

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received AUG 8 1984

date entered SEP 7 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Astoria City Hall (old)

and/or common Clatsop County Heritage Center

2. Location

street & number 1618 Exchange Street N/A— not for publication

city, town Astoria N/A vicinity of First Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Clatsop code 007

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Roderick Gramson, George Brugh, Charles A. Taggart and Harry Claterbos

street & number 1618 Exchange Street

city, town Astoria N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97103

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clatsop County Courthouse

street & number 749 Commercial Street

city, town Astoria state Oregon 97103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites & Buildings has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, 525 Trade St. SE

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ N/A _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Astoria City Hall is a Colonial Revival style building constructed between 1904 and 1905 by the city of Astoria for its new city hall. Measuring 87 feet north and south on 16th Street, by 67 feet on both Duane Street to the north and Exchange Street to the south, the two story building served the city approximately 35 years before Astoria moved its municipal headquarters to a more central location in the downtown section of the city. Designed by noted Portland architect Emil Schacht, the building is in fair condition.

Oriented to the west, the building occupies a sloping site in a mixed use neighborhood which once was the focal point for development away from the historic city center to the west. Located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, Township 8 North, Range 9 West of the Willamette Meridian, the building occupies a 100 x 125-foot parcel otherwise known as Lots 5 and 6 of Block 120, Shively's Addition to the City of Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon.

Constructed on a random ashlar stone base, the rectangular mass is constructed entirely of wood and is topped by a truncated hipped roof from which single, centered barrel-vaulted domers appear on each elevation. The exterior is sheathed in narrow weatherboards and wood is used for the major decorative elements.

Using a typical Beaux-Arts design formula, the entry and center bays are recessed on the major elevations. The west (front) facade is divided into five bays by the use of corner pavilions and colossal pilasters. These lead to a full Classical entablature with blank frieze, dentil course, and projecting cornice supported by block modillions, above which appears a paneled parapet.

Windows on all elevations are single or paired one-over-one sliding sash of varying dimensions. On the first floor, windows are identical and heavily framed. They are distinguished by a generous cornice molding supported by consoles. Window surrounds on the second floor are also identical.

On the west elevation, unfluted Corinthian columns support the full entablature porch roof with pierced balustrade. On the south elevation, a similarly-designed porch is remarkable for its broken pedimented roof with urn decoration. Immediately above, a recessed porch is notable for a pierced balustrade, bracketed entablature, and short Tuscan Doric columns, a feature which appears again on the north elevation.

Additionally, the Corinthian capitals on the colossal engaged pilasters are missing on each elevation and a one-story garage-type structure has been added to the north elevation. Originally, there were wrought iron brackets supporting lighting fixtures on each side of the west entrance, but these have disappeared.

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On the north side of the building, there is another entrance through the stone foundation wall. This leads from Duane Street into the basement which, when the Old Astoria City Hall was built, held the city jail, furnace and fuel rooms. Many of the old cells are still in place, although in poor condition. Later, a caretaker's apartment was added to this basement complex, but it also has deteriorated.

Originally, the building was designed to be used by the officers and official groups of the city of Astoria so all of the rooms in the building are large, well-lighted, and each has a wide access into the main hallways which run north and south on each of the two main floors. The first floor has two huge rooms facing west with a hallway leading to the western entrance dividing them while a similar situation exists on the second floor, although here there is no dividing hallway. On each floor, there are somewhat smaller corner rooms on the northeast and southeast corners, and between these are a series of smaller rooms serving as individual offices, restrooms and utility rooms.

There are three large safe rooms, built in with walls and doors of steel, two on the first floor and one on the second. The single staircase leading from the first floor to the second is at the northeast end of the main hallway. It is a wide, wooden stairway which doubles back on itself at the halfway point.

Since the Old Astoria City Hall has had several different owners through the years, a few changes have been made in the basic structure, although most of these were interior alterations.

During World War II, the building was used as a U.S.O. facility and was at that time physically attached to an armory which had been built on the property directly to the east of the Old Astoria City Hall. Additional toilet and shower facilities were installed in the building during this time, and an entrance was made through the walls of the building which allowed free passageway from the armory into the Old Astoria City Hall. These have since been sealed.

