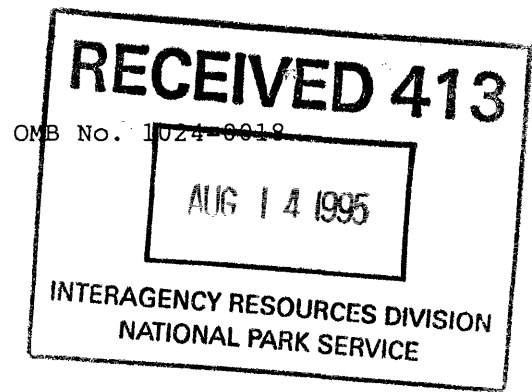


NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)



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: Z.C.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224

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

#### 2. Location

street & number 37091 Richardson Gap Road not for publication N/A  
city or town Scio vicinity X  
state Oregon code OR county Linn code 043  
zip code 97374

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James M. Hamrick July 31, 1995  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
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* 9.14.95

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Signature of Keeper Date  
of Action

**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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

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**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:   SOCIAL   Sub: meeting hall  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: WORK IN PROGRESS Sub: \_\_\_\_\_  
DOMESTIC single dwelling  
DOMESTIC secondary structure  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival (Georgian) - vernacular version  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
roof   METAL    
walls WOOD: weatherboard  
\_\_\_\_\_  
other BRICK  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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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.)

- 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY  
ETHNIC HERITAGE- EUROPEAN

Period of Significance 1911-1937

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: Scio Depot Museum

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property Less than one acre. (0.98)      Scio, Oregon      1:24000

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>10</u>	<u>515640</u>	<u>4945020</u>	3	_____	_____
2	___	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

\_\_\_ 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.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

---

name/title Lynn M. Josse  
organization \_\_\_\_\_

date 6/03/94

street & number 1965 Sylvan      telephone (503) 485 1573  
city or town Eugene      state OR      zip code 97403

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**Additional Documentation**

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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)

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**Property Owner**

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

name Noreen Jones

street & number 8989 SW 45th Avenue telephone (503) 452 7699

city or town Portland state OR zip code 97219

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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.).

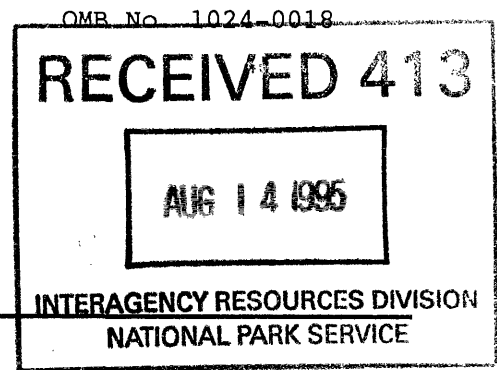
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this 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 Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Z.Č.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
Linn County, OR  
Narrative Description (continued)



The Z.Č.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge hall, built in 1911 by the Czech community in and around Scio, was used for over sixty years to house their social and fraternal activities. Located in a primarily agricultural area four miles southeast of Scio, its two stories, rectangular in plan, are capped by a bellcast hip roof, with a centered cross gable over the front doors to the north. Rectangular windows in a Palladian configuration in the cross gable, modillions beneath the eaves, and a strong belt course give the otherwise vernacular building a Colonial Revival flavor. Shiplap siding covers a light wood stud frame; windows are one over one double-hung. The front windows are paired, and between the upper sets is painted "Tolstoj Lodge No. 224/ Z.Č.B.J. Richardson Gap." Dimensions are approximately 84 feet by 38; a 20-foot carport has been added along the long wall to the east. Aside from the carport, metal roof, and some kitchen and plumbing modernization, the building retains high integrity in every aspect. It appears to be structurally sound, although there is a slight roof sag and some exterior members have deteriorated. The current owners have expressed intentions to rehabilitate the building.

### Location and Setting

The seven acre property is bounded to the west by Richardson Gap Road, to the north by a cultivated field, and to the south and east by Crabtree Creek. A row of three maples, almost three feet in diameter, separates the lodge property from the gravel driveway and field to the north. Concrete steps and a sidewalk, possibly original, lead from the front door (facing north) to the drive. Several poplars are planted between the lodge and the road, and a wooded area to the south separates a large field behind the lodge from the creek. There is a cleared area to the east, defined by the lodge's carport, several outbuildings to the south, the driveway to the north, and a small preconstructed home at the east end. The

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

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Z.C.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
Linn County, OR  
Narrative Description (continued)

creek continues just beyond the home. Only one of these additional structures is included on the parcel proposed for nomination to the National Register. This is a gabled storage building with shed additions to both sides, and is categorized as a non-contributing resource. Its location to the east and slightly south of the lodge hall does not interfere with any of the primary views of the historic structure.

Richardson Gap is a low passage between hills to the east and west. This valley still retains an undeveloped and rural character, especially around the area of the lodge hall. A Queen Anne style home is situated across the road to the north, and beyond it is a deteriorating vernacular schoolhouse. Much of the area is still farmed.

### Building Exterior

The hall is approximately 84 feet long by 38 feet wide, with its bellcast hip roof ridge oriented north-south. The entire building is clad with a shiplap siding, five inches in exposure. A wide water table is below the shiplap, with a modern T1-11 skirting over the concrete foundation. (The subfloor structure of 2X11 1/2 " joists on 8X8" beams is brand new.) A belt course, consisting of a board with cap, circles the lodge just above the second floor level. This board laps over the cornerboards. A wide frieze board below the eaves is punctuated by simple non-structural modillions. The roof is a corrugated metal, laid over at least one layer of wood shingles.

The original main entrance, a set of double doors with a transom (now boarded), is centered in the north wall. A set of paired double-hung windows is set to either side of the entrance, with a matching set above. Like all of the windows in the lodge, these are detailed with simple moldings, and the upper stiles terminate in lambs' tongues. Between the upper windows is painted the name and number of the lodge. A cross gable in the roof also displays a frieze



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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

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Z.<sup>✓</sup>C.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
Linn County, OR  
Narrative Description (continued)

board and modillions framing three fixed sashes, all rectangular, in a Palladian arrangement.

