

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

**HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM**

County **CLACKAMAS**

Note: For properties 35 years old and newer, starred (\*) sections are the only required fields.

*Street Address: <b>7TH AND RAILROAD AVENUE</b>			*City: Oregon City		
USGS Quad Name: Oregon City		UTM or GPS Latitude:		Longitude:	
Township: 2S	Range: 2E	Section: 31	Block/Lot: N/A	Tax Lot #: N/A	
*Date of Construction: 1955		Historic Name: Oregon City Elevator		Historic Use or Function: Elevator	
Group or Ensemble Name: N/A		*Current Name or Use: Oregon City Elevator		Associated Archaeological Site: Unknown	
Style(s): N/A			Plan Type/Shape: Cylindrical on base		
Foundation Material: Concrete		Structural Framing: Steel and concrete		Number of Stories: 13	
Roof Type/Material: Unknown		Window Type/Material: Plate glass			
Exterior Surface Materials - Primary: Concrete		Secondary: Glass		Decorative: Stone	
Exterior Alterations or Additions/ Approximate Date(s): None identified					
Integrity: Excellent		<b>Preliminary National Register Findings</b> <input type="checkbox"/> National Register Listed Potentially Eligible: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individually (and/or) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> As a contributing resource in a district Not Eligible: <input type="checkbox"/> In current state <input type="checkbox"/> Irretrievable loss of integrity <input type="checkbox"/> Not historic			
Condition: Good					
Local Ranking:					

**Description of Physical and/or Landscape Features:**

This elevator consists of a 130-foot cylindrical shaft topped by an observation deck connected to the bluff and a base that provides a tunnel under the railroad tracks to the elevator. The lower entrance is accented with polished stone. The glass-enclosed observation deck provides an excellent view of the downtown, the Willamette Falls and the river northward.

**Statement of Significance: (use additional sheets if necessary)**

This elevator, constructed in 1955, replaced a 1915 elevator, which was water-powered until converted to electricity in 1924. It was built by James and Yost, contractors from Portland. It is one of only four known municipal elevators in the world. It provides access for the community between the downtown commercial area and the bluff. Prior to the installation of a municipal elevator, residents used a series of wooden steps which dotted the bluffs in five different locations. A permanent set of stone steps was installed in the 1930s (see survey form for Singer Falls and Steps) and a roadway was cut up the side of Singer Hill by the turn of the century. The elevator, which is virtually intact, is significant as a rare type of public structure. Although it is not yet 50 years old (and therefore would not normally qualify for the National Register), it is so unique and essentially intact, that a case could be made that it has met the rule of exception for buildings and structures not yet historic. It should, therefore, be considered eligible as a contributing resource in a historic district and because of its unique may also be considered eligible as an individual resource.

Researcher/Organization: Michelle L. Dennis			Date Recorded: May 2000		
Survey Form Page 1	Photo Roll #: 1	Frame #(s): 13	Local Designation #:	SHPO #:	

