantially ruined by the Panic of 1893 and the dam appears to have been under-utilized for much of the period following its original development. Sometime in 1903 the dam became the source of drinking water for the City of Roseburg, supplied from an inlet just downstream from the powerhouse at the south end of the dam. In 1904 a new corporation was formed to develop the Winchester Townsite and revitalize the original plan for industrial development.

Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Secretary of State and County Clerk...by Fred J. Blakely, L. G. Dumbleton, and Louis Bargee, incorporating under the Winchester Townsite Company. The capital stock is placed at \$10,000 and is fully paid up. (*Roseburg Plaindealer*, 11-July-1904, 3:6)<sup>7</sup>

An element of this revitalized interest in the Winchester area included substantial improvements to the dam as a method of attracting new industry. D. S. West, editor of

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<sup>5</sup> Microfilm copies of the *Roseburg Review* in the 1890s are disorganized, non-chronological, and essentially unusable. This citation is based upon a written transcript of period articles in the collection of the Douglas County Museum, File A-17, page 4.

<sup>6</sup> This account is taken from an article entitled "The Great Dam is Completed" and is assumed accurate, as quoted by Bakken in 1976. The original citation was not located.

<sup>7</sup> The relationship between L. G. Dumbleton and the earlier developers, if any, could not be documented.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 7 Page: 4 Winchester Dam, v. Winchester, Oregon

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the *Roseburg Plaindealer*, enjoyed "...a pleasant drive..." to Winchester where he toured the facilities with members of the Townsite Company and reported on its development.

[They] piloted us through the great power plant of the company, which supplies Roseburg both light and water. Three large turbine water wheels of about 250 horsepower each supply the power for the great plant while a 250 horsepower boiler and engine is held in reserve to meet any emergency that may arise. (*Roseburg Plaindealer*, 1-August-1904, 1:1-2)

In 1907 the Winchester Dam and nearby sawmill were again sold, this time to J. L and S. A. Kendall, two "prominent businessmen of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania" who owned extensive timber acreage in the North Umpqua drainage. The Kendalls also undertook extensive renovation in the Winchester area.

Since the systems [light and water] were taken over by [the Kendalls] they have been practically rebuilt in every department...It has been the policy of the management to make improvements and betterments of a substantial and permanent nature and to make them at the right time...(Roseburg Review, 10-April-1912)

While the specific date remains unclear, it appears certain that the 1904-1907 period developments at Winchester included the expansion and rebuilding to the dam that raised its head to fourteen feet, plus the installation of new and larger equipment in the powerhouse at the southern bank.<sup>8</sup> In doubling the height of the dam, the earlier log crib structure was apparently encased in a larger structure built at least partially of concrete and filled with gravel and other materials.

*May 1911:*

On May 1st, 1911 a sudden fire destroyed the powerhouse at the Winchester Dam, halting all water and electrical service to the City of Roseburg. Damage was estimated at \$38,000.

Contingent upon the arrival of the machinery is the date for resumption on a normal basis of local water, light and power service, which is crippled, more or less, as the result of the destruction of the station. (*Roseburg Review*, 1-May-1911, 12:1-2)

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<sup>8</sup> These changes may date as early 1903 or as late as 1907-8 as discussed above. The State of Oregon's listing of "Pre-Roosevelt Era Dams in Oregon" dates the Winchester Dam at "1904," probably relating to the expansion of the facility.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Work was rushed to repair the powerhouse and by May 3rd the *Review* reported that "A carload of new machinery including a large, new dynamo, or electric generator, was shipped from San Francisco...and should be here by Friday. (*Roseburg Review*, 3-May-1911, 1:2)

The Kendalls, who owned the sawmill and dam, were also connected to the Douglas County Water and Light System that completely rebuilt the powerhouse at the southern bank following the fire. This upgraded facility helped meet Roseburg's continually growing demand for water and power during the following decade.

Thirteen hundred barrels of cement went into the construction of the new plant and it is built upon lines which make it practically impossible for another fire to damage it seriously. The Winchester Plant generates about 800 horse power...(*Roseburg Review*, 10-April-1912)<sup>9</sup>

### 1923: COPCO Purchase:

Having been continually owned and operated by a series of small Douglas County-based utilities, in 1923 the Winchester Dam, along with the other holdings of the Douglas County Light and Water Company, were purchased by the California Oregon Power Company, better known as COPCO, based in Medford, Oregon. An extensive document prepared at the request of COPCO President, Paul B. McKee, provides a thorough review of the condition and construction of the Winchester Dam facility during this period.

The dam, which is used only to create head, is of hollow timber frame construction with decking of three inch planks. The total length of the timber section of the dam is about four hundred feet and there is a short section of concrete at each end. During periods of normal flow a head of about fourteen feet is obtained...The power house building is located at the south end of the dam, the concrete foundation of the building forming one abutment of the dam. The building consists of a timber frame structure with corrugated iron covering and concrete floors. The hydroelectric equipment consists of one vertical shaft, 500 KV Allis-Chalmers unit and one 400 KV General Electric Generator with horizontal shaft driven though a wooden toothed bevel gear by two vertical shaft Leffel turbines. The steam equipment consists of three boilers, fired with cord wood [connected to] a 350KV generator... (McKee: 1923:8)

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<sup>9</sup> One report indicates that there were "extensive repairs" to the Winchester Dam in 1915, including the "first use of concrete." While this latter statement appears to be incorrect it remains unknown what, if any, modifications were made between 1910-11 and 1923. (See Stanton, 29-August-1968)

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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In analyzing the future potential of the Winchester Dam, the COPCO report concluded;

The Douglas County Light and Water Company plans to increase the capacity of this development by abandoning the present plant and diverting the water from the crest of the dam along the north side of the river for a distance of about three-quarters of a mile, obtaining a head of thirty-five feet...The California Oregon Power Company would not be interested in the further enlargement of the Winchester plant on account of the small capacity and the high cost per kilowatt. (McKee, 1923: 48-9)

It should be noted that this 1923 account, arguably the single best description of the Winchester Dam written during the historic period, documents that the Dam itself remained substantially as built in 1890 and modified circa 1904-1907.

