

A HISTORY OF HABS AND HAER IN OREGON
1933-1983

A PROGRAM IN OBSERVANCE OF
THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF
THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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Prepared with grant assistance from the Oregon Committee for the Humanities under auspices of The American Institute of Architects and the Historic Preservation League of Oregon. Display panels were contributed by HABS/HAER, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Alfred M. Staehli, Program Chairman
A.I.A. State Preservation Coordinator, 1969-1983

PART I

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
AND
THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY IN OREGON
1930-1940

Elisabeth Walton Potter
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
Salem, Oregon

PART II

THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
AND
THE HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
TO THE PRESENT DAY

Alfred M. Staehli, A.I.A.
Portland, Oregon

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Elisabeth Walton Potter
Alfred M. Staehli

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The program was presented in the following communities under the sponsorship of Oregon chapters of The American Institute of Architects.

- Salem - June 20, 1983, Salem Chapter, A.I.A.
- Portland - September 20, 1983, Pittock Mansion and Portland Chapter, A.I.A.
- Jacksonville - December 9, 1983, Southern Oregon Historical Society and Southern Oregon Chapter, A.I.A.
- Eugene - January 26, 1984, University of Oregon School of Architecture and Southwestern Oregon Chapter, A.I.A.

The program was dedicated to all participants in the initial HABS project in Oregon. It appears that others may have participated in the field recording in addition to the following squad members named in title blocks of the finished drawings.

Jamieson Parker, HABS District Officer, District 39

Richard Sundeleaf, Field squad leader and Acting HABS
District Officer, Oregon Area,
District 39

Field squad members

Roscoe Hemenway
Ernest Tucker
Morgan Hartford
Clifford Clausen
George Wallman
Harold Marsh
Del Hinson

Delineators

G. W. Schmitt
Warren R. Weber
Robert A. Miller
Rudolph Paetz
Melvyn Lofton
Nellie R. Wilson
A. J. Easter
L. W. Oakley
Morgan Hartford

Photographers

Walter Boychuk

This typescript of the commemorative program is presented in appreciation to the following agencies, organizations and individuals.

Robert J. Kapsch, Chief, Historic American Buildings Survey and Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service,
U. S. Department of the Interior

James C. Massey, President, The Historic American Buildings Survey Foundation

Tony P. Wrenn, Archivist, The American Institute of Architects

T. Allan Comp, Chief, Cultural Resource Division, Pacific Northwest Region, National Park Service, Seattle

Margaret Pepin-Donat, Chief, Division of National Register Programs, Western Regional Office, National Park Service, San Francisco

Mrs. Jamieson Parker

Richard W. Sundeleaf, A.I.A.

Gene G. Westberg, A.I.A.

George A. McMath, F.A.I.A.

Oregon Historical Society, State-designated HABS/HAER respository
in Oregon

University of Oregon Library, State-designated HABS/HAER respository
in Oregon

Oregon Committee for the Humanities

Historic Preservation League of Oregon

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

Portland Chapter, The American Institute of Architects

PROGRAM SUMMARY

In 1983, as part of a nationwide celebration, the National Park Service, The American Institute of Architects, the Historic Preservation League of Oregon and the Oregon Committee for the Humanities presented to four Oregon communities a two-part lecture and exhibit to commemorate half a century of recording the state's architectural heritage. Established by the Federal government in 1933, the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) employed out-of-work architects and photographers to make measured drawings and photographs of historic buildings throughout the United States. While born of the national emergency of widespread unemployment during the Great Depression, HABS has continued to the present day as a cooperative program of the National Park Service, the Library of Congress and The American Institute of Architects.

Since the post-War period, when architecture students began carrying out field work under professional supervision, HABS projects have provided important training and experience for many of the country's leading preservation architects and educators. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 reaffirmed HABS and gave it renewed vigor as an educational program and as a program for recording the building arts. In 1969 HABS was joined by a complementary program, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), which has the cosponsorship of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Now, HABS and HAER jointly embody primary responsibility for recording the nation's architectural and engineering landmarks. The HABS/HAER collections, housed in the Library of Congress, include records of over 18,000 buildings and structures. To date, 152 Oregon buildings and structures are represented in the collections.

In the initial HABS project commenced in Oregon in 1934, 47 buildings were recorded in drawings and photographs. The Oregon Chapter of The American Institute of Architects nominated Jamieson Parker to direct HABS work in the Oregon-Washington district, which was soon redefined as separate Oregon and Washington districts. Parker recruited the field squads which traveled in the western part of the state to record historic buildings selected by Parker and his district advisory committee. When Parker was appointed to head the program of the Federal Housing Administration in Oregon, he delegated responsibility for supervising completion of the finished drawings to Richard Sundeleaf.

The initial HABS recording project, carried out by Oregon architects between 1934 and 1937, for many years formed the core of our understanding of Oregon's historic architecture. Moreover, HABS documentation of the Depression era was of practical value, decades later, to architects charged with restoring various of the properties measured and drawn by HABS teams 50 years ago.

In recent years, HABS and HAER have continued recordation of architectural and engineering landmarks threatened by urban renewal, expanding commercial development, expanding transportation systems, and public improvements of all kinds. It is generally conceded that it is infeasible to preserve every worthy landmark. However, through measured drawings, photographs and historical documentation compiled to HABS/HAER standards, it should be possible to maintain an enduring and informative record of how, as a nation, we have developed our man-made environment.

Alfred M. Staehli
Elisabeth Walton Potter
October 4, 1984

PART I

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
AND
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1930-1940

Elisabeth Walton Potter
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
Salem, Oregon

In the state of Oregon, interest in historic sites preservation gathered shortly after the Oregon Historical Society's Committee on Memorials was formed in 1899. The early projects were commemorative in character and focused upon heroes, military events, and the experience of overland migration. The first documented historic house project appears to have been the opening of the Fort Dalles Surgeon's Quarters as a museum by the Sorosis Club of The Dalles in 1904.

If we were to pinpoint the moment when professional architects entered the preservation field previously dominated in Oregon by historians and lay people, certain Portland members of the Oregon Chapter, A.I.A. would be highly visible. We would find, however, that behind their initiative lay the long tradition of The American Institute of Architects' "Committee on the Preservation of Historic Buildings."

At various times and under various titles, a preservation committee of the A.I.A. had tried to promote the systematic identification and protection of historic buildings from the time the "Committee of Conservators of Public Architecture of the Country" was organized in 1890. In his study of the preservation movement in the United States to the time of reconstruction of Colonial Williamsburg, Charles Hosmer explains that Fiske Kimball, chairman of the Institute's preservation committee, reported to the annual convention in 1924 that the committee had one member in each chapter who had responsibility for monitoring the architectural landmarks of the chapter's jurisdiction.^{A-5} In 1926, Kimball's successor as chairman, A. Lawrence Kocher, reinstated an earlier goal of producing a catalog of Colonial buildings--an idea which later was to come to fruition, in some part, in the Historic American Buildings Survey. It is appropriate to mention here, parenthetically, that the Oregon Chapter was formally admitted to the Institute in 1911.^{F-1} Because records of the Oregon Chapter for the early years are lacking, or perhaps never were maintained except in the form of reports to the A.I.A. monthly journal, it will not be possible to identify the Chapter's earliest liaison with the A.I.A. preservation committee until the monthly journals are checked year by year.

From the first issues of the A.I.A. house organ, The Octagon, which was published from 1929 to 1943, we know that Jamieson Parker, a Portlander educated at the University of Pennsylvania, was president of the Oregon Chapter in 1929.^{B-6} A former draftsman in the office of A. E. Doyle, Parker was naturally inclined toward scholarship and writing. There can be no doubt that he was a vital spark in the Chapter's earliest preservation activities. Apparently, however, it was Glenn Stanton who led a campaign intended to

contribute to the Pictorial Archives of Early American Architecture, a project commenced by the Library of Congress with Carnegie Foundation backing in 1930. B-5

Stanton later recalled it was he who had "originated the movement to make a local survey of old buildings." D-2 Indeed, Glenn Stanton, Harold Doty and Jamieson Parker made up the "Committee for the A.I.A. on Old Oregon Buildings," and, as chairman, Stanton went to the newspapers in August of 1930 and appealed to the interested public to inform him of buildings, dwelling places, manufacturing plants, and stores built in Oregon prior to 1880 having both historic and architectural interest. C-4 Because the objective was to file a permanent photographic record of the selected buildings in the Library of Congress, Stanton engaged Portland photographer Walter Boychuk to record the landmarks. From this project for the A.I.A., the Austrian-born photographer built a national reputation for architectural photography. In 1940, Boychuk was named the official photographer of the Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco. After the exposition he returned to Portland to resume an equally distinguished career in portrait photography.

By November of 1930, the Chapter's campaign to preserve a "pictorial record" of outstanding early Oregon buildings had gained response from many parts of the state. C-3 The plan was that Stanton would screen snapshots and suggestions by the public and work out an itinerary of inspection by his committee. The fifty finest examples of historic architecture would be selected and photographed by Boychuk for publication in portfolio form. The first three buildings selected by the committee already had been photographed. They were the Simeon Reed House at Reedville, the Seth Lewelling House at Milwaukie and the John C. Ainsworth House at Mt. Pleasant. C-3 The list and notes thus worked up by the Chapter committee formed the nucleus of the record made several years later by the Historic American Buildings Survey.

In 1931, Stanton and Walter E. Church became partners in the firm of Whitehouse, Stanton and Church. Walter Church willingly enlisted in the A.I.A. campaign. He furnished an eleven-page typescript entitled "Oregon's Historic Buildings are Everybody's Business," which was for use by a local radio station in keeping with A.I.A. public information goals. Church co-authored with Stanton a three-page statement on "Early Oregon Architecture" which is revealing of the 20th century architect's view of an architectural heritage which was less sophisticated and far newer than that of the Atlantic seaboard or the Ohio Valley.

In speaking of such buildings as the Ainsworth House and the "Sam Brown Stage Station north of Salem," the A.I.A. co-authors correctly related the best of Oregon buildings built between 1850 and 1870 to the Greek Revival, stating ".....they are good architecturally speaking because they are simple and direct and the relation of window to wall space is harmonious; they are good because of necessity they were plain and at the same time refined. They are not distinguished in finesse of detail, but they are strong and satisfactory in general mass and proportion... They are examples of

honest design and construction... It is hoped that many of the more worthy examples may be preserved, at least graphically, not simply as a tribute to our honored pioneers, but as our cherished inheritance."D-2

Like the recurring efforts of the A.I.A. preservation committee at the national level, the campaign of the Oregon Chapter proved too ambitious to be sustained by busy professionals. It was abandoned after momentum flagged, but it had been valuable nonetheless. The campaign of Stanton's committee produced a modest but lasting record in Boychuk's photograph series and it raised public awareness of the state's architectural heritage as something distinct from its historical shrines. Of greatest importance was the fact that it laid a foundation which enabled the district officer of the Historic American Buildings Survey to get off to a quick start in planning field work in 1933 and 1934. Because initial Federal funding for HABS wound down quickly, this advantage which Stanton, Doty, and Parker had achieved for the state proved most worthwhile.

It should be remembered that Stanton, Doty, Parker and Church and their traditionally-educated contemporaries, especially those who were schooled in the East, came to the practice of their profession with an appreciation of early American architecture. Much residential work of the 1920s and 1930s consisted of freely adapted versions of Colonial houses. Some work showed the enduring influence of Russell Whitehead's White Pine Series and other monographs on Colonial architecture. Glenn Stanton's moderately-priced house for Mrs. H.H. Jones on Council Crest in Portland, completed in 1938, was described by House and Garden as "going all the way back to the cottages of New England."B-2 It was, in fact, a story and a half, single-unit cottage with garage appendage and oversized central chimney--a cottage of the sort made popular by Boston architect Royal Barry Wills, who drew his inspiration for an ideal, livable and affordable house from the small white cottages of Cape Cod, which he admired for their simplicity and personal scale. Stanton's house, as the editors explained, fitted an untraditional plan into a traditional shell. The siding was of wide lapped cedar. Like that of the "Cape Cod" archetype produced in the 20th century by Royal Barry Wills, the white-painted brick chimney was a nearly unarticulated broad shaft. Stanton, however, went further in his adaption and made the architrave of the front doorway a somewhat Modernistic abstraction of fluted columns or pilasters.

What Oregon architects participating in special committees of the A.I.A. and in the Historic American Buildings Survey had learned about historic Oregon architecture in the decade between 1930 and 1940 was only subtly incorporated into their regular practice. We know from the statement Glenn Stanton and Walter Church co-signed, probably in 1930, that they admired the functional and economical character of vernacular buildings. The co-authors pointed out that the board and batten type of siding characteristic of some of the early houses, exemplified by the Morton M. McCarver house at Mt. Pleasant, was being revived in several modern country houses in the environs of Portland. Stanton's house at Lake Oswego for Robert Arneson, completed in 1937, was one of the later examples of the board and batten revival. In this design, the exterior wall of the bedroom centered in the entrance facade was clad with spruce board and batten as an accent contrasting with the overall use of cedar shakes.B-2

In his progress report on the Historic American Buildings Survey published in the Oregon Historical Quarterly in March, 1934, Jamieson Parker had been even more specific about the qualities of functional design and craftsmanship in early Oregon buildings which appealed to modern day architects. He pointed out, for example, that the wooden muntins and meeting rails of old window sash, like those of the James Watson House, "never exceeding a half inch," were "of much greater delicacy" than was considered practicable by modern sash makers and were no less functional. Weatherboards predating 1860, it was being discovered, were "remarkably uniform," the standard being a half-inch board, unbeveled, usually with 4½ inches exposed to the weather. Because of hand labor involved in producing curved moldings, he concluded, early carpenter builders such as the one who constructed the raking cornice of the Simeon Reed House, often used plane surfaces to approximate the desired effect. Like his colleagues Stanton and Church, Parker drew a parallel between the modern emphasis of form, as opposed to ornament, and the "strong and original" moldings fashioned by builders under limitations imposed by the frontier.^{B-3} The remarkably bold, plain frieze board of the John Johnson House, which stood at Pedee in Benton County, is an illustration of Mr. Parker's point.

The proposal for an Historic American Buildings Survey, which was to be a combination work relief and research program, was put forward to the Director of the National Park Service, Arno B. Cammerer, by Charles E. Peterson, Chief of the Eastern Division of the Park Service Branch of Plans and Design, on November 15, 1933. As was standard for all work relief proposals at the time, there was to be a six-month limit to the program. The proposal was approved by Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes two days later, and by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration on December 1, 1933. A nine-member "National Advisory Committee" was assembled with Leicester B. Holland, Chief of the Library of Congress Division of Fine Arts and chairman of the A.I.A. Committee on the Preservation of Historic Buildings, at its head.^{A-4} Henceforward, the Historic American Buildings Survey would supersede the Library's Pictorial Archives of American Architecture as the repository for graphic records of historic American architecture. The country was organized into 39 districts, with Oregon and Washington constituting District No. 39. Six states in the northern tier, including Montana and Idaho, were excluded from the survey on the basis of their small populations of professional architects and the difficulties which would be posed by undertaking field work in severe winter weather.

On December 16, 1933, Jamieson Parker was officially appointed HABS District Officer for District No. 39 in ratification of his nomination by the Oregon Chapter, A.I.A..^{D-1} In the fall of 1934, when district boundaries were adjusted to conform to the jurisdictions of local chapters of the A.I.A., supervision of HABS affairs in the state of Washington fell to Paul Richardson of the Seattle firm of Albertson, Wilson and Richardson. The district subdivisions were thereafter distinguished as District No. 39, Oregon Area and Washington Area.

Funds for employment of architects and draftsmen came from the Civil Works Administration. Actual expenditures for the six-month campaign were reported to have been \$196,267, less than half the approved budget of

\$448,000. As many as 772 persons were employed nationwide in recording 1,400 buildings, of which 1,255 were recorded in measured drawings. The initial campaign produced 7,860 sheets of drawings and 6,560 photographs.A-4 (Today, the total number of buildings and structures recorded by HABS and the Historic American Engineering Record exceeds 18,000.) In various parts of the country, the first working parties were dispatched to the field in January, 1934, but soon the CWA ordered a freeze on new employment. The gradual close-down began February 15, and the CWA program officially ended on target, May 1, 1934. But in Oregon, as elsewhere, many contributed their services after curtailment to complete unfinished projects, and the Secretary of the Interior subsequently approved several allotments of Public Works funds to resume the work.

Of utmost significance was the tri-party Memorandum of Agreement executed on July 23, 1934, by the National Park Service, The American Institute of Architects and the Library of Congress. The memorandum established HABS as a permanent organization. The National Historic Sites Act, watershed preservation legislation of 1935, confirmed the continuing nature of the program by making HABS a regular duty of the Federal government. The small HABS staff, headed by Thomas C. Vint, Chief Architect of the Branch of Plans and Design, Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations, included noted architectural historian Thomas T. Waterman, Frederick D. Nichols, and John P. O'Neill.A-7 HABS Circular No. 1, issued on December 12, 1933, provided instructions for organization of the Civil Works program at the field level. Architects were to be selected on the basis of ability and employment status requirements. Field squads could range in size from two to eight men, as need required, and the district officers were to arrange schedules and itineraries with an eye toward economy of time and expense. The district officer, selected on the basis of nomination by the local chapter of the A.I.A., was salaried at a rate of \$200 per month. According to the circular, squad leaders were to be paid \$1.10 an hour, and regular squad members were to receive \$.90 an hour. Mileage was reimbursed at a rate of \$.04 a mile. On the rare occasion when overnight travel from state headquarters was required, squad members were given a subsistence allowance of \$2.50 a day. Photographers were paid \$1.00 an hour.D-2 The National Park Service furnished standard field notebooks for recording measurements at the site. Standard-size drawing sheets of heavy, rag tracing paper, measuring 19 x 24 inches, upon which to produce the final record were furnished also.

District advisory committees, including architect members proposed by the local A.I.A. chapters, were to be assembled to guide the scope of work in cooperation with district officers and in conformance with the general guidelines provided by the National Park Service. The goals and priorities of the Historic American Buildings Survey set in 1933 have since become standard in cultural resource survey work. The object was to measure and record "the complete field of early American architecture from the earliest aboriginal structures to the latest buildings of the Greek revival..." In general, the cut-off date would be 1860. All types of buildings and structures "from the smallest utilitarian structures to the largest and most monumental" were to be included so that "a complete picture" of the culture of the period as reflected in its buildings would be recorded. "Absolute priority" was to be given to exceptional buildings which were as yet intact but which were "in

imminent danger of destruction or material alteration." Existing conditions were to be recorded faithfully, without conjecture or interpretation of original configuration, an instruction which Jamieson Parker accepted in view of the limited time and manpower available, but not without regret.B-3. He foresaw that, inevitably, some of the buildings would be lost before anyone would be able to return to thoughtfully analyze the evidence of original conditions. Mills, barns, bridges and other utilitarian structures were accommodated in the instructions of 1933 but were not frequently recorded. In fact, the architectural bias of the survey prevailed until creation of the Historic American Engineering Record in partnership with the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1969.

Oregon members of the advisory committee for District No. 39 were Walter E. Church, partner in the Portland firm of Whitehouse, Stanton and Church; Nellie B. Pipes, Secretary of the Oregon Historical Society; and Professor W.R.B. Willcox, Head of the Department of Architecture of the University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts. Advisory committee members from the state of Washington were Seattle architect A.H. Albertson and W.P. Bonney, Secretary of the Washington State Historical Society.B-4 The advisory committee for District 39 approved selection of 47 properties for recordation in Oregon and 15 in the state of Washington.

By all accounts, Jamieson Parker was an especially well informed and diligent district officer. Building on his prior work with Stanton and Doty on the Oregon Chapter's "Committee for the A.I.A. on Old Oregon Buildings," he lost no time in releasing publicity and inviting suggestions from authorities and interested citizens alike. In accord with his instructions, he traveled to the extremes of southern Oregon and Seattle and made excursions through the Willamette Valley to approve selections, arrange permissions and plan itineraries. His correspondence with residents of Astoria on the Oregon coast and The Dalles in eastern Oregon shows Parker's appreciation of early settlement patterns, but limited time and lack of funds for travel to the more distant locations were determining factors, and the field for consideration narrowed accordingly. The survey area, ultimately, was limited to the Willamette Valley and its tributaries and portions of the Umpqua and Rogue River drainages.

