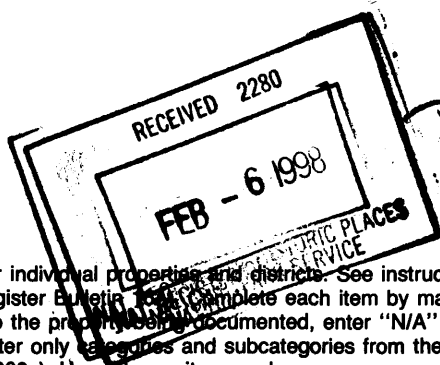


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



260

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 33). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name First Wasco County Courthouse

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 410 W Second Place N/A not for publication

city or town The Dalles N/A vicinity

state Oregon / code OR county Wasco code 065 zip code 97058

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James Hamrick January 16, 1998  
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO Date  
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 3/10/98

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1 (Previously listed as NRIS #77001116)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: county courthouse, jail  
city hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and culture: museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal style, vernacular version

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete  
walls wood, weatherboards

roof wood, shingle

other brick, stove chimney

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1

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**Building Description**

The original Wasco County Courthouse in The Dalles, Oregon is a vernacular, frontier interpretation of architecture in the Federal style. It was constructed by a local builder, W. C. Wallace, and opened for use in 1859. Although now relocated a total of six times, once modified and now restored, it contains essential fabric from the initial period of construction. It is briefly characterized as a brisk, two-story, rectangular end-gabled volume of late timber frame construction with mortise and tenon joinery and some 4 x 4-inch stud framing. It has a ground plan measuring 25 x 33 feet. The shingled gable roof has a medium pitch and a boxed cornice. The facade is formally organized as three regular bays with a central entrance, which is composed as a multi-light double-leaf door, and six-over-six double hung windows having plain surrounds. The exterior is clad with lapped weatherboards and trimmed with plain corner boards and frieze. A simple porch extends from the front wall plane seven feet for the full width of the facade, its canopy supported on four slender posts. An outside stairway on the west elevation leads to the second story. The roof overhang which is extended slightly to shelter the stairs is supported on a framework of scantling. There is no fenestration on secondary elevations of the ground story. The ground story interior contains jail cells with reinforced wood doors. Although the original floor plan is undocumented, it is known that ground story space included the sheriff's office as well as the jail, while the courtroom and the commissioners' and clerk's office were upstairs. Historic finish work includes wood flooring and window and door trim. Since interior wall plaster was too badly damaged to be salvaged in the restoration, it was replaced by plaster board. Baseboard trim and picture molding are patterned after fragments found on the premises during restoration.

There is a longitudinal partition creating a stairhall on the west side of the ground story. Interior access to the courtroom is provided by a staircase on the west wall. The brick flue which originally vented a stove on the east wall has been rebuilt.

The building has been maintained as a public history museum since it was relocated for the fifth time in 1975 and restored the following year. Of necessity, the interior restoration was based somewhat on conjecture because of the building's prior adaptation as a boarding house. Historic exterior views were used in combination with examination of building fabric to control the restoration. A detailed assessment of the building fabric and description of the restoration is contained in a report appended to this application. The report, entitled "Owner's Handbook for Old Wasco County Court House, Constructed 1858-59, Restored 1976, The Dalles, Oregon," was prepared for the Original Courthouse Preservation Corporation by Portland architect Alfred Staehli [FAIA] and dated March 25, 1977.

**Character of the Setting**

The old courthouse was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977, following its 1975 relocation to Second Street, where it occupied a quarter-acre parcel on the east bank of Mill Creek owned by The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce. The site was adjacent to the Modernistic Chamber of Commerce building. The old courthouse, owned and restored by the Original Courthouse Preservation, Inc., was operated compatibly in that setting as a visitors information center and museum until the 20-year land lease

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 2

agreement expired in 1995.

The building was moved to its present location within Trevitt's Addition Historic District, a National Register property, in the early months of 1996 and was officially reopened to the public on May 16, 1997.

Because the building has been moved from the site it occupied at the time of previous listing, this application is submitted to show its structural qualities have not been altered since it was restored and previously listed, nor does the character of the present site detract from those intrinsic qualities. The building now stands in a row of residential properties fronting on West Second Place, where it is set back from the right of way 12 feet and landscaped with lawn and modest foundation plantings in conformance with the residential setting. The building stands less than 200 feet south of its last site of record. The building was placed on a concrete foundation and rests about a foot above grade, which is consistent with early photographs. The County-owned lot the building now occupies is thought to be slightly less than the standard lot size of 50 x 100 feet. It is reported to measure approximately 80 feet in its longitudinal dimension. The precise longitudinal measurement of the lot is immaterial because the area proposed for nomination is the northerly 50 feet of the tax lot. The nominated area, 50 feet square, is sufficient to include the 12-foot set back from the front lot line, the longitudinal measurement of the building volume (33 feet), and five feet additional on the south side of the building footprint. The boundary description thus excludes a detached, historically unrelated shed which stands at the back of the lot. Tax lots on either side of the nominated feature are developed, but the easterly lot is occupied by a vernacular house of only one story, built c. 1879-1880, and its small scale helps to give the neighboring courthouse a suggestion of discrete placement.