Both east and west sides are punctuated by six evenly spaced double-hung windows above and below. On the lower level, the north and south windows on the west side and the south window on the east side are smaller and square; the rest are tall and typical of late nineteenth and early twentieth century construction. There are brick chimney stacks to the northwest and southeast. In place of the second window from the left of the east side (first floor), there is a door which now serves as the only access to the building. A carport has been added to the east, with a shed roof projecting twenty feet out. The southernmost of its six bays is closed to the south and east and used for storage.

The south side of the Z.<sup>✓</sup>C.B.J. hall has a blank lower wall, with two double-hung windows on the second floor.

### Interior

One of the most outstanding features of the Tolstoj Lodge is its interior woodwork. Almost all surfaces are covered with 3 1/4 inch tongue and groove boards, including the ceilings and floors. Wall and ceiling boards are finished with chamfered edges. The first floor wainscoting is in two layers, with the built-out lower 4'9" separated from the upper wall by a chair rail. Walls and ceilings are painted white, except below the first floor rail, which is gray.

The first floor of the lodge hall is primarily given over to an open dance floor/assembly space, with a stage to the south and kitchen and bathroom areas on either side of the door to the north. The original north entrance led into a vestibule, almost seven feet wide by sixteen feet long, with doors to either side and a wide opening straight ahead into the main room. Small square windows

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

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Z.Č.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
Linn County, OR  
Narrative Description (continued)

also open into the rooms on either side; the west one has been closed to allow a shower to be built behind it.

From the door in the west wall of the vestibule, one enters a short hall. A bathroom is through a door to the left, the principal stairway is straight ahead, and one of the paired double-hung windows is to the right. The other half of the space is another bathroom, accessed through a door from the main room to the south.

The northeast corner is devoted to a kitchen, approximately sixteen feet long by fourteen and 1/2 feet wide, which combines old and new fixtures and furnishings. Built-in cabinetry in the northeast corner could be original, but most of the counters are much more recent. A pair of double-hung windows is to the north, with another single window in the east wall. The room is open to the south, but separated for most its length by a modern 40" high counter.

The main space of the first floor is a large hall over 51 feet long by 37 feet wide. The regular tongue and groove kitchen and vestibule floors here meet a slightly higher dance floor of narrower pieces arranged parallel to the four walls. A five inch riser extends about 31 inches into the room along the east and west walls. Parallel openings line the east and west walls, all tall double-hung windows except for the door to the southeast. A hanging chimney at the north end of the west wall begins about eight feet off the ground.

Enclosed beams span the width of the building at about thirty feet from each end. These are supported by more recent knee braces at each wall connection. A pair of similar boxed beams run from each end of the vestibule into the northern beam. One central enclosed beam runs like a spine between the north and south beams, and another pair extends south into the stage wall. Electrical conduits run along the beams to provide power for the four shaded lights that hang down into the room.

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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✓  
Z.C.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
Linn County, OR  
Narrative Description (continued)

The south end of the main room leads into a stage area. A five-paneled door at the eastern end of the stage wall, at stage level, is accessed by three steps leading up from the exterior door. A slight proscenium extends less than a foot beyond the main stage opening. Two trap doors and curtain mechanisms are still in evidence. Both windows here are of the small squarish type. A stairway to the second floor leads up from the door in the southeast corner, with storage underneath.

The second floor features twelve foot ceilings, fully wainscoted, with no electrical outlets (all light connections are dropped through the ceiling). Eight-inch baseboards and simple door, window, and cove moldings are uniform throughout. Most doorways measure 8'10" high, and 3'6" wide, with a transom of 18 X 31 inches, including the two-inch casing. The only door remaining on this floor has five horizontal panels

The plan of the second floor is irregular, with the main hall starting in the northwest, heading south for about seventeen feet, then turning diagonally southeast to approximately the center of the north-south axis. It then returns south and ends in a point formed by two doors facing southeast and southwest. Room shapes are accordingly irregular.

From the northwest stair one enters a brief hallway. A brick chimney continues from the first floor. Stovepipe holes are still in evidence in the chimney and the opposite wall. The northeast room is by far the largest on this floor. Overall dimensions are about 29 1/2 feet long by 31 1/2 feet wide, but the southwest corner is cut out at two obtuse angles. The door from the hall faces almost due southwest, with a gentler angle connecting this to the south wall. A closet, almost five feet square, is fit into the northwest corner above the stairs. Both pair of north-facing windows are in this room, as well as two windows facing east. The stovepipe hole from the hall comes out in the west wall of this

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

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Z.<sup>✓</sup>C.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
Linn County, OR  
Narrative Description (continued)

room. A single enclosed beam runs along the ceiling between the north and south walls at about nineteen feet from the east wall.

Another opening, unusual because it is the only doorway between rooms on this floor without a transom, leads south into a simple rectangular room. This room is approximately 23 feet long by 15 feet wide. Two windows face east, and a door (with transom) leads back out into the hall.

Across the hall is another irregularly shaped room which can only be entered from a door opposite the northwest staircase. It is roughly rectangular, but the northeast corner is cut away to follow the diagonal hall outside. Two windows face west. This room was the only one in the lodge that was found unpainted.

The central corridor ends in a point, with doors leading into the southeast and southwest rooms. These two rooms roughly mirror each other, with an opening eight feet tall by 44 inches wide piercing the wall between them. Both rooms are about 30 feet long by 18 feet wide, although the dividing wall is actually a few inches east of the center of the building. The corners holding the doors from the central hall are cut away to bring the doorways in at an angle. Each room has a set of paired windows facing south, and two additional windows to the sides.

The southeast room has several features that the other lacks. A chimney rises up between the two east windows, wainscoted to seven feet, above which the brick is exposed (but painted white). Unpainted sections of the southwest corner indicate where cabinetry was removed. The stairs leading up from the southeast corner of the stage emerge against the south wall, enclosed by a rail.

