

512

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

MAY 19 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Duckwall, John C., House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 811 Oak Street not for publication
city, town Hood River vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Hood River code 027 zip code 97031

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date May 1, 1989
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Mark L. Baker Entered in the National Register 16 June, 1989
 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling
bed and breakfast

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular/Colonial

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls wood: beveled siding
roof asphalt: composition shingles
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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

The Duckwall Residence is a finely crafted Vernacular Style home with Colonial Revival details, located on Oak Street in Hood River. Historically, Oak Street was a very prestigious street to live on, it was lined with the homes of many prominent Hood River residents. The Duckwall residence was constructed in ca. 1906 by John Otten. Otten was part owner of Otten and Onthank, a Hood River real estate agency and insurance company. The residence had several owners prior to John Duckwall's purchase of the home in 1929. The Duckwall family lived in the residence until 1985 when the current owners, Jack and Doris Kent, bought the building and began restoring the residence. This one and one half story building is located on the south side of Oak Street sited on a prominent hillside. The simple elegant exterior lines of the building are accentuated by a curvilinear porch which is supported by large Tuscan posts. The porch wraps around the north and east elevations. Much of the interior detailing of the residence reflects the classical style in the finely crafted window cornice moldings and surrounds, mantel piece and Tuscan style posts in the main entrance hall. The residence is in excellent condition and is currently used as a bed and breakfast.

SETTING

The Duckwall residence is located on Oak Street in Hood River County, Hood River, Oregon. Single family homes line Oak Street which is the major east-west thoroughfare in Hood River. Oak Street was a considered a desirable street to build on after the turn of the century and many prominent Hood River residents resided there.

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

The Duckwall property is elevated above street level approximately fifteen feet and is sited on a hillside overlooking the Columbia River to the north. A high concrete retaining wall is located at street level; steep stairs lead up to the sidewalk north of the house. Another lower five foot concrete retaining wall defines the northern property line. Concrete stairs lead up from the sidewalk to the front walkway of the house. The irregularly shaped lot is approximately 50' x 150' and extends from Oak street on the northern edge to State Street at the southern edge. The house is located on the northern third of the lot. The yard is open in feeling and is sparsely planted. Originally a laurel hedge lined the front of the building around the perimeter of the porch, it has recently been replaced by rhododendrons, azaleas and hydrangeas. A large birch tree and hydrangea are located on the eastern property boundary. The concrete sidewalk extends around the west elevation of the house and connects with a long concrete walk which leads to the garage on located on State Street. The back yard slopes up towards to the south and is sparsely planted. A maple tree is located on the north side of the garage. On the west side of the backyard near the house is a large Douglas fir. A lilac bush is located on the east side of the back yard.

EXTERIOR

This one and one half story Vernacular Style residence is rectangular in plan and has a full daylight basement. The intersecting gable roof is covered with composition shingles and topped with two brick chimneys with corbelled caps. Gabled dormers are located on the east and west elevations. The projecting eaves are boxed with a slight return on the rear (south) facade. A wide board frieze extends around the west and one half of the south elevation. Narrow beveled siding, painted white, covers the exterior of the building. The

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 3

windows are original one over one double hung wood sash; the upper story windows retain the original exterior screens, while the first story windows have been covered with metal storm windows. All the windows are capped with a projecting cornice molding and the upper story windows are flanked by black shutters. Shallow bay windows are located on the north and west elevations. The windows are capped with a projecting window cornices. An oval window is located on the east elevation and a decorative horizontal rectangular window with mullions in a geometric shapes is located on the west facade.

Wooden steps flanked with a low stair stepped wall accesses the one story curvilinear porch on the north (front) and east elevations. The porch roof is supported by eight large wooden Tuscan posts, made up of a series of vertical boards, with tapered shafts and a flat wood base. Wood lattice screening, the full height of the porch, is located between the first and second posts on the east elevation. Lattice also covers the porch foundation. Flower boxes set on the porch floor between the posts are original to the Duckwall's occupancy. The concrete foundation is finished with a watertable which is capped with a projecting molding. Two small wood chute doors located above the watertable are on the south elevation. A simple shed roof porch, supported by three square posts, is located on the rear (south) elevation. The porch covers the back door and is at ground level. Brackets and lattice have been added between the posts. The top rail of the porch is constructed of a two by four and the balusters are small and rounded.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

INTERIOR

LIVING AND DINING ROOM

The interior of the Duckwall house is intact and displays elegant simple detailing which reflects the Colonial Style. The beveled glass and wood entrance door opens into a small entrance hall which is partially enclosed with a panelled half wall surmounted by two tapered Tuscan solid wood posts. The large living room is adjacent to the entrance hall to the west. The room is embellished with a shallow bay window on the north elevation and french doors of twelve lights on the east elevation which opens onto the front porch. Wide baseboards with molded caps extend around the perimeter of the room. All the windows are capped with a projecting window cornices. A fire place with a simple wood mantel is located on the west wall. The fireplace surround is comprised of sandy colored bricks with narrow mortar joints. Five inch tiles are on the floor in front of the hearth. A large opening with pocket doors separates the living and dining rooms.