Later, the Columbia River Maritime Museum used the Old Astoria City Hall as a museum, again without changing the basic structure or floor plan. Basically, the layout of the city hall proved to be ideal for a museum.

And today, the Clatsop County Historical Society is using the Old Astoria City Hall as an office and planning for a future museum facility in the old structure, again to be done without changing the basic floor plan or design.

Even though the building has deteriorated in places and badly needs repairs, the basic structure is still sound and can be used for many years to come. It is a charming, attractive old building in a good location, and a source of pride for the citizens of this historic city.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1904-1905 **Builder/Architect** Ferguson & Houston (builders)
Emil Schacht (architect)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Astoria City Hall, located at 1618 Exchange Street in Astoria, Oregon, was constructed between 1904-1905 in the Colonial Revival style. Of wood frame construction over a stone base, the building was designed by Portland architect Emil Schacht and built by local contractors Ferguson and Houston.

Due to its association with a hoped-for shift of the city center to the east, and as the center of government activities in Astoria for 35 years, the Old City Hall is locally significant under Criterion "a." In addition, it is a fine example of Colonial Revival architecture designed by a noted Portland architect, retaining a high degree of integrity, and is thus eligible under Criterion "c."

Originally, the city of Astoria had its city all located farther west in what was then the downtown section of the city. But, as the city grew, these quarters, built in 1878, became inadequate and around the turn of the century, the city began looking for a new location on which to erect a new and larger city hall. At the time, there were those who were trying to build up a section of the city near 16th Street, six blocks east of the city center. A new hospital building had been put up by St. Marys on 16th Street a few years before, and other commercial interests had been developing nearby properties. It was inevitable that a site in this area should be considered for the proposed new city hall.

Actually, the chosen site is historic in its own right. The first American cemetery west of the Mississippi River was built there by members of the Astor party in 1811. These graves were moved to another location later, but when the Old Astoria City Hall was built, the tombstone of Donald McTavish, the first British governor of Ft. George, was displayed in a special iron cage near the southeast corner of the building. McTavish drowned while crossing the Columbia River in 1814.

In January, 1904, the Astoria city council, over-riding a veto by the mayor, purchased Lots 5 and 6, Block 120, Shively's Addition to the city of Astoria, as a site for the new city hall. Ferguson & Houston were chosen to build the new building from a design of Emil Schacht, with the cost set at \$40,000 (including the price of the lots). James Ernest Ferguson also designed and built many other buildings in town including the Grace Episcopal Church while his father Albert W. Ferguson designed and built the first Astoria city hall in 1878.

Construction was completed by the middle of June, 1905, and a dedication ceremony was held there on July 4, 1905. Lighting was not installed until a month later, however, but in the meantime all of the city offices as well as the City Library had been moved into the new building. For the next 35 years, the Old Astoria City Hall was the center of the city's official business operations.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one
Quadrangle name Astoria, Oregon-Washington

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 10 436390 5115110
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification The Old Astoria City Hall occupies a 100 x 125' lot and is located on Lots 5 and 6, of Block 120, Shively's Addition to the City of Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon, otherwise sited in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, Township 8 North, Range 9 West of the Willamette Meridian.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state None code county code

state None code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rogert T. Tetlow - Historian and Writer

organization Clatsop County Historical Society date March 1, 1984

street & number 1832 Exchange Street telephone 325-4083

city or town Astoria state Oregon 97103

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

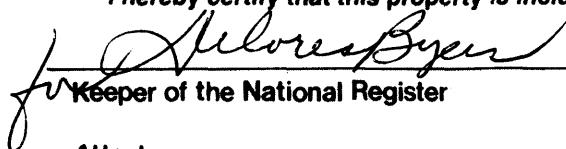
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date July 7, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register


Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 9-7-84

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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The city center, however, did not move eastward to the 16th Street area, and by the late 1930s it had become apparent that it never would. The Old Astoria City Hall was isolated back to the downtown area. A bank building was purchased and from that time on to the present, the Astoria city hall has been in the downtown area of the city.

During the early years of the 1940s, an armory had been built on the property just east of the Old Astoria City Hall. The city of Astoria turned over the 16th Street property to the State of Oregon which in turn used it as a part of the armory complex. The U.S.O. was eventually installed in the old building which had been attached to the armory with passageways opened between the two buildings. During World War II, these two buildings were the center of the military and social activity in the area.

