

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received MAR 30 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Vista Avenue Viaduct

and/or common Vista Avenue Bridge

2. Location

street & number SW Vista Avenue crossing of U. S. Highway 26 N/A Not for publication

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

state Oregon code 41 county Multnomah code 051

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name City of Portland

street & number 1220 SW Fifth Avenue

city, town Portland N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97204

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Multnomah County Courthouse

street & number 1021 SW Fourth Avenue

city, town Portland state Oregon 97204

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Resource Inventory City of Portland has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981-83 federal state county local

depository for survey records Portland Bureau of Planning

city, town Portland state Oregon 97204

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Vista Avenue Viaduct was designed in 1926 by Fred Fowler, a 1912 graduate of the University of Oregon who started as a draftsman for the City of Portland and became City Bridge Engineer in 1921. Parker and Banfield were the contractors for the bridge construction, having been awarded the contract for a \$170,000 bid. The structure currently retains most of its integrity.

The Vista Avenue Viaduct links one of Portland's most prestigious residential areas to the city center, spanning a deep canyon between two hillsides. The setting provides a magnificent, unobstructed view of downtown Portland and majestic Mt. Hood to the east. The westerly view is of Portland's Washington Park and the old Canyon Lane Highway.

The viaduct, or bridge was constructed at the instigation of the Portland Heights residents who sought an aesthetically pleasing structure that was unlike any other in the immediate urban area. An improvement resolution was introduced to the Portland City Council on April 23, 1924, on account of the dangerous condition of the existing bridge and as a response to a petition from the local property owners.

The Vista Avenue Viaduct is typical of popular arched bridges erected during the 1920s and 1930s. It can be compared to the famous Arroyo Seco Bridge in Pasadena, California, and the Dog Creek Bridge in Redding, California. Although showing signs of wear from almost 60 years of use, the Vista Avenue Viaduct is structurally and aesthetically sound.

The bridge is a reinforced, poured in place, concrete structure 489 feet long between abutments. The main span is a deck arch between paired columns 260 feet on centers. The two large arch beams have a spring line dimension of 248 feet and support the deck on smaller paired columns 20 feet 8 inches on center for a total of 12 interior spans. Between the abutments and the main columns the deck is supported 31 feet on centers by three double paired columns on the south and two on the north making four and three spans respectively. Each double column is supported by a single footing except the four main columns whereas the two at each end share large common footings. Each double column is connected at the top by a transom beam with a curved bottom. The double columns in turn are connected by transverse beams that support the longitudinal deck beams. All supports are detailed to resemble Classical columns, with stylized bases and capitals: a treatment which is echoed in the upper deck balustrade. This Classical feeling is enhanced by the use of arched openings between the massive piers and vertical supports and results in an elegant composition that accentuates but does not mask the engineering accomplishment.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet VISTA AVENUE VIADUCT

Item number 7

Page 2

The deck consists of a 37 foot wide roadway flanked by 6 foot sidewalks with ornamental railings for a total overall width of 50 feet. The railing is capped with a balustrade of precast stone surmounted by seven precast stone light posts on each side, five on the railing and one in each end entry. The light posts are topped with octagonal bronze lantern fixtures. Originally, each side also had four 20 foot high trolley wire poles of hollow spun concrete, but these have been removed. The balustrades on each side are divided at the main piers by projecting refuge bays. The bays have precast stone seats with the backs, which form the outside railing, topped by pentangular bronze spikes.

The four corner entries have curved sidewalk entrances with precast stone perimeter seats and poured-in-place concrete planters. Each corner has one of the precast stone light posts as well as one intricate precast illuminated pylon with cut copper grille and orange tinted glass.

When built, the viaduct carried the double track Council Crest street car line. The steel rails were ASCE 7040 section, weighing 70 lbs. to the yard, and resting on steel ties from the Carnegie Steel Company, listed in the catalog as section M24, being 3" in height and weighing 9.5 lbs. to the foot. After the street car line was abandoned, the tracks were paved over with asphalt.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The History of Council Crest Park and Its Surrounding Areas, Paxton, Katherine, unpub.

