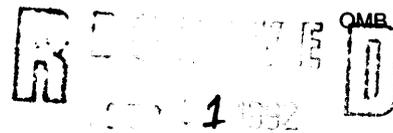


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



1319

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 an 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 French, Edward, House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 515 Liberty Street N/A not for publication

city or town The Dalles N/A vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Wasco code 065 zip code 97058

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

James Hannah August 24, 1992  
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO Date  
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the 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:)

Boj Signature of the Keeper **Entered in the** 10/2/92 Date of Action  
Guy M. Lapsley **National Register**

French, Edward, House  
Name of Property

Wasco, Oregon  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial: restaurant

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Italianate  
Stick/Eastlake style

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation wood post and pier, brick  
walls wood: weatherboard  
roof asphalt: shingle  
other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Continuation Sheet

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The Edward French house is a two story structure located on the West side of Liberty Street at approximately Fifth Street in the City of The Dalles. Fifth Street does not extend through this portion of the City. Located in the Southeast corner of Trevitt's Addition, a proposed National Historic District, the French House is a major contributing building in an area with many historic homes.

The original construction of the house was done in the year 1865. Edward French commissioned a local architect of the period, C.J. Crandall, to design and construct a major renovation and addition in the Italianate style in 1900. The house has stood in that configuration at the same location since that time. The house served as a residence until approximately 1980, when it was converted into a restaurant known as "The French House". The restaurant closed in approximately 1986 and has just re-opened under the name "Wasco House" in favor of Wasco County in which the City of The Dalles and the house are located.

The East facade of this two story wood structure features a plain triple bay accented by a full width front porch. The porch wraps around to the South, creating additional width to balance the protruding two story bay of the South Elevation. Vertical elements of the five post porch align with the double hung windows, with overhead vertical siding. The North elevation also contains a two story single bay that is set under a gable opposite that of the South elevation. This was the prominent view from Dalles City and is the second "public" front of the house as viewed along the entry drive to the rear parking area.

The upper rear porch of the West elevation was framed in during a 1980 remodel. A 1991 deck addition also has been added, with vertical detail and railing to distinguish the addition from the original structure while utilizing similar elements. Many of the horizontals of the building meet the vertical elements with ornate beveled supports. The arched accents on the facades also contribute to the strong vertical orientation of the Italianate style.

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The two story wood structure features a full width single story porch on the East elevation which serves as the front of the house. The porch is supported with five support columns which are 4" x 4" posts laminated with 2 x 4's on the face and rear and 2 x 6's on the sides to form a 6 x 6 appearance. The 6 x 6 post is then notched in the middle portion of the column with the upper 1/3 having the corners beveled. The porch also extends along the South side of the structure approximately one-third of the way of the length of the house. The second story is dominated by three tall rectangular double hung windows, single pane, which are individually spaced across the second story. A multi-gabled roof line and ornate cornices dominate the architectural style of the structure. The North elevation features a full height two story extended bay window. Again, windows are tall rectangular double hung, single pane windows. The most prominent architectural feature of the bay are the ornate eaves in the side windows of the bay in a "U" shape. The bay windows were probably placed on the North elevation of the house since this is the only portion of the house which would have been readily visible from the main portion of the City of The Dalles at that time. The structure was constructed on a long, narrow lot and hence is in a long, rectangular configuration.

**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 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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Economics

Commerce

**Period of Significance**

1900-1922

**Significant Dates**

1900

1922

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

French, Edward H. (1868-1936)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Crandall, C.J., builder, 1900 remodel

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

French, Edward, House  
Name of Property

Wasco, Oregon  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 0.19 acres

The Dalles South, Oregon-Washington

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 0	6 4 1 4 6 0	5 0 5 1 1 2 0
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jan Mlnarik-Holt

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date March 15, 1992

street & number PO Box 1212 telephone (503) 296-3081

city or town The Dalles state Oregon zip code 97058

**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.

**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 Jan Mlnarik-Holt

street & number PO Box 1212 telephone (503) 296-3081

city or town The Dalles state Oregon zip code 97058

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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SHPO SUMMARY

The large two-story, hip-roofed frame house at 515 Liberty Street, in Trevitt's Addition in The Dalles, Oregon, known as the Edward French House, is believed, on the basis of deed records, to have been built about 1865. It is considered one of the outstanding examples, locally, of residential architecture in the Italianate style. It was declared a City of The Dalles landmark in 1981. The house displays some earmarks of the Stick/Eastlake style perhaps as a result of its remodeling for Edward French, to whom it was deeded in 1900. The building is nominated, however, under Criterion B for its association with a distinguished banking family in the historic inland trading center on the Columbia River.

Briefly characterized, the French House is a rectilinear volume measuring 22 x 57 feet that is oriented longitudinally on a narrow lot, with its principal facade facing east onto Liberty Street. The graded front of the sloping lot is retained by a handsome wall of random ashlar rising from the street level. The front of the house is distinguished by its clipped gable and symmetrical composition three bays in width, and by a full-width veranda with Eastlake posts and curvilinear braces that wraps around the foresection of the south side elevation. The house is clad entirely with shiplap siding and is articulated by vertical and horizontal stick work such as string courses, corner boards and window and spandrel framing. The boxed cornice is supported at the facade by a pair of outsized triangular brackets planking modillion brackets. A tall frieze of vertical mill stock encircles the front and side elevations. A segmental arch of stick work is applied to the frieze of the facade as one of the few arcuated exterior features.

Windows, typically, are tall openings fitted with one-over-one, double-hung sash. The south side elevation is distinguished by a gabled two-story projecting section. The salient feature of the north elevation is a polygonal two-story hip-roofed window bay with jettied frieze. Two tall chimney stacks with corbelled caps rise from the center of the roof ridge of the main volume. The early, if not original, exterior color treatment is believed to have been gray with white trim.

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The French House was converted to restaurant use in the years 1979-1980, with consequent enclosure of the second story sleeping porch and rear porch, which was remodeled to capture kitchen space. A cedar deck with railing and spindly, chamfered uprights was added to the rear face of the remodeled porches in 1991, when a successor restaurant operation was opened in the house. Storm windows were added, as were wall insulation and the current exterior paint scheme, which is chrome gold with French blue accents and white trim.

Most of the interior of the French House is well preserved from its 1900 configuration, and, notwithstanding the adaptive use for restaurant purposes, the historic character is revealed in a fine staircase, bracketed portiere arches, baseboards with crown molding, and good quality millwork of the Eastlake tradition, including beaded, or channeled door and window frames having bull's-eye corner blocks. The main rooms, including entry stairhall, parlor, dining room, are unaltered. Upstairs, the front and north bedrooms were combined as a single space with original finish work, and the south bedroom was converted to two lavatories.