Lot No. 10 of Block 7 in Trevitt's Addition to the City of The Dalles, otherwise identified as Tax Lot 1300, Sec. 3, T.1N., R13E., W.M., holds at its rear, southeast corner a single-story, gable-roofed and shiplap-clad shed with root cellar believed to have been built about 1888 in association with the historic Zimmerman house and outbuildings on the adjoining Tax Lot 1400 to the east.

On January 24, 1996, The Dalles Historic Landmarks Commission adopted Order No. HLC 30-96 approving the conditional use permit for relocation of the old courthouse onto the County-owned lot in the residential neighborhood. The approval was conditioned on a certified site plan calling for no new features or additions, adherence to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, and monitoring of the site preparation in the event of discovery of previously unknown archeological resources.

On May 31, 1996, the Historic Landmarks Commission entertained a request for demolition of the shed. In consideration of the shed's early date and the fact that it had been counted a primary contributing feature in the registered Trevitt's Addition Historic District, the Commission suspended approval of a permit to afford supporters an opportunity to formulate rehabilitation plans. The shed measures 12 by 24 feet in its main volume and its longitudinally oriented on the lot, with at least ten feet of separation from the southeast corner of the courthouse. On its east side, on the adjoining lot, is lean-to attachment measuring 14 by 28 feet. This back building, thus, is split by a legal lot line. The shed's history is not associated with that of the courthouse. In its own right, however, it has standing as a primary contributing feature within a National Register district. The shed is not included as a feature of this renomination.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/government

**Period of Significance**

1859-1909

**Significant Dates**

1859

1882

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

W. C. Wallace

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Wasco County Court Proceedings  
Wasco County Courthouse, Oregon State Archive

First Wasco County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Wasco County, Oregon  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 0.05 acres (50 x 50 feet)

The Dalles South, Oregon - Washington  
1:24000

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	0	6	4	1	3	7	0	5	0	5	1	4	1	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

  
2 

Zone		Easting					Northing							

3 

Zone		Easting					Northing							

  
4 

Zone		Easting					Northing							

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Elisabeth Walton Potter

organization State Historic Preservation Office date January 16, 1998

street & number 1115 Commercial Street NE telephone 503/378-5001, ext. 226

city or town Salem state Oregon zip code 97310

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Wasco County and Original Courthouse Preservation, Inc.

street & number Wasco County Courthouse, 511 Washington Street 541/296-2207  
PO Box 839 telephone 541/296-4798

city or town The Dalles state Oregon zip code 97058

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1Area of Significance under Criterion A - Politics and Government

The original Wasco County Courthouse in The Dalles, Oregon was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 as an early and generally well preserved example of vernacular architecture echoing the Federal style, a building that was significant as the government headquarters of Wasco County from 1859 to 1882. Wasco County was organized in 1854, and in its earliest boundary configuration it was a vast subdivision of the Oregon Territory extending from the crest of the Cascade Range to the Rocky Mountains. When the arid regions of eastern Oregon were sparsely settled, the historic Methodist mission site, military post, and regrouping place on the overland immigrant trail located at The Dalles on the Columbia River evolved as a gateway trading community, the county's main population center, and the logical seat of county government. County business was conducted in rented quarters in those years before a building was commissioned. The building was brought to completion just as the Congress of the United States acted to admit Oregon to the union of states on February 14, 1859.

In the decade after statehood was achieved, gold discoveries in eastern Oregon and Idaho opened an era when The Dalles burgeoned as a shipping and freightline hub for the inland region. Even as the County's jurisdictional boundaries were narrowed by a succession of later subdivisions, the County's business relating to criminal justice, land sale transactions, and civil records for a growing population outstripped the capacity of the original administrative building. The old courthouse was superseded by the Second Wasco County Courthouse, designed by Portland architect Warren H. Williams and erected in 1883. After next serving the better part of three decades as The Dalles City Hall, it was moved across Third Street in 1909 to be used while a new city hall was under construction. The First Wasco County Courthouse, the Lane County Clerk's Building (1853), and the Washington County Jail (1853) are the oldest extant local government buildings in Oregon, the only ones reaching back to the Territorial period or the year of transition to statehood. Accordingly, each has statewide significance under National Register Criterion A in the area of government.

The current Wasco County Courthouse, the County's third, was completed and opened for use at 511 Washington Street in 1914. Along with the Second Courthouse at 105 W Third, which has been adapted for commercial purposes, it is counted a primary contributing feature in The Dalles Commercial Historic District.

Chronology of Adaptations and Relocations

The old Wasco County Courthouse, like its kindred early government buildings in Lane and Washington Counties, was relocated, first for practical purposes, and ultimately as a measure to preserve it as a singular relic of county history. In outline, the adaptations and relocations over time are as follows.

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1859-1882 | Wasco County Courthouse, NW corner of Court and Third Streets, facing east onto Court; superseded in 1883. |
| 1883-1910 | Served as The Dalles City Hall; moved across Third Street in 1909 while new city hall was built.           |
| 1910-1960 | Moved east on Third Street, enlarged by a rear addition and converted to a boarding house.                 |

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 2

- 
- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1961      | Threatened with demolition, the building was moved under auspices of The Dalles-Wasco County Museum Commission to a publicly-held parcel west of Mill Creek, on the Columbia River Highway, known as Lewis and Clark Plaza. Plans for rehabilitation were never realized there. |
| 1974      | Under threat of clearance, the unmaintained building was moved to an interim site while restoration plans were formulated by a citizens action group organized as Original Courthouse Preservation Corporation.   |
| 1975-1976 | Resited and restored adjacent to the Chamber of Commerce building, 404 W Second Street; Dedicated July 4, 1997; listed in National Register of Historic Places November 16, 1977.   |
| 1996      | Relocated under auspices of Original Courthouse Preservation, Inc. to County-owned property at 410 W Second Place in the block south of the Chamber of Commerce site.   |

The old courthouse still is owned by Original Courthouse Preservation, Inc. The owner of the lot on which it now stands is Wasco County. The preservation group has executed with the Wasco County Court a 50-year lease with a renewal option for an additional 50 years. The lease fee of \$5.00 per annum is paid through the year 2001.

