

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only

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

received

date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Bend Amateur Athletic Club Gymnasium

and/or common Old Bend High School Gym

**2. Location**

street & number N. E. Corner, Wall and Idaho Streets not for publication

city, town Bend vicinity of 2nd congressional district

state Oregon code county Deschutes code

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Bend School District #1

street & number 547 Wall Street

city, town Bend, Oregon vicinity of

state Oregon

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Deschutes County Court House

street & number 1164 Bond Street

city, town Bend

state Oregon

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>March 18, 1983</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The building is 62' high at entrance. Decorative concrete plaques in pairs at all corners represent Native American athletes. Main entrance on second floor is gained through brick and concrete staircases north and south. Clerestory windows on south wall provided light, as well as windows at the pool level on north side (since bricked over). The architecture has some elements of neo-classicism, but the building is austere; although there are some classical details in the symmetrical front entrance, the modern adaptation of classic reflects a western form typical of 1920's. Construction began in April, 1917, with the purchase of 300,000 local brick from the brick company yard west of town at \$10.00 a thousand. Completed in March, 1918, the structure was a credit to Lee A. Thomas, the architect; to Guy H. Wilson, construction superintendent; to business leaders and mill employees. The original building, three stories (four levels) is a rectangle 70' by 114'; it has a concrete-lava rock foundation, a brick masonry bearing wall two bricks thick, a trussed roof. The original roof covering is indeterminate; the present roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The structure sits in downtown Bend (nw $\frac{1}{4}$ , nw $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 32, T17S, R12E, W. meridian); Block 23, Bend Park Addition (see attached). The building faces west on Wall Street. Just north is the old Bend High School complex, now headquarters for the school district. Directly across Wall is the Deschutes County Library building; due south is Reid School, now headquarters for the Deschutes County Historical Society. Nearby are historic churches and another elementary school.

During World War I the small community of Bend raised over \$138,000 in drives related to the war effort. They did something else of note: they built in 1917-18 the Bend Amateur Athletic Club gymnasium at a cost of \$50,000 more. That structure was designed to serve the more than 500 members of the organization and the community need for a recreation-cultural center as well. Internal spatial organization included, originally, an auditorium with fully equipped stage, hardwood playing floor. Two suspended balconies provided seating for 350 people each, with a total seating of 1200. On either side of main entrance were offices, ticket booths, with a ladies' restroom in one. On second floor was the main club room -- lounge, and library, with lava rock fireplace at each end. There were wood corner window seats. The east end of the room opened toward the main gym, with balcony, for motion picture projection and theatrical flood lights. On each side of the stage, with entrance from balconies, were reading rooms for mill employees. On third floor front, reached by a small spiral staircase, was a wrestling room, heavily padded. In the basement were accommodations for caretaker, a bowling alley, a billiard room, a towel room, showers, 600 lockers, a swimming pool 20' by 60' (8' deep to 3'), and seats for 100 spectators. The main floor's basic color scheme was black and red. Gothic molding, knee braces on ceiling, added to sturdy interior appearance. Decorative Indian head plaques were placed on the proscenium arch, Bend Amateur Athletic Club insignia to right and left.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below						
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> theater			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation			
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)			

Specific dates 1917-18

Builder/Architect Lee A. Thomas, AIA

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

As early as 1910 the village of Bend was exhibiting an intensity of effort to develop its potential, that had no rival in Crook County. Some of the energy stemmed from the infusion into the community life stream of wealthy, young easterners like William D. Cheney and George Palmer Putnam. The rails (1911) and the great sawmills (1916) further increased the communal sense that cooperative effort "boosting" Bend would benefit everyone. One significant illustration of the strength of this drive occurred in 1917 when the Bend Amateur Athletic Club community center gymnasium was begun. The funds (finally totaling \$50,000) were raised by public subscription, not tax money, from many sources--business men, mill executives and employees. In addition, donations of labor were frequent. Memberships in the association were open to both men and women. Percy A. Stevens, after whom Bend's first American Legion Post was named, was one of the members. He died when the Tuscania was torpedoed off the Irish coast, February 7, 1918. Before the building was opened to the public it served Bend as auxiliary hospital during the influenza epidemic of 1918. Forty cots were set up on the main floor. May 30, 1919, the building was formally open for public use. Athletic contests were held there, public dances. Billy Sunday spoke there May 3, 1919, in behalf of the last Victory Loan Drive. In September, 1919, Bend's Commercial Club endorsed a drive to clear \$35,000 debt--first subscription of \$250.00 coming from the Bend Elks. A total of \$39,000 was finally raised, with Shevlin-Hixon contributing \$15,590 and Brooks-Scanlon \$13,650. Even architect Lee Thomas donated \$300.00. Bend schools were authorized to use the gymnasium for physical training and basketball practices in 1919. In November, the indebtedness being removed, the building was turned over to the YMCA. Percy Stevens American Legion Post uses, and others, indicate general community involvement. Uses of the building by the YMCA, the American Legion, Boy Scouts, Library Association, Bend Women's Civic Club, Lyceum, Chautauqua, besides the general public, are too numerous to detail. In June, 1921, the building title went to the American Legion. Then in March, 1923, the building was turned over to Bend School District No. 1 which retains ownership today. Before the proposed Bend High School was built, the acquisition of this building determined the location of that school.

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In 1938-39 the school district added an enlarged heating plant to the original structure, using salvaged bricks from the old Central School. A WPA project, the enlarged plant heated the high school, and in time both Reid and Thompson elementary schools through heat tunnels. The interior has been repainted one color by the school district. Some internal bracing has been added to stage and entrance end. In 1952 the building was partially remodeled by the school district and the bowling alley and caretaker's apartment removed. Present deterioration of stairways, wiring, plumbing and roof cover has caused review by State Fire Marshal. Renovation will require significant effort and expenditure, yet most original features remain.



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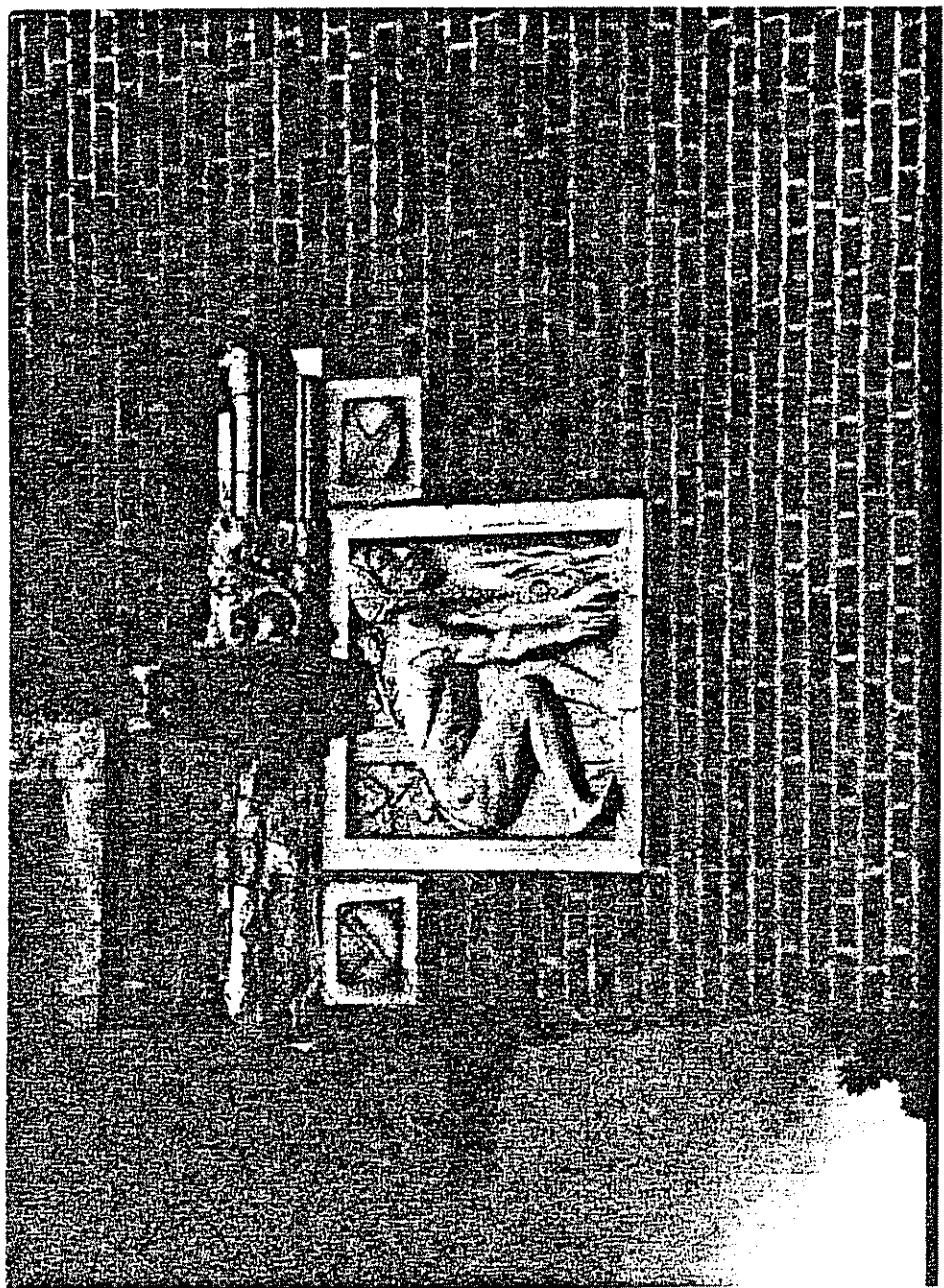
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received  
data entered