In Oregon, initial field work came to a halt soon after the six-month program was ended officially. While as many as 33 buildings had been measured by the end of May, 1934, none of the drawing had been done. With curtailment of CWA funds and the field work at an end, Jamieson Parker entered the employ of the Federal Housing Administration. He joined the Portland office in August, 1934 and was promoted to Associate Director in December. On June 28, 1935, he became State Director, which position he filled until his untimely death in December, 1939.C-6 Writing to John P. O'Neill of the National Park Service Branch of Plans and Design, on September 27, 1934, Parker lamented curtailment of CWA funds and the necessary interruption of the program. He affirmed his willingness to carry on as district officer and urged that he be notified if further allotments should allow resumption of the unfinished work. Parker never relinquished his status as district officer, and, indeed, it was recommended by the A.I.A. that district officers be recognized as acting in a supervisory capacity even though they might not actively

administer new campaigns which followed the closing down of the CWA. Parker acknowledged at the time of curtailment that, in addition to his work for HABS, he was trying to sustain a languishing architectural practice while at the same time serving as president of the Oregon Chapter, A.I.A., and working full time as an executive for the FHA in Oregon.D-1 Writing to O'Neill on January 31, 1936, Parker explained that he could find no "architectural draftsmen with the necessary training and experience" to supervise preparation of the finished drawings who could also meet the test of unemployment. He requested a special release from the WPA requirements so the man whom he had "in mind" to act as his deputy for supervision of the last phase of the work could be designated. The man whom Parker had in mind, of course, was his primary squad leader, Richard W. Sundeleaf, who was "much interested in the matter" and who, in Parker's words, could be counted on to provide "excellent supervision."D-1 The Deputy, or Acting District Officer, proved as ideally suited to his task as Parker had to the organization and administration of HABS in Oregon.

Richard Sundeleaf, a 1923 graduate of the University of Oregon School of Architecture, was one of two field squad leaders and had participated in more measuring work than any of the other eight squad members of record. While 47 buildings in Oregon were recorded by HABS, finished drawings were prepared for only 37 of them (See Appendix I). Of the 37 properties recorded in finished drawings, Sundeleaf supervised the measuring of no less than 24. Roscoe Hemenway, who sometimes worked in Sundeleaf's squad but appears to have led his own from time to time, measured 22 of these properties. Others participating in the field work, named in order of the degree of their participation as documented by title blocks on the drawings, were Ernest Tucker (16 projects), Morgan Hartford (15), Clifford Clausen (11), George Wallman (11), Harold Marsh (6), and Del Hinson (3). With the exception of Morgan Hartford, who was a draftsman, each was a registered architect and a member of the A.I.A..E-2 In Oregon, three or four men made up a typical squad, although some buildings were measured by teams of two. Mr. Sundeleaf has explained that, as squad leader, he normally measured the exterior while one man covered the interior and another recorded details.E-2 As Sundeleaf has pointed out, the standard, hard-backed field notebooks are the key to HABS records and, in his words, provide "the feel" of the buildings.E-1 These field notebooks, containing all the measurements, original detail sketches and miscellaneous notes, are safely, if remotely, filed away in the Library of Congress. It was the field notebook which the National Park Service Branch of Plans and Design used to check the accuracy of drawings when the drawings were submitted for approval and signature of Chief Architect Thomas C. Vint. In Oregon, most measuring for HABS was accomplished between February and May, 1934, according to dates given on the drawings. However, with new allotments, two buildings were measured in 1936, and another two in 1937.

The drawings, ranging in scope from three to 17 sheets per project, were done in 1936 and 1937. Richard Sundeleaf supervised nine delineators, but did none of the drawing himself. When funds ran out, drawing was continued "on the side" along with the draftsmen's private work.E-2 The HABS delineators included one woman. The list, in order of degree of participation, reads as follows. G.W. Schmitt (9 projects), Warren R. Weber (6), Robert A. Miller (6), Rudolph Paetz (6), Melvyn Lofton (4), Nellie R. Wilson (2), A.J. Easter

(2), L.W. Oakley (1), and Morgan Hartford (1). While HABS specifications purposely encouraged standardization of drawings, the personal styles of the delineators are evident upon comparison.

Because HABS properties were houses for the most part, architects and draftsman who were experienced in residential work were selected.E-1 Record photographs of the buildings, such as those of the Granville Baber House in the vicinity of Jefferson, in Linn County, were commissioned separately by Parker. Mrs. Jamieson Parker recalls that the HABS photographer was Walter Boychuk.E-3 The photographs were taken in 1934, but not in conjunction with other field work. The field squads did not have photographs for reference before they started for the field. Locating the rural buildings was sometimes difficult. Mr. Sundeleaf recalls that his frequent technique was to get to the general area and look for such signs of early settlement as driveways lined with the largest mature trees.E-1 The writer who worked up brief notes on the background of the buildings and their original occupants was Lem A. Dever, but much of the data was provided by Parker from his research and gleanings from informants. The notes were put in final form for HABS with the cooperation of the Federal Writers' Project.D-1

As has been mentioned, selection of HABS properties was the role of District Officer Jamieson Parker and his advisory committee. In District 39, as elsewhere, the intent was to select some of the oldest buildings having architectural interest or merit. Dates of construction ranged from the 1870s to 1841, the date of the only brick house in the Oregon selection and "the only early Oregon building" which, in Parker's view, suggested "genuine English Georgian influence".D-1 In 1934, the brick house of English emigre George Kirby Gay at Hopewell on the Yamhill County line was a prospective ruin. Incidentally, the regularly-spaced depressions in the front elevation which mistakenly have been taken for gun ports were noted by the field squad to have been joist pockets for porch framing members. The majority of buildings selected dated from the 1850s and were examples of the Classic Revival style. In his progress report on HABS published in the Oregon Historical Quarterly in March, 1934, Jamieson Parker commented favorably on the handling of Classic Revival forms and details by Oregon builders, observing that typical Oregon houses of the 1850s rarely showed the "heaviness and bombast seen so often in southern Greek revival buildings." He was struck by the "variety of forms" taken by porches. He noted a characteristic boldness of columns and entablature frequently offset by a railing of extreme delicacy, such as that of the Rock Point Tavern near Gold Hill.B-3 The range of porch types and variations enumerated by Parker is merely suggested by the Hiram Colver House in Phoenix, Jackson County (better known today as the Patrick McManus House), which has a one-story, shed-roofed porch running the full length of the house, and by the singular, tetrastyle prostyle, or temple-fronted John C. Ainsworth House at Mount Pleasant with its two-story portico in which colossal, octagonal columns based on the Doric order are employed along with the sort of delicate balcony railing which Parker found an effective contrast.

In the state of Oregon, selected properties ranged in location from Sauvie Island on the Columbia River, site of the James F. Bybee House, to the Rogue River Valley, but the majority were situated in the Willamette Valley,

early mecca of the overland pioneer settlers. The residential bias of the selection is undoubtedly, in part, a consequence of predominant resources. Because of urban development, proportionately fewer public and commercial buildings of comparable date were standing at the outset of the Depression. The list, however, did include one church (West Union Baptist Church, West Union, Washington County), one academy building (Tualatin Academy, or Old College Hall, Forest Grove, Washington County), and one fortification, the Fort Yamhill Blockhouse, long situated in the public square at Dayton in Yamhill County. While the list included some houses in urbanized settings, such as the Seth Lewelling House in Milwaukie, and several stage houses, such as the Wolf Creek Tavern, rural farm houses were preponderant. Several properties commanded the attention of the advisory committee because they were built for men whose deeds and attainments in Oregon history were noteworthy--men such as John C. Ainsworth, Morton M. McCarver, Seth Lewelling, James W. Nesmith, Simeon Reed, George Law Curry, Charles Applegate, and Hudson's Bay Company Chief Factor John McLoughlin.

Jamieson Parker was the first to write an informed assessment of the architectural significance of the Oregon City house of John McLoughlin, built in 1846. In his note to accompany HABS photographs of 1934, Parker stated "...architecturally, this is one of the most extremely simple of all the important historic houses in Oregon...Although it has some of the characteristics in common with contemporary work, its general character suggests colonial (Georgian) influence rather than the Classic Revival which inspired most other Oregon buildings."D-1

It is perhaps not inappropriate to point out that the Federal work relief programs created under the Roosevelt Administration during the Great Depression revitalized the Arts and Crafts ideal. In countless projects carried out under auspices of the Works Progress Administration and other agencies across the country, skilled craftsmen were put to work designing and fabricating furniture and hardware for administrative and recreational buildings. An appreciation of craftsmanship was in the air. Small wonder that among the record drawings of the William Holmes House at Mount Pleasant an entire sheet was devoted to elevation and section drawings of hand-wrought andirons.

In addition to exterior elevations and floor plans, main interior features were recorded. Most typical were front and side elevation drawings of the livingroom fireplace with, perhaps, a detail of the mantelpiece with its classical profile. But the drawings also recorded fireplace wall paneling, dados, staircases, and door and window details. The complementary photographs, usually two for each property, were not always perspective-corrected, but frequently contained a measuring stick to indicate scale. Occasionally, interior views also were included, as was the case in the log house of David N. Birdseye in the vicinity of Rogue River, constructed in 1855, one of the two log structures included in the survey.

In accord with HABS specifications, each set of drawings included a title sheet with a sketch map showing geographic location. The set also included a plot plan which recorded the general distribution of major period plantings, fences, cultivated gardens, wells and outbuildings. These site plans

prefigured a particular interest in farm site development which emerged in Oregon 30 years later owing in great part to Professor Philip Dole's popular course in settlement patterns at the University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts. However, the plot plans did not include barns and buildings outside the immediate precincts of the farmhouse, and they did not attempt to show successive stages of development of a given farmstead. Even if the field squads had been encouraged to encompass the greater farm setting and pursue archeological inquiries, there scarcely would have been time to do so. Measurements normally were recorded in one day, two at the most.^{E-2} Overnight field excursions were rare, and there was no opportunity for field checks when the drawing commenced, in most cases, several years later. The plot plans are chiefly useful as a record of the orientation and relationship of buildings surrounding the farmhouse in the 1930s. Occasionally omissions or errors in observation and errors in interpretation of field records occurred. Given the haste with which field work had to be undertaken before curtailment, and given the fact that the field squads and the draftsmen were entirely different personnel, it is remarkable that discrepancies were as few as they appear to have been. As early as January 10, 1934, Jamieson Parker had pointed out in a letter to Chief Architect Thomas Vint the advantage of employing the same personnel both for field recording and final drawings and the importance of completing final drawings while the field work was still fresh in mind. However, with the flow of funds so frequently interrupted, the more logical approach was not to be.

It can be said of the HABS effort of the 1930s that it had two major virtues in addition to fulfilling the immediate goal of giving employment to architects and draftsmen who needed the work. The HABS photographs, notes and drawings have evolved as our only record of certain buildings lost through attrition, such as the Darius Cartwright House which once stood near Lorane. Records of the remaining buildings have proven of practical value to architects and preservationists who have used them in restoration projects.

One frequently hears that the rate of attrition of Depression era HABS properties nationwide is slightly over 50 percent. If that is an accurate estimate, then Oregon's attrition rate is less than the national average at 43 percent. Of the 47 buildings recorded in the Oregon Area of District 39 between 1934 and 1937, 18 are no longer standing. Of the 29 buildings extant, one (the James Brown House in Silverton, Marion County) has been incorporated in new construction and thus is unrecognizable. Two others, the James W. Nesmith House at Rickreall in Polk County, and the George F. McCorkle House on Howell Prairie in Marion County, have been substantially altered (See Appendix III). On the other hand, as many as ten HABS properties have been restored, and of these, half were restored within the past five years (See Appendix II). Thus, the HABS legacy of the Depression era, after 50 years, is still producing a practical benefit, and it will no doubt continue its scholarly benefits for many years to come.