**Criteria Consideration B [Moved Properties]**

Guidance in National Register Bulletin 15, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, allows for eligibility of moved properties that have been resited sensitively and are of surpassing significance for association with historical events.

*A moved property significant under Criteria A or B must be demonstrated to be the surviving property most importantly associated with a particular historic event or an important aspect of a historic person's life. The phrase "most importantly associated" means that it must be the single surviving property that is most closely associated with the event or with the part of the person's life for which he or she is significant.*

During its meeting in regular session on October 16, 1997, the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation was unanimous in concluding that the First Wasco County Courthouse continues to meet National Register Criterion A in the area of politics and government and also Criterion Consideration B as the only building representing Wasco County government at the time of Oregon's transition from territorial status to statehood in 1859. The building is secondarily significant as the administrative headquarters of the City of The Dalles from 1883 to 1910, a period of vigorous upbuilding prompted by the arrival of the Union Pacific Railroad and Columbia River navigation improvements.

The historic period of significance of the First Wasco County Courthouse extends over that 50-year period, 1859-1909, during which the building was in use by County and City governments on its original site.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 3Context for the Historic Period of Significance, 1859-1909

From the time Oregon's Provisional Government was organized by Willamette Valley settlers in 1843, land laws encouraged immigrants to claim and cultivate the land. In 1848, the Congress of the United States created the Oregon Territory, and the agricultural basis of Oregon's early economy was quickly reinforced by passage of the Donation Land Act in 1850. Land offices were established at Oregon City and Roseburg, in western Oregon, and at The Dalles, and later La Grande, in eastern Oregon, where claims could be filed for patents on donation claims and, ultimately, for claims under the Homestead Act of 1862.

Orlando Humason (1828-1875), a merchant-farmer who had settled at The Dalles in 1853, was serving in the Territorial Legislature in 1854 when he introduced the bill which created Wasco County. This benchmark in Oregon's political subdivision worked to the benefit of eastern Oregon. When Wasco County was created from a portion of the old Oregon country Clackamas district and the Champoeg (Champoick) district by act of the Territorial Legislature on January 11, 1854, it embraced all of Oregon east of the Cascade Range, most of Idaho and parts of Montana and Wyoming. Its name was derived from the Wascopam Indians and the name of the Methodist mission station established among the tribal group at The Dalles.

It is perhaps no coincidence that Orlando Humason, the "founder" of Wasco County, was chairman of the three-member County board of commissioners in 1858 when plans for the first courthouse were put underway. Humason was still the presiding officer in the initial years of the Wasco County Court under statehood, in 1859 and 1860. Fittingly, his 1860 vernacular Gothic house now standing at 908 Court Street was entered into the National Register in 1991.

Before the State constitution was amended in 1953 to authorize counties to adopt "home rule" charters, Oregon's counties were political subdivisions in the true sense of the word, functioning almost exclusively as agents of the Territorial or State government. Their primary responsibilities were law enforcement, courts, recordation of land sale transactions, maintenance of electoral and other civil records, construction of farm-to-market roads, schools, and tax collection. Need for a jailhouse typically inspired the first building construction contract a newly formed county government undertook. Wasco County followed the pattern.

The County's first courthouse, incorporating a jail, commissioners' and clerk's office, and courtroom, was planned in earnest after more than a year of deliberation over the need for permanent facilities. In the County's formative years, the commissioners met in rented space and, under authority of the Territorial Act creating the political subdivision, they had the option of making use of the guardhouse of Fort Dalles with permission of the commanding officer as need required. When the guardhouse was occupied, the County was obliged to arrange for secure quarters on a rental basis, which proved uneconomical.

It was a petition from Wasco County residents that caused the commissioners to set things in motion. On July 5, 1858, the County commissioners directed N. H. Gates and W. C. Moody, the County Clerk, to "plan, lay out and contract for the erection of [a] jail and courtroom...at a cost not to exceed \$2,500." According to research in County Court Commissioners proceedings conducted by John Lundell in 1970, Gates and Moody

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

obtained a bid from the builder W. C. Wallace and were instructed by the County to proceed.

It took Wallace a little over one year to complete the building. Wallace was paid \$1,000 on December 8, 1858, and was to receive \$500 more when 'the auditor felt it safe to do so.' On February 9, 1859 [five days before Congressional enactment of Oregon's admission to Statehood], the commission agreed to pay Wallace the final \$1,000 when 'the house was received by the commissioners.' On April 6, 1859, Wallace was paid \$472.12 for putting furniture, chimney and sundry fixtures in the courthouse. The next day, the Court accepted the courthouse with the provision that Wallace 'finish painting the rooms, put in the grate and furnish locks for the cells.' (Lundell, 28)

According to County Court proceedings, by 1870, the expansion of County business called for construction of an annex adjacent to the north side of the courthouse for purposes of enlarging the clerk's and sheriff's offices. (The annex did not survive the relocation of the old courthouse and city hall at the end of its historic period of occupation on its original site in 1909).

