

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

# National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

New Submission       Amended Submission

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## A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

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The Architecture of Donald J. Stewart in Washington and Oregon, 1933-1967

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## B. Associated Historic Contexts

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## C. Form Prepared by

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city or town Portland state OR zip code 97230

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## D. Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation.  
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ].)

Signature and title of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**Table of Contents for Written Narrative**

Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and the title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheet in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

	<b>Page Number</b>
<b>E. Statement of Historic Contexts</b> .....	<b>1</b>
Introduction .....	1
Stewart's Early Life and Education .....	1
Architectural Training and Early Years of Employment, 1922-1935 .....	2
Donald J. Stewart, Architect, 1935-1952 .....	3
Stewart and Richardson, Architects, 1952-1962.....	6
Stewart, Allen, McMath Architects, 1962-1967 .....	9
Stewart's Personal Achievements .....	10
<b>F. Associated Property Types</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Overview of Associated Property Types.....	11
Property Type 1: Properties Designed by Donald J. Stewart and Associated Architects, 1933-1952 .....	13
Property Type 2: Properties Designed by Stewart and Partners, 1952-1967 .....	18
<b>G. Geographical Data</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods</b> .....	<b>24</b>
(Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.)	
<b>I. Major Bibliographical References</b> .....	<b>25</b>
(List major written works and primary location of additional documentation: State Historic Preservation Office, other State agency, Federal agency, local government, university, or other, specifying repository.)	

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Clark County Historical Museum, Vancouver  
Washington State Archives, Olympia

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 120 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number E Page 1

**INTRODUCTION**

Donald Joseph Stewart is one of Vancouver, Washington's most notable architects of the twentieth century. His career began at the height of Great Depression, and he refined his craft as a sole practitioner in Washington during the World War II era. During this early period of Stewart's career and individual practice, from 1933-1952, Stewart was best known for his school buildings but was also sought out to design commercial, industrial, and residential buildings. He designed primarily in styles relating to the Modern Movement, such as Art Deco and Streamline Moderne, and strongly embraced the International Style near the end of his years as a sole practitioner. Likely due to the context in which he developed as an architect, Stewart consistently delivered well-designed buildings for his clients that were durable and within budget. This principled approach to his craft made Stewart a respected practitioner in Vancouver, where commercial clients often returned to ask that he design their next home (William E. LaLonde, personal communication 2008).

In 1952, Stewart formed a partnership with Portland, Oregon architect Kenneth E. Richardson. From their office in Portland, Oregon, the pair quickly gained a reputation for their exploration of regional materials through the Northwest Regional style. Churches and libraries were common commissions for the firm. In 1962 Frank Allen and George McMath were added to the firm and it was renamed Stewart, Richardson, Allen, McMath Architects. Richardson left the firm in 1963 to practice in Seattle, and the firm name became Stewart, Allen & McMath until 1967 when Stewart retired.

Despite having offices in Portland, Stewart continued to live in Vancouver from 1933 to his death in 1996. During that time, he was highly involved in a variety of community groups including being an early supporter of historic preservation and planning efforts in Vancouver where he was instrumental in the formation of the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. He was also active in the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and was awarded membership in the College of Fellows in 1962.

**STEWART'S EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION**

Stewart was born on July 31, 1895, in Spokane, Washington. His father, Zachariah Stewart, was born in September 1865 in Ohio, as were Donald Stewart's grandparents, Everett and Eliza Gebhart Stewart (Stewart 1959:53). Zachariah Stewart, who began his career working in various fields, was later elected to serve Spokane's District No. 2 in the Washington State Legislature during the 1913 and 1915 sessions (State of Washington 2005). Donald Stewart's mother, Anna Stewart was born in 1868 in Kansas. Donald was the only son of Zachariah and Anna, who had four daughters: Hattie, Mabel, Mary E., and Margaret.

In his youth, Stewart showed an aptitude for art and hoped to attend Pennsylvania Art Institute to become an artist. However, his father encouraged him to pursue 'a more productive, more practical occupation' by studying architecture at Washington State College (now Washington State University) (*The Columbian* 1986:D13; Clark County Historical Museum, Vancouver, Washington [CCHM] 1990: Interview Tape 90-01 [TP] 45:1). Following his father's suggestion, Stewart began studying architecture at Washington State College (now Washington State University) in 1916. On June 3, 1917, shortly after the United States declared war on Germany and officially entered World War I, Stewart decided to

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number E Page 2

interrupt his studies and enlist in the Army Corps of Engineers (Personal resume of Donald J. Stewart, no date, Clark County Historical Museum, Vancouver, Washington; Ritz 2002).

Stewart first served with the Fourth U.S. Army Engineers in Vancouver, Washington, then joined the Second Engineers Training Regiment at the National Engineers Training Station in Washington, D.C., in January 1918. Later that year he served at the Headquarters Company at Camp Humphreys in Alexandria, Virginia, as a First Sergeant, before moving to the 217<sup>th</sup> Army Engineers at Camp Humphreys and Camp Beauregard in Alexandria, Louisiana, in late 1918 (Personal resume of Donald J. Stewart, no date, Clark County Historical Museum, Vancouver, Washington). After completing his wartime military duty in 1919, Stewart returned to his studies in Washington and graduated from Washington State College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1922 (CCHM 1990:TP 45:1). Due to a prior change in state law, the college was not authorized to award Bachelor of Arts degrees in Architecture at the time of Stewart's graduation; the school would later be granted permission to award Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Architectural Engineering (Washington State Archives, Olympia: Records Group AR240-6-0-50, Letter from E.O. Holland to Herbert Hamilton regarding Donald J. Stewart's education credentials, 16 July 1929).

While attending Washington State College Stewart met Elizabeth (Betty) Redington, who was born in Tacoma on November 26, 1896. Betty was also studying at Washington State College; she worked on the agricultural newspaper and later joined the English Department. Stewart and Betty were married on December 23, 1922 (Stewart 1925).

**ARCHITECTURAL TRAINING EARLY YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT, 1922-1935**

While studying at Washington State College, Stewart spent his summers working for the college on architectural projects and taught water-color painting on the side. Upon graduating in 1922 he was referred by his former supervisor, Rudolph Weaver (Professor of Architecture), for a position in the office of Albert Ernest Doyle. Doyle, who was one of Portland's leading architects at that time, was looking for young talent to add to his Portland office. Stewart joined Doyle's office as a draftsman in the fall of 1922 (CCHM 1990:TP 45:1).

In the first weeks of working in Doyle's office, Stewart began working on sketches and drawings for the Reed College Campus in Portland, Oregon. He also worked on the Multnomah Falls Lodge and the Bank of California building in downtown Portland (Donald J. Stewart to Richard Ritz, 1987, Research Library, Archaeological Investigations, Northwest, Inc., Portland, Oregon). At the time, Doyle's office was one of the more prominent firms in Oregon. Doyle's career began with an apprenticeship in the Portland architectural office of Whidden & Lewis in 1893. He also spent two years in New York with Henry Bacon, took classes at Columbia University, and spent a year in Europe before starting his own practice in 1907 (Ritz 2002:111). Doyle's office garnered many of Portland's important architectural commissions during the early twentieth century and became the training ground for some of Portland's most influential architects, including Pietro Belluschi.

From 1922 to 1925 Stewart worked as an architectural draftsman in Doyle's office, gaining valuable experience. Doyle had great influence over the young Stewart; he stressed the importance of "Classical traditions," encouraged Stewart to travel to Europe, and supported his exploration of work and

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number E Page 3

study opportunities in Athens, Greece, and New York City (Musick 1976). Stewart and his wife Betty desired an extended trip to Europe, so while Stewart worked at Doyle's office the couple saved \$2,000 over two years for travel and study. As a final push of encouragement, reportedly Doyle gave Stewart \$500.00 check and loaned him additional funds to complete the journey (Zachary Stewart, personal communication 2008; CCHM 1990:TP 45:1; Niles 2008:202-203). Doyle suggested that the trip begin in the southern countries of "Spain, Southern Italy and Greece first, returning to Naples and working slowly North" (Niles 2008). Stewart felt indebted to Doyle, as he was unable to pay off the loan prior to Doyle's death in 1928. When Stewart later hired George McMath, Doyle's grandson, he felt on some level that the favor had been repaid (Melissa Stewart, personal communication 2008).