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 7

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Z.<sup>Y</sup>C.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
Linn County, OR  
Narrative Description (continued)

### Alterations

The overall integrity of the Z.<sup>Y</sup>C.B.J. Lodge is quite high, with relatively few alterations to detract from its historic appearance. The most glaring (literally) is the highly reflective corrugated metal roof, which makes the lodge highly visible from nearby ridges on sunny days. This metal roof was installed over the older shingle roof, which may still be observed from the attic.

The carport to the east is obviously a later addition, but it is mostly unenclosed and does not significantly detract from the historic massing of the lodge. It does not present any false sense of historicity; indeed, it could not be more basic. Located away from the road, it presents only a minor distraction. Circa 1920s photographs show that a small single-story shed addition once existed off the south end of the building on the east half. Physical evidence shows no means of access to the inside of the building, and its function is not known. Photographs from the 1930s prove that the original front doors were five-paneled, much like those that remain inside today. The windows have also been replaced, although with compatible historic windows from other buildings.

Internal evidence suggests that structural changes were probably made in the attic, with additional trusses and tie rods added at some point to distribute loads to the outer walls. The bracing added on the first floor fulfills a similar function in removing stress from the beams. The beams and joists under the first floor have been recently replaced to assure the building's stability.

The first floor bathroom area has been remodeled, and it is difficult to determine how this space may originally have been divided. Similarly, the kitchen now features many non-historic elements which improve its functionality. The electrical wiring is non-original, and obviously the skirting around the foundation has been replaced with modern materials, but in general the building retains an exceptionally high level of integrity.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1A

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**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE SUMMARY**

The meeting hall built by members of a Czech settlement group in rural Linn County, Oregon in 1911 is situated four miles southeast of Scio, on the north bank of Crabtree Creek, adjacent to the east edge of Richardson Gap Road. For forty years, it stood as a companion feature to a covered bridge of 1947 which crossed the creek a few yards to the south. The covered bridge had come to be known as Bohemian Hall Bridge because of the community hall with which it was identified. The bridge was dismantled by the County in 1987.

The lodge hall meets National Register Criterion A in the area of social history and ethnic heritage as the older of two remaining buildings that are associated with the community life of the local Czech settlement. The kindred building, Z.Č.B.J. Lodge No. 226, located in the small agricultural town of Scio, was built in 1922.

Lodge No. 224 on Richardson Gap Road is nominated with an area of just under one acre [0.99 acres] that recently was partitioned from a historic seven-acre holding which had been deeded to the Sokols for a drill hall by Joseph and Sophia Vasek in 1909. The partitioned acre is sufficient to give the hall a setting and include the row of mature maples offset to the east of the front walk. A non-historic manufactured house lying to the east of the hall lies outside the boundary of the nominated area. There is one non-contributing feature within the nominated acre. It is a gable-roofed metal storage shed with shed additions on either side elevation which evidently post-dates the period of significance.

The Tolstoj Lodge is a well preserved example of vernacular architecture with Georgian Revival overtones. It continued in use for its original purposes for 62 years until its sale in 1973. Work is in progress now to adapt the building to residential use.

The building stands as a brisk, two-story rectilinear volume measuring 38 x 84 feet. Of wood frame construction, it rests on a concrete foundation and is enclosed with a high, metal-clad hip roof having bellcast eaves. Brick stove chimneys with corbelled caps are intact above the

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1B

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roofline. On the north, front elevation, a subordinate gable with Palladian window lights the upper story. The exterior is clad with shiplap and trimmed with waterskirt, cornerboards and a belt course demarcating the stories. There is no full classical entablature, but, rather, a fully encircling modillioned cornice. The front gable has a raking modillioned cornice. A carport canopy extends the full length of the east side with an enclosed storage bay at the south end. The exterior elevations are formally organized with six window bays on either side and a facade that is composed of paired windows on either side of the entrance bay. The window openings have simple architrave framements. The front entrance is composed as a double leaf door with toplight. Centered on the upper wall of the north facade is the painted legend, "Tolsoj Lodge #224 Z.Č.B.J.," which appeared about 1930. The words "Richardson Gap" were added later.

The interior is finished throughout with tongue and groove millstock for wall and ceiling cover and it is organized in the manner common to most country fraternal halls with a central entry hall having kitchen and restrooms on either side, a large ballroom/assembly space and a stage, or ceremonial platform at the far end. The assembly area measures 37 x 51 in size. Its ceiling is supported by boxed beams and knee braces at the outer walls. The upper story, reached by a dogleg stairway in the northwest corner, is organized as five rooms around an offset circulation corridor that extends on a tangent to a short central hall.

This nomination provides valuable information on the social organization of an important settlement group in Linn County, an informal colony which originated in 1898 and, by 1937-1938, had grown to 200 families, making it one of the largest Czech population centers in the Pacific Northwest. In its heyday, through about 1937, the Tolstoj Lodge on Richardson Gap Road was not only a center of ritual activity and support to members, which included funeral services. It became a focal point of social life for the community as a whole in its use as a dance, theatrical and festivity hall.

Joseph Wesely, whose elaborate bungalow was earlier listed in the National Register, was among the first settlers of Czech origin to take up land in the vicinity of Scio in 1898. The Western Bohemian Fraternal Association, for which the acronym in Czech is Z.Č.B. J., was established in Iowa in 1897 as an offshoot of the Czech Slavik Benevolent Society. The first lodge of this order in Oregon, Lodge No. 65, was formed in Scio in 1899. Lodge No. 224 was founded in 1911 and purchased half interest in the drill hall built that year by the Sokols. In due course, evidently in 1915, the Tolstoj Lodge acquired full ownership of the property.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1C

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The period of significance of the Tolstoj Lodge begins with its construction in 1911 and ends in the Depression era. The ending date of 1937 is used, both as the high point of population of the settlement, as reported in contemporary newspaper accounts, but also as the time when the lodge commenced to be eclipsed by a second group in the Richardson Gap area, W.B. F.A. Lodge #379. Organization of Lodge #379 by English-speaking Czechs in 1936 seems to support the general understanding that, in the early 20th century, most eastern European and Russian immigrants chose to be assimilated into American society as quickly as possible without too long adhering to cultural traditions of the old country to the exclusion of those of their adopted country.