The designer of the 1900 remodeling, or enlargement to the west, has been identified as Charles Jesse Crandall, an undertaker and contractor who was at work in The Dalles from 1883 onward. Crandall was the builder of the second Wasco County Courthouse as well as a number of prominent residences in the bustling trading center of the mid-Columbia plateau. The subject property was taken into French family ownership in 1892 when it was acquired by merchant banker Daniel M. and Joshua W. French, brothers who in 1877 had founded the French and Company Bank, the leading banking house in the district.

Edward French was the son of Joshua French, one of a number of French brothers native to Vermont who came to The Dalles from California beginning in the 1860s. Edward H. French (1868-1936) was married to Alice Cluff of Boston in 1899.

The French and Company Bank had its origins in an early family-owned business relocated to The Dalles from San Francisco by Daniel and Joseph French and a cousin, Granville Gilman, in 1862. Discovery of gold in eastern Oregon in 1861 had attracted the merchant-entrepreneurs to the trading center at the head of navigation on the Columbia River. It was in 1864 that Joshua

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French joined his brothers and cousin in The Dalles. In 1867, Joshua and his older brother, Daniel, bought out the other interests in French and Gilman and formed the partnership of French and Company. After the company's mercantile assets were sold in 1875, the French brothers conducted a money lending and brokerage business. Then, in 1877, the brothers formed a banking house that grew and prospered in the heyday of freight hauling to the interior region of eastern Oregon and Washington and western Idaho. Even before French and Company was organized as a bank, the brothers' store operated informally as a bank in the gold rush era by accepting packets of gold dust in payment for extended credit.

After mining in eastern Oregon and Idaho declined, stock and wheat ranches spread over vast range lands to the south of the Columbia River. Huge wool clips and wheat yields were brought to The Dalles to be moved to worldwide markets. The grain mills, warehouses and salmon canneries that grew up along the riverfront were evidence of the vigor of the district's trading and banking center.

Edward H. French acceded as president of the district's revered pioneer banking institution at the turn of the century. Trained in electrical engineering, newly married and working in Boston in 1899, Edward had been urged by his ailing father, Joshua French, to return to The Dalles and assume leadership of the bank. Edward took charge at the height of a second period of general upbuilding and prosperity in the mid-Columbia port brought on by improved rail transportation. But, whereas the bank had held in the panic of the previous century, eventually it was ruined by several large loans the bank could not redeem, notable among which was \$50,000 to the Dufur Orchard Company organized in 1911 to establish an apple orchard on 4,000 marginally irrigated acres ultimately better suited to wheat growing. The bank closed in 1922. Its investors, dominated by the French family, pledged their personal worth to reduce the debt to depositors, but a run on the bank dropped assets below the legal limit and the institution never reopened. Over the next six to eight years, after Edward French and others liquidated holdings ranging from the bank building and assorted commercial properties in The Dalles to local subdivisions and timber tracts, the receivership was able to honor 97 percent of the claims.

Edward and Alice French lived the balance of their lives in the house on Liberty Street which they had occupied throughout Edward's career with French and Company Bank. The house is the only

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recognizable property remaining in The Dalles that is a direct link to the historic regional banking institution. The houses of Daniel M. French and Joshua French are no longer standing. While the structure of the French and Company Bank is understood to stand at 300 East Second Street in The Dalles Commercial Historic District, the Italianate bank building of 1878-1879 with its cast iron front was radically altered with a terra cotta-clad facade in the classical tradition in 1925. Known today as the Gayer Building, the property is counted a contributing feature of the registered historic district. The Edward French House is significant, therefore, under Criterion B as that place most importantly associated with the scion of a bank co-founder and the officer who presided over a second phase of the bank's growth--one which advanced agriculture and industry on the mid-Columbia plateau for 20 years before the solid record was eclipsed by misfortune.

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The Edward French home was designated a local landmark in 1981 by The Dalles Landmark Committee as the home of one of the members of the prominent banking family, and the last link to the dynamic French brothers, banking and economic scions of The Dalles in the late 1800's. A discussion of the French family and its influence on early The Dalles follows.

The house, originally built in 1865, was renovated and remodeled in the Italianate style by Architect C. J. Crandall approximately 1900.

The French family first took ownership of 515 Liberty in April 1892, according to Wasco County Court House records, in a transaction with C.C. Hobart and wife Mittie selling that property to D.M. and J.W. French for \$4000. The Hobarts had purchased it from James and Susan Warner in 1883 for \$1000. The first entry for this property at the Wasco Title Company is a sale by Robert B. Nixon in 1862; Nixon evidently took title from Victor Trevitt as the original purchaser of the newly platted and subdivided Trevitt's Addition.

FAMILY BACKGROUND:

The French brothers who took possession in 1892 were the French banking brothers: D.M. was Daniel M. French, born in Vermont in 1828 (d.1902), the senior member of what was to become French and Co. He migrated to Dalles City in 1862, and set up a general merchandise store in partnership with a cousin Granville B. Gilman and his two brothers, Joseph and Joshua French, who were both in San Francisco at that time.

Joshua W. French, younger brother of Daniel, was born in Holland, Vermont (1830), where he was educated and worked on farms. He migrated to California by sea in 1852, to join his brothers in mining and operating their ferry and business in San Francisco. There he met and married Laura Ellen Burke, from Maine, and followed Daniel to Dalles City in 1864 to engage in the mercantile and banking business.

He and Daniel bought out the other partners in Gillman and French, and the fortuitous partnership of French & Company was formed. They expanded into wholesale liquor and were listed as gold assayers; they backed the Empire Hotel in partnership with Tom Smith. They continued the general mercantile business at the northeast corner of Second and Washington until 1875 when they sold to Brooks and McFarland. Later this became McFarland and French when their younger brother, Smith French, came to Dalles City and bought in. As the business expanded, it moved east to the far end of that block, or the northwest corner of Second and Federal, and evolved into the E. C. Pease Company.

Adjoining the original mercantile store was a row of single story brick buildings built by the Frenches for the use of merchants. Five stores faced Second Street and one around the corner had frontage of Washington Street. This was known as the "L" building of the Frenches. One merchant, Ben Selling, went on to become a Portland millionaire.

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The two French brothers also ran a profitable money lending and brokerage company on the southeast corner of Second and Washington which "expanded by leaps and bounds and became the leading financial institution of eastern Oregon." (Now the location of Gayer Jewelers.) In 1867 the banking house of French and Company opened; capital stock was \$50,000, later increased to \$200,000. Originally a private bank, it was incorporated in 1908.

