

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Washington
COUNTY:	Walla Walla
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 5 1974

2411
 NOV 5 1974
 WALLA WALLA

1. NAME

COMMON:
Dacres Hotel

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
4th and Main Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Walla Walla

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
#5 - Honorable Thomas S. Foley

STATE: Washington CODE: 53 COUNTY: Walla Walla CODE: 071

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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>printing shop</u>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. & Mrs. Lester O. Keen

STREET AND NUMBER:
1229 Bonsella Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Walla Walla

STATE: Washington CODE: 53

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Walla Walla County

STREET AND NUMBER:
County Courthouse - 5th & Poplar Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Walla Walla

STATE: Washington CODE: 53

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

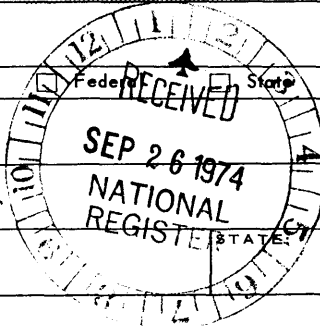
TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:



STATE:	Washington
COUNTY:	Walla Walla
ENTRY NUMBER:	NOV 5 1974
DATE:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dacres Hotel is located on the corner of 4th & Main Streets near the edge of downtown Walla Walla. It is a three story brick building with two major facades that are surprisingly unrelated to each other. On the Main Street side there are shop spaces on the ground floor with glass storefronts that continue across that side entirely and upward almost to the ceiling. A continuous lintel spans horizontally across this facade at the heads of doorways and between piers supporting and dividing the glass. Slightly off center and toward the corner is an entrance to the hotel flanked by decorative wooden columns. These support a section of lintel that projects over the threshold. Windows on the two floors above storefronts are all identical with a double hung sash of moderately tall and narrow proportions. These are arranged one above another in two rows extending across the entire Main Street facade. Mullions and piers dividing windows are distinguished from one another by engaged columns attached one to a mullion and two to a pier. As suggested by the parapet, the cornice decoration, and the inclusion of three pilasters on the central pier, the front is divided into two halves with differing relationships between windows and piers. As separated by piers, the windows are grouped on the left of center 2-3-2. To the right the grouping is 1-3-3-1, although on this half the piers are narrower while the third and sixth windows are bricked in on both floors to accommodate interior partitions. The result is an actual 2-2-2 spacing which effectively changes piers into mullions.

Between second and third floor windows is a solid horizontal band of brick wall, somewhat narrower than the band of windows, with string courses and low relief decoration. A similar strip of wall is between the windows of the third floor and the cornice above with a contrasting decorative treatment. The cornice has a moderate overhang while the parapet continues upward flush with its outside edge. On the Main Street side, brackets support the cornice from the plain frieze at the corners and in the center. Smaller brackets are at intermediate positions under two sections of the parapet where it continues upward, presenting trapezoidal surfaces with the words "Hotel Dacres" remaining on one of them. These sections are on either side of center with two brackets each in corresponding locations on the cornice below.

The corner of the building at 4th and Main Streets is a beveled surface from foundation to parapet, continuing the Main Street facade around on a diagonal wall the width of two windows. On the ground level of this, in line with the windows, are double doors into the corner shop space, which was once the bar but is now a print shop. The parapet is also extended upward here, while the cornice includes an additional set of large brackets.

The Fourth Street side has an entirely different fenestration where the similarity is only in the organization of most windows into vertical and horizontal alignment. All openings in this wall are semi-circular arched with similar decorative hood mouldings. They are, for the most part,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		Washington
COUNTY		Walla Walla
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	NOV 5 1974	

(Number all entries)

#7 - Description
Dacres Hotel

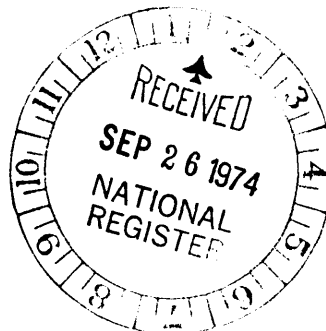
spaced horizontally at an interval slightly greater than the width of the double hung windows employed, although two vertical rows of windows near the corner are set off by wider spacing between themselves, adjacent windows and the corner. Windows are of decreasing height from the ground floor upward where the lowest is also wider. The third floor windows are in line with corresponding windows on the Main Street side, maintaining the same general size and proportion. Several street floor windows away from the corner near the back are larger in height and width than the remainder, reaching a point level with the top of the store fronts. A pair of windows described previously as being set off near the corner are, on the ground floor, only semicircles placed as if the lower part had been bricked in up to the arch.