On April 14, 1925, Donald and Elizabeth Stewart departed from New York on the Martha Washington to "travel and study Architecture." Their passport application listed Switzerland, England, Scotland, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, and Holland as their anticipated destinations. However, much of their visit was focused on Greece, where Stewart found employment as a draftsman and assisted in construction supervision of the Gennadius Library at The American School of Classical Studies at Athens (Zachary Stewart, personal communication 2008; Personal resume of Donald J. Stewart, no date, Clark County Historical Museum, Vancouver, Washington). He was hired by the library's architect, W. Stuart Thompson of the New York architectural office then known as Van Pelt & Thompson, who was there supervising the library's construction. The library, which was constructed to house a rare book collection, was completed on April 23, 1926. Before returning to the U.S. on July 10, 1926, the Stewarts traveled to Rome and the American School of Classical Studies (known now as the American Academy in Rome), where they lived and made excursion trips to Italian sites (CCHM 1990:TP 45:1).

After returning from Europe, Stewart worked in New York City as a draftsman for W. Stuart Thompson's office, then known as Thompson & Churchill, from 1926 to 1929. He also worked briefly for Benjamin Wister Morris from April to June of 1927, where he was promoted to Senior Draftsman; he later returned to Thompson & Churchill that same year as a Senior Draftsman making \$80.00 per week (Personal resume of Donald J. Stewart, no date, Clark County Historical Museum, Vancouver, Washington). At the time the Stewarts first lived in Greenwich Village and then in Ossining, New York, where their son Zachary Redington was born August 17, 1928 (Zachary Stewart, personal communication 2008).

In 1929 the Stewarts returned to the Pacific Northwest, where Donald found work at the architectural office of John W. Graham, Sr., in Seattle. His job with Graham however lasted just six months, after which Stewart took a position in Yakima in the office of architect John Maloney from 1930 to 1931 (CCHM 1990:TP 45:1). It took several years for Stewart to find his footing during the economic upheaval of the era. Stewart eventually returned to Seattle from Yakima in 1931 and became a licensed architect in the State of Washington that same year.

Between odd jobs and struggling to find employment, Stewart managed to work for a year with Andrew Willatzen, who had previously worked with Frank Lloyd Wright and designed many Prairie Style residences (Personal resume of Donald J. Stewart, no date, Clark County Historical Museum, Vancouver, Washington; Ochsner 1994:168-173). Finally Stewart's big career break came in November 1933 when he was asked by Portland architect and friend, W.F. Higgins, to work with him on an addition

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number E Page 4

to the high school building in Vancouver. It was then that Stewart moved the family to Vancouver and he took his first steps in establishing a solo career as an architect. Stewart continued to work with Higgins until January 1935 before establishing his own independent practice (Personal resume of Donald J. Stewart, no date, Clark County Historical Museum, Vancouver, Washington).

**EARLY COMMISSIONS AND WORLD WAR II-ERA DESIGNS (1935-1945)**

Stewart began practicing as Donald J. Stewart, Architect, in 1935, and continued his solo practice in Vancouver until 1952. Stewart also operated a Longview, Washington, office with Larry Rice from 1940 to 1941 (Personal resume of Donald J. Stewart, no date, Clark County Historical Museum, Vancouver, Washington). Stewart's solo career began at the height of the Great Depression, and like many other architects he struggled professionally through this period. His first substantial project was an addition to Camas Junior High School in 1935; most Stewart's commissions between 1935 and 1945 were for school and commercial projects. Many of his early buildings were completed in the Art Deco and Streamline Moderne styles, including the Luepke Florist (1937), the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Plant (1941), and Hough Grade School (1940), all of which were constructed in Vancouver.

A commission in 1940 to design 17 houses for the Telocaset Heights Subdivision in Vancouver was an early opportunity for Stewart to gain experience on a federally supported project. Homes within Telocaset Heights were available for purchase using Section 608 loans from the Federal Housing Authority, a program that was later mired in controversy due to widespread abuse and windfall profits made by corporate sponsors (Federal Housing Administration 1956). The houses of Telocaset Heights were modest Minimal Traditional dwellings offering two to four rooms and a dinette, a full basement, and garage, and were valued between \$5,000 and \$5,550 (Meredith 1943:37). In 1941, Stewart was asked to design another 23 houses for the subdivision.

Vancouver's population exploded during the war as people came to the area seeking work at the Kaiser shipyards and the Alcoa aluminum plant. Between December of 1941 and 1943, it is reported that the greater Vancouver area experienced a 300% increase in population (Vancouver Housing Authority 1945). The federal Public Housing Authority cooperated with the local Vancouver Housing Authority to meet the unprecedented demand for new housing, designing several temporary neighborhoods that could be built quickly and would provide flexibility for later redeveloped after the war.

This demand for housing and community services provided an opportunity for Stewart to build on his experience designing for the Telocaset Heights subdivision. Working in partnership as an associate with the architectural firm of Whitehouse & Roehr, in 1943 Stewart helped to design five temporary schools, including McLoughlin Junior High School in the McLoughlin Heights project, and helped design several additions to temporary schools for the Public Buildings Administration and for the Vancouver School District No. 37 (Personal resume of Donald J. Stewart, no date, Clark County Historical Museum, Vancouver, Washington). Less is known about Stewart's work designing temporary housing in association with J. Lister Holmes and Victor N. Jones, Architects of Seattle, Washington. Operating under the name of Stewart, Holmes & Jones, the architects designed over 1,000 temporary housing units for defense industry workers in Vancouver's McLoughlin Heights area (CCHM 1990:TP 45:1; Houser 2020). In a 1990 interview, Stewart recalled the following about his work designing temporary housing during World War II (CCHM 1990:TP 45:1).

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number E Page 5

*“Dale Helprin [sic Day Hilborn] and I were the two architects in town. The [Vancouver Housing Authority] director assured us that Dale and I would share the housing equally. Well, it happened that the Oregon architects in Portland were sitting there with nothing to do and the Federal Government brought four of the architectural firms from Portland into it so the work was divided between 6 architectural firms and we each had about a thousand units apiece. We had about 200 units about where the present cemetery [Parkhill Cemetery] is up on the Heights. They had a number of acres that were not being used, and the housing authority rented it and built 200 units there. Then we had a thousand houses up on other parts of the Heights. Because of the nature of the work, I associated myself with Seattle architects. We had a firm of Stewart, Holmes & Jones. Holmes and Jones had experience in doing this kind of housing, so I associated with them.”*

After contributing to the design of temporary communities for Vancouver’s workers, Stewart earned numerous commissions for commercial and public buildings as World War II ended. Likely in response to pent-up demand on behalf of businesses, Stewart designed 18 new commercial buildings or additions to existing commercial buildings in 1945. That same year, he worked on several government buildings.

**POST-WORLD WAR II-ERA, 1946-1952**

Among his more notable work during the post war era was the commission for the Skamania County Courthouse in Stevenson, Washington, which proved to be one of his favorite works and was considered by *The Oregonian* in 1949 to be “as modern and daring a government building as will be found anywhere” (Stewart 1980). The project was used by Stewart as his master’s thesis for obtaining his Professional Degree of Architectural Engineering from Washington State University in 1952 (Ritz 2002:371). The courthouse, which was completed in 1949, represented an early exploration of the International Style by Stewart.

During the post-war years most of Stewart’s commissions were for projects within southwest Washington, specifically in Vancouver. Nearly 80% of his projects were designing commercial buildings, schools/education district buildings, and private residences for Vancouver’s professional and business community. But he also designed hotels, hospitals, and churches, among other projects during this time.

His residential projects during this period were typically Ranch or Minimal Traditional houses. The designs often included gable roofs with minimal eave overhang, sheltered porches supported by clusters of slim columns, and oversize wood windows corresponding with interior living areas. Brick veneer was commonly selected by Stewart to clad exterior walls.

Buildings that Stewart designed for the Washington School for the Deaf during this period also so his increasing interest in the International Style. His first building at the campus, Hunter Gymnasium, completed in 1937 featured elements of the Art Deco and Stripped Classical style. However Stewart’s designs for two dormitories, Deer Hall and MacDonald Hall in 1946 (constructed at the campus in 1949),

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number E Page 6

are low-slung, angular and use of simple brick cladding and are evocative of the International Style. Deer Hall though featured an oversized bow window on a side elevation and a flared copper hood over the main entry, elements that recall of the Regency Revival style and Stewart's early preference for traditional building details.