To fully appreciate the continuity of the A.I.A.'s involvement in historic preservation in Oregon, it is worthwhile to bring things up to date, however briefly. For a time, following Jamieson Parker's death in December, 1939, it was Glenn Stanton who, as president, corresponded on behalf of the Chapter on matters pertaining to historic buildings.^{D-2} Inevitably,

local preservation activities were suspended during the Second World War but resumed, coincidentally, as Stanton entered the hierarchy of the Institute in 1948. Stanton was the first architect from the Pacific Northwest to be elected A.I.A. president. He served in that capacity from 1951-1953.A-6 From the preservationist's point of view, the Chapter's recurring lists of "outstanding buildings in Oregon" achieved special significance in 1950 when a category for historic buildings was included.D-2

The first A.I.A. historic buildings preservation official in Oregon in the post-War period was Richard Marlitt, author of Nineteenth Street, a monograph on distinctive 19th century residential architecture in Portland brought out by the Oregon Historical Society in 1968. Ultimately, Marlitt recommended as his successor a former associate, Gene G. Westberg, whose term of service coincided with the rise of urban renewal in the early 1960s.E-4 When the old United States Courthouse, Custom House and Post Office (1869-1875) was threatened by demolition, Westberg joined Oregon Historical Society Executive Director Thomas Vaughan and United States Senior Circuit Judge John F. Kilkenny in arousing public interest in the oldest standing Federal building in the Pacific Northwest. The A.I.A. historic buildings committee representative thus emerged as a visible advocate, one who promoted architectural preservation in illustrated talks to the Chamber of Commerce, Planning Commission, Art Commission and various professional and service organizations. Westberg urged acquisition of a duplicate set of the Oregon HABS drawings of the Depression era so that the drawings could be consulted in a local repository. The Oregon Historical Society complied.

The Oregon Chapter, A.I.A., was superseded when the Portland Chapter was created as the state's metropolitan affiliate in 1963. Westberg eventually turned over his files to George A. McMath, who, as chairman of the Portland Chapter's Committee on Historic Buildings in 1965, led the first systematic survey of historic buildings in Portland. The historic buildings survey conducted by the Portland Chapter was crucial to adoption of the first landmark preservation ordinance in the state, the second, after that of Los Angeles, on the West Coast. The Portland Historical Landmarks Commission commenced its work in 1967 with McMath as chairman. McMath was appointed to the National Advisory Board of the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1974 and served as last chairman before dissolution of the board in 1978. Subsequently, he was elected to the A.I.A. College of Fellows for his leadership in the preservation field.

From this, it is clear how closely the historic preservation movement has been tied to the support of the A.I.A. and how the involvement of professionals in the field of architecture caused the movement to come of age in Oregon.

LIST OF SOURCES

A. MONOGRAPHS AND DIRECTORIES

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2. Historic America: Buildings, Structures and Sites Recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey and the Historic American Engineering Record (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1983). Includes checklist compiled by Alicia Stamm, HABS/HAER, National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, and essays edited by C. Ford Peatross, Library of Congress.
3. Historic American Buildings Survey: Catalog of the Measured Drawings and Photographs of the Survey in the Library of Congress, March 1, 1941. Compiled and Edited by the Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1941). Second edition. Oregon entries pages 310-319.
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5. Hosmer, Charles B., Jr., Presence of the Past: A History of the Preservation Movement in the United States before Williamsburg (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1965). In the chapter entitled "Antiquaries, Architects and Museum Directors, the author includes a discussion of the development of the A.I.A. Preservation Committee under various titles, beginning in 1890, as well as prophesies of a systematic cataloging of historic buildings nationwide, beginning in 1911, pages 199-211.
6. Koyl, George S., ed., American Institute of Architects Directory (New York: R.R. Bowker Co. for American Institute of Architects, 1962), 668. Glenn Stanton.
7. Peterson, Charles E., "Thirty Years of HABS," reprint from the Journal of The American Institute of Architects, November 1963.
8. Smith, Carol C., Fifty Years of the Historic American Buildings Survey (Alexandria, Virginia: The Historic American Buildings Survey Foundation, 1983.)

B. PERIODICAL LITERATURE

1. "Glenn Stanton is Dead; Former A.I.A. President," AIA Journal, Vol. LII, No. 6 (December 1969), 32.

2. House and Garden, Section II (August 1939), 7, 16. House and Plan No. 3, House of Mrs. H.H. Jones, Portland, Oregon, Glenn Stanton, architect, page 7. House and Plan No. 11, House of Mr. Robert Arneson, Lake Oswego, Oregon, Glenn Stanton, architect, page 16.
3. Parker, Jamieson, "Historic American Buildings Survey," Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. 35, No. 1 (March 1934), 32-41.
4. Parker, Jamieson, "Historic American Buildings Survey, Final Results," Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. 35, No. 2 (June 1934), 176-179.
5. "Pictorial Archives of Early American Architecture," The Octagon Vol. 2, No. 6 (June 1930), 7. The monthly journal of The American Institute of Architects was published under this title from 1929 to 1943 before it was superseded by the AIA Journal. The note concerning establishment of a Pictorial Division of Early American Architecture by the Library of Congress was written by Leicester B. Holland, Chief of the Library's Division of Fine Arts. Dr. Holland reported formation of the special archives during the 63rd A.I.A. Convention earlier in the year (1930), and stated that information concerning solicitation of prints and negatives had been sent directly to the A.I.A. chapters. The Oregon Chapter Committee for the A.I.A. on Old Oregon Buildings appears to have been organized in direct response to Dr. Holland's appeal. Dr. Holland was chairman of the A.I.A. Committee on the Preservation of Historic Buildings in 1933 and became chairman of the national advisory committee assembled when the Historic American Buildings Survey was established late in the same year.
6. "Preservation of Historic Buildings," The Octagon, Vol. 5, No. 10 (October, 1933), 15. Jamieson Parker was listed in this issue as the Oregon Chapter representative on the A.I.A. Committee on the Preservation of Historic Buildings. With the subsequent organization of the Historic American Buildings Survey, the A.I.A. Committee was reconstituted of HABS district officers. Jamieson Parker, therefore, remained on the committee. By instruction of the institute, HABS district officers were to be recognized as acting in a supervisory capacity even though they might not actively administer new campaigns which followed the closing down of the Civil Works Administration. In fact, Parker continued as District Officer of District No. 39 long after he had joined the Federal Housing Administration in 1934, and he continued to collect and refine data about Oregon's historic architecture until his untimely death in 1939.

The Oregon Chapter was founded in 1911 and continued under that title until the Portland Chapter was formed in 1963.

As reconstructed from monthly issues of The Octagon, presidents of the Oregon Chapter during the period under discussion appear to have been: Jamieson Parker, 1929; Folger Johnson, 1930; Harold Doty, 1931-1932; W.H. Crowell, 1933; Jamieson Parker, 1934; Frederick Aandahl, 1935-1936; Leslie D. Howell, 1937-1939; and Glenn Stanton, 1940.

C. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

1. "Architect Glenn Stanton Dies of Stroke at 74," Oregonian (October 17, 1969), 36.
2. "Architects Institute Elects Portlander New President," Oregonian (May 11, 1951), 13.
3. "Architectural Shrines of the Old Oregon Country," and "Architectural Examples to be Kept in Record," Sunday Oregon Journal (November 16, 1930), Sec. 2, Pg. 7.
4. "Historical Data Sought," Sunday Oregonian (August 10, 1930), Sec. 2, pg. 2.
5. "Portland Architect made National Institute Fellow," Oregonian (March 18, 1949), Sec. 2, pg. 8.
6. "State Housing Chief Dies," Oregonian (December 9, 1939), 1.

D. MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

1. Parker, Jamieson, papers, Oregon Collection, University of Oregon Library, Eugene (MSS 3000 and 3000-1).
Jamieson Kirkwood Parker (1895-1939) was named District Officer of HABS District 39, which initially included Oregon and Washington, on December 16, 1933. Parker joined the Portland Office of the Federal Housing Administration in August, 1934, following curtailment of HABS funds. Parker was named Associate State Director of FHA in December, 1934, and on June 28, 1935, became State Director, succeeding A.F. Giffith, who left the FHA to become State Administrator for the Works Progress Administration. In 1936, when additional funds were appropriated for completion of HABS work, Parker designated Richard W. Sundeleaf Acting District Director for purposes of supervising production of the finished drawings. The final curtailment occurred in 1937. Parker's untimely death occurred in 1939. Eventually his deputy, Richard Sundeleaf, deposited the HABS records in his possession with the Parker collection in the University of Oregon Library. The collection includes Parker's "Outline of the Development of Early American Architecture (Oregon)," a 15-page typescript which appears to be an elaboration of his summary report on HABS activity which appeared in the Oregon Historical Quarterly in March, 1934. The

"sketch," which he transmitted in 1937 to Nellie Pipes, Secretary of the Oregon Historical Society, was to have been the state's contribution to an unrealized treatise on early American architecture which HABS projected with WPA assistance. In Oregon, as elsewhere, 1939 marked the end of the Depression era HABS program for all practical purposes.

2. Stanton, Glenn, papers, Manuscript Collection, Oregon Historical Society, Portland (MS 1040). The collection includes Stanton's letter of May 3, 1940 to Henry Humphrey, Managing Editor of House and Garden, in New York, in which Stanton describes his role in the Oregon Chapter, A.I.A. survey of historic buildings which anticipated organization of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Similar documentation: Stanton to Lyle E. Bennett, Architect in Charge, HABS, National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico, April 4, 1940.
3. Parker, Jamieson, papers, Manuscript Collection, Oregon Historical Society, Portland (MS 1525). The collection includes two folders of material pertaining to the Historic American Buildings Survey in addition to files and drawings concerning Parker's architectural projects. A folder labeled "Public Works" documents Mr. Parker's association with the Advisory Committee for Roadside Beautification, the Columbia Gorge Committee of the Pacific Northwest Regional Planning Commission, the Portland Chamber of Commerce Municipal Works Committee, and Governor Charles H. Martin's Statewide Planning Commission. Of particular interest apropos of this inquiry is an inventory of items in the architect's personal library prepared by Mrs. Jamieson Parker in 1974. It includes such titles as Russell Whitehead's The White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs, Vols. 1-16 (1917); Joy Wheeler Dow's American Renaissance, A Review of Domestic Architecture (1904); and Fiske Kimball's Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic (1922).