DANIEL M. FRENCH:

D.M. French is remembered by Pioneers for his confidence in the future of the Dalles and the support he gave to pioneer business men and farmers. He also was sought for advice on civic matters and helped many unfortunate families. He helped organize the Gillman-French Land and Livestock Co., one of the largest cattle companies in eastern Oregon. He helped organize the Arlington National Bank. He helped organize the Wasco Warehouse Co. and helped them expand into the flour milling business here in The Dalles.

It is worthy of note, that even before they were in the banking business, their store was an "unofficial bank" of The Dalles during the gold mining days of 1862-72, like the Umatilla House and Gov. Z.F. Moody; and the miners of Canyon City used to label their gold pouches to French Brothers...and send them in by stage or freight wagons where the French Brothers would receive them, without giving any receipts therefore, and credit the gold dust to the senders name--often without even knowing or having ever seen the man before. Later that fall or early winter the sender, if living, would come into The Dalles to spend the winter "closer to civilization" and to spend his money on wine, women and song and go back to the mines broke the next spring. The French Brothers turned their gold over to Wells Fargo who shipped it to the mint at San Francisco.

The bank, formed in 1867 "grew up" with the community and was for many years called upon to finance every enterprise that ever started in The Dalles. It was managed by shrewd business men and so firmly established that when it was known that if a firm was backed by French & Co., it was sure to succeed. The bank went through many trying periods including the panic of 1893-94, at which time they held hundreds of mortgages on ranches on which crops were poor and prices worse. The bank could have taken the farms, for the farmers could not even pay the interest, let alone anything on the principal. However, the bank continued to advance farm loans until better prices prevailed, and the same policy applied to Dalles business houses. Farmers and merchants never forgot the kindness of the banking

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firm of French and Co. Daniel and Joshua French have always been regarded by pioneers as being among the most outstanding men in the history of Wasco County. (McNeal's History of Wasco County)

JOSHUA W. FRENCH:

Joshua was the director of the Arlington bank, Wasco Mill and many Dalles institutions which helped The Dalles grow. He married Ellen Burke, and their children were Nellie (Mrs. Virgil Bolton), Edward French, and Vivian French, who became a bank director in the family corporation, was Vice-President at the time of the bank's closure in 1922.

EDWARD FRENCH:

Edward French, then, was born into an affluent and prominent family in Dalles City in 1869. An electrical engineer, he was working for General Electric in Boston where he met and married Alice Cluff June 1, 1899. His father, in failing health, insisted Edward come back to Oregon and take over as President of the bank. He brought his bride to Dalles City and they lived with his parents for several months while they searched for a home. They decided on the house at 515 Liberty, and the deed for \$2500 was made out to him October 6, 1900. The deed had been transferred to the French brothers in 1892 for \$4000 from Charles and Mittie Hobart. Two local sources said it was to satisfy a debt with the bank, but records so far do not indicate that detail.

The home of Edward and Alice is today one of the best surviving examples of Italianate architecture in the community. The Frenches retained C. J. Crandall, a leading architect of the period to remodel the house for them. One of the structures Crandall is noted for is the second Wasco County Court House, still in use, at Fifth and Washington, "A monument in marble and granite which had not been equalled at the time of his death in 1917."

The years Edward served as bank president, 1899 to 1922, were prosperous times for The Dalles and Wasco County. The Dalles 1910 City Directory states:

Businessmen here are among the wealthiest in the state, as railroad construction brought in large sums of money for labor, supplies and transportation. These are the best years since the gold rush of the 1860 period.

The government ran on a cash basis with no bond issues and the population doubled since 1883, to 7000. A small article in the April 1911 Dalles Chronicle stated the French & Co. Bank just installed the first electric Burroughs adding machine in Eastern Oregon. The bank also incorporated in 1909 and continued to prosper, diversifying into agriculture, real estate and land development.

Edward French was a devoted Victorian, a storybook character. Edward treated his Boston bride, Alice, with utmost respect and was very formal in his own home. Alice Cluff French was a DAR, he a Mason, and they were both

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members of the Eastern Stars. "The Frenches were the Masonic Lodge." Their only child, J. Ward was born in 1909. At their impressive home on Liberty Street, Edward sat at the head of the table and served, always giving a larger portion to Ward, considered "plump" by that day's standards. Ward spent many hours in the kitchen being entertained by the family cook, O'Li, and helped him catch fresh fish for dinner from the large pond in the back yard. Ward was originally groomed to take over the family banking business, but that was not to be:

BANK FAILURE:

The prosperity of the French dynasty ended February 23, 1922 with the closing of the French & Co. Bank. A 1979 account by Paul Weigelt, bank teller at the time of closure, relates the following:

The principal cause of the bank's closing was the fact that it held some large loans it was unable to collect. An interview with Murl Grizzel, former employee, recalled a \$50,000 loan to M. A. Leonardo, sheep rancher in Dallesport, Washington, across the river from The Dalles. Also a loan of \$50,000 to the Dufur Orchard Company. The DOC was organized in 1911 by the Churchill-Matthews Company and contained about 4,000 acres. It was claimed to be the largest apple orchard in the western United States. The varieties included Newtowns, Johnathans, Winter Bananas and Spitzbergen. In 1922 it went into receivership with A.P. Churchill in charge. The trees were pulled out and the land was planted in wheat. The land was not suited to growing apples because of insufficient moisture. It was a doomed venture planting apples in dry wheat land. Mr. Churchill must have been a good promoter.

An account from the Oregonian two days after the closure gave hope that the doors would reopen: (2/25/22)

The private fortunes of the French families, estimated to be considerably in excess of \$500,000 will be thrown into the breach to prevent loss by depositors of the French and Co. Bank, the doors of which were closed Thursday morning according to O. B. Robertson, the state bank examiner: "Under ordinary circumstances I would hesitate in my official capacity to make a statement such as I shall now make pertaining to the French and Co., bankers, but I do not consider this case an ordinary one. I firmly and sincerely believe that this institute will reopen for business within a period of ten to 15 days and perhaps sooner.

"I base my conclusions on the fact that the stockholders of the bank represent heavy financial interest in other lines, and they have turned over to me outside assets aggregating approximately

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one-half million dollars with instructions that I negotiate a loan against these assets in a sufficient sum to liquidate all of the slow and doubtful paper under criticism by the state banking department. There is nothing to prevent putting the institution in first-class shape provided a loan can be obtained on the securities to which I have above referred and I feel quite positive it can be done.

It is really a pleasure to me to state that the French families are willing and anxious to sacrifice their private fortunes for the purpose of preventing a loss to their depositors. In view of their attitude in the matter I feel that the depositors should refrain from making permanent banking connection in other quarters for after this bank reopens with the bad and doubtful assets eliminated, it will be an institution thoroughly worthy of the support and patronage of its old clients."

