

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Oregon
COUNTY:	Clackamas
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	FEB 5 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Willamette Falls Locks**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: *W Bank of Willamette River*

CITY OR TOWN: **West Linn - Oregon City** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **1st (Oregon)**

STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **41** COUNTY: **Clackamas** CODE: **005**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

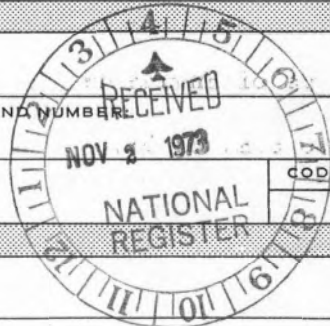
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____			

**4. AGENCY**

**U.S. Government (Corps of Engineers)**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ STREET AND NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CODE \_\_\_\_\_



STATE: Oregon

COUNTY: Clackamas

ENTRY NUMBER: FEB 5 1974

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**2850 S.E. 82nd Ave**

CITY OR TOWN: **Portland** STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **41**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**State Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings**

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Parks and Recreation Section - State Highway Division**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**State Highway Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Salem** STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **41**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Willamette Falls Locks complex is comprised of five locks, the lower four locks being 210 feet long by 40 feet wide, and the guard lock (furthest upstream) 1200 feet by 40 feet. Canal approaches on each end of the complex extend total length of the Locks to 3,240 feet. The Locks vary in depth from 19 feet to 40 feet with a total vertical lift of 41 to 50 feet. The entire complex uses native stone (in cuts) or heavy stone work (in fill areas). The original cut masonry varies in thickness from five feet to 15 feet and remains remarkably water-tight. The walls inside the locks are covered with wooden boards, which are in good repair, but constantly require maintenance. These boards protect the traffic and masonry from each other.

The original gates at the ends of each lock were constructed from wooden members, however have since been replaced with hydrologically-operated metal gates with mechanical wickets which once were used at the Celilo Locks. Essentially, the only changes in the original Locks result from the installation new gates and power-wrenches which replaced hand-operated capstans.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1873 - Present**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic            | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Willamette Falls Locks were constructed in the later half of the 19th Century to satisfy the growing demand of shipping on the Willamette River. Before the locks were built, Willamette Falls and the Clackamas Rapids caused hazardous navigation and resulted in expensive portages on river traffic. Farming and shipping interests were especially concerned in reducing the cost of transportation from the Willamette Valley to Portland. The increasing frequency of steamships also added to the feasibility of the locks.

On New Years Day 1873, the locks opened and are still operating today. Although the Willamette Falls Locks were not a successful financial venture from tolls, they enabled shipping on the Willamette River to compete with the railroad. This competition resulted in considerable lower freight rates than would normally have occurred.

Since their opening, the Locks changed ownership several times until they were purchased by the Federal Government in 1913 and are now operated by the Corps of Engineers. Average annual traffic exceeds one million tons over the last ten years. Most of the use is attributed to the movement of rafted logs, however, other forms of commerce and pleasure craft account for considerable use at no expense to traffic.

The planning, construction, and use of the Locks spans a dynamic period in history when river navigation served as a primary "lifeline". The massive stone-work reflects the construction methods before concrete technology developed to its present use.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Journal of Oregon State Senate  
 Tuesday, October 8, 1872 p. 307-309

Journal of Oregon State House of Representatives  
 Wednesday, February 15, 1893 p. 840-842

Clark, R.C. Willamette Valley, Oregon  
 (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Co. 1927) p. 474-475

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	45°	21'	26"	122°	36'	49"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 6

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



10/  
 530290  
 5022500  
 HF

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Chuck Mason, Architect** DATE: **9 Aug 73**

BUSINESS ADDRESS: **Corps of Engineers**

STREET AND NUMBER: **2850 S.E. 82 St.** PHONE: **503-777-4441 ext. 346**

CITY OR TOWN: **Portland** STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **41**

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:  
 Yes  
 No  
 None

*Richard G. Leverty*  
 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is  National  State  Local

