1 NAME

HISTORIC
The Dalles Carnegie Library

AND/OR COMMON
The Dalles Art Center

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
E. Fourth and Washington Streets

CITY, TOWN
The Dalles

STATE
Oregon

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

ACCESSIBLE

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
City of The Dalles

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.
Wasco County Courthouse

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER
Fifth and Washington Streets

CITY, TOWN
The Dalles

STATE
Oregon

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
City of The Dalles Landmark

DATE
1976

DEPOSITORY FOR
City of The Dalles Planning Department

SURVEY RECORDS
The Dalles

STATE
Oregon
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 kitchenett 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.
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.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

A [1,0] [614,117,4,0] [5,10,110,2,0] B [ZONE EASTING NORTHING]

C [ZONE EASTING NORTHING]

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
Mark Hopkins, Director

ORGANIZATION
The Dalles Art Center

STREET & NUMBER
E. Fourth and Washington Streets

TELEPHONE
503/296-4759

CITY OR TOWN
The Dalles

STATE Oregon 97058

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

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER