

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1368



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 Willakenzie Grange Hall

Other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number 3055 Willakenzie Rd.  not for publication

city of town Eugene  vicinity

State Oregon code OR county Lane code 039 zip code 97401

### 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. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Cynthia Cuman*  
Signature of certifying official/Deputy SHPO

12/3/2008  
Date

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 certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

*loe*  
Signature of the Keeper  
*Edson H. Beall*  
Date of Action 1-22-09

- 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:)

**5. Classification**

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

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

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

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
1		buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
1	1	Total

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

N/A

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

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

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

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall, Grange

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

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall, Grange

**7. Description**

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

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow /

Craftsman, Vernacular

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: WOOD, shiplap

roof: ASPHALT, shingle

other:

**Narrative Description**

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

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### INTRODUCTION:

Willakenzie Grange Hall is located in a residential neighborhood at 3055 Willakenzie Rd. in Eugene, Lane County, OR. Constructed in 1913, the building is representative of the Grange Movement that began in 1867 as a means of encouraging agricultural communities to work together for their common economic and political good. Historically, Willakenzie Grange Hall was used as a central meeting place for rural families farming the flood plains between the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers. Today, Willakenzie Grange is still active in the area with 29 regular members as well as an enthusiastic group of "Junior Grangers." The property has one contributing resource consisting of the grange building itself. The property's only non-contributing resource is a detached storage shed on the north side of the building. Willakenzie Grange Hall is in very good condition and maintains six of the seven recognized aspects of historical integrity, excluding integrity of setting due to a loss of the building's original agricultural surroundings.

### SETTING:

Originally adjacent to the Bogart schoolhouse (1854-1923) and surrounded by open farmland, today Willakenzie Grange Hall is located in a growing residential neighborhood. The building is constructed on a flat plain of land and sits on a .84 acre rectangular lot that is bordered on the south by Willakenzie Rd, the north and east by an L-shaped grass-covered lot, and the west by neighboring single-family homes. The lot itself has trees on the west and north sides and a large paved parking lot on the east side. The front façade of the building faces south towards Willakenzie Rd. The property is accessible by a paved entrance drive between the parking lot and Willakenzie Rd. A public sidewalk runs along Willakenzie Rd. in front of the building and is separated from the road by a curb. In addition, a short concrete sidewalk leads from the front step of the building to the parking lot. The parking lot itself is curbed to separate it from the grass on the east side of the building. The south and east elevations of Willakenzie Grange Hall are landscaped with manicured bushes and other plants. The southeast corner of the building is set off by a small triangular group of plantings and stones that have been surrounded by a row of bricks set into the ground. This area has been filled in with mulch and gravel. The north and west sides of the property contain several large maple trees. The far north side of the property contains a brick and stone masonry fireplace built in 1944 as a recreational addition to the property. In large part, this fireplace has been dismantled, however elements of the rough stone surround and brick hearth remain. The existing fireplace is approximately 4'2" tall and 3' wide.

### GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The building is a 2,440 sq. ft., two-story, vernacular meeting hall with a modified rectangular plan, recessed front porch, and a Craftsman-style front-gable roof with bracketed eave overhangs. Willakenzie Grange Hall is wood framed and measures 64' x 32', excluding rectangular kitchen and bathroom additions to the north and west that measure 12' x 22' and 16' x 8', respectively. The continuous-perimeter foundation of the building is poured concrete. The building is sided with wood shiplap that has been painted white. The front-gabled main roof is covered in asphalt shingles, as are the smaller hipped and flat roofs that cover the west and north projections; one brick chimney bisects the gable on the north end of the roof.

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### EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

All of the windows are wood framed and are of three kinds: one-over-one double-hung, three-sash fixed ribbon, and single-pane fixed-sash. The building also contains four wooden entry doors, two of which are smooth, and two of which are paneled. A fourth door exists, but has been rendered inoperable by the addition of an exterior staircase that blocks its way.

The front façade of the building (the south elevation) contains three one-over-one double-hung windows (two at second-story level, one at ground-floor level) and a recessed porch supported by a metal rod at the southeast corner. The porch floor is poured concrete and matches the level of the concrete foundation on the rest of the building. There is one concrete step on the east side of the porch. Originally, a short (approximately 2'6") wooden wall enclosed the porch on the south and east sides, ending where the step meets the porch. This wall has since been replaced with a wooden railing that borders the open south and east sides of the porch and is used as a handhold on either side of the concrete step. Two smooth wooden doors lead from the porch to the interior of the building. Above the second-floor windows on the south elevation, five rows of white painted wood shingles replace the shiplap siding where the words "WILLAKENZIE GRANGE" are mounted in black-painted wooden letters. Above this, five wooden brackets support the overhanging eave of the gable.

The east elevation contains eight one-over-one double-hung windows, four on the ground floor and four on the second floor. Rafters are exposed along the length of the building on the east and west elevations.

The north elevation supports a flight of wooden stairs that lead to a second-floor door, both of which were added after the building's initial construction as a fire escape in 1952. The staircase blocks an original ground-level door, and as a result, this door is no longer a viable entryway. In addition, a small square window opening alongside this original door has since been boarded up and painted over. A rectangular, one-story addition has also been added to the north elevation of the building. This addition functions as a kitchen extension and contains one three-sash ribbon of windows on its north side, as well as a wooden entry door on its east side. The kitchen addition is covered with an asphalt-shingled shed roof. In the northeast corner between the north addition and the original building there is a small shed-roofed storage closet attached which is accessible from the outside by means of a moveable wooden panel.

The west elevation of Willakenzie Grange Hall contains four one-over-one double-hung windows at second-floor level; at ground-floor level there are three one-over-one double-hung windows and one three-sash ribbon window. The west elevation also projects a one-story addition that functions as bathroom space. It contains two small horizontal fixed-sash windows on its west side and is covered by an asphalt-shingled hipped roof.

Both the north and west additions have projecting eaves and rafters and wooden shiplap siding in keeping with the architectural detailing of the original building. The only outbuilding on the lot is a 14' x 12' detached storage shed on the north side of the property. This white-painted plywood shed is covered by a front-gabled, asphalt-sheet roof and sits on a buried cement block foundation. Because it was built after the building's period of significance, the shed is a non-contributing resource to this site.

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### INTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

Inside, the building consists of two floors that are linked by an interior half-turn staircase. Both floors contain well-cared-for examples of the natural-finish Craftsman woodwork that functions as a distinct character-defining feature from the building's period of significance. Examples include the main staircase, the wainscoting and door and window casings common to both floors, and the posts and beams of the ground floor.

The ground level of Willakenzie Grange Hall is accessible through the main entrance on the building's south side as well as through the kitchen-addition entrance on the north side. Originally designed to function as a dining and work area, the first floor contains three distinct spaces: the vestibule with men's and women's bathrooms, the large multi-purpose room, and the kitchen. All spaces contain lath-and-plaster ceilings and walls.

The vestibule (10' x 20' without bathrooms) is located in the southernmost end of the building and acts as the building's primary entrance space, separating the primary outer door from the dining hall. The vestibule contains the base of the staircase, a double-hung window and cantilevered shelf/coat rack on the south wall, and separate men's and women's bathrooms on the west end of the space. Both bathrooms measure approximately 7' x 7' and contain 4' tall painted wood wainscoting, plaster walls and ceilings, and linoleum tile flooring. A standard doorway leads directly from the vestibule into the southern end of the multi-purpose room.

The multi-purpose room (35' x 32') is the largest room on the ground floor and can be accessed through the vestibule, the kitchen, or through a separate exterior door located in the southeast corner of the room. Varnished wooden wainscoting (3' 6" high, with chair rail) covers the bottom portion of the multi-purpose room walls and runs the entire perimeter of the room, broken only by the kitchen, vestibule, and exterior doorways. The north end of the multi-purpose room contains the building's original furnace. Linoleum flooring covers the entire floor, save the brick base around the furnace. Six varnished wooden structural posts are spaced at regular intervals throughout the room. Three double-hung windows are equally spaced on the east wall, and are mirrored by three equally spaced double-hung windows on the west wall. The wall separating the multi-purpose room and the kitchen is punctuated by two large pass-through windows on either side of a central doorway.

The L-shaped kitchen (12' x 32' with 11' x 12' projection) is the northernmost space on the ground floor and is accessible through the multi-purpose room and through an exterior door on the north end of the building. Built-in painted wood cabinetry, shelving, and Formica counters run the perimeter of the kitchen, save for doorways (on the south and east walls) and spaces reserved for kitchen appliances (including two electric stoves/ranges on the original north wall, stainless steel sinks on the extended north wall, and an older porcelain sink on the west wall. One three-sash ribbon window exists on the west wall, with a second on the north wall; the east wall contains a double-hung window. Like the multi-purpose room, the kitchen flooring is a linoleum cover with lath-and-plaster walls and ceiling.

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The upper floor is accessible through the interior vestibule staircase, as well as through an exterior wooden staircase fixed to the north facade of the building. Like the ground floor, the upper level consists of three distinct spaces: anteroom, main hall, and stage. Aside from the backstage area, the upper floor is entirely carpeted with the original flooring remaining underneath.

The anteroom (11' x 12') is the southernmost space on the upper floor and is adjacent to the upper level stair landing. The anteroom is accessible through a doorway on the stair landing and through the door connecting the anteroom with the main hall. The stair landing is also directly connected to the main hall through a separate doorway. Both spaces contain lath and plaster walls and ceiling and varnished wooden baseboards (10" high). The anteroom also contains a varnished wooden rail with metal coat-hooks that runs the perimeter of the room; one double-hung window exists on the south wall of the anteroom, with a second double-hung window on the south wall of the stair landing.

The main hall (38' x 32') is the largest room on the upper floor and is accessible through the landing and anteroom doors on its south side. The north end of the hall contains a stage and flanking doors that lead backstage. The hall's lath and plaster walls are accented by varnished wooden wainscoting that runs the length of each wall, save that which contains the stage and its two side doors. Three equally-spaced double-hung windows exist on the east wall of the main hall and are mirrored by three equally-spaced double-hung windows on the west wall. The original ceiling is obscured by applied acoustical tiles which follow the rounded edges of the room, creating a coved ceiling.

The stage space consists of the main stage itself as well as side- and backstage areas (14' x 32' total). The stage and its surrounding space can be accessed through the doors on either side of the stage, as well as through the use of two carpeted wooden steps that lead from the main hall to center stage. The stage itself is carpeted, but the original wooden floorboards remain uncovered in the backstage areas. The plaster ceiling remains uncovered in this space as well. Two double-hung windows exist in the backstage space – one on the east wall, one on the west.

### ALTERATIONS:

Since its construction, Willakenzie Grange Hall has undergone a series of minor alterations, including two structural modifications during the period of significance. In 1934 modifications were made to the first floor north interior walls to create a juvenile room. In 1942 a rectangular 16' x 8' first-floor bathroom extension was added to the south end west elevation. Otherwise, only slight modifications have been made since 1913. Oil lamps were utilized on the building's interior until October of 1924 when gas lights were installed; by November of the next year, however, the gas lighting had already been replaced by electric lighting. In August of 1944, a masonry fireplace was constructed in the northeast corner of the lot in commemoration of the men and women then serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The structure has since been rendered inoperable, but current grangers have plans to restore it to its original state. In 1949 a first-floor one-over-one double-hung window was added to the north end of the east elevation. In 1952 a wooden staircase and second-story exterior door was added to the north elevation of the building as an exterior fire escape. In 1955, the original wooden floorboards on the ground floor were covered over with linoleum flooring to facilitate cleaning. The original

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wood furnace used to heat the building is still functioning as the only source of heat in the space, but has since been converted to run on oil rather than wood in 1966.<sup>1</sup>

Since 1958, the end of the building's period of significance, Willakenzie Grange Hall has undergone very few significant alterations. Inside the building, the 12' x 22' kitchen extension was added to the west side of the first floor north elevation in 1961. The extension included the addition of a one-over-one window on the north end of the east elevation. Acoustic tile was added to the ceiling in the upstairs main hall in 1964. In 1979, the second floor was carpeted, as was the stairway; like the ground floor, however, the original flooring remains underneath. The concrete walkway in front of the hall was poured in 1983.

Undated alterations include modifications to the original porch wall and the removal of one chimney. Originally, the recessed porch contained a short wooden porch wall that has since been removed and replaced by a simple wood railing running along the open south and east sides of the porch, leaving an opening for the concrete step on the east side. Also unknown is when the center chimney was removed. Today, only the northernmost chimney remains.

Fundraising is currently underway for in-kind replacement of the asphalt-shingled roof as well as for restoration of the original short wooden porch wall.

Overall, Willakenzie Grange Hall retains a high degree of integrity, is well maintained, and remains in good condition. The building still clearly reflects the time period in which it was built as well as its unique Craftsman-vernacular style.

<sup>1</sup> Willakenzie Grange Meeting Minutes: 1934, 1937, 1942, 1949, and 1952. Willakenzie Grange, Eugene, OR (accessed January 29, 2008).

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

AGRICULTURE

**Period of Significance**

1913-1958

**Significant Dates**

1913, date of construction

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

George Smith, Ira Calef, C.A. Rice, W.A. Ayres,

F.B. Harlow

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

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

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: City of Eugene Planning & Development Office

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### INTRODUCTION:

Willakenzie Grange Hall, a vernacular-style meeting hall, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the Grange Movement in Lane County, Oregon. Having local significance in the area of Social History and Agriculture, the building represents the combined efforts of a local grassroots organization to promote the welfare of society and to actively support farmers' interests and individual rights. Today, Willakenzie Grange Hall is listed as a City of Eugene Historic Landmark and stands as a reminder of the once-dominant agricultural community that occupied the region since its earliest pioneer settlement. Built in 1913 to serve as a meeting hall for Willakenzie Grange #498, the building retains six of the seven recognized aspects of historic integrity including location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Integrity of setting has been lost due to the conversion of the original surrounding farmland to residential and commercial construction. The property's period of significance begins in 1913 with the building's construction and ends in 1958, the fifty-year threshold, reflecting continuing activities and influence of the Grange from the organization's founding to the present.

### THE NATIONAL GRANGE MOVEMENT:

Formally known as the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, the Grange is the nation's oldest national agricultural organization with grassroots units established in 3,600 local communities across thirty-seven states. With over 300,000 members, the Grange provides service to rural areas on issues such as "economic development, education, family endeavors, and legislation designed to assure a strong and viable rural America."<sup>1</sup> Similar to the unions that were formed to represent industrial workers during the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, the Grange was formed in 1867 to protect farmers from railroad companies, warehouse owners, merchants, and other businesses who threatened to take advantage of them.<sup>2</sup>

The inspiration to form such an association came in 1866 when President Andrew Johnson commissioned Oliver Hudson Kelley – then a clerk in the agricultural bureau in Washington, DC – to provide a survey of agricultural conditions in the post-war South. On his travels, Kelley witnessed the plight of countless disheartened, apathetic, and frustrated farmers scattered throughout the devastated South. This tour, along with his experience farming the Minnesota prairie, awakened Kelley to the "utterly helpless condition of the farming interest, not only of the South, but of the whole country... The farmers were scattered, divided in opinions, almost indifferent to their condition, and without any means of expressing or enforcing their views as a body. It seemed clear to Kelley that if a remedy was to be found for the evils that he encountered, it must be in the associated and harmonious action of the farming class."<sup>3</sup>

As a member of the Masonic fraternity, Kelley believed that a "Secret Society of Agriculturists" would bring countless advantages to farmers and agricultural workers throughout the country, not the least of which was a

<sup>1</sup> National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, "History: 137 Years of Service to Rural America," National Grange, <http://www.nationalgrange.org/about/history.html> (accessed February 2, 2008).

<sup>2</sup> James Hamrick, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Lowell Grange, 2005.

<sup>3</sup> James Dabney McCabe, *History of the Grange Movement* (Philadelphia: National Publishing Company, 1873), 408.

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restoration of "kindly feelings among the people."<sup>4</sup> As a result, Kelley, along with six other government officials who shared his beliefs, founded the National Order of the Patrons of Husbandry in December of 1867 as a fraternal organization designed to unite and give voice to the country's scattered and unorganized farm population. Together, the seven founders elected officers, composed the order's constitution, and soon developed a meeting ritual that would be carried out at all future assemblies of the order.

At a time when America was struggling with the burden of post-war reconstruction, the newly formed Grange (as the order came to be known, derived from the Latin *granium*, meaning "farm") enabled farmers north and south to join together to speak out on issues important to the common welfare of rural America. This was especially needed in the later years of the nineteenth century as the new technologies of the Industrial Revolution had quickened the pace of industry and had increased the number of capitalists and railroad monopolies that threatened to exploit private farmers.

