

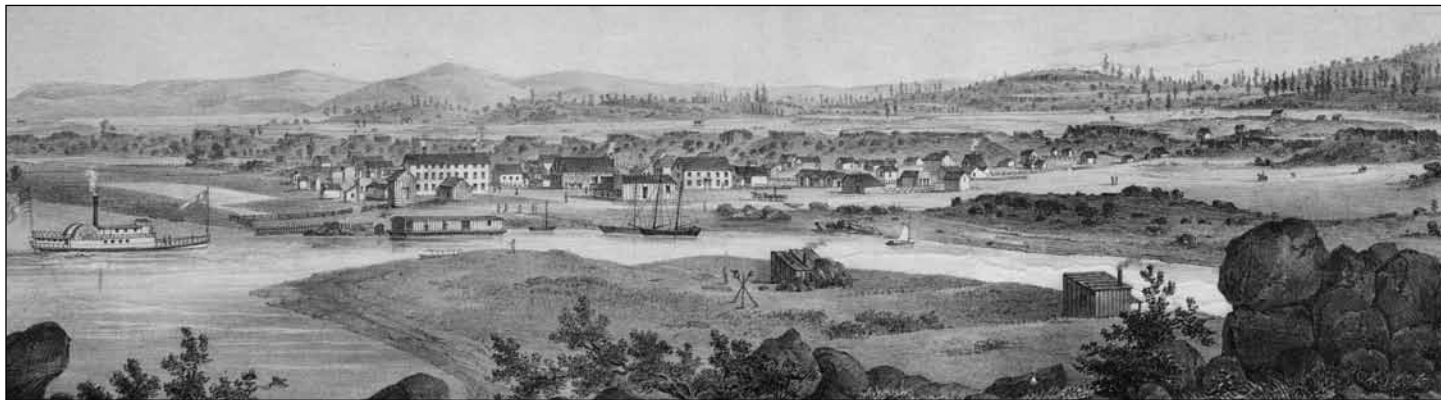
WASCO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WASCO COUNTY RECORD

Providing Education and Preservation of the History of Wasco County, Oregon



1850 Rorick House

SPRING 2013



THE DALLES in 1858, from a lithograph published by W.L. Demoss. Umatilla House is the largest building to the left. Fort Dalles is the small cluster of buildings on the hillside, upper right. *Image courtesy of Wasco County Pioneers Association and Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. #WCPA.43.21 A-B, #WCPA.46.4*

HISTORICAL SITES IN WASCO COUNTY

Wasco County is rich in history, and proof of that fact is shown by the many sites in the area on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

How many? Depends on how you count. There are 33 historic properties in Wasco County on the Oregon National Register of Historic Places list, and according to Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), 25 are located in The Dalles.

This list counts as one each all of the historic districts: The Dalles Commercial Historic District, Trevitt's Addition Historic District, the Columbia River Highway Historic District (which extends through three counties), the Fort Dalles complex, the Shaniko Historic District, and the Imperial Stock Ranch complex. Each of these historic areas have multiple properties.

Take a tour and wander past some of these historic sites, and try to imagine what the area looked like in the 1800s and early 1900s when it was first being "settled."

The following are the historic sites in Wasco County on the NRHP list, as provided by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

1. Lewis Anderson Homestead, 508 W. 16th Street, The Dalles. Now a part of the Fort Dalles Museum complex, visitors are able to tour the Anderson Farm House, a hand-hewn wooden homestead crafted by

Swedish immigrants. An adjacent granary and barn are part of the homestead, which was moved from Pleasant Ridge in the late 1970s to its present day location across the street from Fort Dalles.

2. Balch Hotel, 40 S. Main Street, Dufur. The Balch Hotel was built in 1907 by Charles P. Balch, a local rancher and druggist, from bricks made on his ranch. The 18-inch-thick brick walls keep the building cool during the hot Dufur summers. Rooms cost 50¢ to \$1.25, touting "hot and cold water in every room, electric lights and steam heat." The hotel has been used as an apartment and rooming house, and private residence. The three story brick building has been restored and is now an 18 bedroom hotel.

3. Barlow Road, Wamic to Rhododendron. Mount Hood National Forest, north of the line of the Salmon and White rivers from southwest of Wamic to Rhododendron.



Entrance to the Barlow Road, near Wamic, Ore.
Photo Susan Buce

Beginning with its construction by Sam Barlow in 1846, this toll road provided the first overland connection for wagons between The Dalles and Oregon City over the south flanks of Mount Hood, and offered a majority of Oregon Trail emigrants an alternative to the hazardous river passage by raft down the Columbia River from The Dalles to Fort Vancouver.

4. Bennett-Williams House, 608 W. 6th Street, The Dalles. Built circa 1899 for prominent local lawyer, judge, and Oregon Supreme Court justice Alfred S. Bennett, this house is the most outstanding and best preserved example of Queen Anne architecture in The Dalles. It later became the home of leading members of the Williams family, a notable local merchant family.

5. Columbia River Highway Historic District, The Dalles to Troutdale. Linear district roughly bounded by the Chenoweth Creek Bridge, The Dalles, on the east, and the Sandy River Bridge, Troutdale, on the west. Constructed between 1913 and 1922, this was the first scenic highway in the United States. Designed specifically to provide visitors access to the most outstanding of the scenic features of the Columbia River Gorge, the highway is also an outstanding example of modern highway development for its

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BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

What's it like being a volunteer docent at Rorick House?

You get to meet a lot of interesting people from all around the world, and share some history with them about The Dalles and Wasco County.

Don't worry if you don't know much of the history; it's part of the fun to learn new things about well-known places and names in our area. You'll be partnered with an experienced docent.

Perhaps you would rather help with the gardening and outdoor maintenance of our historic 1850 building. There are historic plants awaiting some tender, loving care.

Helping with events is also a lot of fun. We participate with the annual Fort Dalles Days in July, as well as a series of history lectures throughout the summer season and field trips to historic locations.

If you have an urge to learn more about our local history and share it with others, please give us a call. There's a place for you here!

For more information, contact Wasco County Historical Society at 541-296-1867.

A Note from Our President

A few years ago three of the historical organizations in The Dalles decided to cooperate on the Christmas Open House that each of them had hosted separately in the past. The Fort Dalles Museum, the Original Wasco County Court House and the Rorick House (WCHS) participate. We have found that attendance has been good and we are putting our resources to good use. We have many of the same volunteers and many of the same interests in the history of our city and county. At the Wasco County Historical Society board meetings we have added an agenda item to share information from each organization.

In 2013 The Dalles celebrates 175 years of community, with the 175th anniversary date of the March 21, 1838 arrival of the Methodist Episcopal missionaries, Rev. Henry K.W. Perkins and Rev. Daniel Lee to establish the Wascopam mission. Their arrival triggered cultural changes throughout the Mid-Columbia.