1924-1964:

COPCO continued to operate the Winchester plant for almost 40 years, maintaining essentially the same capacity as the Douglas County Light and Water Company had through 1923. One reference indicates that COPCO undertook unspecified "major repairs" in 1935 however this is not otherwise documented and is likely inaccurate. (Stanton, 5-September-1968)<sup>10</sup> Throughout the 1930s and into the 1940s the low capacity at the Winchester Dam was woefully insufficient to meet the demands of the growing Douglas County area. COPCO relied upon power produced outside the county until 1948 and the opening of the Toketee Powerhouse, first of the eight dams in what is known as the North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project, located further upstream from the Winchester Dam.<sup>11</sup>

With the opening of the North Umpqua facilities, COPCO continued to operate the Winchester Dam facility, but its output remained of continually diminishing importance within the company system. Following the June 1961 merger of COPCO with the Pacific

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<sup>10</sup> Stanton, who apparently based his column on the work of Bakken, may have confused construction related to a new transmission line (COPCO Line No. 29) between the Winchester Plant and Dixonville with construction on the dam or powerhouse themselves. (See Taylor, 1964:12)

<sup>11</sup> Power generation is not "bankable" in that once produced it must be used and so various producers often work together via an inter-connected "grid" to provide for specific localized demands. The Mountain States Power Company, a sister-organization to COPCO during this period, maintained a steam-generation plant in North Bend, Oregon that along with COPCO's other dams in Southern Oregon and Northern California supplied the majority of Douglas County's power needs between 1923 and 1948.



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Power & Light Company, the small and out-dated Winchester facility produced a truly inconsequential amount of power within the company system.<sup>12</sup>

In December 1964 a series of huge floods occurred throughout Oregon causing an estimated \$500 million dollars damage and flooding numerous bridges and dams. Power outages were experienced all over the state and utility crews rushed to repair a number of hydroelectric facilities. (*Oregonian*, 24-October-1964) The powerhouse at Winchester was flooded and as the result of its limited output given low priority for repair. In 1965 Pacific Power & Light determined to simply abandon the facility for electrical generation uses. It is interesting to note that the equipment in place at Winchester in 1964 was reported as "two generators, a 500KV and a 400KV, augmented by a wood-fired steam unit that produced 350KV, for use in low water flow seasons." (Palm, 18-January-1984) This system was virtually identical to what COPCO purchased with the dam forty years earlier and provides documentation that the company stood by its original 1923 lack of interest in upgrading the Winchester plant.

### 1965-1989

In April 1969 Pacific Power & Light Company transferred its ownership of the Winchester Dam and associated property to the present owner, the Winchester Water Control District, formed by area property owners to convert the dam reservoir for recreational uses. The Bargain and Sale Deed, as recorded in Douglas County Deed Records 424:805-6, notes "The true and actual consideration for this transfer is \$0.00."

The Water Control District continued the periodic maintenance of the dam as required, patching holes in the structure to maintain its functional capability. "High water and logs do some damage to the dam each year, which makes [this] necessary." (*News-Review*, 8-September-1982) At some point prior to 1982 the wooden building at the south abutment, the superstructure of the powerhouse, and the majority of the electrical equipment were removed. In May 1969 Pacific Power and Light donated the giant main wooden-toothed drive gear from the powerhouse to the Douglas County Museum, where they are still displayed. (Douglas County Museum, A-17R)

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<sup>12</sup> At the time of the merger COPCO owned 21 hydroelectric facilities that were producing 367,263 kW, including the 900 kW produced at Winchester, which thus represented about .0025% of the total COPCO capacity. By the early 1970s the merged COPCO and Pacific Power and Light System would produce more than 1,300,000 kilowatts.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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In 1983 construction of a new powerhouse at the north abutment of the Winchester was begun by the Electro Power Corporation of Palo Alto, California and the Asea Stal Laval Corporation, manufacturers of turbine generators, who in cooperation with the Winchester Water Control District planned to once again generate power at Winchester. The project included the construction of a 40' x 50' [+/-] poured concrete powerhouse building and improved fish ladder and viewing station at the north abutment of the dam, requiring blasting of the solid rock to slightly enlarge the river channel for access.<sup>13</sup>

Ground was broken Wednesday for the Winchester Dam hydroelectric project... [and] a construction company from Redding, California started work on the powerhouse for two 725 kilowatt generators, a screening system, an extended fish ladder, and a new fish-viewing station on the dam's north bank. (*News-Review*, 16-June-1983)

Electrical generation from the new powerhouse at Winchester began in 1984 and from the start proved highly controversial. Legal challenges throughout 1984 and 1985 ultimately ended all power generation at Winchester by late 1985. (*News-Review*, 17-December-1985) In September 1989 an agreement was reached between the Winchester Water Control District and Pacific Power, who had contracted to purchase the electricity produced at the site, that formally ended all electrical generation and required the removal of the turbines. Four years later an Idaho firm purchased the turbines of the north powerhouse and all electrical generating equipment dating from the 1983 effort was removed. (*News-Review*, 24-November-1993)

### *1991 Repairs:*

By 1991 delayed maintenance and repair at the Winchester Dam had reached critical proportions. Some holes in the dam were as large a two square feet in size.

The 100-year old dam developed several sizable leaks toward its south end earlier this summer, causing water to stop cascading over the dam and the reservoir's water level to drop...The leaks apparently occurred when erosion caused parts of the wood crib to deteriorate, allowing some of the dam's rock and gravel to wash away. (*News-Review*, 30-July-1991)

In July and August the Basco Logging Company of Sutherlin, Oregon was contracted to repair and rebuild the Winchester Dam. A coffer dam was built and the reservoir was

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<sup>13</sup> An smaller fish viewing and counting station had been in place at Winchester previously. Present at least since the mid-1960s, the exact history of this facility was not documented.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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partially drained. Approximately 70' of damaged and deteriorated wooden cribbing was removed and replaced with large timbers. Original round log cribbing, many in excess of five-to-six feet diameter, remained in excellent condition within the main dam structure. Gravel and other rock material from the blasting required by the 1983 construction was reclaimed from a storage location downstream and re-used by the contractors during the repairs.<sup>14</sup> [Please see photographs]

In the early 1990s public access to the south powerhouse area, available through the City of Roseburg Water Treatment Plant, was made easier with the construction of a new 6 inch wide redwood deck and railing, installed over the original turbine shafts. Portions of these early turbines along with the massive rack and pinion tracking and gear drives that controlled water flow to the powerhouse during the 1910-1964 period remain. The gates of the Winchester Dam itself, two large steel panels, are operated by a series of manual winches mounted atop the concrete foundation of the powerhouse.

### SUMMARY:

Constructed in 1890, the Winchester Dam was serially modified in response to increased demand for electric power and water during its first two decades, assuming its present configuration by 1908. The original powerhouse, located at the south, was rebuilt following fire damage in 1910 and used continuously with little modification for more than fifty years before damage resulting from the 1964 flood destroyed the facility. A short-lived attempt at power generation on the north bank, operable from 1983-1985, resulted in the construction of the present concrete structure and fish ladder at that end of the dam, which constitute the sole substantive additions to the Winchester Dam structure since 1910.

Given the nature of the resource and the changing technologies available for hydroelectric power generation over the past century, the Winchester Dam retains a high level of consistency with its early 20th century appearance. The Winchester Dam accurately relates the associations for which it is significant to the history of Douglas County and retains a high degree of integrity in workmanship, design, use of materials, and overall character.

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<sup>14</sup> Juan Yraguen, personal communication with the Author, 26-September-1995.