Although his design for Northrop Primary School on the campus was completed just five years after Deer Hall, it had a decidedly modern appearance and demonstrated Stewart's full embrace the International Style. Where Stewart used wood windows for Deer Hall that were similar in size and configuration to some of his residential work of the late 1940s, Northrop Primary School has ribbons of aluminum windows and a foyer that is lit on either side by floor to ceiling windows. The stark difference in Stewart's fenestration for the two buildings may be attributed to the different use of the buildings on the campus – Deer Hall for residential use, and Northrop Primary School for classroom instruction and testing – or it may reflect the changing availability of materials and Stewart's evolving tastes as a designer. Stewart's design for Clarke Hall and Lloyd Auditorium, which was commissioned in 1951 and constructed on the Washington State School for the Deaf campus in 1954, reflects the simplicity of form and sparse decoration of Northrop Primary School as well.

**STEWART AND RICHARDSON, ARCHITECTS, 1952 -1962**

***Meeting and Partnering with Kenneth Richardson***

By 1950 Stewart was operating a busy office with 18 to 20 employees and had two associate architects, J. Craig Weaver and William E. La Londe (William E. La Londe, personal communication 2008). In 1952 a chance opportunity to work with architect Kenneth E. Richardson from Portland led to a new partnership. Renamed Stewart & Richardson; the firm achieved great success over the next 10 years.

Richardson was a notable designer and had connections to one of Portland's most prestigious architectural firms. He was born in Denver on September 27, 1909, and with his family moved to Portland where he graduated from Jefferson High School. He began his studies at the Portland Museum Art School and trained as a draftsman with A.E. Doyle. Plagued by poor eyesight, he worked in other fields during the Great Depression of the 1930s. During World War II Richardson served one year in the Merchant Marines. Upon completing his duty, he studied drafting through a University of Oregon correspondence course and worked with an eye doctor to improve his eyesight (*The Oregonian* 2003).

Richardson rejoined the Doyle office as a designer, which by then had been reorganized as Pietro Belluschi, Architect, in 1943. Belluschi was a protégé of Doyle and became an influential Oregon architect in his own right. After Belluschi's departure from Oregon in 1951, Richardson continued the firm as a designer with Belluschi, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill before joining Stewart (*Daily Journal of Commerce* 1952). For reasons unknown, Richardson left the partnership in 1963 and moved to Seattle. By 1969 he was working as a designer for the firm of Durham, Anderson & Freed where he retired from in the late 1970s. Active in the local and national chapters of the AIA, he served as chairman of the AIA National Religious Buildings Committee (1961-64) and was also a member of the Church Architectural



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number E Page 7

Guild of America (Daily Journal of Commerce 1952; Ritz 2002:29-33). Richardson died in September of 2003 at the age of 93.

The Stewart and Richardson partnership formed as a result of Stewart's commission to design the Vancouver First Presbyterian Church. Having served on the development committee as a church member, Stewart had suggested Belluschi as a possible lead architect for the project. The design committee wished to have a church similar to the First Presbyterian Church in Cottage Grove, Oregon, that Belluschi had designed. However by the time the committee approached Belluschi to gauge his interest, he had taken on the position of Dean of Architecture and Urban Planning at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and was not available. Belluschi suggested that Richardson take on the project since he had been an understudy for his church designs, including the church in Cottage Grove (CCHM 1990: TP 45:1).

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, who ran Belluschi's Portland office and was Richardson's employer, was not interested in the job. However they did have any issues if Richardson wanted to design the church on his own. In the end, Stewart and Richardson formed their partnership and collaborated on the design of the church building (CCHM 1990:TP 45:1). They obtained office space in Portland at the Bishop's House (233 SW Stark Street), a historic building previously used for workshops by A.E. Doyle. The firm's commissions consisted primarily of schools, churches, residences, and small commercial buildings.

***Stewart's Contribution to the Firm's Designs***

Attributing work specifically to Stewart during this period in his career is problematic because of the collaborative nature of an architectural office and any specific influences brought to the office by Richardson. However, due to Stewart's prior specialization in school design and Richardson's prior experience in designing churches with Belluschi, one may deduce that Stewart likely took the lead on schools while Richardson focused on church design. Stewart, reflecting on the Vancouver First Presbyterian Church project that brought he and Richardson into professional partnership, once noted that "I decided I didn't want to have anything to do with design of churches...I had visions of squabbles," (Salter 1985).

Additionally, Stewart's work proceeding his partnership with Richardson was heavily influenced by Art Deco, Streamline Moderne, and International Style architecture. Perhaps stemming from his years of delivering publicly funded projects during the Great Depression and World War II, Stewart's buildings were elegant yet humble; they offered simple expression of form and eschewed excessive decoration. Stewart's material choices skewed towards concrete, brick, and aluminum, evidencing a Machine Age sensibility. He was not known for his use of wood, an abundant natural building material of the Pacific Northwest that was celebrated with the Northwest Regional style.

Before his partnership with Stewart, Richardson was an understudy of Pietro Belluschi, an acclaimed architect and early practitioner of the Northwest Regional style. The influence of Belluschi on the body of Stewart and Richardson's work, and that of the greater Pacific Northwest architecture scene of the mid-twentieth century was immense. Unlike Stewart's earlier work, his partnership with Richardson resulted in designs that were firmly rooted in the Northwest Regional style. Many of their

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number E Page 8

designs during the partnership emphasized use of regional materials and addressed regional climatic and lighting issues. Such considerations included broad overhanging gable or hip roofs, large window panels, the use of wood-framed structures of unpainted or naturally finished wood, and the use of non-academic forms and details. It is possible that the firm's Northwest Regional designs were strongly influenced by Richardson; however, this assumption does not consider the likely evolution of Stewart's design ethos to meet the changing aesthetic of the time.

***Defining Works of Stewart's Partnership with Richardson***

Several school buildings of note that were designed in the firm's early years evidence Stewart's primary involvement based on their physical characteristics. These schools include Astoria High School in Astoria, Oregon (commissioned 1954), Hudson's Bay High School in Vancouver, Washington (commissioned in 1952), and Reynolds High School in Troutdale, Oregon (commissioned 1955). Hudson's Bay High School, one of Stewart's favorite works, was recognized for its prominent use of aluminum framing in an otherwise traditionally designed, brick-clad school building. The framework allowed for square panels of aluminum insulation and glass to be placed as desired, giving the building a unique modular feel (*The Oregonian* 1958).

Notable churches attributed to Stewart and Richardson include their first project together, the Vancouver First Presbyterian Church (completed in 1957), the Portland First Methodist Church in southwest Portland, Oregon (completed in 1957), and the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Eugene, Oregon (completed in 1961). Each of the churches are grounded in the Northwest Regional aesthetics; the church exteriors employ simple massing and rooflines, and incorporate an abundance of naturally finished wood and wood laminated structures to define the spacious sanctuaries (McMath 1974:630; Pacific Architects 1956:6). In 1960, Stewart and Richardson received an Award of Merit from the Oregon chapter of the AIA for their work on the First Presbyterian Church in Vancouver. The Westminster Presbyterian Church in Eugene, which exhibits some influence of Neo-Expressionism within the interior of the sanctuary, was recognized by the Church Architects Guild of America with an award in 1962. Stewart's level of involvement in the design of these projects is assumed to be limited.

An area where Stewart likely provided a strong contribution during his partnership with Richardson was in the design of numerous public libraries. Aiding to their various commission was the Portland Library Association who initiated a development program to expand facilities and book collections in growing communities in the 1950s (*The Sunday Oregonian* 1954). The goal was to adapt existing facilities and create new ones that reflected the changing views on libraries, placing emphasis on creating relaxed, comfortable, and inviting atmospheres (*The Oregon Journal* 1959; *The Oregonian* 1957).

Stewart and Richardson received a commission for numerous libraries including alterations to the East Portland Branch Library in 1955. The following year, they began to receive other library commissions, including for the exuberant Hollywood Branch with its pagoda-like rooftop motif and bright red tile on exterior walls which opened in 1959. In southeast Portland, the firm also completed designs for the Midland Branch Library (demolished in 1999) (Personal resume of Donald J. Stewart, no date, Clark County Historical Museum, Vancouver, Washington). Libraries designed by Stewart and Richardson were most often completed in the International Style, with some hewing closer to small-scale

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number E Page 9

New Formalism. Setbacks supported by square posts created a grand entry and shaded walls of aluminum windows; rooflines, if not flat were often playful, evidenced by the Hollywood Branch's outer pagoda and interior folded plate ceiling. Similar design choices were employed for bank buildings designed by Stewart and Richardson, as is demonstrated at the U.S. Bank in Roseburg, Oregon, that was commissioned in 1959.

