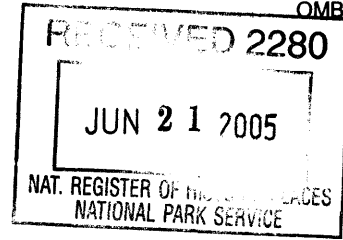


gal

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 instruction in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classifications, 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 HIBERNIAN HALL

other names/site number American Legion Hall/ Grace Collins Community Center

2. Location

street & number 128 NE Russell for publication

city or town Portland vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97212

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally.

James M. Hamrick

14 June 2005

Signature of certifying official/Title - Deputy SHPO

Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
Action

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 Beall
Signature of the Keeper

8/4/05
Date of

Hibernian Hall
Name of Property

Multnomah, OR
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many 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	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic and Architectural Properties in the Eliot Neighborhood of Portland, Oregon MPS

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Meeting hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY PERIOD REVIVALS:
Mission

foundation: Concrete
walls: Hollow Clay Tile/ Stucco
roof: Wood/ asphalt
Other: _____

Narrative Description

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

General Description and Setting

The Hibernian Hall, built by the Ancient Order of Hibernians in 1914, is a two-story rectangular building with an auditorium on the main floor and a ballroom plus other smaller rooms on the lower basement level. It was designed in the Mission style, evidenced by the distinctive parapet on the front façade, and retains high architectural integrity. The Hibernian Hall stands on the south side of N.E. Russell Street between Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Blvd. and N.E. Rodney, inside the boundaries set forth in the 1997 multiple property document entitled "Historic and Architectural Properties in the Eliot Neighborhood of Portland, Oregon."

The Eliot neighborhood encompasses much of the area formerly known as the city of Albina on the close-in east side of Portland adjacent to the Willamette River, and also a small portion of the former city of East Portland on the south edge. Today, the city of Portland recognizes the boundaries as the Willamette River on the west, N. and N.E. Fremont on the north, N.E. 7th on the east, and N. & N.E. Broadway at the south. This district has a diverse variety of structures. The western portion (west of N. Vancouver Avenue) is predominately industrial and is dissected by the I-5 freeway. It also includes Emanuel Hospital near the Fremont Bridge ramp at the north end. The main portion of the district contains many commercial buildings and multi-family dwellings of both old and modern vintage along the major arterial streets of N. Williams Avenue, N. and N.E. Russell Street and N.E. MLK Blvd. The side streets contain predominately older single-family dwellings. Many are a unique collection of surviving Victorian-era cottages in several styles. Newer buildings, predominantly duplexes and higher density, have been constructed to fill vacant lots and some are compatible with the historic neighborhood.

The Hibernian Hall sits at 128 N.E. Russell on the original plat of Albina on Lot 4, Block 17. Russell Street is one of the main transportation arterials in the district of a commercial nature. Russell Street connects N. Interstate Avenue, which has the new light rail line (MAX) on the west end adjacent to the old Union Pacific Railroad yards, to N.E. MLK (formerly Union Avenue) at the east end. Along Russell Street, most of the old commercial buildings with storefronts have been lost during the last three decades. Adjacent to the Hibernian Hall to the west is a commercial styled wood framed building, one of the few survivors of the type. This building, with the classic commercial false front, was built in 1906-07 by Elliott Lee Sanborn, an active Albina carpenter, and was originally a meeting hall for the Woodmen of the World Organization. On the east side of the Hibernian Hall is an asphalt parking area and former playground of the Grace Collins Community Center. Another old wooden building once stood on this lot. Across the street to the north is the Multnomah County Library Administration Building, a modern office building of the 1970s with parking surfaces in the front and west side abutting NE Rodney Avenue. As evidenced by old Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, a few old commercial buildings previously occupied this property. Besides a few other smaller modern commercial buildings, a two-story brick building stands at the NW corner of Russell & MLK. This larger structure, built in 1909, houses a coffee shop and restaurant with apartments upstairs.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Exterior Description

The Hibernian Hall is a rectangular structure about 25' tall with a decorative parapet in front and simple one in the rear. Designed in the Mission style with a stucco exterior covering walls of hollow tile blocks, the walls are supported by a large perimeter concrete foundation. The roof has a shallow pitch with the ridgeline in the center running from front to back. The building is 50' wide and 116' long, standing on a lot that is 50' wide and 145' long. The original setbacks were zero feet on the front and both side elevations with a 29' strip of extra space in the rear. The grade on Russell Street slopes slightly downhill to the west exposing about an extra foot of the lower level at the west end in the front.

The front (north) facade exhibits the decorative symmetry common to the Mission style. Most notable is the stylized front parapet. At the top center below the apex of the roofline is a round porthole window surrounded by four keystones. Larger segmented windows dominate the central portion of this elevation. Most portions of these windows once functioned as casement windows that opened outward for ventilation. The second level windows are adorned by keystones at the top centers and are arched in fashion. Wood spandrel panels separate the upper and lower windows. The middle larger panel originally had the Celtic letters of "A O H" with a cross through the "O", representing the organization. On each end of the symmetrical façade are smaller gothic windows. At the bottom center of the front is a double set of arched doors that function as the main entrance. Above the main entrance is a bracketed door hood. At the far right side (N.W. corner) is a single door that leads to the lower level. At the far left at the ground level is another window that has been covered from the outside. Near the top of the outer parapet wings are decorative tiles and impressions in the surface fashioned for Catholic Irish symbolism. The characters in the tiles are believed to be runes or mysterious alphabetic symbols of ancient European origin. Above the gothic window on each side are a group of five tile impressions arranged for symbolic ornament.

The east facade was originally a solid stucco surface from front to back but a series of steel framed windows were installed in 1957 during remodeling for the day care facility and community center to let light in both the auditorium and lower level banquet hall. About 10 feet back from the front at the upper balcony level is a door with a long fire escape cascading down towards the south also installed during the 1957 remodeling. There are two more exit doors at the lower level, installed during the 1957 remodeling with stairwells outside rising to the ground grade. A large chimney rises through the roof behind the exterior wall about one third the distance from the front that serviced the boiler room in the basement. At the rear facade (south) is a simple parapet that follows the general contour of the roof and tying in both the sidewalls. At the auditorium level is an exit door near the west end with steel stairs that descend straight down to the ground level. The door opening is original. Below that door at the lower level is another exit door with a stairwell that rises a few steps to ground level. At the east end at ground level is an original window that is covered up. The west facade is a continuous solid wall with a stucco surface without any windows. There is an 8" gap between most of this facade and the adjacent old W. O. W. building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Interior Description

A large auditorium dominates the Hibernian Hall interior space and the main level is nearly symmetrical. Most of the spaces on the main level are original after close examination of the original architectural plans from Jacobberger & Smith on microfiche. The lower level is more irregular with a large ballroom space surrounded by hallways and a variety of other rooms changed during numerous remodeling from the 1930s to the 1960s. Throughout the building, some of the original doors, crown moulding and wainscoting remain. Most of the original wood flooring materials also remain but need repair or resurfacing in places. In most of the rooms, false or vaulted ceilings ranging from the 1940s to the 1970s remain.

When the main double door entry is made, a flight of stairs rises about 6' to the main level at the foyer where a set of French doors is met. A short hallway runs to the left and right. Straight ahead on each end is a door leading to office spaces. To the sharp left and right are small doors leading to bathrooms adjacent to the entrance stairwell. Inside each office room is another door leading to a small bathroom also adjacent to the main stairwell wall. Returning back to the foyer, there is a double set of doors leading south to the large auditorium. The main auditorium floor area is about 48' wide and 80' long with hardwood flooring on the surface over a sub-floor. It was the original meeting area and later used as a gymnasium when the building was used as a community center. False ceilings were recently removed, and asbestos applied in 1962 was disposed of. Currently, the original ceiling is exposed, crossed with original steel trusses designed by the original architects. The trusses connect the walls on each end at concrete columns that protrude out at each interval. The large roof rafters are also exposed connecting at the wall columns with exposed original wood planking of the roof. At the rear of the auditorium (north side) is a balcony over the foyer and office spaces that have an original staircase to the left (west) with the original wood balustrade and newel post. At the top left is a broom closet. The four upper windows of the front façade light the main balcony. Below the balcony at the rear of the auditorium is a door on each side leading to the office spaces that were originally committee rooms. The molding around these three door openings is original. In front of the auditorium (south) is the stage area in center. The flooring is original but false walls were extended to the ceiling during later remodeling. Originally, the stage area had sidewalls for the exit hall on the right and a dressing room on the left but it was open on the top. There was decorative railing at the top of the wall with cross patterns in the Arts & Crafts fashion serving platforms above as evident on the 1914 interior photo.

At the right side of the auditorium stage area is a set of double doors that lead to the rear exit door through a short hallway. To the left is a small door that steps up to the stage area. At the right is a landing leading to a stairwell that goes to the lower level of the building. There is a long hallway that is 8' wide for access to the different rooms in the sub-level. At the immediate right is a row of original wood cabinets used for storage. Further to the right is a double doorway accessing the banquet room. This space about 40' wide and 70' long, is original according to the original architectural drawings. The round landing at the doorway is original along with the wood flooring. An original window is evident at the southeast corner on the rear wall. The bathroom spaces are original on the north side of the banquet room according to the old drawings, but the fixtures were updated. At the northeast corner of this space is a fire exit door and another

Hibernian Hall
Name of Property

Multnomah, OR
County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

fire exit is at the southwest corner of the room. To the right side of the north wall is a doorway leading to the kitchen that has seen numerous remodeling over the years. Returning to the hallway on the west side, it continues north to a ramp leading to the outside front exit door at the northwest corner of the building. Before this ramp on the right is another doorway for the clubroom. The floors here are concrete and the walls are pine planks with natural finishes, possibly installed during a 1938 remodeling for the American Legion. Natural lighting comes through the original windows at the grade level in the front of the building and a 1950s window on the east side. An exit door on the east wall leads outside. At the southeast area of this space is a metal door for the original boiler room. To the right is another door leading to the kitchen, which connects back to the banquet room.

Hibernian Hall
Name of Property

Multnomah, OR
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

- 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.

ETHNIC HERITAGE: European

Period of Significance
1914-35

Significant Dates
1914

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

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

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Jacobberger, Joseph, and Smith, Alfred H.
architects
Jacobson, Hjalmar, contractor

Narrative Statement of Significance – SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

1. City of Portland, *Historic Resource Inventory*, 1980-84.
2. Diloreto Architects, LLC., *As-built Drawings of Existing Building*, November 2004.
3. *Hibernianism in Portland*, October 1914.
4. MacColl, E. Kimbark, *Shaping of a City: Business & Politics in Portland, Oregon, 1885-1915*, Georgian Press, 1976.
5. O'Longaigh, David, *We Irish in Oregon*, All-Ireland Cultural Society of Oregon, 1998.
6. Oregon Historical Society, photocopies of old photos.
7. Polk Company, *Portland & Albina directories*, 1873-1980.
8. Portland Historic Landmarks Commission, "Multiple Property Submission for the Eliot Neighborhood", 8 December 1997.
9. Portland Buildings Bureau Record & Permit Center, architectural drawings and building permits.
10. Ritz, Richard E., *Architects of Oregon*, Lair Hill Publishing, 2002.
11. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of East Portland & Albina, 1889, 1901 & 1908.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Statement of Significance