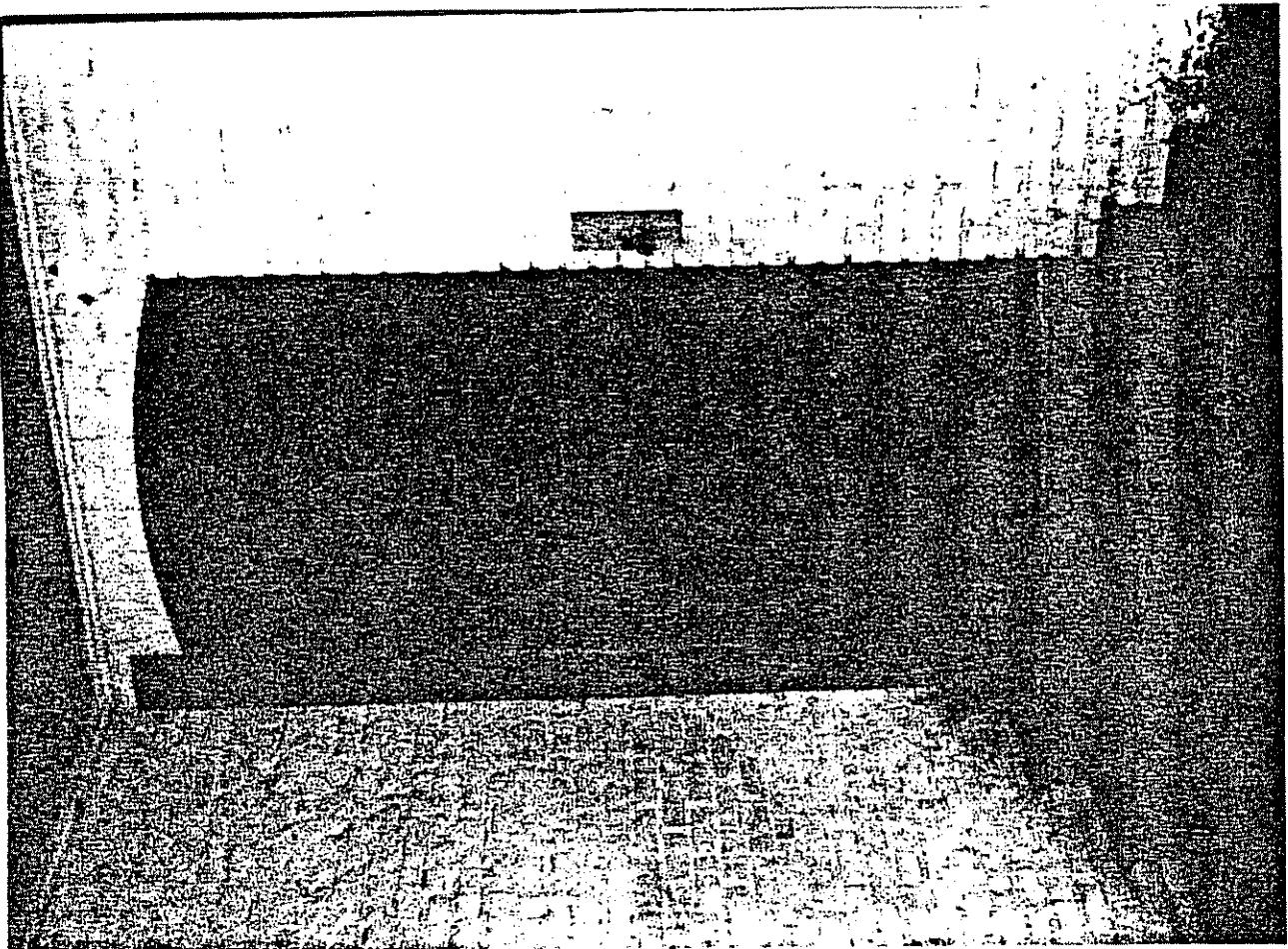
Continuation sheet Bibliographical Ref. Item number 9