A shallow bay window is located on the west elevation of a central dining room. All the original projecting door and window moldings and baseboards are intact. Two and one half inch wide oak floors in excellent condition, embellish the entrance hall, living room and dining room. A small auxiliary room is located off the dining room on the north wall. The room was originally used as a sewing room and is virtually intact. A window is on the west elevation and built-in cabinets and shelves are on the east and north walls. A dumbwaiter chute is also located on the east wall. The chute currently houses heating ducts.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

STUDY, BATHROOM AND BEDROOM

The study is adjacent to the dining room and is accessed by a door on the west wall of the dining room. The square room has the same molded window and door cornices and surrounds as the more formal living areas. The floors are three and one half inch fir and are finished by high baseboards with projecting caps. The walls are covered with wallpaper dating from the 1930s. The doorway on the south wall of the study leads to a hall which has doors accessing the downstairs bath, bedroom, the stairs to the second floor, the kitchen and dining room. The bathroom is at the east end of the hall and the entrance door is comprised of a frosted pane of glass on the upper portion and three panels on the lower part. An original claw foot bathtub is located in this room, against the north wall. A newer sink is located on the south wall and a stained glass window, not original, is on the east facade. The walls are clad with vertical wainscotting. A small room, adjacent to the main bathroom space, contains the commode. A door on the south wall connects the downstairs bedroom with the bathroom. The bedroom has windows on each facade except the north wall which consist three doors; a door leading to the hall, a closet door and the door which connects to the bathroom. The walls are covered with wallpaper which dates from the 1930s.

BREAKFAST NOOK/PANTRY AND KITCHEN

The breakfast nook/pantry is located between the dining room and kitchen on the west side of the residence. Cabinets with glass doors, are on the east wall. A counter with cabinets is below the upper cabinets. A small table and built-in benches, with a window above, is located on the west side of the room. The doorway on the south

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 6

wall leads into the kitchen. The kitchen is a large open space with new cabinets on the south and west walls. A double window is located above the kitchen sink on the west elevation. Some of the original built-in cabinets and shelving remain on the east wall. All the original baseboards, and door and window moldings are still intact. A door on the south wall leads to the back porch.

SECOND FLOOR

The second floor is accessed by a steep flight of stairs which leads into the upstairs hallway. A pair of one over one double hung wood sash windows are located at the south end of the hall. The stair balustrade is simple in design and is comprised of a square newel post, a flat top rail and square balusters. A bedroom is located at the top of the stair landing to the west. The room has coved ceilings. There are three other bedrooms and a sitting room located upstairs on either side of the long narrow central hallway. A bathroom and small kitchen is on the east side of the hall towards the north end of the house. The molding around the doors and windows are simpler in design than the downstairs, reflecting the period after the 1938 fire which destroyed the second floor (see alterations).

HARDWARE

The original hardware in the residence is intact and adds to the beauty of the interior detailing. The majority of the hardware on the first floor is brass; the more formal rooms have pressed brass door knobs and plates. The window locks are also brass. The hardware in the secondary rooms are simple metal knobs and plates void of decorative elements. The door knobs on the second floor are glass, reflecting the late 1930s styles. The heating vents are floor grates

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

and are a combination of finely crafted wood lattice grates and decorative scrolled metal grates.

BACK PORCH, FRUIT ROOM AND BASEMENT

The back porch is located on the south elevation of the residence and is partially screened-in. The east wall has beveled horizontal siding on the lower portion and window on the upper section. Vertical board siding covers the lower portion of the south elevation and the top section enclosed with screening. A screen door with transom is on the west end of the wall. The west wall consists of a five panel door surrounded by horizontal beveled siding. Behind the door is another five paneled door which helps insulate a small cold storage room located behind the doors. The room is lined with shelving and has a small window on the west wall. The stair access to the basement is located on the north wall of the screened-in porch.

The basement is a large open room with low ceilings and a concrete floor. A small room is located in the northwest corner of the building and was used as a play room for the children. It was also used by John Duckwall as a lapidary room. The southeast corner of the basement, currently the laundry facilities, was also set up as a work area for Duckwall's lapidary hobby. The dumbwaiter, original to the house, is located at the north end of the basement and doors for the wood chute at the south end.

GARAGE

A single car garage, compatible with the residence, is located to the south, on State Street. The structure has a hip roof which is covered with composition shingles. The slightly overhanging eaves are supported by small brackets. Wide horizontal beveled siding clads

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 8

the exterior of the structure. A multi-paned garage door is located on the south elevation and a five pane door is on the west facade. The door is accessed by wooden stairs. Two windows are located on the east facade. The concrete foundation is capped with a watertable. The garage sits slightly below street level and has a board driveway.

ALTERATIONS

Alterations to the exterior of the building include the addition of shutters to the second story windows, a wrought iron front porch stair railing, the addition of lattice work, brackets, and post on the south (rear) shed roof porch. The most extensive alteration to the exterior facade occurred after a fire destroyed the second story of the residence in the summer of 1938. At that time the hip roof was replaced with a gable roof. The second floor was originally a series of two smaller unfinished rooms and a larger unfinished room. The fire destroyed the area and the rooms were divided and finished into bedrooms for the children. At that time the bathroom and small kitchen were also added to the second floor. The eaves were originally had bracket supports but the eaves were boxed after the fire. These alterations are historic modifications to the building and reflect a change in the Duckwall family after Minnie Duckwall died in 1937 and John Duckwall remarried. The interior of the Duckwall house otherwise remains virtually intact with the exception of the kitchen. The original kitchen counters and cabinets were removed by the present owner to update the kitchen to accommodate the needs of the bed and breakfast.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Industry

Period of Significance

1929-1939

Significant Dates

1929

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

John C. Duckwall

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property 0.41 acres Hood River, Oregon-Washington 1:62500