The Dalles boomed with the opening of gold mines in the John Day country and Blue Mountains to the east. When the freight hauling, outfitting, and banking ventures which thrived on the mining activity in the 1860s declined, improvements in transportation, such as the Oregon Short Line Railroad in 1872, allowed the region's stock raisers and wheat growers to move their grain and wool clip through shipping warehouses on the Columbia River at The Dalles. Orlando Humason, once again a prominent legislator, serving in the State Assembly during the sessions of 1862 and 1866, agitated for Federal construction of a lock and ship canal at Cascade Locks. The first major Columbia River navigational improvement project was authorized by Congress in 1874 when Humason was still living, but was not under construction until 1879. After the locks were opened to traffic in 1896, they eliminated the barrier to direct steam shipping between The Dalles and the Pacific Ocean and allowed The Dalles to enhance its position as trading hub of the central Columbia high plateau. The next aid to navigation, Celilo Canal, in 1915 extended the range of direct shipping upriver to Idaho, and salmon packing was added to the base industry of the river port.

It was against this background of growth that Wasco County's service demands burgeoned even as new territories and as many as 17 new Oregon counties were created from the old domain. By 1916, the largest county ever formed in the United States, a jurisdiction of covering 130,00 square miles, had achieved its present configuration embracing 2,387 square miles.

Following are the typical branches of service provided by Wasco County under the State Constitution in the historic period 1859-1909.

Circuit Court	County Coroner	County Sheriff	District Attorney
County Assessor	County Court (probate function)	County Surveyor	Justice Court (small,
County Clerk	County School Superintendent	County Treasurer	non-land civil claims)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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## Bibliography

An Illustrated History of Central Oregon, Embracing Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler, Crook, Lake, and Klamath Counties. Spokane, Washington: Western Historical Publishing Company, 1905.

Lockley, Fred, History of the Columbia River Valley from The Dalles to the Sea. Chicago, Illinois: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1928. Historic photograph of courthouse on original site from collections of the Oregon Historical Society.

Lundell, John, Governmental History of Wasco County, Oregon. The Dalles, Oregon, 1970.

Corning, Howard McKinley, ed., Dictionary of Oregon History. Binfords and Mort, Portland, Oregon, 1956.

Johansen, Dorothy O., "The Roll [sic] of Land Laws in the Settlement of Oregon," Genealogical material in Oregon Donation Land Claims Abstracted from Applications by the Genealogical Forum of Portland, Oregon. Volume I, 1957. [Maps of political subdivisions courtesy of Oregon Historical Society]

Staehli, Alfred, "Owner's Handbook for Old Wasco County Court House, Constructed 1858-1859, Restored 1976, The Dalles, Oregon." Portland, Oregon, March 25, 1977.

Sawyer, Layne, ed., Guide to Oregon Provisional and Territorial Government Records. Oregon State Archives, Salem, Oregon, 1990.

Portland Oregonian, July 7, 1961. Reviews history of building to time of relocation to Lewis and Clark Plaza.

The Dalles Chronicle, July 8, 1961. Documents date of relocation to Lewis and Clark Plaza, west of Mill Creek as July 7, 1961.

Portland Oregonian, September 24, 1961, page 17. "Museum Unit to Restore Aged Courthouse."

The Dalles Chronicle, February 12, 1973, page 1. "City-County Talk Due on Courthouse Issue."

The Dalles Chronicle, April 1, 1973, page 1. "Group Forms to Save Courthouse."

The Dalles Chronicle, July 8, 1976. "Fund Drive Started for Courthouse Work."

The Dalles Chronicle, January 17, 1997, page 3. Documents completion of last projects relating to relocation to current County-owned site south of the formerly-registered property of The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

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Boundary Description

The nominated area is located in Section 3, Township 1 North, Range 13 East of the Willamette Meridian, in Wasco County, Oregon and is identified as the northerly 50 feet of Lot 10, Block 7, Trevitt's Addition to the City of The Dalles. It is otherwise described as the northerly 50 feet of Tax Lot 1300 at said location.

Boundary Justification

The bounds of the nominated area are drawn to include only that portion of the County-owned tax lot occupied by the First Wasco County Courthouse. The area is thus 0.05 acres in size. The south boundary of the nominated area clears the rear wall of the historic building and five additional feet. A historically unrelated shed at the rear southeast corner of the County's tax lot is thus excluded from this definition.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number PHOTOS Page 1