Page 2

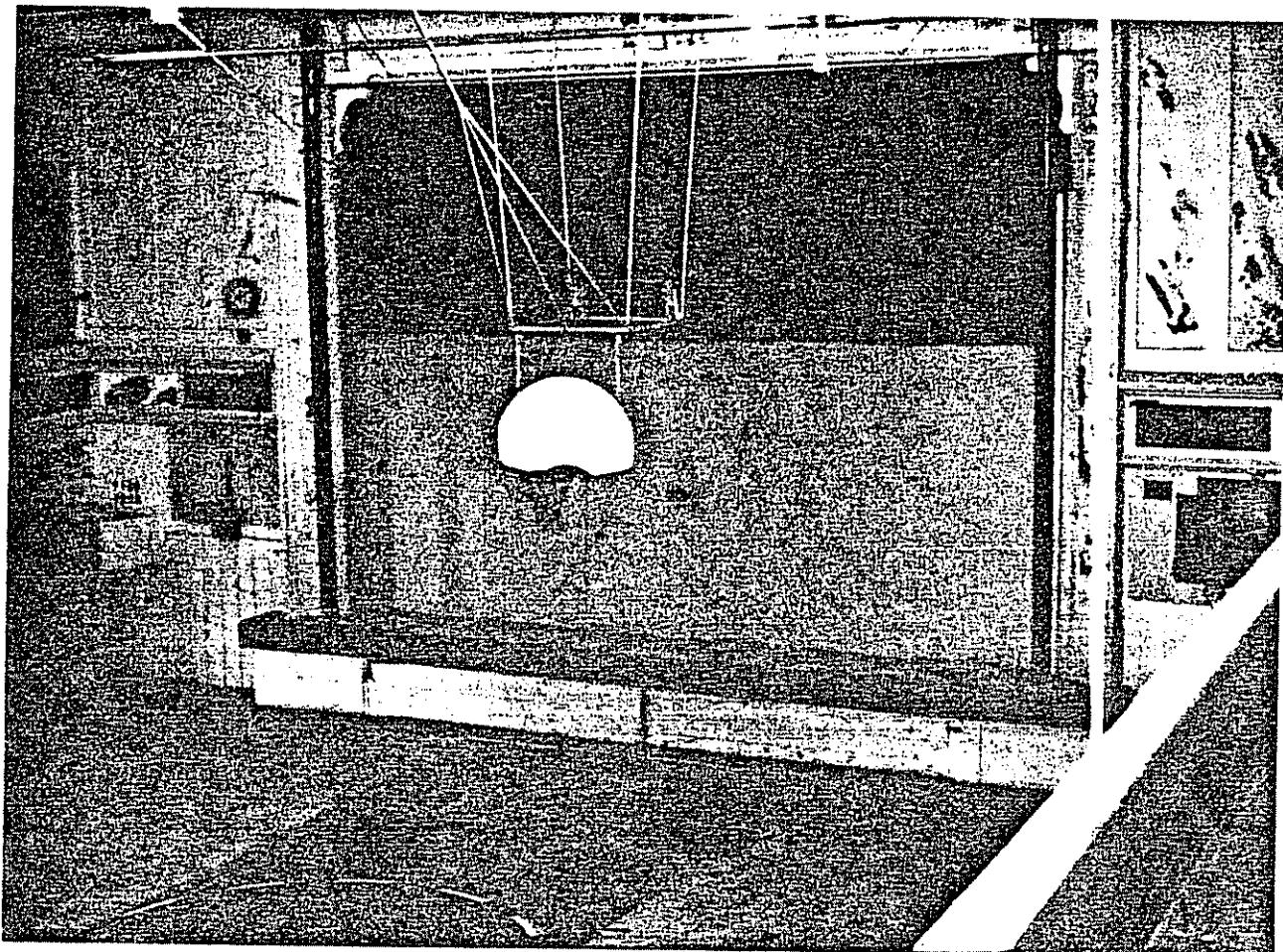
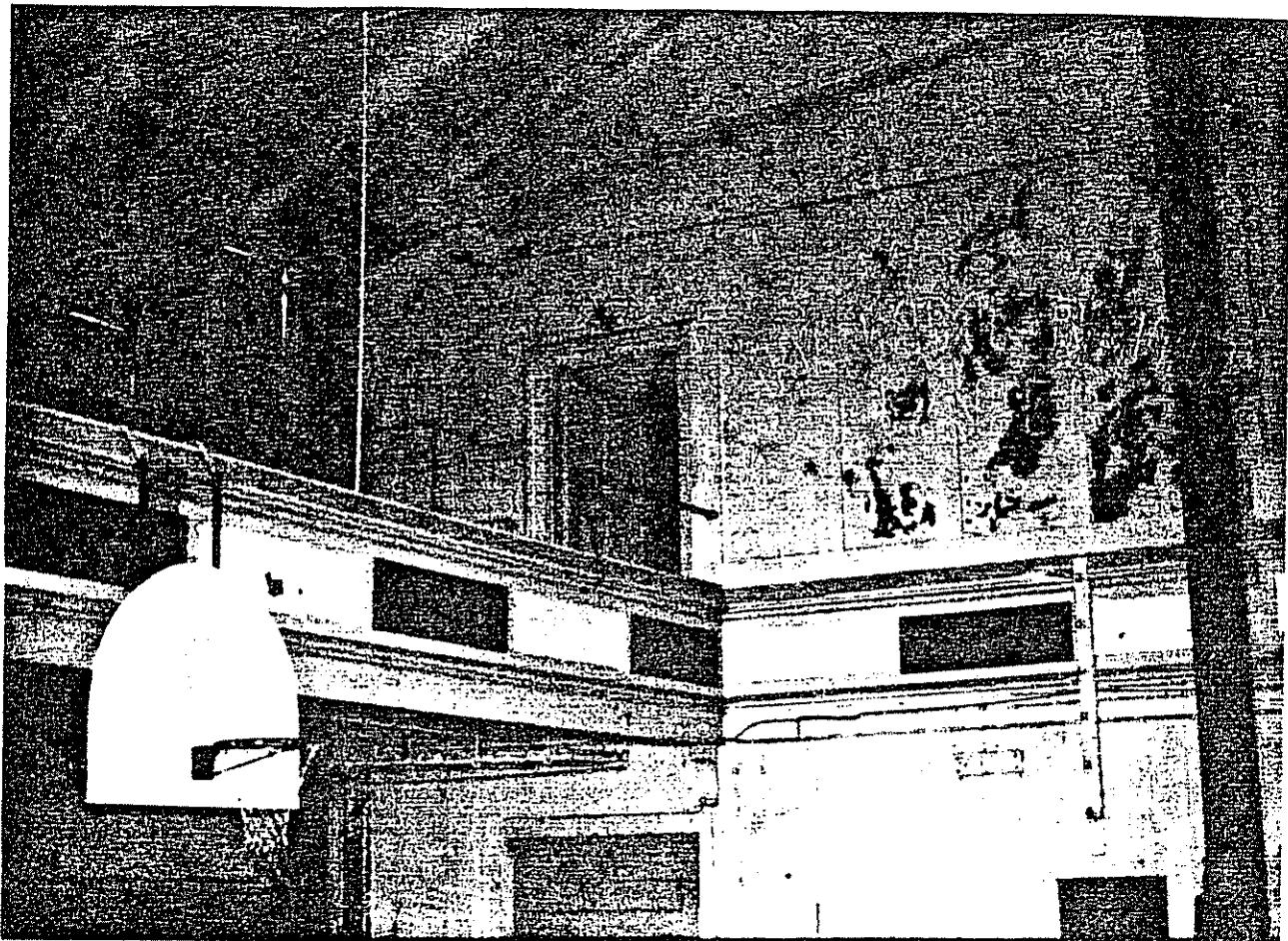
The Bend Bulletin:

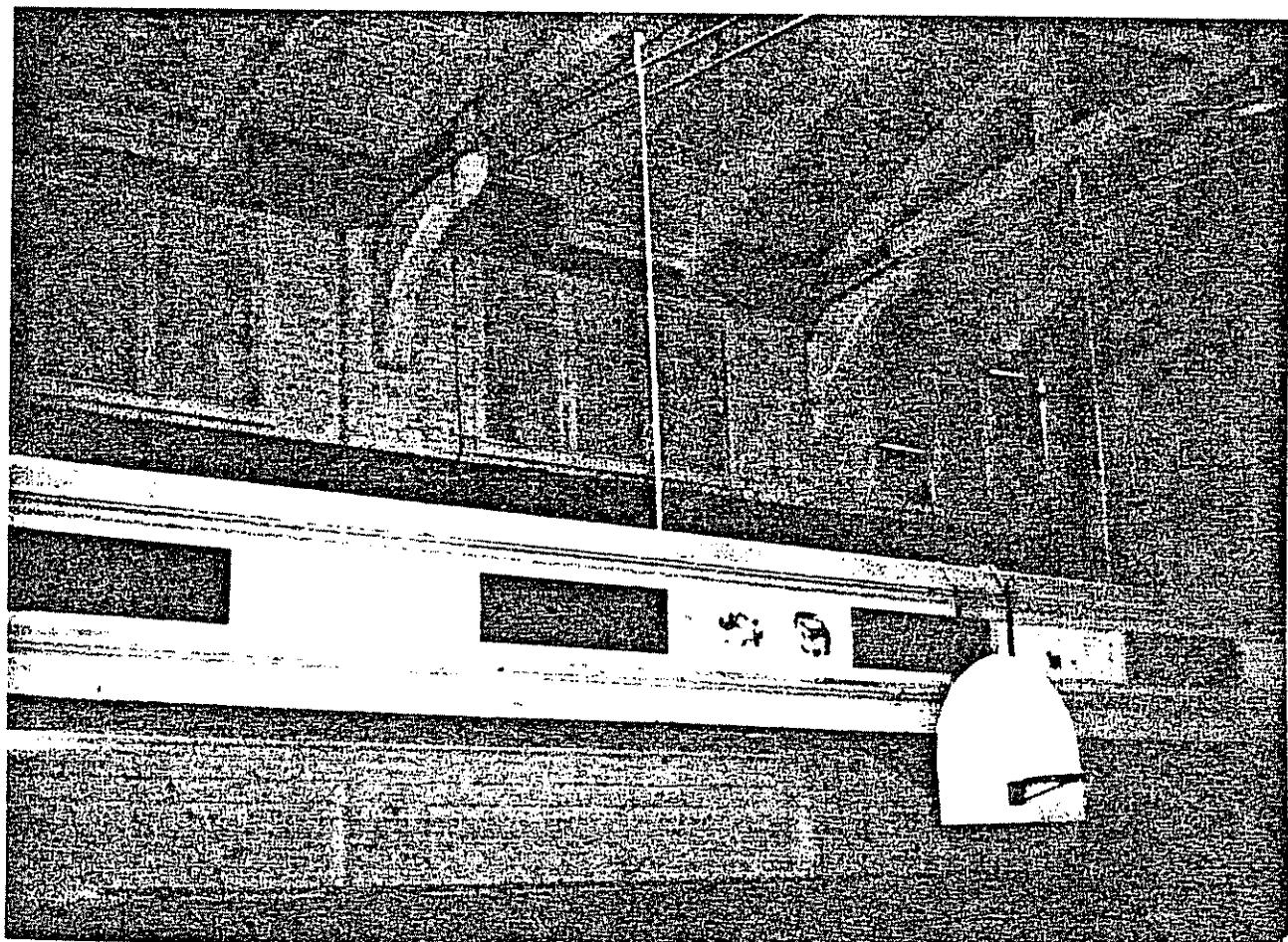
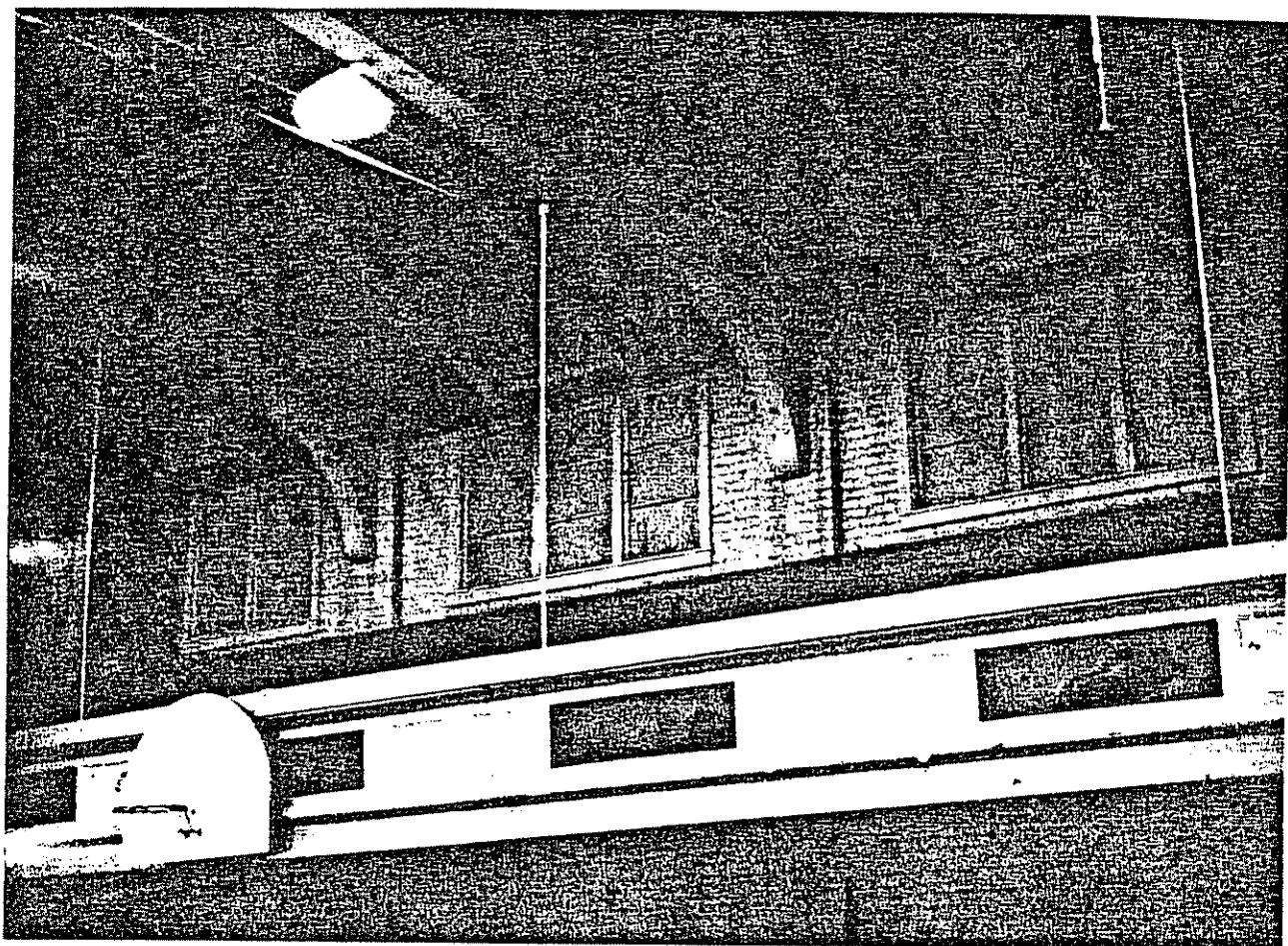
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March 14, 1917, 1:4.	Mar. 15, 1923, 2:3.
March 16, 1917, 1:2.	Aug. 31, 1923, 1:3.
March 17, 1917, 1:2.	Mar. 23, 1925, 4:1-2.
March 19, 1917, 1:2.	Mar. 24, 1925, 4:1-2.
March 21, 1917, 1:2; 4:4-6.	Mar. 28, 1925, 4:1-2.
March 23, 1917, 1:4.	
March 27, 1917, 1:5.	
March 31, 1917, 1:5.	
April 2, 1917, 1:4.	
April 3, 1917, 1:6.	
April 6, 1917, 6:1.	
April 9, 1917, 1:5.	
April 14, 1917, 1:4.	
April 19, 1917, 1:4.	
May 3, 1917, 1:4.	
May 5, 1917, 1:5.	
May 9, 1917, 1:5.	
May 10, 1917, 3:4.	
May 11, 1917, 1:4.	
May 14, 1917, 1:6.	
May 17, 1917, 1:2.	
June 27, 1917, 2:1.	
Aug. 23, 1917, 2:1.	
Sept. 8, 1917, 1:5.	
Oct. 11, 1917, 1:1.	
Nov. 20, 1917, 1:2.	
Nov. 30, 1917, 3:4.	
Feb. 12, 1918, 2:1.	
Feb. 13, 1918, 1:1.	
March 8, 1918, 1:6; 2:3-4.	
April 12, 1918, 2:3.	
April 22, 1918, 1:2.	
April 23, 1918, 1:4; 2:3.	
April 24, 1918, 1:2.	
Sept. 25, 1919, 1:1.	
Oct. 9, 1919, 8:5.	
Oct. 16, 1919, 15:3.	
Oct. 30, 1919, 8:1.	
Nov. 6, 1919, 1:5.	
Nov. 13, 1919, 1:6.	
Nov. 20, 1919, 1:4.	
Dec. 11, 1919, 3:1-2.	
March 10, 1921, 1:4.	
June 23, 1921, 8:2.	

