The Winebarger House/Central Hotel, located at 112 W. Main Street in Mitchell, Oregon, is a historic building built in the late 19th century. The building was constructed in 1874-84 and operated as the Central Hotel until the mid-1930s. It was later converted into apartments in c.2000. The property is located 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 a gable roof. The building has undergone various changes over the years, but the basic structure remains intact.

The building has a gable roof with a gabled porch on both the first and second floors. The porch is covered by a shed roof with aluminum siding. 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 second floor contains two 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 windows have been altered to accommodate the newer wood sash windows.

The interior of the building has undergone significant changes over the years. 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 second floor contains two 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 windows have been altered to accommodate the newer wood sash windows.

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 side 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 west end the porch has a shed roof with aluminum shingles and exposed rafter ends. The porch is covered by a shed roof with aluminum siding.

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 of the building, there is a door that 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. 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 was located 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.

**Architectural / Property Description**

(Expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)

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 a gable roof. The building has undergone various changes over the years, but the basic structure remains intact.

The building has a gable roof with a gabled porch on both the first and second floors. The porch is covered by a shed roof with aluminum siding. 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 side 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 west end the porch has a shed roof with aluminum shingles and exposed rafter ends. The porch is covered by a shed roof with aluminum siding.

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 of the building, there is a door that 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. 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 was located 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 1909 Hiram and Sally Winebarger bought the building for $1,500. Hiram Winebarger, known as Roby, took out a mortgage to buy the Central Hotel from Thomas J. Harper. Roby 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. Roby 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, Roby 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 drying 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

Oregon Historic Preservation Office

1 of 2
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 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 1860s 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 1868 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 known as “Tiger Town” because of the many brawls that occurred at the saloons. According to local history there were three shootouts in the downtown, including one in 1904, which was a fight that killed Mr. Pruitt, a cattlemen, by Tom Dehaven, a sheepherder 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 1894, 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 1899 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, 1956 the town was again struck by another flood and two lives were taken. Another flood in September of the same year did little damage. On July 13, 1956 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

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