Don't forget Wasco County Pioneer Association meets Sat., May 4 at Calgary Baptist Church in The Dalles. Enjoy a salmon luncheon, see the picture boards on display and hear speaker Bill Johnson talk about the Oregon Trail in Wasco County. This year the Pioneer Association has promised to showcase some of the earliest images of The Dalles. We'd like to thank the Association and the Discovery Center, for permission to use of some of those photos for this newsletter.

One of the activities on the Rorick House schedule will be the Docent Tea held before our summer opening at the end of May. We are actively recruiting new docents. If you are interested, please talk to one of the Board members. WCHS looks forward to the summer season speaker series.

Fort Dalles Museum opened for the 2013 season on March 15. The Rorick House and the Original Wasco County Court House will be opening Memorial Day weekend. However, if you have visitors who want to see these sites prior to the official season opening, arrangements can be made to have a docent available.

All of the organizations participate in Fort Dalles Days and Rodeo July 13-20, and each year we anticipate the fun, food and activities that happen in town and at the Fort Dalles Museum Family Fun Day, Saturday, July 20, 2013, including a free horse-drawn wagon ride between the Fort and the Rorick House.

The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce is excited about the 51 tour boats scheduled to visit The Dalles during the 2013 summer and fall season. Sandy Bisset and Mary Davis have become active on the Chamber Marketing committee and will represent the historical community. To take a Columbia River boat tour on the Queen of the West sternwheeler cruise or National Geographic Linblad Expedition, contact Dolores Habberstad at Hazel Phillips Travel in The Dalles.

Fort Dalles Floozies and friends have been meeting the boats and helped organize the Reconnect to the River Festival in September 2012, located at the Lewis and Clark Festival Park, located at the site where the old Umatilla House once stood (see story, page 6.) Sandy and Mary would welcome input into how we can integrate history into the tourism plan.

Let's keep reminding people of the importance of history to our area!

Email your comments to me at jkverc@charter.net or mail to Jean Vercoouteren, 1624 Montana Street, The Dalles, Or 97058. I'll look forward to hearing from you.

*Jean Vercoouteren, President
Wasco County Historical Society*

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Wasco County Historical Society meets the first Monday of the month, 10:00 a.m. at the Rorick House, 300 W. 13th St., in The Dalles. The public is welcome to attend meetings, which often include a short 15-30 minute talk on a topic of local history. Wasco County Historical Society also organizes field trips to tour sites of historical interest in the local area.

For more information, leave a message at 541-296-1867 or visit our website at: www.historicthedalles.org

WASCO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

300 West 13th Street
The Dalles, OR 97058
541-296-1867

www.HistoricTheDalles.org
info@historicthedalles.org

Hours:

The Rorick House will be open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Historic Sites in Wasco County

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pioneering advances in road engineering, and is the single most important contribution to the fields of civil engineering and landscape architecture by Samuel C. Lancaster.

6. Columbia Southern Hotel, 4th and E Streets, Shaniko. An example of late, commercial Italianate architecture typical of western towns at the turn of the 20th century. Begun in 1900, the two-story brick building took two years to build. Erected by the Columbia Southern Railroad between 1900 and 1902, it was the one-time railhead serving the vast wool, cattle and wheat-growing region of the high Columbia Plateau.

7. First Wasco County Courthouse, 410 W. Second Place, The Dalles. One of only two remaining courthouses built prior to Oregon statehood, this building served Wasco County from 1859 until 1882, and then as The Dalles city hall until 1907. From its original location in downtown The Dalles, it has been moved several times before its current location within Trevitt's Addition Historic District.



Original Wasco County Courthouse, built in 1859.
Photo courtesy of Wasco County Pioneer Association and Columbia Gorge Discovery Center #WCPA-26A-14

8. Fort Dalles Surgeon's Quarters, 15th and Garrison Streets, The Dalles. Built in 1856, architect Louis Scholl designed it in Gothic Revival style. Fort Dalles, originally called Camp Drum, was established in 1850, in response to unrest during the Cayuse Indian War. It was a pivotal military location during the Yakama Indian War. By the late 1850's the Indian frontier had moved east and after temporary use in 1867-68 there was no longer a need for a fort in The Dalles. The Fort Dalles Museum, one of Oregon's oldest history museums, was established by the Sorosis Society and has been in operation since 1905 preserving the historic Fort Dalles site. The original Surgeon's Quarters is the fort's last surviving building, the other buildings hav-



Fort Dalles Surgeon's Quarters, built 1856.
Susan Buce photo

ing burned. Pioneer and military artifacts from 1860s, antique vehicles are on display, including the Umatilla House bus and the original 'mudcoach' or mail coach that used to travel between Canyon City and The Dalles.

9. Edward French House, 515 Liberty Street, The Dalles. Originally dating from circa 1865, this home was acquired by the French family in 1892 and renovated by them in the Italianate style in circa 1900. Edward French, along with his uncle Daniel and other members of the French family, were prominent bankers and businessmen from early The Dalles until the 1920s.

10. Fulton-Taylor House, 704 Case Street, The Dalles. The Fulton-Taylor house was built between circa 1864 and 1878, with later additions in the 1920's. Fulton built the front part of the house in the 1870's and platted Fulton's addition from his original five-acre house lot. O. D. Taylor was a Baptist minister and real estate developer who implemented the Grand Dalles development on the north side of the river. He lived in the house in the 1890s and performed weddings there.

11. Hugh Glenn House, 100 W. 9th Street, The Dalles. The original Glenn house, ca. 1882, was a small Italianate Cottage Style building with gable projection and capped with cresting. The house was remodeled around 1900 which changed its appearance from a small vernacular structure to a moderately sized Queen Anne Style residence. Another addition was built ca. 1910. It is now one of the most distinctive, intact examples of a Queen Anne Style residence in The Dalles. Hugh Glenn contributed significantly to both the early architecture and transportation in Wasco County. Hugh Glenn supervised construction of all the buildings of Max Vogt and Co. Glenn was involved in both early railway and navigational construction in The Dalles. In 1899 Glenn started a paint and varnish store which he owned until his

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Wasco County properties on the National Register of Historic Places