Shortly after the first official meeting of the National Grange in January of 1868, the first subordinate grange, Potomac Grange No. 1, was formed in Washington DC as a "practice grange" for the emerging ritual work.<sup>5</sup> In April of that year, founding father O. H. Kelley set off on a journey to spread news of the virtues of grange membership to farmers throughout rural America who had yet to hear of the organization. Largely through Kelley's efforts and the advocacy of independent farmers' newspapers, local granges were formed first in Eastern and Midwestern states, and later in the West and Northwest. By September of 1873, the total number of subordinate granges had reached 6,062; less than a month later the number had reached 6,914, prompting J.D. McCabe, a contemporary chronicler of the movement to write, "The number of Granges in the United States is increasing so rapidly that it is hard to give an accurate statement concerning them;" however, "the number of members may be safely estimated at about half a million."<sup>6</sup> After a decline in membership in the 1880s, nationwide grange membership leveled off and has since fluctuated between 150,000 and 300,000 members.

From the outset, the Grange was designed as a three-tiered organization that would effectively provide private farmers with an official channel through which to communicate with outside influences on local, state, and national levels. A local, or subordinate, grange was traditionally formed through a charter issued by its respective state grange. In turn, each state grange reported its business to the National Grange located in Washington D.C. In 1874, county, or Pomona, granges were added to the organization in order to facilitate the far-flung administrative duties of state granges. Although this multi-tiered structure was in place from the earliest days of the organization, subordinate granges were usually established prior to the initiation of county or state granges in areas where the Movement was just beginning.

Since the beginning of the organization, grange halls across the country were used not only as meeting places for local grange chapters, but also served as community centers where social, educational, and charity events

<sup>4</sup> David H. Howard, *People Pride and Progress: 125 Years of the Grange in America* (Washington, DC: National Grange, 1992), 37.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 46.

<sup>6</sup> McCabe, *History*, 411.

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regularly took place. Most granges also opened their doors to local community groups and organizations in an effort to foster a spirit of cooperation within the community. As a result, the Grange organization was of major significance within isolated rural communities where local grange halls stood alone as places for social interaction and as a headquarters for community service projects.

### THE GRANGE MOVEMENT IN OREGON

Since its earliest years of settlement, Oregon has been an agricultural state with private farming enterprises scattered throughout. From individual county fairs in the 1850s to the inception of the Oregon State Fair in 1861, Oregon farmers saw advantages in the practice of gathering together to share ideas, concerns, and advice.<sup>7</sup> For this reason, dense agricultural areas like the Willamette Valley saw the formation of farmers' clubs beginning in the early 1870s. The number of such clubs in Oregon began to decline, however, by the mid-1870s when the Grange Movement began to gain momentum throughout the state.

By the winter of 1872-73, the Grange Movement had reached the agricultural communities of Oregon, due in large part to the efforts of W.J. Campbell of Clackamas County. In January of 1873, Campbell succeeded in establishing the first subordinate grange in Oregon in Marshfield (present-day Clackamas), Clackamas County. Campbell and other early Oregon grangers actively organized other grassroots granges throughout the length of the Willamette Valley. After thirty-seven subordinate granges had been established in the state, the Oregon State Grange met for the first time in Salem on September 24, 1873.<sup>8</sup> From that time until today, the State Grange has been responsible for overseeing the membership, activities, and formation of subordinate and Pomona granges throughout the state. Because State Grange policies originate at the subordinate and Pomona levels, the State Grange is often considered to be uniquely expressive of Grange thought and sentiment throughout the entire state.<sup>9</sup>

In 1874, one year after the formation of the Oregon State Grange, the number of granges in the state increased rapidly so that by 1875, Oregon boasted 175 subordinate granges spread throughout 22 counties.<sup>10</sup> After a brief decline in the 1880s, statewide grange membership rose and fell according to changes in population, agriculture, and the economy. As a result, from that time through the first half of the twentieth century, new subordinate granges were chartered in the state while older chapters fell dormant.<sup>11</sup>

The influence of the Grange in Oregon can be seen in its successful petitions to regulate transportation in the state, first with legislation passed regarding the use of locks on the Willamette River in 1877 and again with enacted legislation pertaining to railroad companies in 1887. Grangers throughout the state supported local agricultural organizations, like the Sheep Breeding Association, as well as the public school system and other educational groups.

<sup>7</sup> Edna A. Scott, "The Grange Movement in Oregon: 1873-1900" (master's thesis, University of Oregon, 1923), 4-5.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 1-21.

<sup>9</sup> National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, "History: 137 Years of Service to Rural America," National Grange, <http://www.nationalgrange.org/about/history.html> (accessed February 2, 2008).

<sup>10</sup> Ezra S. Carr, *The Patrons of Husbandry on the Pacific Coast* (San Francisco: A.L. Bancroft and Company, 1875), 285-6.

<sup>11</sup> Scott, "The Grange Movement," 1-21.

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Regardless of the granger population throughout the state, Oregon granges have always been very active in lobbying their local and state legislatures. Their petitions focused on issues important to agriculture, education, and social welfare. Since its inception, the Oregon State Grange has petitioned state and national legislatures on issues as diverse as women's suffrage, the direct election of senators, and rural free delivery. The State Grange was also active in establishing the Oregon Agricultural College in Corvallis, an institution that has grown into today's Oregon State University and its associated Extension Services throughout the state.

### THE GRANGE MOVEMENT IN LANE COUNTY AND EUGENE

Historically, Lane County's economy was largely based on agriculture. The Willamette Valley, in particular, was known as one of the nation's most productive farming regions.<sup>12</sup> Crops – such as wheat, vegetables, and hops – were hearty and plentiful because of the moderate climate and fertile alluvial soil that farmers in the valley relied upon. Initially, the valley's early pioneer settlers were purely subsistence farmers, but by the 1860s area farmers also began marketing their produce in surrounding communities. The arrival of railroad transportation in the 1870s and 1880s introduced Lane County farmers to expanded markets and prompted an increase in production; however, the railroad's high freight costs and fluctuating prices led Lane County farmers to begin forming local grange organizations in an effort to protect themselves from railroad companies whose high prices threatened to reduce or even eliminate the profit farmers received from marketing their produce.<sup>13</sup>

By 1875 Lane County boasted seventeen subordinate granges, second only to Linn County's twenty-six.<sup>14</sup> The first grange established in the county was Springfield Grange (no longer active), chartered in 1873 in Springfield, Oregon. Less than two years later, Eugene City Grange (no longer active), the first in Eugene, was also established. By the time Willakenzie Grange was chartered in 1913, Lane County had nearly 3,000 individual, owner-operated farms – more than ever before in the county's history.<sup>15</sup> This increase in private agricultural enterprise in the early-twentieth century brought about an increase in county-wide grange formation and membership; as a result, the construction of Willakenzie Grange Hall came at the height of grange activity in the area.

From the beginning, subordinate granges like Willakenzie have admitted men, women, and youth over the age of fourteen as full members on equal terms. Each member votes to elect local grange officers and to decide the grange's role in community matters. Subordinate granges promote activities designed to develop leadership, improve life in the community, and expand civic, professional, and educational opportunities for all

<sup>12</sup> "Lane County History," Oregon State Archives, <http://www.sos.state.or.us/archives/county/cplanehome.html> (accessed February 17, 2008).

<sup>13</sup> Elizabeth Carter and Michelle Dennis, *Eugene Area Historic Context Statement* (Eugene, OR: City of Eugene Planning and Development Department, 1996), 42.

<sup>14</sup> Carr, *The Patrons of Husbandry*, 285-6.

<sup>15</sup> Thomas B. Forster, ed., "The Cultural and Historic landscapes of Lane County, Oregon," (Eugene, OR, 1986) fig. 44.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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members of the community, as well as providing emergency relief for community members affected by illness, fire, or natural disaster.<sup>16</sup>

### WILLAKENZIE GRANGE:

Since the first Euro-American settlement in 1847, the fertile valley between the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers was a popular destination for a steady stream of settlers. The first public school in the area, the Bogart School House, was constructed in 1854 for local farmers' children, and by 1860, most of the remaining land in the valley had been claimed by farmers growing wheat, hops, walnuts, and flax. By the turn of the century, the region was known to be an important agricultural center for the nearby city of Eugene.

In May of 1913, Will Ayres and Frank Harlow – both area farmers and sons of early settlers – decided that a local grange would benefit the growing agricultural community in the Willamette-McKenzie river valley. Ayres and Harlow invited area families to attend a meeting at the nearby Bogart School House where a grange was organized consisting of sixty-four initial members. These first members chose the name “Willakenzie,” after the two rivers that flowed through the area. The grange's first order of business was to secure a meeting place of its own. In September, a .86 acre lot adjacent to the Bogart School House was purchased from Mrs. Catherine M. Bogart for \$250.<sup>17</sup> Three grange members, George Smith, Ira Calef, and C.A. Rice, were appointed to draw up plans for the new meeting hall. Their plans called for a simple, two-story rectangular building measuring 32' x 64'. At the same time, a Building Committee, consisting of Will Ayres, Frank Harlow, and C.A. Rice, was organized to begin construction as soon as possible. By November of 1913, less than six months after the grange was first called to order, Willakenzie Grange housed its first meeting.

Shortly after the hall's construction, a horse shed and two outhouses were built on the lot, none of which are extant today (although historic photographs indicate that the horse shed was located in back of the building on the north end of the lot). In 1935, grangers planted big-leaf maple trees along the north and west sides of the lot, most of which are still alive today. Twenty-four of the charter grange members who were instrumental in the construction and early maintenance of Willakenzie Grange Hall are buried at the Gillespie Butte Cemetery in Eugene.

As an organization, Willakenzie Grange has always been known for its local civic and educational efforts, and its participation in regional events like the annual Lane County Fair – an event that had been operating since 1884 in conjunction with the Lane County Agricultural Society. Through resolution and parliamentary procedure, members have voiced concerns and ideas for the development and maintenance of many nearby roads, bridges, parks, schools, and businesses. As a result, much of the area has adopted the Willakenzie name, and several members have gone on to do well in public service - including Oregon State Senator, Wayne Morse. Willakenzie Grange is also celebrated throughout the area as the originator of the Producers'

<sup>16</sup> National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, “History: 137 Years of Service to Rural America,” National Grange, <http://www.nationalgrange.org/about/history.html> (accessed February 2, 2008).

<sup>17</sup> Lane County Deeds and Records Office, Property Deed: September 11, 1913, Microfilm reel 101, page 414 (accessed January 25, 2008).

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Public Market in Eugene. Established in 1915, the Producers' Public Market (known today as the Lane County Farmers' Market) has since become a Eugene tradition and a key piece of the city's cultural heritage.<sup>18</sup>

Since its earliest days, Willakenzie grangers have offered their hall as a meeting place for neighborhood associations, Boy and Girl Scout troops, the local Red Cross, and other community groups in an effort to realize the Grange's mission of social well-being and to foster a spirit of charity and cooperation within the community. Since its inception, Willakenzie Grange has hosted countless poetry recitals, choir concerts, food drives, educational lectures, and music, art, and craft competitions, and has also served as a location for food distribution and for area voters to cast their ballots in local, state, and federal elections. Until it was deconstructed, the outdoor fireplace provided hot food to accompany many of these events.<sup>19</sup> Current grange members plan to reconstruct the fireplace so that it can again serve as the WWII memorial and community cookout center for which it was originally intended. While official Grange meetings are open to members only, the many social activities and events held at Willakenzie Grange Hall have always been open to the general public.

### COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS:

The parameters of this analysis consist of previously surveyed and inventoried historic grange buildings in Lane County, Oregon. Currently, Lowell Grange Hall in Lowell, Oregon is the only grange hall in Lane County that is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Unlike Willakenzie, however, Lowell Grange Hall was originally built as a school in 1914 and was not used as a grange hall until 1940.<sup>20</sup> Willakenzie Grange Hall, on the other hand, is a purpose-built grange hall that was built by local grangers to carry out the unique agricultural and civic missions of the National Grange organization.

West Point Grange Hall in Coburg, Oregon is part of the Coburg Historic District and is similar to Willakenzie in its size and its Craftsman-vernacular style; West Point Grange Hall, however, was not constructed until 1939, a full twenty-six years after Willakenzie area grangers built and began meeting in their own hall. In addition, as an organization, Eugene's Willakenzie Grange existed at least two years prior to the formation of West Point Grange in Coburg.<sup>21</sup>

In addition to Lowell and West Point, the only other grange hall in Lane County that is on record with the Oregon SHPO is Lorane Grange Hall in Lorane, Oregon, built c. 1910. Constructed in a vernacular style, the building contains one notably newer addition, but otherwise possesses a high degree of integrity. Like Lowell, however, Lorane Grange Hall was originally used as a schoolhouse before it was adopted by the local Lorane Grange. While at least twenty-five grange halls (historic and not) exist in Lane County today, no others have been identified by the Eugene City Planning Office, the Lane County Planning Office, or the State Historic Preservation Office.

<sup>18</sup> Stan Bettis, *Market Days: An Informal History of the Eugene Producers' Public Market* (Eugene, OR: Lane Pomona Grange Fraternal Society, 1969).

<sup>19</sup> Willakenzie Grange Meeting Minutes: 1931-1975, Willakenzie Grange, Eugene, OR (accessed January 29, 2008).

<sup>20</sup> James Hamrick, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: "Lowell Grange," 2005.

<sup>21</sup> *Lane County Inventory of Historic Places*, Inv. #338, "West Point Grange #535," 1984.

Willakenzie Grange Hall  
Name of Property

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Today, Willakenzie Grange Hall is one of two remaining grange halls incorporated within the city of Eugene proper (the other is Four Oaks Grange), and is the closest grange hall to the city center. As such, the building stands as an important reminder of the area's oft-forgotten agricultural heritage.

### CONCLUSION:

Willakenzie Grange Hall is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the Grange Movement in Lane County. The building is significant in the area of Social History and Agriculture, as it represents the seat of an organization that once served as the social and recreational cornerstone of a rural community and has been the heart of area farmers' and agricultural workers' meetings for decades. The building continues to function as a grange hall today, ninety-five years after local grangers first constructed it. As of June 2008, the Grange boasted an official meeting number of 1,921.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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- Scott, Edna A. "The Grange Movement in Oregon: 1873-1900." Master's thesis, University of Oregon, 1923.

Willakenzie Grange Hall  
Name of Property

Lane Co., OR  
County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

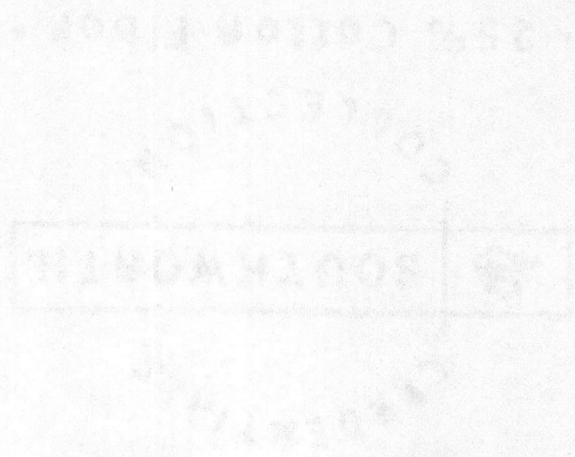
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   2  

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Willakenzie Grange Meeting Minutes: 1930-1987. Eugene, OR: Willakenzie Grange, Accessed 29 January 2008.



Willakenzie Grange Hall  
Name of Property

Lane Co., OR  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** .84 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 10 495041 4880778  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

### Verbal Boundary Description

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

### Boundary Justification

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

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gail Hammerich  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date June 15, 2008  
street & number 301 Willamette St. telephone (541) 285-0352  
city or town Eugene state OR zip code 97401

### 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 Oregon State Grange  
street & number 643 Union St. NE telephone (503) 316-0106  
city or town Salem state OR zip code 97301  
Contact at Willakenzie Grange: David Kemp Phone: (541)543-1809 Email: dkemp.ltc@comcast.net

**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.

Willakenzie Grange Hall  
Name of Property

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NPS Form 10-900-a

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## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated area consists of all of Tax Lot #800 in the town of Eugene in Section 21, Township 17S, Range 3W of Lane County, Oregon. The lot measures 314.29' on the west, 140' on the north, 208.6' on the east, and 161.03' on the south.

## VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the nominated area are the legal bounds of the tax lot on which the building is located as described in the Verbal Boundary Description, and include all of the property historically associated with the Willakenzie Grange Hall.

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Continuation Sheet

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Name of Property: Willakenzie Grange  
County & State: Lane Co., OR  
Name of Photographer: Gail Hammerich  
Date of Photographs: May 23, 2008  
Paper and Ink: HP Premium Plus Photo Paper and HP Vivera Ink  
Location of Original: Digital, images held by Gail Hammerich Eugene, Oregon or Oregon State Historic Preservation Office files

- 1 of 12: Willakenzie Grange #498, South and east elevations, camera facing northwest, 1916, unknown photographer
- 2 of 12: South and east elevations, facing northwest.
- 3 of 12: South and west elevations with bathroom addition, facing northeast.
- 4 of 12: North and west elevations with kitchen and bathroom additions and storage shed, facing southeast.
- 5 of 12: North and east elevations with storage shed, facing southwest
- 6 of 12: North elevation showing kitchen addition and detached storage shed, facing west.
- 7 of 12: Ground floor dining hall, facing northeast.
- 8 of 12: Ground floor dining hall, facing south.
- 9 of 12: Second floor landing with woodwork, facing southeast
- 10 of 12: Second floor main hall, facing north.
- 11 of 12: Second floor main hall, facing southwest.
- 12 of 12: Deconstructed masonry fireplace on north end of lot, facing northeast.

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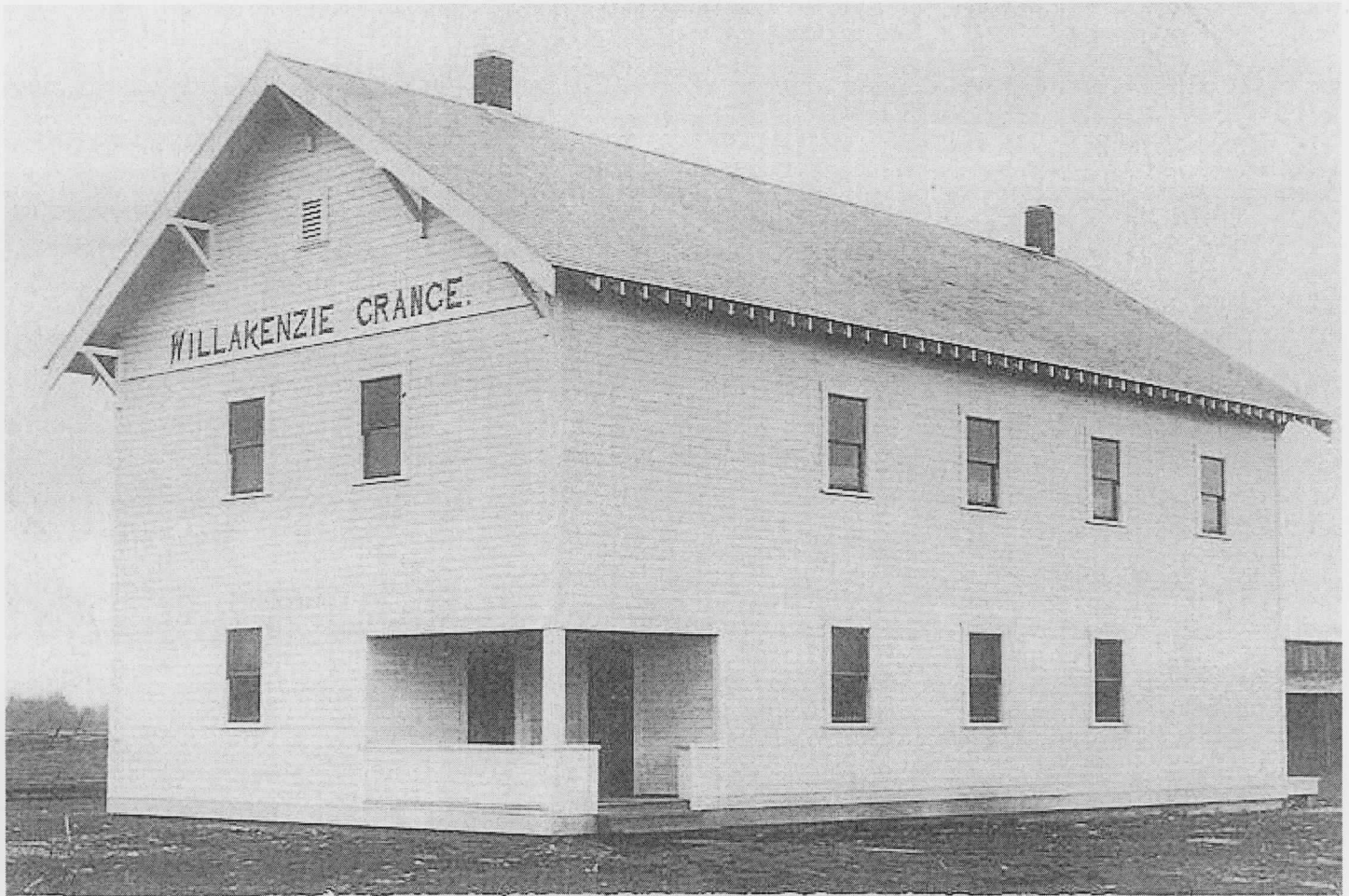


Photo 1 of 12: Willakenzie Grange #498, South and east elevations, facing northwest.

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Photo 2 of 12: South and east elevations, facing northwest.

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Photo 3 of 12: South and west elevations with bathroom addition, facing northeast.

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**Photo 4 of 12: North and west elevations with kitchen and bathroom additions and storage shed, facing southeast.**

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Photo 5 of 12: North and east elevations with storage shed, facing southwest

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Photo 6 of 12: North elevation showing kitchen addition and detached storage shed, facing west.

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Photo 7 of 12: Ground floor dining hall, facing northeast.

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Photo 8 of 12: Ground floor dining hall, facing south.

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Photo 9 of 12: Second floor landing with woodwork, facing southeast

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Photo 10 of 12: Second floor main hall, facing north.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs Page 12



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Photo 11 of 12: Second floor main hall, facing southwest.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs Page 13



**Photo 12 of 12: Deconstructed masonry fireplace on north end of lot, facing northeast.**

Willakenzie Grange Hall  
Name of Property

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County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Documents Page 1

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## DOCUMENTS

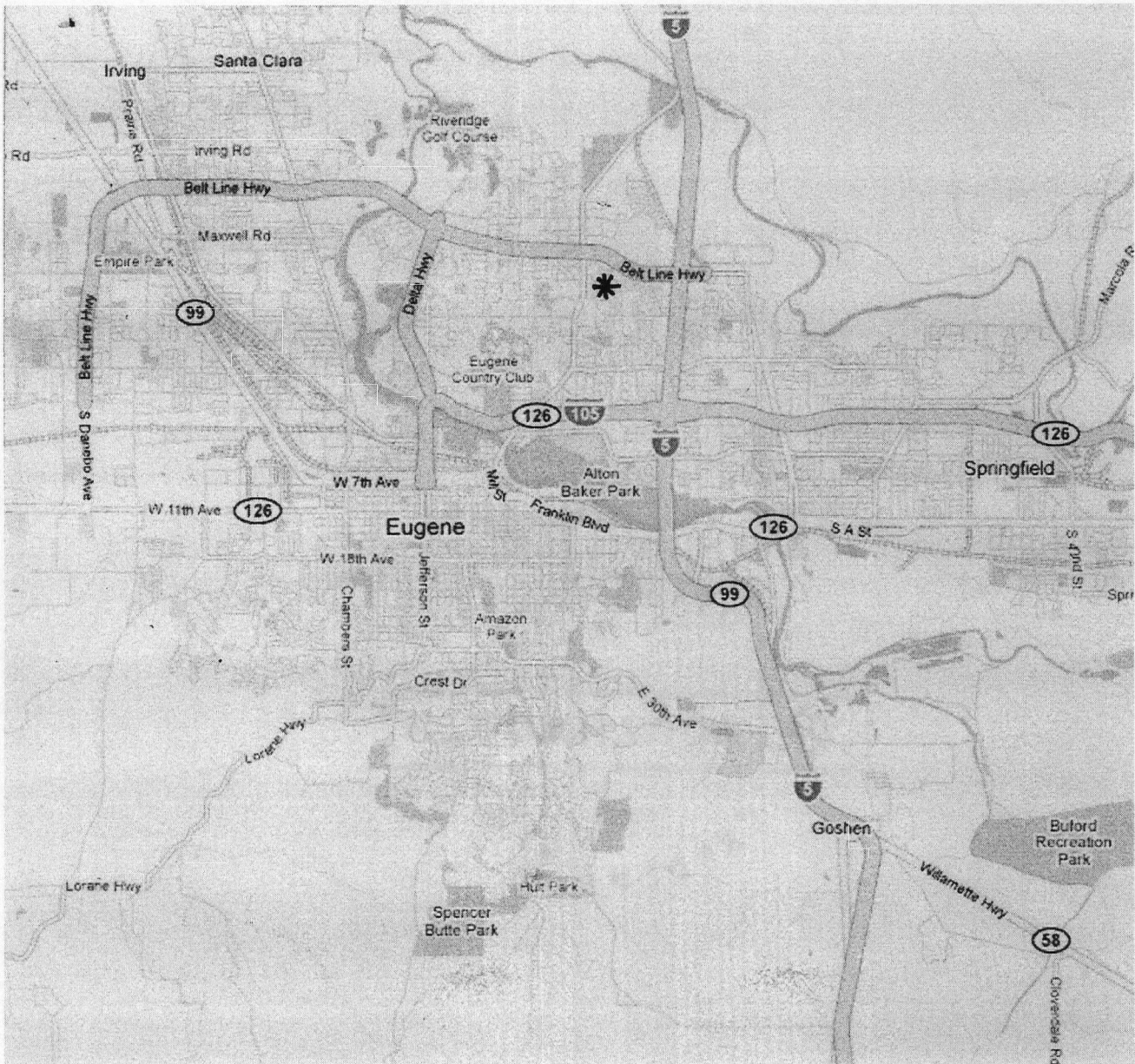
1. Eugene Area Map, 1 page
2. General location map, 1 page
3. Site plan, 1 page
4. Floor plans, 1 page

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Documents Page 2

**Additional Documentation:  
Eugene Area Map  
(Willakenzie Grange Hall noted with \* )**

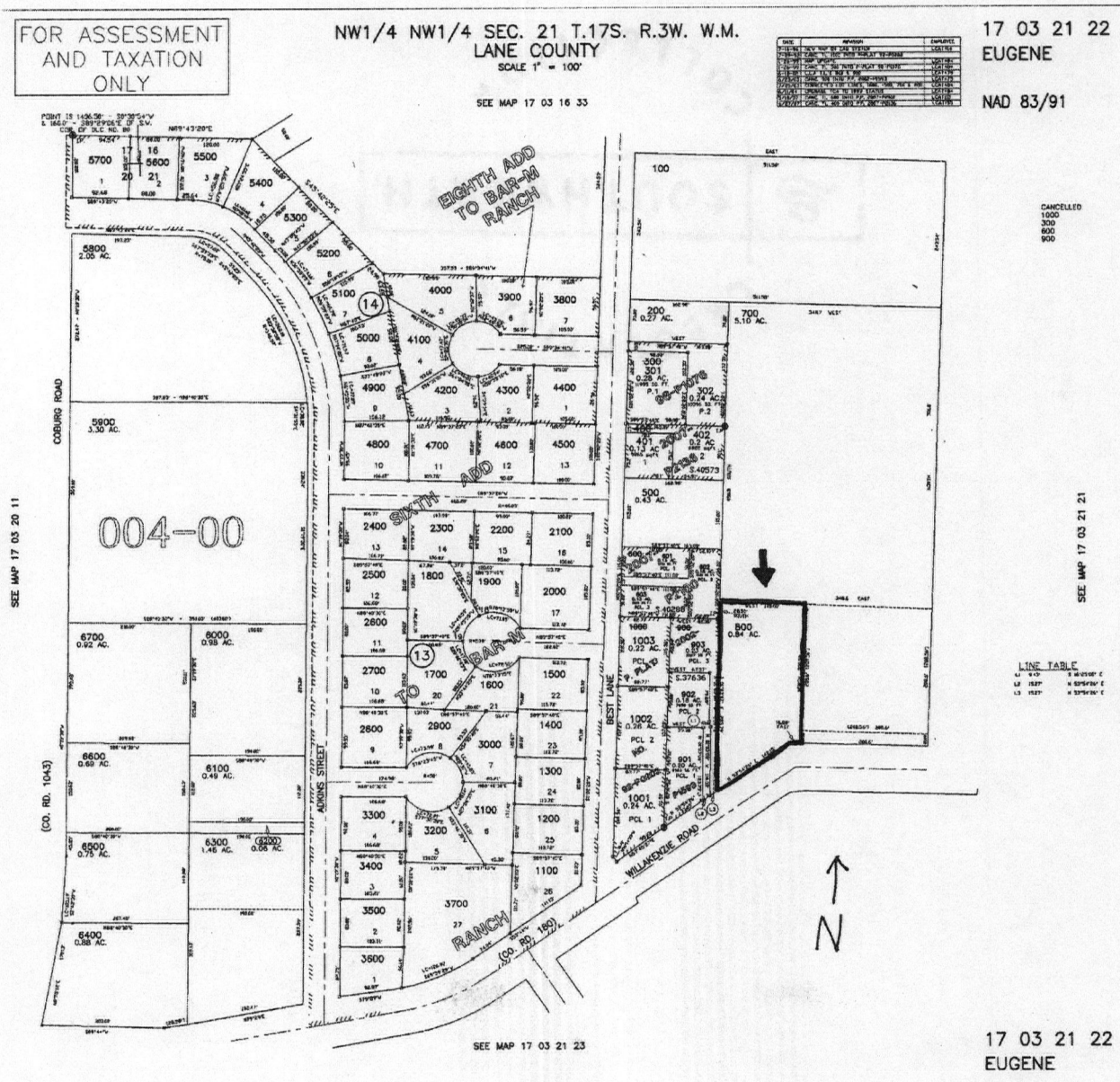


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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Documents Page 3

## Additional Documentation: Tax Lot Map

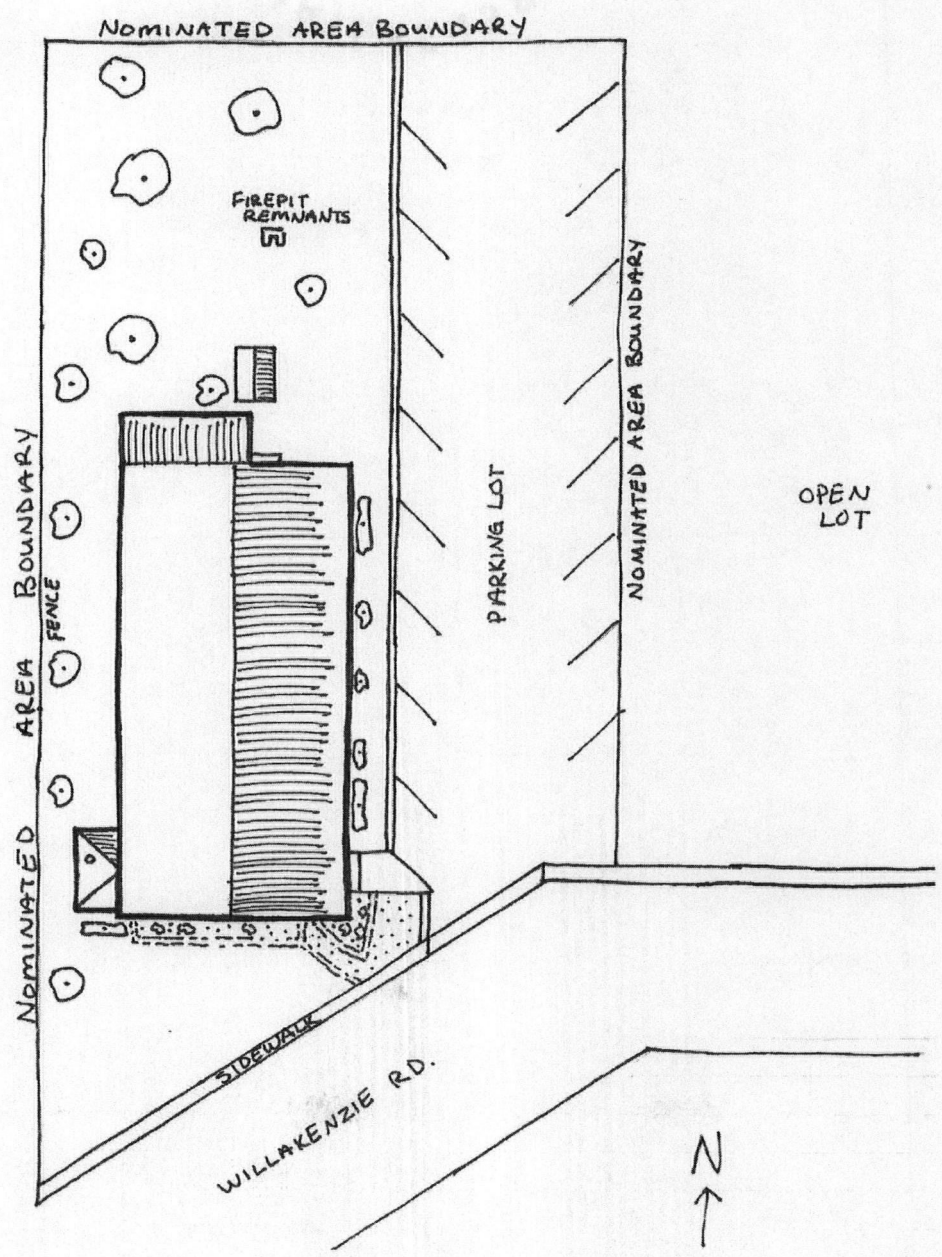


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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Documents Page 4

