

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

**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 Columbia Southern Hotel

and/or common Shaniko Hotel

**2. Location**

street & number 4th and E Streets \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Shaniko \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district Second

state Oregon code 41 county Wasco code 065

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Kenneth and Katharina Luckman

street & number P.O. Box 7

city, town Grass Valley \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Oregon 97029

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wasco County Courthouse

street & number

city, town The Dalles \_\_\_\_\_ state Oregon 97058

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1970 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem \_\_\_\_\_ state Oregon 97310

## 7. Description

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

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

An example of late, commercial Italianate architecture typical of western towns at the turn of the century, the Columbia Southern Hotel in Shaniko is an L-shaped, two-story building of brick masonry construction in which equal-sized wings measuring 30 by 100 feet front on 4th and E Streets, respectively. Fenestration is essentially regular, with round-arched, transomed openings typical of the ground story, and segmental arches over second story windows. Double-hung wood window sash have one over one lights. Several larger openings of the ground story have elliptic brick arch heads with transoms in which straight mullions are arranged in simplified fanlight fashion. The main entry—a double-leaf door with glazing and base paneling, is in the truncated ground story corner at the town's principal street intersection. The main entry and first two bays on either street facade are sheltered by a wrap-around wood porch with deck and railing. Chamfered porch posts are finished with capitals and a pair of solid brackets, each pierced with small circlets. Posts of the deck balustrade have urn-shaped finials. There are brick quoins at the corners of the building and corbelled belt courses at the top of either story. The parapet wall is embellished with corbelled and patterned brick work. Brick stove flues with plain corbelled neckings line the top of the parapet wall. The built-up roof is in poor condition at present. A shop front consisting of door and flanking bay windows with transoms and a cast stone surround somewhat in the Modernistic Style was added to the south elevation after 1920.

The lobby space inside the main entry is a room measuring 30 by 30 feet. The ceiling beams of the 13-foot-high ceilings are supported by columns and extend the full length of either wing. An open staircase of oak is at the back corner of the lobby. French doors of oak open into the north end of the east wing which once contained the bank (the Eastern Oregon Banking Company managed by Joseph William Hoech). A vault with 2-foot thick walls and heavy steel doors still stands in the former banking space, though a hotel room was developed around it at some point during the past twenty years. The ceiling was lowered in this area, also. Among restoration plans contemplated by the current owners is the removal of this later ceiling.

Upstairs, there are twenty-eight rooms opening off hallways lighted by skylights. Interior walls are finished with tongue and groove wainscoting and lath and plaster, above, typically papered. Doors and casings are of oak. Ornate brass chandeliers which once graced the lobby and saloon have been located following the most recent auction, and will be returned to their original settings.

Block 12 of the Original Plat of Shaniko on which the hotel is situated, is bisected at a diagonal by the old alignment of Highway 97. The nominated area, which is the south-easterly half of the block, includes several single-story back buildings of marginal significance which nonetheless support the hotel operation. There are a tin-clad 1910-vintage dance hall which was converted to garage use in 1930; a 1920-vintage gas station, a well house, and a banquet hall ell dating from the 1960s. Plans call for restoration of the hotel installation of up-to-date kitchen facilities in the banquet hall wing, and removal of the dilapidated garage.

The Columbia Southern Hotel is today, as it was in its hey-day, Shaniko's most imposing edifice.

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Columbia Southern Hotel, Shaniko, Wasco County, Oregon

Itemization of Non-Historic Subsidiary Buildings on Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of Block 12 of the Original Plat of Shaniko

1. Single-story frame utility shed with metal gable roof (undated, non-historic), Lots 7-8.
2. Single-story clapboarded 1920-vintage service station shed with shingled gable roof, canopied gasoline pump island (no longer in service), Lots 8-9.
3. Single-story wood frame, shed-roofed banquet hall ell dating from 1960s, Lot 5.
4. Frame well house with gable roof, Lots 4-5.
5. Single-story frame, gable-roofed 1910-vintage dance hall with corrugated metal cladding, roof cover, and "boom town" east and west facades dating from building's conversion to auto garage ca. 1930; lean-to east end of north elevation, Lot 4.