But the doors remained closed. The Chronicle reported that the French & Co. Bank of The Dalles would not reopen after the examination made by the State Banking department: "A "run" caused heavy withdrawals that depleted their available resources below the legal limit. It was generally considered that none of the depositors would lose anything. The closing of the bank caused a "wave of sadness over The Dalles", as the (sic) was formed in 1867 and "grew up" with the community..."

In a 1928 Chronicle article, some of the French Holdings sold by liquidation that year included the Court (Commodore) Apartments, five stores on Second Street, the bank building, The Dalles Meat company, Chenoweth Home tracts, Fruitland Park tracts, a residence, grazing and timber lands in Sherman, Lincoln and Wasco Counties. According to Weigelt, former employee, the receivership paid the depositors 97 per cent of their claims, an unusually high rate. And the last banking article, September 28, 1931, states:

"Final liquidation of the French and Company bank showing unpaid claims of \$78,495 was received and the failure of the institution and the subsequent litigation closed today by Judge Fred W. Wilson in Circuit Court."

#### WARD FRENCH:

Edward and Alice lived on in the Liberty Street House, with visits from their only child Ward. He was sent to Hill's Military Academy in Portland from 12 years of age, then to college at Oregon State University where he studied chemistry with the aspiration of a military career. But he was not

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accepted into the military because of varicose veins. One of 12 who graduated from OSU in Chemistry, he came back to The Dalles and was hired by the Stadleman Fruit Company which was having trouble with the maraschino cherry brine. The cherries, when bleached then re-dyed, "bled." Ward was the chemist who developed the method of bleaching and dyeing without any bleed. He worked as a chemist at St. Helens and Seattle, and as the depression deepened, went to sea on a freighter. Except for visits to The Dalles, Ward never lived in the family home as an adult.

THE LAST YEARS:

When Edward died in 1936, his widow, Alice, stayed in the Liberty Street House and was cared for by her niece, Henrietta Arends, until she went to a rest home. She died in 1970 at the age of 96.

In 1968, niece Henrietta, acting as conservator for Alice French, sold the French family home to Homer and Evelyn Egbert for use as a rental.

AFTER THE FRENCH FAMILY:

The Egberts then sold to John Lundell in 1973 who also used the house as a rental until it was renovated for commercial use in 1979. In 1980 Cal McDermid and Margaret Perrot leased the building and completed renovation for the French House Restaurant. In bringing the home to commercial code standards, the historic quality was retained where there was no conflict and much of the original detail is intact.

In 1987 the restaurant closed and the building remained vacant until it was reopened in September 1991 by Holt Holdings, Inc. as the Wasco House, an elegant eating place. Prior to opening, a cedar deck was added to the west end of the upper level and those supports and the sign supports were made to match the original trim on the front porch of the house. Other than wall insulation, storm windows and new paint, very few changes have been made since the 1979 remodel.

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Notes on C. J. Crandall, designer, carpenter, architect, undertaker and skilled musician:

A native Oregonian, Charles Jesse Crandall was born in Silverton August 7, 1858, to Ray and Jane Huyck Crandall. The 1883 Dalles City directory listed Crandall as a carpenter. The same reference noted the Dalles City population was 3000, double from the 1500 recorded five years earlier. The second Wasco County Court House, still in use, at Fifth and Washington is one of his better known works.

Charles' father, R.W. Crandall was famous as a stair-builder, and built the fanciful circular stairway in the mansion later known as Neyce's Folly. It later burned to the ground.

In 1892, he married the widow, Lulu Sampson, daughter of the State Senator from Dalles City, and local historian in her own right. In 1990 Fort Dalles Museum in The Dalles published an Autobiography of Lulu D. Crandall, extracted from The Dalles Chronicle by Anita K. Drake.

Lulu Crandall served as secretary for both the Oregon and Washington State Historical Societies and for the National Historic Society; she also helped organize Old Fort Dalles Historical Society and Old Wasco County Pioneers Association. She named Col. Wright school after "that sturdy Indian fighter."

Lulu helped her husband with his trade, an undertaking parlor at 85 Union Street, a later location of Smith and Callaway Funeral Parlor. The 1910 Dalles Directory lists C. J. Crandall as architect for the Courthouse and proprietor of Crandall Undertaking.

Lulu managed the undertaking parlor after his death (1917) until 1928, when she temporarily moved to her daughter's home in Idaho to recuperate from an arthritis attack. During this stay she wrote her autobiography, which is also a history of Wasco County. She died in 1931.

While Crandall did not build the original structure at 515 Liberty, he was enlisted to remodel it in 1900 for Edward French and his Boston bride, Alice Cluff.

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**Deed Transfers**

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1862	R.B. Nixon to A. J. Nixon
6/16/63	Robert B. Nixon to L. H. Lonsdale
12/30/64	L. H. Lonsdale to Mary Jeffreys
11/9/87	Mary Jeffreys to Susan Henderson
10/17/83 \$1000	Susan Henderson Warner and James Warner to C.C. Hobart and wife Mittie F.
4/11/1892 \$4000	Charles C. and Mittie F. Hobart to D.M. and J.W. French
10/6/1900 \$2500	D.M. and S.A. French, husband and wife J.W. and L.E. French, husband and wife To: Edward French and heirs (in presence of Elizabeth French)
6/1/68	Henrietta Arends, conservator for Alice French to Homer and Evelyn Egbert
1/28/76	Homer and Evelyn Egbert to John and Donna Lundell
9/15/88	John and Donna Lundell to Dave Grassi, who later took a partner, Jack Bryant, then sold out his interest to Bryant
8/27/91	Jack Bryant to Bill V. and Jan Mlnarik-Holt

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Autobiography of Lulu D. Crandall, extracted from The Dalles Chronicle by Anita K. Drake, The Dalles, Oregon, Fort Dalles Museum, 1990.

History of Wasco County, McNeal, W. H., unpublished manuscript, The Dalles City Library, The Dalles, Oregon, 195-.

The Dalles Chronicle, The Dalles, various dates. Some clippings attached.

The Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, February 25, 1922.

The Dalles City Historical Inventory, City Planning Office

Wasco County Courthouse deed records, Clerk's Office

Interviews with:

John Lundell, former owner, former mayor of The Dalles, and member of The Dalles City Landmarks Commission

Henrietta Cluff Arends, niece of Alice Cluff French

Gladys Seufert, local historian, author and member of The Dalles City Landmarks Commission

Elza Zimmer, sister of Mrs. Ward French, only daughter-in-law of Edward and Alice French

Edna Weigelt, sister of Paul Weigelt, French & Co. bank teller

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**Photographs:**

1. 1905 photo showing three views of the French House: directly across Liberty Street looking west, looking southwest and looking south, up Liberty Street from Fourth.
2. Camera on Liberty Street, facing northwest, showing French House in relation to neighborhood.
3. View from hill at rear of French House property, facing southeast, showing deck at rear and northside bay windows.
4. French House with camera facing southwest during painting, 1991.
5. Bay windows of French House on north side of house.
6. North side of house.
7. Stair well interior of house, showing coffin niche in wall.
8. Parlour, showing bay window from inside, note original medallion on ceiling.
9. Upstairs front room which faces east and was originally son Ward's bedroom. His bed was in alcove at upper right.