A defining work of the firm in the late 1950s includes looking at their design and planning efforts for the Oregon Centennial Exposition and International Trade Fair. Held in 1959 to commemorate Oregon's statehood, Stewart and Richardson were chosen in part because of their prior designs and their explorative use of northwest materials, including laminated woods and aluminum panels and frames (*The Oregonian* 1958:12). In addition to conceiving the layout of the exposition site, Stewart and Richardson designed at least five buildings and features at the fair (*The Oregon Journal* 1959; Personal resume of Donald J. Stewart, no date, Clark County Historical Museum, Vancouver, Washington). Most were intended to be temporary and their projects included the Hall of Religious History which used a decahedron plan and incorporated ten flared glulam arches to form the pagoda-like structure. They also designed a "fire sculpture" for Northwest Natural Gas which comprised of a "sweeping" vertical glulam structure topped by "shooting flames 15 feet high" (*The Oregon Journal* 1959:19). An exhibit called the "Cameo all-gas home," also known as the House of Ideas, was erected by the Portland Home Builders using overall plans of Stewart and Richardson. Richardson described the design and materials showcase as, "...a highly successful venture in merging of viewpoints of architects, builders and suppliers" (*The Portland Home Builders Monthly* 1959).

Other structures at the fair designed by Stewart and Richardson included an International Garden of Tomorrow Band Shell, a sawmill, and they oversaw repairs to the Pacific International Livestock Building, which became one of the main exhibit halls. This exhibit building, known today as the Portland Metropolitan Exposition Center, is the last remaining building at the former Centennial site.

**STEWART, ALLEN, MCMATH ARCHITECTS, 1962-1967**

In 1962 the firm of Stewart and Richardson reorganized; elevating Frank C. Allen and George A. McMath to full partners under the firm Stewart, Richardson, Allen, McMath, Architects. However shortly thereafter, Richardson decided to leave the partnership and moved to Seattle. The office then became known as Stewart, Allen, McMath Architects. In a 1990 interview, Stewart recalled how he had encouraged Richardson to leave and get a fresh start somewhere else; a difficult divorce had taken a toll on Richardson, and he was frequently traveling to speak with organizations across the county due to his national prominence among church designers (CCHM 1990:TP 45:1; *The Oregonian* 1962).

All partners of the reorganized firm had prior associations with the prominent Pacific Northwest architect A.E. Doyle. Allen had worked with A.E. Doyle & Associates, Pietro Belluschi, and Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill. George A. McMath, Doyle's grandson, had worked in Belluschi's office and with Jabobberger, Franks & Norman, Architects. Stewart had worked for Doyle at the beginning of his career.

Stewart remained with the firm until 1967, when he retired at the age of 72. He had proposed an arrangement where he would stay on part time, but this was dismissed by his younger partners (CCHM

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number E Page 10

1990:TP 45:1). They later elevated William J. Hawkins III to a partner after Stewart retired.

***Defining Works of Stewart's Partnership with Allen and McMath***

The buildings that resulted from Stewart's relatively short partnership in the last phase of his career with Allen and McMath are not as recognized or well known as projects from his years as a solo practitioner, nor do they achieve the acclaim of buildings that were designed during Stewart's decade-long partnership with Richardson. Some projects reused design language from previous works; an example is the Community Presbyterian Church in Sandy, Oregon (commissioned in 1962), the design shares the same dramatic gable-on-hip roofline of the award-winning Westminster Presbyterian Church in Eugene that was commissioned from Stewart and Richardson in 1953. During this later period, many commissions were for additions or alterations to buildings that had been designed by Stewart during his solo practice or during his partnership with Richardson. These projects is likely where Stewart's focus was placed during his final years of practice before retirement.

Leading up to Stewart's retirement in 1967, the firm saw most of their commissions shift to Oregon; and a majority of commissions for projects in Washington came from the Bureau of Public Roads (now the Federal Highway Administration, Western Federal Lands Highway Division) for work on the agency's Vancouver facility. Although Richardson had left the firm, the design and updating of churches continued to be a cornerstone of the business. As a follow-up to Stewart's solo work on the Skamania County Courthouse, the firm was selected to design a jail (completed in 1965) that adjoins the courthouse. A handful of library commissions in Portland followed a string of library projects completed by Stewart and Richardson during the late 1950s and early 1960s, one of the most notable being the Rockwood Branch Library in Portland (completed in 1963).

During the mid-1960s, Stewart, Allen, McMath Architects completed restoration projects at the Ox Barn Museum in Aurora, Oregon, and at the Mission Mill Museum (now part of the Willamette Heritage Center) in Salem, Oregon. These projects show a new emphasis on historic preservation that was likely introduced to the firm by McMath, and would later define the partnership of Allen, McMath & Hawkins after Stewart's retirement. Although Stewart was known for his advocacy of preserving historic places, such as the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, it often occurred outside of his professional architectural practice. McMath and Hawkins became widely recognized as leading figures of the historic preservation movement in Portland and the Pacific Northwest.

**STEWART'S PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

Living in Vancouver from 1933 until his death in 1996, Stewart contributed to the community in varying capacities during his lifetime. He served on the original Vancouver Planning Commission (1935-1940), on the Columbia Gorge Steering Committee (1938-1940), on the NW Regional Council of the National Advisory Council on School Buildings Problems, and was an instructor at Clark Junior College (1938-1942) (Documentation and Conservation of the Modern Movement, Western Washington 2008).

Later in his career, Stewart actively participated in regional and national conversations regarding architectural design and practice through his involvement with the Washington and Oregon chapters of the AIA. He served as the Oregon Chapter President of the AIA from 1955-1956 and served on various

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number E Page 11

national level committees between 1951 and 1961. He was the National Board Director of the Northwest Region of AIA from 1956-1959. Stewart's contributions to his profession and the community at large were recognized when he was elected as a Fellow of the AIA in 1962.

Stewart's lifelong interest in history was evidenced by his longtime membership in the Fort Vancouver Historical Society, where he also served as a Trustee and President (1947-1954), and was instrumental in the creation of legislation to establish Fort Vancouver as a National Monument in 1948 (Fort Vancouver was later redesignated as a National Historic Site in 1961). In addition to the aforementioned boards, Stewart also served on.

- Chairman of the Washington Children's Home Society (1957-1959)
- Oregon Northwest Regional Planning Commission
- Trustee of the Vancouver Memorial Hospital (1943-1947)
- Vancouver Community Forum Board (1953-1954)
- Clark County Planning Commission (1953-1956)
- Advisory Board for Washington State University Institute of Technology (1952-1957)
- Chairman, Long Range Planning Committee, First Presbyterian Church of Vancouver (1948-1952)
- Director of the First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Vancouver (1939 through 1962)

Once retired, Stewart pursued gardening, nature, art, and community activities. He and his wife, Elizabeth, created a garden at their home in Vancouver, called Heathergate Garden, and donated 12 acres of their land to initiate the creation of a park along Burnt Bridge Creek. Stewart devoted much of his retirement years to caring for that acreage, gardening at home, and water-color painting (CCHM 1990:TP 45:1). Donald Stewart died in Vancouver in November 1996. He is considered, alongside Day Hilborn, as one of Vancouver's "two most prominent twentieth-century architects" (Ritz 2002; Ricks and Vogt 1996).

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number F Page 11

**ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES & REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

Throughout his prolific career as an architect in the Pacific Northwest, Donald Stewart, along with his partners and associates, designed over three hundred buildings and structures. Most of his works were constructed in the Vancouver area, and most were designed before Stewart formed a partnership with architect Kenneth Richardson in 1952.

This Multiple Property Document (MPD) provides a framework for understanding and evaluating the historic significance of Stewart's work within the context of his wide-ranging career. Associated property types have therefore been defined as 1) those designed by Stewart as a sole proprietor with associates between 1933 and 1952, and 2) those properties that were designed by firms for which Stewart was a partner between 1952 and 1967. It is expected that most properties listed in association with this MPD will fall within Stewart's years as a sole proprietor.

As a sole proprietor, Stewart was best known for his school buildings and his work on housing developments that were quickly erected to meet worker housing demand during World War II. During his partnership with Richardson, the pair were known for their Northwest Regional churches, International Style and New Formalist libraries, and for being the planners and lead architects of the Oregon Centennial Exposition and International Trade Fair in 1959. For the last five years of his career Stewart was partnered with younger architects, Allen and McMath. Although the firm's designs from this period are not particularly notable, the partners began to explore restoration projects and historic preservation prior to Stewart's retirement in 1967.

Subtypes have been included for each associated property type and have been selected based on the prevalent styles and functions of Stewart's designs during that period. Note that some of the subtypes include more than one architectural style; this was done to provide an overlap for phases of Stewart's design work as observed in the field.