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List of Photographs

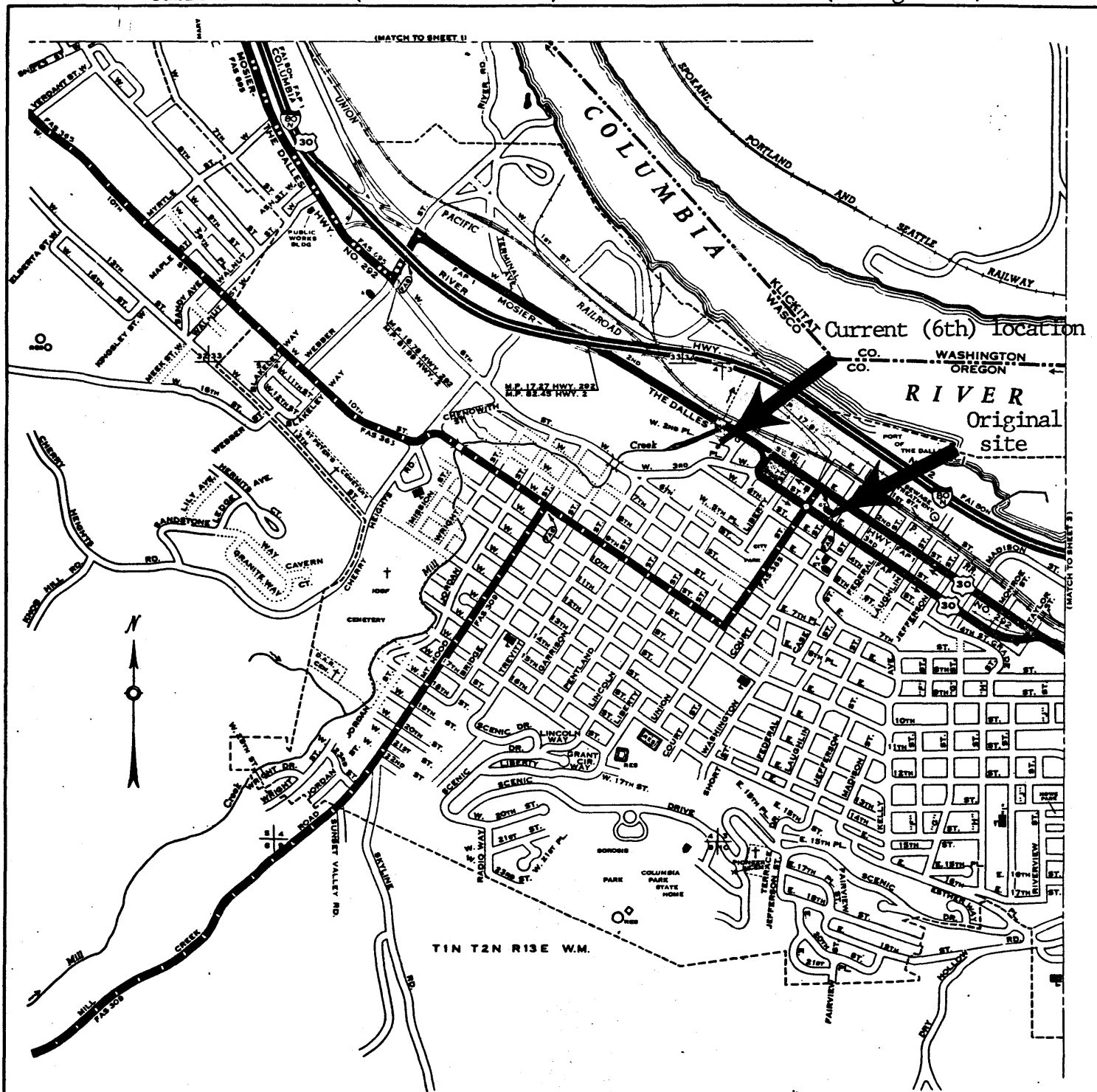
First Wasco County Courthouse (1859)  
410 W Second Place  
The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon

- 1 of 5 Historic View, circa 1900. Photographer and source unknown.  
This view was used as an illustration in John Lundell's Governmental History of Wasco County, Oregon, where it was identified as a "Verlarde Photo." It shows the courthouse on its original site at the northwest corner of Court and Third Streets during the time it was serving as The Dalles City Hall. The view shows the south elevation and east-facing front elevation, a fenced gateway to the outside stairway on the north and, adjacent to the stairway on the north, the false fronted sheriff's office annex which stood on the site from 1870 to 1909, at which time the core volume was moved across Third Street to make room for construction of a new City Hall.
- 2 of 5 Elisabeth Walton Potter photo, June 14, 1997.  
North (front) elevation of courthouse situated on current site, 410 W Second Place.
- 3 of 5 Elisabeth Walton Potter photo, June 14, 1997.  
West and rear elevations of courthouse situated on current site, 410 W Second Place.
- 4 of 5 Elisabeth Walton Potter photo, June 14, 1997.  
Interior view, looking south at jail cell in southwest corner of ground story.
- 5 of 5 Elisabeth Walton Potter photo, June 14, 1997.  
View looking south from previously registered site owned by The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce to the courthouse on its present County-owned lot, 410 W Second Place.

See also supplementary laser photocopies of color prints documenting conditions and appearance of current site .