All current views of the Edward French House, 515 Liberty Street in The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon, were taken by the property owner, Jan Mlnarik-Holt, who holds the negatives at 606 Washington Street, The Dalles, OR 97058. The photographs, with the exception of the assemblage of historic views of 1905, were taken in 1991.

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Boundary Description

The nominated area is located in NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 3, T. 1N., R. 13E., Willamette Meridian, in The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon. It is identified as Tax Lot 6000 at said location and is more particularly described as follows.

Commencing at a point on the west side of Liberty Street one hundred ninety five (195) feet, southerly from the northeast corner of Block number three (3) in Trevitt's Addition to Dalles City, Oregon: thence at right angles with Liberty Street and westerly one hundred fifty (150) feet; thence southerly and at right angles with last named line fifty five (55) feet, thence easterly and at right angles with last named line one hundred fifty (150) feet to the west side of Liberty Street, thence northerly along the westerly line of Liberty Street 55 feet to the place of beginning being and lying in that certain tract of land purchased by Dalles City from the United States of America, for the several use and benefit of the occupants thereof, according to their respective interests, and being a part of the northwest one fourth of Section 3 in Township One North of Range 13 East Willamette Meridian in Dalles City, Wasco County, Oregon.

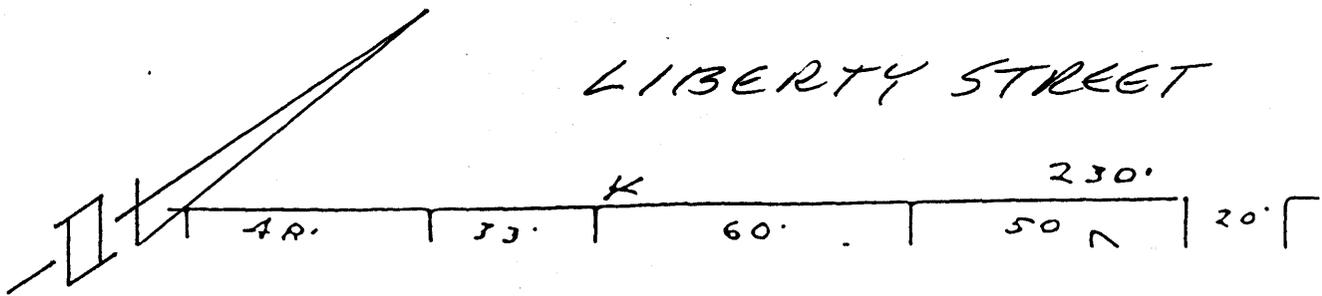
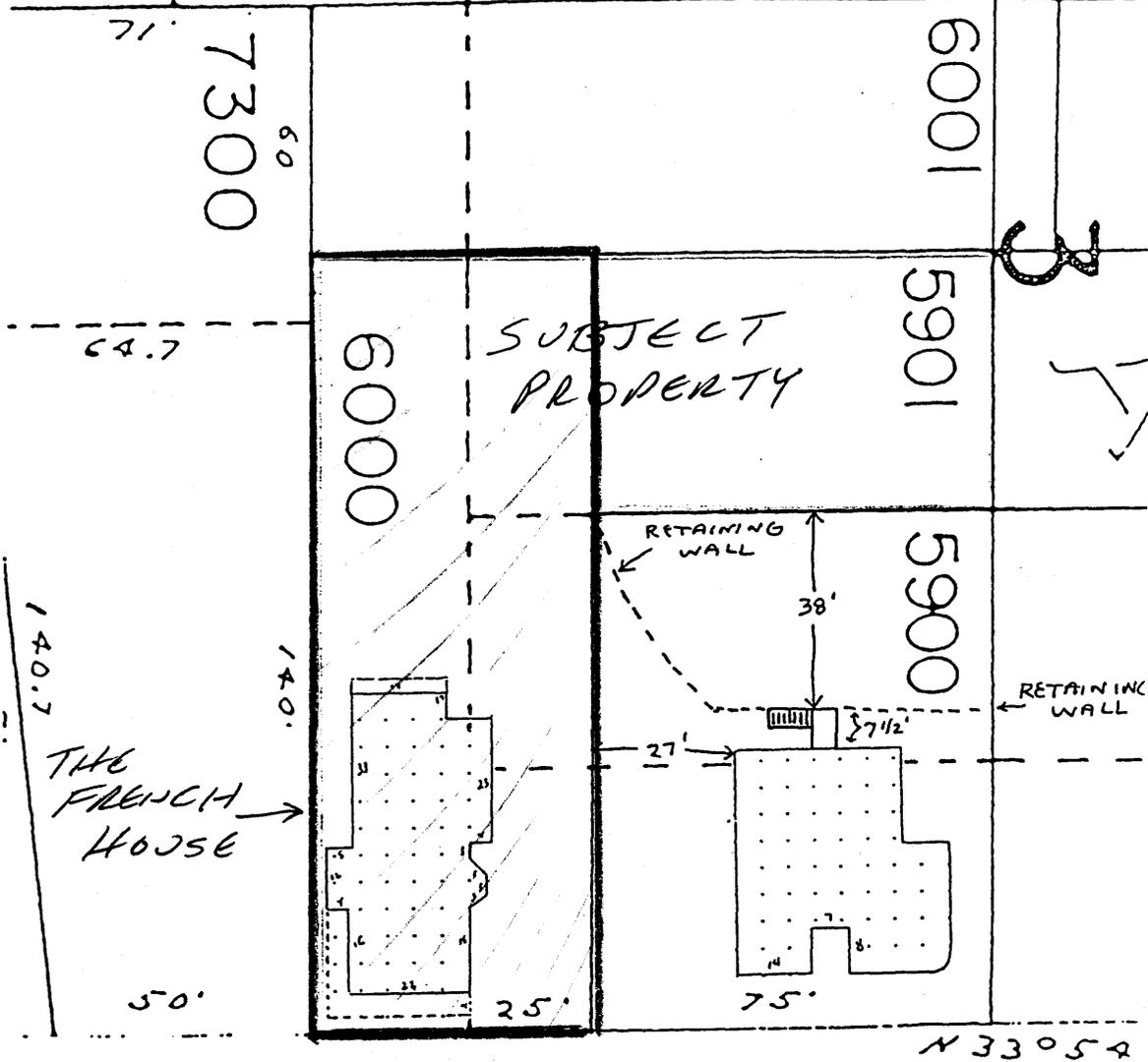
Boundary Justification

The nominated parcel is the entire improved tax lot conveyed to D. M. French and J. W. French by Charles C. and Mitty Hobart in 1892. It is the full extent of the property occupied by Edward H. French, with his wife, Alice, from 1900 to 1936. An adjoining parcel (Tax Lot 5901) was only recently associated by its acquisition for parking purposes. The latter tax lot is not included in the nominated area.