UTM References

A

1	10	6	1	15	3	7	15	5	10	6	2	5	2	15
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 25, Township 3N, Range 10E, Willamette Meridian in Hood River County, Oregon. It is comprised of Lot 18, the east 10 feet of Lot 17, the north 10 feet of the east 10 feet of Lot 12, the north 10 feet of the west 10 feet of Lot 11, and the east 40 feet of Lot 11, Block 1, Waucoma Addition to Hood River. The nominated area is otherwise described as Tax Lot 8400 at said location. See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated area of 0.41 acres encompasses the lots historically developed in 1906 and occupied by John C. Duckwall from 1929 to the time of his death in 1976. A Sanborn Fire Insurance Rating Map for 1909 shows the garage at the rear, or south end of the holding was contemporary with the house, and because it was used by the Duckwalls throughout the historic period of their occupancy, it is counted as a separately contributing feature. See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sally Donovan, Preparer/Kimberly Demuth, Project Manager

organization Northwest Heritage Property Associates date December 15, 1988

street & number PO Box 1871 telephone (503) 227-6357

city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97207

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1A

The house on Oak Street in Hood River, Oregon long occupied by prominent fruit grower and packer John C. Duckwall was built in 1906. It is a vernacular building with finely-crafted details in the Colonial Revival style. The most distinguishing feature of the rectangular one and a half story gable-roofed building with longitudinal plan is a veranda with round Tuscan columns which wraps around the northeast corner. The house is oriented to the north, overlooking the Columbia River.

The well-preserved interior is finished in the Arts and Crafts tradition, with open plan, paneled wainscoting, column screens, built-in cabinetry and leaded window panes. The woodwork is painted cream and ivory in keeping with the revival of the Colonial style.

The property is proposed for nomination under Criterion B as the residence most importantly associated with John C. Duckwall (1882-1976), founder of Duckwall Brothers Fruit Company in 1919. Duckwall occupied the house from 1929 to the time of his death in 1976, and during that period he developed his family business into the largest independent fruit packing and shipping company in the Hood River Valley. His reputable business practices and the quality of the produce he handled aided materially in establishing the high standing of Hood River apples and pears in both domestic and foreign markets. Through the critical period of the Great Depression, the company contributed measurably to local economy in employing ten to twelve persons as a permanent work force augmented by up to 100 seasonal employees during summer and fall harvests. Because of the importance of his role in Depression era economy locally, the historic period of significance is drawn to 1939.

Duckwall stood out among other successful orchardists of the area partly because of his early and assiduous cultivation of foreign markets, principally in Europe, Scandinavia and the Middle East. From 1929 onward, the firm operated from a home office at Hood River and acted somewhat in the capacity of a brokerage outfit for growers in other parts of the Northwest. Duckwall retired from the business in 1968. It was the company formed by merger in 1970, the Duckwall-Pooley Fruit Company, which today is classed as the largest independent fruit packing and shipping company in the Hood River Valley. Only the Diamond Fruit Company, a cooperative headquartered in Hood River, sustains a larger operation. The Pooley Fruit Company had been Duckwall's closest independent competitor before the merger.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1B

The Duckwall residence, located at 811 Oak Street in Hood River, Oregon, is significant under Criterion B, for its association with John C. Duckwall, the founder of the Duckwall Brothers, Inc. Fruit Company. John Duckwall founded the company in 1919 and through the years developed the business into the largest fruit packing and shipping company in the Hood River Valley. The company is known for its reputable business practices, quality of produce and continuity of family ownership. It has received many awards of excellence. John Duckwall helped established Hood River apples and pears on the national and international markets and at one time was shipping over 80% of the company's fruit to foreign countries. Throughout the years the company has consistently supported the fruit growers in the area and has contributed substantially to the economy of Hood River through its stability as a company and its commitment to excellence. The Duckwall family occupied the residence for fifty-six years and the house is a tribute to John C. Duckwall, the founder of the Duckwall Bros., Inc.

PREVIOUS OWNERS

The Duckwall Residence was constructed in ca. 1906, and over the years has been owned by prominent Hood River residents. The land was originally part of Henry Coe's Donation Land Claim of 1854, the founder of the town of Hood River. Coe sold the property to Mary

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

and William Shute on April 5, 1890.¹ Shute was an engineer for the Davidson Fruit Company for many years. The property remained in the Shute's possession until January 11, 1904 when it was sold to Frank Noble.² A year later, in 1905, Noble sold the property to John Otten, who built the residence.³ Otten was a business person in Hood River and was a partner in Otten and Onthank, a local real estate and insurance firm. John H. Heilbronner purchased the property on July 27, 1909 and resided in the residence until it was sold to Stuart Moore in 1919.⁴ Heilbronner constructed the Heilbronner Building in downtown Hood River in 1910 which is extant. Moore, the assistant manager of the First National Bank of Hood River for many years, owned the building until July 8, 1929 when John C. Duckwall purchased the residence.⁵ The Duckwall family remained in the residence for fifty-six years until it was purchased by the current owners, Jack and Doris Kent, in 1985. The Kents have been in the process of restoring the residence over the last three years and it is currently being used as a bed and breakfast.

JOHN C. DUCKWALL AND THE DUCKWALL BROTHERS, INC.

John C. Duckwall was born in Indianapolis, Indiana on January 27, 1882 to Luella Helfer and John St. Clair Duckwall.⁶ As one of four children, John Duckwall began his career in the banking business as a teller and manager of the transit department at the American National Bank of Indianapolis.⁷ After several years in the banking business, Duckwall joined friends in the great migration west. He arrived in the Hood River Valley in 1910 and bought 20 acres of land near Odell, Oregon with a friend, Ed Winters. Winters decided to return to the banking business shortly after his arrival in the valley and left the land to Duckwall and his cousin Horace Sylvester. They

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 3

cleared the land and planted seven acres of apple trees which were interplanted with strawberries until the apple trees matured to fruition.⁸ Duckwall supplemented his fledgling fruit business by buying cords of wood from neighbors and reselling it to townspeople in Hood River for a profit. This helped support the family until the orchards were ready for harvest.