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall is significant for its association with broad patterns of community development in Portland's Eliot neighborhood and meets National Register Criterion A under the "Historic and Architectural Properties in the Eliot Neighborhood of Portland, Oregon" Multiple Property Submission. This cultural resource of Irish heritage depicted the lifestyle of the primarily ethnic, working class residents of the Albina area. The Mission-style hall was also listed in the Oregon Historic Resource Inventory of the early 1980s and ranked locally with a high score.¹ It played a primary role as a meeting place for Irish-Americans who sought heightened self-awareness of their ancestry and culture, and it bolstered community support for their rights. Also in addition, the property is locally designated as a contributing structure in the Eliot Conservation District. The Hibernian Hall retains high integrity, it is the only Portland area surviving building associated with the organization and the only one built in Portland specifically for the organization.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians in Portland

The Ancient Order of Hibernians was a fraternal organization founded in Ireland during the early 1600s. Their motto was stated as "Friendship, unity, and true Christian charity." In 1836, the first chapter in the United States was founded in New York City. The order aided new Irish arrivals and sought to foster and preserve the Irish culture of art, dance, music, and sports. Between 1820 and 1920, it is estimated that 4.4 million Irish came to the United States. The majority arrived in the northern Atlantic states but many dispersed across the country from there. San Francisco also served as a major drop-off point for the new arrivals. Most of the immigration took place during and after the Great Potato famine of Ireland from 1845 to 1849. About one million Irish residents perished and another two million were forced to leave their homeland, most headed for the United States.

Nearly all the Irish who arrived in Portland came by the way of New York City or San Francisco. Most immigrants struggled with poverty due to the famine and were unable to buy farms or businesses.² In November 1877, Irish immigrants established Division #1 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Portland. During the first forty years in Oregon, membership wavered between 100 and 490 men. In July 1910, Portland hosted the national Hibernian Convention, which was a large success with thousands in attendance. Membership and activism was strongest during the years 1910-1922. Local Hibernians were involved in debates against Catholic taught schools brought about by other organizations such as the KKK. In 1923, it went as far as the Compulsory School Bill initiative, which was voted down. They were noted in taking a positive path in their fight and it was said that they offered cash prizes to Portland students who wrote essays about Irish history. Members also stood

¹ City of Portland, *Historic Resource Inventory*, 128 N.E. Russell.

² O'Longaigh, *We Irish in Oregon*, pp. 19-44.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

their ground for the fairness of government in dealing with issues of immigration reform, economic incentives, and human rights. They were aware of prejudice against Irish, which was common in the west. The organization also supported efforts for the total liberation of Ireland from British rule.

Albina's Eliot Neighborhood

On 28 May 1873, Edwin Russell and George H. Williams filed the plat of Albina on a donation land claim originally settled by J. L. Loring and Joseph Delay. These two prominent businessmen of Portland spearheaded initial development efforts with William W. and Albina Page, who owned significant portions of the land and retained ownership of certain blocks after the platting. The town was named after Mr. Page's wife and daughter. When Russell and Williams went broke in 1874, most of the undeveloped plat was sold to James Montgomery and William Reid between 1877 and 1879, who developed the remainder of the subdivision. The upper or higher portions were targeted for residential development and the areas in proximity of Williams Avenue and Russell Street became the new commercial core. The lower portion of Albina down Russell Street remained active with commercial development but trended towards industrial functions when the railroad terminal at the docks was connected with the transcontinental system in 1883.³

Albina was incorporated as a city in 1887. In January 1889, the first electric streetcar line along this route was completed connecting Albina with Portland via the Steel Bridge and the city was booming with development activity of all kinds. The 1880 Census recorded a population of 143 in Albina and it exceeded 4,500 by 1890. In July 1891, Albina, East Portland, and Portland consolidated, creating one significantly larger city, resulting in better improvements and infrastructure on the east side.⁴ Density increased inside of original Albina, as many new subdivisions to the north and east were developed, encouraged by the expansion of streetcar lines. Some Albina neighborhoods, such as Irvington and Piedmont, were touted as upper-class districts with deed restrictions based on race and ethnicity, which helped shape the newly emerging ethnic make-up of the remaining neighborhoods in the Albina community, including the Eliot neighborhood.⁵ The Eliot neighborhood, which shares, roughly, the boundaries of the original Albina city plat, welcomed working-class immigrants primarily from Germany, Ireland, and the Scandinavian countries. Housing was also more affordable there and was located closer to the commercial center, railroad yard, grain mills, and waterfront. Late in the 1890s, streetcar lines ran along the Eliot neighborhood's major arterial, Russell Street, connecting Union Avenue (MLK) with the Williams Avenue line to the lower Albina line along present day N. Interstate Avenue. At the beginning of the twentieth century, higher density housing was being built at a faster

³ MacColl, *The Shaping of a City*, 1976.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Sanborn maps, 1889, 1897, 1901.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

pace along all the major streets. Many were buildings with storefronts below and apartments above and others were strictly apartment and flat buildings.⁶

From 1910 to 1930, Albina became more of a multi-ethnic working class community as most of Portland was growing further outward and automobiles were on the scene. Zoning changes followed, making the housing climate less favorable for single-family residences. During World War II, Portland gained a large influx of African-Americans to work in the shipyards and many were allowed to live in the Eliot neighborhood but were segregated from other surrounding neighborhoods. After the Vanport Flood of May 1948, the concentration of African-Americans in the Eliot neighborhood became greater due to lower cost housing and segregation practices. Most other east side neighborhoods had deed covenants that did not allow blacks to live or own there.⁷ During the 1950s, the Albina community, as a whole, started to decline as businesses left for the outlying communities as the popularity of suburbs increased. During the 1960s and 1970s, urban renewal efforts, often ill fated, worsened the effects as housing and small businesses were decimated.⁸ During the 1990s, revitalization efforts were taking shape from efforts of the community as businesses were returning to surviving and new buildings along some of the original commercial corridors. The Albina Community plan of 1993 helped shape new development in a positive fashion for the neighborhood that is still in effect today.⁹