Negatives held by:  
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
1115 Commercial Street NE  
Salem OR 97310

FIRST WASCO COUNTY COURTHOUSE, THE DALLES, WASCO COUNTY, OREGON  
 Original site: NW corner of intersection of Court and Third Streets (facing east)  
 Current location (sixth relocation): 410 W Second Place (facing north)



LEGEND

- |  |                                     |  |                                 |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
|  | FEDERAL AID INTERSTATE SYSTEM       |  | INTERSTATE NUMBERED ROUTE (FAI) |
|  | FEDERAL AID PRIMARY SYSTEM          |  | U.S. NUMBERED ROUTE             |
|  | FEDERAL AID SECONDARY SYSTEM-STATE  |  | STATE NUMBERED ROUTE            |
|  | FEDERAL AID SECONDARY SYSTEM-COUNTY |  | POST OFFICE                     |
|  | OTHER FEDERAL AID SECONDARY-LOCAL   |  | SCHOOL                          |
|  | TERMINATION OF FA SYSTEM            |  | CITY CENTER                     |
|  | TERMINATION OF ROUTE                |  | R.R. DEPOT                      |
|  | DIVIDED HIGHWAY                     |  | CITY LIMITS                     |
|  | UNDIVIDED HIGHWAY-NO. OF LANES      |  | PUBLIC BLDG.                    |
|  | STREET OPEN FOR TRAVEL              |  | CY CITY HALL                    |
|  | STREET DEDICATED BUT NOT OPEN       |  | CT COURT HOUSE                  |
|  |                                     |  | A ARMORY                        |
|  |                                     |  | L LIBRARY                       |

**THE DALLES**  
 WASCO COUNTY, OREGON

PREPARED BY THE  
 OREGON STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

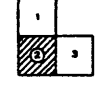
IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
 BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS

Population 11,700

Scale in Feet

Revised September 1969

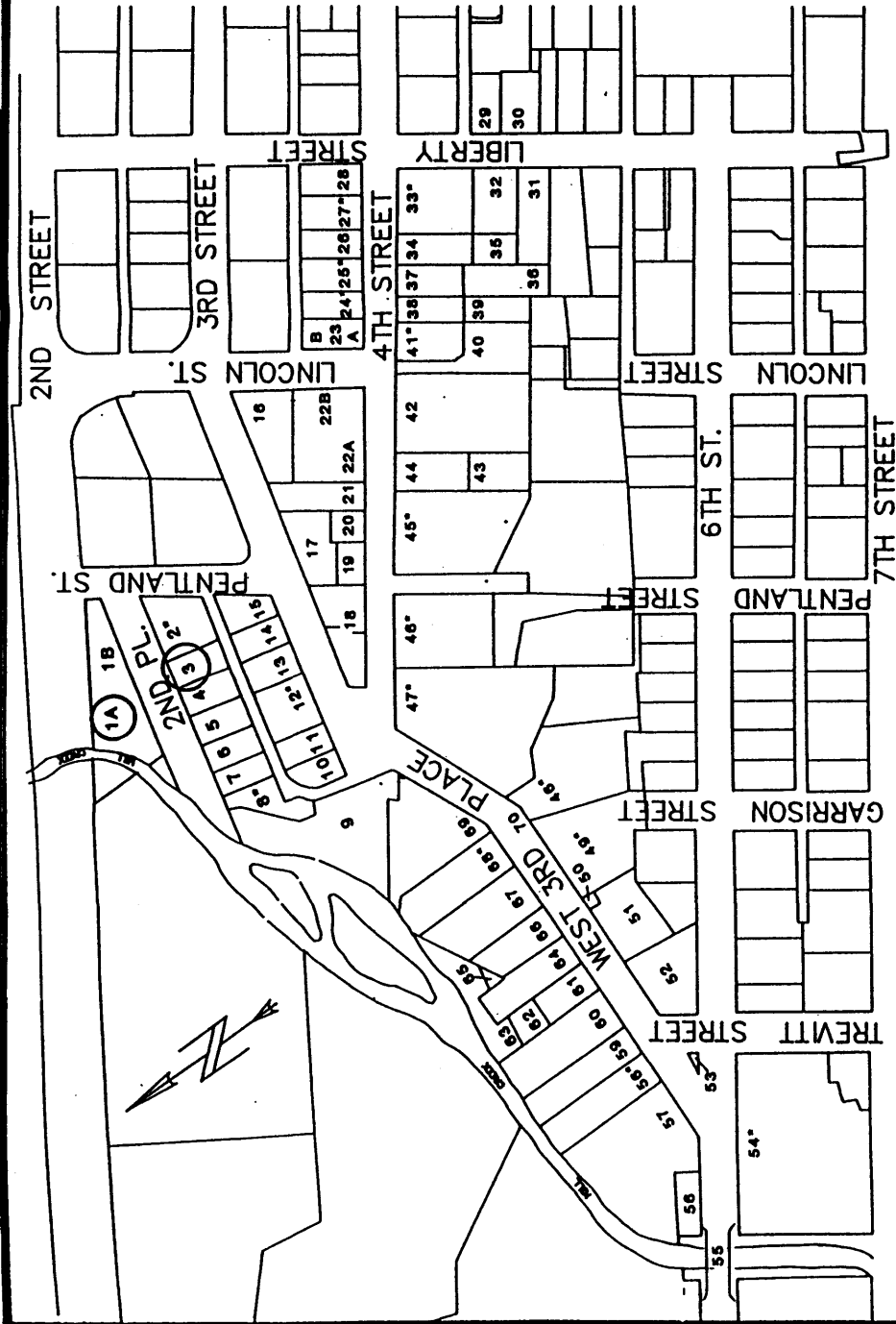
SHEET ARRANGEMENT



FIRST WASCO COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
 410 W SECOND PLACE  
 THE DALLES, WASCO COUNTY, OREGON

KEY:

- 1 Inventory Number for Each Contributing and Non-Contributing Resource
- \* Main Resource and Auxiliary Resource on Same Tax Lot as
- 1A Previously registered site
- 3 Current site