**Property Type 1: Properties Designed by Donald J. Stewart, 1933-1952**

- Stripped Classical, Art Deco, and Streamline Modern Buildings
- World War II Housing Developments and Temporary Constructions
- Private Residences
- International Style Buildings

**Property Type 2: Properties Designed by Stewart and Partners, 1952-1967**

- Northwest Regional Style Buildings
- Mid-Century Modern Buildings

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number F Page 12

***Attribution***

Attributing specific designs to Stewart when he was partnered with other architects will be an important step when evaluating Stewart properties for listing in the National Register. Stewart's involvement in a project can be ranked on the following scale, from 1 to 4.

- **Rank 1: Lead designer.** Attribution should be documented in historic records (i.e., architectural drawings, newspapers, trade journals, oral history interviews, etc.).
- **Rank 2: Likely lead designer, or co-lead designer.** Attribution can be based on design characteristics, style, building function, or evidence from historic records.
- **Rank 3: Contributing designer.** For projects where Stewart is known or likely to have been a contributor but was not a leading designer. This can be substantiated by evidence found in the historical record or asserted through well-reasoned analysis of design characteristics.
- **Rank 4: No involvement.** No documented or assumed involvement in designing the property.

Properties should generally rank as 1 or 2 on this scale to meet registration requirements for listing in the National Register in association with this MPD. However, there may be instances where Stewart's involvement as a contributing designer (Rank 3) rises to the requirements outlined for associated property types to be listed in the National Register.

***Guidance on Applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation***

All Donald Stewart-designed buildings listed in the National Register in association with this MPD will be significant under Criterion C as resources that represent various phases of Stewart's career as a master architect. The boundaries of these properties will typically be limited to the tax lot and/or footprint of Stewart's design. Stewart's buildings have potential to contribute to historic districts, and some collections of his designs are located adjacent to each other, hence the potential for a historic district be listed in the National Register in association with this MPD. Historic districts would require a preponderance of buildings that individually or collectively meet the guidelines set forth for the property types and subtypes of this MPD.

Particularly for properties designed by Donald J. Stewart between 1933 and 1952, listed properties may also have significant associations under National Register Criteria A and B. During this period Stewart designed several World War II housing projects, schools, and other public buildings that likely have associations with historically significant events under Criterion A, such as the growth and development of a neighborhood or commercial area. Stewart's commercial buildings and the many residences he designed after World War II may also have an association with significant people of the past under Criterion B. Although these historical associations should be explored, this MPD does not provide the context needed to substantiate eligibility for National Register listing under Criteria other than Criterion C. It is unlikely that associated property types of this MPD would meet qualifications for listing in the National Register under Criterion D for information potential.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number F Page 13

**PROPERTY TYPE 1: PROPERTIES DESIGNED BY DONALD J. STEWART AND ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTS, 1933-1952**

After obtaining his license to practice architecture in Washington in 1931, Stewart did not receive his first big break until Portland architect W.F. Higgins asked for his help in designing an addition to Vancouver High School in 1933. Stewart eventually started his own firm, Donald J. Stewart, Architect, in 1935, and continued as a sole proprietor until he formed a partnership with Kenneth E. Richardson in 1952. It was a difficult period to begin a career as an architect, as the economic uncertainty of the Great Depression and World War II had an impact on available commissions for newcomers such as Stewart. As such, like many architects of the day, Stewart embraced opportunities to team with other architects and developers, gaining valuable experience.

Stewart's commercial and public commissions of this period often reflected contemporary ideals of the Modern Movement. His earlier buildings skewed towards the Art Deco and Streamline Moderne styles, with later buildings fully embracing the more ridged International Style. Stewart's designs for commercial and public buildings are identified by their dedication to transparency of construction, simple rectilinear forms, asymmetrical yet balanced massing, low overall building height, open interior spaces, and adaptation of local materials to fit Modern Movement aesthetics.

Residential projects completed by Stewart include temporary housing developments in Vancouver during World War II and houses for private clients. Many of Stewart's World War II-era housing were rendered in the Minimal Traditional style. His post-war residential designs tend to be one to one-and-a-half story homes with romantic details, including oversized wood windows, bay windows, and brick cladding.

***Subtype: Stripped Classical, Art Deco, and Streamline Moderne Buildings***

At the beginning of Stewart's career in the 1930s and 1940s, Stewart embraced the prevailing Modern Movement styles of the period. His commercial and school projects often employed and mixed aesthetics of the Stripped Classical, Art Deco, and Streamline Moderne styles. Stewart's designs clearly convey the components of each style but are somewhat understated. This may reflect the economic pressures of the period, as avoiding excessive decoration would have kept costs and building materials to a minimum.

Examples of Stewart's Stripped Classical designs include the National Bank of Commerce in Vancouver (1941), and the now-demolished Clark General Hospital in Clark County, Washington (1942). The Luepke Florist building in Vancouver (1937), the Vancouver Iron and Steel Foundry Office Building (1941), and the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Plant in Vancouver (1941) are notable examples of Stewart's use of Art Deco and Streamline Moderne styles. The Hunter Gymnasium at the Washington State School for the Deaf in Vancouver (1937) appears to be transitional in its design, incorporating elements of the Stripped Classical style and Art Deco. Similarly, the Hough Grade School in Vancouver, Washington (1940) is a transitional design with features of both the Art Deco style and International Style.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number F Page 14

Significance

Stewart's Stripped Classical, Art Deco, and Streamline Moderne buildings have potential to be architecturally significant under Criterion C. If these buildings meet the registration requirements outlined below, they embody the early work and design choices of master architect Donald J. Stewart during his years as a young architect and sole proprietor working in Vancouver, Washington. They are also likely to be considered as good examples of their type, period, and method of construction that retain distinctive and character-defining design elements. Eligibility for listing under Criteria A, B, and D should be evaluated for associations outside of those presented in this MPD.

Registration Requirements

Properties listed under Criterion C for this subtype should achieve Rank 1 or 2 for attribution, meaning that Stewart is known or assumed to be the lead designer. The property must have design characteristics that are broadly associated with the Stripped Classical, Streamline Moderne, or Art Deco styles of the Modern Movement. It is assumed that most of these characteristics will be identified on the building exterior.

There is a fair number of properties representing this stage in Stewart's career. Therefore, a property of this subtype must retain most, if not all aspects of integrity to meet registration requirements. Integrity of design, materials, and workmanship are of primary importance to convey Stewart's original design intent. Since many of the properties of this subtype are educational or commercial in use, interior modifications are expected to retain continued functionality, however public space should retain a level of integrity as well. With few exceptions, if external character-defining features are generally intact, internal modifications or change in use should not prevent the property from meeting registration requirements. However, the extent of interior modifications should be weighed against Stewart's original design and the building exterior to assess whether Stewart's overall design intent is retained. If, in the opinion of the surveyor interior modifications and other changes observed have diminished the property's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, then the property does not meet registration requirements.

Properties Listed

Stewart's Luepke Florist building (1937), located in Vancouver's downtown business district, was listed in the National Register in 2016 and would meet the registration requirements of this MPD. The property that embodies distinctive characteristics of its type and period of construction, and is a representative work of Donald J. Stewart. The building's original Streamline Moderne design and an addition that was commissioned in 1945 were designed solely by Stewart (Chamberlain 2016). The building was also listed for its significant under Criterion B for its association with a prominent business and civic leader in Vancouver, Rudolph Luepke.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number F Page 15

***Subtype: World War II Housing Developments and Temporary Constructions***

During World War II, Stewart was one of few architects who was active in Vancouver and available to take on projects commissioned by local housing authorities to address housing shortages for vital workers. The large nature of some of the projects, which were outside of his area of design specialty, led Stewart to team with other architects based in Vancouver and Seattle. However, Stewart also took on solo commissions from local housing authorities to design a specific number of houses that would then be constructed in larger housing developments.

Projects for which Stewart was commissioned by the Vancouver Housing Authority were intended to be temporary, with removal pre-planned to make way for redevelopment after the war. The requested buildings were not limited to houses; Stewart also worked on several school projects during this period, including McLoughlin Junior High School (commissioned in 1943) in the McLoughlin Heights housing project of Vancouver. Such intact examples of Stewart's temporary buildings were intended for removal after the war, and are not likely to be found. However, some "temporary" buildings were known to have been moved to different locations for use in housing developments after the war and could rise to the level of eligible if they retain a high level of integrity (Vancouver Housing Authority 1960).

Stewart also worked for private developers who were incentivized to build new houses for purchase with Section 608 loans from the Federal Housing Authority. Many of Stewart-designed houses in privately-developed neighborhoods remain extant in the present day. For example, the Telocaset Heights neighborhood of Vancouver retains many houses from the early 1940s; it is possible that some or many of these houses were built from Stewart designs. These resources could be individually eligible as representative examples of his work, or could listed as a district representing a collection of Stewart's designs.

