

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oregon	
COUNTY: Wasco	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUN 20 1974	DATE

HM 10/671425
5051250

1. NAME

COMMON:
St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
~~S.W. Corner of~~ **3rd and Lincoln Streets** Oregon Second Congressional Dist

CITY OR TOWN:
The Dalles

STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **97058** COUNTY: **Wasco** CODE: **41**

Representative Al Ullman

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Concert Hall Social Center

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
(owner notified of nomination 11-7-72)

~~Old St. Peter's Landmark Preservation, Inc.~~

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 882

CITY OR TOWN: **The Dalles** STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **97058**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Wasco County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **The Dalles** STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **97058**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

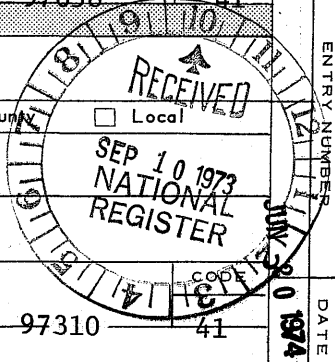
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: **1970** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Parks and Recreation Branch

STREET AND NUMBER:
Oregon State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Salem** STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **97310**



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

About 1890 a committee of parishioners was appointed to make plans for the construction of a new St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in The Dalles, but fire, flood and a depression prevented construction from getting underway until 1897. Plans for the church were obtained from Germany and modified by Portland architect Otto Kleeman.

The church is of brick masonry construction, measuring 100 by 40 feet. Built in the Gothic Revival style, the church is oriented east to west, with an apsidal west end. The steeple rising from a louvered belfry reaches a height of 176 feet and is surmounted by a cross and cock weathervane which turns on bearings. The weathervane was manufactured by Frank S. Gunning. It is locally understood to be an allusion to the episode in St. Peter's life during which the Apostle denied Christ three times before the cock crowed.

The roof is covered with galvanized sheet metal impressed, or stamped to simulate tiles. Lion heads decorate the downspouts of the steeple. The four bays of the side elevations are set off by buttresses. A statue of St. Peter occupies a niche over the portal.

The vaulted ceilings of the interior are supported by iron columns which define the side aisles. The tin ceiling cover is embossed with abstract floral designs in an overall diaper pattern. The west end is lighted by a rose window. Stained glass window lights were manufactured by the Albert Garlach Company of Portland. There have been few structural alterations to the building since its construction, but certain changes in the decor were made in later days. Theodore Braash, a German artist, painted portrait medallions and other decorations in 1954-1955. A chancel rail and altar of Carrara marble were later additions, and an electric pipe organ was installed in 1927. Made of rare tigerwood, the organ has been used consistently for concerts over and above its liturgical functions.

Under current ownership of Old St. Peter's Landmark Preservation, Inc., the church is now serving as a social center in which facilities for concerts, rummage sales and other special events are provided.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1898**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church has stood as a focal point in the townscape of The Dalles since its completion in 1898. In many ways, the growth and development of the Catholic experience in The Dalles reflects the fortunes of the historic community which has long served as gateway on the Columbia River between the inland empire and the region west of the Cascade Mountains.

The first Catholic Church in The Dalles, a log building constructed in 1848, served both as church and priest's residence for Father L. Rousseau. It burned in 1855, consuming all of the church records. Rousseau's successor Father I. Mesplie, built a small chapel on a tract of land he had obtained from the Government. This was abandoned in 1861 as the growing congregation required a larger building nearer the city. A site for the new church was donated by town promoter Victor Trevitt. The new church in the Carpenters Gothic style measured 70 by 30 feet. It stood on the corner of 3rd and Lincoln Streets at right angles to the position of the present church. The church of 1861 had deteriorated sufficiently by 1890 so that a meeting of the parish was called to consider ways and means of erecting a suitable church for the ever-expanding congregation. Under leadership of a special committee comprised of Max Vogt, Henry Herbring, E.P. Fitzgerald and Jacob Fritz, the financial groundwork was laid through public subscription and fund-raising events. On June 17, 1891, the old vernacular church of 1861 was moved to the rear of the lot to make way for new construction. This optimistic climate was soon overtaken, however, by a nationwide panic and local misfortunes. The Union Pacific Railroad shops were removed from The Dalles to the Albina yards in Portland. On September 2, 1891, a disastrous fire swept The Dalles, destroying all the buildings contained in 18 blocks, representing an area of over 30 acres. When the slump was intensified by a crop failure, all hopes for expediting the St. Peter's construction project were dashed.