In 1919 the first apples were ready for market and with the help of his brother, William St. Clair Duckwall, John arranged for the apples to be shipped to Indianapolis and marketed by George Hitz, a local distributor.⁹ The apples brought better returns in the Indianapolis area than on the local Hood River market and proved to be a worthwhile venture. The following year neighboring fruit growers in the valley arranged for their produce to be sold through the Duckwall brothers; hence the beginning of the Duckwall Brothers Fruit Company.

A neighbor's barn was the location for the early packing of the apples for market which was a family event. As the business increased in size, the need for a larger packing area grew and in 1921 the lower floor of the Odd Fellows building in Odell was secured as a packing plant.¹⁰ Later, a 40' x 50' tile building was constructed near the Mt. Hood Railroad spur adjacent to the family ranch near Odell which was used for fruit storage. The business continued to expand and in 1926 the Duckwall Bros., Inc. office was established in Hood River. In 1928 John Duckwall explored the world markets and began working at establishing the Duckwall Brand in the counties surrounding the Mediterranean Sea, and the European and Scandinavian counties. The business expanded further and in 1929 the Duckwall family moved to Hood River and relocated the business

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

offices to the Eliot Building on the northeast corner of Second and Oak Streets. The firm was incorporated as the Duckwall Brothers, Inc. in the same year and the first directors of the corporation were John C. Duckwall, Hannah J. Johnson and Chas E. Mansfield.¹¹

The 1930s were difficult times for the Duckwall company but it continued to grow despite the national depression. The corporation purchased the Davidson Building in Hood River, located on the northeast corner of Third and Cascade streets, in 1932 and used it as their corporate headquarters. In 1935 Duckwall constructed a three story cold storage warehouse in town on Industrial Avenue so the fruit could be stored for a longer period creating a extended marketing season.¹² During this time John C. Duckwall, along with his sons John Jr. and Richard, visited the European markets to promote the Duckwall brands. They later expanded the foreign market to include the Near East. John worked at procuring fruit not only from the Hood River Valley but from all over Oregon and Washington to met the demands of the foreign market. The firm became the centralized source for fulfilling the domestic as well as the foreign markets in Oregon and Washington. Exports accounted for approximately 80% of the total fruit packed at that time.

The Duckwall Bros., Inc. prospered during WWII and after the war several of the Duckwall children became more actively involved in the business. In 1958 the business expanded its operations once again by constructing a central packing and cold storage plant east of Odell. The general offices were moved to this location so the management could supervise the business operations more closely. The cold storage building in Hood River was used by the company

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

until a fire destroyed the building in 1966.¹³ A new storage plant was built at that time at the central plant near Odell.

John Duckwall, the founder of the firm, retired from his role as President in 1968, but remained active as a consultant to the business until his death in 1976. The Duckwall Bros., Inc. merged with Pooley Fruit Company on July 2, 1970 and became the Duckwall-Pooley Fruit Company. The large independent companies merged after the competitive firms decided that they could best meet the needs of the growers by a merger. In 1974 the company again expanded and built additional cold storage rooms and the company constructed some of the first atmosphere controlled storage rooms.¹⁴ The company made another major move in 1978 with the construction of a large storage building and loading facility which increased productivity and marketing capacity. Another storage unit was added in 1979 increasing storage space by 11,000 bins.¹⁵

The Duckwall-Pooley Fruit Company is currently the largest independent fruit packing and shipping company in the Hood River Valley. The business is the major fruit packing business in the the area only second to the Diamond Fruit Growers Association. The Diamond Fruit Growers Association, originally the Apple Growers Association, was organized in 1913. The cooperative association was created by the need for a more unified marketing approach and to reduce the growers and sellers overhead. Several of the smaller fruit growers and packers consolidated to form the new parent company. In 1964 the Apple Growers Association's name was changed to the Diamond Fruit Growers Association. The company is a cooperative fruit growing and packing company and the facilities and company

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

are owned by the grower members; it is not a privately owned business like the Duckwall-Pooley Fruit Company.

John Duckwall died at the age of 94 on February 29, 1976 in Hood River but the Duckwall business reputation and continuity of the family ownership has been carried on by his sons and daughters.¹⁶ The Duckwall name and label is known throughout the country and foreign markets for its high quality produce, reputable business practices and pride of family ownership.

FRUIT INDUSTRY IN THE HOOD RIVER VALLEY

The fruit industry began early in the Hood River Valley. Nathaniel Coe, the founder of Hood River, planted some of the first fruit trees in the valley after settling on his Donation Land Claim of 1854. As the population of the valley increased, orchards became an integral part of the landscape. The rich valley soil and temperate climate made the area conducive to fruit growing. After the town of Hood River was platted in 1881 and the arrival of the railroad in 1882, the Hood River Valley began developing into a thriving fruit growing region and central shipping point for the exports of goods from the valley. As technological improvements advanced in the area such as improvement in irrigation systems and better navigation of the Columbia River, the fruit growing industry became a lucrative business. In response to the increasing demand for Hood River fruit, a group of business partners incorporated the Hood River Fruit Growers Union in 1893, the first farmers cooperative in the Pacific Northwest.¹⁷

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Apples, strawberries, and other fruits were planted in the valley in the 1880's and 1890's. A successful business venture by Franklin Davenport created the farmers ditch.¹⁸ It was eleven miles long and brought water into the valley for the irrigation of orchard lands. Land prices soared. The new water system permitted the growth of larger orchards which increased the productivity of the land. Large quantities of fruit were shipped from the valley annually. The fruit industry continued to develop and many fruit related businesses flourished in the area. The fruit industry became the most important economic base of the valley along with timber.