Southwest Hills Residential League Inventory - Oregon Historical Society

Inventory data sheet, Portland Historic Resource Inventory, City of Portland, Portland City Engineer Records

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Portland, Oregon-Washington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

Zone	Easting			Northing			

B

Zone	Easting			Northing			

C

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D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

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G

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H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification The Vista Avenue Viaduct is located on SW Vista Avenue in the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. It provides the crossing over the Sunset Highway canyon (U.S. Highway 26). The nominated area is the full width of road right-of-way from the distance between abutments and 20 feet additional at either end, containing in all approximately 31,740 sq. ft

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

state None code county code

state None code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cramer, Hulse and Associates

organization Vista Bridge Light Brigade

date September 1, 1983

street & number 208 SW First Avenue, Suite 240

telephone 503/225-1135

city or town Portland

state Oregon 97204

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date March 28, 1984

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 4/26/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Vista Avenue Viaduct
Multnomah County
OREGON

Working No. MAR 30 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85
Date Due: 4/20/84 - 5/14/84
Action: ACCEPT 4-26-84
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance *(in one paragraph)*

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



VISTA AVENUE VIADUCT
SW Vista Av. at US Highway 26
Portland, Multnomah Co., Oregon
1 of 6

Original conceptual sketch, c.1926
Cramer, Hulse & Assoc. photo,
208 SW First Av., Suite 240
Portland, OR 97204

Photo of original artists concept
sketches - circ.1926



VISTA AVE. VIADUCT

VISTA AVENUE VIADUCT
SW Vista Av., at US Highway 26
Portland, Multnomah Co., Oregon
2 of 6

View from the west, 1926
Cramer, Hulse & Assoc. photo
208 SW First Av., Suite 240
Portland, OR 97204

VISTA AVE. VIADUCT Across JeffersonSt. Canyon

Vista Street Bridge, easterly view
circ. 1926 Note: Trolley poles



OFFICIAL
CITY OF PORTLAND, ORE.
PHOTOGRAPH

DATE

DEC 14 1976

VISTA AVENUE VIADUCT
SW Vista Av., at US Highway 26
Portland, Multnomah Co., Oregon
3 of 6

Bridge detail, December, 1976
Cramer, Hulse & Assoc. photo
208 SW First Av., Suite 240
Portland, OR 97204



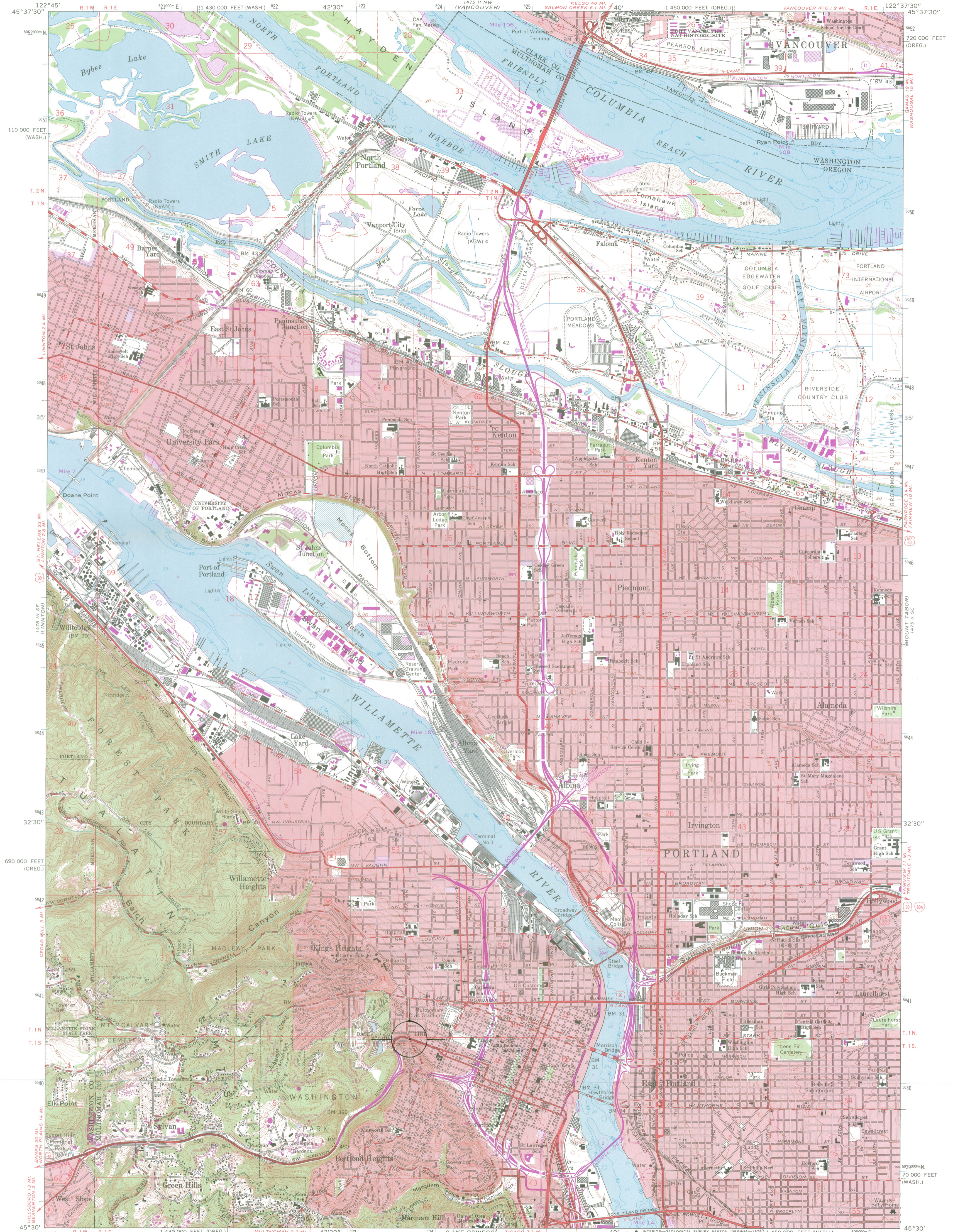
VISTA AVENUE VIADUCT
SW Vista Av., at US Highway 26
Portland, Multnomah Co., Oregon
5 of 6

