

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received SEP 10 1980

date entered NOV 6 1980

1. Name

historic Thompson, John L. House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 209 West Third Street _____ not for publication

city, town The Dalles _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 2nd

state Oregon _____ code 41 _____ county Wasco _____ code 065

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Barbara S. Bailey

street & number Route 2, Box 146-A

city, town The Dalles _____ vicinity of _____ state Oregon 97058

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wasco County Courthouse

street & number 5th and Washington

city, town The Dalles _____ state Oregon 97058

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title City of The Dalles Historical Landmark has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date 1979 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records City of The Dalles Planning Office

city, town The Dalles _____ state Oregon 97058

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John L. Thompson House occupies a 50x100-foot lot fronting West Third Street in downtown The Dalles. As initially constructed in 1889, it was a single-story, gable-roofed and clapboarded frame house, L-shaped in plan, with the main volume oriented toward the south and situated laterally on the lot. Within the main volume, interior spaces were arranged around a central hall.

In 1897 the house was enlarged by a 2½-story parlor-bedroom addition to the front which was treated with the full vocabulary of Queen Anne ornament. The "new" wing, also situated laterally on the lot, expanded overall dimensions of the house to 32x60 feet. The gable-roofed wing is clad with 6-inch cedar drop siding. The facade is organized with apparent asymmetry characteristic of the Queen Anne Style. The cross-gable projecting section, or pavilion housing the parlor on the south side of the facade is offset on the north side by a square corner tower with pyramidal roof and finial, the whole of which is set at an angle to the main wall plane. In between these features is a single story porch with central pedimented gablet, the tympanum of which is filled with carved ornament in urn and foliate motif which simulates pargetry. An historic view of the later 1890s shows that this gablet originally had roof ridge cresting and finial, whereas the main roof ridges, apparently, did not. Turned porch posts have fan brackets, railings have turned balusters, and the frieze is of spindle work. The front door is not aligned with the center of the porch, but rather with the central hall. The gable end of the parlor pavilion and the blind third story of the corner tower are faced with imbricated shingles. Typical windows are double hung with one over one lights, grouped in pairs. The parlor has a larger "picture" window with top light with leaded arabesque. Framements of the latter and ground story windows in the corner tower are surmounted by solid, curvilinear crests. The outer, or southwest corner of the parlor pavilion is beveled for a window opening, which is shaded by skirting of fan brackets and spindle work suspended from the angle of the walls above. Rectangular openings in the gable end and in the wall above the porch have leaded glass in varied diaper patterns. There are two flare-top brick chimneys which break the north slope of the roof of the main volume.

A coursed ashlar foundation of Mid-Columbia basalt extends around the entire perimeter of the building and appears to have been laid at the time the house was enlarged in 1897. Originally, the door yard was lined with a picket fence with gate aligned with the porch steps. The fence has not been standing for many years.

Arranged around the central hall, interior spaces include front and back parlors on the west side and front and back bedchambers and kitchen on the east side of the hall. The kitchen was the rear room on the east, according to Miss Victoria Thompson, niece of the original occupant. When the house was converted to boarding house use after the Second World War, the rooms were subdivided and ceilings were lowered. The original room configuration has been restored in the rehabilitation undertaken recently by the present owner. Noteworthy features of the interior include: a hardwood column screen with paneled base dividing the two parlors, a pine corner closet in one of the downstairs bedrooms, a birch stair railing, window frame corner blocks of cedar gouged in a floral motif, four-panel doors with original black parcelain knobs and chased brass plates, and a claw-footed bathtub. Eleven-foot ceiling heights have been restored throughout, and, where possible, remnants of the carved ceiling molding were pieced together and replaced. The leaded stained glass windows were resoldered. A 6x10-foot lean-to addition on the rear of the ell which had been clad with sheet metal was removed, and a porch deck with railing echoing that of the front porch was added in its place. Other recent improvements included code work, such as rewiring, addition of insulation, and replacement of the individual gas heaters dating from Post War boarding house days.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

Specific dates 1889-1897 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The house built for John L. Thompson on West Third Street--a main thoroughfare--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. The Thompson House and the neighboring two-story house of Victor Trevitt, similarly updated with Queen Anne details, are the last historic dwellings remaining in the core of the business district. The Thompson House is significant as one of the most visible of landmarks designated under authority of local ordinance, one which demonstrates the evolutionary character of domestic architecture on the frontier, and one which is an outstanding example of the Queen Anne Style in The Dalles. The house is noteworthy also for its association with John L. Thompson, who, upon his arrival at the bustling portage town on the Mid-Columbia River in 1869, built a successful career at the blacksmith trade.

The Dalles, legendary gateway to the Willamette Valley for west-bound Oregon Trail immigrants, and gateway to the inland empire for miners, military men, and east-bound homesteaders, was a town full of promise for industrious tradesmen during the 1860s. One such hopeful arrival of 1869 was John L. Thompson, who opened a blacksmith shop at Third and Madison Streets and prospered.

In 1873, according to deed records, Thompson purchased a 50x100-foot lot on Third Street seven blocks west of his blacksmith shop. Here he planned construction of a house for his wife, Margaret, and four daughters. In 1889, according to insurance records, the initial construction--a one-story, gable-roofed frame house L-shaped in plan--was completed. The house survived the fire of 1891 which destroyed much of the downtown. Tax records show that what is today the main volume of the house--the 2½-story Queen Anne front addition--was completed and first assessed in 1897.

The Thompson House was occupied by Laura Thompson, one of Thompson's daughters, until 1949. Thereafter, it became a boarding house. It was acquired by the present owner in 1979 and restored for professional office use.

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Continuation sheet Thompson, John L. House

Item number 9

Page 1

Records of Thomas Hudson, 418 W. 2nd Place, The Dalles, early realtor and insurance agent.

Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties, Wasco County, 1976. Inventory sheets on Thompson House and neighboring house built for Victor Trevitt, Stephen Dow Beckham.



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Thompson, John L., House
209 West Third Street
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The Dalles Chronicle Photo, 1980
The Dalles, OR 97058

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South (front) Elevation



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The Dalles Chronicle Photo, 1980
The Dalles, OR 97058

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Detail of southeast corner tower.



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Detail of pedimented gablet over front porch.

The Dalles Chronicle Photo, 1980
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Looking SW from front porch, showing
proximity to St. Peter's Roman Catholic
Church, a National Register property.