E. INTERVIEWS

1. Author, interview with Richard Sundeleaf, A.I.A., 4512 SW Kelly at Macadam, Portland, Oregon, October 22, 1980. Mr. Sundeleaf succeeded Jamieson Parker as Acting Oregon District Officer of the Historic American Buildings Survey following Parker's appointment as State Director for the Federal Housing Administration in 1935 and upon resumption of the recording effort.
2. Dodds, Linda, and Alfred Staehli, interview with Richard Wilhelm Sundeleaf, A.I.A., Portland Oregon, November 2, 4 and 23, 1982. Transcript, 106 pages, Oregon Historical Society oral history collection.

3. Potter, Elisabeth Walton (author), and Alfred Staehli, interview with Margaret Biddle Parker, regarding family history and the career of Jamieson Parker (1895-1939), HABS District Officer, Portland, Oregon, March 15, 1984. Transcript, 41 pages, Oregon Historical Society oral history collection.
4. Author, interview with Gene G. Westberg, AIA, Facilities Planning Director, Portland Public Schools, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon, December 8, 1983. Mr. Westberg succeeded Richard Marlitt as A.I.A. historic buildings preservation official in Oregon and served in that capacity in the early 1960s, a period when urban renewal projects in Portland helped arouse public interest in historic preservation.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Wrenn, Tony P., Archivist, The American Institute of Architects, to author, November 30, 1983. Mr. Wrenn provides the following quotation from minutes of the A.I.A. Board of Directors for the meeting of October 27, 1911. "At this meeting the Oregon Society of Architects was formally admitted as a Chapter of the Institute, to be known in the future as the Oregon Chapter, A.I.A."

APPENDIX

- I. It is unclear whether measurements were taken and recorded in field notebooks for each of the ten properties for which no finished drawings were prepared, but this seems to have been the case in general. Richard Sundeleaf is known to have measured the Seth Lewelling House in Milwaukie and the John C. Ainsworth House at Mt. Pleasant, for example. The John McLoughlin House, ultimately declared a National Historic Site, became the first Federally-assisted restoration project in Oregon and, as a result, floor plans and elevation drawings were prepared with separate project assistance from the Civil Works Administration under the supervision of Glenn Stanton. Restoration of the McLoughlin House was carried out with additional loan and grant assistance from the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works and the Work-Progress Administration.

Those buildings for which no finished drawings exist and for which photographs constitute the only record generally seen by the public are as follows:

- ORE 1 - Seth Lewelling House, Milwaukie, Clackamas County (demolished).
- ORE 2 - John McLoughlin House, Oregon City, Clackamas County (restored, National Historic Site).
- ORE 4 - John C. Ainsworth House, Mt. Pleasant, Clackamas County (extant).
- ORE 11 - George F. McCorkle House, Howell Prairie, Marion County (substantially altered).

- ORE 13 - Simeon G. Reed House, Reedville, Washington County (demolished).
- ORE 16 - Alvin T. Smith House, Forest Grove, Washington County (extant).
- ORE 27 - John E. Lyle House, Dallas, Polk County (demolished).
- ORE 35 - Alfred T. Ambrose House, Yoncalla, Douglas County (demolished).
- ORE 39 - David N. Birdseye House, Rogue River, Jackson County (restored).
- ORE 40 - Rock Point Tavern, Gold Hill, Jackson County (extant).

II. HABS properties which have been restored are as follows:

1. (Frederick) Keil House, Aurora, Marion County, 1962.
2. Fort Yamhill Block House, Dayton, Yamhill County, 1911 onward.
3. Tualatin Academy (Old College Hall), Forest Grove, Washington County, 1979.
4. Jacob Conser House, Jefferson, Marion County, 1978.
5. Horace Dibble House, Molalla, Clackamas County, 1969 onward.
6. William Holmes House, Mount Pleasant, Clackamas County, 1982.
7. John McLoughlin House, Oregon City, Clackamas County, 1938 onward.
8. David N. Birdseye House, Rogue River, Jackson County, 1982.
9. James Bybee House, Sauvie Island, Multnomah County, 1966 onward.
10. Wolf Creek Tavern, Wolf Creek, Josephine County, 1978.

III. Of the 29 Oregon buildings recorded by HABS in 1934 which are still standing, all but four have been entered into the National Register of Historic Places since an expanded National Register was created by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Three buildings disqualified on the basis of criteria are the relocated Fort Yamhill Block House in Dayton, the substantially altered James Brown House, Silverton, and the remodeled James W. Nesmith House, Rickreall. The fourth un-registered property, the James Watson House at Hoskins in Benton County, is unlisted owing to lack of owner consent. Regrettably, the George McCorkle House on Howell Prairie recently was remodeled with a brick veneer, and was removed from National Register listings as a consequence.

Following are the properties recorded by HABS in 1934 which are understood to be standing as of October, 1984.

1. (Frederick) Keil House, Aurora, Marion County.
2. Fort Yamhill Block House, Dayton, Yamhill County.
3. Levi Hagey House, Dundee, Yamhill County.
4. Tualatin Academy (Old College Hall), Forest Grove, Washington County.
5. Alvin T. Smith House, Forest Grove, Washington County.
6. Sam Brown House, Gervais, Marion County.
7. Rock Point Tavern, Gold Hill, Jackson County.
8. James Watson House, Hoskins, Benton County.
9. George McCorkle House, Howell Prairie, Marion County (substantially altered)
10. L.J. Combest House, Jacksonville, Jackson County.

11. William Bybee House, Jacksonville, Jackson County.
12. Jacob Conser House, Jefferson, Marion County.
13. Granville Baber House, Jefferson vicinity, Linn County.
14. Amos Cook House, Lafayette, Yamhill County.
15. Francis Fletcher House, Lafayette, Yamhill County.
16. Horace Dibble House, Molalla, Clackamas County.
17. John C. Ainsworth House, Mount Pleasant, Clackamas County.
18. William Holmes House, Mount Pleasant, Clackamas County.
19. Morton M. McCarver House, Mount Pleasant, Clackamas County.
20. Lois Powell House, Oakland, Douglas County.
21. John McLoughlin House, Oregon City, Clackamas County.
22. Hiram Colver (Patrick McManus) House, Phoenix, Jackson County.
23. James Nesmith House, Rickreall, Polk County (substantially altered).
24. David N. Birdseye House, Rogue River, Jackson County.
25. James Bybee House, Sauvie Island, Multnomah County.
26. James Brown House, Silverton, Marion County (substantially altered).
27. West Union Baptist Church, West Union, Washington County.
28. Wolf Creek Tavern, Wolf Creek, Josephine County.
29. Charles Applegate House, Yoncalla, Douglas County.

PART II

THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
AND
THE HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
TO THE PRESENT DAY

Alfred M. Staehli, A.I.A.
Portland, Oregon

The Historic American Buildings Survey and Historic American Engineering Record (HABS-HAER) are cooperative programs based on tri-party agreements between the National Park Service (primary operative party), the Library of Congress (archival party), and the American Institute of Architects and American Society of Civil Engineers, respectively (consulting parties). The Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) was instituted in 1969 as a separate but parallel program to HABS in recognition of the need to record the history of America's industrial and engineering achievements.

The Historic American Buildings Survey gained renewed life after the Second World War when the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 was enacted, and the United States joined with the world community in the inventorying and conservation of its architectural patrimony. HABS became a statutory part of the national preservation program and was given responsibility for setting recording standards and assisting governmental agencies with the recording of landmark properties.

The "Bible" of HABS recording has been Harley J. McKee's Recording Historic Buildings (GPO, 1970), now out of print and being revised. HABS Standards have included specifications for the recording materials, paper, sheet sizes, title blocks, graphics and delineation standards, historic documentation standards, and photographic standards for archival purposes as well as for pictorial values. The best HABS drawings are works of art, worthy of display for their beauty of delineation and draftsmanship.

Until the mid 1970s, nearly all HABS projects were funded by the National Park Service, usually with the cooperation of the affected agency and a local school of architecture. Until recently, the Pacific Northwest lacked an architecture school with a comprehensive and participating program in architectural preservation. Therefore, few full-documentation HABS measured drawing projects were conducted in Oregon after the 1930s. Most of the post-War HABS and HAER activities have been in the East, South, or Southwest, where there were more business and institutional supporters. Except in cases involving federally-owned properties, recording projects now are almost entirely funded by private and local public money.

The Thomas Kay Woolen Mill measured drawing project of 1968, the Oriental Theater photographic recording project of 1969, and the Jacksonville, Oregon, photo-data recording project of 1971 -- each arranged by former HABS Chief James C. Massey, are the only professional team recording projects to have been undertaken by HABS in Oregon between the work of the 1930s and the 1981

Columbia River Highway recording project. All of the other Oregon projects post-dating the 1934-1937 period have been mitigation projects involving some drawings or the collection of existing drawings along with limited photographic documentation to record existing conditions at the site.

Measured drawings of the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill buildings in Salem, which date from 1896, were produced by Salem architects James E. Hanns and William Lindburg. Because original plans of the manufactory no longer exist, the record drawings by Hanns and Lindburg proved valuable in subsequent restoration efforts. Black and white photographs of the Oriental Theater in Portland were produced for the record by Salem photographer Lyle Winkle before the elaborate 1927 motion picture palace was demolished in 1970. Historical data reports accompanying the visual records of either project were prepared by Elisabeth Walton Potter.

Of the total of 128 Oregon buildings and structures entered in the 1983 HABS-HAER catalog, 69 (over half) were recorded in the 1971 Jacksonville survey. Jacksonville's recording included an experimental project by the National Park Service's noted architectural photographer, Jack Boucher. For the Jacksonville project, Boucher tested the application of large format color photography for recording historic buildings. Black and white photography has been the preferred medium for documenting the appearance of historic landmarks because of its greater archival stability. Color photography was seen as having reached a level of photographic permanence which appeared to make it an alternative to the use of black and white films and papers. In addition, color photography could record the use of color on the buildings in a full architectural context. Previously, the recording of color treatment had been limited to written notations with reference to Munsell System color numbers in order to key the color to a location on the building. Color photography, on the other hand, shows the precise location and extent of color and gives an approximation of the overall effect of color on the building.

Marion Dean Ross, Professor of Architecture Emeritus of the University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts, was the architectural historian who directed the Jacksonville project and provided the documentation for the buildings photographed. Professor Ross and Mr. Boucher were assisted by Christopher Owens, who was a graduate student in American studies at George Washington University at the time of the project.