It is thought likely that the naming of Z.Č.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224 commemorates the great Russian novelist, philosopher and mystic, Count Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoi (1828-1910). The death of the influential moralist and critic of established religion had occurred in 1910. Tolstoi's popular works were published in various languages, including German, historically the literary language of eastern Europe. If the speculation is correct, it would account for the transliteration of Tolstoi's name as "Tolstoj" by the Czechs who organized Lodge #224 in rural Linn County, Oregon in 1911.



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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

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Z.Č.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
Linn County, OR

### Statement of Significance (continued)

In 1898, the first settlers of Czech origin came to the Scio area. The language and many of the traditions they brought with them were centuries old, but one of the most important institutions that united them as a group had been founded just one year before, in Iowa. In 1897 the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association (or Z.Č.B.J., as it is known by its Czech initials) was formed as an organization to perpetuate the Czech language and culture and to provide insurance for its members. By 1899, when the Scio settlers formed their own lodge, the organization had grown to 65 lodges across the western states. The Czech community in the area grew rapidly, undoubtedly drawn not only by the immigrants already prospering there, but also by the lodge, the first in Oregon. Most of the new settlers came as farmers, but many also moved to town and became prosperous merchants. By 1911 a second Z.Č.B.J. lodge had been formed near Scio. It moved into a permanent home the next year.

This hall, which still stands virtually intact on Richardson Gap Road approximately four miles southeast of Scio, is the earliest remaining symbol of the presence and influence of the Czech community in and around Scio. By the mid-1930s, this community was said to be the largest such enclave on the west coast. The lodge was crucial to the local preservation and continuity of Czech traditions, and was an important early social center. As such, the Z.Č.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge is proposed for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the areas of Ethnic Heritage (European) and Social History.

### Origins of Scio and the first Czech Settlers

The area around Scio is considered among the first settled in present Linn County, beginning in the mid-1840s. Scio itself dates to 1856, when William McKinney and Henry Turner started a flour mill and Turner platted the town.

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

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Z.Č.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
Linn County, OR

### Statement of Significance (continued)

Incorporation followed ten years later, and the town prospered as a trading center for settlers.<sup>1</sup>

In 1898, Joe Young and three nephews were the first settlers of Czech origin to purchase land in the area. Others quickly followed. One of the nephews, Joseph Wesely, became a prosperous merchant in town, but most of the new arrivals opted for the farming life.<sup>2</sup> In the early days, the Czechs were separated from the community in Scio by language, institutions, and to some extent by geography. The few early newspaper entries (circa 1906) referring to Czechs begin with "our Bohemian friends," indicating a culture that was still considered outside the mainstream. The same newspapers, however, run advertisements from and local news items about the Wesely family, which had moved into town and apparently assimilated well.

By 1910, according to census records, 48 of the 212 households listed in the two Scio precincts included members of Austrian/Bohemian descent. The majority of these were family groups in which one or both parents were born overseas. In many cases, the children's places of birth indicate a pattern of immigrants stopping for some years in Midwestern centers of Czech culture (Wisconsin, Nebraska, Minnesota) before moving on to Oregon.<sup>3</sup>

Although their first stronghold was in the valley east of Scio, the Czechs soon became a strong presence in the town. By the 1920s, there is regular newspaper mention of happenings among this population. Their social network reached beyond the forks of the Santiam; there was regular communication and exchange with the Czech-founded town of Malin in southern Oregon and with their California countrymen. In 1938 the Oregon Journal stated that with some 200 families, the community in and around Scio was "the largest perhaps on the Pacific Coast."<sup>4</sup>

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Z.Č.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
Linn County, OR

### Statement of Significance (continued)

#### The Západne Česká Bratrská Jednota

The organization which played such a crucial role in the lives of these settlers was the Západne Česká Bratrská Jednota (Z.Č.B.J.), in English originally known as the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association, founded in Iowa in 1897. It in turn was an offshoot of the Czech Slavik Benevolent Society (C.S.P.S.), the oldest existing Czech fraternal organization in the country, which was formed in St. Louis in 1854.<sup>5</sup> The C.S.P.S. was dedicated to the ideals of liberalism, as well as providing benefits and cultural support for its members. When 49 western lodges of the C.S.P.S. decided to break off from the parent organization and form the Z.Č.B.J., they reaffirmed their commitment to these ideals. In addition, the Z.Č.B.J. is said to be "the first Czech fraternal group to accept women on an equal basis with men, to establish a reserve insurance fund, to organize a juvenile department, (and) to form lodges for young adults who preferred the English language . . . ."<sup>6</sup>

The first Z.Č.B.J. lodge in Oregon was Lodge 65, formed in Scio in 1899. It was organized by Joseph Cibulka, who had emigrated from Nebraska, one of the national centers of Z.Č.B.J. activity. There were 15 charter members. By 1905, they had built their first lodge hall (which no longer stands), only two miles north of where the Richardson Gap lodge stands today.<sup>7</sup> Oregon Lodge #65 was quite active, holding dances and other public events as well as conducting everyday business.

The new immigrants were eager to display their patriotism, and some of the biggest events at the two Richardson Gap lodges were in honor of Independence Day. The 1906 Santiam News reported a major celebration at "Our Bohemian Friends" hall east of Scio. Two uniformed armies were to participate in a re-creation of the Battle of Lexington. "The return of the victorious

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Z.Č.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
Linn County, OR

### Statement of Significance (continued)

American Army," the paper reported, "marching to the patriotic strains of Yankee Doodle will conclude the military feature followed by a parade."<sup>8</sup>

The history of the Z.Č.B.J. lodges in and around Scio has always been interwoven with that of another group, the Sokols. The Sokols were "chiefly a gymnastic and drill organization,"<sup>9</sup> and the local group often engaged in drill and calisthenics competitions with others as far away as Los Angeles. The term "sokol" translates to "falcon," a bird which "symbolizes the ideals of the organization- fitness, power, and high aims."<sup>10</sup>

Coexisting with the first Z.Č.B.J. lodge was a Sokol group, founded in 1900. The T.J.S.B.O (Tel. Jed. Sokol Bratri Osveti) originally held their drills in a hop drier not far from where the first lodge was built.<sup>11</sup> Linn County records show that in 1909, Joseph Vasek and his wife Sophia deeded seven acres on Richardson Gap Road to the T.J.S.B.O. for a consideration of \$250. This is the property where the present Richardson Gap hall stands. Assessment records show that it was built in 1911, while the property was still owned by the Sokols.