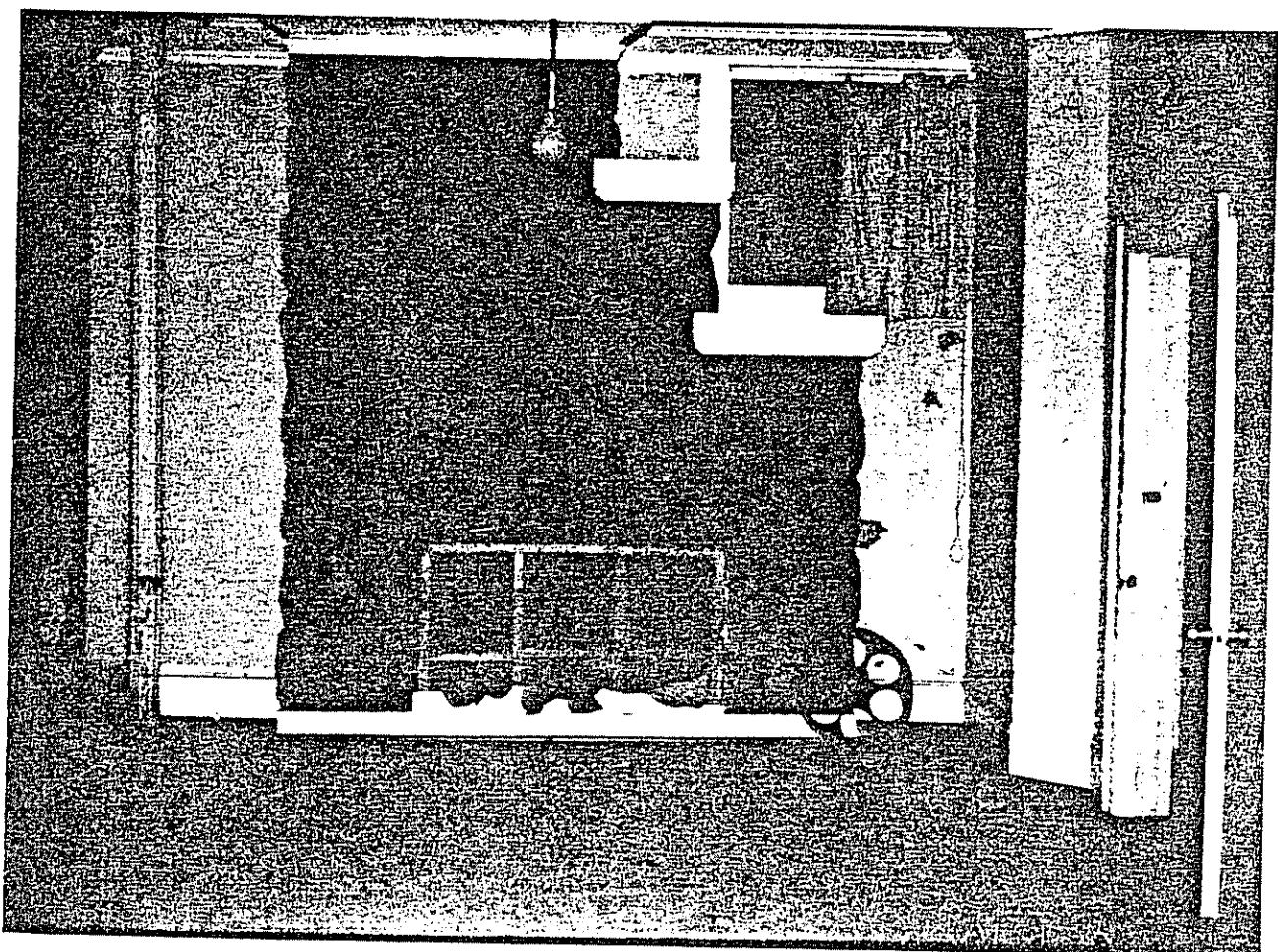
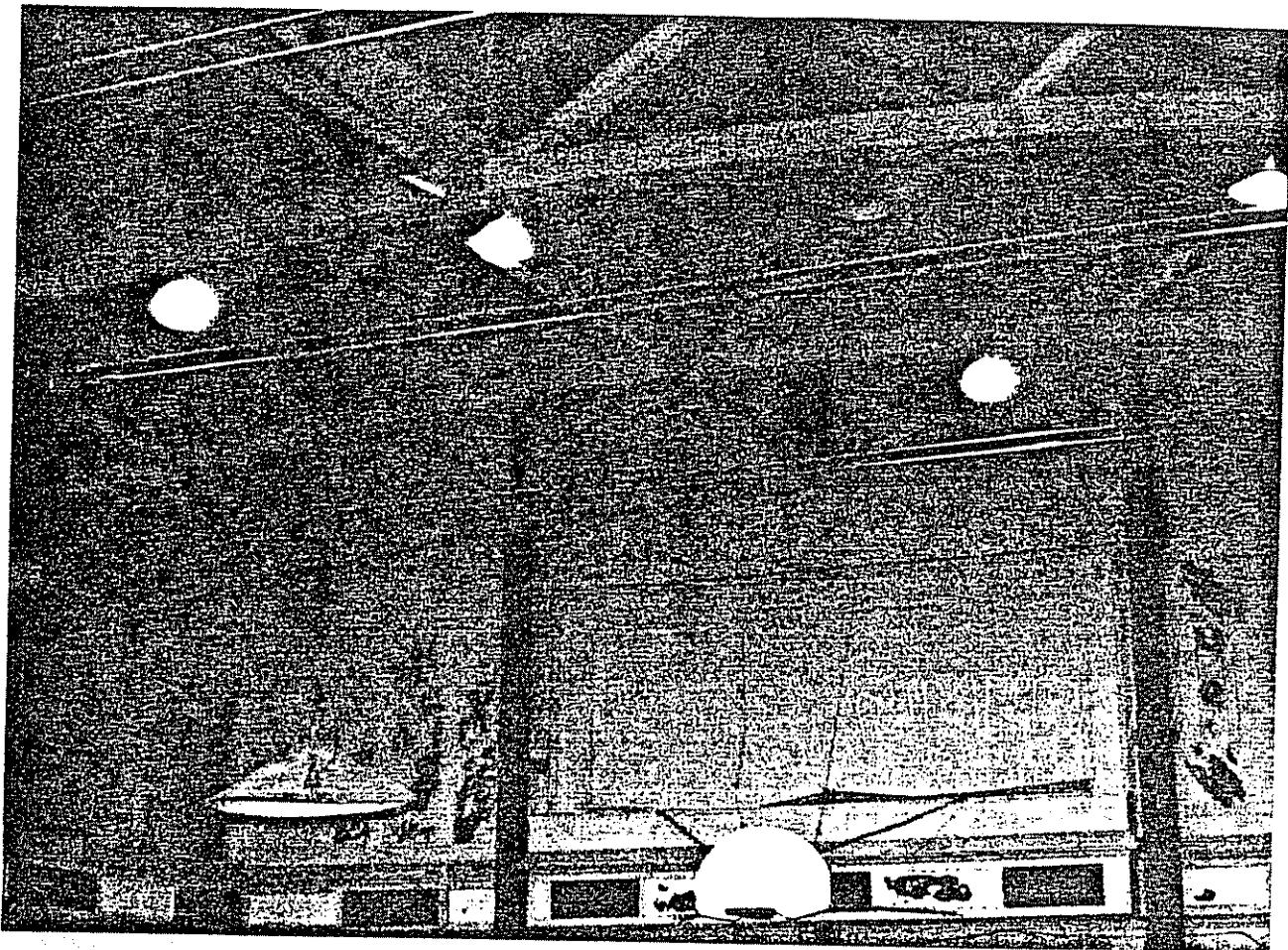


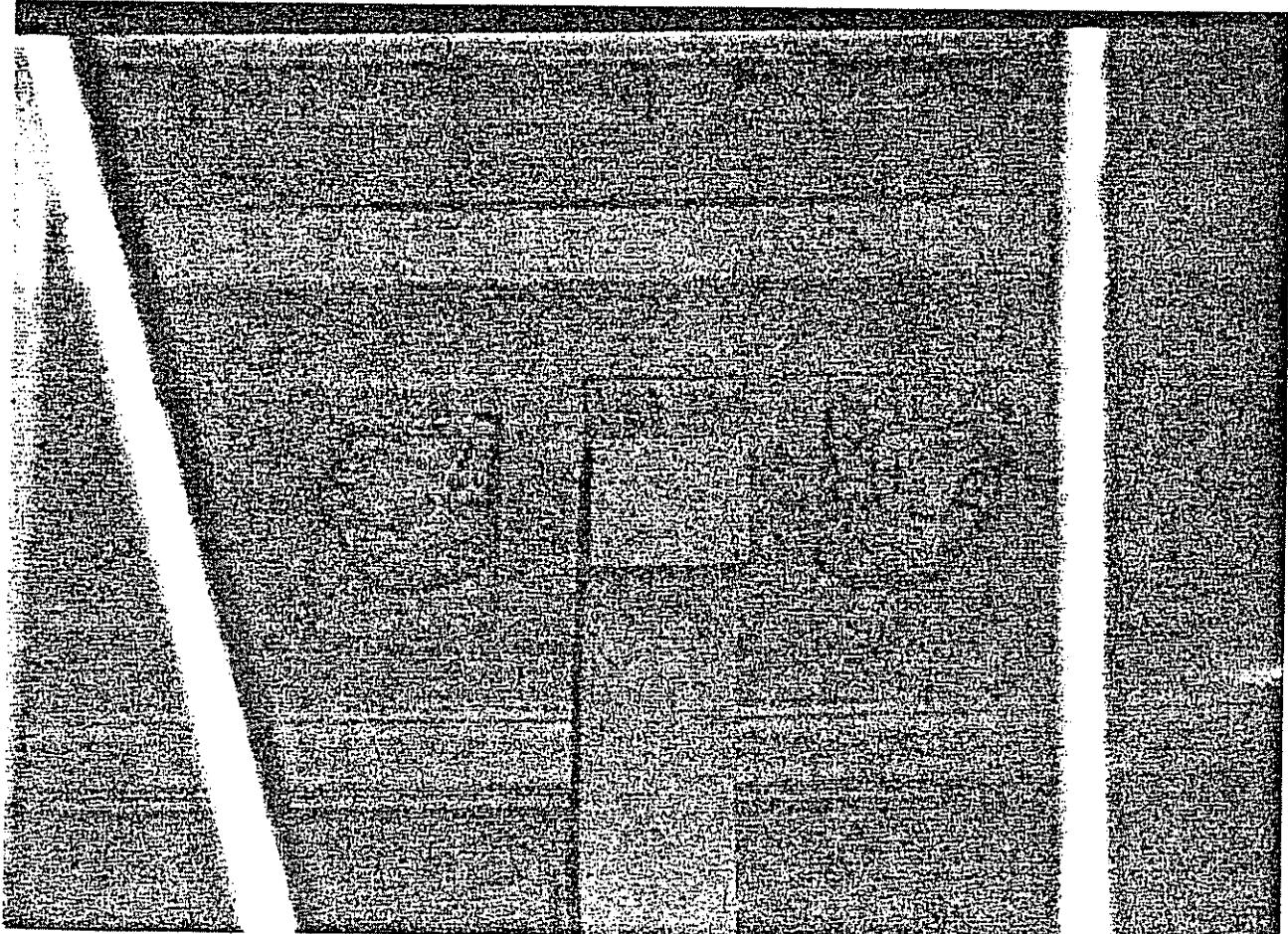


1  
Bend Amateur Athletic Club  
Gymnasium, NE Corner Wall and  
Idaho, Bend, Ore. (Deschutes  
Co.) 97701. Stairway to south  
balcony, 1983.  
Keith Clark, 541 S. 14th,  
Redmond, OR 97756.