The cornice and parapet on this wall are a simplified continuation of the arrangement used on the Main Street side, excluding trapezoidal extentions.

A narrow second floor balcony with ironwork balustrade extends entirely across both facades and around the beveled wall section at the corner. The walkway is supported at intervals by slender iron braces that reach diagonally from its outside edge to the wall below. There is a four foot wide balcony the length of the building, 120 feet, at the second and third floor levels on the back wall. Originally there was a raised sidewalk along Fourth Street next to the hotel as a convenience for the passengers of stagecoaches and other horsedrawn vehicles.

In addition to shop spaces, the first floor consists of five rooms plus a dining room, lobby, and elevator. Second and third floors have thirty-five hotel rooms each. Floors and trim are fir throughout. There is a partial basement with brick and stone foundation walls and dirt floors.

The Dacres Hotel remains basically unaltered from the early 1900's. The wiring and other systems have deteriorated, although the structural strength of the building was recently assessed by a contractor who declared it "solid enough to stand for another one hundred years".



4. 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) 1899

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1899, James Dacres purchased the property on Fourth and Main Streets, Walla Walla, Washington, and erected a "first-class" hotel, and an era of fine hostelry began in the city. The Stine House, built in 1873, was the first hotel in Walla Walla County, but it was destroyed by fire in 1892. The Dacres Hotel was constructed on the original site and was vaunted as 'one of the most up-to-date and finest hotels in the country'.

In November, 1907, the Bennes, Hendricks and Tobbey Company, a firm of architects from Portland, Oregon, began extensive improvements to the Dacres at a cost of \$30,000. A new story was added, an elevator installed, every room in the entire building was refurnished, the offices and rotunda were enlarged, and a ladies and gentlemen's grill and cafe were installed. The man investing the additional money was Mr. James Dacres, owner of the hotel property. In February, 1909, the enlarging and remodeling were completed.

When a guest entered the refurbished hotel in its early days, he would walk on thick red carpet through the lobby filled with overstuffed furniture, potted plants and palms, polished brass spittoons and a large grand piano. He would be escorted to a room furnished in blonde oak and light colored rugs. From the lobby, he might have entered the barber shop or the lounge with its huge ornate mahogany bar backed with large French crystal mirrors. In the dining room there was red carpet beneath glittering chandeliers that cast a soft light on white table linen and the silver service. There were bathing facilities on each floor of the hotel and a Turkish bath was available at additional expense.

The main importance of the Dacres Hotel was the traditional social atmosphere it created and maintained in the county. There was a livery stable across Main Street that provided a horse-drawn taxi to take travellers back and fourth from the train station to the Dacres. Farmers and members of outlying communities would come to Walla Walla and shop, attend the theatre and stay at the Dacres, which, until 1919, was unquestionably the finest hotel in the area. The Dacres often served as lodgings for travelers who went to Pendleton, Oregon, for the annual "round-up" rodeo celebration. Members of the community

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Butler, Robert E., Jr. A Brief History of the Stine House and Dacres Hotel. Walla Walla: Whitman College, 1972.
 Gilbert, Frank T. Historical Sketches of Walla Walla County. Portland: A. G. Walling Publishing Company, 1882.
 Lyman, William Dennison. County of Walla Walla, Washington Souvenir, 1905. Salem: Statesman Publishing Company, 1905.
 _____ . History of Walla Walla County. n.p.: W. H. Lever, 1901.
 _____ . Old Walla Walla County. Vol. I and II. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1918.

(Continued)

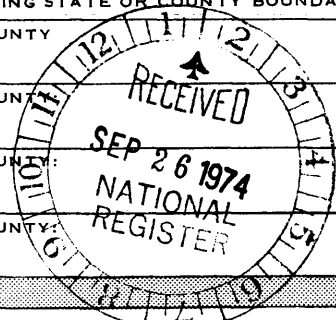
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		46 ° 03 ' 56 "	118 ° 20 ' 28 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Robert Wayne Hergert

ORGANIZATION: Historical Architectural Development Inc. DATE: July 5, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 1846 Center Street

CITY OR TOWN: Walla Walla STATE: Washington CODE: 53

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name Charles H. Odegaard
 Charles H. Odegaard