Z.Č.B.J. Lodge 224 (called the Tolstoj Lodge<sup>12</sup>), the organization that this hall is primarily associated with, was founded in the same year. Begun with 12 insured members,<sup>13</sup> by 1912 the fledgling group had gained enough momentum to purchase a one-half interest in the new hall for \$850. Articles of incorporation dated June 23, 1915, state that the purpose of the lodge was to "unite fraternally all worthy persons, male and female between the ages of 18 and 70 years conversing in the Bohemian language and worthy of membership and to offer its members an opportunity for mental improvement..."<sup>14</sup>

In 1915 the Sokol Bratri Osveti ceased activity,<sup>15</sup> although it would be another six years before the organization sold its interest in the structure to Lodge 224. During this time, the original Oregon Lodge 65 also became defunct, officially merging with the newly formed Lodge 226 in the town of Scio. Some of

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Z.<sup>✓</sup>C.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
Linn County, OR

### Statement of Significance (continued)

the members chose to join Lodge 224 in Richardson Gap instead. After Lodge 226 built its own hall in Scio in 1922, a new Scio Sokol group was formed and assumed part ownership.<sup>16</sup> In later accounts the Scio hall is sometimes referred to as the Sokol hall, while the other building is often referred to merely as the Richardson Gap Hall.

Information on the first years of activity at the Richardson Gap Hall is incomplete, since the newspaper record disappears during this time. But there is substantial documentation of events at the hall beginning in the 1920s. Dances were common, and Fourth of July celebrations attracted large crowds. The July 8, 1926, Scio Tribune ran a front page story (entitled "Sane Fourth Here") telling of the hundreds drawn to Richardson Gap for Independence Day festivities. Music and sports occupied much of the day, with a patriotic address by the Hon. W. L. Marks in the afternoon and a dance in the evening.

By the early 1930s, the lodge's role as a social center not only for the Czech community but for the entire Scio area was becoming more defined. The newspaper record portrays the early Depression as an unusually social time, with the hall's weekly dances (always advertised as "everybody invited") in competition against weekly dances at the other Z.<sup>✓</sup>C.B.J. hall in Scio and frequent events in the nearby communities of Jordan and Lebanon. By the mid-thirties, dances had slowed to every other week, and admission had dropped from 50 cents for men to 35 cents. Ladies were almost always free. (The entrance charge for dances didn't reach a dollar until 1961, and gender equality had caught up with the ladies by then). One 1934 advertisement illustrates the shift from primarily fraternal uses to more social ones when it invited the public to "spend a pleasant evening at this popular amusement hall."<sup>17</sup>

Dances were frequently accompanied by theatrical presentations or "home talent play(s)"<sup>18</sup>, and the ample stage within the hall could easily provide space

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Z.Č.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
Linn County, OR

### Statement of Significance (continued)

for plays or musical entertainment. Lodge meetings were held regularly, and members' funerals were often held at the hall. Obituaries were read in both Czech and English.<sup>19</sup>

It seems to be sometime in the 1920s or early 1930s that the legend "Tolstoj Lodge #224 Z.Č.B.J." was first painted between the second story windows at the north end of the building. This signage remains one of its most distinctive features, still virtually identical to its appearance in a 1938 newspaper photograph except for the addition of the words "Richardson Gap" underneath.<sup>20</sup>

In 1936, another Z.Č.B.J. group was formed in the Richardson Gap area. From the start, Lodge Oregon (#379) was differentiated from the others by its use of the English language at meetings.<sup>21</sup> It was generally referred to as the W.B.F.A. instead of by its Czech initials, and American-born spouses were eligible for membership.<sup>22</sup> A 1937 newspaper article covering the first installation of officers indicated that several of them were women.<sup>23</sup> This group held monthly meetings in the Richardson Gap hall for several years, until it was decided they would meet in private homes instead.

In the second half of the 1930s, newspaper accounts of activities at the hall drop off sharply. Dances became primarily associated with special events, and were often sponsored by organizations other than the Z.Č.B.J. lodges. Benefit dances were put on occasionally during the war years for causes such as the refurbishing of the Scio V.F.W. hall and "for Widow Whose Husband was Killed in a Logging Accident."<sup>24</sup> Many local residents remember dances held in the 1950s and 1960s, but activity never again reached the peak it had in the early 1930s. Building upkeep was a concern; for this and other reasons, the Z.Č.B.J. decided to sell the building in 1973.

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Z.Č.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
Linn County, OR

### Statement of Significance (continued)

#### Comparative Analysis

The Tolstoj Lodge, Richardson Gap, is one of two buildings remaining associated with the social and community life of the large ethnic Czechoslovakian population in the Scio area. The other is the hall built in 1922 for Z.Č.B.J. Lodge #226 in the town of Scio itself. Both have significant associations. The Richardson Gap hall predates the other by 11 years and thus originally was of the utmost significance to both the town and rural populations. After the Scio hall was built, the Richardson Gap hall continued to function as a center of community life for the rural population, and as a social center for the entire area. The hall remains in virtually intact condition, and was listed on the Linn County Historic Register in March of 1986.

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Z.Č.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
Linn County, OR

### Statement of Significance (continued)

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup>Floyd C. Mullen, The Land of Linn (Lebanon, OR: Dalton's Printing, 1971).

<sup>2</sup>Virginia Dolezal, "Scio Center of Largest Czech Colony on Pacific Coast," Oregon Statesman, November 14, 1937.

<sup>3</sup>13th Census of the United States (1910) [microfilm], Oregon Collection, University of Oregon.

<sup>4</sup>Ben Maxwell, "Oregon Czechs Are Contented," Oregon Journal, Portland, Oregon, August 5, 1951.

<sup>5</sup>Thomas Capek, The Cechs in America, (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1920; repr. Arno Press and the New York Times: New York, 1969), 258.