Winchester Dam  
Name of Property

Douglas County, Oregon  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce \_\_\_\_\_

Industry \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1890-1923 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

October 1890, Opening & Dedication \_\_\_\_\_

1904-07, Expansion to 14 foot head \_\_\_\_\_

June 1923, Sale to COPCO \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Briggs, Charles \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

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

Name of repository:

Douglas County Courthouse \_\_\_\_\_

Douglas County Museum \_\_\_\_\_

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1A

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**WINCHESTER DAM (1890, 1904-1907)**

North Umpqua River  
Winchester, Douglas County, Oregon

**COMMENTS OF THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

Notes on public comments received and made a part of the nominating record:

The Douglas County Historic Resources Review Committee, representing Douglas County, a local government certified for expanded participation in the federally-aided historic preservation program, declined to make a recommendation on the proposed nomination prior to the initial hearing in May, 1995. The majority opinion was that documentation presented at the time did not allow an accurate assessment of the structure's integrity. Nevertheless, two members, Harold Winfield and Brandon Shepard, commented in a minority statement that the dam appeared to meet National Register Criterion A. The initial application, prepared in 1994, subsequently was abandoned and the present document was produced for the Winchester Water Control Board in December, 1995. The nomination was reviewed by the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation and approved unanimously on February 15, 1996.

Barry Norris, Administrator, Field and Technical Services Division, Oregon Water Resources Department, commented on the proposed nomination. In a letter of April 11, 1995, Mr. Norris pointed out that his is the state agency having statutory authority to ensure the safety of all dams in the state. His agency does not oppose prospective registration, he said, but at the same time would insist upon enforcing repair or replacement required to correct dangerous conditions. Further, the agency pointed out, since the dam is no longer used for power generation, the dam's slackwater pool might not be retained legally if, through adjudication by circuit court in Douglas County, it is determined that the owners have no valid claim to store surface water under a vested pre-1909 water right.

In a letter of May 10, 1995, Daniel C. Robertson, Director, Douglas County Museum of History and Natural History, Roseburg, pointed out, relative to the initial application, subsequently abandoned, there would be need for correction in text and map references to the historic travel corridor through Winchester.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1B

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Summary Statement of the SHPO

Winchester Dam on the North Umpqua River at the historic settlement of Winchester, in Douglas County, belongs to a class of impoundment structures of moderate scale built on Oregon streams for early logging, hydroelectric and irrigation projects. A few remain from the end of the last century, but most of historic vintage were built in the early years of the 20th century. Without exception, those in western Oregon have been modified over the years to correct the damaging effects of periodic flood and general wear.

At the request of the State Historic Preservation Office, the Oregon Department of Water Resources printed an inventory index of all dams in the state antedating 1933 (the New Deal). Some 179 are listed. Winchester Dam on the North Umpqua is the second oldest of these since log cribbing of 1890 is the basis of its construction. Only one other dam on the list, the Bechdoldt Reservoir Dam in Klamath County (1888), is older. Nine others join with these two in antedating the turn of the century. As many as 53 of the dams on this selected list--not quite a third of the category, were built before the First World War. Only one other dam of this period stands in Douglas County: the Clear Lake Dam of 1914.

Winchester Dam spans the west-flowing North Umpqua River near a traditional crossing place perpetuated in present-day railroad and highway bridges. Approximately 450 feet long, the dam is constructed of heavy rubble-filled timber cribbing with concrete footings and abutments. As originally erected in 1890, it rose to a height of seven feet above the riverbed. The head was raised to 14 feet in improvements between 1904 and 1907. In the course of structural upgrading and repair that is normal for such structures, the cribbing was reinforced with steel. Although a deteriorated section of about 70 feet at the north end of the dam was rebuilt in 1991, the remaining original timber cribbing is considered sound.

The nominated area consists of the structure and two separate tax lots on opposite banks of the river. On the south bank, a 0.49-acre parcel (Tax Lot 200) is included as the site of the original powerhouse which burned in 1911. The existing south bank powerhouse, built of concrete in 1912, was abandoned after being damaged by the flood of 1964 and, ultimately, its superstructure was dismantled. The old housing for turbine bays was covered recently with a

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redwood deck and railing. On the north bank, a 1.73-acre parcel (Tax Lot 300) contains an abandoned powerhouse of 1983 and, on the downstream side of the dam, is a fishway, or ladder to aid spawning runs of anadromous fish. In its earlier configuration, the dam's fish passage consisted of a simple spillway, or opening in the north end. All electrical generating equipment was removed from the non-historic powerhouse by 1993. Two sliver parcels adjoining the north bank lot also are owned by the Water Control Board (Tax Lots 102 and 501), but are excluded from the nominated area because they are recent acquisitions for public access to the fish viewing station. The total area proposed for nomination is 2.22 acres. The dam reservoir, which extends 7,200 feet upstream, is not included in the nominated area.

The points of distinction accruing to the Winchester Dam are succinctly set forth as follows. The dam is the oldest in Douglas County. It is one of only two dams remaining in southern Oregon that predate 1904. It retains within the greater part of its span the original construction of 1890, and with the exception of powerhouse modification and newer development at the north abutment, its configuration has not been altered since 1907. Although constructed as the keystone of hoped-for industrial development at Winchester that was never fully realized, the dam and powerhouse operated by a series of entrepreneurs and small utility companies from 1890 to 1923 was highly significant to Douglas County. In the historic period before the local utility was taken over by the regional California Oregon Power Company, Winchester Dam was the crucial source of water and electric power to nearby Roseburg, the principal city and government seat of Douglas County. Winchester Dam meets National Register Criterion A in the area of industry as the first power generating facility on the North Umpqua River and one of the oldest dam structures standing in Oregon. Design and construction of the structure is attributed to contractor and sawmill operator Charles A. Briggs of Coles Valley, a rural community northwesterly of Roseburg.

As for the historical impact of the dam, the application shows that the early settlement of Winchester, founded by the Umpqua Exploring Expedition in 1850, was strong enough to be the Douglas County seat from 1852 until 1855, at which time it was superseded by Roseburg. By 1860, Winchester was scarcely more than a ghost town. The incorporators of the 1890 townsite at Winchester and their successors were prevented from realizing their goal of a major industrial development by the financial panic of 1893. In due course, however, the power generating facility was the focus of a County-supported revitalization effort in the early years of the 20th century. An enlarged sawmill operation was planned at Winchester. After a series of mergers and consolidation with sawmill operators, by 1912 the facility was operated by the Douglas

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County Light and Water Company, the last small electrical utility to have control of the operation before its sale to the California Oregon Power Company (COPCO) in 1923. The sale to a regional power company marks the end of the historic period of significance, for although the facility continued to generate power at low capacity for a time, its output was by then a negligible factor in area commerce and industry. For local consumption, COPCO imported power from sources outside Douglas County until the Toketee project, the first of the eight dams of COPCO's North Umpqua Hydroelectric project, was operational in 1948. In 1961, COPCO was merged with Pacific Power and Light, the company which, in 1969, transferred its holdings at Winchester to area property owners who had organized as the Winchester Water Control District. Today, the board of this organization maintains the dam chiefly for the recreational benefits of its reservoir, but it also maintains an automated fish counting station within the inoperable newer powerhouse on the north bank.