*Richard G. Leverty* 17 Sep 73  
 Federal Representative Signature Date  
 Principal Recreation Planner,  
 Title OCE

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

*A. B. ...*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *8/5/74*

ATTEST:  
*W. ...*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: *1-30-74*

Willamette Falls Locks - Oregon

WORKING NUMBER

11. 2. 73. 3880

Clackamas

TECH REVIEW

Photos 1

Maps 1

74001680

CONTROL REVIEW

cm  
11.2.  
73

OK

HISTORIAN

Accept  
12-27-73  
C.S.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST *J. HARR* Invented by *EMER*

Accept  
Pub  
12/28/73

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF *Good photograph*

Accept  
K Cole  
12/18/73

BRANCH CHIEF

accept  
card  
1-2574

KEEPER

*W*  
1/31/74

National Register write-up 3-20-74

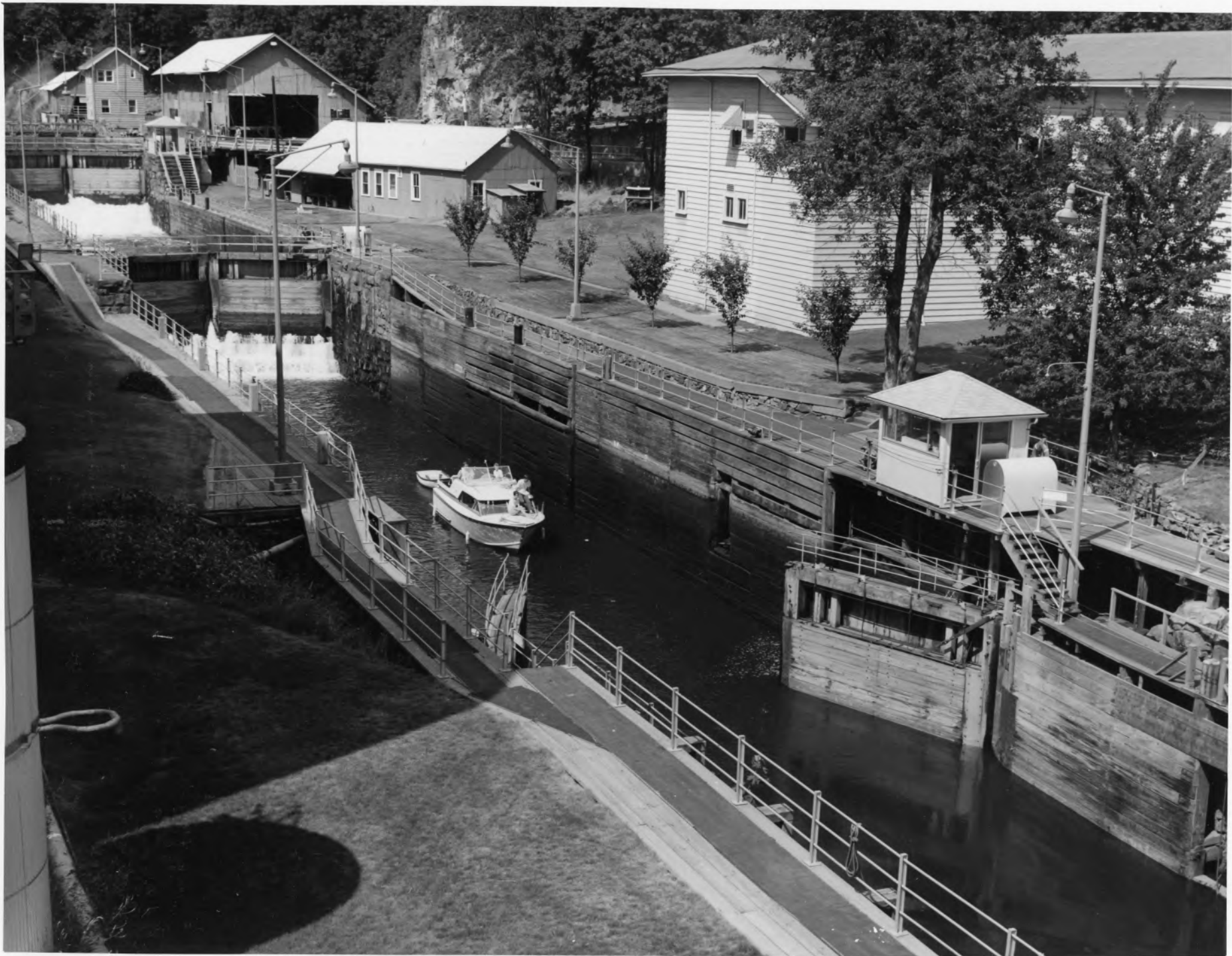
Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Register entry 4-2-74