From ca. 1900 until the 1920s, the apple industry flourished and Hood River County became the most important apple growing region in Oregon. By 1920, apple orchards covered 10,750 acres.¹⁹ Fruit buyers came to the area, rival cooperative's were organized, and fruit storage warehouses were were built near the railroad lines for easy shipment. After the completion of the Mt. Hood Railroad which ran south to Parkdale, in 1906, the fruit could be shipped by a more dependable source of transportation. More storage and packing houses were built along the railroad feeder line. Hood River became known for producing and packaging the "finest apples in the world."²⁰

It was at the height of the valley's production that John Duckwall's first shipment of apples were ready for market and the Duckwall Bros., Inc. was started. The Duckwall brothers, Inc. were one of many small independent packers in the area such as Weulle's Orchards, Kelley Brothers, Paasch Orchards, Moores Orchards, Pooley Fruit Company, Blue Goose, Lage Orchards, Inc. and Roy Websters Orchards.²¹ The Duckwall's fruit company continued to prosper

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 8

throughout the year and surpassed the other independent companies in size and excellence. The company is now the largest independent packing and shipping company in the valley and handles fruit for 160 growers in the area. The company continues to serve growers and fruit trade throughout the nation and world markets; at present exports account for 35% of the business.²² The company boxes over one million boxes of fruit annually and has achieved such honors as the prestigious President's "E" Award for excellence in 1965. The award was given to the company for the Duckwall's record for exports. A 1965 Hood River newspaper reports that the Department of Commerce praised the Duckwall Bros., Inc. for establishing "an excellent reputation and demand for its apples and pears in the foreign market through constant attention to improve packaging to reduce waste and delivered costs, close personal contact with foreign importers and realistic credit terms."²³ At that time only about a dozen firms in Oregon had received the "E" Award of Excellence. The company also has a four star rating in the Red Book and a four X rating in the Blue book. Both books are rating books set up by different companies that rate businesses by size of firm, commodities, product, shipping, integrity and credit worthiness.²⁴ The Duckwall-Pooley obtained the highest rating in both books and has maintained the rating in the Blue Book since 1922.²⁵ The company is also a "Trading Member," which was created in 1906 to recognize firms which have been reported by members of the industry as being consistently above average in trading practices and performance through industry confidence.²⁶ The Duckwall-Pooley Fruit Company received a special seal from the Produce Reporter, the firm which sets the criteria for the industry, in the 1970s for attaining 50 years as a trading member; both the Duckwall Bros., Inc.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 9

and the Pooley Fruit Company were members before their merger in 1970.²⁸

Historically the Duckwall Brothers, Inc. packaged more apples than any other fruit but over the years various kinds of pears began to take over the apple production due to the hardness of the pear trees. The pacific coast states are the three primary states growing and shipping pears compared to thirty-six states growing and packing apples.²⁹ Currently the firm ships 70% pears and 30% apples.³⁰ The company is known for high quality of Bartlett, Anjou, Bosc pears and Golden Delicious, Golden Delicious, Newtown Pippin and Granny Smith apples. The company also ships 100,000 cartons of cherries annually.³¹ The Duckwall Brother, Inc. (now the Duckwall-Pooley Fruit Company) has served the Hood River Valley for over sixty-five years and takes pride in supplying the highest quality fruit to the markets both abroad and nationally. The foreign markets which the company currently exports to are Germany, England, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Scandinavian countries.³² The Duckwall label design is registered with 16 counties as well as with the United States and Canada.³³

The Duckwall Brothers, Inc., from its modest beginnings, has grown into the Hood River Valley's most respected and largest independent fruit packing company in the area. The business is built on honest business practices and is known for its continuity of ownership and quality of produce. The companies success and retention of family management is a tribute to its founder, John C. Duckwall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 10**THE DUCKWALL FAMILY**

John Duckwall married Minnie Dorothea Paasch on August 14, 1912 in the Hood River Valley. Minnie Paasch was born in Keil, Germany on May 21, 1885 to August Frederick and Catherine Magdalene Bohling Paasch.³⁴ The Paasch family immigrated to the United States in ca. 1887, six weeks after Minnie was born.³⁵ After living in Minnesota, the Paaschs settled in Oregon in the Pine Grove area of the Hood River Valley and purchased 120 acres of land in 1905.³⁶ August Paasch cleared the land and planted strawberries and raspberries until his apple and pear orchards matured. Paasch became known for his fruit business and was one of the early packers, shipping fruit overseas to his native country, Germany. The Paasch fruit won many awards and certificates from exhibitions at fairs and fruit shows throughout the state. The Paasch family is still active in the fruit business and owns much of the land that August Paasch purchased in 1905.³⁷

Minnie Paasch Duckwall and John C. had five children; John W., Charles Robert, Richard F., Dorothy D. and Marjorie J. The family originally lived on a ranch south of town near Odell where the Duckwall Bros. first orchards were started. The house, although substantially altered and moved from its original site, is still intact along with a fruit storage building constructed by the Duckwalls. The family moved to Hood River, as the business began to prosper, in 1929 and resided at 811 Oak Street. Minnie Duckwall died in 1937 after a long illness. John later married Hanna Johnson and the couple had one son, Fred. John Duckwall died in 1976 at the age of 94.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 11

