The Central Hotel is a two story, wood frame building with a gable roof. The structure faces north and stands adjacent to the old highway in Mitchell, Oregon. The exterior of the building is shiplapped. The windows are four-over-four, double hung sash. A two story verandah extends along the front elevation and is shielded by a continuation of the gable roof. A newer, two story wing stands on the west elevation and has one-over-one, double hung sash windows. The building has two brick chimneys with corbelled tops. The kitchen, which was located in a separate building behind the hotel, has been removed as has a small hotel office building.

This hotel was built and first operated by O.S. Boardman who yet owned it in 1893 when he operated the Central Hotel in conjunction with a feed stable. Dr. Jenkins was the next proprietor and about 1909 it became the property of Hiram and Sally Winebarger. The Winebargers operated this hotel until 1918 when it became simply their residence. Sally Winebarger resided in this building until her death in 1975 aged 97 years. Her daughter, June Folston, is the present owner and occupant.
**LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>address:</th>
<th>112 W Main St</th>
<th>□ approx. addr</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell</td>
<td>□ vcnt</td>
<td>Wheeler County</td>
</tr>
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Optional Information  
assoc addresses: (former addresses, intersections, etc.)
location descr: (remote sites)

**PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS**

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<th>resource type:</th>
<th>Building</th>
<th>height (# stories):</th>
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<td>elig. evaluation:</td>
<td>eligible/contributing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>primary constr date:</td>
<td>1879 (c.)</td>
<td>secondary date:</td>
<td>1930 (c.)</td>
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</table>

(optional--use for major addns)

primary orig use: Hotel
secondary orig use: Vernacular
primary style: Horizontal Board
secondary style: |
plan type: Other Residential Type

comments/notes: preparing an intensive level survey for this building; interior gutted and remodeled into two living units

**GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>survey project name or other grouping name:</th>
<th>Mitchell Main Street RLS 2009</th>
<th>Survey &amp; Inventory Project</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>farmstead/cluster name:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SHPO INFO FOR THIS PROPERTY**

| NR date listed: | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| ILS survey date: | 4/29/2009 |
| RLS survey date: | 12/10/2008 |
| Gen File date: | | |

106 Project(s)

looking from Main St.
ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The Winebarger House/Central Hotel, built c.1874, is located at 112 W. Main Street in Mitchell, Oregon. The building is on an irregular shaped lot approximately .37 acres in size, with 100 feet of frontage along Main Street, and approximately 100 feet deep. The property is within the historic Main Street area of Mitchell. There are no other structures on the property.

The Winebarger House/Central Hotel is a one-and-one-half story modified crosswing type building. It is wood frame construction with horizontal board (drop) siding with an asphalt shingle roof and two concrete block chimneys, one in the middle of each section of the building. The simply-detailed vernacular style house incorporates some Craftsman details evident in the front-facing gable-end roof brackets and exposed rafter ends on the second-floor porch roof.

The front-facing gable on the west portion of the house retains its historic wood windows and door. The upper floor contains two one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows with simple wood surrounds. The first floor contains a pair of one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows on the east side of the entrance door, and one one-over-one double-hung wood sash window on the west end.

The east ell portion of the house that parallels Main Street projects out toward the street from the west portion of the building approximately five feet. It contains aluminum sliding replacement windows on either side of a central wood sash door in the upper floor. On the first floor the wood sash entrance door is toward the west end of the ell with two aluminum sliding windows on the east side of the door, and one aluminum sliding window on the west side. The window openings have been altered to accommodate the newer windows. The historic windows are available to be installed during the restoration of the building.

A full length porch connects the west and east sections of the building, with ramps leading to each entrance. On the west end the porch has a shed roof with asphalt shingles and exposed rafter ends, square wood columns, a simply-detailed wood handrail with 2-inch square vertical balusters framed with 2 x 4 wood railing. On the east portion of the building, there is a porch on both the first and second floors, with the roof extending from the main portion of the house out to cover the second floor porch, which in turn acts as the ceiling for the first floor porch.

