

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

PH0698938

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 5 1979

DATE ENTERED MAR 5 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Oak Grove Schoolhouse

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

SW of Hood River at

STREET & NUMBER

2121 Reed Road

CITY, TOWN

Hood River

☒ VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
2nd

STATE

Oregon

CODE
41COUNTY
Hood RiverCODE
027**CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

William P. & Marlieluisse V. Macht

STREET & NUMBER

2121 Reed Road

CITY, TOWN

Hood River

VICINITY OF

Oregon STATE 97031

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hood River County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

State Street

CITY, TOWN

Hood River

Oregon STATE 97031

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties

DATE

1978

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Salem

Oregon STATE 97310

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated five miles southwest of the city of Hood River on a knoll at the base of the heavily forested western slope of the Hood River Valley, the Oak Grove Schoolhouse was designed in 1912 by a Portland native, Albert Sutton, who, after a sojourn in San Francisco and Hood River, returned to Portland to become a principal in the noted firm of Sutton, Whitney, Aandahl and Fritsch. Described by historical newspaper accounts as in "Renaissance style", the schoolhouse indeed has a carefully proportioned Palladian plan. Yet fitting its rural site, it is constructed almost exclusively of local materials--brick fired in a Hood River kiln and Douglas fir logged on the western slope and milled in Oak Grove. Used as a school for ten grades originally and later four until 1969, it then fell into disrepair and was abused and vandalized. In 1975, it was purchased by the present owner, a professor of land use planning law, who restored it for use as a private residence and office for his consulting practice.

The site adjoins the county-owned Oak Grove Park to the east, Anjou pear orchards to east, south and west, and the community of Oak Grove to the north. Although principally oriented towards the Park, the schoolhouse also overlooks Mt. Hood, 20 miles to the south, and Mt. Adams, 38 miles to the north.

The schoolhouse is a two-story rectangular structure of two-to-one proportion in plan, 50' by 100'. In elevation, the cornice line is 25' above eastern grade but the top of the belltower cupola is 50' above eastern grade. (Western grade slopes to 10' below eastern grade and Reed Road is cut around the rear an additional 15' below western grade). The foundation is native rock supporting solid brick walls 2½' thick at the lower courses. Windows on the north and south sides have arched brick lintels. The hipped roof is framed with 32' long clear Douglas fir rafters.

The massing of the windows is a salient exterior and interior feature of the schoolhouse. Individual double-hung windows each 7' wide and 9' high are grouped in banks of three creating, in effect, window walls in each classroom. The belltower cupola is a visible vertical landmark for the community. A hand-carved stone medallion is flanked by black marble insets.

In order to restore the visual strength of the original Sutton plan, two wooden fire escapes and platforms have been removed; two firedoors have been replaced with glass, extraneous gutters have been removed and a roof projection for the old heating system has been removed. The soft local brick has been repointed and repainted the original white. Storm windows have white frames and mullions designed to match those of the window walls.

The original internal spatial organization has been preserved notwithstanding rehabilitation for domestic and office use. The auditorium on the south and the gym on the north are each 30' x 50' carefully proportioned to the Golden Section. Where partitions were necessary for closets or kitchen, they are freestanding and unadorned. Each of the four classrooms is 25' x 30' with 13' high ceilings and has a 23' x 9' window wall. Cloakrooms serving each classroom have been adapted to bathrooms, laundry and storage rooms. A massive T-shaped central hall 40' x 33' is used for the display of large wall hangings and sculpture platform.

(continued)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

All interior finishes have been restored to enhance the original spatial concepts of the architect. Lath and plaster walls and ceilings were repaired and the mixture of former colors (pink, chartreuse, yellow and green) has been eliminated and replaced with white to emphasize the form and light of the spaces. Maple floors on the second floor and clear vertical grain Douglas fir floors on the first floor have been refinished. Florescent lighting fixtures have been replaced by the original concentric circle diffusers and supplemented by accent spotlights.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☒ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1912 - 1913

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Albert Sutton

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Oak Grove Schoolhouse is significant to Hood River County as an intact rural schoolhouse dating from the period before the First World War and utilizing a carefully proportioned Palladian plan and local materials. This unusually sophisticated building was the work of a professionally trained architect who enjoyed the support of a strong local Finnish community which desired to build spaciouly and well for the fifty children then in its school district.