The Irish in Albina

When Albina opened for development in the 1870s, many Irish-born newcomers settled around the lower Russell Street area. During the Albina building boom from the mid-1880s to the early 1890s, many more Irish came to the Eliot neighborhood, and their general community expanded along Williams and Vancouver avenues and east along Russell Street several blocks north and south to the border along N.E. 7th Avenue. The larger concentration in these areas contributed to the establishment of Immaculate Heart Catholic Church at the northeast corner of N. Williams Avenue and Stanton in 1886. After a smaller wooden structure, a new beautiful sanctuary of that church was completed in 1890 and is today considered the oldest surviving church building on the east side of Portland. The church also established a school on the grounds in the 1880s. Today, all the original buildings except the parsonage are gone. Around 1900, the Irish community had proudly made significant gains in business, social life, and education. Their organized efforts with a well-informed community succeeded in pulling many Irish out of the unskilled low-wage working class to a very influential social force. Most of their educational programs and activism recruiting came from the

⁶ Portland Landmarks Commission, "Historic and Architectural Properties in the Eliot Neighborhood of Portland", Oregon MPS, pp. E3-6

⁷ The city of Vanport, built in haste to house imported shipyard workers in N. Portland, was the second largest city in Oregon during WWII.

⁸ Portland Landmarks Commission, op. cit., pp. E8-10.

⁹ The Albina Community Plan was established by the city to revitalize neighborhoods in close-in north and northeast Portland and preserve historic resources.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

fraternal order of Hibernians, which supported any resident who was of Irish descent and a Catholic. After 1920, immigration from Ireland significantly dropped off but the new transplants were here to stay. Most enjoyed prosperity their previous ancestors never knew. During the 1920s, the Irish in Portland increasingly dispersed outside of the Eliot neighborhood toward the suburbs.¹⁰

Portland's Hibernian Hall

The Ancient Order of Hibernians founded their first United States organization in New York City in 1836, establishing a Portland chapter in November 1877. For over three decades, the organization had to carry their meetings in several different rented spaces throughout downtown Portland. The strong growth of local membership after their large 1910 Convention in Portland provided enough funds to acquire property and build a hall.¹¹ On 6 May 1912, a purchase agreement for a 50' by 145' lot on the south side of Russell Street in the Eliot neighborhood was made. The board members looked at several properties and unanimously chose this one due to more reasonable cost, close proximity to the Irish community and convenience to transportation by the network of several major streetcar lines. A price of \$5,400 was agreed upon. A building committee was formed and shares were sold at \$1 denominations. John O'Hare, a local plasterer, was made president of the committee. Support within the Irish membership was overwhelming and it was reported that 3,540 shares were sold after the first night. In October 1912, the balance due on the property was paid in full making this the first real property in the Portland area owned by the Hibernians. For over a year, more shares were sold as the building committee pushed forward for construction of the new hall. Late in 1913, the architectural firm of Jacobberger & Smith was employed for the design. Joseph Jacobberger was a noted Portland architect at this time and he had close ties to the Catholic Church. With strong financial support from the Immaculate Heart Catholic Church, located a few blocks away on Williams Avenue, Jacobberger and his partner, Alfred Smith, prepared plans for a distinctive building in the Mission style for the Portland Hibernians.¹²

Joseph Jacobberger designed many buildings in association with the Catholic Church during his long career as an architect. Born in 1867 in Alsace-Lorraine of Germany, Jacobberger came to the United States at the age of two with his parents, where they settled in Omaha, Nebraska. He attended Creighton University there and later moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota where he started practice in architecture. In 1890, he relocated to Portland and worked as a draftsman in the office of Whidden & Lewis until 1895, when he moved to Los Angeles. Jacobberger returned to Portland with his family in 1900, where he established his own practice, gaining prominence as an innovator in period revival styles. Jacobberger paired with British-born architect Alfred Henry Smith in 1911, and the firm of Jacobberger & Smith subsequently prepared plans for such Catholic organizations as Church of the

¹⁰ O'Longaigh, op. cit., pp.74-75.

¹¹ Ibid., pp. 54, 76.

¹² *Hibernianism in Oregon*, 1914.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Madeleine (1912-13) in Irvington, Holy Child Academy (1914) at 5404 NE Alameda, St. Mary's Cathedral (1925) in N.W. Portland, and a large addition to St Vincent Hospital (1927-30). On 26 February 1914, the Hibernian building committee selected Hjalmar Jacobsen, an active Albina-area building contractor, to execute the Jacobberger & Smith plans. Under a contract of \$11,300, Mr. Jacobsen performed well and took pride in one of his most notable building projects. He posted a "thank-you" ad with a photo of the finished structure in a 1914 Hibernian publication. A modern electric lighting system was installed by M. J. Walsh & Company as the fixtures are evident in the old photos inside and outside. Completion was on schedule and on 10 September 1914, the first meeting was held in the new building.¹³

The new Hibernian Hall immediately began making a significant contribution by giving influential members of the Irish community a singular place to communicate, trade thoughts and ideas, form opinions, and forge cultural bonds. The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division #1 met frequently at the new hall, as did the Ladies Auxiliary Club. Many educational seminars and social events were hosted there. As a minority group, the Irish Catholic community in Portland was a proud and self-aware people who strove to preserve their cultural heritage, and Hibernian Hall members were at the forefront of that preservation effort. When the new Hibernian Hall was built in 1914, Patrick E. Sullivan was the chair of the board. For years, he was the editor for the *Catholic Sentinel* and generated many articles in support of the Irish cause. It was even reported that many *Sentinel* readers complained there was not enough reports on other Catholic matters. Patrick Sullivan also operated the Catholic Book & Church Supply Company, another strong influence. He was apparently successful in business and influential in Portland, because by 1910 he had a fine home built in the Piedmont neighborhood at 5723 N. Mallory. Another influential figure and Hibernian board member for many years was Edward H. Deery, who was known as a historian on Irish matters. He wrote frequent articles in the *Catholic Sentinel* and operated a meat market in downtown Portland for many years. He claimed that the Ancient Order of Hibernians initiated the movement that would drive down the "low-down contemptible caricatures of the Irish race off the stage".¹⁴ In 1915, D. J. Curran became the chair of the board. At this time, he was a resident of the Eliot neighborhood living at 3017 N. Williams but that house was lost in the 1970s to commercial expansion around Emanuel hospital.¹⁵ At this time, the order was in high enough standing to donate money for a stained-glass window in St. Mary's Cathedral in northwest Portland that survives today. The name of the order (AOH) is inscribed in the window with the names of the members responsible for the donation.