<sup>6</sup>Alvin J. Schmidt, ed., Fraternal Organizations, The Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Institutions, v. 3 (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1980), 350.

<sup>7</sup>Bates, 197.

<sup>8</sup>Quoted in Bates, 487.

<sup>9</sup>Dolezal.

<sup>10</sup>Carol Bates, Scio in the Forks of the Santiam (Carol Bates, 1989), 197.

<sup>11</sup>John Tammich, "Scio Sokols History," source unknown (clipped newspaper article found in Scio Depot Museum scrapbook).

<sup>12</sup>It has not been verified whether or not the lodge was named after Russian author Leo Tolstoy, but this seems to be a likely conclusion. Tolstoy was one of the most famous novelists of his day, and his works have gained him a place, in many opinions, as one of the greatest writers of all time. Tolstoy's philosophies, especially the radical Christian views he developed in his later years, were widely influential. Throughout Russia, communes called "Tolstoyans" were formed based on his ideas of living simply and morally. He was known as a deeply moral man and a pacifist. He died in late 1910, and the naming of the Tolstoj (Tolstoy) Lodge in the next year seems likely to have been in tribute to this great Eastern European thinker. ("Tolstoy," The New Encyclopaedia Britannica, 15th ed. v.28. Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., 1986.)



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Z.Č.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
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**Statement of Significance (continued)**

<sup>13</sup>Bates, 195.

<sup>14</sup>Articles of incorporation, Oregon Commerce Department.

<sup>15</sup>Tammich.

<sup>16</sup>Tammich.

<sup>17</sup>Advertisement, The Scio Tribune, October 4, 1934.

<sup>18</sup>"Richardson Gap Reviews," The Scio Tribune, January 7, 1926.

<sup>19</sup>Dolezal.

<sup>20</sup>Maxwell.

<sup>21</sup>Tammich.

<sup>22</sup>Dolezal.

<sup>23</sup>"ZCBJ Lodge Oregon Installs Officers," The Scio Tribune, January 8, 1937, 1.

<sup>24</sup>The Scio Tribune, October 19, 1944; *ibid.*, 11/16/44.

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Z.Č.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
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Z.C.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
Linn County, OR

### Verbal Boundary Description

The property proposed for nomination can be located on Linn County Tax Assessment map 10 1W 34 (attached), where it is indicated as tax lot 301.

The current legal description for this parcel is as follows:

Baap where E li of MR rd #25 intersects the N li of ppty descb. in Vol 127-516, Sec 34, T 10 S, R 1 W

th E alg N li 208 ft

th S 208 ft

th W 208 ft

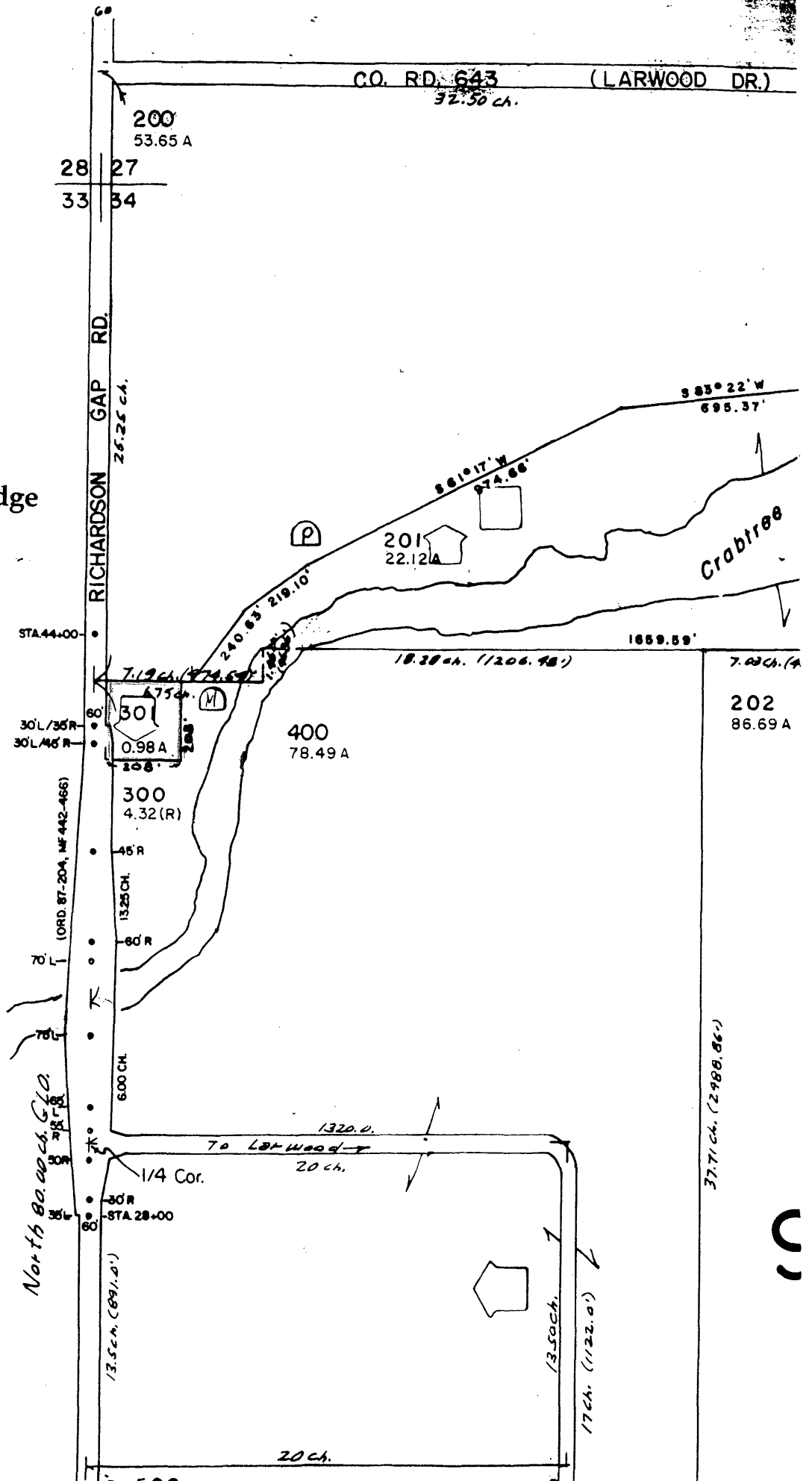
th N to pob.