The interior is currently divided into two separate units. On the west side, the entrance door leads directly into the living area, where there are three doors opening into other rooms. On the east side of the living area, a door leads to an interior room that contains no windows, that in turn leads to a bathroom. On the south side, a door leads into a small kitchen. On the west side, a door leads to a small "room" that contains a stairway to the second floor. On the second floor, the stairs lead to an open hallway along the north side of the house in the gable end, with two bedrooms on the south side.

On the east side of the house, the entrance door leads directly into a living area where there are two doors leading to other rooms. On the east side a door leads to a large kitchen/dining room. On the south side, a door leads to a hallway that leads to the bathroom, and that contains a stairway to the second floor. The stairs lead into a small "L" shaped hallway. Bedrooms are located on either side (east and west sides) of the stairs. Directly in front of the stairs the hallway leads to the door that provides access to the second floor porch.

According to local historians and other documentation as noted in the historic narrative, the building plan has been significantly altered. It has been reported that originally the kitchen was located in a separate building behind this house. Originally, the west side of the building projected out from the east side and contained a second floor porch (opposite of the current configuration) as noted in the historic photo included with this survey document. Local history indicates that the front portion of the north facing gable end was removed in 1927. In addition to the many changes in floor plan that have occurred over the years, the interior finishes are entirely altered. There is simulated wood paneling used throughout the building, and in some rooms the framing and doorways are unfinished.

HISTORY

(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period [preferably to the present])

The Winebarger House/Central Hotel, located at 112 W. Main in Mitchell, Oregon was built in 1874 -84 and operated by Ozius S. and Kate Evans Boardman. Not much is known about the original owners. They were married in Sacramento California in 1872, and had one son, Vincent E. Boardman. Ozius died May 4, 1904 and Kate died January 1895. Both are buried in the Mitchell Cemetery. When Ozius died, his estate was valued at 1,500; he instructed that after his bills were paid, their son, Vincent was to receive $5.00. Vincent married Vera Waterman in Mitchell on October 4, 1901.

Boardman closed the hotel in 1893, after which it was operated as a feed store when it was purchased by Dr. Jenkins. In 1999 Hiram and Sally Winebarger bought the building for $1,500. Hiram Winebarger, known as Roky, took out a mortgage to buy the Central Hotel from Thomas J. Harper. Roky married Sally Graybeal in 1895 in Tennessee. From Tennessee they moved to North Carolina where three of their children were born; the last two children were born in Oregon. Their names were Stub, Ralph, Hick, Fred and June. Roky originally had a sheep ranch at Rattlesnake but moved to town so the kids could get a better education. The Boardmans ran the Central Hotel here during 1909-1916. In 1927, Roky removed the front foyer of the old hotel. He continued to be a rancher until he her died in the mid 1930s. Local history says that he died on his way home from the Pastime Tavern which was located next store by drowning in Bridge Creek. Sally ran a rooming house/hotel during 1937-1952. Sally lived in the house until her death in 1975 at the age of 97. The house has been empty since 1975. In c.2000 the house was purchased by George Schnee who recently started converting the building into apartments. The city would like to restore the building back to its original design and make it into a museum.

The Oregon State Inventory of Historic Places lists the Winebarger House as a significant resource in Wheeler County in the category of transportation. The list includes: the Prairie City Hotel, 1910, in Prairie City, the Kimberly Road Segment of the Spray-Long Creek Wagon Road, ca. 1890 and the Central Hotel, ca. 1880, in Mitchell. The Central Hotel is included as a significant regional historic resource because of its association.
Oregon Historic Site Form

with the early transportation routes in the area; the most significant route being the alignment of The Dalles Military Road which ran through Mitchell. It is locally significant for its association with the founding of the City of Mitchell.

Located at the bottom of a narrow canyon on the narrowest part of Bridge Creek, the town of Mitchell was named after John Hipple Mitchell, who became a U. S. Senator for Oregon. The first settlers arrived in the early 1850s and when gold was discovered on Canyon Creek in 1862, people flocked there by the hundreds. Food and supplies were carried in on pack animals and later by freight wagons. The route passed near the site of Antelope, through Burnt Ranch and Mitchell and on to Canyon City. An express route was established in 1864. This same year, Henry Wheeler began a stage line from The Dalles to Canyon City. The stage and passengers were frequently attacked. Wheeler sold his stage line in 1866 and eventually settled near Mitchell. Wheeler County was named in his honor. Because of the need for safe transportation on the route between Gold Hill and The Dalles the U.S. Government improved the trail to allow for easier movement of soldiers to base camps along the way. It was then referred to as The Dalles-Canyon City Military Road.