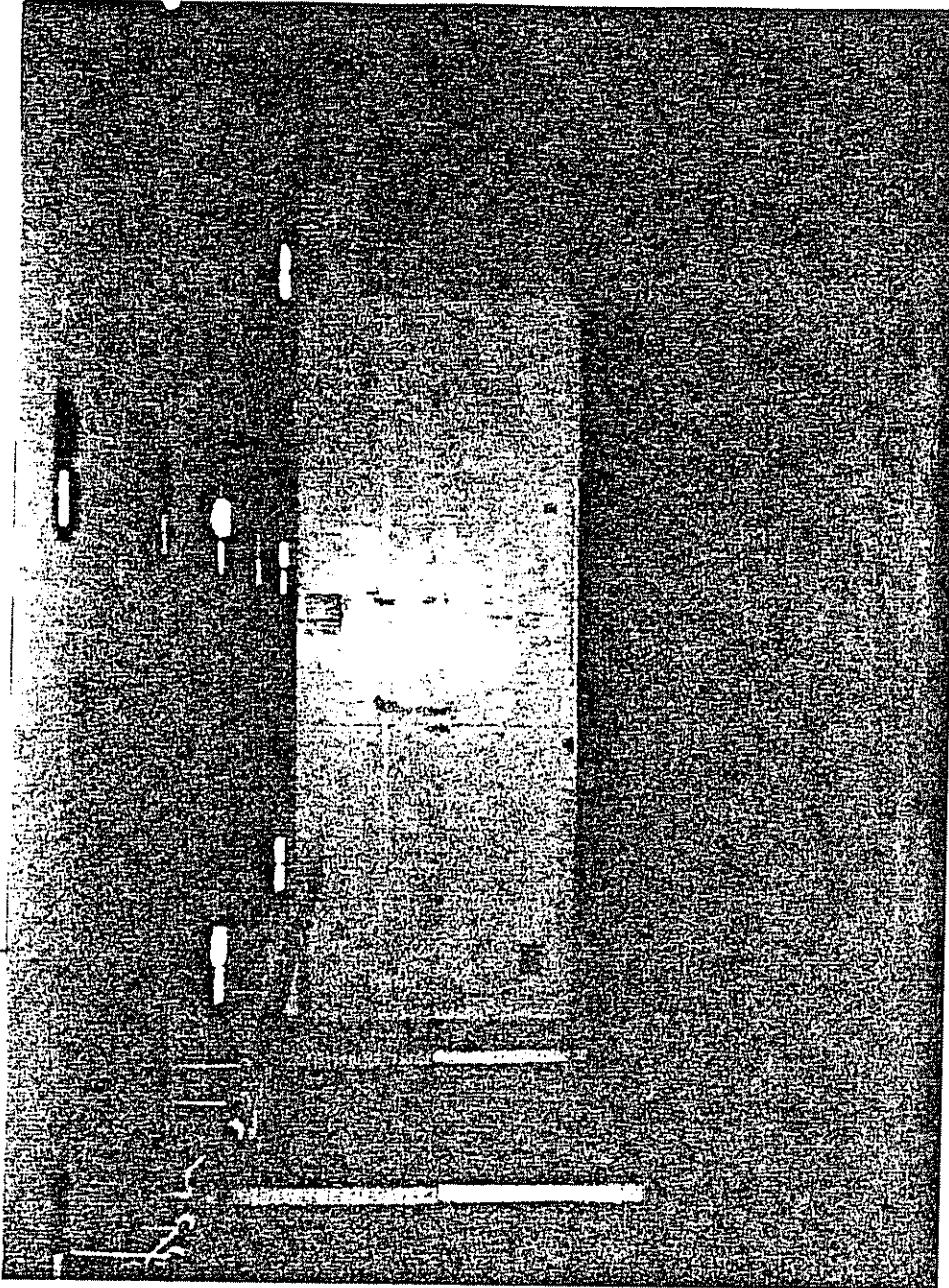




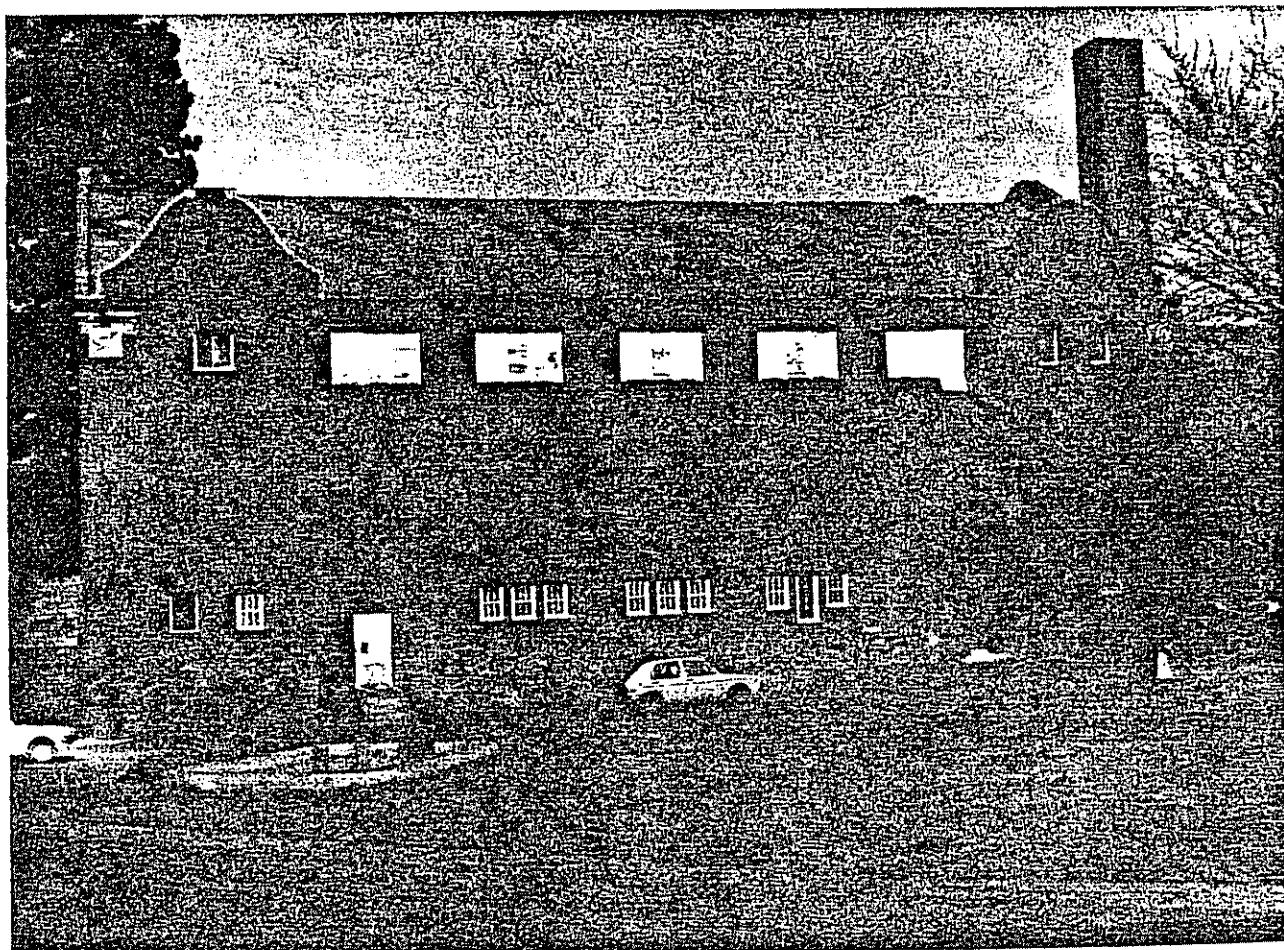
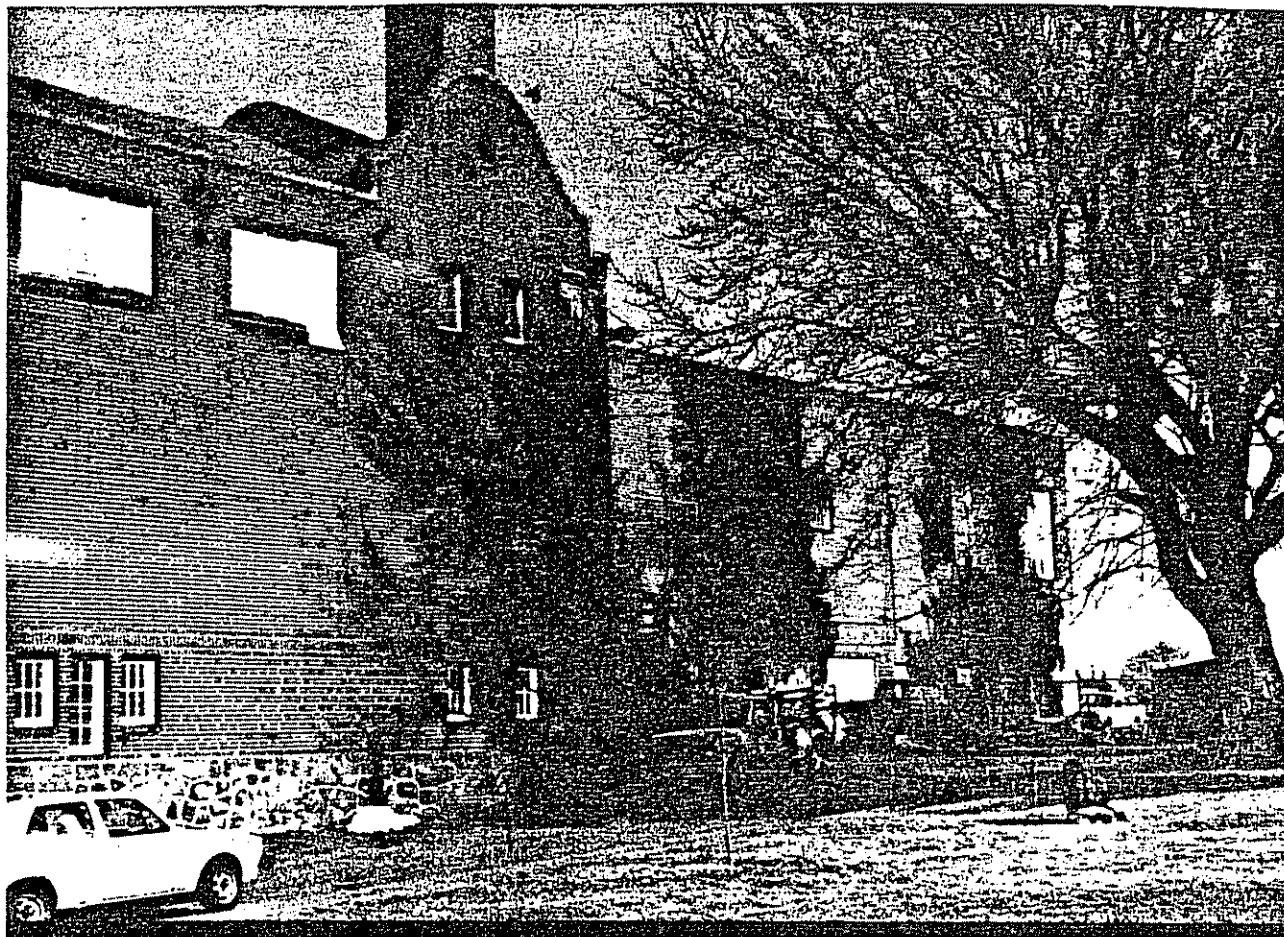


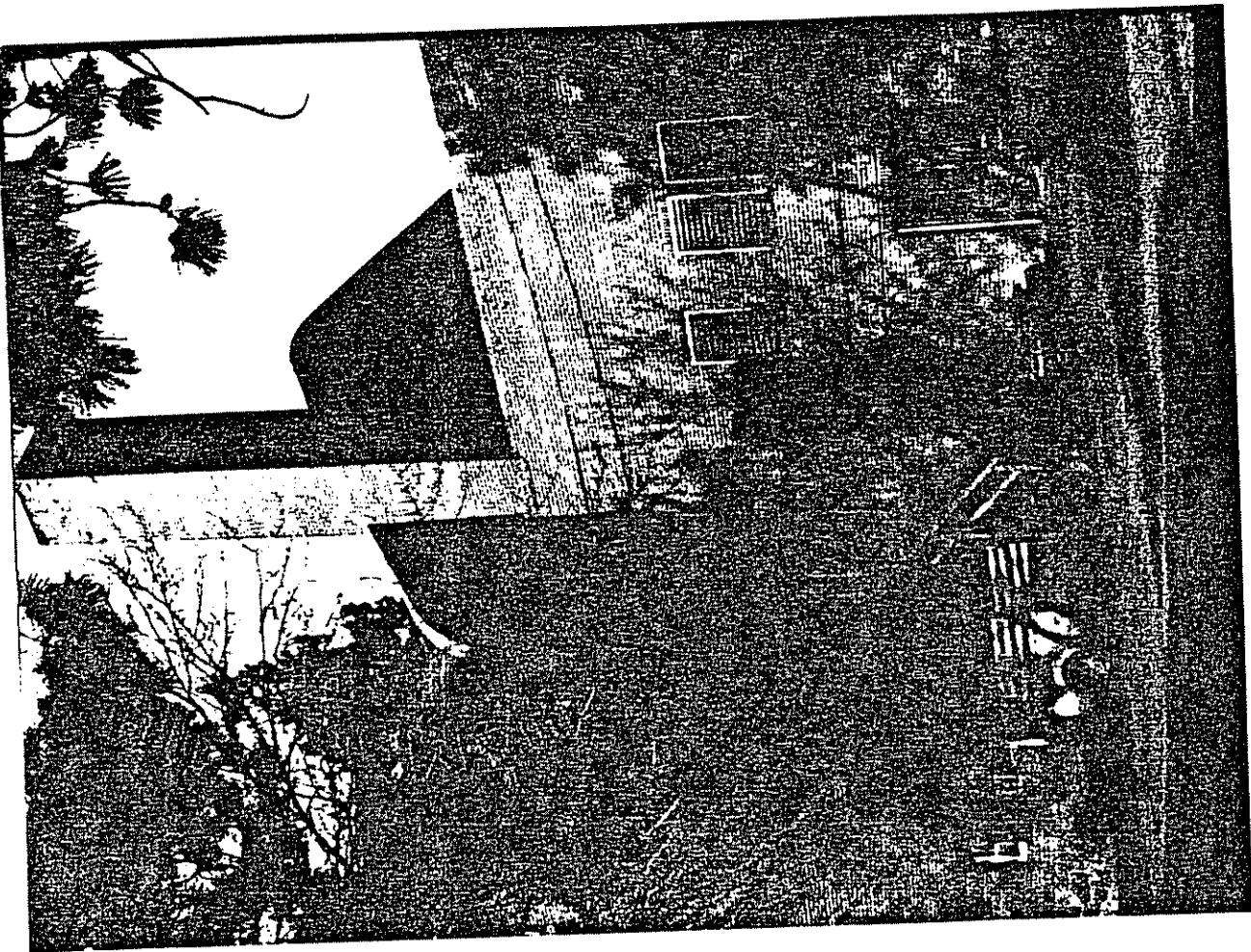
6. Bend Amateur Athletic Club  
Gymnasium, NE Corner Wall and  
Idaho, Bend (Deschutes Co.),  
OR 97701. Basement, swimming  
pool covered.

