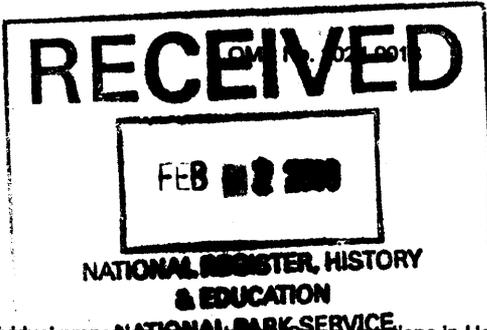


NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

189



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any 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 **Whitehouse-Crawford Planing Mill**
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number: **212 N 3rd Avenue** _____ not for publication
city or town **Walla Walla** _____ vicinity
state **Washington** code **WA** county **Walla Walla** code **071** zip code **99362**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

1/26/00
Date

Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer, State or 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 commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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 Keeper _____ Date of Action _____
Edson H. Beall **3/3/00**

Whitehouse-Crawford Planing Mill

Name of Property

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Walla Walla, Washington

County and State

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 a 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1903-1949

Significant Dates

1904

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Whitman College Archive
Walla Walla Union Bulletin (newspaper)

□□

Whitehouse-Crawford Planing Mill

Name of Property

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Walla Walla, Washington

County and State

10. Geographical DataAcreage of property 0.57**UTM References**

11 395592 5102340

Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Lots 3, 4, and 5 of Block 55, Shaubles Addition to the City of Walla Walla according to the plat thereof recorded in Volume A of Plats, page 25, records of Walla Walla County, Washington

Boundary Justification

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

Reflects the historical configuration of the property

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carl J. Schmitt, Managing Member

organization SalvationI, L.L.C. date April 28, 1999

street & number Rt. 4 Box 245

telephone (509) 529-4139

city or town Walla Walla

state WA

zip code 99362

 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.

(Enclosed is a survey of the property in addition to the USGS map.)

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 SalvationI, L.L.C.

street & number Rt. 4 Box 245 telephone (509) 529-4139

city or town Walla Walla

state WA

zip code 99362

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Walla Walla, Washington

The nominated property is located in Walla Walla, in the wheat-farming region of southeastern Washington. Due to its early development, the area is sometimes referred to as the "Cradle of Northwest History. The area was first settled by pioneer missionaries, Marcus Whitman and his wife Narcissa, in 1836.

The setting of the Whitehouse-Crawford Planing Mill is considered part of the downtown core, and is one-half block off of the main entrance to downtown Walla Walla (2nd Avenue). The building is located near several other buildings that are listed in the National Register (U.S. Post Office, Northern Pacific Railway Station, Kirkman House) and the Marcus Whitman Hotel which has just changed ownership and will be applying for listing on the National Register.

The Whitehouse-Crawford Planing mill was re-built in 1903-04 as a result of a fire (early morning on Sunday, October 11th, 1903) that consumed the original planing mill, and the lumberyard and associated buildings across 3rd¹ Avenue. The rebuilt Planing Mill is a brick masonry structure situated on the southeast corner of 3rd Avenue and Cherry Streets. The oldest portion is essentially square in plan, measuring 120' 4" along Cherry Street and 119' 11" along 3rd Avenue. An alley parallels Cherry Street and represents the boundary of the southeast side of the building. The original building was built with a boiler room and shavings vault measuring 40' 5" x 16' 3" on the northeast side of the building. At some later date a small room was added to the rear of the building (adjacent to the boiler room). This was known as the "glue room" as pots of glue were maintained here for furniture and cabinet assembly. It measures 38' 9" x 26'. The close proximity of the glue room to the boiler room allowed the use of steam to keep the glue pots warm and the glue molten. The windows in this room match those of the building. A photograph of the building, believed to have been taken in 1905 and subsequently published in December 1907², reflects this addition.

The building is a single story in height and has a stepped parapet on its main (3rd Avenue) elevation. Along the parapet is a band of corbelled brickwork. Irregularly spaced pilasters further define the facade. The original painted sign on the brick facade on 3rd Avenue is still very much in evidence, including the company's logo. The rear of the building has a smaller parapet.