- 1) Lewis Anderson House, Barn and Granary, The Dalles (TD)
- 2) Balch Hotel, Dufur
- 3) Barlow Road, Wamic to Rhododendron
- 4) Bennett-Williams House, TD
- 5) Columbia River Highway Historic District, The Dalles to Troutdale
- 6) Columbia Southern Hotel, Shaniko
- 7) First Wasco County Courthouse, TD
- 8) Fort Dalles Surgeon's Quarters, TD
- 9) Edward French House, TD
- 10) Fulton-Taylor House, TD
- 11) Hugh Glenn House, TD
- 12) Heimrich-Seufert House, TD
- 13) Orlando Humason House, TD
- 14) Imperial Stock Ranch Headquarters Complex, Shaniko vicinity
- 15) Indian Shaker Church and Gulick Homestead, TD
- 16) Joseph D. & Margaret Kelly House, TD
- 17) Maupin Section Foreman's House, Maupin
- 18) Malcolm A. Moody (Rorick) House, TD
- 19) Jefferson Mosier House, Mosier
- 20) Dr. J.A. Reuter House, TD
- 21) Rock Fort Campsite, TD
- 22) St. Peter Roman Catholic Church, TD
- 23) Shaniko Historic District, Shaniko
- 24) Edward F. Sharp Residential Ensemble, TD
- 25) The Dalles Carnegie Library, TD
- 26) The Dalles Civic Auditorium, TD
- 27) The Dalles Commercial Historic District
- 28) John L. Thompson House, TD
- 29) Trevitt's Addition Historic District, TD
- 30) US Post Office, TD
- 31) John and Murta Van Dellen House, TD
- 32) Fivemile Rapids Site, TD
- 33) Mosier Mounds Complex, Mosier



Multnomah Falls and Lodge, Columbia River Highway Scenic District. Susan Buce photo

ORLANDO HUMASON

“FATHER OF WASCO COUNTY”

Orlando Humason was a territorial legislator and is celebrated locally as the “Father” of Wasco County. Humason drafted the 1854 legislation which created the largest county ever in existence in the United States, containing some 130,000 square miles. The county boundaries stretched from the summit of the Rockies to the summit of the Cascades, from the Columbia River to California.

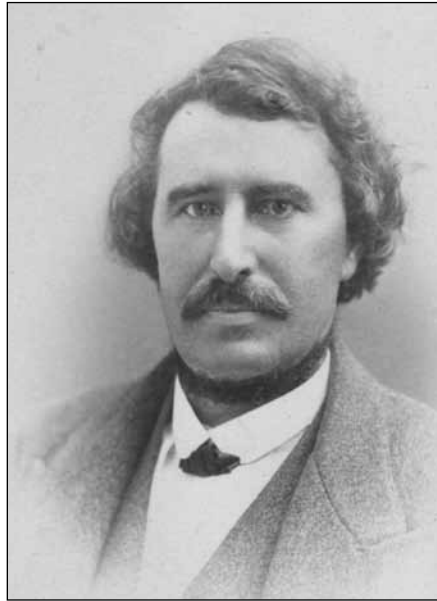
Prior to arriving in The Dalles, he worked as an emergency editor for the Oregon Statesman and set type. He took up farming briefly before moving to The Dalles in 1853 where he worked at the Hudson Bay Company store. He was the second businessman at “The Landing,” as The Dalles was known.

In 1854 he opened up a general store at the Northeast corner of First and Union Streets where the Umatilla House would later stand, partnering with John A. Simms. They prospered from the trade of Oregon Trail immigrants who were in sore need of replacing their depleted supplies. He later sold the property to H.P. Isaacs for \$1.

Humason was involved in numerous enterprises, including operation of riverboat and wagon freight lines to supply miners in the gold regions of the John Day country. At The Dalles he engaged in farming and the practice of law and served in the Territorial Legislature in 1854, at which time he introduced the bill creating Wasco County.

He was a lawyer and a partner of James A. Odell, and together with W.D. Biegelow and James K. Kelly, owned a great deal of land after it passed out of the hands of the military. Humason served as Judge of Wasco County in 1858. Humason continued to represent the district in State Legislature in the sessions of 1862 and 1866, during which time he introduced legislation leading to construction of a United States Mint at The Dalles, and agitating for construction of a lock and ship canal at Cascade Locks. Humason served as Mayor of The Dalles in 1867.

Humason and R.R. Thompson built boats at Deschutesville, first scow or sailboats, then the steamer Colonel Wright.



Orlando Humason, “Father of Wasco County”.
Courtesy of Wasco Co. Pioneers Association and
Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. #WCPA 13-25

In 1862 they merged with the powerful Oregon Steam & Navigation Company which later built The Dalles to Celilo Railroad. Humason was one of the originators and engineers of the Fort Dalles Military Road. He became known as Captain Humason after his stint with the mounted volunteers in the Yakima Indian Wars of 1855-56. He commanded Dalles Company B, a group of 80 volunteers mounted Oct. of 1855 through May of 1856. This company was credited with capturing Peu-Peu-Mox-Mox, the Cayuse Indian chief from Walla Walla.

His close business associates and friendships can often be traced back to the Masonic Lodge, where he was Worthy Master in 1873 of Wasco Lodge 15 A.F. & A. M.. Many of his Masonic associates were early pioneers of The Dalles, including: H.P. Isaacs, Victor Trevitt, H.G. Waldron, Nathan Olney, Hugh Logan, J.K. Kelly, and O. S. Savage,

At the time of Humason’s death, the Masonic Lodge issued a statement Sept. 10, 1875 that read, “While we bow in humble submission to the Will of the Almighty, at the same time we do deplore the loss of our Brother who was a highly esteemed and bright Mason, a kind and affectionate parent and an upright, enterprising citizen.”

Historic Sites in Wasco County

From Page 3

death in 1927. He is credited with building and operating the first electric plant in The Dalles. He was also an organizer of The Dalles-Portland-Astoria Navigation Company and contractor in charge of the construction of the S.P. & S. Railroad from Portland to Astoria. He was an active member of the Washington Masonic Lodge and Jackson Engine Company No. 1.

12. Heimrich-Seufert House, 303 E. 10th Street, The Dalles. The John G. Heimrich-Edward Seufert house, located at 313 East Tenth Street, is the city’s foremost example of the Tudor style. It was designed in 1926 by self-trained local architect E.C. Price, completed in 1927 for railroad builder John G. Heimrich, the son of John Heimrich, the president and owner of the Great Southern Railroad. After suffering business and personal financial disasters, J.G. Heimrich’s house was sold at a sheriff’s sale to Edward Seufert in 1933. Seufert was the treasurer and cannery manager for Seufert Brothers, which harvested vast amounts of salmon from the Columbia River with fish wheels, canned it, and shipped it across the country. The company expanded to include fruit and vegetables in their canning business and continued to operate until the business closed in 1954.



Heimrich-Seufert house. Susan Buce photo

13. Orlando Humason House, 908 Court Street, The Dalles. The house was built in 1860 on the western half of the J.A. Simms donation Land Claim, which Humason bought for \$4,000 on April 9, 1859. In later years this land became the site of the Houghton Mansion and the Humason house was used for the carriage house for many years. The Houghton Mansion was torn down in the 1960s and the site is now used for the Wasco County Library. The Humason House was moved prior to 1908 two blocks south of its original location. A one and a half-story Gothic Revival cottage was originally constructed in 1860. Humason occupied the house until his death at the age of 47 in 1875.

