

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



County Grant

Theme 6-B, 10-A

Name
(Common) Sels (F.C.) Building

(Historic) Canyon City Brewery

Address 113 North Washington
Canyon City, Oregon

Present Owner Whiskey Gulch Gang

(Address) Canyon City, Oregon

Original Use Brewery

Date of Construction 1870-ff.

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The Francis C. Sels Building, also known as the Canyon City Brewery, is a one story, stone building with a wood false front. The gable roof is covered with corrugated sheet metal and is in very poor condition. Three large entry bays are located on the west (front) elevation on North Washington Street. These bays are covered with iron doors. An awning of corrugated sheet metal is suspended along the front elevation above the entry bays. The name "F. C. Sels" and the words "Since 1872" are painted on the false front.

Photo 71-148 in the Oliver Museum in Canyon City shows that this building originally had a second story of wood frame with a gable roof and decorative brackets.

Francis C. Sels was born in 1837 in Meschede, Westphalia, Germany. In 1854 Sels settled in California and in 1862 he located in Canyon City. After working as a miner he opened a general store in Canyon City. In 1866 he sold out to his brother. From 1864 to 1866 Sels was justice of the peace and in 1866 was postmaster of the town. In 1866 he became county treasurer and in 1868 state senator, though he was later unseated in an election dispute. In 1870 Sels became county judge and purchased the Canyon City Brewery which was destroyed by fire that year. Sels immediately rebuilt the building.

A photograph of this building appears in Miles Potter's Oregon's Golden Years. The caption, however, refers to this structure as being H. L. Sells brewery; this is probably in error. (see p. 64)

Continue back if necessary

Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date 4 Aug. 1976 Sources Consulted:

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

Justice, Janice. Interview with Stephen Dow Beckham, 19 July 1976, Canyon City, Ore.

Please enclose map Township 13 N Range 31 W Section 35

(over)

Sources:

Potter, Miles F. Oregon's Golden Years. Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers, 1976, p. 64.

"Hon. Francis F. Sels." An Illustrated History of Baker, Grant, Malheur, and Harney Counties, Spokane, Wash.: Western Historical Publishing Co., 1902, pp. 460-461.

The Francis F. Sels building, also known as the Canyon City Brewery, is a one story, one and a half high building with a wood false front. The false front is covered with corrugated sheet metal and is in very poor condition. Three large entryways are located on the west front elevation on North Washington Street. These entryways are covered with iron doors. In a drawing of corrugated sheet metal is suspended along the front elevation above the entryways. The name "F. F. Sels" and the words "Brewery" are painted on the false front.

Photo 21-140 in the Oliver Museum in Canyon City shows that this building originally had a second story of wood frame with a gable roof and decorative brackets.

Francis F. Sels was born in 1837 in Isselbach, Westphalia, Germany. In 1854 he settled in California and in 1855 he located in Canyon City. After working as a miner he opened a general store in Canyon City. In 1856 he sold out to his brother. From 1857 to 1862 Sels was Justice of the Peace and in 1863 was postmaster of the town. In 1865 he became county treasurer and in 1867 state senator, though he was later unseated in an election dispute. In 1870 Sels became county judge and purchased the Canyon City Brewery which was destroyed by fire that year. This immediately rebuilt the building.

A photograph of this building appears in Miles Potter's Oregon's Golden Years. The caption, however, refers to this structure as being H. F. Sels' brewery. This is probably in error. (see p. 64)