

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received OCT 31 1985

date entered

DEC 2 1985

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

1. Name

historic Woods and Caples General Store Number of contributing resources: 2

and/or common Grove Furniture Store Number of non-contributing resources: 0

2. Location

street & number 2020 Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Forest Grove N/A vicinity of First Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Washington code 067

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mordechai and Brenda Pilcevich

street & number 3004 NW Forest Gale Drive

city, town Forest Grove N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97116

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

street & number 150 North First Avenue

city, town Hillsboro state Oregon 97124

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title City of Forest Grove Inventory of Historic and Cultural Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date May, 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Forest Grove Planning Department, City Hall

city, town Forest Grove state Oregon 97116

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____ N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Woods & Caples General Store, currently known as Grove Furniture Store is a two-story brick commercial building in the Italianate style. Constructed in 1893, the store is located amid a block of commercial buildings of compatible age and style in downtown Forest Grove, Oregon. A detached, one-story brick warehouse was constructed on the rear of the lot in 1913. At this time the storefront was altered. Otherwise, the building retains its original design and construction materials.

Located on the west side of Main Street, the store is found in the Northwest quarter of Section 6, Township 1 South, Range 3 West of the Willamette Meridian, Washington County, Oregon. Occupying a 40.5' x 150' lot, it is otherwise known as Tax Lot 2300 of Block 2, original plat of Forest Grove.

Rectangular in plan, the building is characterized by its dominant exterior elevation, whose main feature is a set of three projecting bays on the second floor. As originally constructed, storefront openings appeared beneath each bay. This configuration changed in 1913 when the property changed hands. All original material was removed to the first beltcourse and a recessed, double-entrance storefront installed. Composed of wood-framed single panes over a shallow bulkhead, the windows lead on a diagonal to the entrance wall, consisting of glass-paneled doors set between a large sheet of glass. Iron columns appear to be a later addition.

Framing the later storefront and rising to the upper cornice are brick Italianate pilasters, decorated with modillions. A dentiled beltcourse appears above the storefront and an intermediate cornice with diminutive brackets extends across each projecting bay. The bays are composed of paired one-over-one, double-hung sash on the front elevation, and narrower one-over-one, double-hung sash on the side. Raised panels and beaded moldings are additional decorative elements on the bays, which are surrounded by a painted, galvanized sheet metal wall covering.

The modest upper cornice is typical of buildings of the Italianate style, being composed of beltcourses and a bracketed frieze below a narrow pent roof.

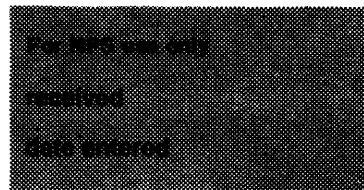
Side walls are party walls, also in brick. The rear elevation of the 1893 portion of the building is composed of several windows, mostly two-over-two, double-hung sash in wooden frames with elliptical arches. An upper level door which once led to an exterior stair is missing.

Chimneys are found on the north and south sides of the building and the flat roof is covered with tar. Approximately ten feet of space exists between the store building and the brick outbuilding of 1913, which functions as a warehouse and garage. Rectangular in plan, it is divided lengthwise by a centered brick wall. On the west wall, which dates to 1948, a stepped parapet gives visual interest. A wooden sliding door appears on the southwest portion of the wall.

The first floor of the 1893 store presents an open plan, with a mezzanine extending around the north, west and south walls.

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Access to the mezzanine is gained through a stair centered on the west mezzanine. The mezzanine is suspended by 23 iron rods which are imbedded in the ceiling.

The main floor is divided by six massive wood columns. The most easterly was cut off to accommodate the new storefront, c. 1913. The columns have turned work and terminate at sawn decorative brackets which support the second floor structural system.

At the rear end of the building on the west side are 10 steps leading to a trap door which leads to the second story lodge rooms. The second floor, in poor condition, but almost entirely intact, is a collection of numerous rooms of undetermined function. A five-foot wide corridor runs east to west. Three rooms adjacent to the bay windows are larger than the rest and two of those front rooms are distinguished by paneled, sliding pocket doors, which lead into other rooms. There is only one common bathroom at the west end of the hallway. At one time a stairwell led to the upper level, but its position is currently unknown.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1893, 1913 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Woods and Caples General Store, constructed in 1893, was built for pioneer merchants M. C. Wood and J. W. Caples. Located at 2020 Main Street in Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon, the two-story Italianate-style commercial building was erected in bearing wall brick with an interior post and beam structure. The main facade, although altered on the ground level, represents a rare example of a relatively intact commercial type, and is significant locally for its distinctive bay projections on the upper level. Character defining features, other than the bays which make the building eligible under criterion "c," include painted galvanized sheet metal which covers the upper level brick face; an intact storefront dating from 1913 which has attained significance although it is an alteration; Italianate pilasters that define the corners of the front facade; intermediate beltcourses of dentils and brackets; modest Italianate cornice and roof decoration; intact ground floor interior with massive turned columns and mezzanine; and intact second floor rooms which once housed a fraternal lodge. A one-story, brick outbuilding, constructed in 1913, is considered a contributing resource.

Criterion "a" is also applicable to this building, which has housed a continuous merchandising function throughout its history and, therefore, has contributed to the development of Forest Grove's commercial district. The historic period, thus, may be considered to extend to about 1930. From 1935 to the present day, the building has been operated by the Isenstein family and their descendants as Grove Furniture Company.

Original owners, J. W. Caples and his partner, J. C. Wood, were local pioneers, both merchants who sought further business opportunities in Forest Grove. Born in 1840, Caples came to Oregon in 1850. For twelve years previously, he had been engaged in general merchandising in the Washington territory. In the spring of 1883, he came to Forest Grove to form a mercantile business. J. C. Wood became active in the Forest Grove City Council in January of 1893 and he was appointed by the mayor to be on several committees; the finance, printing and city street lights planning committee. In February of that year, Wood made a motion to publish the names of all delinquent tax payers in the community. In June, he made a motion to build sidewalks in the downtown area. Ordinance #39 was passed at that time. On May 3, 1893, E. B. Sappington made a motion:

. . . Motion made by E. B. Sappington and carried that Wood and Caples be granted a permit to use as much of the street as is necessary in front of their lot and Block 2 and facing on Main Street while they are constructing their building said time not to exceed three months from the date of this permit. Said parties are not to blockade the sidewalk any more than is actually necessary.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Forest Grove, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0	4	9	1	3	2	0	5	0	4	0	5	5	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification The Woods & Caples General Store is located in NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 6, T. 1S., R. 3W., W.M., in Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon, and is further described as Tax Lot 2300 of Block 2, original plat of Forest Grove.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brenda Marilyn Pilcevich

organization building owner date February, 1985

street & number 2020 Main Street telephone (503) 357-3523 or 6439

city or town Forest Grove state Oregon 97116

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

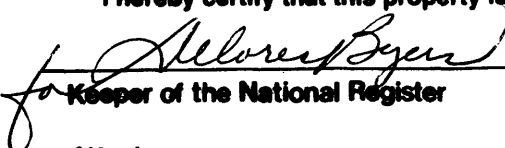
title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date October 25, 1985

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

Entered in the National Register

date 12/2/85


Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
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Item number

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In a reminiscence from a book entitled The Gray Nineties, Mr. Lester C. Mooberry recounted his impressions of the general store:

Later we began trading with Woods and Caples and we dealt with them for years. They had a furnace beneath the store and the heat came up through a large floor register. It was a very delightful place to get warm after having had a long, cold ride, and it was an equally nice place to sit and visit.

Mr. Caples was very sociable and always insisted that the folks sit down and get warm before starting their trading. Father, too, liked to talk and he and Mr. Caples were usually still talking by the time Mother had most of her shopping done. Art Caples was a young man then and like his father was a very friendly fellow. We liked him but thought he was pretty much of a dresser, as he always seemed to have a different suit on each time we went to the store. His father must have felt about him as we did, for one day he was telling the folks, "Do you know I counted seventeen pairs of shoes in that boy's closet, and clothes, (here the old man held out his arms) you couldn't reach around."

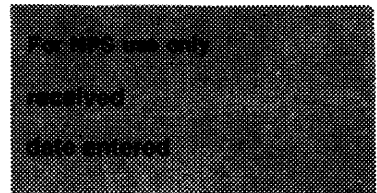
The clerks in their store were always obliging and no one ever seemed to be working under pressure.

Caples had married Harriett Gibson and sired five children. In 1895, Caples' son, Jesse, married the daughter of A. B. Thomas, another local merchant. The partnership of Caples and Wood dissolved at this time. Evidence of this is noted in the Washington County Hatchett advertisements which read, "Go to Caples and Thomas for a bargain." By 1905, as depicted in a photograph, the building housed Hoffman and Allen Company General Merchandising. A. E. Hoffman was a local builder who built the original J. C. Penny's store in Forest Grove. In that same year, Hoffman bought out F. A. Watrous, the former partner of Mr. Allen. How long the Watrous and Allen partnership lasted prior to 1905 is unknown. The two continued in business until February of 1913, at which time A. G. Hoffman secured the entire interest of the store, changing its name to the A. G. Hoffman Company. The Wilkes map, however, shows the name, John Templeton, as owner in 1909. Thus, there may be a discrepancy in the record of ownership. When Hoffman bought the business, the Forest Grove Press, February 17, 1913, stated, "The deal involved a large sum of money and the transfer of one of the largest stocks of general merchandise." C. E. Jay of Portland was hired by Hoffman to act as his experienced salesman. The article also stated that the building was to be thoroughly renovated, including a new front.

According to miscellaneous county records, the ownership changed in 1930 with a family settlement and partition agreement regarding the estate of a Martha M. Taylor. In 1935, the building was purchased by Simon Isenstein from a local realtor, B. Harry Rehrer. It was named Grove Furniture Company and run by Isenstein and his father, David. The family had come from Vancouver, Washington, where the older Isenstein had run a used furniture business. In October, 1972, Simon Isenstein's daughter, Brenda, and her husband, Mordechai Pilcevich, purchased the building. It continues as a retail furniture business at this date.

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Forest Grove City Council Minutes, 1880-1894, located at the Forest Grove City Library.

Forest Grove Press, February 17, 1913 and June 19, 1913.

Lang, Herbert O., History of the Willamette Valley, Portland, Oregon, Himes and Lang, 1885, pp. 711-712.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Forest Grove City Hall, Forest Grove, Oregon.

Washington County Hatchett, June 12, 1895 and July 4, 1895 (on microfilm at the Forest Grove City Library, also in original form at The Time in Forest Grove, Oregon.

Washington County Miscellaneous Deeds and Record, Washington County Courthouse, Hillsboro, Oregon.

Washington County Tax Assessor Records, Washington County Courthouse, Hillsboro, Oregon.

Mooberry, Lester C., The Gray Nineties, Portland, Oregon, Binford and Mort, c. 1954.