14. Imperial Stock Ranch Headquarters Complex, Hinton Road, Shaniko vicinity. c.1900. The Imperial Stock Ranch Headquarters Complex, a historic rural landscape covering 20 acres in the Bakeoven section of Wasco County, was the operations center of the spread amassed by R.R. Hinton and his successor, James E. Hinton, between 1900 and 1945. In 1945 the Hinton ranch was identified as the largest individually held ranch in Oregon. At the time it embraced 70,000 acres of deeded land. It is a functioning example of the large stock empires built in the West at the turn of the 20th century. It is located in the broken canyon country of the high desert plateau, approximately six air-miles north of the town of Shaniko. It became the rail head for wool growers of this large region, beginning in 1901 when the Columbia Southern Railroad penetrated to southern Wasco County from the Columbia River. Contributing historic buildings include: Hinton House, 1900, Guest house, prior to 1910, Bunk House, 1940 built to replace original destroyed by fire, Barn, prior to circa 1912, Drying Shed, prior to circa 1915. Contributing historic structures include a well, ca. 1900, Ice House, Smoke House, Garage and Breaking Corral, all circa 1900, a Shearing Plant prior to circa 1915, and a Cook House, also built to replace the original destroyed by fire.



Gulick Homestead and Indian Shaker Church, overlooking The Dalles Dam. *Susan Buce photo*

15. Indian Shaker Church and Gulick Homestead, 1875. North of the Shilo Inn, Jct. I-84 and U.S. 197, The Dalles. Built by Henry Gulick, a Scottish immigrant who settled in the area in the 1890s. His wife Harriet, a local Wasco woman, was a member of the Indian Shaker movement, a unique mix of traditional and indigenous spiritual practices. The roof collapsed under snow in November 1996. You can walk to the river side of the Shilo to view, but the buildings are not safe to enter. Please view from the exterior only.

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Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

Oregon's National Register and Survey Program is part of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), located within the Heritage Programs division of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The program assists property owners, governments, and interested citizens in identifying and listing Oregon's most historically important resources in the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register is the nation's official list of buildings, structures, districts, sites and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture, and is maintained by the National Park Service in Washington D.C.

When these resources disappear communities can lose tangible and educational assets that contribute directly to Oregon's heritage, and also opportunities for local economic development.

Program areas include archaeological services, heritage commission, historic cemeteries, historic trails and oversight of the Oregon Main Street program. Matching grant funding is available for rehabilitation work that supports the preservation of historic resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places or for significant work toward identifying, preserving, and interpreting archaeological sites.

How are properties listed in the National Register?

Properties are listed in the National Register through a public nomination process. The property owner often initiates a nomination, but any individual, local historical society, other community group, or even the state of Oregon may propose a nomination. Privately owned properties require the owner's permission. About 50 percent of applicants conduct their own research and prepare their own nomination forms. Most applications are successful.

What are the benefits and restrictions of listing a property in the National Register?

Listing in the National Register of Historic Places honors the property and recognizes its importance to the community, the state, or the nation.

Owners of listed properties may



Archaeologist Ken Karsmizki gives a talk at the Rock Fort site in 2002 on the discovery of evidence of Lewis and Clark's visit.

Susan Buce photo

qualify for Preserving Oregon grants or tax credits.

No restrictions are imposed by the state or federal governments provided the property is not benefiting from state or federal grants or tax incentive programs. However, state law in Oregon requires local governments to offer some level of protection to National Register properties.

Private owners of National Register properties have no obligation to admit the public to their properties or restore them unless they have voluntarily agreed to as a condition of receiving federal, state, or local economic benefits.

Listing a property in the National Register does not prevent the owner from selling the property or adapting it to a compatible new use.

What determines whether a property qualifies for listing in the National Register?

Properties likely to meet the criteria of the National Register are at least 50 years old, are well preserved and distinctive examples of an architectural or engineering type or style. Also, the property may be associated with persons, events, or broad patterns in local, state, or national history; or, in the case of archaeological sites, they have the potential to yield significant information in American history or prehistory.

For general information about the National Register of Historic Places, contact SHPO at phone: 503-986-0690.

Source:

Oregon Parks & Recreation Dept. Heritage Programs: State Historic Preservation. <http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/HCD/SHPO/Pages/index.aspx>

National Register: www.nps.gov/nr



The Umatilla House during the flood of 1894. The photo, taken atop a railroad car, looks west.
Photo courtesy of Fort Dalles Museum, #D2588

THE UMATILLA HOUSE

A LANDMARK THAT WAS

The Umatilla Hotel was built in 1857 and was in its hey-day during the 1860s-1880s. It was located at the Northeast corner of Main (now called First St.) and Union streets, in The Dalles, Oregon — then called “Dalles City” or “The Landing.” The Umatilla House became known as the “best hotel west of Minneapolis and north of San Francisco.”

In 1858 the Umatilla House, under A. J. Nixon, prop., was the city’s leading hotel. The hotel was acquired by Henry Perry Isaacs, who owned several properties and ran a general merchandise business.

The discovery of gold in eastern Oregon and Idaho was the making of The Dalles, and the Umatilla House was in the thick of it. On the south bank of the Columbia River, it had a strategic location, for the steamboat landing was at the back door.



The original Umatilla Hotel, A.J. Nixon proprietor, from an 1858 lithograph.
Image courtesy of Wasco County Pioneers Association and Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. #WCPA 16-53

In September of 1863, a couple of Irish immigrants returning from Idaho’s Salmon River gold mines, stopped at the Umatilla Hotel in Dalles City.

Nicholas Byrne Sinnott and Daniel Handley had both emigrated from Ireland during the great potato famine. They became acquainted in Portland, Oregon, and entered into a partnership to run the Columbia Hotel there.

The story told is that when they came down from the mines they stayed overnight at the Umatilla Hotel. Sinnott complained to the proprietor that the bed-bugs had driven him out of his room and that he had taken his blankets and slept in the hall to get away from them. He was told “If you think you can run this house any better than I am doing, you had better take it.”

On Sept. 17, 1863 they leased the Umatilla from the owner, Mr. H.P. Isaacs, who yearned to retire to Walla Walla, Washington. At the time, Nicholas Sinnott was 31 and Daniel Handley was 33. The young men recognized a first-class hotel at The Dalles would be a gold mine, with thousands of people passing up and down the river to the gold fields of the “Inland Empire,” each stopping overnight at The Dalles. Both men knew how to “jolly” the public. Under their management, the Umatilla House became extremely profitable.

On May 14, 1867 they bought the property from Isaacs for a sum of \$5000, with Isaacs funding the mortgage.

The hotel became the meeting place for anyone passing through the area. Dalles City was a major stop-over point. Travelers

came to The Dalles by steamboat, stayed overnight, then continued their journey the next day. Freighters, with their large rumbling wagons, left the Dalles for the “upper” country loaded with freight for Lewiston and Boise, Idaho, and Walla Walla in Washington Territory. Gold miners and prospectors from Canyon City and Colville made it their outfitting headquarters.

