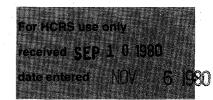
### United States Department of the Interior **Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

### **National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form**



not for publication

museum

religious scientific transportation

other:

park

code 065

private residence

2nd

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

#### 1, Name

Thompson, John L. House historic

and/or common

#### Location 2.

street & number 209 West Third Street

city, town The Dalles

county

congressional district

Wasco

vicinity of

Oregon state

code 41

### **Classification** 3.

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
district	public	_X_ occupied	agriculture
<u>    X     building(s)</u>	<u>    X                                </u>	unoccupied	_X_ commercial
structure	both	work in progress	educational
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	entertainment
object	in process	_X yes: restricted	government
	being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial
,		no	military

### **Owner of Property** 4.

name Barbara S. Bailey

Route 2, Box 146-A street & number

The Dalles city, town

vicinity of

state Oregon 97058

# Location of Legal Description

Wasco County Courthouse courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

5th and Washington street & number

The Dalles city, town

state Oregon 97058

### **Representation in Existing Surveys** 6.

title City of The Dalles Historical Landmark has this property been determined elegible? \_ves 👗 no

date 1979

federal state county \_\_X\_local

depository for survey records City of The Dalles Planning Office

The Dalles city, town

Oregon 97058 state

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Che
$\underline{X}$ excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	<u> </u>
good	ruins	X_ altered	
fair	unexposed		

**Check one**X original site
moved date

#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John L. Thompson House occupies a 50x100-foot lot fronting West Third Street in downtown The Dalles. As initially constructed in 1889, it was a single-story, gable-roofed and clapboarded frame house, L-shaped in plan, with the main volume oriented toward the south and situated laterally on the lot. Within the main volume, interior spaces were arranged around a central hall.

In 1897 the house was enlarged by a 2<sup>1</sup><sub>2</sub>-story parlor-bedroom addition to the front which was treated with the full vocabulary of Queen Anne ornament. The "new" wing, also situated laterally on the lot, expanded overall dimensions of the house to 32x60 feet. The gableroofed wing is clad with 6-inch cedar drop siding. The facade is organized with apparent asymmetry characteristic of the Queen Anne Style. The cross-gable projecting section, or pavilion housing the parlor on the south side of the facade is offset on the north side by a square corner tower with pyramidal roof and finial, the whole of which is set at an angle to the main wall plane. In between these features is a single story porch with central pedimented gablet, the typmpanum of which is filled with carved ornament in urn and foliate motif which simulates pargetry. An historic view of the later 1890s shows that this gablet originally had roof ridge cresting and finial, whereas the main roof ridges, apparently, did not. Turned porch posts have fan brackets, railings have turned balusters, and the frieze is of spindle work. The front door is not aligned with the center of the porch, but rather with the central hall. The gable end of the parlor pavilion and the blind third story of the corner tower are faced with imbricated shingles. Typical windows are double hung with one over one lights, grouped in pairs. The parlor has a larger "picture" window with top light with leaded arabesque. Framements of the latter and ground story windows in the corner tower are surmounted by solid, curvilinear crests. The outer, or southwest corner of the parlor pavilion is beveled for a window opening, which is shaded by skirting of fan brackets and spindle work suspended from the angle of the walls above. Rectangular openings in the gable end and in the wall above the porch have leaded glass in varied diaper patterns. There are two flare-top brick chimneys which break the north slope of the roof of the main volume.

A coursed ashlar foundation of Mid-Columbia basalt extends around the entire perimeter of the building and appears to have been laid at the time the house was enlarged in 1897. Originally, the door yard was lined with a picket fence with gate aligned with the porch steps. The fence has not been standing for many years.

