

Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME			
address:	120 1st St Fairview, Multnomah County	historic name:	Fairview City Jail
assoc addresses:		current/other names:	1915 Fairview City Jail
location descr:	Located in Handy/Nechocokee City Park; Fairview Avenue; Ne-cha-co-kee Park	block/lot/tax lot:	
		twshp/rng/sect/qtr sect:	1N 3E 27
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS			
resource type:	Building	height (stories):	1.0
elig evaluation:	eligible/significant	total elig resources:	1
prim constr date:	1915	NR Status:	Individually Listed
	second date:	date indiv listed:	05/23/2016
primary orig use:	Correctional Institute	orig use comments:	City Jail
second orig use:	Museum	prim style comments:	
primary style:	Utilitarian	sec style comments:	
secondary style:		siding comments:	
primary siding:	Concrete: Other/Undefined	architect:	
secondary siding:	Cast Iron	builder:	Citizens of Fairview
plan type:			
comments/notes:			
Associated City Hall demolished HRR completed 4/11/2012 (IJ). May be eligible under Criterion A. ADDITIONAL INTERESTED PARTY: East County Historical Organization, Dodi Davies, PO Box 946, Fairview, OR 97024			
GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS			
Not associated with any surveys or groupings.			
SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY			
NR date listed:	05/23/2016	106 Project(s)	Special Assess Project(s): None
ILS survey date:		SHPO Case Date Agency Effect Eval	Federal Tax Project(s): None
RLS survey date:	04/11/2012	01/10/2001	
ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION			
<i>(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)</i>			
The 1915 Fairview City Jail sits on the southern edge of Ne-cha-co-kee Park within the city limits of Fairview. The jail house is a simple, rectangular, concrete building, 10 x 20, with 8 high walls painted with a grey paint. There are open barred windows on the west, north, and east sides of the building. The south-facing front side has a heavy steel door with a padlock. Inside are two cells of equal size on either side of the building and an empty aisle between them. Entry to each cell is through a somewhat ornate iron gate which was furnished with a padlock. At one time each cell contained a cot and a toilet, but these items no longer exist. The jail house, when built, was also furnished with electricity, but that is no longer hooked up.			
HISTORY			
<i>(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)</i>			
The 1915 Fairview City Jail is significant under Criterion A, in the area of Government, at the local level, because it represents the deep pride of a growing and governed city, and the need felt by its residents to organize and regulate themselves. With the coming of the railroad and then automobiles, the citizens found themselves entering into a progressive era with many changes. After their city was incorporated in 1908, the people built a City Hall, made many city improvements, and passed a flurry of anti-vice ordinances. Although Fairview remained a quiet town with little crime, the new ordinances needed a means to enforce them. One of the punishments stipulated in these new laws was the threat of jail. Therefore, discussions led to the planning and subsequent building of a jail house. The jail represented the commitment of the citizens to maintain order, and their desire to build a town with rules and a sense of direction. The jail was located just north of the 1912 Fairview City Hall, which proudly stood as a testament to the stability of the citizens of Fairview and to their vision of coming together as a law-abiding society. Though the 1912 Fairview City Hall was abandoned in the early 1960s and razed in 1979, the little jail house remains. It is the only extant structure left within Fairview relating to city government, and is the last original correctional facility remaining in all of Multnomah County. It is in good condition, is loved by the community, and remains on its original building site (part of the original platted Fairview Town site) in what is today a public park. It stands as a reminder to current and future residents of Fairview of their heritage and how past generations worked to build a stable and lasting community. It currently serves as a museum.			
RESEARCH INFORMATION			
Title Records	Census Records	Property Tax Records	✓ Local Histories
Sanborn Maps	Biographical Sources	✓ SHPO Files	Interviews
Obituaries	✓ Newspapers	State Archives	✓ Historic Photographs
✓ City Directories	Building Permits	State Library	
Local Library:		University Library:	
Historical Society:	Gresham Historical Society, OR Historical Society	Other Respository:	
Bibliography:			
Chilton, W. R. editor. Gresham- Stories of our Past- campground to city. Gresham: Gresham Historical Society, 1993. City Council Records, Fairview, 1915. Dodd, Douglas W., and Peter J. Edwards. Fairview Cultural Resource Inventory and Historic Context. Portland, OR: Portland Historic Research, 1992. McArthur, Lewis A. Oregon Geographic Names, 4th ed., revised and enlarged by Lewis L. McArthur, Portland, OR: Oregon Historical Society, 1975. Nesbit, Sharon. "Only a few naughty residents were housed in Fairview jail." The Gresham Outlook 21 August 1975: sec. 5: 13. Rees, Helen G. Fairview on Duck Lane. Portland, OR: by the author, 1988. Stone, William. A History of Fairview. 3rd ed., expanded by Nancy (Stone) Hoover, Multnomah County: Nancy Hoover, 2011. Wozniacka, Gosia. "From brawling saloon keepers to strolling tourists." The Oregonian 27 Sept. 2007: Metro East Neighbors.			