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered

FEB 5 1974



NPS Number

2.574

Title:

Willamette Falls

locks

Loc.

Clackamas Co., Oregon

① (West of town - Oregon City)

View from downstream,

looking upstream at

locks 2, 3, and 4

USA -

Photo credit - Corps of Engineers

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

mes







1 ■ Willamette Falls Locks, CLATSOP COUNTY, OREGON









ALICE 1872



3

Willawette Falls Locks

CLATSOP COUNTY, OREGON





Steamer "GOVERNOR GROVER" - MAR. 21. 1873.  
1873 - 1880





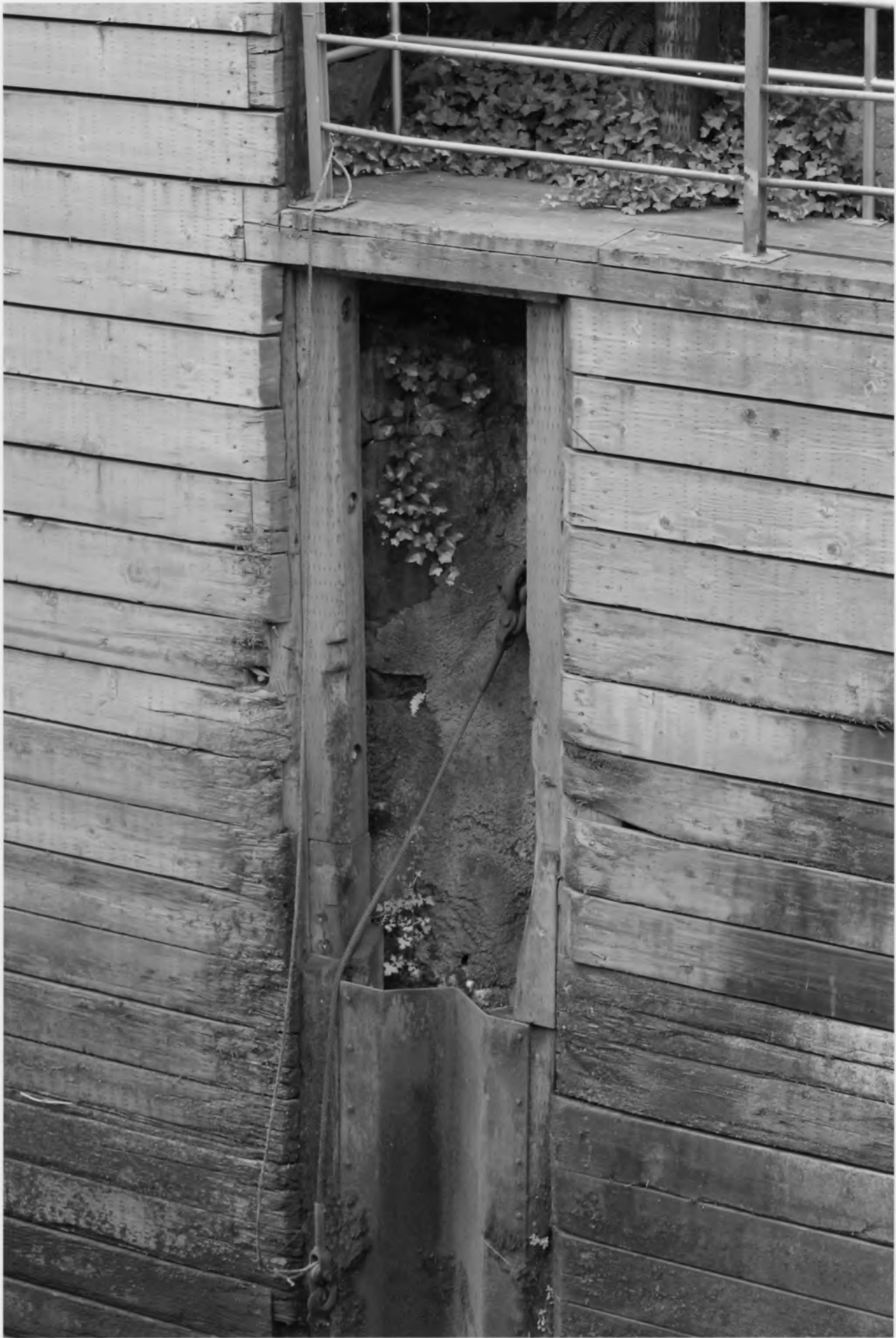
GRAHAMONA going thru locks at Oregon City. Paper mill to the right. Boarding house for mill workers to the left.