Arranged around the central hall, interior spaces include front and back parlors on the west side and front and back bedchambers and kitchen on the east side of the hall. The kitchen was the rear room on the east, according to Miss Victoria Thompson, neice of the original occupant. When the house was converted to boarding house use after the Second World War, the rooms were subdivided and ceilings were lowered. The original room configuration has been restored in the rehabilitation undertaken recently by the present owner. Noteworthy features of the interior include: a hardwood column screen with paneled base dividing the two parlors, a pine corner closet in one of the downstairs bedrooms, a birch stair railing, window frame corner blocks of cedar gouged in a floral motif, four-panel doors with original black parcelain knobs and chased brass plates, and a claw-footed bathtub. Eleven-foot ceiling heights have been restored throughout, and, where possible, remnants of the carved ceiling molding were pieced together and replaced. The leaded stained glass windows were resoldered. A 6x10-foot lean-to addition on the rear of the ell which had been clad with sheet metal was removed, and a porch deck with railing echoing that of the front porch was added in its place. Other recent improvements included code work, such as rewiring, addition of insulation, and replacement of the individual gas heaters dating from Bost War boarding house days.

# 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture A architecture art commerce communications	heck and justify below community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement industry invention	Iandscape architectur Iaw Iterature military music philosophy politics/government	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)

### Specific dates 1889-1897

Builder/Architect Unknown

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The house built for John L. Thompson on West Third Street--a main thoroughfare-in the heart of downtown The Dalles first took shape in 1889 as a modest, one-story vernacular house. It was enlarged by a fashionable  $2\frac{1}{2}$  story Queen Anne Style addition across the front in 1897. The Thompson House and the neighboring two-story house of Victor Trevitt, similarly updated with Queen Anne details, are the last historic dwellings remaining in the core of the business district. The Thompson House is significant as one of the most visible of landmarks designated under authority of local ordinance, one which demonstrates the evolutionary character of domestic architecture on the frontier, and one which is an outstanding example of the Queen Anne Style in The Dalles. The house is noteworthy also for its association with John L. Thompson, who, upon his arrival at the bustling portage town on the Mid-Columbia River in 1869, built a successful career at the blacksmith trade.

The Dalles, legendary gateway to the Willamette Valley for west-bound Oregon Trail immigrants, and gateway to the inland empire for miners, military men, and east-bound homesteaders, was a town full of promise for industrious tradesmen during the 1860s. One such hopeful arrival of 1869 was John L. Thompson, who opened a blacksmith shop at Third and Madison Streets and prospered.

In 1873, according to deed records, Thompson purchased a 50x100-foot lot on Third Street seven blocks west of his blacksmith shop. Here he planned construction of a house for his wife,Margaret, and four daughters. In 1889, according to insurance records, the initial construction--a one-story, gable-roofed frame house L-shaped in plan--was completed. The house survived the fire of 1891 which destroyed much of the downtown. Tax records show that what is today the main volume of the house--the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story Queen Anne front addition--was completed and first assessed in 1897.

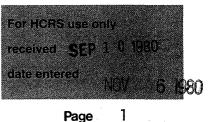
The Thompson House was occupied by Laura Thompson, one of Thompson's daughters, until 1949. Thereafter, it became a boarding house. It was acquired by the present owner in 1979 and restored for professional office use.

		I References
		he Old Wasco County Pioneers' Association, The Da
hompson, Miss Victor Records at Wasco Titl	ria, niece of John L. le Inc. 512 Washingto	. Thompson, interviewed in The Dalles, January 19 on, The Dalles, Oregon, July 1979. (Continued)
10. Geograp	ohical Data	ACKEAGE NUI VERIFIED
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Verbal boundary descrip Lot 3, Block 1, Trev T. 1N., R. 13E., W.M	itt's Addition to The	ne Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon. NW4, NW4, Sec. 3
List all states and count	ies for properties overla	apping state or county boundaries
state	code	county code
state	code	county code
11. Form Pr	epared By	
name/title Barbara Bat	ilev	
organization		date March 20, 1980
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### United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

### National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Thompson, John L. House Item number 9



Records of Thomas Hudson, 418 W. 2nd Place, The Dalles, early realtor and insurance agent.

Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties, Wasco County, 1976. Inventory sheets on Thompson House and neighboring house built for Victor Trevitt, Stephen Dow Beckham.