FRENCH, EDWARD, HOUSE THE DALLES, WASH CO, OREGON 220.

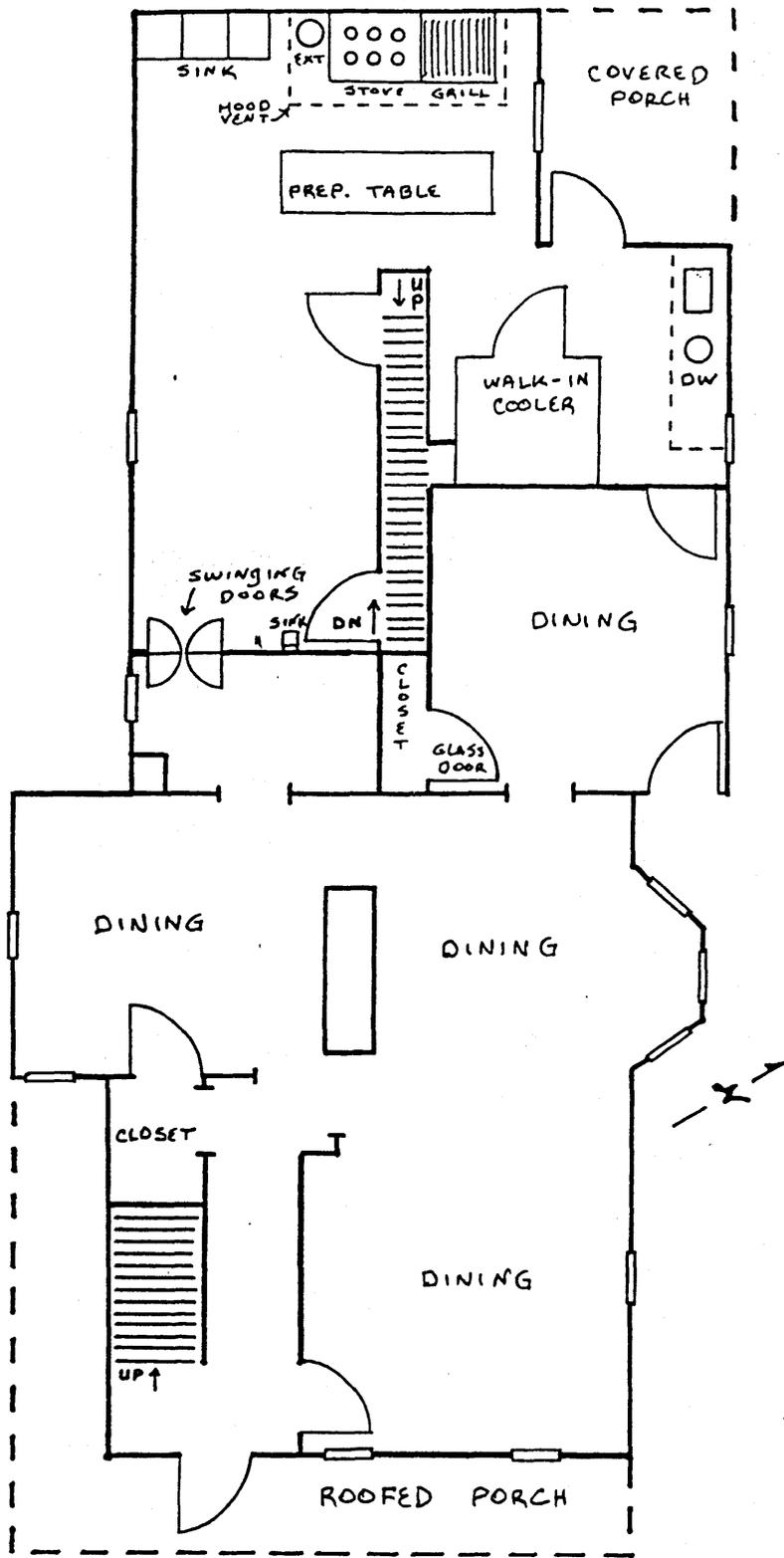
DEC 02  
STATE PARKS &  
RECREATION DEPARTMENT



APPROXIMATE SCALE 1" : 30'