The Umatilla House was a rendezvous of political parties, hosting conventions that held sessions a week at a time both day and night. The political future of Wasco County was built up and carried through in this hotel. Sinnott was a staunch “black” republican and Handley was a “dyed-in-the-wool democrat.” They played this to advantage. When Republicans congregated at the hotel, Sinnott would see to their arrangements. When the Democrats came, it was Handley who greeted them and saw their needs were met. Many a political issue or business deal was negotiated at the Umatilla House.

People began to refer to Nicholas B. Sinnott as “Colonel, and Daniel Handley as “Major.” The titles of both these men were purely honorary, because they were both well-liked members of the community. This was a custom of pioneer times.

Profits didn’t protect it from natural disaster. Every few years the Columbia river would flood in the spring and early summer. On June 23, 1876 the Columbia flooded 51 feet above the low water mark. Following this episode the businesses were rebuilt on Second street, which became the principal downtown thoroughfare.

On October 27, 1878, a fire burned all the property between Federal and Washington streets below Fourth, including the original Umatilla Hotel building.

Handley and Sinnott immediately began to rebuild the hotel. Business was good, and they had almost completely paid for the new building, but before the hotel was finished or all the furniture was moved

—See UMATILLA HOUSE, Page 10



The Umatilla House lobby.
Image from the History Mystery files, The Dalles Chronicle.

Historic Sites in Wasco County

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16. Joseph D. and Margaret Kelly House, 921 E. 7th Street, The Dalles, built in 1908, is an example of a refined Vernacular Queen Anne style. Joseph Kelly was a successful wheat rancher in the Wrentham District of Wasco County along 15 Mile Creek. The Kellys had financial security which allowing them to spend much of their married life together helping others in the community. They volunteered their time and financial support to St. Peter's Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus, and St. Mary's Academy. They provided free room and board for boys from surrounding farming areas so they could attend St. Mary's Academy. They took in and cared for elderly friends and parishioners. Joseph was active in civic affairs, serving on City Council for seven years and the City Water Commission for 15 years. The Kellys invested in several commercial properties in downtown The Dalles.

17. Maupin Section Foreman's House, 601 Deschutes Access Road, Maupin. Built in 1910, the Maupin Section Foreman's House of the Des Chutes Railroad Company (Des Chutes RR), sits along the Deschutes River just upstream from Maupin, Oregon. It provides an excellent example of railroad worker housing. The Des Chutes RR and the Oregon Trunk Railroad (OT), built simultaneously up opposite sides of the Deschutes River in Oregon are associated with what has come to be called the "Last Great Railroad War," a struggle between the era's two giants of American railroading, Edward H. Harriman and James J. Hill. The section foreman's house is one of only several surviving structures associated with the Harriman rail line, extending from a construction date circa 1910 to 1935 when the railroad shifted use to the west bank, abandoned the track and subsequently pulled them. The house is representative of the standardization of railroad structures. It, along with the station's other



Maupin Oregon Trunk Railroad.
Image courtesy of Wasco County Pioneers Association
and Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. #2002.13.12

buildings, formed a typical Harriman-style country combination depot.

18. Malcolm A. Moody (Rorick) House, 300 W. 13th Street, The Dalles. Originally built around 1850 as a two-room private home for a non-commissioned officer from Fort Dalles, this is the oldest remaining house in The Dalles. It was once owned by U.S. Representative Malcolm A. Moody, subsequently purchased by Eck and Mae Rorick, and is now a museum operated by Wasco Co. Historical Society.



Jefferson Mosier House.

Susan Buce photo

19. Jefferson Mosier House, 704 3rd Avenue, Mosier. The Mosier House, built as a Queen Anne Victorian style "bungalow," was built in 1896 by Jefferson Newton Mosier. Mr. Mosier plotted the town of Mosier. He was the first president of the Mosier Valley Bank, the first school clerk of Mosier, the president of the Library Board, and an active member in the Democrat Party and the Red Cross. Jefferson Mosier built his home in 1904 on a hill overlooking Mosier.

His father, Jonah H. Mosier, started the community about 1853-54 by settling on a claim near the mouth of Mosier Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Mosier ran an impromptu stage station, a stopping place for travelers. Seeing a need for lumber, he erected a series of sawmills near the falls at the mouth of Mosier Creek. The lumber for the Old Wasco County Court House was said to be one of the buildings constructed from the Mosier Mill.

20. Dr. John Alexander Reuter House, 420 E. 8th Street, The Dalles. This Arts and Crafts-style house was begun in 1890, with an enlargement made in 1909. The upper floor, built in 1890 was the original home built for Judge Robert Mays, an 1852 Oregon Trail immigrant, who lived in it as mayor. Mays was originally a farmer in Tygh Valley, operated a trading post and blacksmith shop, eventually moving to The

Dalles. He transferred the property to his daughter, Eunice Mays Crowe, a few years later. When Reuter purchased the home in 1909, he hired builders to lift the home to allow construction of a ground floor beneath, utilizing the popular Craftsman style, blended with Queen Anne decorative elements. Dr. J.A. Reuter was co-founder of The Dalles Hospital, The Dalles Clinic, and the local nurses training school. The Dalles had no hospital before 1901. Reuter was credited as one of the most skillful physicians on the Pacific Coast and was a Fellow in The American College of Surgeons. He was also a wise businessman, a founder and director of the St. Helens Pulp and Paper Company, and after the firm merged with Crown-Zellerbach corporation he became a director.

21. Rock Fort Campsite, W. 1st Street, The Dalles. The Lewis and Clark Expedition camped at this natural riverside fortification for four nights in late October 1805, just after it passed Celilo Falls on its descent to the Pacific, and again in April 1806 on their return. It was here that the expedition first made significant contact and commerce with the Chinookan-speaking peoples of the lower Columbia. They called this site at the mouth of "Que-neet Creek," Fort Rock Camp. A memorial plaque and interpretive signage are located on the site.

22. St. Peter Roman Catholic Church, 3rd and Lincoln Streets, The Dalles. Gothic Revival style Catholic Church completed in 1898, the building features Carrera Italian marble, Kilgen pipe organ, 40-foot

—See page 8



St. Peter Catholic Church was dedicated in a ceremony on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1898.

Susan Buce photo

SHANIKO HISTORIC DISTRICT

23. Shaniko Historic District, U.S. Route 97 and Oregon Route 218, (Hwy 97 & Hwy 219) Shaniko, circa 1900. Shaniko City Hall c.1901, Shaniko Public School c.1901, Shaniko Auxiliary Water Tower, c.1901, Golden Nugget Saloon 4th St., Livery Barn/Saddle Shop 4th St., Columbia Southern Hotel



Hotel Shaniko.