The Duckwall children were an integral part of the business from the early stages of the company's development and worked at various jobs in the company throughout the years. Richard and John Duckwall accompanied their father on early promotional trips overseas when he was establishing the Duckwall brand on the foreign market. Dorothy Duckwall Appelgren and Marjorie Duckwall Talley were active in the business for many years and were responsible for the bookkeeping, accounting and secretarial work. John Duckwall Jr. started with general office work for the business in 1934. At the time of his retirement in 1981 he was responsible for the company's payroll and banking.³⁸ Richard Duckwall became actively involved in his father's fruit packing company after returning from Alaska in 1945 where he served in the U.S. Army.³⁹ Richard became President and Sales Manager of the firm in 1956 and still holds the title. Fred Duckwall joined the firm in 1971 and is currently Vice-President in charge of personal, contract administration and quality control.⁴⁰ Robert Duckwall joined the company in 1947 and was Vice-President of Operations until he retired in 1987.⁴¹ Through the years the Duckwall family has maintained a continuity of ownership and respect in the community and is known for its excellence in the fruit packing and shipping business. From its modest beginnings sixty-nine years ago, the company has developed to the largest independent packer and shipper in the Hood River Valley.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

- 1 Hood River County Office of Deeds and Records, Hood River County Courthouse, Hood River, Oregon
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Ibid
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Hood River County Museum, Vertical Files; John Duckwall file.
- 7 The History of Hood River County, 1852-1982. (Hood River: Hood River Historical Society, 1982), p.186-187.
- 8 Ibid, p. 186.
- 9 Hood River County Museum, Vertical Files; John Duckwall file.
- 10 The History of Hood River County , p.186.
- 11 Ibid, p. 455.
- 12 Ibid, p. 456.
- 13 Hood River County Museum, Vertical Files; Fruit business file, Hood River News; clipping, 1966.
- 14 The History of Hood River County, 1852-1982, p. 458.
- 15 Hood River News, 10 May 1979.
- 16 Ibid, 1 April 1976.
- 17 The Hood River Cultural Resource Inventory, Hood River Planning Department, "A Historical Overview", 1988.
- 18 Ibid.
- 19 "Cost of Producing Apples and Pears in the Hood River Valley," Station Bulletin 573. (Corvallis: Oregon State College, 1960), p. 1960.
- 20 The History of Hood River County, 1852-1982, General History of Hood River.
- 21 Interview with Fred Duckwall, Vice-President, Duckwall-Pooley Fruit Company, Hood River, Oregon, 5 December 1988.
- 22 Phone Interview with Richard Duckwall, President; Duckwall-Pooley Fruit Company, 12 December 1988.
- 23 Hood River County Museum, Vertical Files; Fruit Businesses, Hood River News; clipping, 1965.
- 24 Interview with Fred Duckwall.
- 25 The History of Hood River County, p. 459.
- 26 Hood River County Museum, Vertical Files; newspaper clipping.
- 28 Ibid.
- 29 Interview with Richard Duckwall.
- 30 Ibid.
- 31 Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 13

- 32 Ibid.
- 33 Hood River News, January 1973.
- 34 The History of Hood River County, p. 187.
- 35 Ibid, p. 348.
- 36 Ibid, p.349.
- 37 Hood River News, 19 May 1988
- 38 Interview with John Duckwall, Hood River, Oregon, 5 December 1988.
- 39 The History of Hood River County, 1852-1982. (Hood River: Hood River Historical Society, 1982), p.233.
- 40 Interview with Fred Duckwall.
- 41 Interview with Richard Duckwall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Appelgren, Dorothy Duckwall. Hood River, Oregon. Personal interview, December 5, 1988.
- Donovan, Sally. Collinson House National Register of Historic Places Nomination (August 1987).
- Duckwall, Fred. Vice-President, Duckwall-Pooley Fruit Company, Hood River, Oregon. Personal interview, December 5, 1988.
- Duckwall, John Jr. Hood River, Oregon. Personal interview, December 5, 1988.
- Duckwall, Richard. President, Duckwall-Pooley Fruit Company, Hood River, Oregon, Phone interview, December 12, 1988.
- Duckwall-Pooley Fruit Company Bulletin, Hood River, Oregon.
- Green, Warren; Irish, Arthur, and Mumford, Curtis. "Cost of Producing Apples and Pears in the Hood River Valley," Station Bulletin No. 573. Corvallis: Oregon State College (May 1960).
- History of Hood River County, 1852-1982. Hood River: Hood River Historical Society, 1982.
- History of Hood River County, 1852-1987. Hood River: Hood River Historical Society, 1987.
- Hood River County Museum. Biographical, Subject and Photographic Vertical Files.
- Hood River County Office of Deeds and Record. Hood River County Courthouse, Hood River, Oregon.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 2

Hood River News, January 1973; February 1976; April 1; 1976;
September 16, 1976; May 10, 1979; May 17, 1979; July
3, 1980; July 2, 1981.

Kent, Jack and Doris. Current owners of the Duckwall residence.
November- December 1988.

Merz, Lew. Alphine Orchards, Parkdale, Oregon, Personal interview,
December 5, 1988.

Oregonian. "Optimism Diluted Over Pear Harvest," October 3, 1982.

Panorama. "Paasch Home, No Way Average," April 26, 1976.

Polk's Dalles City and Wasco County Directory. Portland: R. L. Polk
and Company, 1903-04; 1905-06; 1908-1909.