In 1916, membership of the organization reached its peak at 490 members. That same year, there was an uprising in Ireland to overthrow the British rulers. Even though England was distracted with the war, efforts were not successful. In November 1919, Eamonn DeValera, a political figure who the

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ O'Longaigh, op. cit., pp. 54-55.

¹⁵ Polk County city directories, 1916.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Irish regarded as their president, visited Portland to gain support for creating an independent Ireland. It is believed he stopped by the hall during his visit to motivate the local Irish community for support. Local activists, some extreme, were also influential for the Irish cause overseas. Dr. Marie Equi, a local physician was quite radical and found herself in conflict with the police during public events. She often spoke at the hall and stirred up local Irish during World War I and also was involved with organized labor. Kathleen O'Brennan, another woman activist, came to Portland from Ireland during World War I that drew large crowds at the hall. Her opposition also to the war agitated Portland residents who felt they had to be patriotic to help Britain, as they were still the enemy in Ireland. She was under surveillance by the U.S. Army and the FBI, and returned to Ireland in 1922 as civil war heated up there. Hope for the United States support of Irish independence was dashed when president Woodrow Wilson did not support the idea after the war ended in 1918. In 1921, the English did leave most of Ireland but many problems were left behind. Ireland's civil war lasted over a year with tragic results of more death and destruction than previous conflicts. Most Irish living in the States grew content with the ways here and more divided on their views of the conflict in their homeland.

During the next decade, membership in the Ancient Order of Hibernians tapered off, but the building was still an active meeting place. A few years after the civil war conflicts in Ireland of 1922-23, membership fell more sharply, but the Hibernian Order remained an influential, gathering force when threats to the Irish Catholic community arose, such as Ku Klux Klan effort to close all Catholic schools. By 1935, only thirty members remained in the Oregon chapter and financial support became too weak to pay the bills.¹⁶ By 1936, the building was turned over to the Catholic Church, who operated the Catholic Youth Organization there. The Hibernian Hall became a popular venue for sports events, and later, home to the Portland Boxing School. In 1938, ownership was transferred to the American Legion Organization and the American Legion Navy Post No. 101 operated here.¹⁷ Some remodeling was done inside the building but primarily for wall partitions in the lower level for side rooms and office conversions. While the Oregon chapter of Hibernians completely died out during the early 1940s, the building remained full of activity during World War II, with many events and war updates at the auditorium. During 1948, some remodeling was done in the auditorium where ceilings were lowered.¹⁸

In 1956, the building was sold to Evelyn Collins, who envisioned a community outreach center and day care facility. In 1957, major remodeling was conducted to update to new building codes. Windows were added in the upper portions of the east wall where there were no previous windows. The Community Center Nursery was established here after the work was done at the cost of over \$10,000.¹⁹ Apparently, the American Legion still conducted evening meetings in the auditorium for a

¹⁶ O'Longaigh, op. cit., pp. 55, 83.

¹⁷ Polk Co., op. cit., 1937, 1943.

¹⁸ Portland Building Bureau, building permits, 1938, 1948.

¹⁹ Ibid., 1956-1957.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

few more years according to directories. In January 1959, a fire in the basement boiler room and kitchen did \$950 worth of damage. By 1960, the facility was known as the Christian Community Center where sports events were often hosted here. In 1975, name of the facility was changed to honor Grace Collins, the late mother of Evelyn who was a strong community leader and activist. The day care also operated under her name for nearly three more decades.²⁰ On 1 June 1997, the All-Ireland Cultural Society of Oregon sponsored a day of activities at the hall with permission of the Collins estate. The large event was set up to commemorate 150 years since the potato famine in Ireland. Fifteen-hundred people of Irish descent passed through the building that day making it the first Irish event there in sixty years. The date was dubbed the Irish Heritage and Potato Famine Commemoration Day. It was said that the events of that day resurrected the old Irish spirit and was acknowledged by the Portland mayor, Governor John Kitzhaber, and Mary Robinson, the president of Ireland.²¹ In 1998, the Oregon chapter of Hibernians was reborn and membership has been on the rise with a mission of charity and preserving the cultural heritage for the future.²² In June 2004, Mark Woolley and Chris Monlux purchased the property.

Conclusion

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall is significant for its association with broad patterns of community development in Portland's Eliot neighborhood and meets National Register Criterion A under the Historic and Architectural Properties in the Eliot Neighborhood of Portland, Oregon Multiple Property Submission (MPS). In addition, the Hibernian Hall represents an associated property type, "public and social buildings," called out in the MPS. Finally, the Hibernian Hall meets the registration requirements of the MPS, which call for a construction date between 1888 and 1930; for the retention of sufficient integrity to evoke the character of its style or function type; and for the building to be one of the best or most characteristic examples typifying that style or function. The Mission-style Hibernian hall is an important historic landmark of the Irish community that contributed to the cultural, educational, religious and commercial life of Portland. It served as the local clearinghouse and meeting place for the Irish influence in politics, the clergy, labor unions, law, and medicine, and remains the only surviving building associated with the organization in the Portland area and the only one built there specifically for the organization.

²⁰ Polk Co., op. cit., 1976-1989.
²¹ O'Longaigh, op. cit., pp. 1-3.
²² Ibid., pp. 79-83.