### Boundary Justification

The land immediately surrounding the lodge hall, a square of approximately 208 feet per side, is in the process of being separated from the rest of the 7-acre property that was once associated with the Z.C.B.J. This parcel is proposed for nomination because it retains high integrity and excludes the manufactured housing unit just east of the lodge.

Z.C.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge  
Linn County, OR

Linn County  
Assessor's Map  
10 1W 34

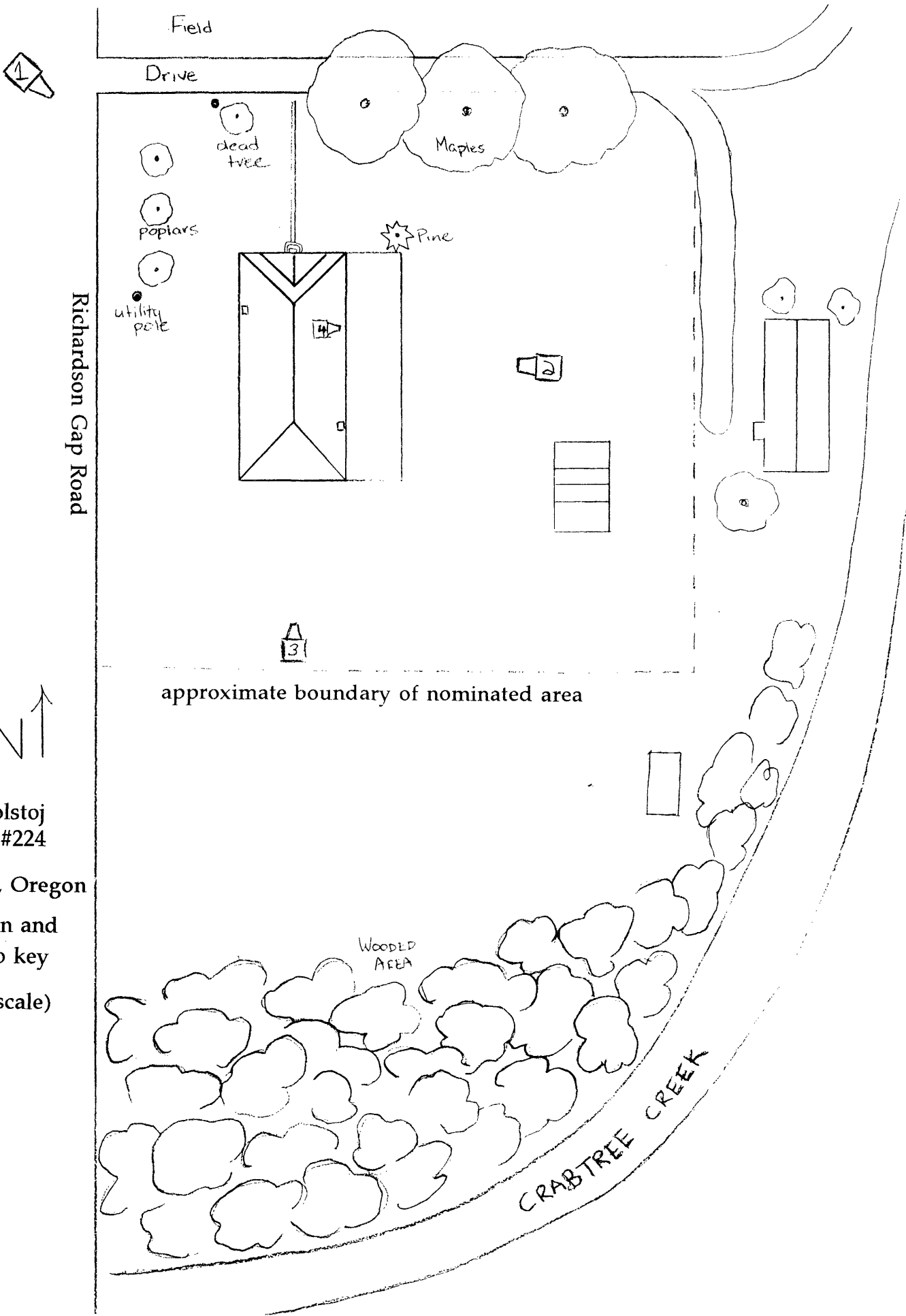


See Map 10 1W 33

North 80.00 ch. G.L.D.

37.71 ch. (2988.86')