RECEIVED  
DEC 02 1931  
STATE PARKS AND  
RECREATION DEPARTMENT

FLOOR PLAN

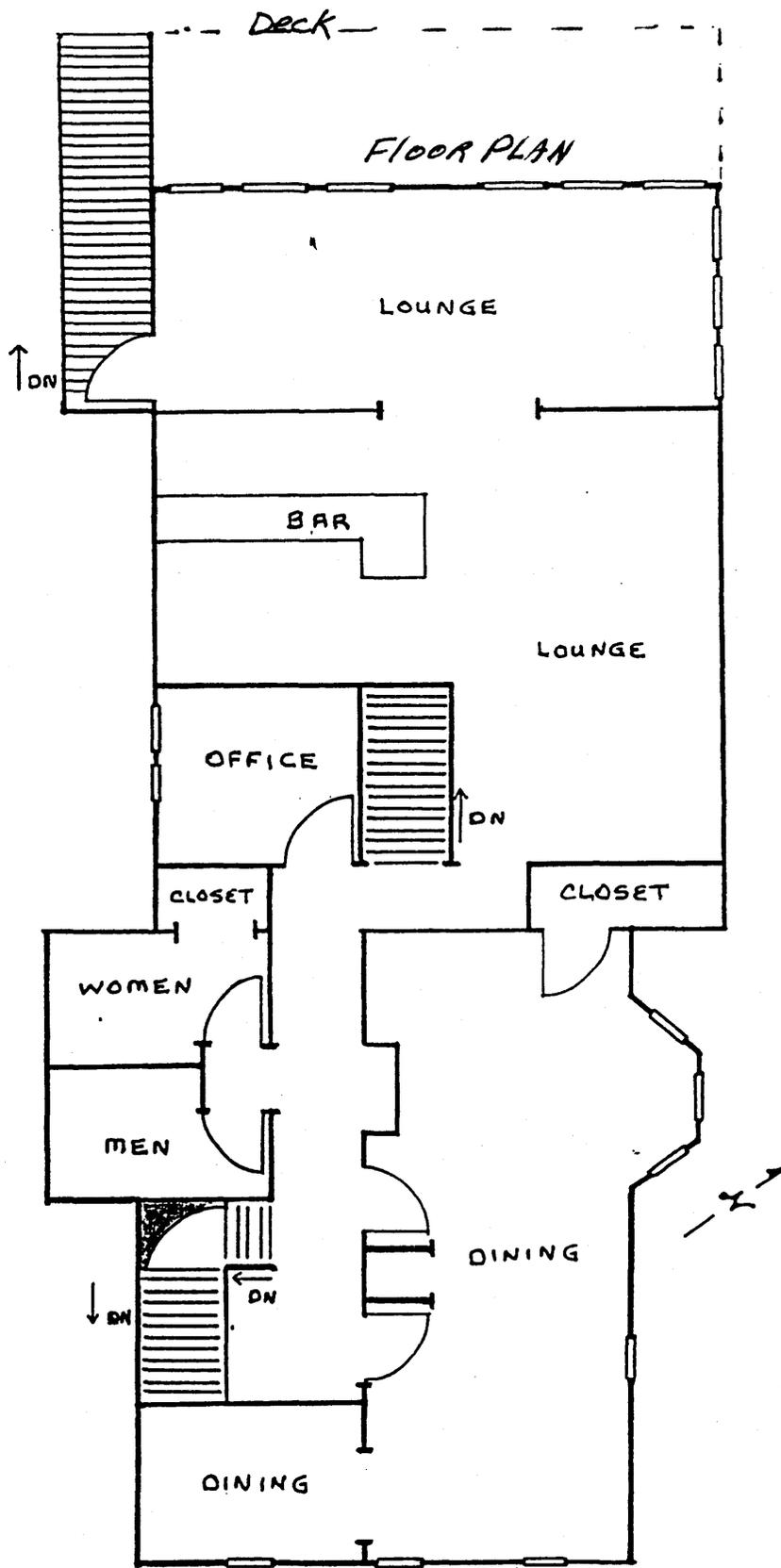


main level

French, Edward, Home

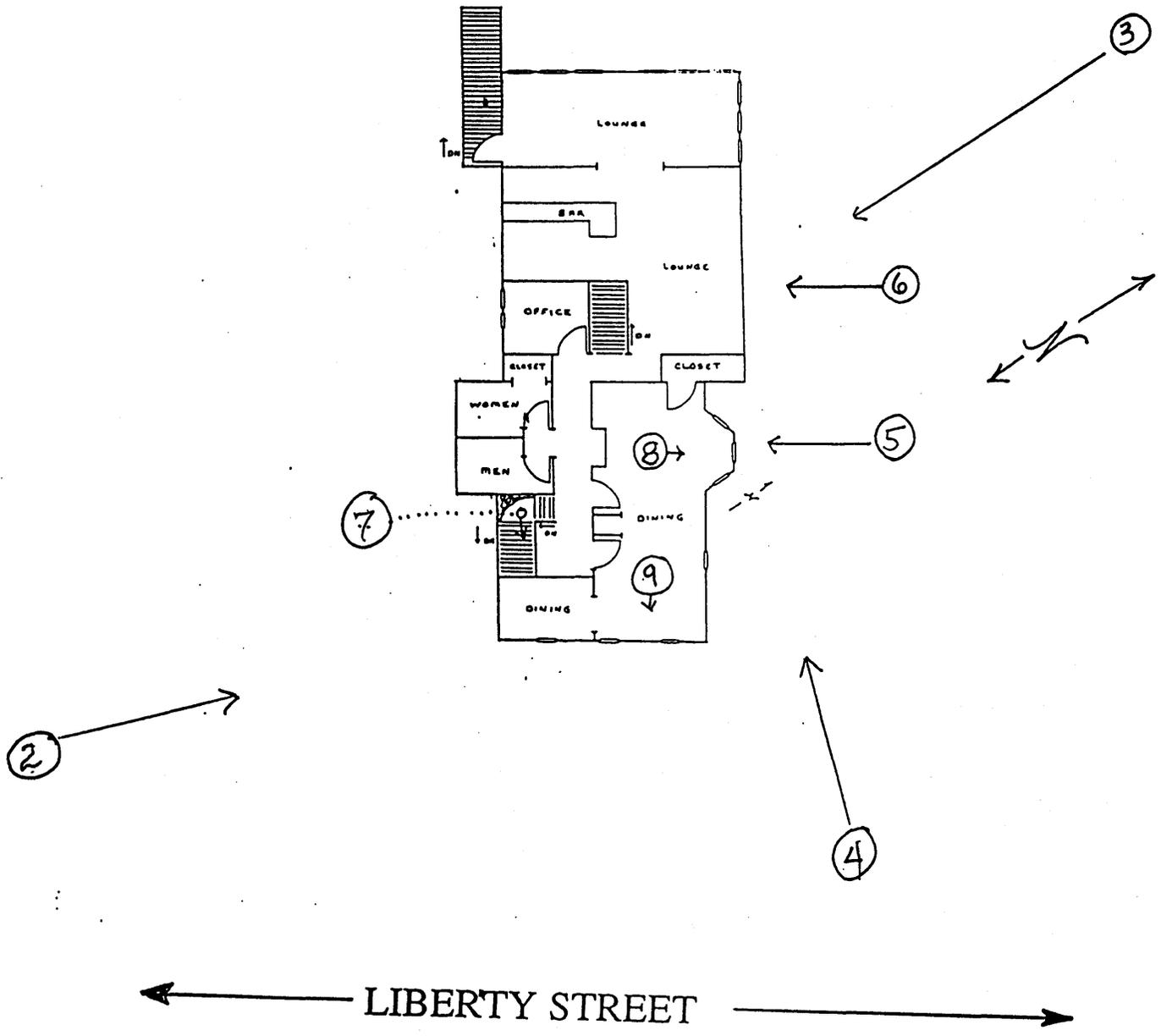
THE DALLES, OR WASC

RECEIVED  
DEC 02 1931  
STATE PARKS AND  
RECREATION DEPARTMENT



upper level

PHOTO SKETCH MAP:



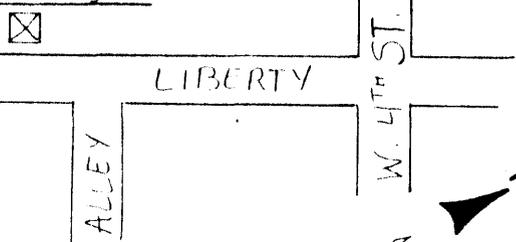
RECEIVED  
NOV 02 1981  
PLANNING AND  
RECORDS DEPARTMENT