## Additional Documentation: Site Plan

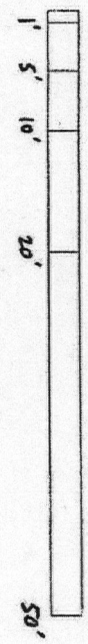
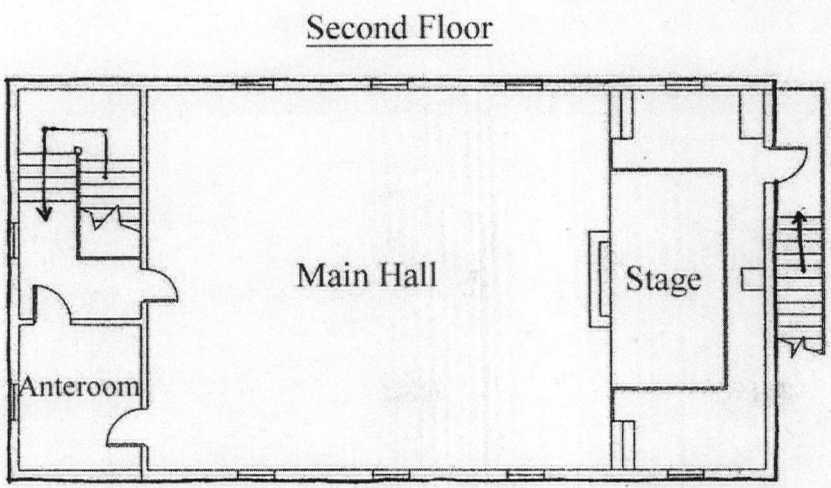
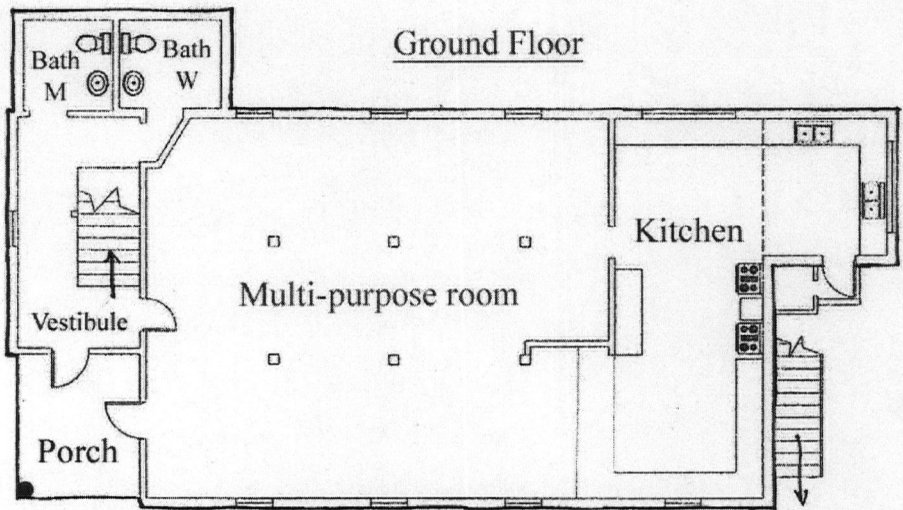


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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Documents Page 5

## Additional Documentation: Floor Plans



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Willakenzie Grange Hall  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OREGON, Lane

DATE RECEIVED: 12/09/08      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/31/08  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/15/09      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/22/09  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08001368

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    1-22-09 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

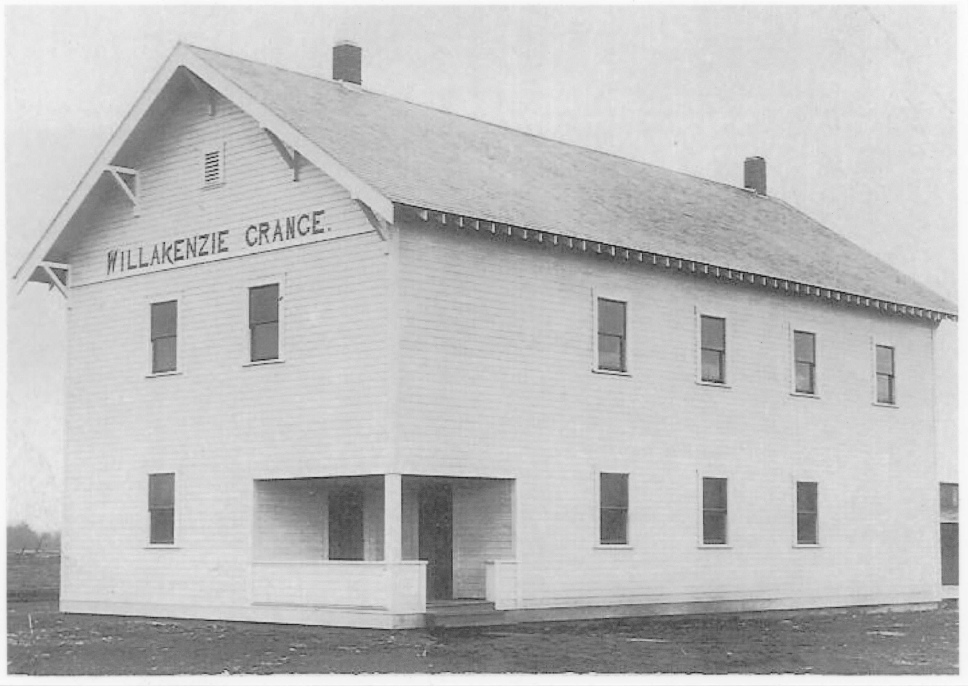
RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



WILLAKENZIE CRANCE.

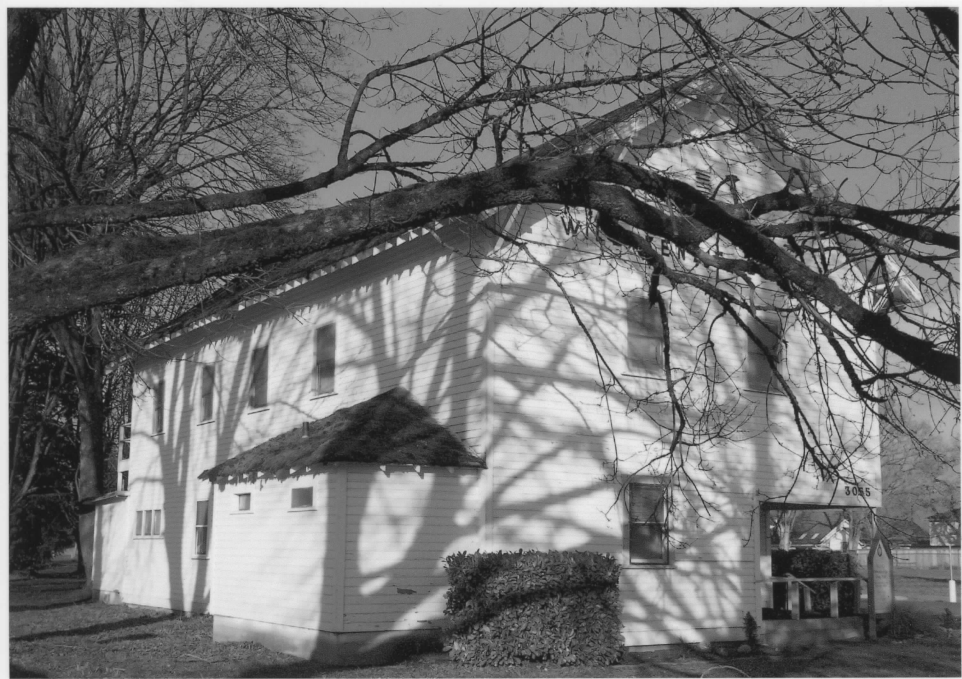
Willakenzie Grange Hall  
Lane County, OR  
Photo #1