## 8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1900-1902

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The large, two-story hotel and bank building of brick masonry construction erected by the Columbia Southern Railroad between 1900 and 1902 is significant to Wasco County and to the state as the well-preserved focal point of the community of Shaniko—one-time railhead serving the vast wool, cattle and wheat-growing region of the high Columbia Plateau. The hotel historically has been the center of activity in Shaniko. It served as hostelry, saloon, dance hall, bank, stage stop, and general gathering place. Since the train stopped running in 1943, Shaniko has experienced heavy attrition due to fire and deterioration. Nevertheless, with a current population of 40 to 70, depending upon the account, Shaniko claims to be Oregon's most active ghost town, and it numbers among its other standing historic features a schoolhouse, fire station and bell tower, water tower, wool sheds and elevators, livery barn, saloon, and post office. An historic district proposal is being considered by the town council.

Shaniko was named for pioneer settler August Scherneckau, who started a farm near the present townsite after the Civil War. Indians of the area pronounced his name "Shaniko," and that is how the locality got its name. The Scherneckau ranch was on the stage route from The Dalles of the Columbia to Central Oregon, and Scherneckau opened a stage station on his ranch. This stopping place was known as Cross Hollows, and a post office with that name was established in 1879 with Scherneckau as first postmaster. Shaniko was laid out slightly to the north of Cross Hollow by J. J. Wiley in 1879, and the settlement was incorporated in 1900.

Shaniko was among the busiest inland wool shipping centers on the West Coast in the first decade of the 20th century. Located at the southern terminus of the Columbia Southern Railroad connecting to transcontinental lines on the banks of the Columbia River, the town was host to freighters and livestockmen from the surrounding region. Financed by the region's ranchers, the Columbia Southern Railroad was superseded after being in service slightly over a decade when the Oregon Trunk Railway was completed to Bend in 1911. The latter was the result of a prolonged railroad-building "war" between James Jerome Hill of the Great Northern and E. H. Harriman of the Union Pacific. The new rail line lay across the wheat country of Sherman County, dropped down into the canyon of the Deschutes, a tributary of the Columbia, and eventually connected the Columbia River transportation routes to Central Oregon points as far south as Klamath Falls near the California border. (The 142-mile race to Bend was won by Jim Hill.) Shaniko bustled when it served as a supply center for the rail construction race, but it was eclipsed as the rails reached further into the interior.

In her "Historical Shaniko Tales" (ca. 1974), former hotel owner Sue Morelli provided the following insights.

...the Columbia Southern Railroad made its initial run to Shaniko in 1900. Tents sprang up until people could build houses. The first warehouse built by Lord, Laughlin and Moore had 75,000 square feet with space for 4 million pounds of wool. Other warehouses sprang up, and in 1902 the sale of wool reached 5 million pounds...

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Shaver, F. A., Rose, Arthur, Steele, R. F., and Adams, A. E., An Illustrated History of Central Oregon (Western Historical Publishing Company, 1905).  
Morelli, Sue, "Historical Tales of Shaniko Sheep" (pam., Pendleton, Oregon: The Pendleton Record for author, 1974). (continued)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one (ca. 28,000 sq. ft.)  
Quadrangle name Shaniko, Oregon Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	<u>10</u>	<u>677200</u>	<u>4985620</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, Block 12 of the Original Plat of Shaniko, Oregon.

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Katharina L. Luckman

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date January 1979

street & number P.O. Box 7 telephone 503/333-2202

city or town Grass Valley state Oregon 97209

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]  
title State Historic Preservation Officer date August 7, 1979

For HCRS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

acting [Signature] date 10-31-79  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: [Signature] date 10/31/79  
Chief of Registration

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The town expanded, and soon there were six full blocks of hotels, saloons, gambling houses, livery stables, bawdy houses, and law offices. The Shaniko Leader was published by William Holden, and a busy doctor, Samuel Perkins, along with a busy city marshal, August Reeder, were here.

In one year the train carried 29,241 passengers. It carried homesteaders, gamblers, sheepherders, roving-eyed maidens with bouncing bustles, and many, many more. So many people traveled the stages that met the train, that often they would load their baggage and walk rather than wait till they could get a ride.