Image courtesy of History Mystery files, The Dalles Chronicle

4th & E Streets, a house at 6th & C Sts Shaniko (unestablished), Imperial Stock Ranch Headquarters Complex, Hinton Rd. The community of Shaniko is a not-quite ghost town located on Highway 97 in southern Wasco County, about 20 miles southeast of Maupin and 70 miles north of Bend.

Shaniko was named for pioneer settler August Scherneckau. Scherneckau came to Oregon after the Civil War and bought a farm near the present site of Shaniko. Indians pronounced the name Shaniko, and that is how the locality got its name. The Scherneckau ranch was on the stage route from The Dalles to



Shaniko prides itself on its "Ghost Town" status. The old schoolhouse can be seen in the background.

Susan Buce photo

central Oregon and August Scherneckau opened and operated a stage station.

Shaniko was planned and built in 1900 by businessmen in The Dalles as the terminus for the Columbia Southern Railroad, and as a collection station for the enormous quantities of wool being produced in central Oregon — a role it played into the 1940s. Shaniko was incorporated in 1901. The town was once the nation's largest wool-shipping capital. The enormous sheep sheds of that era still stand on the edge of town. Several buildings are maintained in an Old West theme, including authentic board-

walks and an original schoolhouse.

The Shaniko Hotel, built in 1900, is a recently restored 2-story building with 18-inch thick walls made of hand-made brick. This historic hotel has become a popular destination, as it was for this convertible club during Shaniko's Pioneer Days celebration. The 3-room Shaniko School housed kindergarten through high school, was built in 1901; the wooden Water Tower, built in 1900, contained two 10,000 gallon wooden tanks to hold water pumped from nearby Cross Hollow canyon, which was then sent to the town through a wooden pipe system. The hotel historically was the center of activity in Shaniko. It served as hostelry, saloon, dance hall, bank, stage stop and general gathering place. When the wood framed Shaniko Hotel burned, the Columbia Southern borrowed its name and is now known as the Shaniko Hotel.

The Shaniko Hotel and Café is among many other Shaniko properties purchased in 2000 by Dr. Robert Pamplin, Jr., one of Oregon's wealthiest business tycoons. Once the town's biggest single attraction, the hotel is now closed and becoming sadly derelict, suffering from neglect and lack of maintenance. In a saga that rivals the old west range war stories, Pamplin has had legal disputes with the town and state regarding rights to the town's water system. Residents rejected what was perceived as Pamplin's efforts to control the town's water supply. In 2008, Pamplin shut down all properties he purchased in Shaniko, including the RV park, which effectively strangled tourism to the old ghost town. Pamplin's multiple historic properties in Shaniko are now for sale.

Historic Sites in Wasco County

From Page 7

stamped metal ceilings, six foot rooster on a 176-foot steeple, which is the Gorge's highest spire. Stained glass windows memorialize pioneer families. The wooden Madonna was carved from the keel of a sailing ship. The building was used as a church until 1969. Old St. Peter's has been renovated and is open to the public as a museum, concert site, and a wedding chapel.

23. Shaniko Historic District, U.S. Route 97 and Oregon Route 218, (Hwy 97 & Hwy 219) Shaniko, circa 1900. Shaniko City Hall c.1901, Shaniko Public School c.1901, Shaniko Auxiliary Water Tower, c.1901, Golden Nugget Saloon 4th St., Livery Barn/Saddle Shop 4th St., Columbia Southern Hotel 4th & E Streets, a house at 6th & C Sts Shaniko (unestablished), Imperial Stock Ranch Headquarters Complex, Hinton Rd.

24. Edward F. Sharp Residential Ensemble, 400 and 404 E. 4th Street and 504 Federal Street, The Dalles. The Sharp estate consists of three homes located one block south of Third Street on the corner of Fourth and Federal. All three homes are balloon frame construction. The houses were constructed over a ten year interval between 1895 and 1905. House #1, 400 East 4th St. built 1895 as Queen Anne Cottage architecture, House #2 at 504 Federal, built 1898, and House #3, 404 East 4th St., built 1905 Craftsman Foursquare style. Edward F. Sharp was a prominent land surveyor. As County surveyor and roadmaster from 1888 to 1895, he helped lay the foundation for the infrastructure of Wasco County. His father, Phillip T. Sharp, was a noted Wasco County freighter and livestock rancher, and one of the founders of the Wasco County Fair Association. Edward Sharp inherited his father's ranch on Three Mile Creek and continued its management.

25. The Dalles Carnegie Library, 220 E. 4th Street, The Dalles. Built in 1910



The Carnegie Library building now is home to The Dalles Art Center.

Susan Buce photo

with a donation of \$10,000 from Andrew Carnegie for use as a library, this building is one of the 2,509 libraries funded by Andrew Carnegie. The Carnegie Library was opened in 1910 and served as The Dalles-Wasco County Library until 1966. It became The Dalles Art Center in 1967. In 1997 the city deeded the building to The Dalles Art Association who has since done major renovations and remodeling to the building, including the addition of an elevator. The building is now used as an art gallery and open to the public. People can learn about local artists, enjoy locally produced art work, and tour the building.

26. The Dalles Civic Auditorium, 323 E. 4th Street, The Dalles. Built in 1921 at a cost of \$80,000 as a tribute to veterans. It features a gym and ballroom with a floating dance floor, one of only three such dance floors in the state of Oregon. (A second floating dance floor is also located in The Dalles at the Elks Temple; the third is at the Crystal Ballroom in Portland.) In 1960 the Civic was closed for safety concerns, it reopened in 1999. The renovated theatre reopened in 2012. The building now serves as a site for community events.

27. The Dalles Commercial Historic District, The Dalles. This district is roughly bounded by I-84 and First Street on the northern boundary; Laughlin, Federal and Washington Streets on the eastern boundary, East Fifth on the south (with the exception of the city park) and mid-block between Union and Liberty streets on the west. There are 47 contributing resources within the downtown Commercial Historic District, including 18 Primary/Contributing resources dating from 1860 to 1899; 28 Secondary/Contributing resources dating from 1900-1945; 20 Historic Non-contributing dating from 1865 to 1935. Many of these buildings house current-day operating businesses.

28. John L. Thompson House, 209 W. 3rd Street, The Dalles. The house built in the heart of downtown The Dalles first took shape in 1889 as a modest, one-story vernacular house. It was enlarged by a fashionable 2½ story Queen Anne Style addition across the front in 1897. John L. Thompson, upon his arrival at the bustling portage town of The Dalles on the Mid-Columbia River in 1869, built a successful career at the blacksmith trade, opening a shop at Third & Madison streets. The Thompson house survived the fire of 1891 which destroyed much of downtown. The house

was occupied by Laura Thompson, one of Thompson's daughters, until 1949. Thereafter, it became a boarding house. In 1979 it was restored for professional office use.