The 1980-1981 Columbia River Highway recording project, entered into the HABS-HAER record in the fall of 1983, was sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Region of the National Park Service in cooperation with private organizations and public agencies in Oregon. Project director, T. Allan Comp of the Pacific Northwest Region Office, National Park Service, recruited a team of young professionals to study the highway route, its surviving elements and the potential for preservation and development of the highway as an historic resource. The team documented significant elements of the highway by photographs and field notes, and by measured drawings of two of the principal structures on the highway: Vista House on Crown Point and the Moffett Creek Bridge near Bonneville Dam. In addition to the normal recording work, the project produced historic preservation and maintenance recommendations for the highway's structures and the Vista House complex. Many of those

recommendations are now being implemented. The highway is among the first resources of its type to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The records and recommendations resulting from the 1981 HABS-HAER project are playing an important part in current management planning for the entire Columbia Gorge area. (See concluding note for complete list of participants in the project.)

For the most part, however, Oregon HABS-HAER projects since World War II have been undertaken as a result of the impending demolition of the property in compliance with requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Section 106 provides that planners of federally-sponsored undertakings must take into account the effect of an undertaking upon properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. When it is determined that the affected property cannot be preserved, it is possible to destroy the property or substantially alter it after it has been documented and recorded to HABS or HAER standards, as deemed applicable by the State Historic Preservation Office, the federal agency involved in the project and the National Park Service Regional Office. The records of the Chemawa Indian School buildings, Salem, and the Hotel Lenox, City Stable No. 2, and U. S. Veterans Administration Hospital buildings, Portland, are examples of such mitigative recording projects.

The recent projects illustrate the range of mitigative documentation to HABS-HAER standards which is possible:

Full documentation including the making of measured drawings and large format photographs.

Partial documentation with the collection of extant construction drawings and historic and recent photographs.

Recordation of a brief historical sketch of the building illustrated with several recent photographs.

National Register listing does not guarantee the preservation of historic properties, and it is the purpose of HABS and HAER to record significant landmarks before they are lost.

The initial HABS recording project stimulated interest in Oregon's pioneer buildings. The activities of HABS District Officer Jamieson K. Parker and his field teams were reported in several articles in the Oregon Journal (April 15 and 29, 1934). During the same period, feature articles on several of the buildings selected for recordation were published. In addition to the official documents of the recording project itself, the field notes, office files, and reminiscences of the participants and their families, including especially Mrs. Parker and Acting District Officer Richard Sundeleaf, provide a view of the conditions of life in rural Oregon in the 1930s, that brief time just before the revolutionary changes which followed the War.

The personal benefits to the participants in the recording work of the 1930s varies depending on who is being interviewed. Mrs. Parker remembers

that the HABS work ". . . saved our lives." Mr. and Mrs. Parker had been married ten years and had small children. Mr. Parker's promising architectural practice had evaporated in the Depression. Architect Richard Sundeleaf, on the other hand, remembers that his practice was still active, and that the HABS work was just another job to him, not a lifesaver. For Sundeleaf, the Oregon recording project of 1934-1937 was an interlude. Its participants returned to other work as soon as the project was completed.

Richard Sundeleaf provides us with the most colorful description of how the teams worked. He remembers how they traveled together in Parker's car, or later in Sundeleaf's Ford touring car, sometimes with family members making the work a recreational outing as well. The houses being recorded and their inhabitants were often in deplorable condition. In addition to the personal hazards from deteriorated structures, the teams often had to contend with ornery people, loose animals, filth, and other conditions of poverty. At the same time, Sundeleaf remembers that some of the inhabitants of the houses did their best to show hospitality and dignity under the most trying conditions; and the recording team members and historic house occupants often shared their meals together and established friendships.

No matter that the moment of the 1934 HABS recording project in Oregon did not exert any significant influence on Oregon architecture until years later. Six years of world war postponed, but did not erase, the effects of the work of the Depression-era architects and delineators. Documentation of Oregon's significant historic buildings was begun, and the information was now available for use by the public, scholars and architects alike. Most of the leading architects of Oregon had employed the Colonial style to some extent in their work before the War, along with other period styles which comprised the design palette of a practicing architect in the 1930s and 1940s. The availability of HABS data and the publicity given to its gathering certainly had some influence on post-War architecture and the rise of a Pacific Northwest Regional Style. HABS influences may be seen in the return to the simple box forms and proportions used in the pioneer buildings and in the change to weatherboard siding and board and batten exteriors of the kind found on the cabins and houses of the pioneers.

Post-War architectural history, as taught at the University of Oregon by Professor Marion Dean Ross to a new generation of architects, drew heavily on the resources of the HABS work of 1934 and instilled in the students an appreciation of the early architecture of the Pacific Northwest. Pre-War architecture had looked almost exclusively to the East Coast, the South, and to Europe for its inspirations. The forms and methods of construction of our pioneer farmhouses and barns were found to offer the means for realizing Modern Architecture using the Northwest's abundant wood materials. The resulting synthesis of traditional wooden building forms and materials and the International Modern Style has been dominant in Oregon for forty years.

Other fields of education, specifically, the arts and material culture, have benefited from the HABS work. The pioneer houses which were identified and recorded form the core of our understanding of early Oregon architecture. Those which have been preserved remain available for the instruction and enjoyment of all. Now, with the addition of engineering works under the HAER

recording program, we are learning about Oregon's accomplishments during the later years of the nineteenth century Industrial Revolution. The inventorying of Oregon's early industrial and engineering works of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries is showing us how the infrastructure of our modern cities was built.

Perhaps the training of younger architects, historians, landscape architects, engineers, photographers, and archeologists, representing the whole spectrum of disciplines found on a recording team, is the principal benefit of the continuing HABS-HAER program. The team which undertook the Columbia River Highway survey and recording project under National Park Service direction in 1981 was just such an interdisciplinary team. It involved senior professionals, students at the graduate school level, and members of local governments, businesses, and the public. The team members received training in management, field work, landscaping and botany, geology, architecture and architectural conservation, and history. The activities of the project involved drafting, delineation, photography, interviewing and documentation, and production work for publication. The final report on the Columbia River Highway Project was the thesis project of its team leader, Diane Ochi, candidate for a Master's degree in landscape architecture at the University of California. The series of meetings wherein the team presented the historical significance of the resource to the public was an additional benefit.

Nationally, summer HABS and HAER recording projects have been the primary adjunct educational activities of students of cultural resource management, architectural history and conservation. As the HABS project of the 1930s demonstrated, and as the subsequent recording projects have demonstrated also, there is ample need for documentation and recording work in Oregon as well as for the training it provides. Records are inadequate for most of our historic landmarks. If almost any landmark were to be destroyed or severely damaged today, it would be nearly impossible to accurately restore or reconstruct the building from the available records. Precise information about the building is permanently lost without prior recordation.

One benefit of the HABS and HAER recording program that is worth special mention is its relatively low cost as compared to the production of data of similar quality obtained from private consultants. The HABS and HAER teams do their work for substantially less than any architecture or engineering firm would charge to do the same documentation and production of measured drawings. Elsewhere in the country, a HABS project has been used by an owner and his architect to obtain accurate measured drawings for restoration of a building which was adapted for modern use. In this case, the owner commissioned a HABS project and, in exchange, received a duplicate set of the measured drawings for use by his architect, who then proceeded with the planned restoration and rehabilitation work. Of course, the expenses for commissioning the HABS recording were charged as business expenses.

Having duplicate copies and microfilm copies of Library of Congress HABS and HAER project documents available in Oregon repositories helps those of us who have been privileged to work on the restoration of our pioneer buildings. Despite occasional minor errors in the record drawings and documents, they

provide the best record of the condition of a given building at the time it was recorded and are an invaluable guide for restoration. Oregon's State-designated HABS-HAER repositories are the Oregon Historical Society in Portland and the University of Oregon Library in Eugene.

Both of the Oregon HABS-HAER repositories are affiliated with the Cooperative Preservation of Architectural Records (COPAR) program of the Library of Congress. Materials in the cooperating libraries consist of original drawings and prints by architects for their buildings, photographs, other office documents and correspondence by the architects and their firms. Such collections not only make it easier to learn about the history of architecture and building practices in Oregon, but they make it much easier to preserve, restore and adapt historic buildings, especially when original drawings are available for reference. As of 1983, copies of all HABS and HAER project documents pertaining to Oregon properties are being deposited in the state's co-equal repositories.

Your attention is called to the availability of the new, comprehensive catalog of HABS and HAER documents in the Library of Congress. Entitled Historic America, the catalog was compiled by the National Park Service and Library of Congress and published in 1983 in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of HABS. Copies may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. Reference to this catalog will greatly facilitate ordering duplicate copies of the record documents for any of the included buildings. The catalog entry data is maintained in a computer and will be revised regularly. The National Park Service plans to have terminals for the HABS-HAER catalog in each of its regional offices for better access to information on historic American buildings.

Having begun as a combined architectural history and emergency architectural employment project in the 1930s, the Historic American Buildings Survey is now an important part of the conservation program for Oregon landmarks. It is both an educational program for student architects and an increasingly valuable resource for those who undertake the restoration and rehabilitation of historic buildings.

Note: Following is the complete list of project personnel for the 1981 Columbia River Highway Project.

Field Team

Diane Ochi, Field Director/Landscape Architect
Nina Rappaport, Architectural Historian
Bill Manlove, Historian
Diana L. Ross, Landscape Architect
Randall R. Knox, Landscape Architect
Ana Beth Koval, Architectural Supervisor
Patricia Fletcher, Architectural Assistant

National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region
T. Allan Comp, Ph.D., Project Director
Stephanie Toothman, Ph.D., Historian

Oregon Department of Transportation, State Highway Division
Dwight A. Smith, Bridge Inventory Project Manager

A HISTORY OF HABS AND HAER IN OREGON
1933-1983

A PROGRAM IN OBSERVANCE OF
THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF
THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ADDENDUM

To be more nearly complete, our discussion of the Historic American Buildings Survey in Oregon to the present day should include mention of two related methods of documentation employed by the National Park Service, The American Institute of Architects and the Library of Congress in the 1950s and 1960s.

The Historic American Buildings Inventory was developed as a short-form method of recordation aimed at identifying threatened buildings of significance and determining priorities for higher levels of documentation. Numerous single-page HABI forms were completed by Oregon architects and students of architecture between 1954 and 1965. These included forms prepared in 1954, 1959 and 1965, respectively, on the United States Courthouse, Custom House and Post Office in Portland, the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill in Salem, and various buildings in the historic gold mining community of Jacksonville in southern Oregon. Each of the named properties became the object of more detailed documentation under HABS auspices.

A format for detailed descriptive and historical documentation was provided by the HABS Photograph-Data Book Report. In 1964 Charles S. Pope, Supervising Architect of Historic Structures for the National Park Service Western Regional Office of Design and Construction in San Francisco, arranged for preparation of five sustained Photograph-Data Book Reports by the following authors.

