

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Wasco County were told that burlap sacks were not available because of the war. This precipitated a change from storing grain in sacks in warehouses to the storing grain in bulk elevators. Because of the lack of sacks, and the increased demand for grain storage facilities and grain production due to the war, the Port of The Dalles proposed the construction of a 500,000 bushel grain elevator in The Dalles in early 1942.

The Port of The Dalles proposed funding the construction of the elevators through a bond measure, then leasing the elevators to the Continental Grain company for a period 17 to 20 years. The revenue generated from the lease would be sufficient to retire the bond, and pay the interest, maintenance, and insurance costs. The bond measure passed by a two-to-one margin in April, 1942 and construction of the grain elevator began.

The elevator was designed by architect George Gilles and the contract was awarded to Hoganson Construction Company of Minneapolis. The contract amount for the construction was \$135,000. In April 1942, construction began on the wooden crib elevator. The elevator was completed in early September 1942. The grain could be shipped by rail and barge.

The concrete silos addition to the east was constructed in 1945 and added another 368,000 bushel storage area. The concrete elevators were built by Mid-State Construction Company of The Dalles in cooperation with Henry L. George of Spokane, Washington. In 1977, three corrugated metal silos were constructed south of the 1942 elevator.

The grain elevator, a dominant building form, terminates the vista from most of the downtown north-south streets. The elevator location and presence recalls the importance of the river and the agricultural economy of The Dalles and the growth of the downtown immediately south.

- #111 HISTORIC NAME: Waldron Bros. Drug Store  
COMMON NAME: Gitchell Building/Apartments  
ADDRESS: First & Washington Streets  
RESOURCE TYPE: Building  
OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:  
City of The Dalles  
313 Court St.  
The Dalles, Oregon 97058

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ASSESSOR'S MAP: 1N-13E-3BA BLOCK: 1 LOT: NA TAX LOT: 700  
ADDITION: Original Dalles City  
YEAR BUILT: 1867  
ALTERATIONS: Minor-Moderate: First Street grades raised 4' above original entrance, now has a stairway down; others minor, including the store front changed  
STYLE: Italianate  
USE: Vacant  
PREVIOUS HISTORIC LISTING: Oregon Statewide Inventory (1976)  
CLASSIFICATION: Primary

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** The Waldron Drug Store building is a two-story, stone building with a rectangular plan. The stone used in the construction was quarried from a site near the Pioneer Cemetery, and laid in coursed ashlar, with tooled margin faces and fine flush joints. The narrow second floor, double-hung wood sash one over one windows in three bays are more than twice as high as wide.

The first floor of the main (south) elevation is almost all cast-iron except for the openings. Flush cast-iron voussoirs with cast-iron keystones crown the three flat arched bays. Stone quoins articulate the corners of the front elevation. The building has a cast-iron cornice with a semi-elliptical pediment and cast-iron coping. The pattern of the architectural cast iron used on the facade is similar to one used in Portland commercial buildings of the 1850s. The railroad tracks are directly south of the building.

Historically significant painted wall advertisements are on the east and west elevations of the building. The sign on the south end of the east elevation reads, "Regulator Line Steamers for Portland and Way Points Leave daily Except Sunday 7 A.M. One Block West". The sign on the west side reads "OWL STORAGE M.A. Gunst & Co.". The structure is in poor condition.

**HISTORICAL DATA:** The building was erected c. 1867 by pharmacists Henry J. (1833-1878) and George W. Waldron (b. 1843) and was called the Waldron Bros. Drug Store. Henry Clint, a stone mason, was reportedly the mason responsible for the construction. The building was originally used as a drug store with offices above. Henry Waldron was also a postmaster at one time, so the post office was located here (he was also Wasco County treasurer in 1864). Henry died of overexertion in the 1878 city fire.

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The second floor was occupied from 1874 to 1881 by Wasco Lodge No. 15 of the A.F. and A.M. (Masons). In 1868, the newspaper "The Weekly" Mountaineer had their business in the building and Judge Joseph Wilson's law office and Drs. B.W. Mitchell and William Shackelford were also located in the structure at one time. G. W. Waldron had relocated his drug business with W. P. Covillaud to the corner of Court and Second streets by 1883 (1883 The Dalles City Directory).

Another early tenant was the Dalles, Portland, and Astoria Navigation Company who took over the used the building for a boat office. A painted sign on the east elevation advertises the steamship service to Portland.

According to the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, the building housed a paint store in 1884 and by 1889, the structure was in use as a feed warehouse. The Waldron building survived the fire of 1891 which claimed the neighboring Cosmopolitan Hotel, and the flood of June 6, 1894.

By the turn of the century, the building stood vacant. The 1926, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps indicate that a stage transfer station was located in the building. Later owners of the building include the Gitchell family who owned it from 1923 to c. 1938 and had the Gitchell Apartments in the structure. The Hyde family who owned the building from 1946-1978. The City of The Dalles currently owns the building.

#112 DEMOLISHED: Port of The Dalles Dock Building #1 (1936). Removed from District. Boundary adjusted to exclude docks.