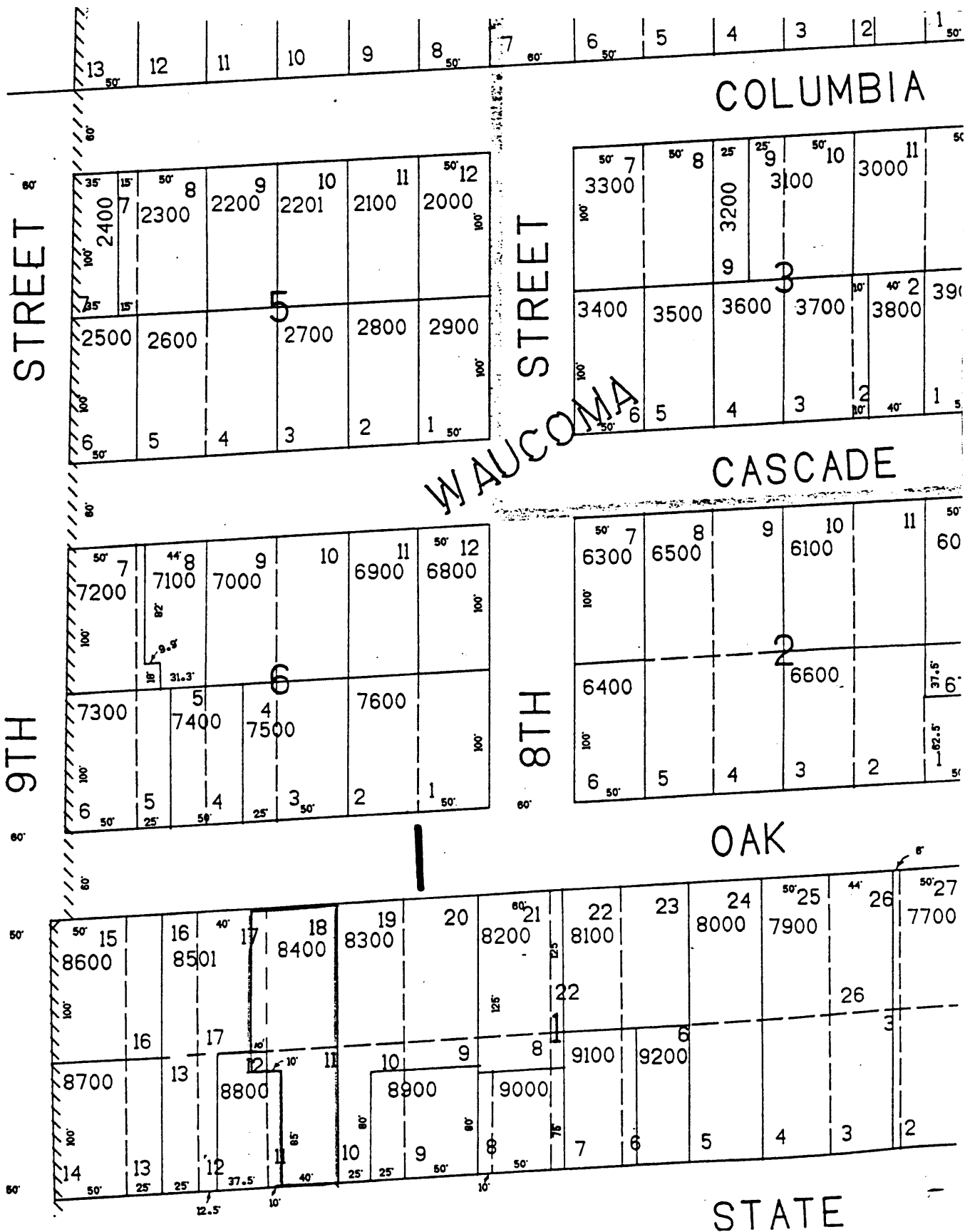
Polk's Oregon and Washington State Gazette and Business Directory.
R. L. Polk and Company, 1923-24; 1921-22; 1925-26; 1930-31.

Polk's Wasco, Hood River and Sherman County Directory, Vol. I.
Portland: R. L. Polk and Company, 1910-1913.

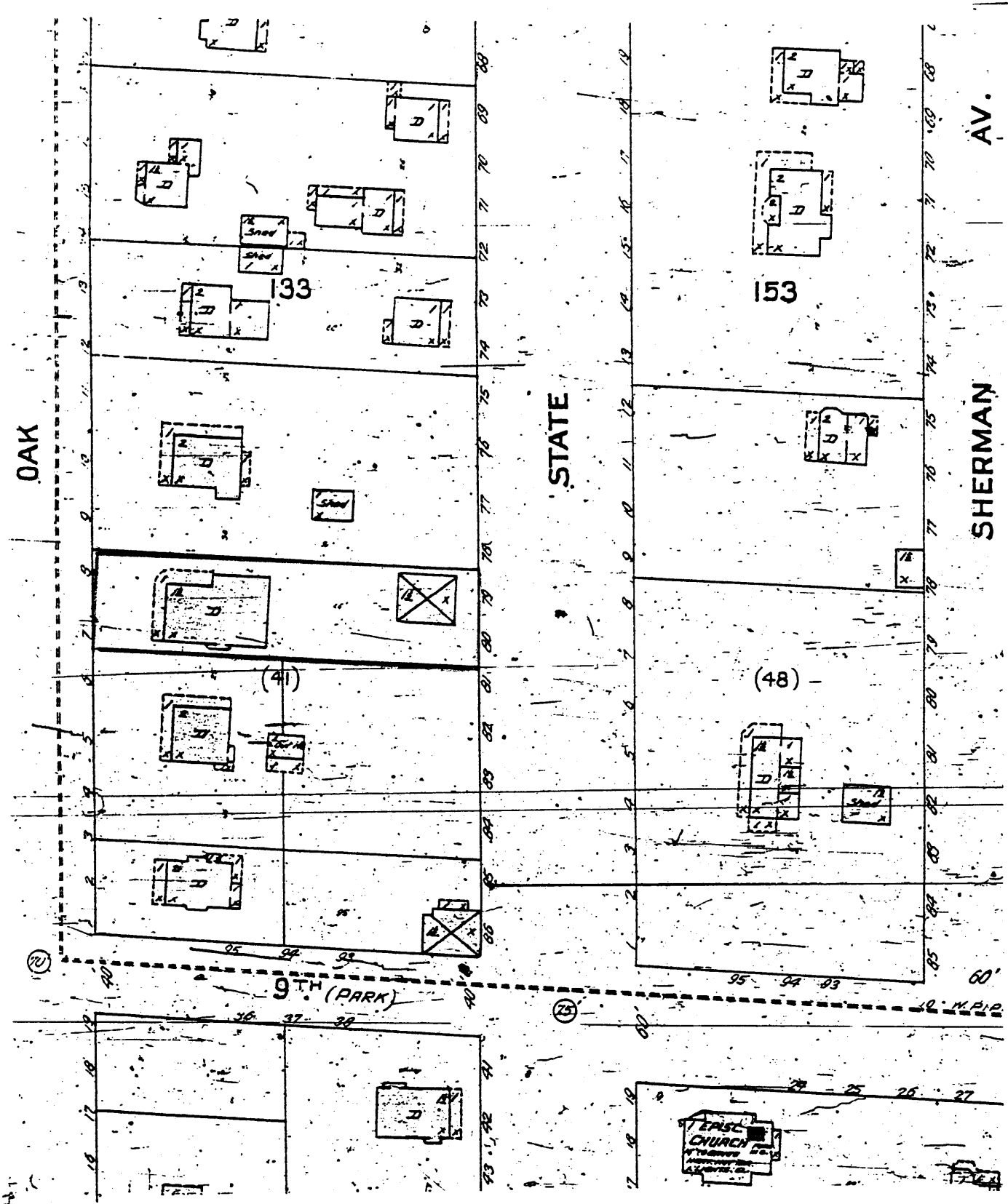
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: 1902, 1905, 1909, 1916, and 1928.

