

OREGON CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
CITY OF EUGENE

ADDR: 0 EWEB RESERVOIR

RANKING: Primary
NEIGHBORHOOD: WH
TYPE:

FINAN. STATUS:

HISTORIC NAME: SKINNER BUTTE RESERVOIR

COMMON NAME: SKINNER BUTTE RESERVOIR

CURR. HIST. STATUS:

EARLY AD: 0

OWNER: EWEB

ADDR: 500 E. 4th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401

T/R/S# 17 3 30

MAP NO.: 17033000

TAXLOT: 100

ADD:

BLK: LOT:

ZONING:

PLAN SHAPE: Rectangle

FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Concrete 4"

ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: 8" reinforced concrete w/slab and beams

WALL CONSTRUCTION: poured concrete w/ rubble STRUCTURAL FRAME: Concrete

PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: wooden louvers

EXT. SURFACING MATERIALS: access shaft & pump house = brick w/ gunnite

DECORATIVE FEATURES: pump house = tile work inscription reads: "Skinner

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1926

ORIGINAL USE: Other

PRESENT USE: Other

DATE:

ARCH./BLDR.: B.C. Seydel Co.

ARCH./STYLE: Industrial

Not Known

INTEGRITY: Minor modifications

THEME: 005 000

PROP. GROUP / /

#STORIES: 0.0 BASEMENT (Y/N/?):

OTHER: Butte Reservoir - 1926"

CONDITION: Good

MOVED: N DATE MOVED:

EXT. ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS(DATED): Repairs in 1955, 1993. Access shaft windows removed and bricked up. Modifications to pump house & fence added in 1975.

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: The reservoir is integrated into the hill-side. The basalt slabs are moss & lichen covered. Trees & vegetation exist.

ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: none

KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES: Unknown

GEOG. LOC. & IMMED. SETTING This reservoir is located on the east side of Skinner Butte on the west side of Skinner Loop Rd. close to the summit.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: This reservoir was constructed in 1926, and was the second on this site. The reservoir was excavated out of basalt rock, and its walls and floor are a combination of basalt rubble, concrete and gunnite. The roof over the reservoir is original. Two structures are associated with the reservoir and are included in this inventory. They are the access shaft superstructure located on the "roof" of the reservoir and the pump house structure built into the eastern wall. The visible perimeter walls are created with hand laid slabs of basalt. The roof of the reservoir is surrounded by chain link fence topped with barbed wire.

SOURCES: EWEB Archives: Photo journal of construction - 1924 - 5. Blueprints on microfiche - 1925. Skinner Butte Reservoir File: (includes bid summary, copy of original contract, history of repairs).

ROLL NO.: 26

NEGATIVE NO. 012

SLIDE ROLL#: 026

SLIDE NO: 000014

RECORDED BY: R. Snyder & K. Van Gilder

RESEARCHED BY: R. Snyder & K. Van Gilder

DATE RECORDED: 11/18/1995

FIELD INVENTORY NO: 00000

STATE INVENTORY NO: 0 3610

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T/R/S# 17 3 30
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Skinner Butte Reservoir

Skinner Butte Reservoir, located on the eastern slope of Skinner Butte, was built in 1926 by the B.C. Seydel Construction Co., a private contractor from Portland, Oregon. The archives at Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) contain very detailed photographic documentation of the entire construction process. Pre-construction photographs of the site show a much smaller, older, open reservoir on the present day reservoir site. The presence of an earlier reservoir at this site is confirmed by a "Eugene Water Board/Skinner Butte Reservoir/Contour Map of Site", which was created in April of 1925.

The old reservoir and surrounding area were demolished with explosives. The basalt rock was extracted from the designated reservoir site and placed in piles to be cleaned with pressurized water. These rocks were saved, to be incorporated into the concrete walls of the reservoir and into the huge column footings that were used to support the reservoir's concrete and iron beamed roof.

The interior walls were formed by pouring concrete and the prewashed basalt rubble into place behind gigantic wooden retaining walls constructed for this purpose. Once the concrete had set, the wooden wall were torn down. On the exterior of the walls, loose rock fill was covered with a final layer of hand-placed basalt slabs, creating an unusual and smooth exterior finish. This hand-laid wall is one of the reservoirs most unique features.

The interior of the reservoir and the exterior of both associated superstructures were coated in gunnite. At one time, the access shaft superstructure had steel framed windows. It is unclear whether the louvered windows of the pump house structure are original. However, the decorative tiling with the inscription "Skinner Butte Reservoir - 1926" remains intact.