Hibernian Hall
Name of Property

Multnomah, OR
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 10 526323 5042892
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____

4 _____

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 4 & 5, Block 17, Albina; inside the J. L. Loring & Joseph Delay DLC; also inside the NE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 27, T1N, R1E, Willamette Meridian.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated parcel encompasses the tax lot that has been associated with the property historically.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roy E. Roos

organization Old House Histories date 24 November 2004

street & number 53 NE Thompson telephone (503) 282-9436

city or town Portland state OR zip code 97212

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

name Mark Woolley & Chris Monlux

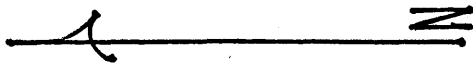
street & number 120 NW 9th telephone (503) 224-5475

city or town Portland state OR zip code 97209

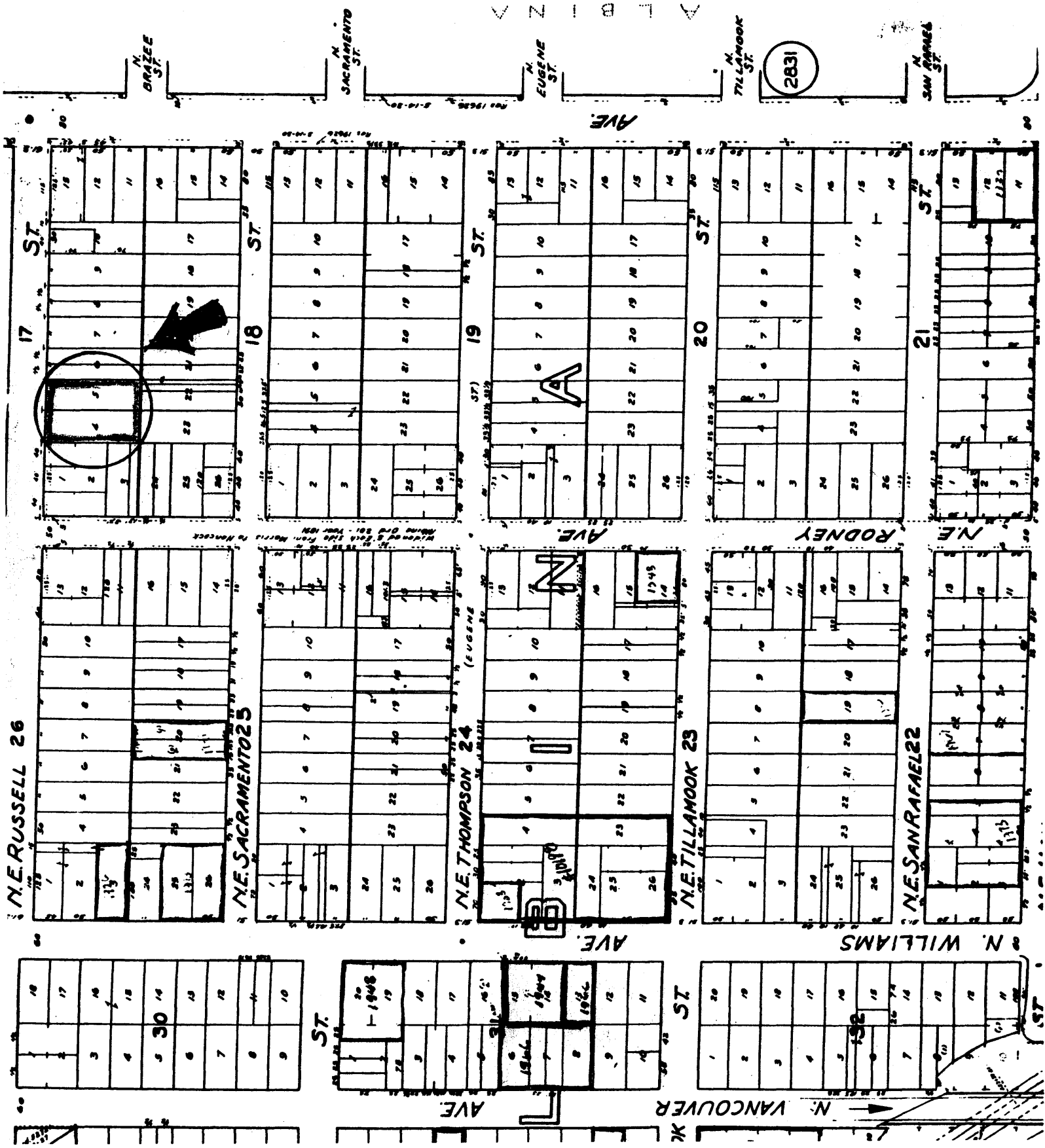
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