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Winchester Dam, Winchester, Oregon

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The Winchester Dam was constructed in 1890 to provide water and power for the planned industrial development at the community of Winchester, situated on the bank of the North Umpqua River in Douglas County, Oregon. By 1904 the dam was the primary source of both water and electricity for the growing City of Roseburg. Serially modified to increase electric generation capacity and repaired following fire and flood damage, the Winchester Dam retains significant association to its historic role as one of the earliest electric generating facilities in the region and represents a key element in the late 19th and early 20th century development of the City of Roseburg and its surrounding area.

### SETTLEMENT AT WINCHESTER:

As the approximate point where the Southern Emigrant Route [Applegate Trail] crossed the North Umpqua River, settlement in the vicinity of the Winchester Dam began in the middle of the 19th century along with the settlement of southern Oregon as a whole. Various pioneer families established homestead or Donation Land Claims in the vicinity and soon the town developed along both sides of the river. In November 1851 Winchester's first Postmaster was appointed and in April 1852 the first meeting of the Douglas County Commissioners was held here.

Though Winchester was designated as the county seat and was the largest settlement within the limits of the county, it had a strong rival almost from the first. Four (*sic*) miles further up the Umpqua Aaron Rose had laid out the town of Roseburg...[and] began at once to secure for his embryo city the honors and advantages which accrue to a town possessing the distinction of being a county seat. (Walling, 1884:405)

In March 1855 by a popular vote of 265 to 90 the Douglas County seat was transferred to Roseburg. "The loss of county seat was a sad blow to Winchester, which was already on the rapid decline as a business point, and a few years later the whole town was moved [on skids] to Roseburg." (Walling, 1884:405.) In 1860 the Winchester Post Office was closed and the former county seat essentially became a ghost town. (Bakken, 1976:10)

Still located along the major north-south corridor through western Oregon, the Winchester vicinity benefited minimally from the series of transportation systems that passed through. The original ferry over the North Umpqua continued to operate through the late 1880s. A toll bridge was built in the 1850s but was washed out in the 1861 flood and not replaced.

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Winchester Dam, Winchester, Oregon

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In January 1889 a cantilever steel bridge was opened just east of the eventual dam site, eliminating the ferry operation.<sup>1</sup>

### 1890 DEVELOPMENT:

In May 1890 Henry Dumbleton of British Columbia and Henry M. Dumbleton of Douglas County purchased the former Winchester townsite and filed a plat for a new community upon it.<sup>2</sup>

Know all men that we...have laid out a...townsite to be known as "Winchester" and laid out blocks, lots, avenues, streets and alleys...and by these presents do dedicate [them] to the use of the inhabitants of said city of Winchester and the public generally, forever or as long as used therefore.  
(Douglas County Plat Book, 1:57)

The Dumbletons offered lots in the new town for sale and announced plans for industrial development based on water power provided by the construction of a dam across the North Umpqua. (*Roseburg Review*, 8-May-1890) Plans for a variety of enterprises were made public including a hotel for fishermen, a bathhouse for ladies, and a laundry. (*Roseburg Review* 28-August-1890) Mr. Briggs, the contractor responsible for the construction of the dam itself, made plans to erect a large saw mill and sash and door factory on the south bank.

The townsite has been beautifully laid out into lots...the business part of the town will be along the long level bench immediately above the river bank, upon which several shops have already been built by men who had confidence enough in the proprietors to build before the dam was finished.  
(Douglas County Museum, A-17)<sup>3</sup>

Other industrial developments at Winchester included an ice factory, based upon "...the extraordinary purity and goodness of the North Umpqua river water during eight months of the year being a generally recognized fact." A woolen mill was under consideration as

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<sup>1</sup> The cantilever bridge was replaced in 1923-24 by construction of the Booth Bridge, a Conde B. McCollough designed concrete arch span on the Pacific Highway/Highway 99 that survives west of the dam. The concrete abutments of the 1889 bridge remain visible in the river channel east of the dam.

<sup>2</sup> See Footnote 2 in Section 7 of this nomination for information on the Dumbletons.

<sup>3</sup> This unidentified clipping entitled "The Winchester Townsite" appears to date from Autumn 1890, based on the mention of the re-establishment of the Winchester Post Office, which occurred in October of that year.

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Winchester Dam, Winchester, Oregon

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was a fruit cannery, but it is unclear if these enterprises were ever actually constructed. (Douglas County Museum, A-17 and Bakken, 1976:11)

In June [1890] the *Review* reported there were only three families living in Winchester. By October the town came to life with a hotel, grocery store, blacksmith shop, post office, many new residences, and a population of not less than one hundred people as the result of Dumbleton's great dam and the promise of new industry. (Bakken, 1976:11)

Despite the Dumbletons' high hopes for a revived Winchester, the industrial development and the new community do not appear to have succeeded as planned. By the national decline surrounding the "Panic of 1893" the Winchester Dam was apparently supplying power for the Briggs-built saw mill and sash factory and little else.<sup>4</sup> Through the late 1890s and early 1900s the Winchester Dam was the site of a successful salmon fishery.

When we moved to Winchester [1893] my father bought some nets...and this was the start of about a quarter of a century of salmon fishing...Our catch was packed in fish boxes and shipped to market, fresh from the river, aboard the express cars of the Southern Pacific trains that stopped at the Winchester station...The old log dam across the North Umpqua at Winchester had not regular fish ladders, the fishway was simply an opening in the north end of the dam. People from all over came there to catch the salmon that congregated at the foot of this spillway, using spears or grab hooks for that purpose. The place below the turbine at the south end of the dam was another spot where the spawning runs of fish gathered in great numbers...(Pearson, as quoted in Bakken, 1976:14)

In 1908, the first year the family kept records, the Pearsons sold over 380,000 pounds of dressed salmon, most of which was shipped to Salem, Eugene, Albany, and Portland.

### EARLY 20TH CENTURY DEVELOPMENT:

According to one report, the first demonstration of electricity in the southern Oregon area occurred in January 1889 when "...1200 candle power arc light was suspended in one of the upper doorways of the Ashland Flouring Mills." (Bullis, 1965) From this modest beginning, the production of power from southern Oregon's many rivers and streams rapidly grew with various small local companies developing facilities throughout the area.

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<sup>4</sup> No information as to how long Briggs himself operated the mill or who the subsequent owners, if any, were. It is assumed that the Winchester Dam continued to provide power to Roseburg during this period.