Segmental arched openings, both windows and doors, occur on four sides of the building. Most of the wooden doors and sashes with multiple panes remain intact. The roof has an extremely shallow pitch (1.2 inches in 12 inches). A glazed monitor, that runs the majority length of the roof at the peak, lets considerable light into the building. In the glue room is a large beam (one of two sills) which rests on an opening in the West wall of the room (the East wall of the main building) spanning to a pilaster in the East wall. This beam (8" x 8") is the base upon which two of the four legs (each 8" x 8" x 21') of the water tower sat. A portion of one of the legs exists in the center of the beam, with bracing in place. The other pair of legs rested on a sill that ran along the boiler room/glue room wall. The original water tower can be seen in the 1905 photograph.

The interior consists of brick exterior walls, open truss ceiling, and wooden floors. There are no partitions except for a small toilet room in the southwest corner. The boiler room with shavings vault is an appendage on the rear of the building. The glue room is also an addition to the building. Both the boiler room and glue room utilized the same window treatment. Interior paint finishes show what was left of either whitewash in the principal structure or a later added white paint in the glue room.

¹ The legal address, per the Walla Walla Title Company, refers to 3rd Avenue, while some maps reflect 3rd Street

² On the back of the picture frame containing a copy of the picture it is noted "Taken 1905". The automobile pictured tends to support this date. The picture was subsequently published in the December 1907 issue of *Up-To-The-Times* magazine.

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Whitehouse-Crawford Planing Mill Walla Walla, Washington

The building is currently empty and has been for several years. The company went out of business in 1988. The City of Walla Walla purchased the property as part of a larger transaction including the lumberyard that occupied most of the square block across 3rd Avenue. That land was redeveloped into the District Headquarters of the Corps of Engineers.

At the time of closure the equipment contained in the building was sold at auction. The building was sold to Carl & Sonia Schmitt by the City of Walla Walla in February of 1999. At that time the only contents to the building was an accumulation of trash.

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Whitehouse-Crawford Planing Mill Walla Walla, Washington

The Whitehouse-Crawford Planing Mill is significant for the critical wood products that have been produced in the building. These materials were essential for the development of early Walla Walla, and included cabinets, window sash, moldings and furniture. Much of the execution of the architectural heritage of the region was the result of building materials that originated from the planing mill. The building was the most critical local supplier of building materials through the period of significance. In addition, the building is important architecturally as a virtually unaltered example of an early twentieth-century mill building associated with the wood products industry. Character-defining details include the arched windows, wooden doors with glass pane, stepped parapet, roof monitor, and original signage.

The Whitehouse-Crawford Company was founded in 1904 and organized as a corporation. This company was the outgrowth of a planing mill operation that dated back to 1880, and the establishment of the Cooper and Smuck Company. Cooper and Smuck also operated a large lumberyard across 3rd Avenue. Early Sanborn maps (1888) indicate that the *Enterprise Planing Mill and Furniture - Cooper & Schmuck Properties* were sited at the same location. George Whitehouse, a local contractor, along with D. J. Crimmins, purchased the lumberyard and planing mill/cabinet operation from Cooper and Schmuck. This is reflected in the Sanborn map of 1890, as the planing mill location is referred to as *Planing Mill-Whitehouse, Crimmins Prop's*.

Historian Lyman described the Whitehouse-Crimmins operation in 1901 as follows:

The mill is equipped with all the most recent and improved machinery, and turns out annually an immense amount of finished lumber, sash and doors, moldings, lath, besides large supplies of cupboards, desks and other furnishings. . .

In the early morning of Sunday, October 11th, 1903 a fire consumed the first lumberyard and the planing mill. According to the Evening Statesman of Monday, October 12th, 1903 the loss was estimated at \$75,000 and the company only had \$14,000 of insurance due to the high rate of 9%. A confident Mr. Whitehouse estimated that a new building would be up and running within six weeks. The building could not have been completed before 1904 as the brick alone consisted of 151.5 thousand common brick. Further the value of the whole plant (planing mill, warehouse, dry kiln, lumber sheds, barn, cottages, livestock, vehicles, harness, and factory equipment) was \$58,353 in the appraisal report of 1911. This is well in excess of the \$14,500 of insurance in place at the time of the fire.

In 1904 John Milton Crawford arrived in Walla Walla from Fairmont, Nebraska to purchase controlling interest in the Whitehouse-Crimmins Lumber Company. He had spent his early life working in lumberyards in the Middle West. The Whitehouse-Crawford Company, Inc. was formed, and this corporation purchased all of the property and assets of Whitehouse Crimmins. The Warranty Deed covering the real property and the bill of sale covering the equipment and contents, both of which are dated October 20, 1904, indicates George and Emma Whitehouse, Dennis J. and Laura A. Crimmins, Charles and Lucy Cooper and Lewis and Elizabeth Schmuck as the sellers.