After sitting idle for a number of years, the Old Astoria City Hall was brought back to life in 1962 with the establishment of the Columbia River Maritime Museum. The large, well-lighted rooms were a natural facility for a museum and it prospered. The basement area was not used at this time except for utilitarian purposes. Probably, many of the tourists who came to the museum were as much interested in the old building as they were in the maritime exhibits.

In 1982, the Columbia River Maritime Museum moved into a new building along the Columbia River waterfront, two blocks north of the Old Astoria City Hall, and the building was vacant once again. Meanwhile, the state had sold both the armory and the city hall property to private parties who in turn leased the Old Astoria City Hall to the Clatsop County Historical Society which promptly moved its offices there and began making preparations to convert the old building once again into a museum, this one to be devoted to the general history of Astoria and the Lower Columbia area.

Despite the years of use and the years of neglect, the Old Astoria City Hall is still a beautiful old building, structurally sound, and in a good location. Because of its architectural beauty and its soundness of construction, the old building deserves a place in the list of the city of Astoria's historic buildings.

ARCHITECT

During his 40 years of practice in Portland, Schacht was responsible for many notable buildings. The building for which he is perhaps best known is the Oriental Building which was built for Portland's Lewis and Clark Exposition in 1905. Done in an ornate Spanish Renaissance style, the building was torn down when the fair grounds were demolished a few years later. Other buildings include Old Central Police Headquarters at 2nd and Oak Streets (1912); the early Elks Temple at 329 Stark and the Perkins Hotel at 422 SW 5th (demolished).

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The Cachot Therkelsen Collection in the Special Collections department of the University of Oregon Library in Eugene, Oregon, shows in its index 122 blueprints of projects by Emil Schacht, 49 by Emil Schacht and Son, 19 by Martin Schacht, 24 by Schacht & Bergen, and 1 by Schacht & Linde. Included in the list are many titles which are missing in the inventory.

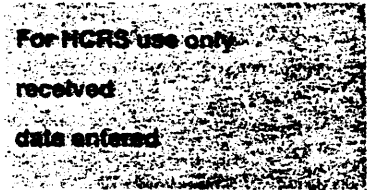
Surviving buildings in Astoria by Schacht:

North Pacific Brewing Co. beer storage building, 1896, remodeled in 1928-29 for Uppertown Fire Station
Old City Hall, 1904-05
Frank I. Dunbar House, 1911
Scandinavian American Bank Building, 1912. Burned in 1922, but rebuilt as old U. S. National Bank
First National Bank (Schacht & Bergen), 1923. Modernized both inside and outside.

Emil Schacht was born in 1854 in southern Denmark. He studied at Hanover, Germany and at Copenhagen, Denmark. He moved to New York City in 1874 where he was a draftsman for six years, returned to Denmark for one year where he married, then moved to Omaha, Nebraska. In 1884, he moved to Portland where he worked alone at first, then after with his son Martin. He died suddenly in 1926.

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Astoria Daily Budget

- November 21, 1903
- December 15, 22, 29, 1903
- February 10, 1904
- June 3, 4 and 17, 1904
- July 16, 1904
- August 8, 10, 13 and 17, 1904
- November 28, 1904
- December 24, 1904
- January 17, 1905
- June 7, 1905
- July 3, 1905