29. Trevitt's Addition Historic District, The district is bounded by West Second St., Liberty, West Fourth St., and Mill Creek, The Dalles. Victor Trevitt platted the first expansion of the original 1855 "Dalles City" townsite in 1860, and continued to extend his addition in response to economic developments. The district saw the first flour mill and electrical and water systems in The Dalles, one of the area's earliest Catholic churches, and direct connection to transportation networks including the Columbia River Highway and the railroad. Surviving buildings in the district, primarily residential, reflect a continuous spectrum of architectural styles, characterized by late Victorian late 19th & 20th Century Revivals, and late 19th & early 20th century American Mov., from 1864 to 1937. The district includes 22 Primary/Contributing resources dating from 1864 to 1902, 33 Secondary/Contributing resources dating from 1903 to 1937, 11 Historic/Non-Contributing resources.

30. US Post Office, 100 W. 2nd Street, The Dalles. The Dalles Post Office, completed in 1916, is a well preserved and unaltered example of the Classical Revival and Greek design style. The sandstone building is two stories in height on a raised basement. A colonnade of colossal order fronts the recessed entry and window bays of the central portion of the building. It was the first federal building constructed in the city of The Dalles, and one of nine constructed in the State of Oregon between 1910 and 1920. It is one of the two remaining postal facilities from this era in Oregon. It now serves as a business office.

31. John and Murta Van Dellen House, 400 E. 8th Street, The Dalles. The house was built for John Van Dellen and his wife Murta, the owner of the Van Dellen Lumber Company who spared no expense. The house is an outstanding interpretation of the Western Stick or California Bungalow high style, using the choicest construction with fir and straight-grained cedar. It is the largest, best preserved and most distinctive example of Craftsman Bungalow architecture in The Dalles.

RESTRICTED LISTINGS

Certain individual listings on the NRHP are archaeological sites or other sensitive areas that could be subject to looting



The Celilo canal (right) was cut through the basalt rock to bypass the treacherous narrows of the "dalles" rapids (to the left).

Image courtesy of Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. #2002.7.5

or other damage. Consequently, the National Park Service and the State Historic Preservation Office — the authorities that oversee the NRHP and its information — sometimes choose to restrict (i.e. decline to publish or otherwise release) details regarding the locations of such sites. In order to respect this restriction, the two such listings in Wasco County are presented below without photos or location details.

32. Fivemile Rapids Site, The Dalles. Yielding remains beginning soon after the end of the last glacial period, this archeological site (along with other nearby sites) provides a nearly continuous record of human occupation from at least 9000 BCE to 1820 CE. It also provides some of the earliest available evidence of fishing in human economy.

33. Mosier Mounds Complex, Mosier. This collection of stone walls, pits, and mounds amid a basalt talus slope is the largest and most complex of a number of similar Native American sites in the southern Columbia Plateau. The site predates the arrival of Europeans and probably the local ascendance of Chinookan peoples, but has resisted more precise dating or cultural affiliation. The most impressive features are alignments of stacked rocks that hug the contours of the slopes. The stone formations weave so sinuously that they cannot be defensive in nature.

Source:

Oregon Historic Sites Database, <http://heritagedata.prd.state.or.us/historic/>

Oregon Parks & Recreation Dept: Heritage Programs: State Historic Preservation. <http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/HCD/SHPO/Pages/index.aspx>

*Connolly, Thomas J., et al: "Mapping the Mosier Mounds: The Significance of Rock Feature Complexes on the Southern Columbia Plateau," *Journal of Archaeological Science*, 24:289, 1997.*

Umatilla House

From Page 6

in, another fire swept that part of the city on May 21, 1879. Within three hours, with winds whipping the flames into fury, the greater portion of the business district in The Dalles was laid to ash.

The fire left the owners almost penniless. They had spent \$75,000 and borrowed all they could, and the local merchants would give them no more credit.

Handley and Sinnott had extended credit and kindness to many people over the years. Their generosity was repaid in their time of need. Hearing of their misfortune, Corbitt & McClay of Portland, a wholesale grocery, offered to stake them to merchandise and hardware. Chew Kee, their Chinese cook, loaned them \$18,000. Dr. Shackelford, an old time army doctor, loaned them \$15,000. Vanlibber, the only milk man in town, loaned them between \$10,000 and \$15,000. The Oregon Furniture company refinanced the order and it all had to come around the Horn, which took about a year to get the furniture. Oregon Lumber company furnished the lumber without cash.

A large part of the money to rebuild the Umatilla House came from the railroad men. Sinnott and Handley then mortgaged their homes and built the last and fanciest Umatilla House, at a cost of \$91,000.

The building was completed in about four months. The third Umatilla House opened for business Oct. 25, 1879. They borrowed \$5,000 from French & Co. bank to make change. Within three years they didn't owe a cent, so business was good.

The new Umatilla House was a 3-story structure with 126 rooms, two baths (an imposing ratio for the time and place) plus a toilet in the basement. The dining room was enormous; it could seat 250 people



Umatilla House on the Columbia River, with the steamboat landing to the rear and the railroad trestle leading to the front door.

Image courtesy of Wasco County Pioneers Association and Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. #WCPA 40-4

with another 200 in the bar. It featured a large lobby and a broad veranda. The second floor gallery overlooked the Columbia. The main entrance led into an elegant lobby with walls covered in brocade and gilt, a magnificent glass chandelier overhead and custom carved furnishings. The keyboard with its two carved ducks and a goat's head hung on the wall behind the counter.

The hotel did an immense business. It employed as many as 16 waiters and 12 cooks. The house fed as many as 600 meals a day. Chew Kee was the head cook and he could keep 200 orders in his head, as fast as waiters could bark them, and never mix an order up.

When the railroads came through, they fed five trains of people a day with 150 people to each train. At the time, there were no diners on the trains. The trains all stopped for meals for 20 minutes to allow their passengers to eat. Either Handley or Sinnott would meet all trains outside ringing a big brass bell to indicate dinner was being served.

The bar room made even more money than the rent from the rooms or the profit from the meals. In the rear of the bar room were billiard and card tables. The "Twin Virgins" back bars were imported from Milan, Italy. They were an exquisite work of art, carved of mahogany and rosewood.

The hotel took in hundreds of thousands of dollars. Sinnott kept \$13,000.00 in the safe at one time. It was said there were poker games when there would be \$10,000 on the table at one time.

It was the bank for the railroaders and steam boat men where they came for their pay rolled in gold coins and placed in the safe with the name of each man on the roll.

The basement had a huge storeroom for liquors and cigars, guarded by 2 huge

brass padlocks. The cellar at times held as much as 2500 gallons of whiskey.