WILLAKENZIE GRANGE

3055



Willalenzie Grange Hall  
Lane County, OR  
Photo #2



Willalenzie Grange Hall  
Lane County, OR  
Photo #3



Willalenzie Grange Hall  
Lane County, OR  
Photo #4



Willakenzie George Hall  
Lane County, OR  
Photo #5



Willakenzie Grange Hall  
Lane County, OR  
Photo #6



Willakenzie Grange Hall  
Lane County, OR  
Photo #7



Willakenzie Grange Hall  
Lane County, OR

Photo # 8



Willakenzie Grange Hall  
Lane County, OR  
Photo #9



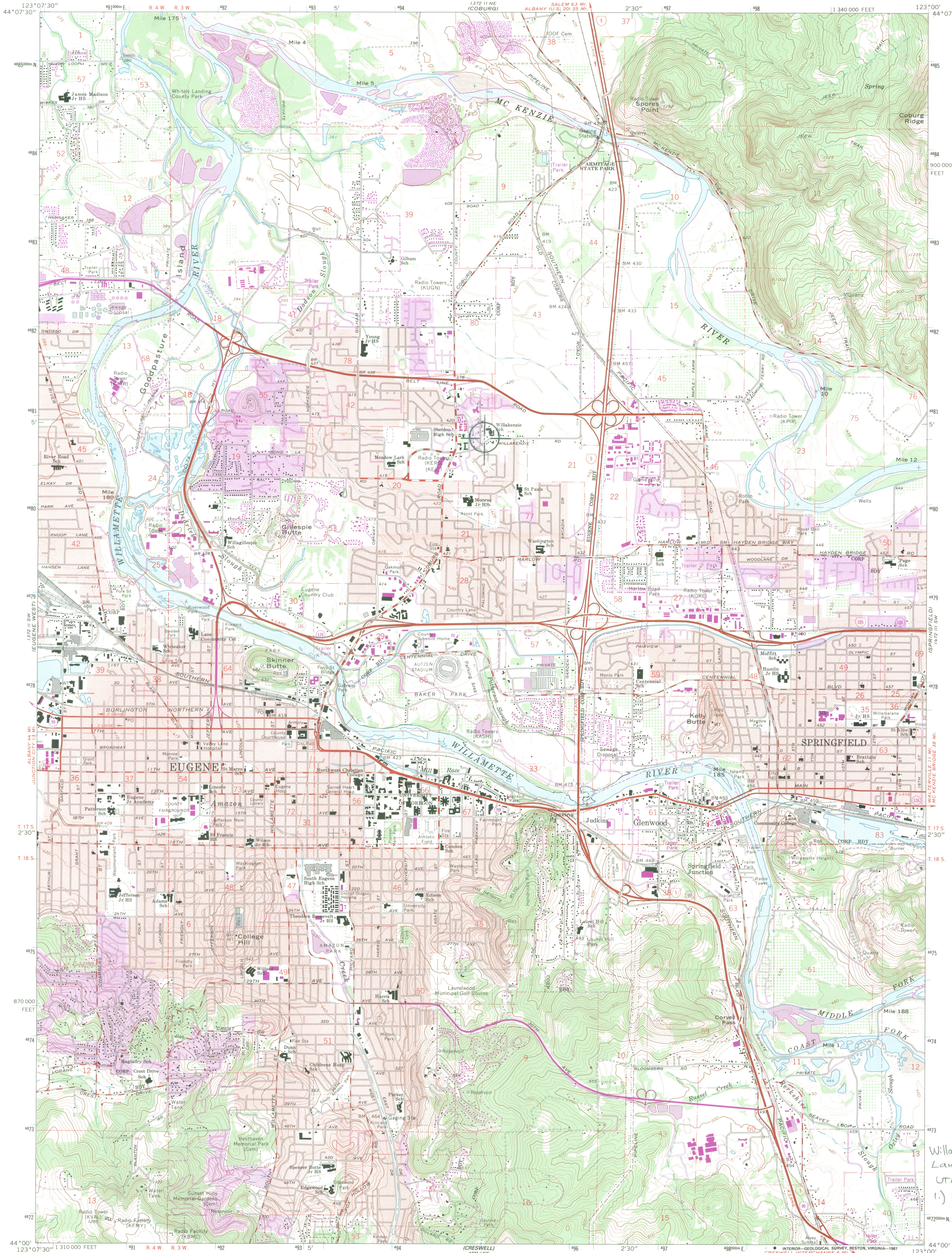
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Lane County, OR  
Photo #10



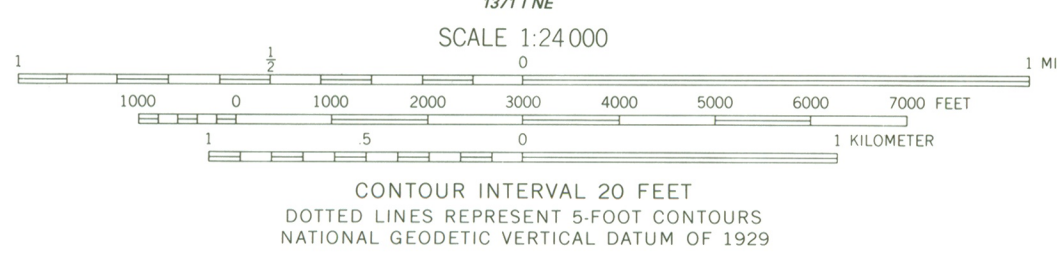
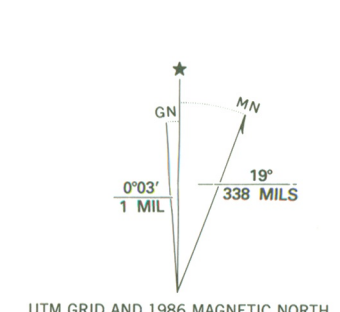
Willakenzie Grange Hall  
Lane County, OR  
Photo #11



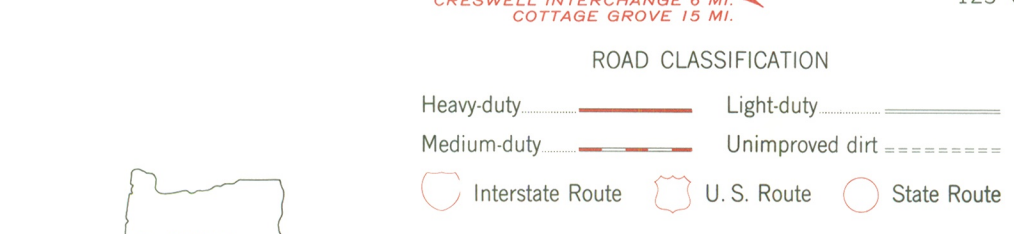
Willakenzie Grange Hall  
Lane County, OR  
Photo # 12



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and State of Oregon  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1967  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Oregon coordinate system,  
south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 10, shown in blue  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,  
move the projection lines 22 meters north and  
95 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



SCALE 1:24 000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



EUGENE EAST, OREG.  
44123-A1-TF-024  
1967  
PHOTOREVISED 1986  
DMA 1372 II SE-SERIES V892

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

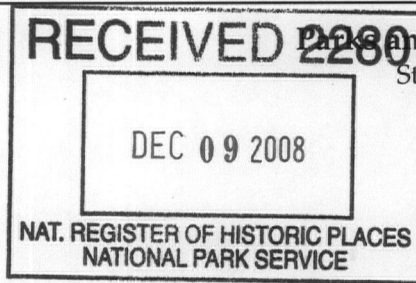
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial  
photographs taken 1982 and other sources  
This information not field checked. Map edited 1986

Willakenzie Grange Hall  
Lane Co, Eugene, OR  
UTM Reference  
1.) 10/495041/4880778



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor



Parks and Recreation Department

State Historic Preservation Office

725 Summer St NE, Ste C

Salem, OR 97301-1266

(503) 986-0671

Fax (503) 986-0793

[www.oregonheritage.org](http://www.oregonheritage.org)



December 3, 2008

Dr. Janet Matthews  
National Register of Historic Places  
USDOI National Park Service - Cultural Resources  
1201 "Eye" Street NW, 8th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nomination

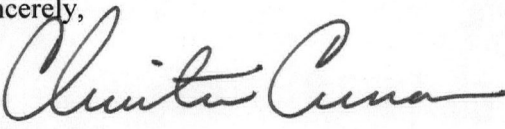
Dear Dr. Matthews:

At the recommendation of the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, I hereby nominate the following historic property to the National Register of Historic Places:

**WILLAKENZIE GRANGE HALL**  
3055 WILLAKENZIE RD  
EUGENE, LANE COUNTY

We appreciate your consideration of this nomination. If questions arise, please contact Ian Johnson, National Register & Survey Coordinator, at (503) 986-0678.

Sincerely,

*for*   
Roger Roper  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Encl.