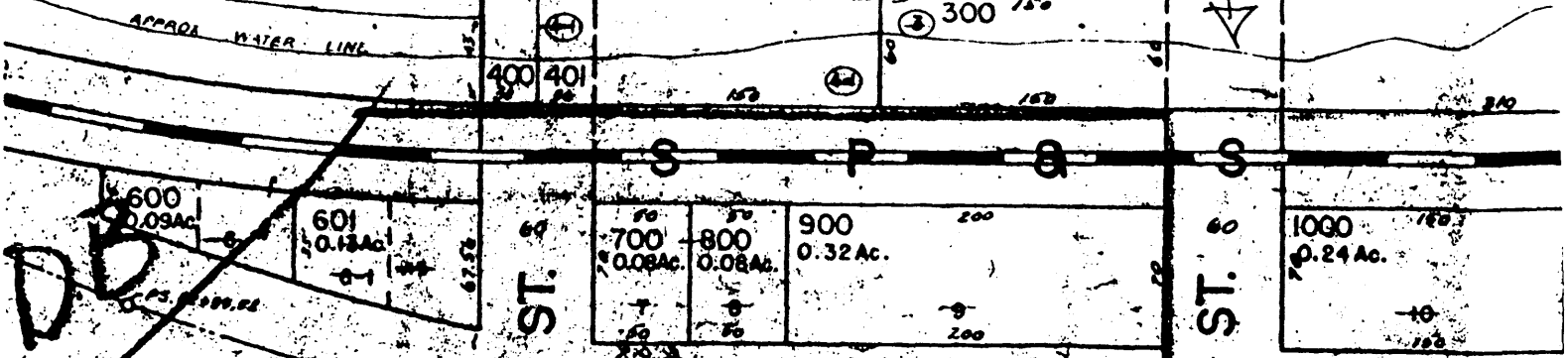
Daily Morning Astorian

- November 3, 1903

CLATSOP COUNTY ASSESSORS MAR 8-9- NW 1/4 SE 1/4 SEC 8 T. 8N R. 9W W.M.

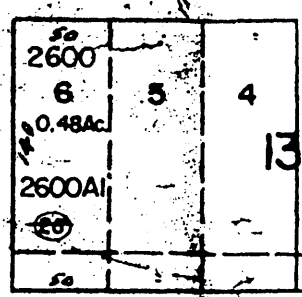
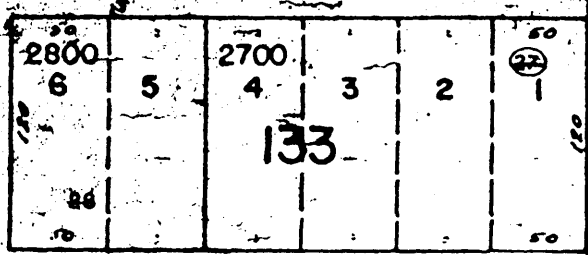
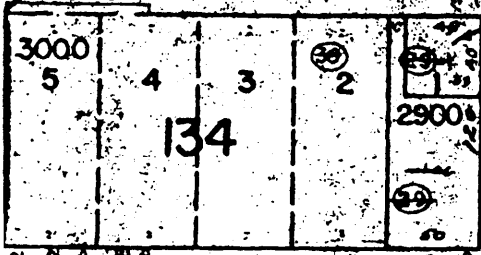
OLD

BULKHEAD



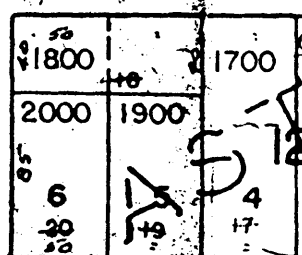
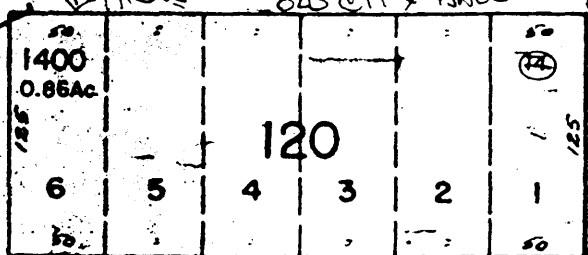
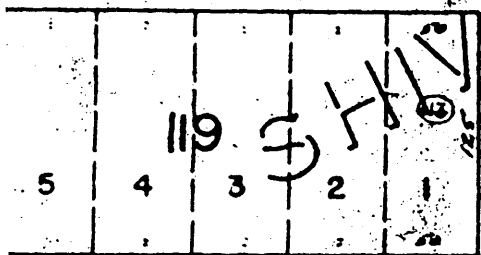
COMMERCIAL