Most buildings designed by Stewart for the intended purpose of bolstering World War II-era worker communities were intended to be prefabricated. The designs themselves skew towards Minimal Traditional, a style that was popular in the 1930s and limited superfluous design elements that might complicate construction and increase costs. However, projects such as McLoughlin Heights Junior High School show signs of Modern Movement influence in the design; the simplicity of some aspects of International Style and Northwest Regional design lent itself well to the needs of Stewart and his associated architects and builders during this period of unprecedented and concentrated demand for housing stock.

Significance

There are likely few extant examples of temporary buildings and permanent housing designed by Stewart to meet World War II-era demand. Some buildings, if they do survive, may have been moved from their original location. If these buildings are identified and meet the registration requirements outlined below, they are regarded as rare examples of the World War II-era phase of master architect Donald J. Stewart's career and are significant under Criterion C. They are also likely to be considered as good examples of their type, period, and method of construction that retain distinctive and character-defining design elements. If a group of these buildings are identified, they should be considered for listing as a historic district; such a district would provide an opportunity to explore and document this

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number F Page 16

property subtype in further detail, providing important information about a significant period in local, regional, and national history.

Eligibility for listing under Criteria A, B, and D should be evaluated for associations outside of those presented in this MPD. If the property meets the registration requirements of the MPD, it is likely that the property has significant associations with events or patterns of events that would qualify it for listing under Criterion A. More than any other property subtype, Stewart's World War II-era buildings may have potential to be listed under Criterion D if they are a principal source of information that is important to understanding this period of our past, however such evaluation is outside the scope of this MPD.

Registration Requirements

Properties listed under Criterion C for this subtype should ideally achieve Rank 1 or 2 for attribution, meaning that Stewart is known or assumed to be the lead designer. However, if few examples remain of this subtype and a limited number (or none) achieve Rank 1 or 2 attribution, Rank 3 properties should be considered as significant if Stewart is known or confidently assumed to have played a major role in the design. The property should be differentiated from Stewart's other residential housing projects in that the work was commissioned or supported by a housing authority, either through direct funding or programs such as Section 608 mortgage lending sponsored by the Federal Housing Authority. Likewise, properties within this subtype were constructed to provide temporary and/or short-term housing for an influx of workers at wartime industrial manufacturers of southwest Washington.

It is assumed that relatively few examples of this property subtype remain extant. If such a property is identified, it may have been moved to its current location or incurred other modifications to support its continued use. Therefore, a property of this subtype has a much lower threshold for integrity than others outlined in the MPD. Integrity of location is desired, but not needed if the property retains a high level of overall integrity in other categories. The property must generally have integrity of design or have a combination of aspects of integrity (such as materials, workmanship, and association) that convey the property's association with this subtype of Stewart properties. Integrity of setting is not important unless the property is a historic district with a preponderance of Stewart-designed buildings. Such a district should be assessed for the frequency of historic and modern infill, and if such changes have impacted the ability of the grouping to convey Stewart's original design intent.

Properties Listed

No properties are currently listed under this category.

***Subtype: Private Residences***

Prior to World War II, Stewart completed both single-family and multi-family residential projects. After World War II and leading up to his partnership with Richardson, Stewart was called upon to design several single-family houses, most of which were built in Vancouver and all of which were in

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number F Page 17

Washington. The residential buildings designed by Stewart during this period were typically Ranch or Minimal Traditional houses. His designs often included gable roofs with minimal eave overhang, sheltered porches supported by clusters of slim posts, and oversize wood windows corresponding with interior living areas. Brick veneer was commonly selected by Stewart to clad exterior walls.

Stewart was not well-known or regarded for his residential commissions but was often commissioned to design houses for clients for whom he had provided commercial services. Therefore, private residences listed in association with this MPD should represent the best examples of Stewart's designs of the period.

Significance

Residential properties that were designed by Stewart for private clients and are not associated with World War II-era housing programs have potential to be architecturally significant under Criterion C. If these buildings meet the registration requirements outlined below, they embody the early work and design choices of master architect Donald J. Stewart during his years as a young architect and sole proprietor working in Vancouver, Washington. They are also likely to be considered as good examples of their type, period, and method of construction that retain distinctive and character-defining design elements. Eligibility for listing under Criteria A, B, and D should be evaluated for associations outside of those presented in this MPD.

Registration Requirements

Properties listed under Criterion C for this subtype must have Rank 1 or 2 attribution, meaning that Stewart is known or assumed to be the lead designer. A property of this subtype must retain most, if not all aspects of integrity to meet registration requirements. Integrity of design, materials, and workmanship are of primary importance to convey Stewart's original design intent.

The building exterior should retain original materials, decoration, and form, and the interior should continue to hew closely to the original floorplan devised by Stewart. Interior remodeling efforts should be anticipated, and do not significantly diminish aspects of integrity if Stewart's overall design scheme and intent are conveyed. However, a change from residential to commercial or other use is a major modification that diminishes integrity of design, feeling, and association. Unless there are mitigating circumstances that would merit inclusion of such a property in the National Register as an excellent example of Stewart's residential designs, residential properties that are no longer used for that purpose should not be considered for listing under Criterion C in association with this MPD.

Properties Listed

No properties are currently listed under this category.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number F Page 18

***Subtype: International Style Buildings***

Before partnering with Richardson in 1952, Stewart became highly regarded for his International Style schools and public buildings. The International Style designs completed by Stewart during his years as a sole proprietor emphasize his ability to work through site-specific challenges to achieve elegant and streamlined designs. Properties that fall within the International Style subtype are typically rectangular in shape with block-like massing. The buildings often have a flat roof, emphasize transparency of structure and materials, and feature ribbons of steel or aluminum window frames. The buildings typically incorporate asymmetry into exterior design, and at times use cantilevering to create a "weightless" quality.

Examples of Stewart's International Style designs include Clarke Hall and Lloyd Auditorium (1954), Northrop Primary School (1953), and the now-demolished Deer Hall (1949) at the Washington State School for the Deaf in Vancouver. One of Stewart's most acclaimed International Style designs was done for the Skamania County Courthouse (1949) in Stevenson, Washington. Vancouver's Hough Grade School (1940) is a transitional design with features of both the Streamline Moderne style and the International Style.

Significance

International Style buildings that were designed by Stewart have potential to be architecturally significant under Criterion C. If these buildings meet the registration requirements outlined below, they embody the early work and design choices of master architect Donald J. Stewart during his years as a young architect and sole proprietor working in Vancouver, Washington. They are also likely to be considered as good examples of their type, period, and method of construction that retain distinctive and character-defining design elements. Eligibility for listing under Criteria A, B, and D should be evaluated for associations outside of those presented in this MPD.

Registration Requirements

Properties listed under Criterion C for this subtype should achieve Rank 1 or 2 for attribution, meaning that Stewart is known or assumed to be the lead designer. The property must have design characteristics that are broadly attributed to the International Style. It is assumed that most of these characteristics will be identified on the building exterior.

There is a fair number of properties representing this stage in Stewart's career. Therefore, a property of this subtype must retain most, if not all aspects of integrity to meet registration requirements. Integrity of design, materials, and workmanship are of primary importance to convey Stewart's original design intent. Since many of the properties of this subtype are used for educational, government, or commercial in use, interior modifications are expected to retain continued functionality. With few exceptions, if external character-defining features are generally intact, internal modifications or change in use should not prevent the property from meeting registration requirements. However, the extent of interior modifications should be weighed against Stewart's original design and the building exterior to assess whether Stewart's overall vision is retained. If, in the opinion of the surveyor interior

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number F Page 19

modifications and other changes observed have diminished the property's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, then the property does not meet registration requirements.

Properties Listed

No properties are currently listed under this category.

**PROPERTY TYPE 2: PROPERTIES DESIGNED BY STEWART AND PARTNERS, 1952-1967**

After working as a sole proprietor in Vancouver for nearly two decades, the last 15 years of Stewart's career was spent working in partnerships; first with Kenneth Richardson (1952-1962), then with Frank Allen and George McMath (1962-1967). Although Stewart kept an office in Vancouver until 1957, his partnerships were based in Portland and an increasing number of commissions were fielded from clients in Oregon. By the time Stewart was partnered with Allen and McMath, most of the firm's projects were completed in Oregon. Due to the collaborative nature of these partnerships, it may be more difficult to list buildings in association with this MPD that were designed by Stewart and his various partners.