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Winchester Dam, Winchester, Oregon

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Economic and competitive pressures swiftly forced these small providers into mergers, forming larger and more regional entities.<sup>5</sup> The first operator of the Winchester Dam facility, a company presumably held by the Dumbleton interests, evolved into the Roseburg Water Company by 1903, and became known as the Douglas Electric and Water Company the following year. In 1904 this firm merged with the Roseburg Water and Light Company, which operated a hydro facility south of Roseburg, and in 1906 the Umpqua Water, Light and Power Company interest were also added. The interests of A. Welch and the Kendalls, who operated the sawmill at Winchester along with some claim on the Winchester Dam itself, were joined into the utility by 1912 and the final company controlling the dam at the end of the so-called "pioneer period" of small scale electrical generation was the Douglas County Light and Water Company.<sup>6</sup>

Concurrent with the development of the Winchester Dam and the water and power utility was the construction and operation of the adjacent sawmill on the south bank of the river. Sometime prior to 1903, Douglas County had apparently acquired an interest in the Winchester Dam or, at minimum, obtained some method of controlling its future use. That year the County Court granted exclusive permission to the Oregon Boom and Timber Company to float logs from Rock Creek to Winchester and as an element of that agreement required the company to build a large sawmill at Winchester and renovate the dam. (Bakken, 1976:13)<sup>7</sup> In 1904 renewed interest in the development of an industrial base and community at Winchester was spurred by the incorporation of the Winchester Townsite Corporation, which was likely connected in some way to the 1903 requirement.

...the town will be revived and built up rapidly by the acquisition of the big lumbering plant and the other industries now under course of construction at that place...There is already...a great demand for town lots at Winchester,

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<sup>5</sup> Some of the earliest providers, as at Winchester, were primarily developed to supply specific industrial developments and only sold power as a sideline. As electrification became more common and the need grew, such firms often shed themselves of a business outside their primary scope of interest.

<sup>6</sup> Much of this information is based upon "Origin and Development of the California Oregon Power Company (Now a Part of Pacific Power and Light)" as compiled by that company in February 1965. While the Douglas County Light and Water Company was the sole provider to Roseburg, numerous other small providers remained in Douglas County, most of which eventually were merged into the COPCO system. These include Sutherlin Light and Power (merged in 1914), Riddle Municipal Electric (1927), Oakland Municipal Electric and Water (1929), Myrtle Creek Municipal Electric (1947), and Canyonville Municipal Electric (1947). It is critical to note than most of the municipal companies owned and operated *distribution* systems for electricity they purchased from other providers such as Douglas County Light and Water or later, COPCO itself.

<sup>7</sup> This may have been an expansion or rebuilding of the earlier Briggs development.

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Winchester Dam, Winchester, Oregon

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which is sure to prosper and build up as a result...(Roseburg Plaindealer, 11-July-1904, 3:6)

The construction of the new mill and the enlargement of the dam which it required were of great interest in the area.

The magnitude of the lumbering industry which is likely to become established soon at Winchester can be readily recognized [as] an institution or enterprise which promises to exceed that of the Booth-Kelley Co., the one great advantage of this new company will [be] the concentration of all its manufacturing institutions at one point...(Roseburg Plaindealer, 1-August-1904, 1:1-2)

In anticipation of the new mill, the Southern Pacific Railroad built a new spur line "...from the depot...to a point above the county bridge, a distance of a half mile or more, which will traverse the lumber yards of the new mill company." (Roseburg Plaindealer, 1-August-1904, 1:1-2)

In 1906 the mill at Winchester, along with an interest in the Winchester Dam, was acquired by a Mr. A. Welch. In January 1907 Welch's interests were purchased by J. L. and S. A. Kendall who owned some 14,000 acres of timber further up river. The Kendalls, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, apparently consolidated all ownership of the mill and the utility, operating both through their local manager H. J. Frear. The Kendall interests retained control of both the Winchester Dam and the Douglas County Light and Water Company until 1923.

### *Electrification:*

Following the initial development of hydroelectric generation capabilities, the electrification of Douglas County (or any area) required the development and installation of a complex system that could distribute power throughout the city to light homes and streets and provide motive power for industry.

The exact history of Roseburg's electrification is substantially complicated by the poor condition of the 1890s newspaper collection for the area, limiting our understanding of events. In November 1890, the very month the Winchester Dam was completed, a James Moore bid \$19.50 to "light lamps" in Roseburg, indicating the town still relied on gas or a similar system. (Douglas County Museum A-17, quoting the *News-Review*, 27-November-1890) Another report, however, indicates that electric lights were in place in the City of Roseburg by 1891. (Douglas County Museum, A-60[a]:2) In 1901 a "new line from

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Winchester Dam, Winchester, Oregon

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Winchester [was] turned on..." providing improved service to the Roseburg area. (Douglas County Museum, A-60[a]:83)<sup>8</sup>

During these early years electricity was likely both expensive and unreliable as the primary source for either light or power.

For many years [towns] purchased their lighting on a moonlight schedule — no street lights were turned on if the moon was shining. [Residential] customers [needs] were few in the early days. One carbon filament lamp suspended in the middle of a room was ample, the rate or light bill being based on the size of the globe or whether the use was until 9 o'clock or midnight. The first electric appliance, and for years the only appliance in use, was the flat iron. (Bullis, 1965)

From these modest beginnings, the development of the electric system expanded quickly and by the end of the first decade of the 20th century had become a crucial element in American life. In May 1911, when the powerhouse at Winchester was destroyed by fire, a local headline read "Plant Destroyed, City's Service Crippled...Electric Motors Stilled, Water and Light Limited."

In the existing emergency, the South Umpqua River plant is being used, but it cannot furnish more than a limited supply of water and light, and probably no electricity for power purposes. The latter item is of serious concern, affecting as it does a number of local industries and the four local motion picture theaters, all of them having been dependent upon the destroyed [plant] for electric power...The *Review* is among the local establishments whose operating facilities are seriously handicapped by the loss of electric power. Gasoline motors have been substituted and these will enable regular publication on a reduced scale until new electric service is available. (*Roseburg Review*, 1-May-1911, 1:1)

With the rebuilding and expansion of the Winchester powerhouse, rushed to completion by round-the-clock crews following the arrival of "...a carload of new machinery," electrical generation at Winchester was quickly resumed. In the 1912 "Progress" Edition of the *Roseburg Review* it was noted,

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<sup>8</sup> Lack of specific information on the Winchester Dam at least creates the theoretical possibility that it was originally a source of water, not electric power. The report of electric lights in Roseburg by 1891 indicate generation capability was by then available, presumably at the Winchester Dam. Certainly Roseburg was electrified prior to 1903-4, the earliest known period at which an alteration to the dam can be documented and a "new" line from Winchester was in place prior to that time..

