

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, 97310



County Baker

Theme 10-A, 9-I, 6-E, 6-A

Name
(Common) Geiser Grand Hotel

(Historic) Washauer Hotel

Address 1932 Main Street

Baker, Oregon

Present Owner _____

(Address) _____

Original Use Hotel

Date of Construction 1889

Physical description, property and statement of historical significance:

The Washauer Hotel, known since about 1895 as the Geiser Grand Hotel, is a three story, brick building with stucco exterior that stands on the southeast corner of Main and Washington streets in Baker, Oregon. This hotel has one-over-one, double hung sash windows, some set in pairs and others as singles, in matching bays on the second and third stories of the north and west elevations. A projecting, five-sided window bay is located above the main entrance on the northwest corner. Many of the window bays have arch coussors and those on the third story have keystones for decorations. Much of the decorative detail of this building is metal. Some alterations have been made on the first floor, exterior elevation, such as filling in of bays and alteration of windows. The open balcony which once looked from the third floor to the lobby on the first floor has also been filled in in the center of the building.

The Geiser Grand Hotel was built in 1889 at a cost of \$65,000. The structure had plate glass windows, electrical lights and bells, baths, and an elevator. The dining room seated 200 guests. The ladies gathered for tea on the balcony to watch the "action" in the lobby below.

This hotel was purchased soon after its construction by the Geiser family and has born their name for nearly eighty years. John and Elizabeth (Briebach) Geiser were born in Germany. John Geiser served in the Mexican War and then became a

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Continue back if necessary

Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date 13 Aug 1976 Sources Consulted:

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office "Albert Geiser." An Illustrated History of Baker, Grant, Malheur, and Harney Counties

Please enclose map Township 9 ^N _S Range 40 ^E _W Section 16 [Spokane, Wash., 7: Western Historical Publishing Co., 1902, pp. 327-328.

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miner in Gilpin County in Colorado. Geiser moved in 1881 to Baker County where he and his son Albert Geiser became major mining investors. Their mines included the Bonanza, the Brazos, the Pyx, and the Greenbow or Worley mine. Additionally they owned the Keystone Bell and Gold Boy mines headquartered in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

In 1902 Albert Geiser, who was born Feb. 10, 1863, was a director of the Baker City Gas and Electric Company, owner of the Geiser Grand Hotel, and the older of other real estate in the city. Geiser married in 1894 to Bernice Dodson.

Sources:

Mason, Robert. "1974 Historical House Tour," MS Typescript, Baker, Oregon, 1974.

Rand, Helen. "Some Old Houses and the People Who Lived in Them," Part I, Democrat-Courier, undated clipping, 1974.



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