During Stewart's partnership with Richardson, the firm completed many school, library, and church projects in addition to other public, private, and commercial projects. Schools, libraries, and commercial buildings were typically designed with a blend of Mid-Century Modern characteristics. Many of these buildings will align with the International Style but incorporate elements of New Formalism and other emerging Modern styles of the era. The "Northwest Regional style" was typically employed by the firm when designing churches, but also had limited application to commercial and public buildings.

Stewart's later partnership with Allen and McMath was a period of transition for all parties involved. The firm had many commissions that appeared to result from prior work done by Stewart and Richardson, while preservation and restoration projects that were not typical of Stewart's earlier work, these projects likely show the influence of McMath.

***Subtype: Northwest Regional Style Buildings***

A defining style of Stewart's partnerships, particularly his partnership with Richardson, was the Northwest Regional style. A distinct regional representation of Modernism, Northwest Regional style is commonly seen in churches, schools, libraries, and residences designed by Stewart and partners. Character-defining features of Northwest Regional buildings designed by Stewart and partners include clear structural expression, wood and concrete construction, roofs with extended eaves, expansive window bays set in aluminum or wood frames, and modular interior spaces. Depending on the use of the building Northwest Regional characteristics may be employed to emphasize a more traditional appearance, or to underpin a sense of place for a Modern design that might otherwise feel tacked onto its landscape.

Examples of Northwest Regional designs that fall within this subtype by Stewart & Richardson include the First Presbyterian Church in Vancouver (1957); Westminster Presbyterian Church (1961) in Eugene, Oregon, and the First Methodist Church (1957) in Portland. Later examples designed by

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number F Page 20

Stewart, Allen, & McMath include the Rockwood Branch Library (1962) in Portland, and the Trestle Glen Camp Dining Hall (1966) in Barton, Oregon.

Significance

Northwest Regional style buildings that were designed by Stewart and partners have potential to be architecturally significant under Criterion C. If these buildings meet the registration requirements outlined below, they embody the later work and design choices of master architect Donald J. Stewart during his years as a partner in the successful firms of Stewart and Richardson, and Stewart, Allen & McMath. They are also likely to be considered as good examples of their type, period, and method of construction that retain distinctive and character-defining design elements. Eligibility for listing under Criteria A, B, and D should be evaluated for associations outside of those presented in this MPD.

Registration Requirements

Properties listed under Criterion C for this subtype should ideally achieve Rank 1 or 2 for attribution, meaning that Stewart is known or assumed to be the lead designer. However, since Stewart was partnered with architects who were accomplished in the Northwest Regional style, it may be difficult to identify Stewart's contribution to Northwest Regional buildings that were designed by Stewart-led partnerships. Thus, Rank 3 properties may be considered as significant if Stewart is known or confidently assumed to have played a major role in the design. The property must have design characteristics that are broadly attributed to the Northwest Regional style. If the property is a church and meets the registration requirements for this subtype, it is assumed that the property also meets Criteria Consideration A due to architectural or artistic distinction.

Northwest Regional style buildings designed by Stewart and his partners often placed an emphasis on the interior space. Warm woods, glulam beams, and strategically placed windows were used to create open spaces that connected the indoors with the outdoors. This is particularly notable within the churches designed by Stewart and Richardson, which often feature more traditional external forms with soaring interiors defined by their use of wood and filtered light. Thus, interior modifications should be considered with the same weight as exterior modifications to this subtype of property.

There are a fair number of properties representing this style that were produced by Stewart-led partnerships. Therefore, a property of this subtype must retain most, if not all aspects of integrity to meet registration requirements. Integrity of design, materials, and workmanship are of primary importance to convey Stewart's original design intent and the aesthetic of the Northwest Regional style. Depending on the relationship between the interior and exterior of the building, in addition to design considerations made to address site-specific issues, integrity of setting may also play a crucial role in conveying the historical significance of the property's design. Integrity of location should be retained.

Properties Listed

No properties are currently listed under this category.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number F Page 21

***Subtype: Mid-Century Modern Buildings***

Stewart-led partnerships were sought out for many public and commercial commissions, many of which were completed with designs that can broadly be categorized as Mid-Century Modern. Some of the designs that fall within this subtype hew closely to Stewart's earlier works, including Astoria High School in Astoria, Oregon (commissioned 1954), Hudson's Bay High School in Vancouver, Washington (commissioned in 1952), and Reynolds High School in Troutdale, Oregon (commissioned 1955). An example in Portland, the General Extension Division Office Building, now the Parkmill Building at Portland State University, was completed in 1957 and 1963. These education buildings evidence hallmarks of Stewart's design language, including simplicity of form, innovative use of aluminum, brick cladding, and lack of ornamentation.

Later designs completed by Stewart-led firms for libraries and businesses closely align with the International Style; however, the introduction of more playful and classical elements, such as folded plate roofs and abstracted colonnades at entry points, evidence an emerging influence of New Formalism and other forms of Modernism. A good example of this evolution in design is Stewart and Richardson's Hollywood Branch Library (1959) in Portland. The building balances aluminum window walls at the east and north elevations with solid wall construction to the south and west. The main entrance is at the north façade, where a colonnade shelters an entry vestibule with a built-in book drop. Exterior walls are clad with red ceramic tile punctuated at regular intervals by concrete supports. The interior features a folded plate ceiling, while the hip roof above is capped with a pagoda. Examples of designs that are similar to the Hollywood Branch Library but hew more closely to the International Style are the U.S. National Bank branch in Roseburg, Oregon (commissioned in 1959) and the Midland Branch Library in Portland (completed in 1958) that was later demolished to make way for a new library building completed in 1996.

This subtype also encompasses a limited number of International Style buildings that were designed by Stewart-led partnerships. Examples include the now-demolished Blue Cross of Oregon building (1963) in Portland, and the Multnomah Branch Bank of Multnomah Bank (1961) in Portland, which is now a Key Bank. However, this subtype does not include Northwest Regional designs completed by Stewart-led partnerships. Northwest Regional buildings have been identified as their own subtype as they are great in number, are typically well defined, and lack the transitional elements observed in many other Modern buildings that were commissioned from Stewart and Richardson and Stewart, Allen, & McMath during the 1950s and 1960s.

Significance

Mid-Century Modern buildings that were designed by Stewart and his partners have potential to be architecturally significant under Criterion C. The broad definition of the subtype is meant to encourage the listing of buildings that show mastery in Stewart's designs, regardless of the ease with which they can be classified as one particular style (such as International Style) over another and define the last part of his career. These buildings demonstrate Stewart's growth as a designer and his adaptation to evolving trends in Modern architecture. When compared to the designs he produced during his solo career, which were heavily influenced by Depression- and World War II-era contexts, post WWII designs produced by Stewart-led partnerships often embraced and clearly evidenced their



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number F Page 22

interaction with the surrounding environment, and used new materials and design techniques to lend a greater sense of weightlessness to the overall design.

If these buildings meet the registration requirements outlined below, they embody the later work and design choices of master architect Donald J. Stewart during his years as a partner in the successful firms of Stewart and Richardson, and Stewart, Allen, & McMath. They are also likely to be considered as good examples of their type, period, and method of construction that retain distinctive and character-defining design elements. Eligibility for listing under Criteria A, B, and D should be evaluated for associations outside of those presented in this MPD.

Registration Requirements

Properties listed under Criterion C for this subtype should achieve Rank 1 or 2 for attribution, meaning that Stewart is known or assumed to be the lead designer. The property must have design characteristics that are broadly associated with Mid-Century Modern architectural styles and movements, including (but not limited) to site-sensitive design, minimal ornamentation, form that follows function, strategic window placement, transparency of structure, and the use of new materials in innovative forms. If the property is a church and meets the registration requirements for this subtype, it is assumed that the property also meets Criterion Consideration A due to architectural or artistic distinction.

There are a fair number of properties representing this subtype that were produced by Stewart-led partnerships. Therefore, a property of this subtype must retain most, if not all aspects of integrity to meet registration requirements. Integrity of design, materials, and workmanship are of primary importance to convey Stewart's original design intent and the aesthetic of Mid-Century Modernism. Depending on the relationship between the interior and exterior of the building, in addition to design considerations made to address site-specific issues, integrity of setting may also play a crucial role in conveying the historical significance of the property's design. Integrity of location should be retained, unless the property meets Criterion Consideration B requirements and there are mitigating circumstances that would merit inclusion of such a property in the National Register as an excellent example of Stewart's Mid-Century Modern architecture.