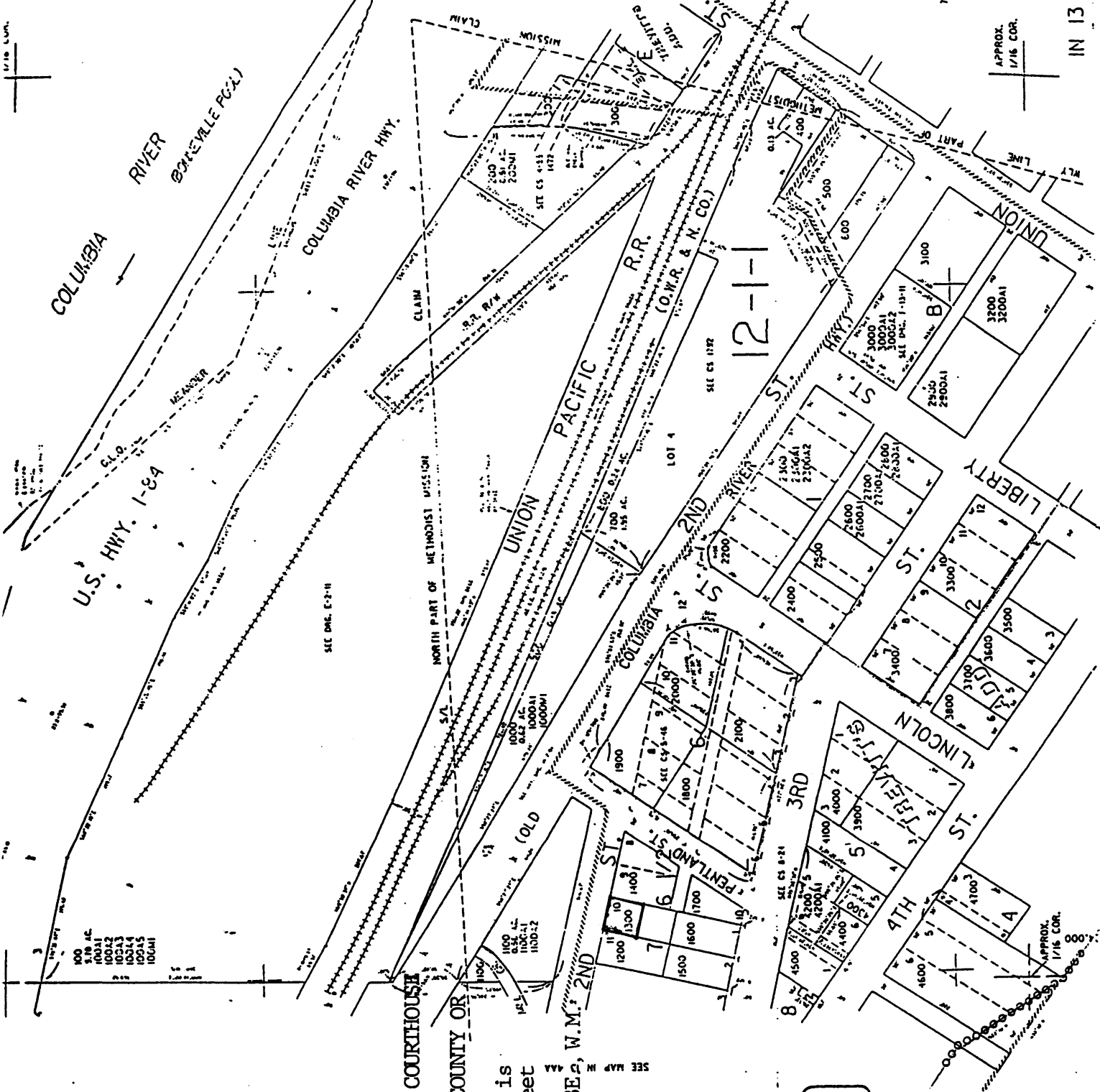
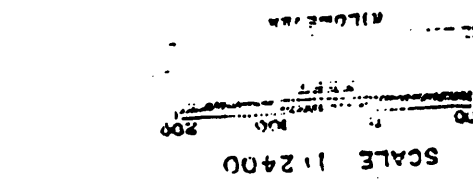
# TREVITTS ADDITION

# HISTORIC DISTRICT

CITY OF THE DALLES, OREGON

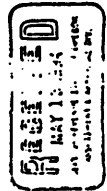
SCALE: 1" = 200'

1/16 L.M.



FIRST WASCO COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
 410 W SECOND PLACE  
 THE DALLES, WASCO COUNTY OR

The nominated area is  
 the northerly 50 feet  
 of Tax Lot 1300  
 Sec. 3, T.1N., R.13E2, W.M. 2ND