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Winchester Dam, Winchester, Oregon

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Under the influence of reasonable rates and regular and dependable service, electric power is rapidly becoming the universal power... The little electric motor is your efficient servant, ready to do your bidding at a moment's notice. It meets practically all requirements large or small, can be started in an instant, and requires very little space. [An electric motor] never sleeps and eats only when working. (*Roseburg Review*, 10-April-1912)

As Roseburg continued to grow during the 1910-1912 period the Douglas County Light and Water Company expanded its distribution systems city-wide, fully blanketing the community with both water and electric power.

The local water, light, and power system covers the City of Roseburg and all the suburbs, including West Roseburg, to a point beyond the Soldier's Home, and Edenblower district and territory to the east. (*Roseburg Review*, 10-April-1912)

By the end of the World War I period, however, expansion of the utility system in Roseburg has apparently slowed. By 1923, when the Douglas County Light and Water Company was purchased by the California Oregon Power Company (COPCO), the system had apparently obviously neglected to keep up with the demand and technological improvements in the electrical generation and distribution field. This was in no doubt partially related to the Kendall's distant residence and presumably varied business interests. The local press greeted with enthusiasm the sale of the company and expressed the hope that Roseburg's needs would now be adequately met.

In Roseburg and the surround towns, the voltage will immediately be brought up to the full standard and enough power will be provided to operate all appliances and machines in which electricity is used...The [sale] now insures (*sic*) Roseburg of all the electric energy needed and will doubtless be a decided factor in the future development of the city. (*News-Review*, 15-June-1923, 1:1-2)

As discussed in Section 7 of this nomination the much larger COPCO, with its power generation facilities throughout both southern Oregon and northern California, as well as a sophisticated and wide-ranging ability to purchase and distribute power generated by others, essentially supplied all of Roseburg's needs from outside the Douglas County area until the construction and opening of the Toketee powerhouse in 1948. COPCO's regional scope, coupled with the minimal capacity of the Winchester Dam, thus ended the role of the nominated property as the primary power provider in the Roseburg area.

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Winchester Dam, Winchester, Oregon

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Although the Winchester Dam would continue to produce electricity for an additional forty-one years and still serves as the location of the City of Roseburg water supply, the 1923 COPCO sale marks the end of the period of significance for the Winchester Dam.

### COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS:

A large number of low-head dams such as that at Winchester were constructed throughout southern Oregon in the last decade of the 19th- and the early years of the 20th century. Only a few survive. Among the various small entities that would eventually comprise the California Oregon Power Company system, the earliest identified hydroelectric facility was that built near Ashland in the summer of 1889. Another small dam was built by the Grants Pass Water, Light and Power Company on the Rogue River in late 1889, making the 1890 Winchester Dam the third of COPCO's eventual holdings to have been constructed.<sup>9</sup>

Other early hydroelectric dams of similar size and capacity that remain in southern Oregon include the Gold Ray Dam at Tolo, in Jackson County, which was constructed by the Condor Water and Power Company. Built in 1902 and modified in 1911, the Gold Ray Dam was deeded by Pacific Power & Light to Jackson County and is now managed by the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department.<sup>10</sup> The Condor company, controlled by C. R. and Colonel Frank H. Ray, later evolved in the Rogue River Electric Company, which became one of the three major entities that formed the California-Oregon Power Company (known as "the hyphen" company), COPCO's direct predecessor.<sup>11</sup> Concurrent with this final merger, the Ray interests began construction of a new and significantly larger hydroelectric facility at Prospect, in eastern Jackson County. When the Prospect plant went on line in 1912 it became the single largest power producer in the southern Oregon region and until construction of "COPCO 1" and "COPCO 2" in Siskiyou County, California, was the largest facility within the COPCO system. The COPCO developments at Prospect survive and remain an active element within the Pacific Power &

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<sup>9</sup> An early water-power dam was built on the Link River, near Keno, in 1882 and that site, later modified, would also become an element of the COPCO system. Neither the 1889 Ashland facility nor the Grants Pass dam survive.

<sup>10</sup> See Clay/Atwood, *Jackson County Cultural and Historical Resource Survey*, 1979/1991, Site #112, ranked "Primary."

<sup>11</sup> The other entities, each of whom had along the way merged with numerous other firms complicating this history, were the Siskiyou Electric Power and Light Company and the Klamath Power Company, which was actually owned the Siskiyou interests prior to merging with the Rogue River Electric Company in 1911.



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Winchester Dam, Winchester, Oregon

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Light system. Another early facility, not related to the COPCO system, is the Reeder Gulch Powerhouse, constructed in 1909, and better known as the Ashland Municipal Powerhouse. This property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.

In Douglas County, which remained outside the COPCO system until 1923, a second hydroelectric facility had been constructed on the South Umpqua River by the Roseburg Water Company in 1890, the same year as the Winchester Dam. This so-called "South Plant" was acquired by the Douglas Electric and Water Company in 1903 and was later consolidated into what became the Douglas County Light and Water Company, owners of the Winchester Dam. In May, following the Winchester powerhouse fire, it was the South Plant facility that provided the limited electricity for Roseburg described above. As early as 1912 the South Plant was being described as an "auxiliary facility" and it was dismantled or removed at some time prior to the 1923 COPCO acquisition.

In an April 1995 analysis on "Pre-Roosevelt Era Dams in Oregon" the Oregon Water Resources Board identified a number of dams including hydroelectric, as well as irrigation, and other uses that were constructed prior to 1933. Only two are located in Douglas County — the nominated Winchester Dam, which is dated at 1904, and the Clear Lake Dam, constructed in 1914.<sup>12</sup>

Using the more accurate 1890 construction date, the Winchester Dam is one of only eleven dams to survive in Oregon that were built prior to 1900 and one of only four built in 1890 or earlier.<sup>13</sup> Whether the 1890 or 1904 date for the Winchester Dam is used, it is clearly one of the oldest identified dams in southern Oregon to have a significant connection to the development of hydroelectric power and is the oldest dam of any type known to remain within Douglas County.

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<sup>12</sup> The 1904 date roughly coincides with the change in head height discussed in Section 7 although the basic structure clearly dates from 1890. The Clear Lake Dam, on the lower Umpqua River, is apparently used for irrigation or water supply purposes.

<sup>13</sup> The eleven pre-1900 dams are three City of Portland dams (#1, #3, and #4, all built in 1894), the Bechdolt Reservoir dam, in Klamath County (1888, the oldest in Oregon), the Cranston Reservoir dam (Baker County, 1892), the Deep Lake or Heart Lake dam (Lake County, 1898), the Powerdale Diversion dam (Hood River, 1899), Reservoir # 1 and #2 (Baker County, both in 1890), and the Turner Reservoir (Baker County, 1892). As one of three dams dated at 1890, the Winchester Dam is tied for the distinction as one of Oregon's second oldest such structures.