C

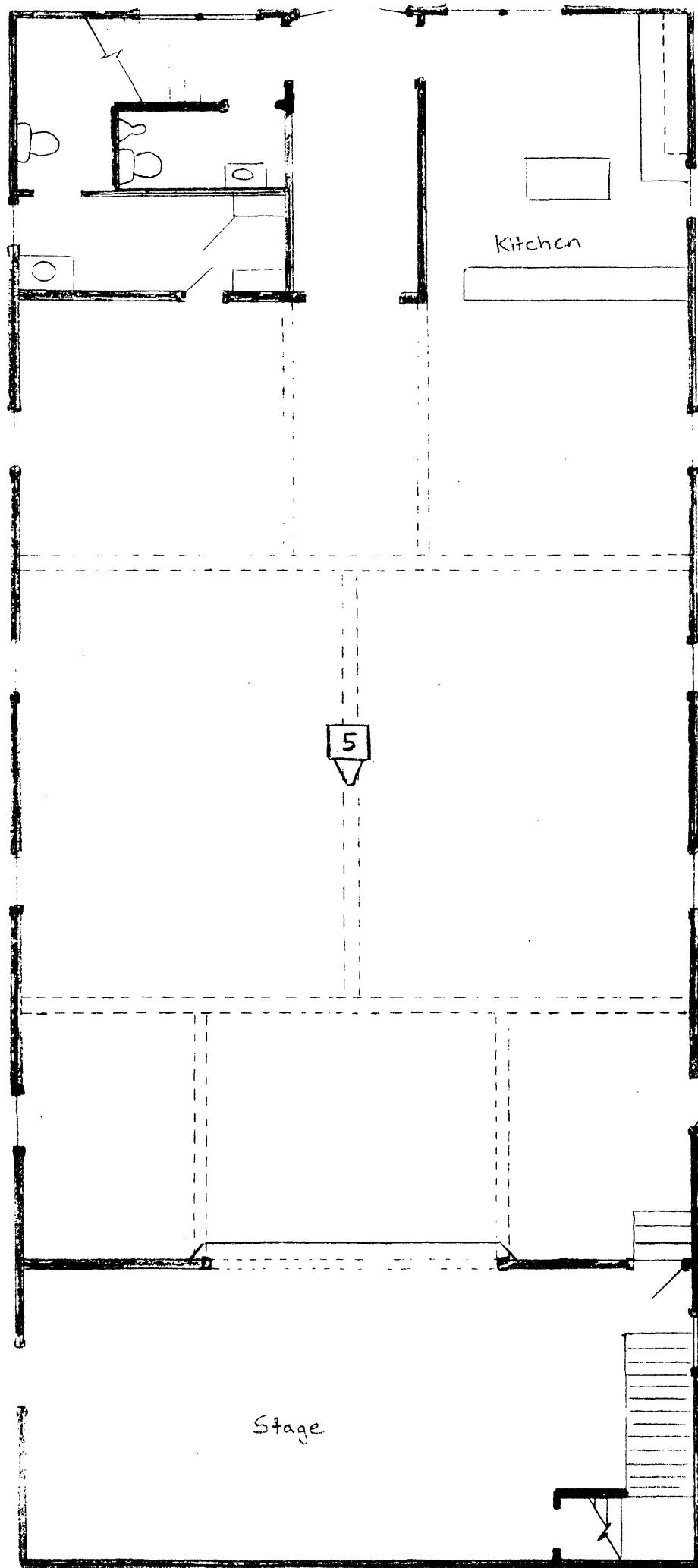


Z.C.B.J. Tolstoj  
Lodge #224

Linn County, Oregon

Site plan and  
photo key

(not to scale)



Z.C.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
Linn County, Oregon

First floor plan and photo key

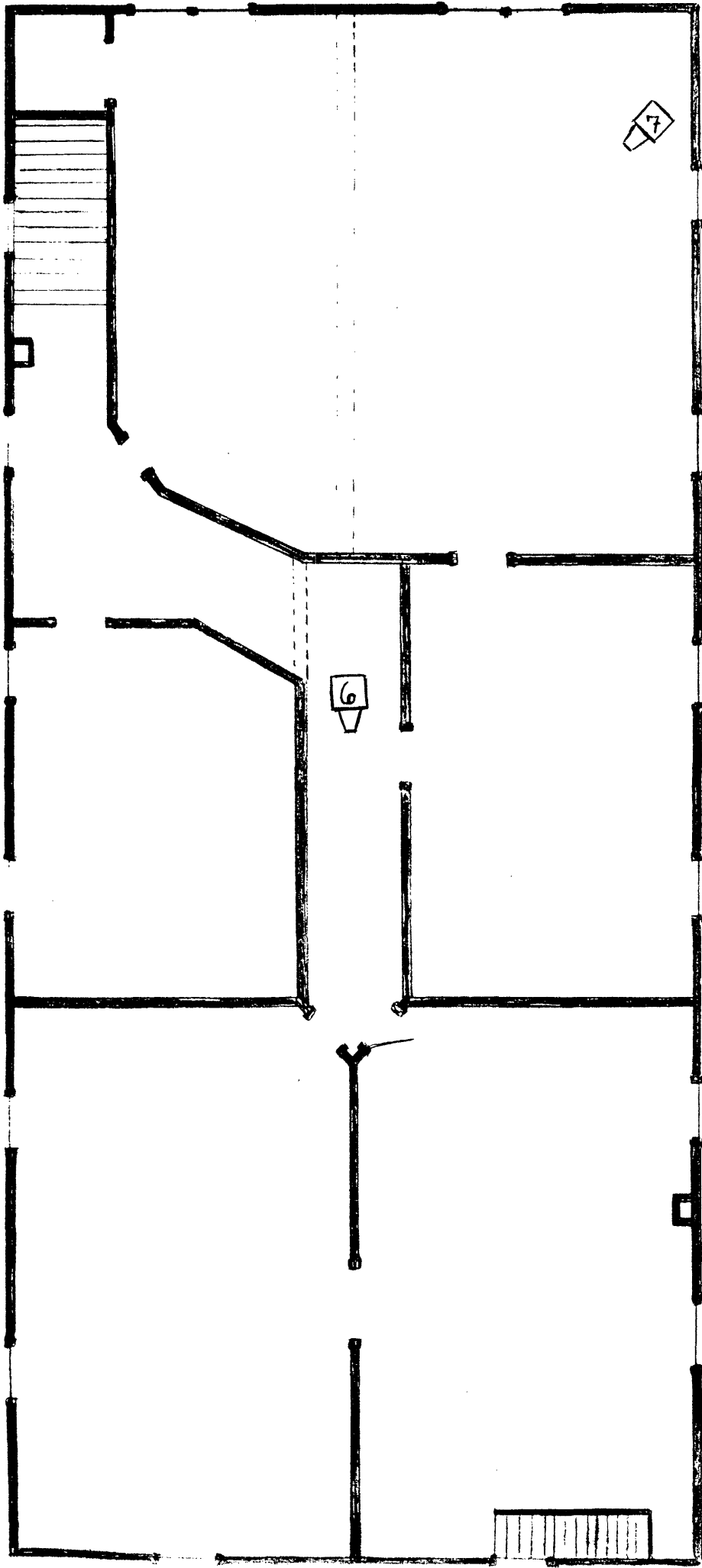


Scale 1 inch = 8 feet

Stage

Kitchen

5



Z.C.B.J. Tolstoj Lodge #224  
Linn County, Oregon

Second floor plan and photo key



Scale 1 inch = 8 feet