5 Camp Willamette Falls Locks, CLATSOP COUNTY, OREGON







6

Willamette Falls Locks, CLATSOP COUNTY, OREGON







17

Willamette Falls Locks

CLACKAMAS COUNTY, OREGON

















10 Willamette Falls Locks  
 WEST LINN, CLATSOP CO., OR







Willamette Falls Locks  
 WEST LINN, CLATSOP COUNTY, OR













Willamette Falls Locks  
WEST LINN, CLATSOP CO., OR







Willamette Falls Locks  
 14 WEST LINN, CLATSOP COUNTY, OR







HP Premium Plus

HP Premium Plus

HP Premium Plus

HP Premium Plus



HP Premium Plus

HP Premium Plus

HP Premium Plus

HP Premium Plus

HP Premium Plus

HP Premium Plus

HP Premium Plus

HP Premium Plus

Willawette Falls Locks  
WEST LINN, CLACKAMAS CO., OR

15





SCMCS

 **Willamette Falls Locks**  
Historical Information Center

1911

1911

WILLAMETTE FALLS LOCKS



16

Willamette Falls Locks  
Clackamas Co., OR









Willamette Falls Locks

17 WEST LINN, CLATSOP CO, OR



# The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Welcomes You To Willamette Falls Locks

YOU ARE  
HERE



Willamette Falls Locks  
The Nation's Oldest Locks

Willamette Falls Locks are a National Historic Landmark. They were built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1914. The locks are a major engineering achievement and are still in use today. They are a testament to the Corps' ability to build and maintain infrastructure that has stood the test of time.





Willamette Falls Locks  
Clackamas Co., OR



EXIT



### River Traffic Passes Into The 1900's



...

...





19



Willawette Falls Locks  
Clackamas Co., OR





Willamette Falls Locks  
Clackamas Co., OR







Willamette Falls Locks  
Clackamas Co., OR



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**PROPERTY MAP FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

STATE Oregon	
COUNTY Clackamas	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>FEB 5 1974</b>	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Willamette Falls Locks

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

West Linn - Oregon City

STATE:

Oregon

CODE

41

COUNTY:

Clackamas

CODE

005

**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series (topographic) Oregon City

SCALE:

1:24000

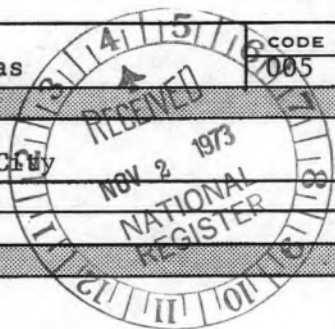
DATE:

1961 revised 1970

**4. REQUIREMENTS**

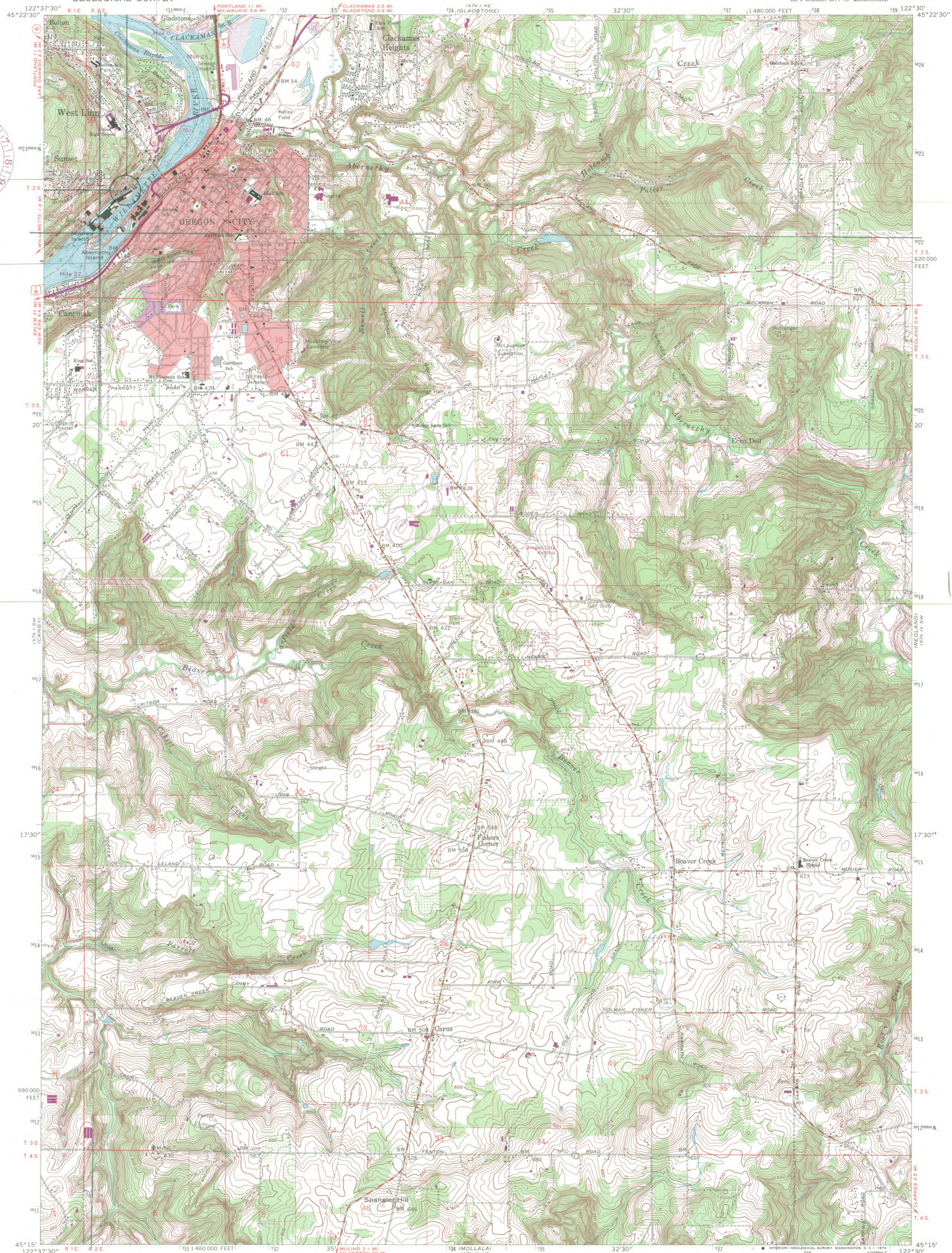
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