(WATER ST.) MARINE



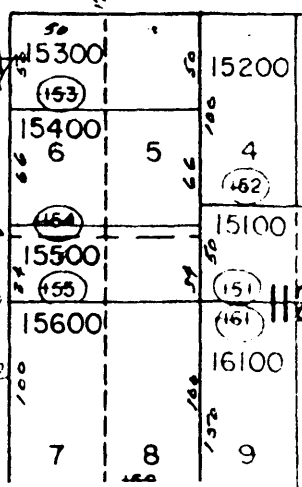
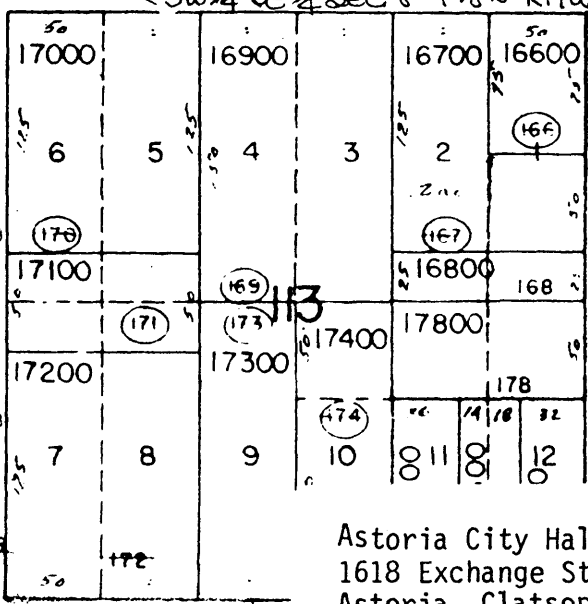
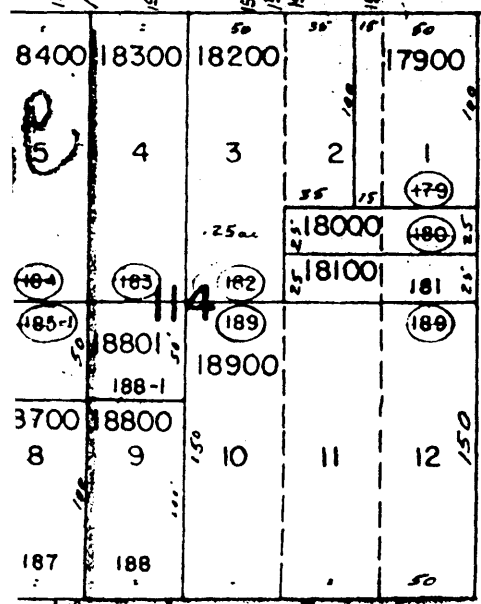
DUANE

(USHING'S COURT) HISTORIC DESIGNATION OLD CITY HALL



EXCHANGE

CLATSOP COUNTY ASSESSORS MAR 8-9-8DC (CEDAR ST.) SW 1/4 SE 1/4 SEC 8 T. 8N R. 9W W.M.



FRANKLIN

Astoria City Hall (Old)
1618 Exchange Street
Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon



Astoria City Hall (Old)
1618 Exchange Street
Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon
1 of 4

West (front) elevation, 3/11/84
Andrew Cier photo
Clatsop County Historical Society
1832 Exchange St., Astoria, OR 97103

Old City Hall, Astoria, Oregon.
Andrew Cier, March 11, 1984
" has negative
View from the west on 16th St.



Astoria City Hall (Old)
1618 Exchange Street
Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon
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South elevation, 3/11/84
Andrew Cier photo
Clatsop County Historical Society
1832 Exchange St., Astoria, OR 97103

Old City Hall, Astoria, Oregon.
Andrew Cier, March 11, 1984
" has negative
View from the south on
Exchange Street



Astoria City Hall (Old)
1618 Exchange Street
Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon
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North elevation, 3/11/84
Andrew Cier photo
Clatsop County Historical Society
1832 Exchange St., Astoria, OR 97103

Old City Hall, Astoria, Oregon
Andrew Cier, March 11, 1984
" has negative
View from the north on
Duane Street

#3

Includes view of former garage
for police cars.



Astoria City Hall (Old)
1618 Exchange Street
Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon
4 of 4

Interior view, former library
Andrew Cier photo, 3/11/84
Clatsop County Historical Society
1832 Exchange St., Astoria, OR 97103

Old City Hall, Astoria, Oregon
Andrew Cier, March 11, 1984
" has negative.
View of 2nd floor west room
from the north.
#4

Location of Astoria Public Libr
ary, 1905 until 1938 +/-, then
USO dance floor.