Soon after the town was beginning to recover from the effects of the fire, the Columbia River overflowed its banks in 1894 and flooded a great portion of the town, prolonging the community's economic straits. By the close of 1896 sufficient funds were available to begin construction of the new Catholic church. Plans for the building were obtained by parishioner Henry Herbring from one Herr Rinklage of Munster, Westphalia, in Western Germany. Otto Kleeman, a well-known Portland architect of the day, was selected to adapt the plans to the new world setting.

Otto K. Kleeman was born in Ostrow, Germany, on March 13, 1855. He attendend Ostrow College, province of Posen, and the Architectural Polytechnicum of Holjminden. In 1874 he embarked for the United States, arriving in San Francisco, where he entered practice with a firm, married and (Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Statewide Inventory form prepared by Mrs. Francis Seufert, The Dalles, 1969.
 (Based upon A Brief History of the Diocese of Baker City by Father
 Dominic O'Connor, Baker Diocesan Chancery, 1930.)

"History," (Old St. Peter's Landmark Preservation, Inc., 1971), printed sheet.

"Otto Kleeman, Architect, Dies," Oregonian (March 1, 1936), 13.

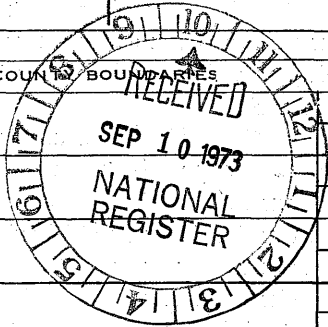
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	45°	36'	10"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	121°	11'	12"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.42

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Paul B. Hartwig, Assistant Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: Oregon State Highway Division DATE: August 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>[Signature]</u></p> <p>Title: <u>Director of Transportation</u></p> <p>Date: <u>Sept. 4, 1973</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation Associate Director Professional Services</p> <p>Date: <u>JUN 9 1974</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Acting Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>6/18/74</u></p>
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries)

ST. PETER'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

2. Location

St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church is located in NW 1/4 NW 1/4 Sec. 3, T. 1 N., R. 13 E., of the Willamette Meridian, in Wasco County, Oregon. It occupies Lot 1 and portions of Lots 2 and 3 of Block 5, Trevitt's Addition to The Dalles.

8. Significance

and raised three children. Late in 1880 Kleeman moved his family to Portland, where he lived until his death in 1936. His works in Oregon included a number of commissions for Catholic monasteries, convents and churches, among them St. Mary's Academy, Portland (recently destroyed), and Mount Angel College in Mount Angel. Kleeman was later a consulting architect on the Oregonian Building, an early twentieth century skyscraper in downtown Portland.

According to local tradition, Mr. Kleeman's fee was sufficiently high that the committee turned to John Peter Thomson of the Thomson and Hansen Planing Mills of The Dalles to rework the plans and operate as general contractor.

In any event, bids for construction of St. Peter's Church were received in March 1897, and the concrete foundation was laid the following month. On May 1 the first brick was placed, and on July 25 the cornerstone was blessed and set in position by Archbishop Gross. The building was completed in 1898 under supervision of Father Bronsgeest at a cost of \$16,000, and was then considered the finest church in the Archdiocese. Newspaper accounts of the public dedication ceremonies on March 17 indicate that the entire community was proud of the splendid new edifice.

In the late 1960s the congregation commissioned yet another facility in a suburban location and put the 1898 church up for sale to ease the burden of debt acquired in the course of constructing the modern church building. The familiar landmark in downtown The Dalles became the object of citizen's campaign early in 1970. Old St. Peter's Landmark Preservation, Inc., successfully negotiated acquisition of the church for \$25,000. The group then set about repairing gutters and roof, repainting, and remodeling the unfinished basement for thrift shop use. Further stabilization and repair work will be accomplished as funds become available.