The 1905 Sanborn fire insurance map reflects the new building, including boiler room and shavings vault. The map carries the following notation:

"W. C. Co. PLANING MILL. NIGHT WATCHMAN FOR BOTH MILL AND YARD ALSO CLEANS UP MILL - POWER STEAM - HEAT STOVES-GLUE POTS HEATED BY STEAM-FUEL SHAVINGS PARTLY BLOWN AND CARTED TO SHAVINGS VAULT-LIGHTS ELECTRIC-CITY WATER AND FROM WELL BY STEAM PUMP - 50' - 3/4 HOSE IN BOILER ROOM-8 CHEMICAL FIRE EXT'GR'S - MILL WHITEWASHED INSIDE."

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Walla Walla, Washington

In 1906 Crawford built his first branch store in Touchet, Washington and called it Tum-a-Lum Lumber Company.

The 1907 December issue of "UP-TO-THE-TIMES" magazine contains an article about the company under the headline *Successful Walla Walla Manufacturers*. The article states:

"One of the most successful manufacturing plants in Walla Walla is conducted by the Whitehouse-Crawford Company. This company's plant proper is a planing mill, sash and door factory and a builder of interior house trim. But the company engages successfully in much specialty work and in its shops are manufactured modern show cases, fancy store fronts, and bank and office fixtures--articles that have a good sale throughout many sections of the Inland Empire."

The article further states that the mill operates 40 machines, has a fully paid up capital of \$100,000 and:

"that the payroll is something of importance to the city of Walla Walla for some 40 skilled mechanics are employed at good wages at its plant practically the year round."

The article includes two photographs, one depicting the front of the structure (included with this application) and the other of the engine room

In 1908 Crawford brought his brother, Joseph F. Crawford west to manage the Whitehouse Crawford operation. By 1921 John Crawford was to own over fifty lumberyards throughout the Northwest, all of which came to use the Tum-a-Lum Lumber trade style. Descendants of Crawford continue to hold and operate Tum-a-Lum Lumberyards in other communities in the Northwest.

In 1890 Harold E Crawford was born to John M. and Martha Cox Crawford. After moving to Walla Walla with the family, including brother C. Howard and sister Susan M., Harold, he attended Walla Walla High School, Whitman College (class of 1911) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, receiving a degree in 1913. Harold returned to Walla Walla and initiated an architectural practice. He married Mary Bassett of Spokane in 1914, whom he met while attending Whitman College. Harold Crawford maintained his architectural office, across the street from the mill in the lumberyard complex, until the fire of 1960³ when it was destroyed. He then moved into the planing mill.

Crawford was a very prolific architect. During his lifetime he designed a great number of homes and buildings, many of which are located in the Walla Walla area. Unfortunately all of his records were destroyed in the fire of 1960. Walla Walla was a growing economic hub for southeastern Washington⁴ during many of those years, and as a result, a large number of fine homes were built, many of which are still standing. The Whitehouse-Crawford Planing Mill was a major

³ A newspaper article in the Walla Walla Union Bulletin dated October 13th, 1960 shows Harold Crawford watching the lumber yard once again on fire

⁴ Walla Walla was once considered one of the wealthiest counties in the United States primarily due to its fertile valley. In 1908 the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reported that there were only three women in Walla Walla who worked at jobs normally associated with men. They went on to explain "Walla Walla being the third richest city per capita in the United States, the burden of self-support does not fall upon a large percent of its women and they are thus freed from the strenuous competition for positions that prevail in other cities."

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factor in the execution of those structures and interior cabinetwork. Today many residents remember the mill fondly as a place that produced cabinets, window sash, moldings or furniture for their home. Although the business was liquidated in 1988 the building still contained a few leftovers from its active period, such as patterns for pew ends of many local churches etc.

Architecturally the building is modest but expressive of period industrial construction. Its single-story profile has a stepped parapet on its main (3rd Avenue) elevation, and a band of corbelled brickwork along the parapet. The facade is further defined by irregularly spaced pilasters. The original painted sign on the brick facade on 3rd Avenue is still very much in evidence, including the company's logo. The rear of the building has a smaller parapet.