The reservoir has undergone numerous changes since its construction. The first record we have available indicates that the reservoir was leaking unacceptable quantities of water in 1955. It was emptied, studied and extensive repairs were made. Additional repairs occurred as late as 1993. It is generally believed that one of the pipes inside the pumphouse is original. The reservoir is fully operational, and continues to provide Eugene with potable water. According to several citizens the surface of the reservoir roof was used as a dance floor in the late-1970s, and possibly as a skating rink. The reservoir is an unusual and rare type of historic structure, which increases its significance.

The reservoir has a quantity of archival data housed at the EWEB offices, which includes a lengthy photo-journal of the construction of the site, as well as original contracts, blue prints, and repair reports.

FIELD SURVEY NO: 00000
STATE INVENTORY NO: 0 3810

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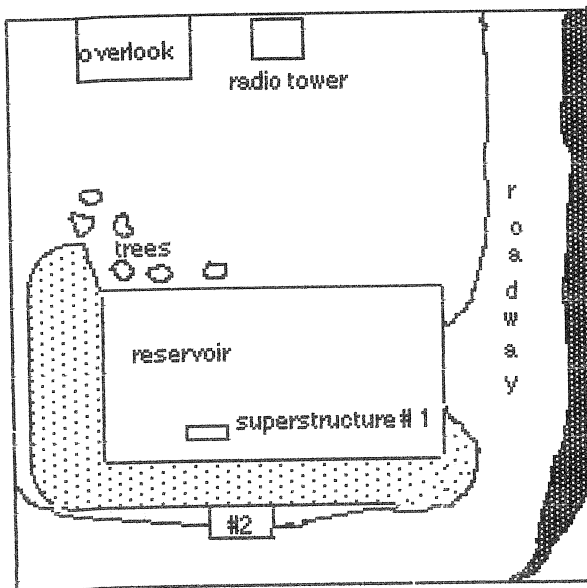
HISTORIC NAME: SKINNER BUTTE RESERVOIR
ADDR: 0 EWEB RESERVOIR

T/R/S# 17 3 30
TAXLOT: 0



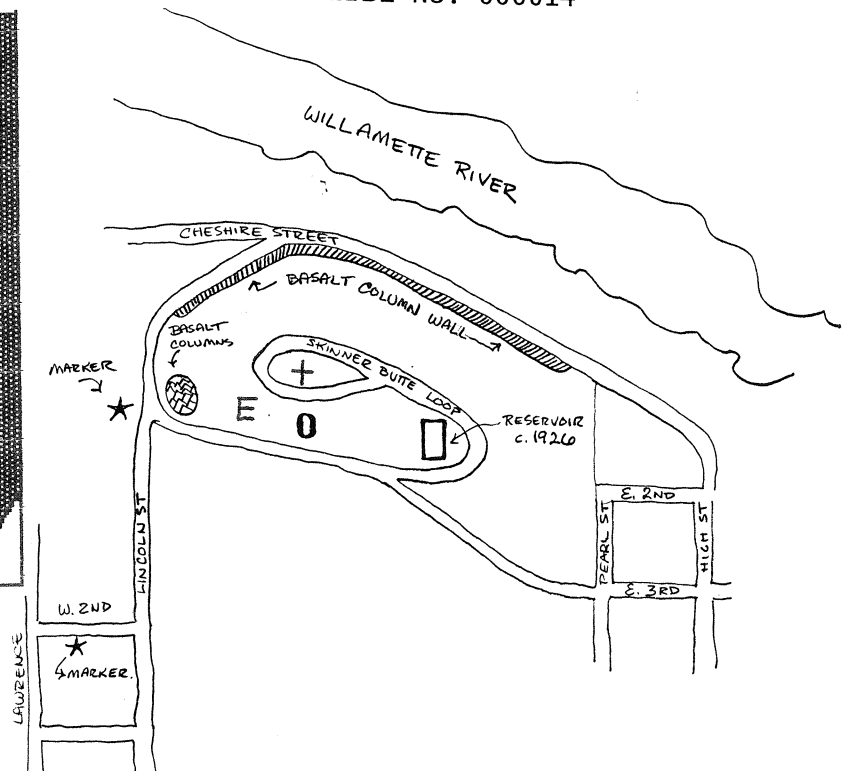
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indicates hand laid basalt walls

SITE PLAN DRAWN BY: KG
GRAPHIC & PHOTO SOURCES:



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OREGON CULTURAL RESOURCE I
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