The Dalles Military Road did not originally go through Mitchell. However, when William W. Johnson, a blacksmith, started a business in 1873 and requested a post office be established in the settlement, the route was changed. His request was granted and he was appointed the first Postmaster of the area and named it Mitchell. A school was built in 1874 and R. Edmundson started the first store in 1875. The Central Hotel became a regular stopping point along this road by 1884. By 1890 there was a church, a livery stable and many saloons as well as the school and hotel. The business buildings and saloons were located along the creek and that part of the town became down as "Tiger Town" because of the many brawls that occurred at the saloons. According to local history there were three shootings in the downtown, including one in 1904, which was a fight that killed Mr. Pruett, a cattlemen, by Tom Dehaven, a shepherd from Madras. Two other fights occurred in 1923 and 1946 with a result of two more men being killed. Above "Tiger Town" where most of the houses and a church were located on the bluff above the business area was called Piety Hill.

It is somewhat of a miracle that the building has survived because of Mitchell's location along Bridge Creek. Mitchell has been the site of four disastrous floods and a fire. In 1884, the town of Mitchell experienced its first catastrophe when numerous heavy thunderstorms in the nearby mountain produced a nine-foot wall of water that came over the bluff above the town, carrying boulders and mud into the town causing much damage, six fatalities, and sweeping away most of its buildings. In 1889 another disaster struck, but of a different kind. Mitchell was half destroyed by a fire after which time most of the town was rebuilt at the same location. On July 11, 1904, Mitchell was again almost destroyed by another flood and two lives were taken. Another flood in September of the same year did little damage. On July 13, 1936 the town was again struck by another flood. The creek was usually less than 12 inches (30 cm) deep during July, but minutes after the thunderstorm, a sudden surge of water destroyed or heavily damaged 20 buildings in the city and several bridges over the creek. An observer from the United States Geological Survey estimated that about 4 inches (10 cm) of rain had fallen in about 50 minutes at the storm's center. Total damage from the flood, which also caused extensive damage to crops and roads in a nearby valley, was $709,000. The last flood occurred in 1964; referred to as the Christmas flood, it did not cause any damage to buildings but washed out roads causing isolation of the area for several days.

RESEARCH INFORMATION

(Check all of the basic sources consulted and cite specific important sources)

- Title Records
- Sanborn Maps
- Obituaries
- City Directories
- Census Records
- Biographical Sources
- Newspapers
- Building Permits
- Property Tax Records
- SHPO Files
- State Archives
- State Library
- Local Histories
- Interviews
- Historic Photographs
- University Library
- Other Repository

Bibliography: The Times-Journal, Condon Oregon

Interviews with Sandra Davis, City of Mitchell (541) 462-3121 and Carol Humphreys (541 462-3223), and Dan Cannon (541) 462-3674 by Roz Keeney, April 24, 2009.

Historic Photographs

Local Library Fossil Public Library, Fossil

Historical Society: Malheur County Historic Society and the Fossil Museum

Bibliography


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Photo # 7: Living area in east side, looking northeast toward front door.

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Photo # 8: Kitchen in east side, looking north.

Photo #9: Second floor bedroom in west side, looking southwest.

Photo # 10: Second floor bedroom in east side, looking northeast.
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not cause any damage to buildings but washed out roads causing isolation of the area for several days.

Bibliography


Chenoweth, Henry. *Ghost Towns of Oregon*,  


Interviews with Sandra Davis, City of Mitchell (541) 462-3121 and Carol Humphreys (541 462-3223), and Dan Cannon (541) 462-3674 by Roz Keeney, April 24, 2009.

Knapp, Connie, Wheeler County History Page, Mitchell History, Spray School,  