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Winchester Dam, Winchester, Oregon

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### SUMMARY:

The Winchester Dam is the oldest known dam in Douglas County and one of only two pre-1904 dams related to the development of hydroelectric facilities to survive in southern Oregon. While constructed as an element of the industrial development plans for the community of Winchester, the dam provided the primary source of both water and electricity from as early as 1891 until 1923, for many years constituting the sole source of electricity for the City of Roseburg. The Winchester Dam retains substantial integrity to its original development, appearance, construction method and setting, while reflecting the serial modifications that are inherent in structures of this type. The Winchester Dam accurately relates the associations for which it is significant and admirably demonstrates its role in the historical development of the Douglas County region.

Winchester Dam  
Name of Property

Douglas County, Oregon  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 2.22 acres, PLUS the physical structure of the dam as it spans the channel of the North Umpqua River

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Winchester, Oregon 1:24000

1 [ 1 1 0 ] [ 4 1 7 1 1 3 1 3 1 0 ] [ 4 1 7 1 9 1 2 1 2 1 8 1 0 ]  
Zone Easting Northing

3 [ 1 ] [ 1 1 1 1 1 1 ] [ 1 1 1 1 1 1 ]  
Zone Easting Northing

2 [ 1 1 0 ] [ 4 1 7 1 1 4 1 3 1 0 ] [ 4 1 7 1 9 1 2 1 1 1 6 1 0 ]

4 [ 1 ] [ 1 1 1 1 1 1 ] [ 1 1 1 1 1 1 ]

See continuation sheet.

### Verbal Boundary Description

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

### Boundary Justification

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

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title George Kramer, M.S.

organization Historic Preservation Consultant

date 1-December-1995

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city or town Ashland

state Oregon zip code 97520-1154

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

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

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

### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional items

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

## Property Owner

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

name Winchester Water Control District, C/o Mr. Juan Yraguen

street & number P. O. Box 171

telephone (541) 673-3366

city or town Winchester

state Oregon zip code 97495

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

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

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 10 Page: 1 Winchester Dam, v. Winchester, Oregon

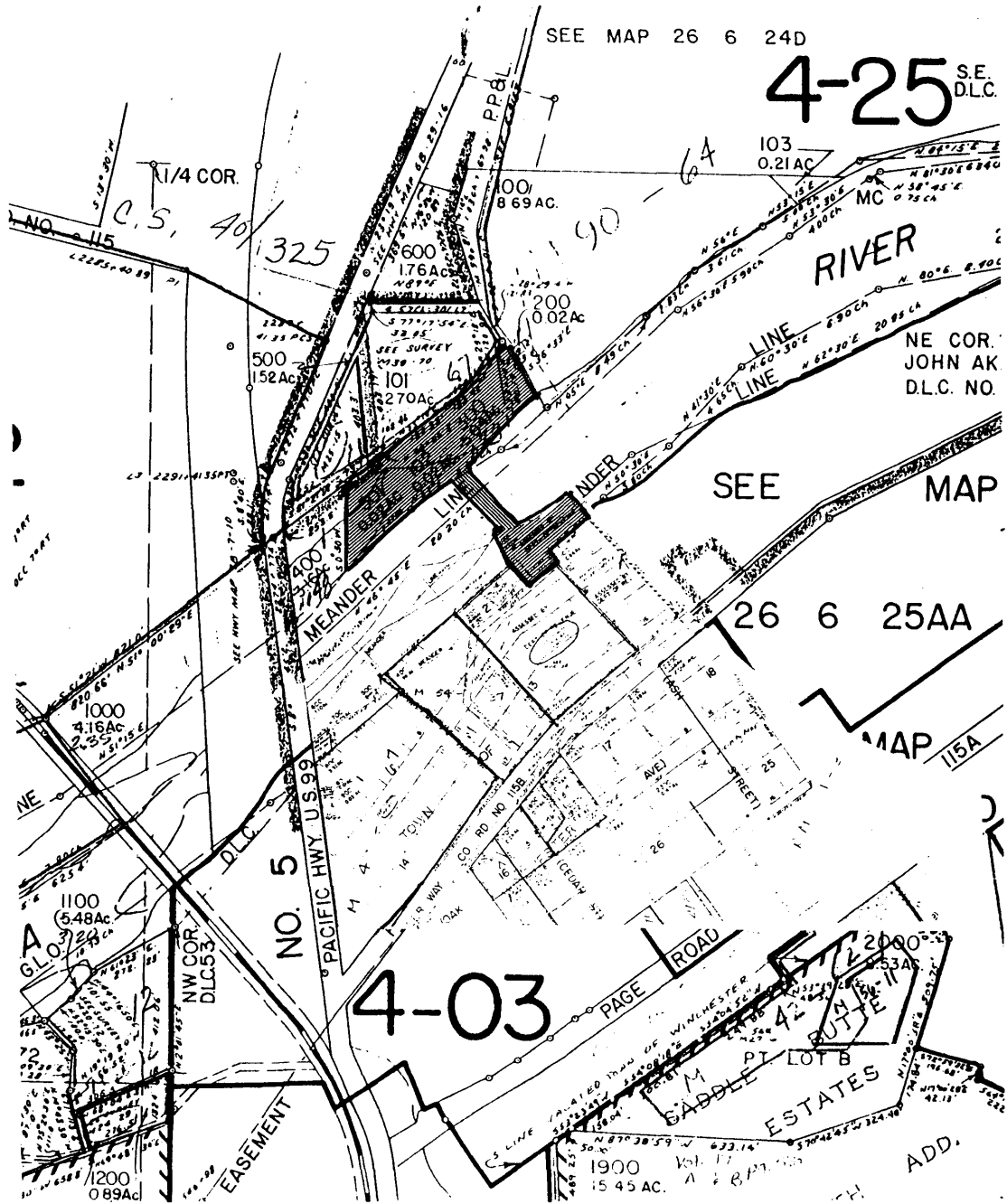
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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nominated property is comprised of two separate tax lots on opposite banks of the North Umpqua River plus the physical structure of the Winchester Dam that ties them together. On the south bank a .49 acre irregularly shaped parcel identified on Douglas County Assessors Plat 26-6-25AC as Tax Lot 200 is the site of the original powerhouse and its operable gates. The north end of the dam meets the bank at an irregularly shaped 1.73 acre parcel of identified on Assessors Plat 26-6-25 as Tax Lot 300. The total nominated property (lots 26-6-25AC-200, Tax Lot 26-6-25-300) totals 2.22 acres PLUS the physical structure of the Winchester Dam that spans the North Umpqua River between them.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated area includes the entire physical structure of the Winchester Dam plus the two parcels containing the abutments that anchor it to either side of the channel of the North Umpqua River, encompassing all remaining features associated with the dam during its historic period of use. The area includes all that land still under the ownership of the Winchester Water Control District that was purchased by the California Oregon Power Company in 1923 and ultimately transferred to the District by COPCO's successor, the Pacific Power and Light Company, in 1969.



