**NAME**

Historic: Indian Shaker Church/Gulick Homestead

And/or Common: Same

**LOCATION**

Street & Number: Junction Highways 80N and 197

City, Town: The Dalles

State: Oregon

**CLASSIFICATION**

Category: District

Ownership: Public

Status: Occupied

Present Use: Agriculture

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

Name: Wa-Chuck Motel Corporation

Street & Number: 1002 Court Street

City, Town: The Dalles

State: Oregon

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, etc.: Wasco County Courthouse

Street & Number: 400 Court Street

City, Town: The Dalles

State: Oregon

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

Title: Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

Date: 1970

Depository for Survey Records: State Parks and Recreation Branch

City, Town: Salem

State: Oregon
The Indian Shaker Church/Henry Gulick Homestead consists of an area approximately 200 feet by 500 feet with seven structures still standing. The most important structure is the Indian Shaker Church; the other structures are a stable, a drying shed, a chicken coop, a privy, a barn, and a two-room house. On the site, there are also two burned areas that have been identified (from earlier photographs) as two dwellings.

Architecturally, the buildings are very simple vernacular board and batten construction with gable roofs. All of the buildings have deteriorated, but enough of each building remains to determine the functions served.

Of the buildings, the most prominent as a structure is the Indian Shaker Church. The exact date of construction is unknown, but the church was likely built in about 1896. The church building is 14 x 23 feet with board and batten exterior siding, a gable roof that was probably shingled originally, and an alcove that extends in apse-like fashion from the east end of the building on its original location. Until removed in 1973, a three-foot cross was located above the apse. When the church was in use, the interior contained the following furnishings: a table was located in the apse, covered with a white scarf draped over a tablecloth, benches were located around the walls, and candles provided the lighting (Shakers believed that candles were an expression of God and to God, and incandescent light was the sign of the devil). There are presently no furnishings in the church. The church was moved approximately 100 feet to its present location in 1971 to make room for the Portage Inn Motel.

The stable consists of a stall area, a tack room, a wagon room, and three storage rooms. The drying shed is one room and is the closest structure to the Columbia River. The chicken coop is similar in size, proportions, and construction to the drying shed. The privy exhibits a unique construction technique. It is built on a basalt ledge with short stilts supporting the back, so that there is no need for the customary privy pit. There is a double floor with basalt fill between the two floor levels - to prevent the building from being upset. The barn is a composite structure with at least one addition. It is deteriorated to the degree that it is difficult to analyse how each area functioned. The two-room house was probably used as a one room shed originally with the second room added later. This structure is unique with the absence of any sill on the south side of the west room. Evidence is present where two houses originally stood. These houses were the homes of Henry Gulick, the builder of the community, and his son. The structure was burned during the early 1960s.

Evidence suggests that one man, Henry Gulick, built most, if not all, of the buildings in this community. The sills, joists, walls, and roofs suggest that one man was involved in the construction throughout. The structures that show evidence of different construction techniques are the addition to the barn and the two-room house, and the Shaker Church. In the church, the evidence suggests that Gulick helped construct the building, but the footings, sills and roof details are dissimilar to any other structures within the community.
The Indian Shaker Church/Henry Gulick Homestead serves as an excellent instructive tool for a primitive nineteenth-century commercial fishing homestead. The Church itself is an example of an interesting Indian religious sect that sprang up in the Pacific Northwest in the late nineteenth century. As a whole, the fishing homestead is the only such example in Oregon.

Henry Gulick, of Scottish extraction, came to The Dalles in the early 1890s. When he came to The Dalles, he brought his wife, Harriet, a Wasco Indian woman, and his son, Jackson. Gulick settled with his family on a small homestead about one and one half miles upriver from the town of The Dalles. He built the buildings now standing in the area and two houses and two fishwheels that are no longer standing. Gulick made his living as a fisherman and as a carpenter for the Seufert brothers' fish company. Henry Gulick died in 1915 and his widow moved to the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon where she remarried.

The Indian Shaker Church is a small part of a larger religious phenomenon begun among Pacific Northwest Indians in 1881. The founder was John Slocum, a Squaxin Indian from near Olympia, Washington, who said he was "unaccountably drawn to think of the error of his ways and the evil days that had fallen on his few remaining native friends." Slocum, with the help of his self-appointed high priest Louis Yowaluch, organized the Indian Shaker Church to help their fellow Indians by preaching the practices of strict morality, sobriety and honesty. Their worship services used the paraphernalia of the Catholic and Presbyterian churches with some vestiges of Indian religion.

Geographically, the church spread from the Puget Sound area to the tribes east of the Cascade Mountains in about 1887. By 1893, an Indian Shaker Church was permanently established in Yakima, Washington, by Aiyal Wahuwa, an Indian from the Kelso-Longview area of Washington. At about the same time, a Wasco Indian Hunaicca, was converted to Shakerism and carried the new religion back to Warm Springs and the Hood River vicinity. In about 1896, the Shaker Church was founded in The Dalles.

The minister of The Dalles Shaker Church was Sam Williams, an Indian from Kelso, Washington. His ceremonies were described as more inherently Indian than anything else, including Shaker. He opened the church services to anyone and carried on the meetings in a quiet and orderly manner. The sign on the church door read: "INDIAN SHAKER CHURCH, You are welcome. Please be orderly. NO ROWDISM (sic) ALLOWED, The Minister." Williams died in 1933, but he left The Dalles Indian Shaker Church in the early 1920s.
All of the buildings in the community are deteriorating rapidly by the weather and the presence of a large motor inn complex directly adjacent. Visitors from the inn visit the community with little concern for the preservation of the buildings. There is, however, enough concern by people in the local community that, with recognition of the importance of these buildings, future preservation can be assured.
The Dalles Indian Shaker Church was one of five in Oregon. Of the five, the church at The Dalles was the smallest, both as a building and as a congregation. The two largest Shaker congregations in Oregon were at Siletz on the Oregon Coast and at Klamath in south-central Oregon. All five of the Shaker Churches in Oregon are still standing and at least one is still active.

This community is most significant when viewed as a whole. The Indian Shaker Church, when active, was the least significant congregation and building in Oregon. The Dalles Shaker community was always tiny and it never exerted any influence outside the local area. When the Shaker Church is considered as a part of the Gulick Homestead, however, it is highly significant. Henry Gulick built the Shaker Church for his wife, who was a Wasco Indian. The community is the only known remaining example of a late nineteenth-century fishing homestead in Oregon. There is a potential for educational value to be drawn from this community if there is a commitment made to its future preservation and restoration. The potential for this value to be realized will be aided if this property is listed on the National Register.
Harmon, Ray "Indian Shaker Church, The Dalles" *Oregon Historical Quarterly* (June, 1971), pp.148-158.