Major Handley and Tom Kelly, the bartender, would go down to the basement and open a 100 gallon barrel of hundred-proof whiskey. They would put in a gallon of glycerin and four gallons of water. During the process, they would continue to taste the whiskey to see if it was "right." Generally, by the time it was "right", Handley and Tom would be flat on the floor. As this was a daily occurrence, Sinnott would send

someone down in the basement just before meals and train time to wake Handley. Sinnott drank very little, putting a few spoonfuls of whiskey in a glass of water when he imbibed.

The dining room was converted into a ball room for important social events. Dozens of balls, including the Fireman's ball, were held in the dining room and hundreds of weddings were celebrated in the ladies' parlor.

The registers of the Umatilla House were a veritable "who's who" of Oregon and the old west. Distinguished visitors included Lord Litchfield of England, Mark Twain, Thomas Alva Edison, and George Francis Train. From the veranda of the Umatilla house General U. S. Grant, Henry Villard and General W. T. Sherman spoke to Dalles citizens. President Hayes and later, President Harrison were greeted there.

During the Bannock Indian war of 1878 General O. O. Howard, who was in command, was often a guest at the Umatilla House and to him "Colonel" Sinnott suggested the feasibility of mounting guns on the river boats above Celilo. As a result of his suggestion the steamer Spokane was armored so as to patrol the river and prevented the Indians from crossing.

The Umatilla House bus accommodated 26 people and cost \$1,600. It was built by A.G. Wintermeier, a well-known wagonmaker who lived in The Dalles. The bus brought passengers and baggage from the ferry landing and did a lively business on nights when balls and weddings were on wing at the hostelry.

Major Handley died in 1891, and Sinnott took in his son-in-law, Judd Fish, as a partner. Neither Handley nor Sinnott ever sued or dunned a man for an unpaid bill. When Judd Fish took over the management



The Umatilla House dining room.

Photo courtesy of Wasco County Pioneers Association and Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. #WCPA 29-15



Col. Nicholas B. Sinnott
WCPA 29-20



Major Daniel Handley
WCPA 29-16

Proprietors of the Umatilla House

Both Daniel Handley and Nicholas Byrne Sinnott were Catholic Irish immigrants and both were experienced hotel men before they came to The Dalles.

Handley and Sinnott were great story tellers and in describing the spring salmon runs to eastern tourists they said, "the salmon comes up the Columbia river so thick you can walk across the river on their backs!"

Nicholas B. Sinnott was born in June, 1832 in County Wexford, Ireland. He came to the United States when he was seventeen years old. He worked at a hotel in Peoria, Illinois, and at the Planter's Hotel in St. Louis. In 1861, he and his brother, Patrick B. Sinnott, came west by way of Panama and landed in Portland in March, 1862. Sinnott married Mary Brass on June 17, 1865 in San Francisco. She was beautiful and stately and he used to take her out to dinner every day in the Umatilla House. It was said Col. Sinnott had a "scrumptious sense of humor." He died in 1897.

Daniel Handley was born Feb. 21, 1830 in Enniscorthy, County Wexford, Ireland. He was a noble man with his heart in his hand and he had the same smile for the rich and poor alike.

Handley married Sinnott's cousin, Catherine "Kate" Byrne in 1863.

Handley was a big man, weighing over 320 pounds and was a liberal patron of his own table and bar. Handley lived and died in Room 11. When he died in 1891, his coffin was so large they had to cut into the door jamb to get it out of the room.

Both men are buried with their families in St. Peter Catholic Cemetery, The Dalles.

Article compiled and edited by Susan Buce. If you would like to know more about the Umatilla House, or view the source bibliography, please visit http://www.HistoricTheDalles.org/history/umatilla_house.htm

Umatilla House

From Page 10

of the hotel he found notes to the extent of \$16,000 for hospitality they had extended to people who were unable to pay for their bills. Colonel Sinnott died in 1897.

Times were changing. The glory of the Umatilla house declined with the coming of modern conveniences. When the telephone became popular, people no longer needed to meet at the Umatilla House — one could simply call over the telephone. Steamboats lost passengers to trains, and trains added dining cars which no longer needed to stop for meals; all impacted the Umatilla House. In 1909 the Hotel Dalles opened, and the Umatilla House slipped into neglect.

Tom Crofton bought the Umatilla from Sinnott's son-in-law, Judd Fish. Crofton kept it open until 1919. He sold it, and the Umatilla House was ordered torn down on June 26, 1929 by its owner, B.H. Salisbury.

The elaborate furnishings were sold off. Some of them can still be found, if you know where to look. The carved key-board and Umatilla House bus are at Fort Dalles Museum. One of the "Twin Virgins"

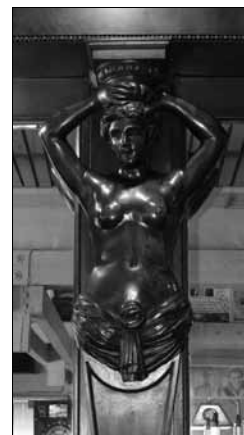


Umatilla House bar room.

Image courtesy of History Mystery files, The Dalles Chronicle #02-20-10

backbars is at The Dalles' Portage Grill, the other is now in Prairie City, Ore. Registers are at the Original Wasco County Courthouse and Fort Dalles Museum.

The Umatilla House is now only a memory of the time when its fame was nation-wide and The Dalles was the "Biggest Little City in the West."



Detail of the "Twin Virgins" backbar, now located at the Portage Grill.

Susan Buce Photo

LANDMARKS COMMISSION

The State of Oregon has assigned a Landmarks Commission in The Dalles to oversee the many historic buildings and landmarks in the community.

The Dalles Historic Landmarks Commission is a certified Local Government which allows for historic review at a local level. The commission meets once per month to review applications and guide the efforts of our historic initiatives. Review and compliance is a large part of this program.

Additionally, staff provides assistance to the general public by answering questions about our historic ordinances, and providing assistance for people making applications to the Historic Landmarks Commission. The City has ongoing and developing projects that require constant attention and planning that can only be accomplished through the dedicated Historic Landmarks Commission members and readily available staff.

The Historic Landmark Commission meets once per month. Staff reports and application packets are mailed to the Commission prior to the meeting for their review. Applications for historic status and other historic issues are discussed and voted. City staff is also available during normal business hours to answer any questions the general public may have regarding historic issues, as well as compliance and review of applications. The historic Landmarks commission review applications for exterior alterations to properties with Historic Landmark status and for designation of historic status. Additionally, this group acts as a focal point to provide guidance and resource to the community on historic preservation issues.

Recent projects include completion of the Round-a-bout, rehabilitation of the historic Pioneer cemetery, a new roof on the Waldron Drug/Gitchell building, initial work on the First Street Streetscape project, continued work on the Pedestrian underpass and the First Street Dock project; which all are adjacent to, or are located within, a National Historic District.



**Wasco County
Historical Society**
300 W. 13th St.
The Dalles, OR 97058



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