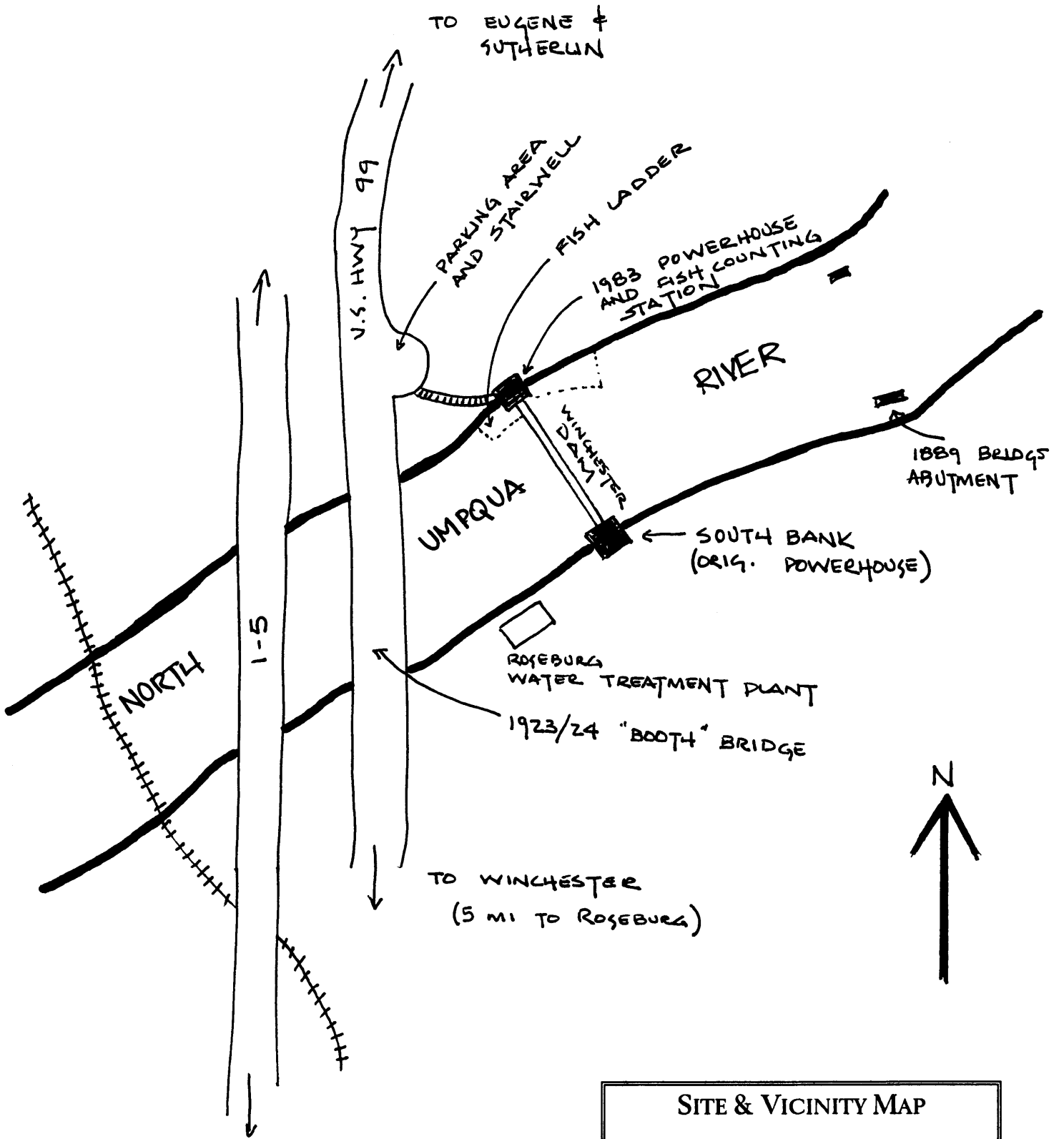
**NOTE**

The nominated area does not include the narrow tax lots numbered 501 and 102, containing the stairwell along the north bank of the river. Please refer to Section 10 for a detailed description of the nominated area.

**TAX LOTS**  
*(nominated area is shaded)*

**Winchester Dam  
 v. Winchester, Oregon  
 26S-6W-25-200 &  
 26S-6W-25AC-300**

*from Douglas County Assessors Plats*



**SITE & VICINITY MAP**  
 Winchester Dam  
 v. Winchester, Oregon  
 NOT TO SCALE

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: PHOTOGRAPHS Page: 1 Winchester Dam, v. Winchester, Oregon

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1. Historic View: "Winchester Power Dam in North Umpqua River..."  
Looking: SE, from present Hwy 99  
Photographer: E. G. Kropp Co., Milwaukee  
Date of Photograph: c.1908 [before raise in head]  
Negative: Douglas County Museum Collection, Neg. No. N5612
2. Historic View: Winchester Dam and Powerhouse  
Looking: SE, from present Hwy 99  
Photographer: Unknown, from COPCO Report  
Date of Photograph: 1923  
Negative: Douglas County Museum Collection, Neg. No. N10586
3. Current View: Winchester Dam from Highway 99 Parking area  
Looking: Southeast  
Photographer: Jeanne Moore  
Date of Photograph: November-1994  
Negative: Collection of the photographer
4. Current View: Winchester Dam and South Powerhouse foundation  
Looking: NE, from Roseburg Water Treatment Plant  
Photographer: G. Kramer  
Date of Photograph: September 1995  
Negative: Collection of the photographer
5. Current View: Winchester Dam with fish ladder in foreground  
Looking: South, from north bank stairwell landing  
Photographer: G. Kramer  
Date of Photograph: September 1995  
Negative: Collection of the photographer
6. Current View: Winchester Dam, Booth Bridge in background  
Looking: SW, across reservoir  
Photographer: G. Kramer  
Date of Photograph: September 1995  
Negative: Collection of the photographer



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: PHOTOGRAPHS Page: 2 Winchester Dam, v. Winchester, Oregon

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7. Current Detail: South Powerhouse foundation, showing turbine bays  
Looking: East, from Roseburg Water Treatment Plant  
Photographer: G. Kramer  
Date of Photograph: September 1995  
Negative: Collection of the photographer
8. Current Detail: North Powerhouse and forebay [inoperable]  
Looking: West, from forebay gates  
Photographer: G. Kramer  
Date of Photograph: September 1995  
Negative: Collection of the photographer
9. Historic Detail: Log crib construction, dam repair  
Looking: North, toward stairwell  
Photographer: Juan Yraguen  
Date of Photograph: July 1991  
Negative: Copy Negative in the Collection of George Kramer
10. Historic Detail: Log crib construction, dam repair  
Looking: South, toward Roseburg Water Treatment Plant  
Photographer: Juan Yraguen  
Date of Photograph: July 1991  
Negative: Copy Negative in the Collection of George Kramer