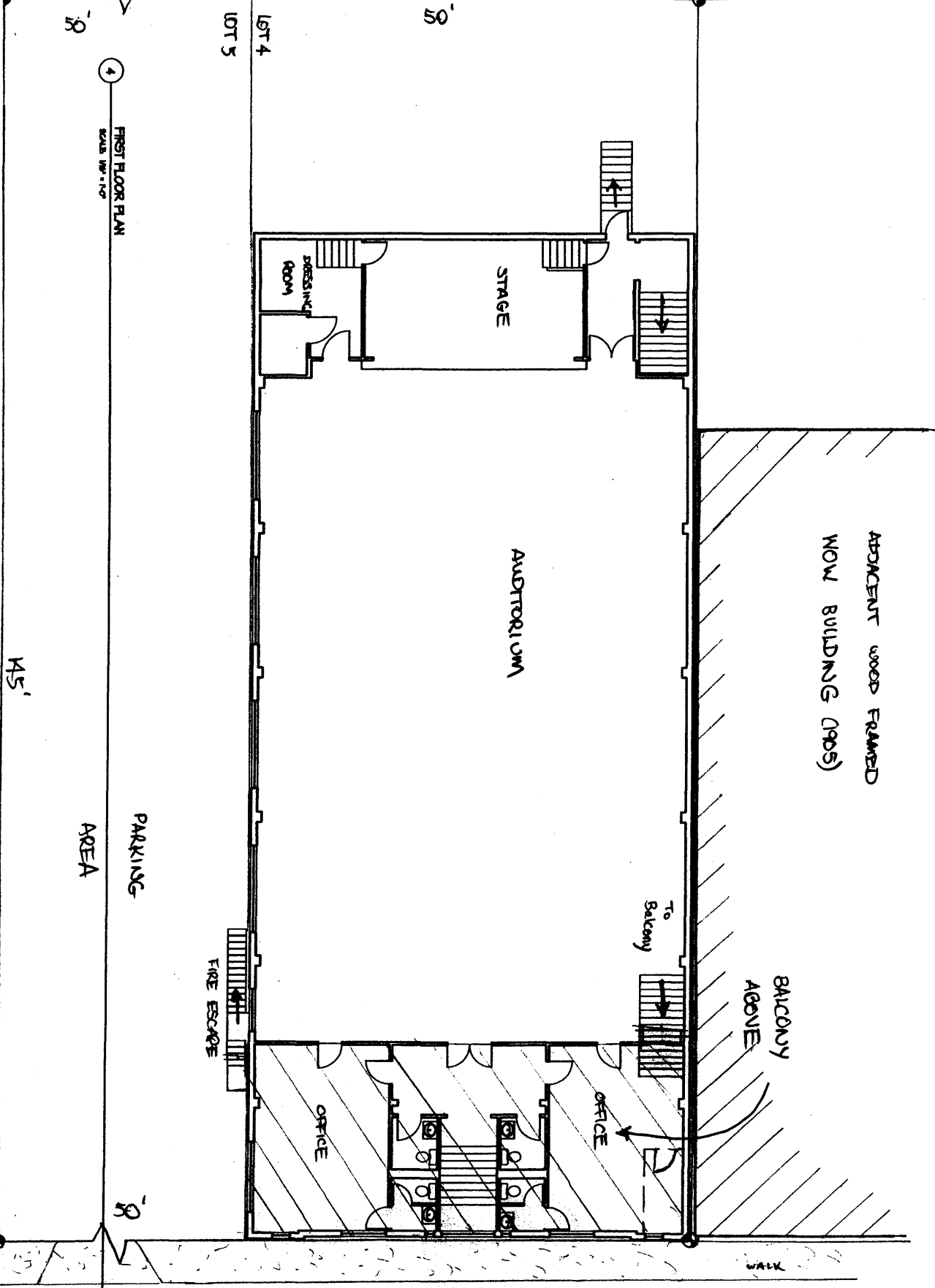
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form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

32.25
25.61
34.05



A L B I N A





FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

85'

50'

LOT 4
LOT 5

PARKING AREA

FIRE ESCAPE

OFFICE

OFFICE

BALCONY ABOVE

To Balcony

AUDITORIUM

STAGE

SPEAKING ROOM

ADJACENT WOOD FRAMED
MOM BUILDING (1905)