Segmental arch openings, both windows and doors, occur on four sides of the building. Most of the wooden doors and sashes with multiple panes remain intact. The roof has an extremely shallow pitch (1.2 inches in 12 inches). A glazed monitor, which runs the majority length of the roof at the peak, lets considerable light into the building. In the glue room is a large beam (one of two sills) that rests on an opening in the West wall of the room, (the East wall of the main building) spanning to a pilaster in the East wall. This beam (8" x 8") is the base upon which two of the four legs (each 8" x 8" x 21') of the water tower sat. A portion of one of the legs exists in the center of the beam, with bracing in place. The other pair of legs rested on a sill that ran along the boiler room /glue room wall.⁵ The original water tower can be seen in the 1905 picture.

The building is unique in Walla Walla as no other manufacturing building of this type and of this age exists. Among the building's defining features, the monitor skylight is the only such example known in the region.

⁵ The dimensions of the beams, timber and tank are contained in an Appraisalment - Whitehouse-Crawford Co. - Walla Walla, Wash. by the Standard Appraisal Co., Seattle Wash with the only apparent date, 1911, noted in pencil on the title page. The labor rates contained in the Appraisalment include "Carpenters and Millwrights at 50¢ per hour and laborers at 30¢ to 35¢ per hour which tends to confirm the period.

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**Whitehouse-Crawford Planing Mill
Walla Walla, Washington**

Bibliography

Sanborn Maps of 1888,1890 and 1905 (copies included in application)

Community Cultural resource Survey, 1978, by Florence K. Lentz, Architectural Historian, Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, State of Washington, Olympia

Up-To-The Times, December 1907, published monthly by the Walla Walla Publishing Co., Walla Walla, WA courtesy of the Whitman College Archive.

The Evening Statesman, Monday October 12, 1903. Courtesy of the Whitman College Archive.

Walla Walla Union Bulletin, September 20, 1998

Walla Walla Union Bulletin, October 13, 1960. Courtesy of the Whitman College Archive.

Walla Walla, A Town Built to be a City 1900-1919, Robert A. Bennett Pioneer Press Books 1982.

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**Whitehouse-Crawford Planing Mill
Walla Walla, Washington**

Photographs:

- #1
3.Name of Photographer: Unknown
4.Date: c.1905
5.Location of original negative: Unknown
6 Description of view: East
- #2
3.Name of Photographer: Unknown
4.Date: c.1920-21
5.Location of original negative: Unknown
6 Description of view: NorthEast
- #3
3.Name of Photographer: Carl Schmitt
4.Date: .September 1999
5.Location of original negative: Carl Schmitt, Rt. 4 Box 245A, Walla Walla, WA 99362
6 Description of view: NorthEast
- #4
3.Name of Photographer: Carl Schmitt
4.Date: .September 1999
5.Location of original negative: Carl Schmitt, Rt. 4 Box 245A, Walla Walla, WA 99362
6 Description of view: NorthEast
- #5
3.Name of Photographer: Carl Schmitt
4.Date: .September 1999
5.Location of original negative: Carl Schmitt, Rt. 4 Box 245A, Walla Walla, WA 99362
6 Description of view: SouthEast
- #6
3.Name of Photographer: Carl Schmitt
4.Date: .September 1999
5.Location of original negative: Carl Schmitt, Rt. 4 Box 245A, Walla Walla, WA 99362
6 Description of view: SouthEast
- #7
3.Name of Photographer: Carl Schmitt
4.Date: .September 1999
5.Location of original negative: Carl Schmitt, Rt. 4 Box 245A, Walla Walla, WA 99362
6 Description of view: NorthWest
- #8
3.Name of Photographer: Carl Schmitt
4.Date: .September 1999
5.Location of original negative: Carl Schmitt, Rt. 4 Box 245A, Walla Walla, WA 99362
6 Description of view: SouthWest
- #9
3.Name of Photographer: Carl Schmitt
4.Date: .September 1999
5.Location of original negative: Carl Schmitt, Rt. 4 Box 245A, Walla Walla, WA 99362
6 Description of view: Interior looking up into monitor
- #10
3.Name of Photographer: Carl Schmitt
4.Date: .September 1999
5.Location of original negative: Carl Schmitt, Rt. 4 Box 245A, Walla Walla, WA 99362
6 Description of view: Interior looking SouthWest