106.500

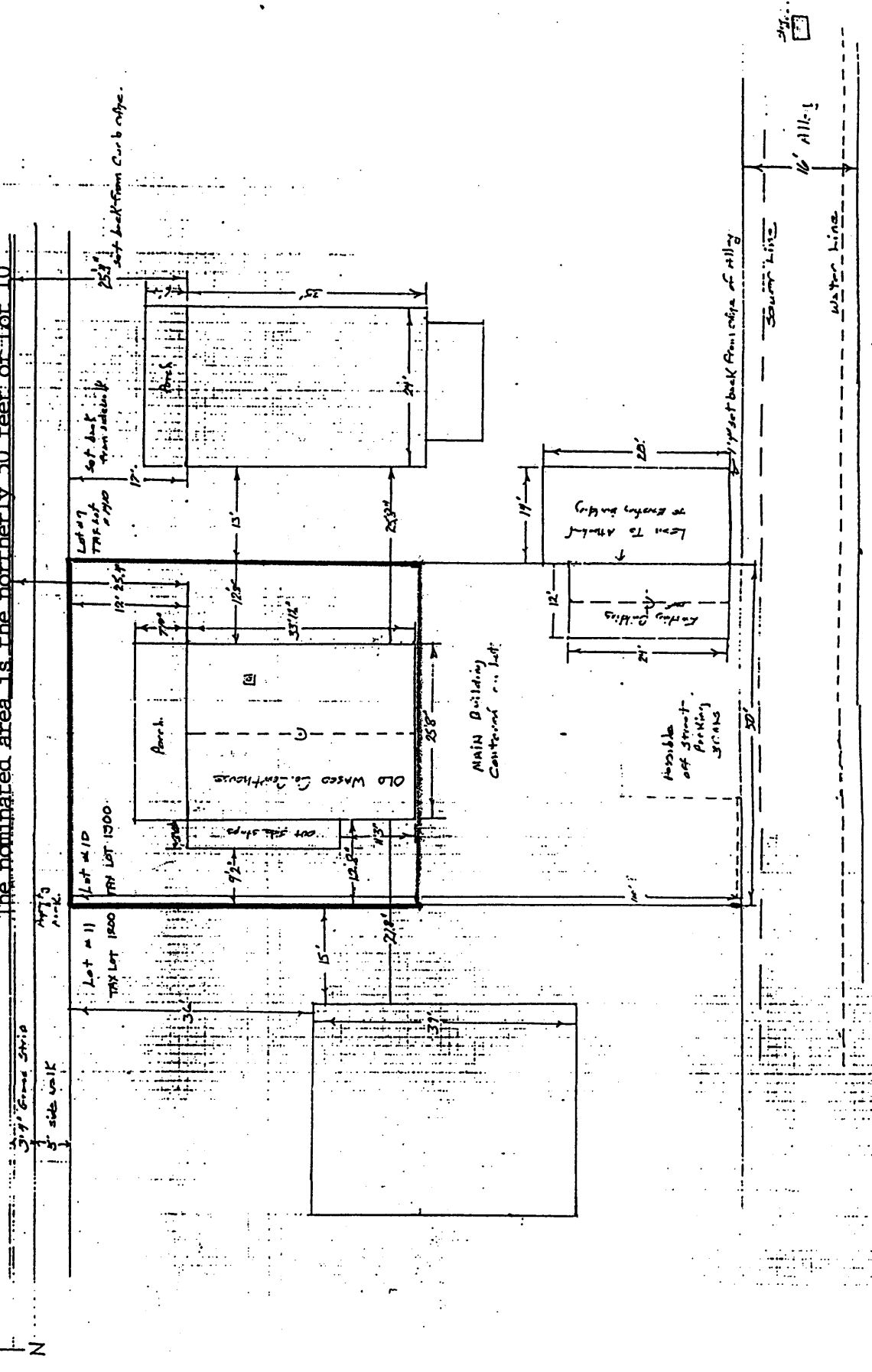
APPROX. 1/16 COR.

IN 13 38B

Lot No. 10 Located on 2nd Place St.  
 TREVITT'S Addition Map # IN 1338B  
 THE DALLES, OR.

2ND PLACE STREET

FIRST WASCO COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
 410 W SECOND PLACE, THE DALLES, WASCO COUNTY, OREGON  
 The nominated area is the northerly 50 feet of lot 10





**WASCO COUNTY'S FIRST COURT HOUSE**—Wasco county was created in 1854 but the erection of its first Court House was not completed until 1859. It stood where is now the City Hall. This view shows the sheriff's office on the lower floor; behind was the jail with no windows on the Third street side. The narrow door to the right leads to an outside stairway whereby the courtroom on the second

floor was reached. The official posting board shows in black with two legal notices upon it. The one-story building farther to the right was the County Clerk's office. This building, the first court house built between the Cascade Mountains and the Rockies, still stands almost intact near the corner of Third and Federal streets.

FIRST WASCO COUNTY COURTHOUSE (1859)

410 W SECOND PLACE

7TH AVENUE, WASCO COUNTY, OREGON

DATA AND ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPHS

UNKNOWN

C. 1900      VERLARD PHOTO?

1 OF 5

NEGATIVE: OREGON SHPO



WAS BUILT BY NEV 1897  
ORIGINAL COURT HOUSE  
400 West Second Place

FIRST WASCO COUNTY COURTHOUSE (1859)

410 W SECOND PLACE

THE FALLS, WASCO COUNTY, OREGON

2 OF 5

1997



FIRST WASCO COUNTY COURTHOUSE (1859)

410 W SECOND PLACE

TIM DALLAS, WASCO COUNTY, OREGON

3 OF 5 1997

GIFT SHOP



FIRST WASCO COUNTY COURTHOUSE (1859)

410 W SECOND PLACE

THE DOWNS, WASCO COUNTY, OREGON

4 OF 5 1997



FIRST WASCO COUNTY, OREGON (1859)

410 W SALOND PLACE

Mrs DARRING, WASCO COUNTY, OREGON

5 OF 5

1997