

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

EUGENE, OREGON

BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH AND SERVICE

August 1, 1951

Mr. H. M. Olsvick
City Engineer
City Hall
Astoria, Oregon

Dear Mr. Olsvick:

All of the house numbering systems with which I am familiar seem to be designed to fit the rectangular grid street pattern, and there are usually some difficulties in fitting the system to hillside locations and other areas where there are streets of a winding nature. Usually, however, cities have found it possible to establish satisfactory numbering in such areas through individual analysis of each problem. The only general rules which have come to our attention are that the numbering should, if at all possible, be continuous along the winding street and that the even numbers should be maintained along the same side of the street regardless of changes of direction. There is some discussion of this problem of interest in the 1932 Portland city engineer's annual report, and I am enclosing an excerpt from this report covering the question of irregular street numbering.

When Portland renumbered the city in 1932, the expenses of revising the house numbering system and the actual physical labor of carrying out the revision were both taken care of by the city. Other cities in adopting house numbering systems have placed the burden primarily upon the property owner. I am enclosing the following material which may contain some data of interest to you:

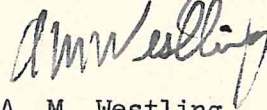
- (1) A copy of a letter written to Mr. Custer of Carlton in December 1948.
- (2) Some notes on this subject extracted from the American Magazine for December 1925.
- (3) Ordinances of Portland, Stayton, Myrtle Point, Beaverton, Newport and Berkeley, California.

We are planning to mimeograph some additional material from the 1932 annual report of the city engineer, and I will send you a copy of this material when it has been prepared. If you are contemplating any extensive revision of the Astoria house numbering system, I would suggest

August 1, 1951

that you may find it helpful to talk to Mr. Apperson, the present city engineer of Portland. As you probably know, Mr. Apperson has been with the city for many years and was active in carrying out the house numbering program in Portland in 1932 and 1933. I am sure that he could offer a number of helpful suggestions particularly in view of the fact that there are a number of areas in Portland where there are winding and circular streets.

Sincerely yours,



A. M. Westling
Planning and Public Works
Consultant

AMW:rs

Enclosures: 9