The buildings of this subtype were often designed for public and commercial use, and likely have interior modifications if they remain extant. Such modifications do not disqualify a property from listing in association with this MPD. However, the extent of interior changes should be considered with those observed on the exterior to weigh overall loss of integrity.

Properties Listed

No properties are currently listed under this category.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   G   Page  23 

The map on page 24 illustrates the geographic distribution of known projects or building types associated with architect Donald J. Stewart. Stewart had offices first in Vancouver, Washington, and then later, in Portland, Oregon. As the map indicates, most of the known projects or buildings types are in Clark County, Washington, and Multnomah County, Oregon. The intent of the illustration is not to exclude from the MPD process those projects or building types that are presently unidentified or unattributed to Stewart, nor is the map meant to limit the boundaries of the MPD to those counties identified in the map, except in the case of the three known projects associated with Stewart that are outside of Washington and Oregon.

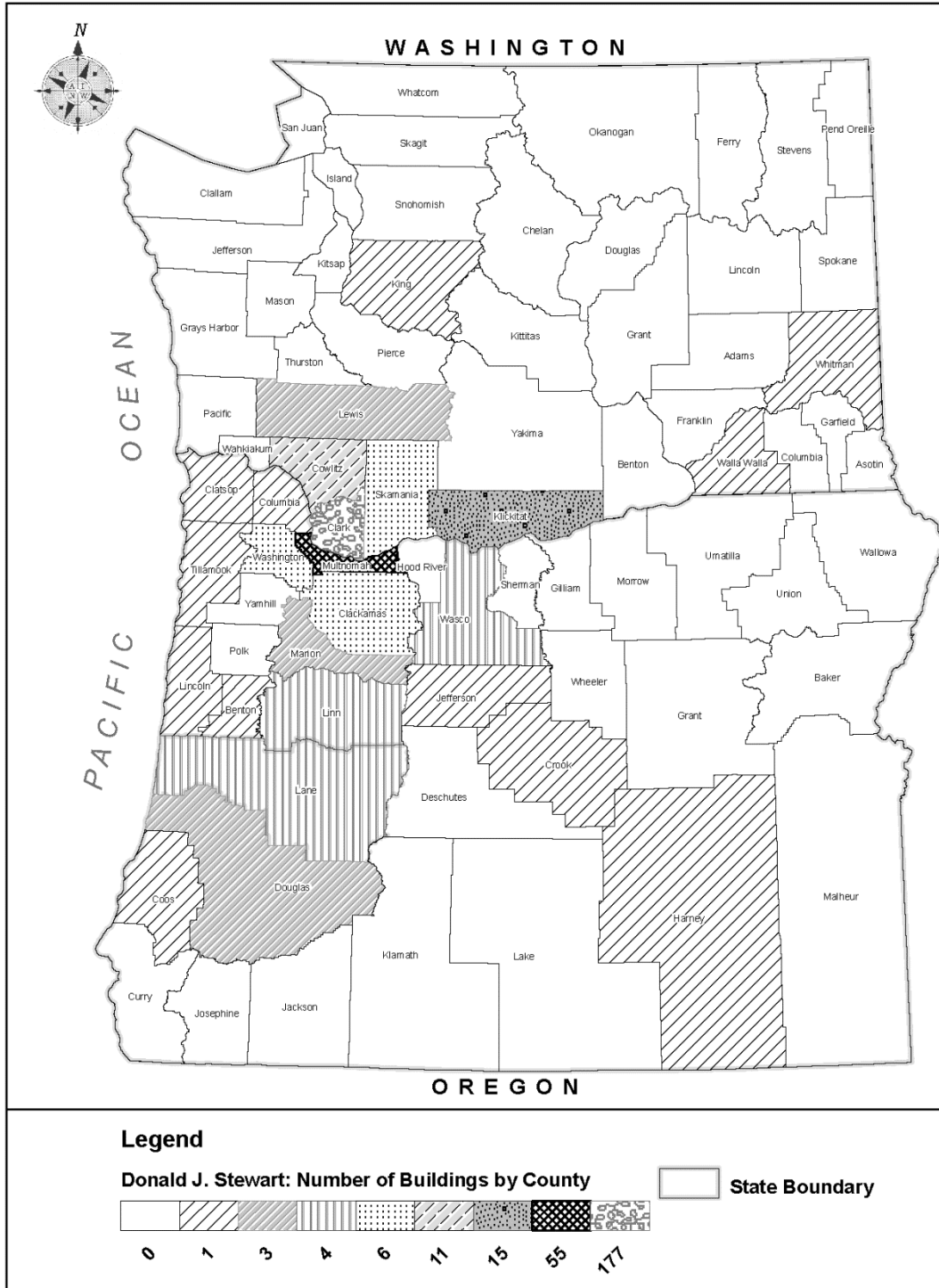
**DONALD J. STEWART AND ASSOCIATES' 314 KNOWN PROJECTS**

PROJECTS BY LOCATION	
Washington	215
Oregon	96
Vancouver Metropolitan Area	160
Portland Metropolitan Area	63
Outside of the Pacific Northwest	3
PROJECTS BY TIME PERIOD	
Pre-1952	161
Post-1952	153
Vancouver Pre-1952	116
Vancouver Post-1952	43
PROJECTS BY ASSOCIATION	
Donald J. Stewart, Architect	161
Stewart and Richardson Architects	113
Stewart, Allen, McMath Architects	40
PROJECTS BY TYPE	
Education	86
Commercial and Industrial	74
Residential	59
Religious	40
Government and Healthcare	28
Other	14
Recreation and Culture	10
Agricultural	3

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number G Page 24



Geographic distribution of Donald J. Stewart's projects in the Pacific Northwest, sorted by county.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number H Page 25

**SUMMARY IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION METHODS**

Initial data for this MPD originated from a survey and evaluation of buildings at the Washington State School for the Deaf in 2008. To supplement information gathered during the 2008 survey, additional research was conducted by architectural historians Jonathan Held and Elizabeth O'Brien at local repositories and institutions, including the Donald J. Stewart manuscript collection at the Clark County Museum; Architectural Heritage Center (Richard Ritz collection), Oregon Historical Society Photo Collection, Stanley Parr Archive and Records Center (Portland City Archives), Multnomah County Library, the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) WISAARD database, and research previously conducted by Michael Houser, State Architectural Historian at DAHP. Additional sources consulted include Multnomah County Tax Assessor Records, Portland Building Permit Records, the Portland Historic Resource Inventory, Clark County Inventory, and City of Vancouver inventories.

The Stewart family was also contacted regarding information they might have about Donald's career and accomplishments. An exhaustive listing of the "Principal Work of Donald J. Stewart, Architect," compiled by Stewart himself, was provided to AINW in 2008 by his daughter, Melissa Meacham Stewart. The two tables included in this MPD, one of which provides information on the distribution of Stewart projects and another that provides a detailed list of known projects, were compiled based on this information. The data provided by Melissa Meacham Stewart included who commissioned the work, the date of the commission, and the location of the project. The date of project completion was not included, or if it remains extant in the present day.

In 2020, AINW architectural historians Samantha Gordon, Allison Geary, and Andrea Blaser conducted supplemental research and additional study of Stewart's works to complete this MPD. Data collected during this effort has been added to the historic context and the table of Stewart's known works, including dates of construction, alteration, and demolition of buildings. Properties other than those that Stewart designed for the Washington State School for the Deaf were not formally surveyed or evaluated in this study, meaning that each individual building was not researched, documented, and assessed for historical significance within the framework of this MPD. However, several buildings in Southwest Washington and Portland, Oregon, were visited by AINW architectural historians to observe the buildings and their characteristics. Photographs from some of these informal information gathering visits are attached to this documentation.

Information collected in 2020 was used to identify prevalent styles or types of Stewart projects, and their likelihood of surviving to the present as intact representations of the master architect's work. This analysis was then used as the basis for the associated property types and their registration requirements. The associated property types were delineated to capture important phases in Stewart's career, which was heavily influenced by the Great Depression and World War II in early years and later by his partnership Kenneth Richardson and the emergence of Northwest Regionalism during the mid-twentieth century. It was determined that only those works commissioned from Stewart between 1933 and 1967 would be included in the MPD, as his first major opportunity to exhibit his architectural skill came in 1933 and he retired in 1967.

Analysis of Stewart's work using the framework and historic context provided in this MPD should further our understanding of Stewart's impact on the built environment of the Pacific Northwest. As our

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number H Page 26

understanding evolves and more data is collected and reported regarding individual Stewart works, the information presented in this MPD should be refined in submissions for individual properties.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 1 Page 27

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**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 1 Page 28

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**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number I Page 29

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