N

NE RUSSELL STREET

APPENDIX B

11-1304
A1.1
04/25

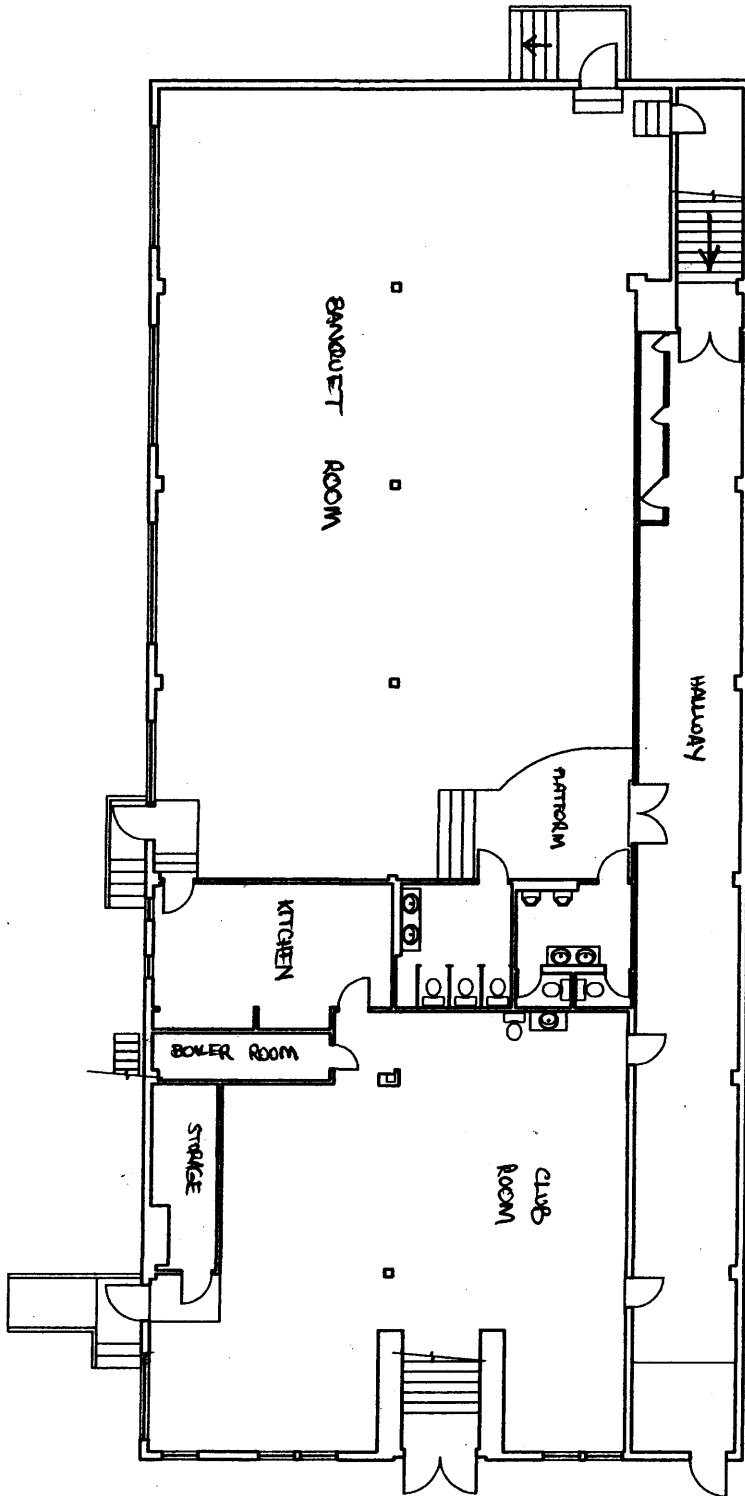
GENERAL NOTES

REFERENCES

**HISTORIC HIBERNIAN HALL
RENOVATION
PORTLAND, OREGON**

DI LORNO ARCHITECTS, LLC
PRELIMINARY NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

4
 BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



APPENDIX C

11-13-04
A1.0
 04/03A

BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

GENERAL NOTES

REVISIONS:

**HISTORIC HIBERNIAN HALL
 RENOVATION
 PORTLAND, OREGON**

**PRELIMINARY
 NOT FOR
 CONSTRUCTION**

**DILORENZO
 ARCHITECTS, LLC**
 1111 SW 10TH AVENUE
 PORTLAND, OREGON 97205
 503.241.1111



NEW HOME OF THE
 ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS AND LADIES AUXILIARY
 PORTLAND, OREGON

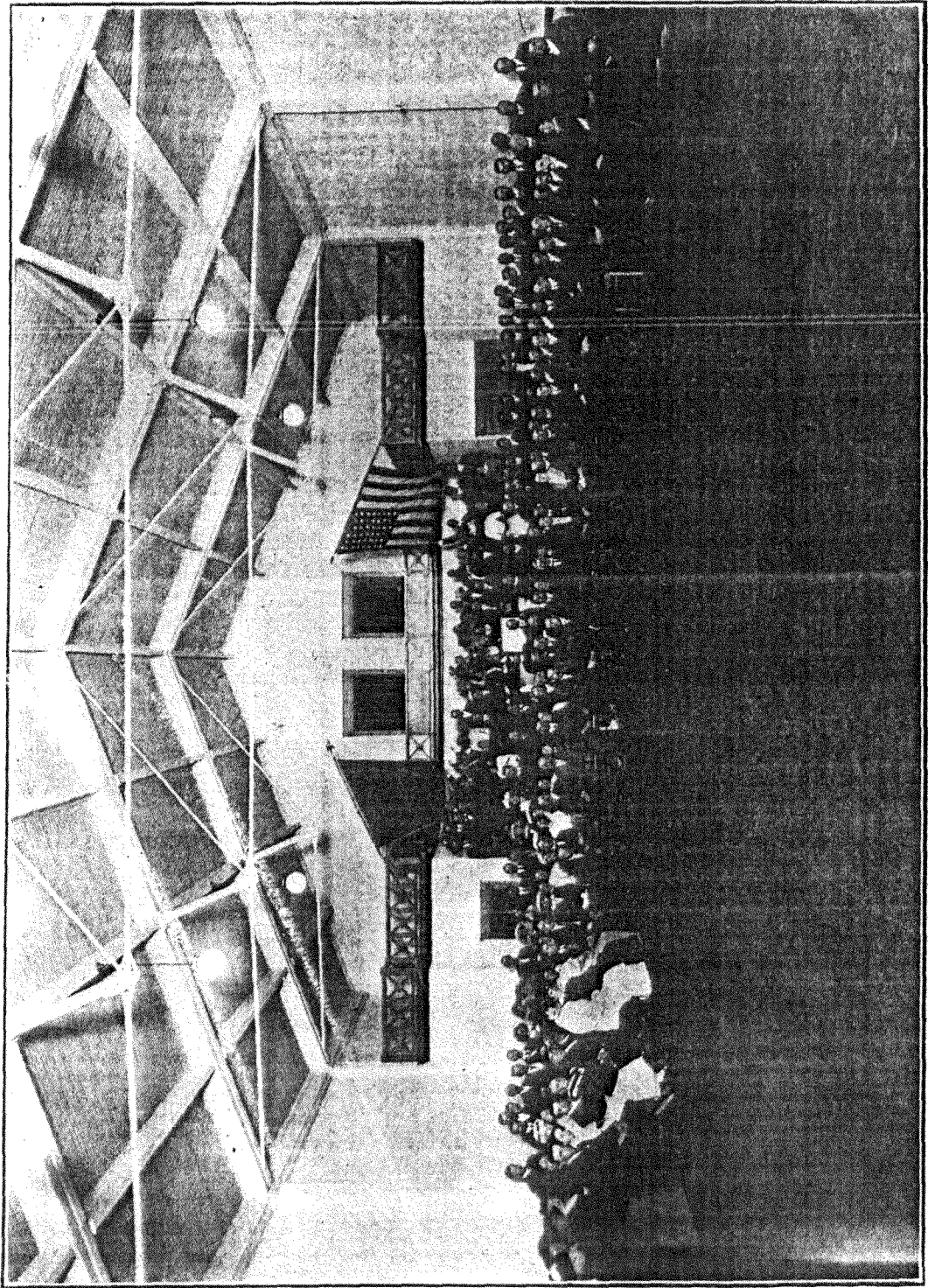
Hibernian Hall (1914)

Multnomah Co., OR

APPENDIX D

I
 with
 coun
 mah
 core
 this
 crea
 date
 poss
 is to
 compl
 Men
 and

chan
 sever
 cure
 that
 them.
 fee a
 in a
 mend
 omme
 south
 The
 Broth
 to ra
 it wa
 memb
 five l
 the t
 by D
 by D
 ture
 by us
 Jewel
 effort



MAIN AUDITORIUM OF NEW A. O. H. BUILDING