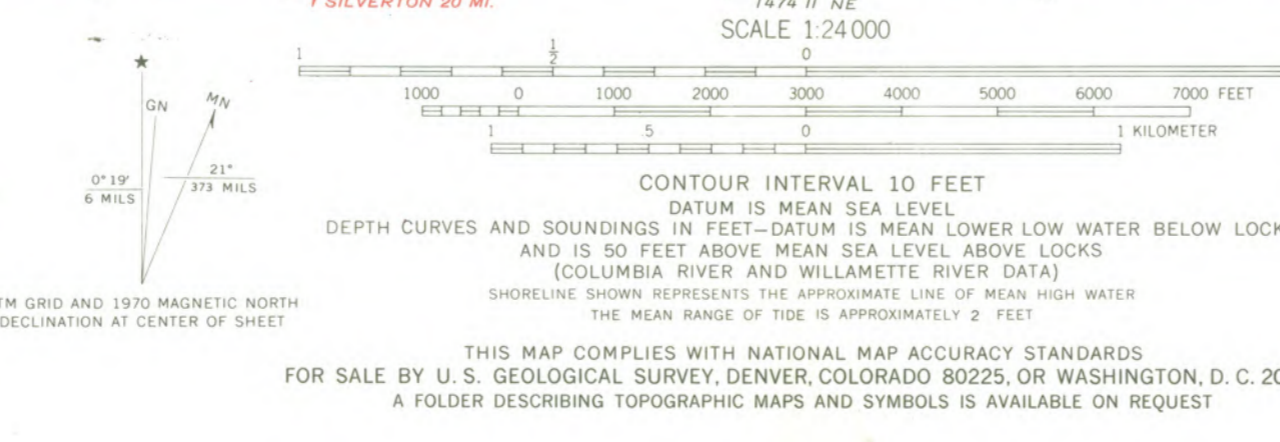
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

OREGON CITY QUADRANGLE  
OREGON—CLACKAMAS CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
SE/4 OREGON CITY 15' QUADRANGLE



10/5 30290  
50 22500

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and State of Oregon  
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1954  
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1960. Field check 1961  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 6171 (1958)  
This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Oregon coordinate system, north zone  
100-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 10, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines

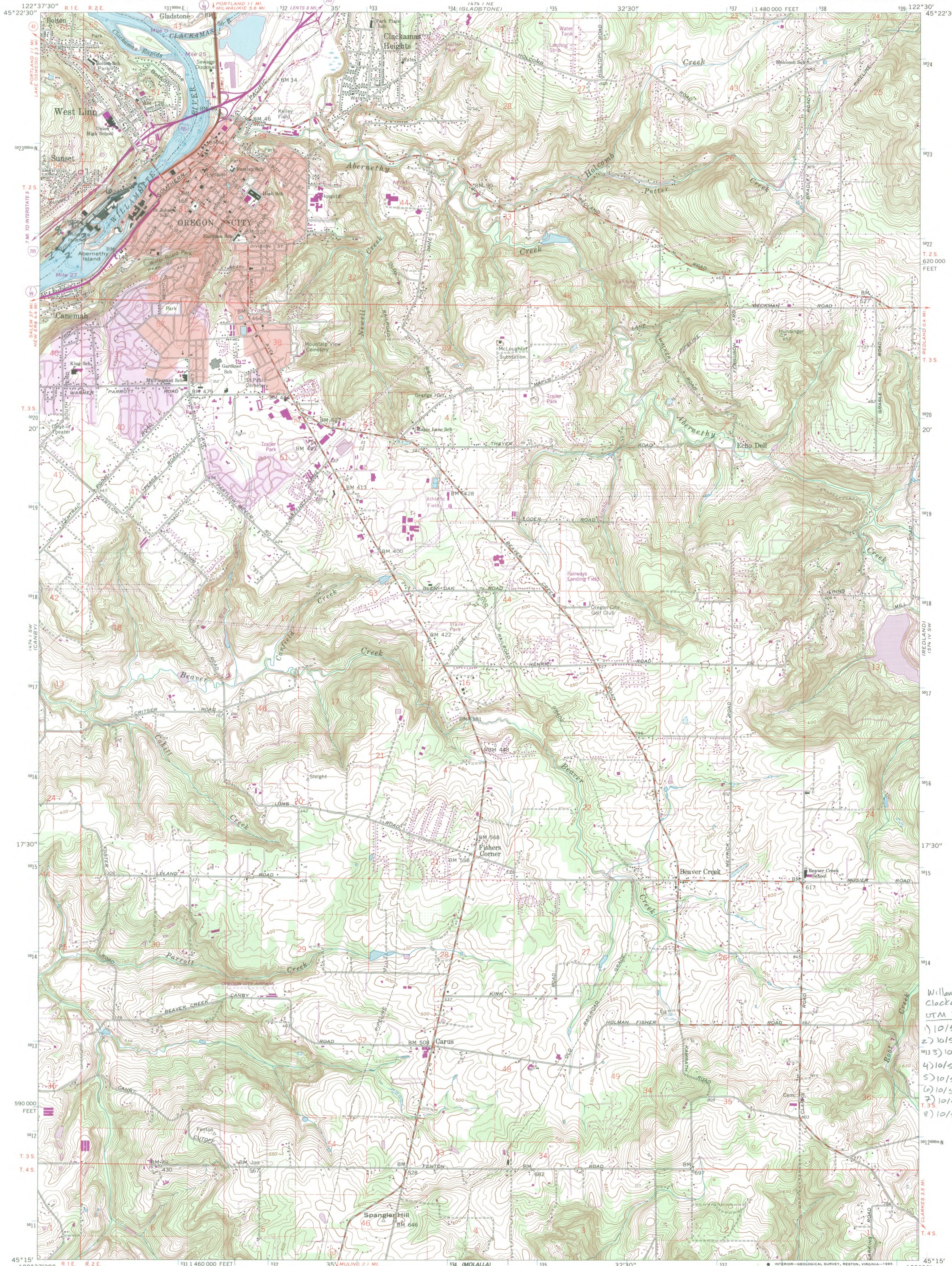


ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———  
Interstate Route ———

OREGON CITY, OREG.  
SE/4 OREGON CITY 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4515—W12230/7.5

1961  
PHOTOREVISED 1970  
AMS 1474 I SE—SERIES V892

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1970. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



Willamette Falls Locks  
Clackamas Co., OR  
UTM References:  
1) 10529567/5021831  
2) 10529637/5021804  
3) 10529835/5022043  
4) 10530175/5022389  
5) 10530461/5022545  
6) 10530141/5022377  
7) 10529672/5022017  
8) 10529625/5021933

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA, USCE, and State of Oregon  
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1954  
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1960. Field check 1961  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS/NOAA Chart 6171 (1958)  
This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Oregon coordinate system, north zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 10, shown in blue  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,  
move the projection lines 22 meters north and  
94 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks  
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines

SCALE 1:24,000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOWER LOW WATER BELOW LOCKS  
AND IS 50 FEET ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL ABOVE LOCKS  
(COLUMBIA RIVER AND WILLAMETTE RIVER DATA)  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty
- Medium-duty
- Light-duty
- Unimproved dirt
- U. S. Route
- State Route
- Interstate Route

OREGON CITY, OREG.  
SE 1/4 OREGON CITY 15' QUADRANGLE  
45122-C5-TF-024

1961  
PHOTO REVISION 1985  
DMA 1474 I SE-SERIES 789

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial  
photographs taken 1981 and other sources  
This information not field checked. Map edited 1985  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban area



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314

IN REPLY REFER TO

DAEN-CWP-V

29 October 1973

Chief of Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240



Dear Sir:

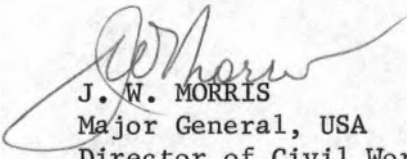
Pursuant to Section 2(a) of Executive Order 11593, there are inclosed executed NPS form 10-306 and accompanying documents nominating the following Federal properties under jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers to the National Register of Historic Places:

Willamette Falls Lock; Clackamas County, Oregon

This nomination has been reviewed by and has the approval of the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Sincerely,

Incl  
As stated

  
J. W. MORRIS  
Major General, USA  
Director of Civil Works

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE OREGON

Date Entered FEB 5 1974

Name

Location

Willamette Falls Locks

West Linn - Oregon City  
Clackamas County

Also Notified

Hon. Mark O. Hatfield  
Hon. Bob Packwood  
Hon. Wendell Wyatt

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. David G. Talbot  
State Parks Superintendent  
300 State Highway Building  
Salem, Oregon 97310

Director, Pacific Northwest Region  
Mr. Allan S. Kerr, Department of Defense

PR

MMott 2/11/74

**Advisory  
Council On  
Historic  
Preservation**

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
LAKE PLAZA SOUTH  
SUITE 616  
44 UNION BLVD  
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO 80228

---

1522 K Street NW.  
Washington D.C.  
20005

*Blackhawk Co,  
Or*

---

April 3, 1980

Mr. Robert P. Flanagan  
Chief, Engineering Division  
Corps of Engineers, Portland District  
Department of the Army  
P. O. Box 2946  
Portland, Oregon 97208

*West Linn, Or*

**COPY**

Dear Mr. Flanagan:

We have received your letter of March 12, 1980, in which you determined that repair and rehabilitation of Lock Chamber No. 1 would have no adverse effect on the Willamette Falls Locks in West Linn, Oregon, a property included in the National Register of Historic Places. The Executive Director objects to your determination because the structure of this very early historic lock will be altered.

Pursuant to Section 800.6(a)(2) of the Council's regulations (36 CFR Part 800), the Executive Director will withdraw this objection if the following condition is met:

Prior to alteration of the Locks the Corps of Engineers will record the Locks so that there will be a permanent record of their existence. The Corps will first contact the National Architectural and Engineering Records (NAER), Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20243, (202) 343-6217, to determine the level of documentation required. All documentation must be accepted by NAER prior to alteration.

If you agree to this condition, please sign on the concurrence line below and return this letter to us. This will then be incorporated into your determination and the Executive Director will withdraw his objection to your determination of no adverse effect.

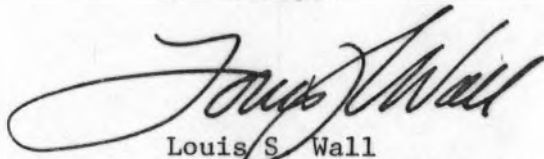
In accordance with Section 800.9 of the Council's regulations, a copy of your determination of no adverse effect, along with supporting documentation and this concurrence, should be included in any assessment or statement prepared for this undertaking in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and should be included in the Corps of Engineers'

Page 2  
Mr. Robert P. Flanagan  
Willamette Falls Locks  
April 3, 1980

records as evidence of compliance with Section 106 of the  
National Historic Preservation Act and the Council's regulations.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Louis S. Wall".

Louis S. Wall  
Chief, Western Division  
of Project Review

I concur:

---



DATE 8-18-81

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

AM  
PM

1. CALL  TO:  FROM (Name)

David Ellis

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

COE 8-423-6440

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Nom. - Willamette Falls Locks, Clackamas Co.  
OR

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

He wanted to know if bldg. adjacent to locks  
are listed.

Answer: No, from all evidence in the nom. documentation  
<sup>no</sup> VBD, 1974 listing. COE nom.  
Reason for his concern: Corps wants to  
demolish warehouse next to locks & alter  
some other nearby structures.

They are considering amending boundary  
to include other structures.

I advised him to consult w/ Adv. Council  
ASAP ~~to~~ because demolition of warehouse  
probably will have effect on Locks & it  
would not be necessary to list warehouse  
only to then demolish it.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

Saxe

TITLE

OFFICE