

Oregon Historic Site Form

County Courthouse
124 2nd
Hillsboro, Washington County

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address: 124 NE 2nd apprx. addr

historic name: County Courthouse

Hillsboro vcnt Washington County

current/ other names: _____

Optional Information

assoc addresses: 150 Lincoln
(former addresses, intersections, etc.)

location descr:
(remote sites)

block nbr: _____ lot nbr: _____ tax lot nbr: _____

township: _____ range: _____ section: _____ 1/4: _____

zip: _____

PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

resource type: building height (# stories): 4

total # eligible resources: 1 total # ineligible resources:

elig. evaluation: eligible/contributing

NR status: _____

primary constr date: 1927 (c.) secondary date: _____ (c.)
(optional--use for major addns)

NR date listed: _____ (indiv listed only; see Grouping for hist dist)

primary orig use: Courthouse

orig use comments: _____

secondary orig use: _____

primary style: Neo-Classical

prim style comments: _____

secondary style: _____

sec style comments: _____

primary siding: Standard Brick

siding comments: _____

secondary siding: _____

architect: _____

plan type: 3-Part Vertical Block

builder: _____

comments/notes: Address in Portland Maps was on Lincoln-- 15 Lincoln

GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

survey project name or other grouping name: Hillsboro Local Inventory Update 2008 2008 Survey & Inventory Project

farmstead/cluster name: _____ external site #: 21
(ID# used in city/agency database)

SHPO INFO FOR THIS PROPERTY

NR date listed: _____

ILS survey date: _____

RLS survey date: 3/1/2008

Gen File date: _____

106 Project(s)



ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

(Include expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings, and alterations)

Architectural Description: The Courthouse Complex takes up a city block and is composed of three buildings; The Courthouse, The Administration Building, and the Public Safety Building. These buildings are linked together by a system of hallways. The grounds feature ornamental shrubs, a magnolia tree, and the historically significant Sequoias on the south side of the block. The courthouse is the oldest building in the complex, and it incorporates the 1911 annex as the west wing. The temple front entry on the facade is built in a classical Greek style with fluted columns that have curled capitals, lion's heads on the entablature, anthemion on the roof line, flat-topped window openings, and a full entablature. It is a steel framed four story building faced with brick. The window openings are broad. The entry features three door ways, which are lighted by three ornate stained-glass swag lamps. The facade is oriented east. The columned entrance projects away from the main mass and features Greek inspired anthemion at the roof line. The central third of the building is one story higher than the main mass. The Administration Building and the Public Safety building were finished in 1973. The Administration Building mimics the Courthouse in its massing and facade composition. The symmetrically composed facade features a projecting entrance of grand proportion which projects above and away from the main mass, as does the columned entrance on the Courthouse. The window openings on the two modern buildings are recessed, vertically-scaled fixed windows. The windows fill each elevation to the point that the elevations appear honey-combed. The formality, absence of embellishment, and blocked design of the newer buildings contrasts with the architecture of the Courthouse.

HISTORY

(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period [preferably to the present])

Historical Significance: The first court sessions held in Washington County were in 1846 in the Presbyterian meetinghouse. The following year court was held at the Methodist meetinghouse, and in 1850 court was held in a log building on a quarter section of land purchased from David Hill. This land is now called Courthouse Square, and is the present site of the courthouse. Hillsboro was originally called Colombia, but was changed to Hillsborough in honor of David Hill. In 1858 the name was shortened to Hillsboro. In 1852 plans were made to build a wood framed building on the courthouse square. Bids were accepted, and the new courthouse was built at a cost of \$3,301. It was a two story building with 22 windows. It was well built, constructed of native pine and cedar "erected ...in a faithful and workmanlike manner..." The next building episode was hindered by financial difficulties. In 1871 a brick building was started, but the first contractor refused the terms of the contract and the project was delayed for a year until the court held session again. The next contractor was several months late in completing the job, and he further displeased the court by charging more than the original contract called for. The court refused to accept the building, but later a compromise was reached, and the building was finished in 1873. The total cost of the building was \$12,392.56, which was \$392.52 over the original contract. This building was extensively remodeled in 1891 for a total cost of \$18,282.65, and an addition was made later in 1912. In 1927 the brick courthouse was replaced with the present building, which incorporates the 1912 annex of the old 1871-1873 building. The 1927 courthouse cost \$128,357 to construct. Circa 1895, a bandstand was erected on the northeast corner of Courthouse Square. It was later moved to the northwest corner of the Square, and was removed circa 1930. The Sequoia trees were planted in 1880 by John Porter, to enhance the entrance of the 1871-1873 Courthouse. Porter was a pioneer nurseryman who brought the seeds for these trees from California where he had been during the gold rush. The sequoias were approximately 3 years old when they were planted. Courthouse Square is significant for its interpretive value to the history of Washington County. The building sequences reflect the periods of growth in the County and the City, and the buildings themselves provide a focal point for the study of City and County history. The landscaping features the Porter Sequoias, which are champion trees, a landmark, and are historically significant.

RESEARCH INFORMATION

(Check all of the basic sources consulted and cite specific important sources)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Title Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Census Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Tax Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Histories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps | <input type="checkbox"/> Biographical Sources | <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Files | <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obituaries | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> State Archives | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Photographs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Directories | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Permits | <input type="checkbox"/> State Library | |

Local Library: _____ University Library: _____

Historical Society: _____ Other Repository: _____

Bibliography: Sources Consulted:

Inventory of County Archives of Oregon, no.34, Washington County: Hillsboro. The Oregon Historical Records Survey. Official Project No. 65-1-94-25. November 1914. Works Project Administrations.

Hillsboro Vertical File, Washington County Museum.

Recorded By: McLaughlin, Emde
O'Brien, Cole

Oregon Historic Site Form

County Courthouse
124 2nd
Hillsboro, Washington County

Date: 1980
1985