Albert Sutton, a native of Portland, Oregon, left his architectural practice in San Francisco in 1910 in order to remove his twin daughters from their mother, his divorced wife. Under an unusual 1909 California divorce decree, Sutton had been granted complete custody of the children. However, Sutton's wife had clandestinely taken the children from Sutton's San Francisco house and took them, in the company of Sutton's chauffeur, with whom she was having an affair, first to Vancouver B.C. then to New York, then to England, then to France and finally to Belgium. Sutton followed her to Belgium, secured the children, returned to San Francisco, and then moved to Hood River, where he lived in the western hills above Oak Grove. In 1916 he returned to Portland, where he prospered in his profession, becoming a principal in the noted firm of Sutton, Whitney, Aandahl and Fritsch, designers of such Portland Landmarks as the Masonic Temple (1924-1925) and the Fruit and Flower Day Nursery (1928).

On February 28, 1912 Sutton was selected to be the architect for the schoolhouse. Three months later he had finished the plans, but on May 30, 1912, bids were rejected as being too high. On June 20, 1912, L. D. Boyed was selected as contractor at a cost of \$20,000, and construction started shortly thereafter. While the building was substantially completed by November 28, 1912, the schoolhouse was not opened until February 12, 1913. It was formally dedicated on April 12, 1913.

Initially, the schoolhouse was used for the first through the tenth grades. The large open spaces functioned well as a forerunner to the open classroom. Eventually, with school consolidation, the schoolhouse served only grades one through four. However, the schoolhouse functioned throughout its life as a community school and cultural center holding plays, concerts, recitals, lectures, adult classes, political meetings, dances and dinners.

While Sutton designed the Hood River Carnegie Library in 1913 and houses for the evangelists Billy Sunday and pioneer city-builder Captain McCann, the Oak Grove Schoolhouse is the only local work remaining in substantially unaltered condition. Moreover, it is the only schoolhouse dating from an early period in the history of Hood River designed by a leading architect and restored in accordance with its original spatial concepts.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hood River Glacier, November 28, 1912, p. 1

Hood River News, December 27, 1911, p. 1; February 28, 1912; April 16, 1913.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.68 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 10 609180 5056870
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point 82 rods North of the quarter corner common to Sections 16 and 17, Township 2 North, Range 10 East of the Willamette Meridian in the County of Hood River and State of Oregon, said point being also the most Easterly Northeast corner of that tract conveyed to Mabel Francis Burke by deed recorded December 21, 1923 in Book 17, page 577, Deed Records Hood River County; thence West along the most Easterly North line of said Burke tract 197 feet; thence North along the most Westerly East line of said Burke tract 143 feet to the center of the County Road; thence Northeasterly along the center of the

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES (continued)

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William P. Macht

ORGANIZATION

William P. Macht Associates

DATE October 1978

STREET & NUMBER

2121 Reed Road

TELEPHONE (503) 386-1636

CITY OR TOWN

Hood River

STATE Oregon 97031

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL XX

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

David G. Galbraith

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE January 25, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

March 2, 1979

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

County Road to a point that is North 14 rods and 20 links and west 4 rods and 34 links to the East line of said Section 17; thence South along the East line of said Section 17 a distance of 14 rods and 20 links to the point of beginning; EXCEPT that portion lying in roads and highways.-----



Oak Grove Schoolhouse
Hood River
Hood River County, Oregon

MAR 5 1979

1 of 4

General view of site, looking
west.

FEB 5 1979

William P. Macht, photo, 1978
2121 Reed Road
Hood River, OR 97031



Oak Grove Schoolhouse
Hood River
Hood River County, Oregon

MAR 5 1979

2 of 4

South and east elevations.

FEB 5 1979

William P. Macht photo, 1978
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Oak Grove Schoolhouse
Hood River
Hood River County, Oregon

MAR 5 1979

3 of 4
East and north elevations.

FEB 5 1979

William P. Macht photo, 1978
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Oak Grove Schoolhouse
Hood River
Hood River County, Oregon

FEB 5 1979

4 of 4

West (rear) elevation.

MAR 5 1979

William P. Macht photo 1978
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