Stage coaches ran from Shaniko inland. Mr. Yancey, an old time stage driver, said he could make the run from Shaniko to Prineville around 1904 or 1905 in about two hours if the road was good and everything went well. Mack Cornett had stage lines from Shaniko to other points like Bend, Silver Lake, Lakeview, Paulina, and Burns. The company furnished the coaches, horses and all the equipment except the driver's whip, which the drivers owned. The drivers were paid \$35 a month. They drove four horses on these stages.

In 1900 the Columbia Southern Hotel was started. It was a two story brick building that took two years to build. Even in addition to this hotel, there was a big wooden one (The Shaniko Hotel). At times, all would be filled to capacity until sleeping spaces on the floor were sold. The teamsters usually didn't get accommodations, but camped by the big corrals. It was estimated at times there were as many as a thousand head of work horses in town plus all the influx of homesteaders, miners, gamblers, etc., who set up tents around when city housing was filled.

The population of Shaniko varied greatly. With lack of records and a transient, roving population, some estimate a peak of 1000 to 1500. As much as 150,000 tons of freight were hauled into Shaniko's bulging warehouses in one year.

Wool auctions were held, and wool buyers from all over the world came to wrangle over wool prior to its shipment out on

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the Columbia Southern Railroad. The Columbia Southern Hotel was an elite establishment and called the "Queen of the Highland Hostelryes." When the /wood frame/ Shaniko Hotel burned, the Columbia Southern borrowed its name, and the brick hotel is better known to this day as the Shaniko Hotel.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>

Sue Morelli, "Historical Shaniko Tales" (pam., author, ca. 1974).

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Morelli, Sue, "Historical Shaniko Tales" (pam., author, ca. 1974).

Taft Wes, Jr., "Shaniko, Once Terminus of Central Oregon's First Rail Line, Settles Comfortably into Ghostly Past, Family Fare Section, Portland Reporter (September 20, 1963), 1, 4.

Brennan, Tom, "Central Oregon 'Ghost Town' May Become Faded Memory," Oregonian (April 23, 1972).

Bartlett, Evadna, "Ghost Town on Block: Only 'Miracle' Can Save Shaniko," Oregonian (October 13, 1977).

Ulrich, Roberta, "Family Plans to Revive Historic Ghost Town," Oregon Journal (December 4, 1978), Sec. 2, page 11.

"Couple Hopes to Bring Ghost Town to Life," Milwaukee, Wisconsin Journal (January 2, 1979).

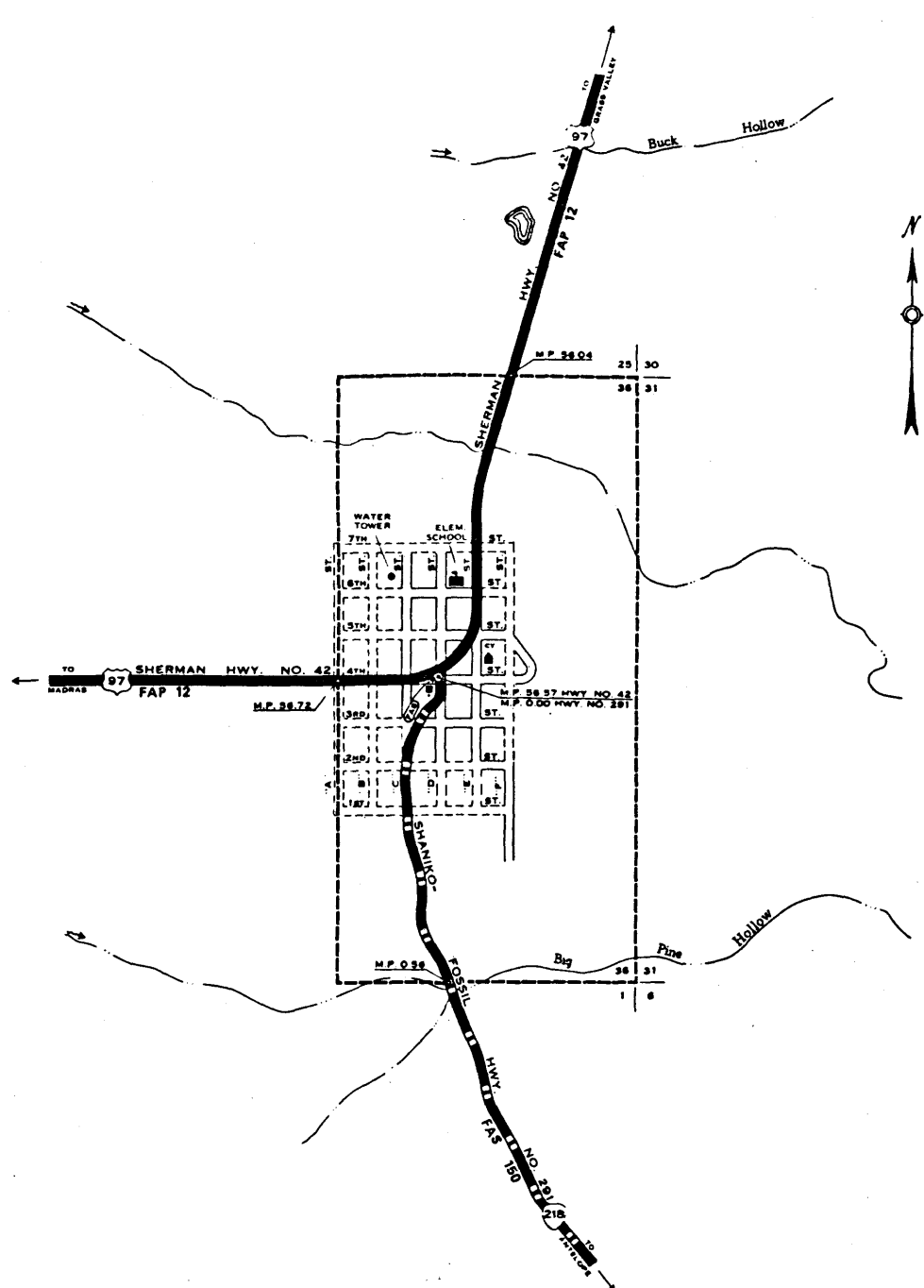
"Oregon Couple Seeks to Restore Old Town to Its Former Glory," The New York Times (Sunday, February 18, 1979).

McArthur, Lewis A., Oregon Geographic Names (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1974), 658.

Bend Bulletin (September 24, 1930).

French, Giles L., feature story on Shaniko, Oregonian (December 12, 1943).





T 6 S R 16 E W. M.

LEGEND

- |  |  |  |                           |
|--|--|--|---------------------------|
|  | FEDERAL AID INTERSTATE SYSTEM            |  | INTERSTATE NUMBERED ROUTE |
|  | FEDERAL AID PRIMARY SYSTEM               |  | U.S. NUMBERED ROUTE       |
|  | FEDERAL AID SECONDARY SYSTEM STATE       |  | STATE NUMBERED ROUTE      |
|  | FEDERAL AID SECONDARY SYSTEM COUNTY      |  | POST OFFICE               |
|  | OTHER FEDERAL AID SECONDARY SYSTEM LOCAL |  | SCHOOL                    |
|  | TERMINATION OF FA SYSTEM                 |  | CITY CENTER               |
|  | DIVIDED HIGHWAY                          |  | CITY LIMITS               |
|  | UNDIVIDED HIGHWAY NO OF LANES            |  | PUBLIC BLDG               |
|  | STREET OPEN FOR TRAVEL                   |  | CITY HALL                 |
|  | STREET DEDICATED BUT NOT OPEN            |  | COURT HOUSE               |
|  |  |  | R.R. DEPOT                |
|  |  |  | ARMORY                    |
|  |  |  | LIBRARY                   |

**SHANIKO**  
WASCO COUNTY, OREGON

PREPARED BY THE  
OREGON STATE HIGHWAY DIVISION  
IN COOPERATION WITH  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

Population 70  
Scale in Feet

Revised June 1976

North