- ORE 49 - Peter Britt House, Jacksonville; Janice Gould Houghton.
- ORE 50 - Villard Hall, University of Oregon, Eugene; Dr. Joseph Baird, University of California.
- ORE 51 - New Market Block and Theatre, Portland Skidmore/Old Town Historic District, Portland; Dr. Joseph Baird, University of California.
- ORE 52 - Pioneer Post Office, Portland; (United States Courthouse, Custom House and Post Office), Dr. Joseph Baird, University of California.
- ORE 53 - Deady Hall, University of Oregon, Eugene; Dr. Joseph Baird, University of California.

With the exception of the Peter Britt House, which had been destroyed by fire in 1960, each of the subject properties in the HABS Photograph-Data Book Report series subsequently achieved National Historic Landmark status, either individually or as a component of an historic district. Mrs. Houghton's report on the Rural Gothic house of pioneer photographer-horticulturist Peter Britt was accompanied by record drawings as well as historic views of the vanished resource. Dr. Baird's reports on the United States Courthouse, Custom House and Post Office (1869-1875) and the distinguished early buildings of the University of Oregon formed the basis of National Historic Landmark studies completed by the National Park Service in 1977.

Elisabeth Walton Potter
Alfred M. Staehli
October 24, 1984

ILLUSTRATIONS

HABS 50TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM CASE DISPLAYS AND EXHIBIT PANELS

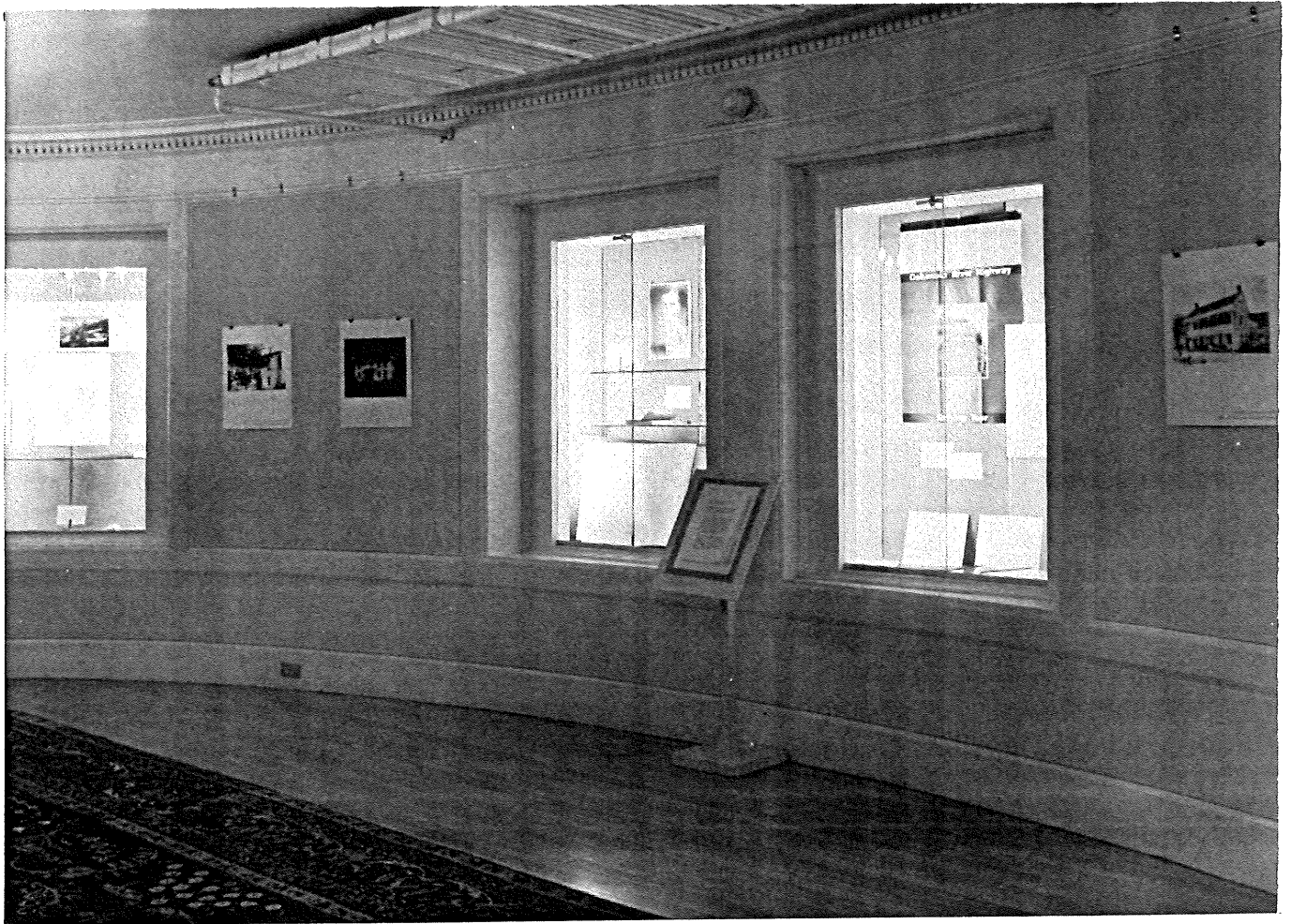
Pittock Mansion, Portland, Oregon, September 15 - December 4, 1983

Exhibit coordinated and installed by Alfred M. Staehli, Program Chairman

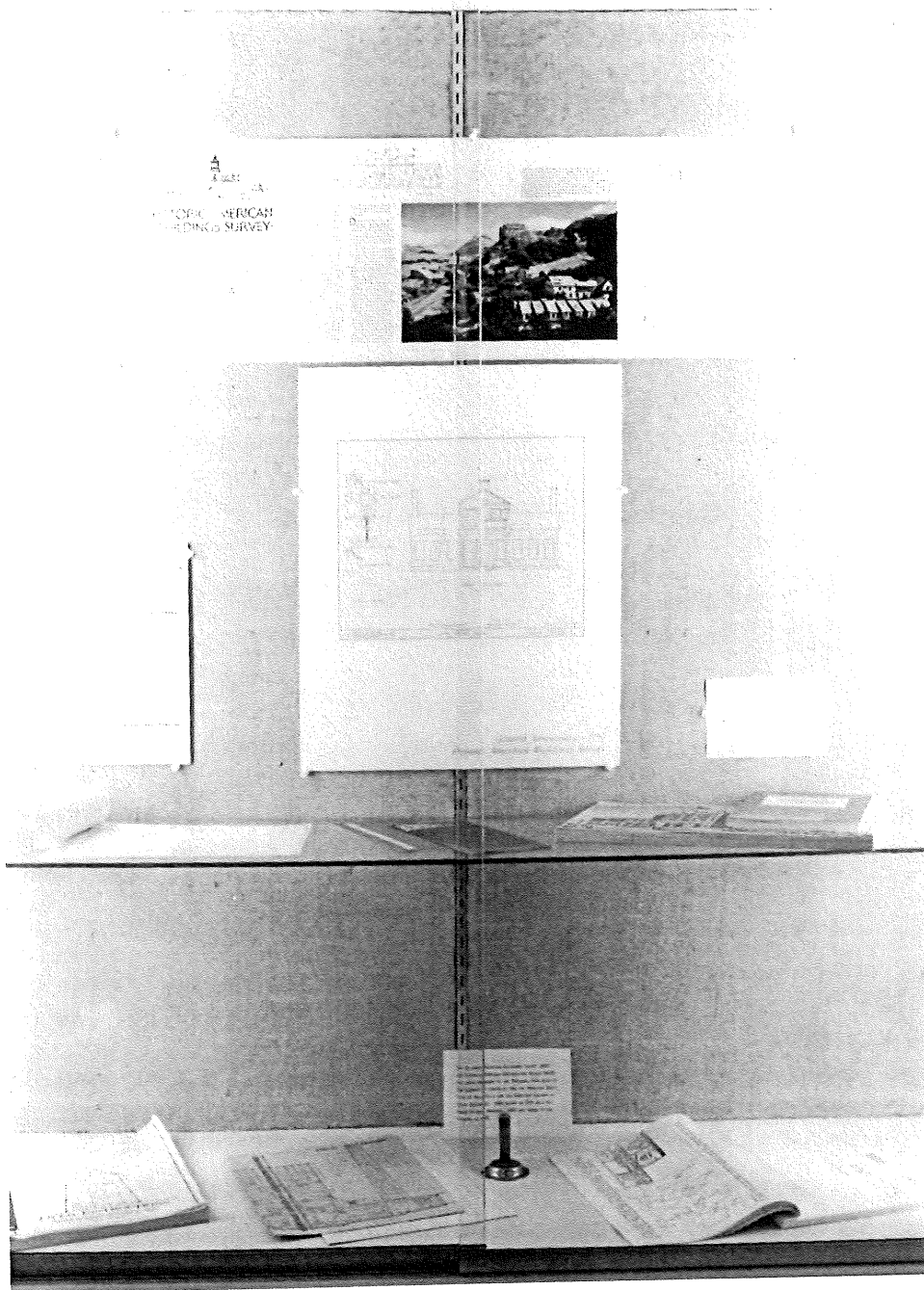
Exhibit panels contributed by HABS/HAER,
National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior



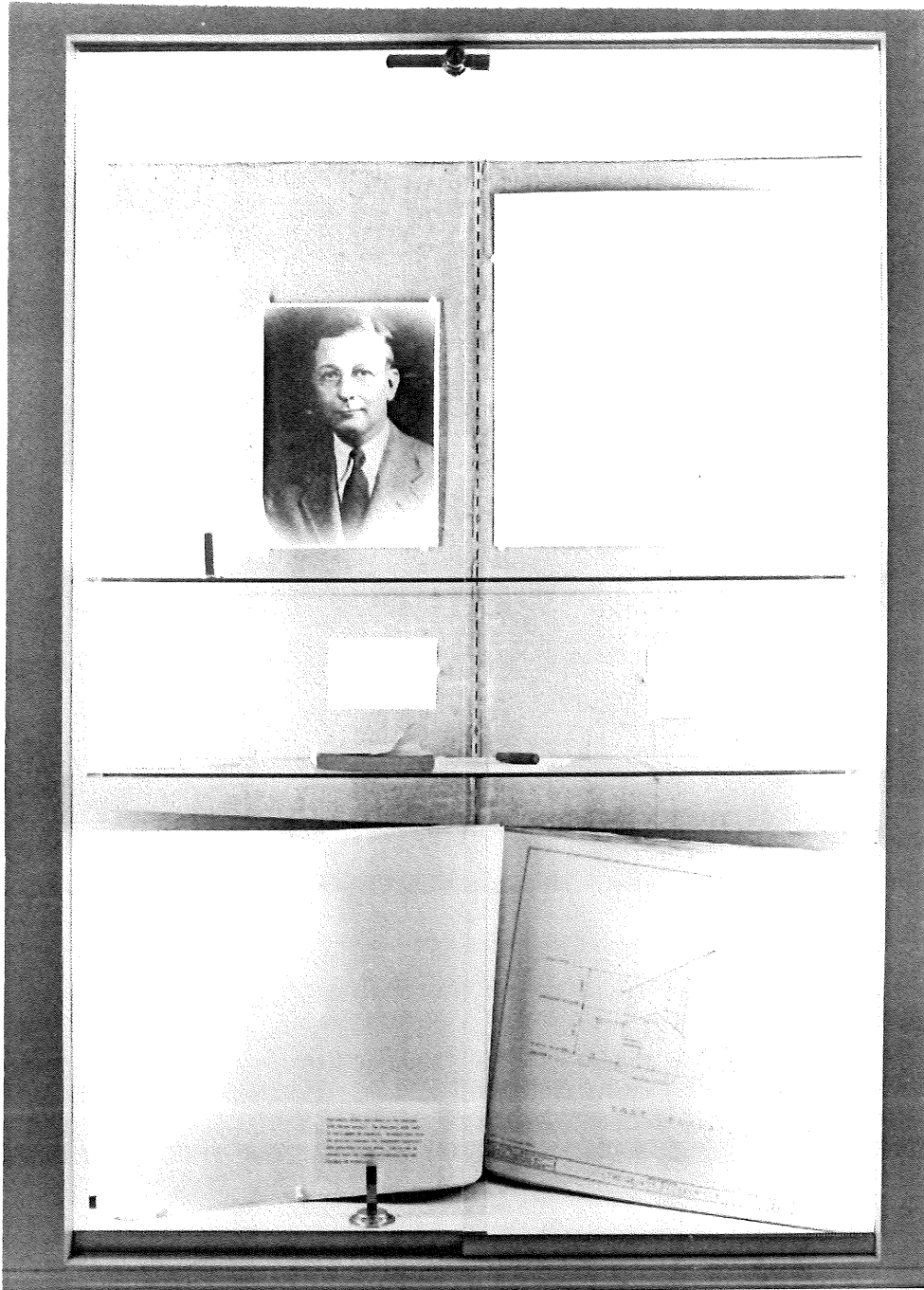
1. HABS photographs and photo-copies of finished drawings of the period 1934-1937 are exhibited.



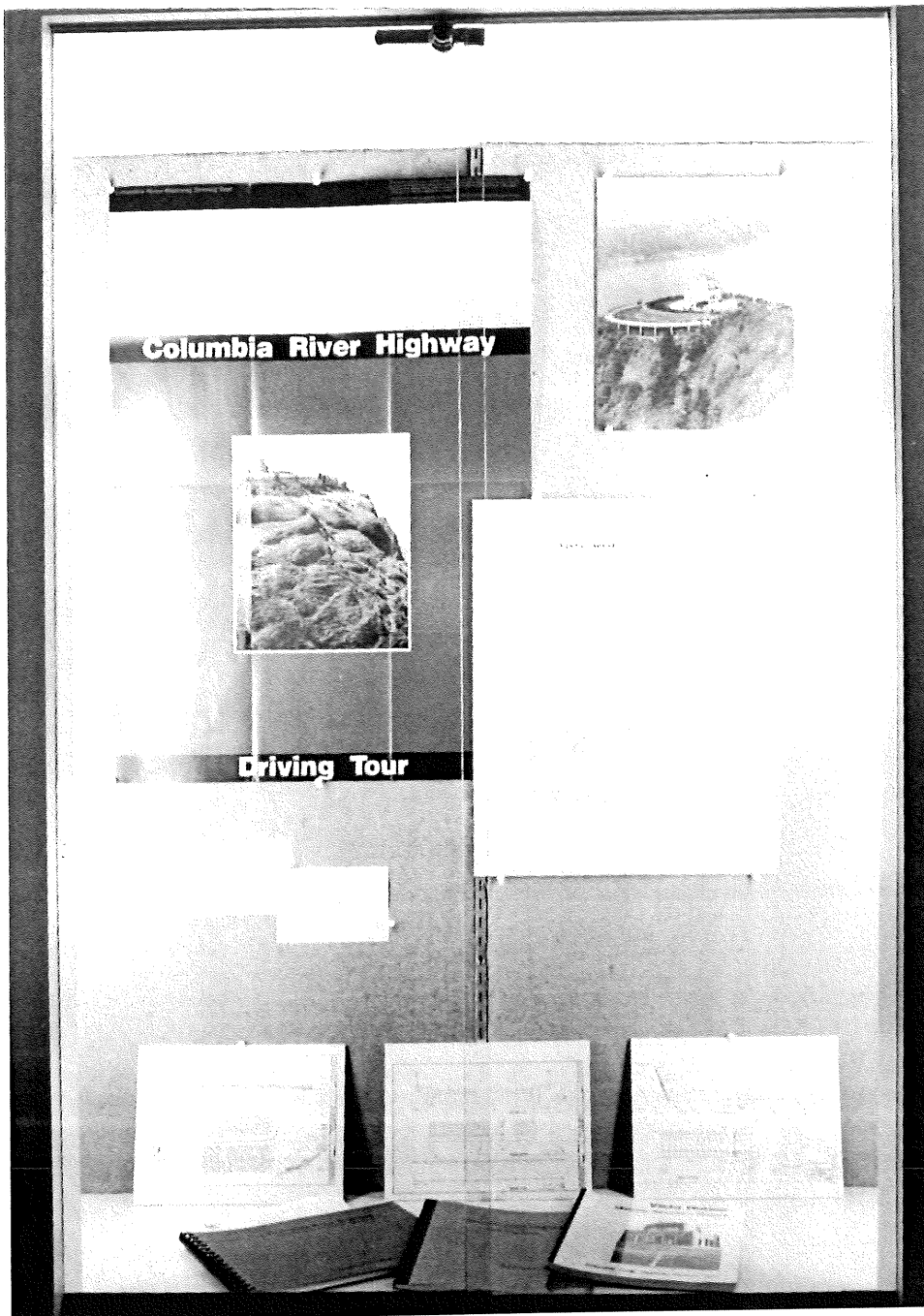
2. Display cases contain HABS/HAER memorabilia. Hanging panels exhibit 1934 HABS photographs.



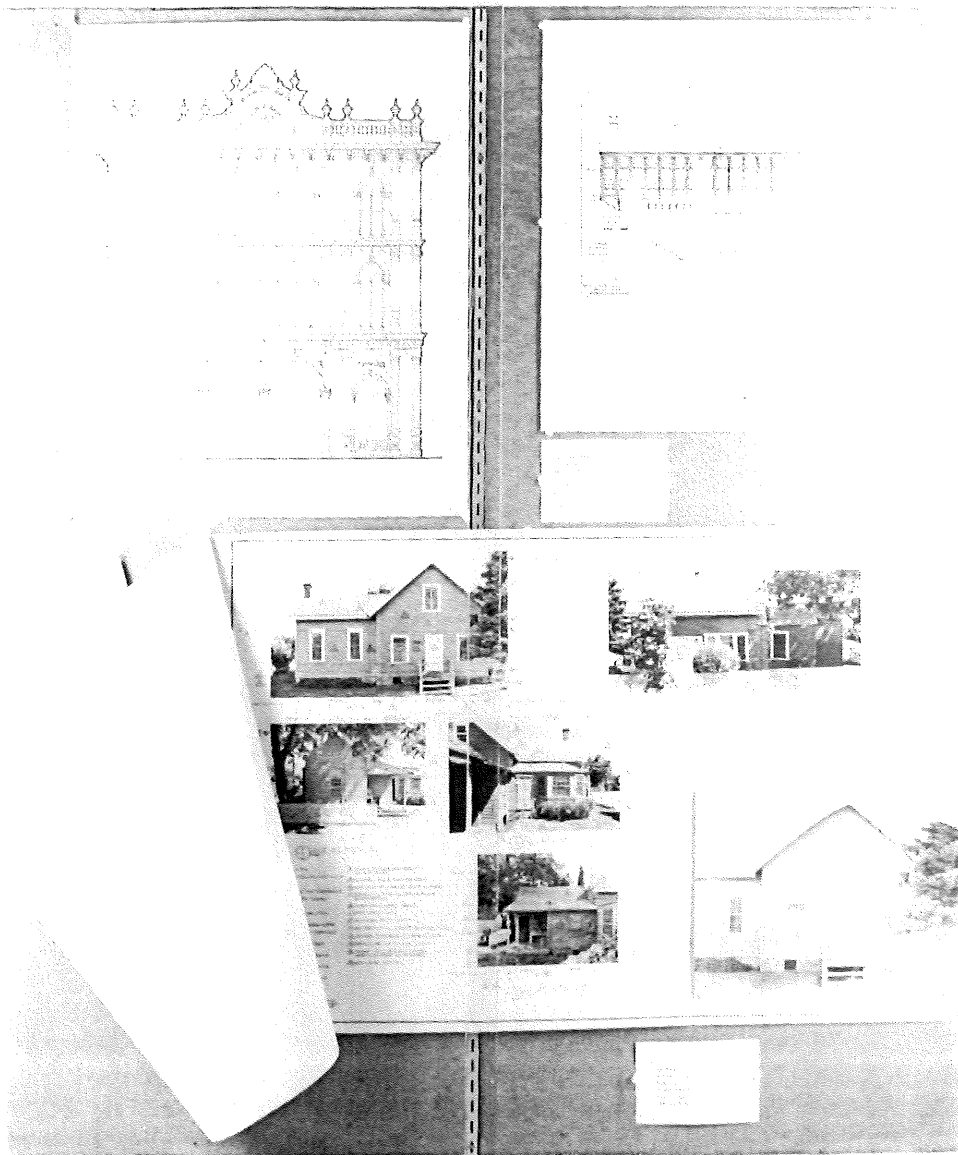
3. Displayed are HABS/HAER pamphlets, circulars and documentation handbooks.



4. Display case includes photographic portrait of HABS District Officer Jamieson Parker and a bound volume of finished drawings of Oregon buildings measured and drawn in the period 1934-1937.



5. Products of the 1981 HABS/HAER Columbia River Highway Project include a driving tour brochure, measured drawings and a historic structures report pertaining to Vista House on Crown Point.



6. Examples of building recordation methods displayed include (upper right) 1968 HABS elevation drawing of the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill in Salem.