Title Director - Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

Date Sept. 16, 1974

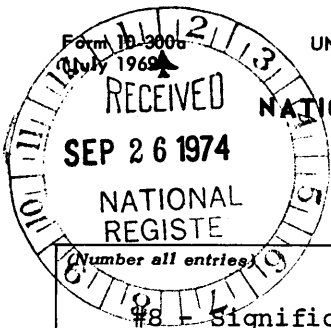
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

AR Woelke
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/5/74

ATTEST: Wm. Kuntz
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 11.5.74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Washington	
COUNTY	Walla Walla	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		NOV 5 1974

#8 - Significance (1)
Dacres Hotel

would come to the hotel barber shop daily for a shave and each had his own shaving mug there. The lounge was a frequent meeting place for town politicians. During the prohibition period it was converted into a confectionary store, but the huge ornate bar remained.

In 1909, the Dacres Hotel was becoming increasingly recognized as the stopping place and headquarters for the prominent citizens of Walla Walla Valley. It was recognized as one of the finest hotels in the Inland Empire. The Dacres had no showrooms where salesmen could display their wares and transact business, so salesmen were commonly found in the bar. The hotel became a center for salesmen who plied their trades in the surrounding area.

During elections the Dacres became a hive of activity for the politics of the "smoke-filled room". The Up-To-The-Times Magazine once reported that "Politically speaking the big event of the month was the banquet of the Democrats held in the Dacres Hotel last month [October, 1910]. To this banquet were invited members of the minority party from all parts of the valley, and the meeting was one full of interest."

Bunting was often strung along the balcony for patriotic parades such as the Fourth of July. The procession always came down Main Street and turned in front of the Dacres at Fourth and Main Streets to continue southward.

A block south of the Dacres was the Keylor-Grant Opera House which saw all the guests of the stage and concert world from that historic period. "Broadway blazed with famous names, almost as well known in Kalamazoo and Walla Walla". The Dacres Hotel was the natural place for these performers and groups to stay while they were in the city. The old register boasted such signatures as Louisa M. Alcott, John Philip Sousa, Sir Harry Lauder, and Al Jolson. The dining room, known throughout the state for its fine food, provided soft dinner music with an orchestra each night between seven and ten o'clock.

As in many other cities, the central business district of Walla Walla gradually moved east and away from the original location, leaving it less desirable and in a deteriorating condition. Mr. A. E. Tausick, a wealthy entrepreneur in town, was foresighted enough to anticipate the plight of the Dacres. In 1911 he organized the Grand Hotel Company and in 1924, purchased the Dacres Hotel. The Dacres remained in business for 39 more years, although the clientele and services changed. The hotel became a lodging place for road and railroad crews, wheat harvest crews, and the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Washington	
COUNTY	
Walla Walla	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 5 1974

(Number all entries)

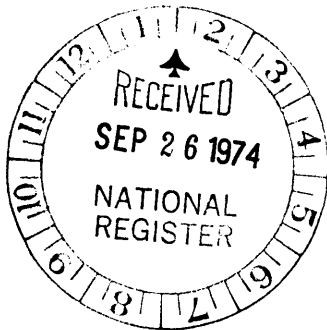
#8 - Significance (2)

Dacres Hotel

wives of prisoners waiting for their husbands in the Washington State Penitentiary.

It was not until May 25, 1963, that the hotel finally closed its doors. The Tausick Estate sold the property to O. D. Keen Construction Company for \$16,049 on October 27, 1966. There was an open house at this time and most of the remaining furnishings were disposed of at public auction.

The Dacres Hotel remains today without significant alteration since the early 1900's. A drug store was installed in place of the bar during the early 1930's which today is occupied by a print shop. It is important as an early gathering place for the area's elite as well as for out of town visitors and valuable as a visible remnant of early Walla Walla's social history.



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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Washington	
COUNTY	Walla Walla	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		NOV 5 1974

(Number all entries)

#9 - Bibliographical References
Dacres Hotel

MacLeod, R. C., ed. "Prominent Hotel to be Enlarged". Up-To-The-Times Magazine, Vol. 2 No. 1, 1907, p. 18.

_____. "Through the Valley". Up-To-The-Times Magazine, Vol. 3, No. 4, 1909, p. 1816.

_____. "Through the Valley". Up-To-The-Times Magazine, Vol. 5, No. 1, 1910, p. 3089.

Rose, A. P.; Shaver, F. A.; and Steele, R. F. An Illustrated History of Southeastern Washington. Spokane: Western Historical Publishing Company, 1906.