THE DALLES, OREGON HISTORICAL LANDMARKS COMMISSION INVENTORY FORM

1. NAME (Common & Historic)  
The French House

2. HISTORIC DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

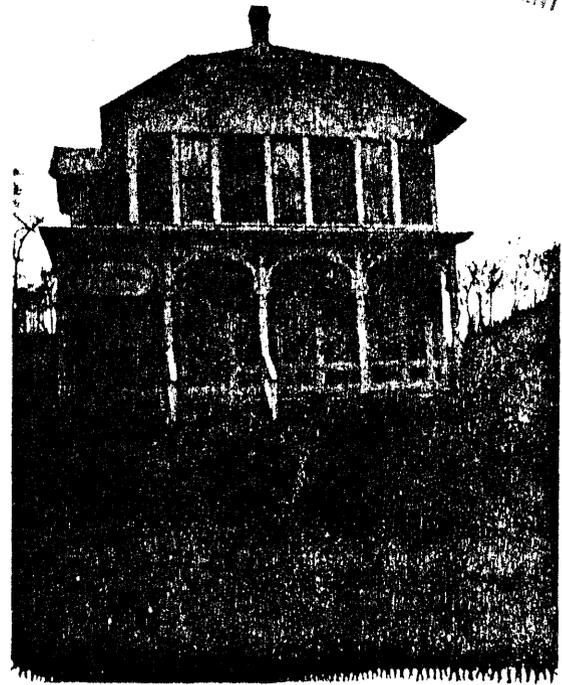
3. LOCATION (present)  
1/4 Section B Lots 3  
Block 3 Addition Trevitt's  
Address 515 Liberty Street  
County Wasco  
Location Diagram



X  
City Park

Zoning Commercial  
Original Location Same

Date Moved \_\_\_\_\_  
Site Endangered By \_\_\_\_\_



4. CONSTRUCTION DATE \_\_\_\_\_ ARCHITECT C.J. Crandall  
ORIGINAL USE Residence ORIGINAL OWNER Edward French  
PRESENT USE Resturant PRESENT OWNER John & Donna Lundell

5. STYLE Single Italianate PRESENT CONDITION Excellent  
CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS Stick (wood) style balloon frame with single extended bays

6. HISTORICAL SUMMARY (Significance, physical history, events, personages)  
First part of house probably built circa 1865, remodeled and enlarged by Edward French circa 1895- Architect C.J. Crandall. Edward French was President of French and Co. Bank. Son of one of the founders, he held this position until the bank closed its doors in 1922. Edward's father and uncles, financial backers of The Dalles, were outstanding men in our history.

7. SOURCES OF INFORMATION Wasco County Clerk, Title Co., John Lundell, W.H. McNeal's "History of Wasco County"

8. OTHER LANDMARK DESIGNATION (State, Federal) \_\_\_\_\_

9. INVENTORIED BY: INDIVIDUAL Jada Gay ORGANIZATION Landmarks Commission  
ADDRESS 1820 Liberty Way  
DATE December 1, 1980

THE DALLES, OREGON HISTORICAL LANDMARKS COMMISSION INVENTORY FORM

1. NAME (Common & Historic)

O.D. Taylor

2. HISTORIC DISTRICT None

3. LOCATION (present)

1/4 Section 1N 13E 3CB

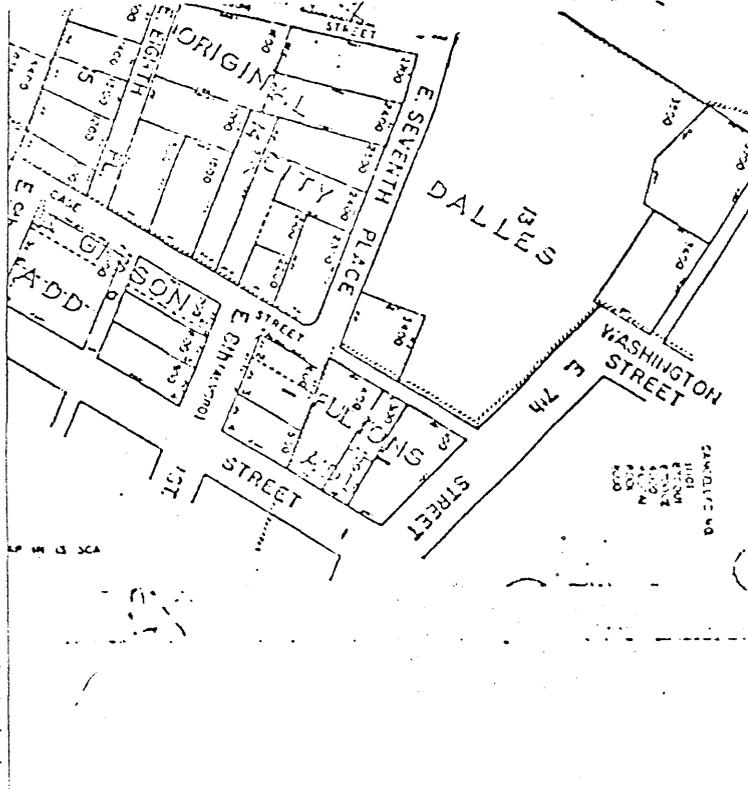
Lots #400

Addition \_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_

Address 704 Case Street

County Wasco

Location Diagram



Zoning R-3

Original Location Yes

Date Moved \_\_\_\_\_

Site Endangered By \_\_\_\_\_

4. CONSTRUCTION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL USE Residence

PRESENT USE Residence

ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL OWNER O.D. Taylor

PRESENT OWNER Eric Gleason/Jackie Cheung

5. STYLE \_\_\_\_\_

CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT CONDITION Good

6. HISTORICAL SUMMARY (Significance, physical history, events, personages)

The Reverend O.D. Taylor arrived in The Dalles in 1881 from Orange New Jersey as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of The Dalles. He became a partner with Donald Ross another Baptist minister in a real estate scam known as the Interstate Investment Co., which sold building lots in a non-existing town called Grand Dalles to gullible easterners. He was indicted on sixty counts of embezzlement and was defended by George H. Williams former U.S. Senator and Attorney General during the Grant administration, who was able to get the charges dismissed through a technicality. O.D. Taylor moved to Baker, OR in 1903 where he continued to participate in questionable real estate & mining activities.

7. SOURCES OF INFORMATION \_\_\_\_\_

8. OTHER LANDMARK DESIGNATION (State, Federal) \_\_\_\_\_

9. INVENTORIED BY: INDIVIDUAL \_\_\_\_\_ ORGANIZATION City of The Dalles

ADDRESS 313 Court St.

Historic Landmark Comm.

DATE April 19, 1990