

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 686395

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 19 1978

DATE ENTERED DEC 8 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The Dalles Carnegie Library

AND/OR COMMON

The Dalles Art Center

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

E. Fourth and Washington Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

The Dalles

VICINITY OF

2nd

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Oregon

CODE

41

COUNTY

Wasco

CODE

065

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of The Dalles

STREET & NUMBER

313 Court Street

CITY, TOWN

The Dalles

VICINITY OF

Oregon

STATE

97058

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wasco County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Fifth and Washington Streets

CITY, TOWN

The Dalles

STATE

Oregon 97058

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

City of The Dalles Landmark

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

City of The Dalles Planning Department

CITY, TOWN

The Dalles

STATE

Oregon 97058

## 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Carnegie Library in The Dalles occupies a 10,000 square-foot site at the southwest corner of East Fourth and Washington Streets, four blocks south of the Union Pacific Railroad which separates the community from its industrial and transportation corridor along the southerly bank of the Columbia River. The elevated site is in a transitional zone overlooking the river and the commercial core, and its backdrop is the Wasco County Courthouse and residences climbing the hillside above. Oriented toward the northeast, the building is situated at the center of its square parcel and is surrounded by strips of lawn on three sides. Its principal facade is set off by two formally-placed fruit trees in the foreyard.

A simple expression of Beaux Arts Classicism, the one-story building on high basement is rectangular in plan (measuring 50x36 feet) with a central projecting entrance pavilion on the north face measuring six by sixteen feet. Brick masonry exterior walls are capped by a wooden classical entablature with modillions. The roof of the main block is hipped. The gable-roofed and temple-fronted pavilion is reached by a short flight of concrete steps and contains stairs to the main level and basement. In its north face is a round-arched portal with fanlight and archivolt. Original double leaf doors have been replaced with glass doors. The bas-relief title "Carnegie Library" fills the tympanum of the arch head. Lunettes with archivolts light the vestibule on either side elevation.

In the main block, fenestration is trabeated. Transomed main-story openings of generous proportions (4x8') were purposefully designed to admit as much natural light as possible to the large, unsubdivided space which contained the central reading area and surrounding bookstacks. Grouped in pairs, the window openings are recessed slightly from the major plane of the exterior, and--except for basement openings which have flat arches covered with cast stone--they are unadorned. A concrete bond beam separating the two levels and a concrete sill are carried without interruption around the principal facade and side elevations. Except for the basement sill, all trim is painted cream in color. In keeping with the strict symmetry of the building, tall brick flues with flared tops rise above the eaves on either side elevation.

The old library is in sound condition and has been little altered for its present use as an art center. The circulation desk and bookstacks have been cleared from the main floor, wall surfaces have been repainted, and track lighting has been installed for gallery purposes. All interior trim is intact. A 9x13-foot office space and a kitchenette screened by louvered doors have been inserted in the southwest corner of the main room. Centered in the south (rear) wall is a fireplace with brick surround and a classical mantelpiece. On the north wall, flanking the vestibule, are 4x8-foot alcoves with square column screens. Two eight-inch beams running the length of the main room have similar column supports with flared capitals. The basement contains three major spaces, the central one of which--having a concrete floor--houses the heating plant (oil furnace for steam radiators). Work and storage rooms on either side of the furnace room have been adapted for classrooms.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unidentified

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Carnegie Library in The Dalles (1910) was one of the important construction projects planned and carried out in the inland port and rail shipping point on the Columbia River in the early years of this century. In a real sense, it was the seed from which a cluster of civic buildings developed on the toe of the hillside overlooking the business core and the river.

The library was financed by a \$10,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie made in March, 1907. After a delay of over two years, during which time a suitable site was sought and the requisite pledge of a continuing source of maintenance and operation funds was made good, the building--a simple expression of Beaux Arts Classicism--was completed and opened for use in September, 1910. A year later, the Second Renaissance Revival Style Wasco County Courthouse was commenced immediately behind the library, on the adjoining lots to the south, and in 1921 The Dalles Civic Auditorium in the Neo-Classical Revival Style was completed on a neighboring block.

The Carnegie Library is significant, further, as the first building in the community to have been specifically designed to house a book collection for the public. While it has been superseded in its original function (the library was closed at this location in September, 1966), the building continues under City ownership and is operated by The Dalles Art Association as an art center. It is made available also to other groups for meeting purposes.

The Carnegie Library in The Dalles typifies the smallest-scale projects assisted by the steel magnate during his "wholesale period" of library philanthropy, 1898-1919. Some twenty-four Carnegie Library grants are thought to have been earmarked for cities and towns in Oregon between 1901 and 1916. While this library was completed a year before the Carnegie Corporation issued its general guidelines, or "Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings [sic]," it conformed to the one-story on high basement pattern which was becoming standard across the country.

In 1967, about six months after the Carnegie Library had been vacated by the City, The Dalles Art Association moved in. In 1973, disposition of the property was a ballot measure in the local election, and citizens of The Dalles voted for preservation of the building under public ownership. The old library was designated a historic landmark by city ordinance in 1976. In 1977 the Art Association secured a ten-year lease on the property and began bringing the building up to code. A gallery was created in the main floor space which formerly contained the central circulation desk, reading tables and book stacks, and the heating plant was upgraded--all without affecting the structural integrity of the local landmark.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bobinski, George S., Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development. (American Library Association, 1969).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,0	6,4,1	7,4,0	5,0	5,1	0,2,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C							D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 1 and the east 42' of Lot 2, Block 9, Original Dalles City Plat.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	DATE
Mark Hopkins, Director	March 10, 1978
ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE
The Dalles Art Center	503/296-4759
STREET & NUMBER	STATE
E. Fourth and Washington Streets	Oregon 97058
CITY OR TOWN	
The Dalles	

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ LOCAL X

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 *David Grubbs*  
 TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE October 5, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>Charles Johnson</i> DIRECTOR OFFICE FOR ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE 12-8-78 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <i>W. Ray Luce</i> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE 12/8/78