Upper deck detail, 1983
Kraig Scattarella photo
1320 SW Broadway
Portland, OR 97201

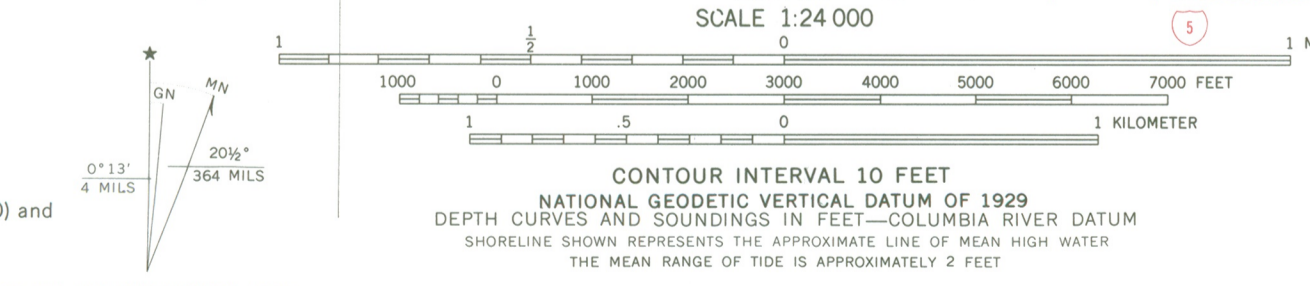


VISTA AVENUE VIADUCT
SW Vista Av., at US Highway 26
Portland, Multnomah Co., Oregon
6 of 6

Upper deck detail, 1983
Kraig Scattarella photo
1320 SW Broadway
Portland, OR 97201



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and State of Oregon
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
and by planimetric surveys. Culture and drainage in part by USC&GS
Aerial photographs taken 1951. Field checked 1954
Selected from aerial photographs taken 1960. Field checked 1961
Revised hydrographic data compiled from NOS/NOAA charts 6155 (1960) and
6156 (1959). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Oregon coordinate system, north zone
and Washington coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 10, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Dashed land lines indicate approximate locations



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—COLUMBIA RIVER DATUM
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2 FEET

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1970 and 1975. This information not field checked
Map edited 1977
PHOTOREVISED 1970 AND 1977
AMS 1475 II SW—SERIES V892