Talley, Marjorie Duckwall. Hood River, Oregon. Personal interview
and photographic collection, December 5, 1988.

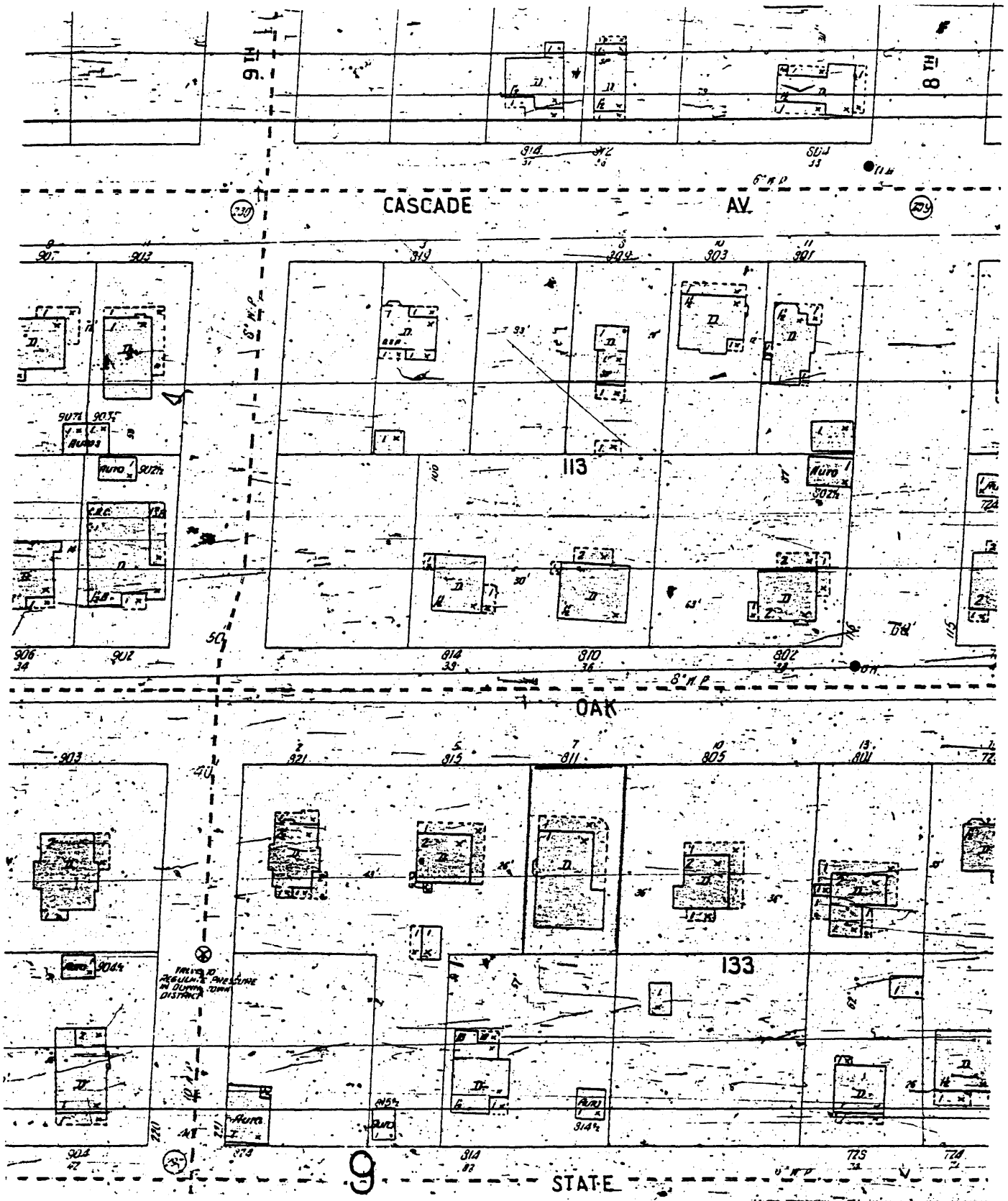
Wasco and Sherman County Directory. Portland: Portland Directory
Company, 1897-1899.



Hood River County Tax Assessor's Map



1909 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map



1916 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map