Keith Clark, 541 S. 14th,  
Redmond, OR 97756

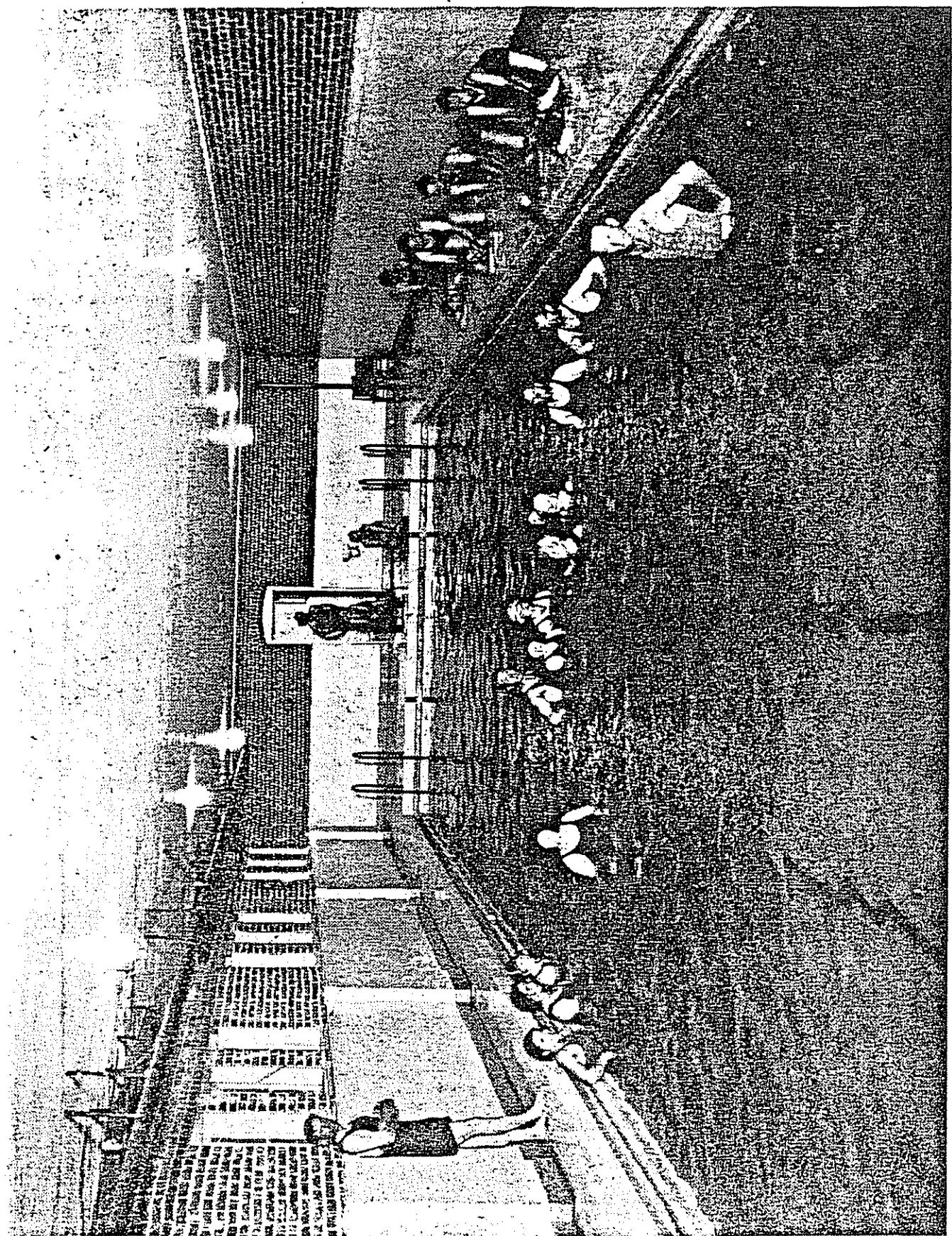








13. Bend Amateur Athletic Club  
Gymnasium, NE Corner Wall and  
Idaho, Bend (Deschutes Co.),  
OR 97701. Alteration -- addi-  
tion of heating plant, east  
side.  
Keith Clark, 541 S. 14th,  
Redmond, OR 97756

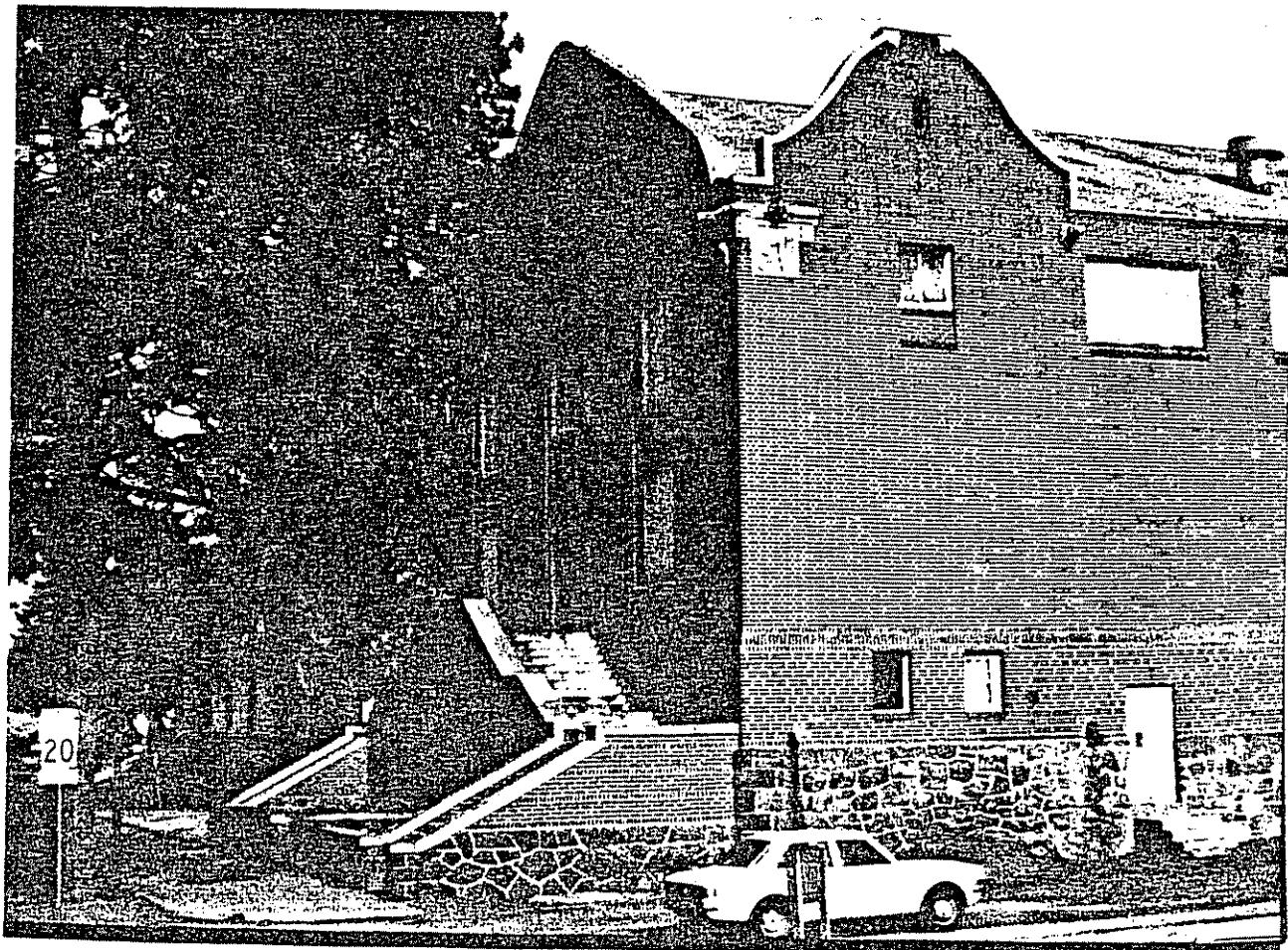


A Picture from the Past

## Indoor pool, 1920's

81/18

Remember when Bend had an indoor swimming pool? It was located in the basement of what is now the Cascade Junior High School Gym. The gym was built just after World War I by the Bend Amateur Athletic Association and became the Bend High School Gym when the school was built adjacent to it in 1925. The pool continued to be used through the 1940's. This picture appears to date from the 1920's.



See Map