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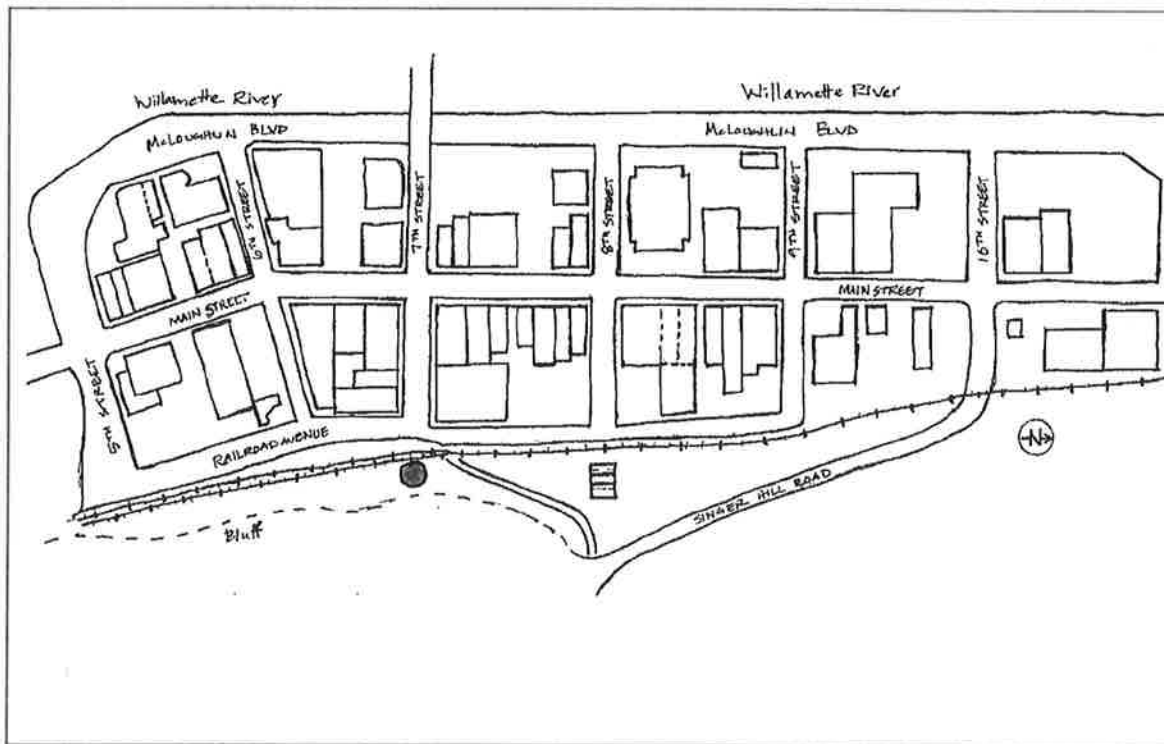
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Photo:



Map:



Researcher/Organization: Michelle L. Dennis	Date Recorded: May 2000			
Survey Form Page 2	Photo Roll #: 1	Frame #(s): 2	Local Designation #:	SHPO #:

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Architect and/or Builder James & Yost, Contractors		Owner Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed	
Addition or Subdivision Name   Oregon City Original Plat		Owner Name:   City of Oregon City	
Area(s) of Significance Government/Transportation		Address:   PO Box 3040	
Property Category: <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> District		City, State, Zip: Oregon City, OR 97045	
		Phone:	

<b>Documentation</b>		
Research Sources: <input type="checkbox"/> Abstract of Title <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps <input type="checkbox"/> Obituary Index <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Directories <input type="checkbox"/> Census Records <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biographical Encyclopedias <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers	<input type="checkbox"/> Building Permits <input type="checkbox"/> Tax Records <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHPO Files <input type="checkbox"/> State Archives <input type="checkbox"/> State Library <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Histories <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Interviews <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic Photographs	Local Library (specify Oregon City Public Library University Library (specif UO/OSU Historical Society (specify Clackamas Co. Historical Society Other (specify):

<p><b>Bibliographic References</b></p> <p><u>Clackamas County and Oregon City Directory</u>. Oregon City, OR: Sohns &amp; Woodbeck, 1917.</p> <p>Clackamas County Historical Society and Museum history files and historic photographs.</p> <p><u>Directory of Oregon City</u>. Portland, OR: Pacific Directory Service, 1941.</p> <p><u>Director of Clackamas County</u>. Portland, OR: Pacific Directory Service, 1948.</p> <p>Gardner, Wilmer (compiler). <u>Old Oregon City</u>. Oregon City, OR: Clackamas County Historical Society, 1987.</p> <p><u>Historic Oregon City</u>. 1957 (n.p.)</p> <p>Oregon City Enterprise [daily and weekly] (various dates).</p> <p>Oregon City Library files.</p> <p>Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps, 1892, 1911, 1925.</p> <p>"Telephone History in Oregon City." Pacific Northwest Bell, 1976.</p> <p>The City of Oregon City's 1983 Historic Survey of Downtown Oregon City (individual property files).</p> <p>Webber, Bert and Margie. <u>Oregon City (By Way of the Barlow Road) At the End of the National Historic Oregon Trail</u>. Medford, OR: Webb Research Group, 1993.</p> <p>Wiederhold, Kathleen M. <u>Exploring Oregon's Historic Courthouses</u>. Corvallis, OR: Oregon State University Press, 1998.</p>
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Researcher/Organization: Michelle L. Dennis		Date Recorded: May 2000	
Survey Form Page 3	Photo Roll #: 1	Frame #(s): 2	Local Designation #: SHPO #: