# United States Department of the Interior
## National Park Service
### National Register of Historic Places
#### Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property
- **historic name**: Humason, Orlando House
- **other names/site number**: 

## 2. Location
- **street & number**: 908 Court Street
- **city, town**: The Dalles
- **state**: Oregon
- **county**: Wasco
- **zip code**: 97058

## 3. Classification

### Ownership of Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Private</th>
<th>Public-Local</th>
<th>Public-State</th>
<th>Public-Federal</th>
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</thead>
</table>

### Category of Property

- **Building(s)**
  - **Contributing**: 1
  - **Noncontributing**: 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>1</td>
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### Number of Resources within Property

<table>
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<th>Buildings</th>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Structures</th>
<th>Objects</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Contributing</strong></td>
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<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Noncontributing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Name of related multiple property listing:

- **N/A**

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

- **N/A**

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this **nomination** request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property **meets** does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

**Signature of certifying official**: Signature of certifying official

**Date**: May 7, 1991

**State or Federal agency and bureau**: Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

In my opinion, the property **meets** does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

**Signature of commenting or other official**: Signature of commenting or other official

**Date**: 

## 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- **entered in the National Register**: Antioch Ave
- **determined eligible for the National Register**: 6/21/91
- **determined not eligible for the National Register**: 
- **removed from the National Register**: 
- **other, (explain:)**

**Signature of the Keeper**: 

**Date of Action**: 
### 6. Function or Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)</th>
<th>Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic: single dwelling</td>
<td>Domestic: single dwelling</td>
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### 7. Description

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)</th>
<th>Materials (enter categories from instructions)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-19th Century Rural Gothic</td>
<td>foundation wood, watershirt/concrete block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>walls wood, weatherboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>roof asphalt, composition shingles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Describe present and historic physical appearance.
The Humason House is located at 908 Court Street in The Dalles, on a corner lot just two blocks south of its original location. The Humason House, a one and a half-story Gothic Revival cottage, was originally constructed in 1860 by Orlando Humason. It is one of the best examples of the Gothic Revival style in the city and is one of three structures of that architectural style still remaining in the community—the other two being the Fort Dalles Surgeon's Quarters and the Schmidt House, located at 415 East Third Street.

Originally, in 1860, the house was built on the western half of the J.A. Simms donation Land Claim (160 acres), which Humason bought for $4,000 on April 9, 1859. In later years, this land became the site of the Houghton Mansion and the Humason House was used for the carriage house for many years. The Houghton Mansion was torn down in the 1960's and the site is now used for the Wasco County Library. One old-timer remembers children playing in the carriage house before it was moved to its present location at 908 street. There is no clear record of when the Humason House was moved, but the records do show it was prior to 1908. The Wasco County Courthouse records show that Mrs. Deckert bought the property as her home that year. She lived in the Humason House until her death.

A modest home, the original structure was four rooms—two downstairs and two upstairs. It has a steeply pitched gable roof, intersecting front gables, and a projecting one-storey porch the entire frontage of the structure. It has 1/1 double hung window at the entrance and 6/6 double hung windows on the sides and rear of the structure. The outstanding architectural features of the structure are the front veranda, the balcony railing, and the entrance door with the pointed arch window and door opening. The central gable opens onto the upstairs veranda, which runs the width of the front of the house, and forms the roof of the lower west facing porch. The veranda is enclosed with a wooden spindle railing. The upstairs portal leading to this veranda is the typical Gothic pointed arch and window which is divided into three panes. This gable/portal combination is a unique feature of the house. This is the only upstairs exterior door. There are two exterior doors on the front of the house and one in the back on the lower level.

The two single stack brick chimneys straddle the ridge of the roof which is now covered with composition shingles. The lower porch is also enclosed with a decorative railing, hand cut rather than spindle formation. There are six columns which hold up the overhead veranda.
The front entry door is tall, with no transom, and has two fixed side vent windows as well as a window in the door itself. The original structure had no foundation and was covered with vertical board and batten, exactly like the Fort Dalles Museum (Surgeons' Quarters) built in 1854. Humason evidently obtained building supplies at his father-in-law's Dufur sawmill (Jonathan Jackson) as the walls are constructed of wood four inches thick. The house was resided in the 1900's with horizontal cedar siding.

The interior doors are of solid pine, constructed with wooden pegs and iron hardware and black glass doorknobs which are similar to those in the Surgeon's Quarters. The north facing double hung sash windows in the parlor on the lower level are of a different size and height and the original shutter hardware remains on the outside frames. Many of the panes in the House's eleven sash windows contain the old glass.

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS

A lean-to was added to the rear east side of the structure to add a kitchen, pantry and bathroom and to also include a porch extending across the width of the rear of the house. A third chimney was added at this time to accommodate the kitchen stove. It is possible this is when the carl siding was put on the exterior of the entire house. A separate structure, a garage/storage shed, was built about this same time on the east end of the lot.

In 1976 there was a major remodeling of the interior of the structure. The original horsehair and plaster interior walls and ceilings were replaced with sheetrock. At this same time, a cement block foundation was put under the structure and it was completely replumbed and rewired. The wall between the bathroom and pantry was removed. The pantry door to the kitchen was closed off, thus turning the pantry area into a washer and dryer space in the bathroom.

The original woodwork throughout the downstairs was stripped of its antiqued finish, which was badly checked, and was painted for the first time. The woodwork in the added-on kitchen was replaced with new wood and wainscoting and finished with a natural stain. Doors in the added-on kitchen are the original wood and wood/glass doors from the local Carnegie Library which was remodeled in the 1970's to become The Dalles Art Center. At this time, all the woodwork upstairs was stripped and finished with a natural stain. There was a sink in the north upstairs bedroom. This plumbing was converted to a half bath. This tiny room has wainscoting, antique corner sink, and the house's original wooden toilet seat.
CURRENT STATE OF PRESERVATION

The Humason House is in very good condition. A new tar roof was added to the
upstairs veranda and the exterior trim was repainted in 1989. In 1990, new underlayment
was put on the front and back porches, and indoor and outdoor carpet installed.
In 1990, the interior wall and woodwork were repainted. This currently serves as
a single-family residence.

HISTORIC RECOGNITION

The Humason House has been officially recognized by The Dalles Landmark Commission
and is so noted with a plaque placed on the front of the structure.

As this is one of the oldest structures
in the community, that recognition would appear to be warranted.
The one and a half story Gothic Revival house of box construction that stands on the east side of Court Street near Ninth Street in the Laughlin's Bluff neighborhood of The Dalles, Oregon was built in 1860 for Orlando Humason, Territorial legislator celebrated locally as the "Father" of Wasco County. The Dalles is located on the Columbia River in north central Oregon.

The house is significant under Criterion B as the place most importantly associated with a key figure in the organization of local government. It is significant also under Criterion C as a rare, generally intact example of Gothic Revival architecture in The Dalles, where only three Gothic houses in the Andrew Jackson Downing picturesque mode are documented. Despite a certain amount of alteration at the time of its relocation early in the 20th Century, the house displays the well-executed craft details characteristic of the Gothic Revival style.

The core of the house is a gable-roofed rectangular volume, the roof ridge of which is parallel with the facade. The house is oriented to the west, fronting Court Street. It is clad with lapped weatherboards that replaced the original board and batten siding, presumably at the time of the relocation. The exterior is finished with boxed cornice and plain corner boards and frieze boards. A gable wall dormer with lancet opening and label molding gives access to the deck of a full-width front porch supported by chamfered posts. The corner porch posts have shadow pilasters on the facade wall. Either porch deck has a hand railing; that of the main level is original and is of cut-out work as opposed to turned balusters.

Centered on the rear face is a single-story kitchen lean-to addition with full-width rear porch that makes a T shape of the overall plan. Formally-placed openings for windows and doors have plain surrounds. Windows are double-hung sash; those in the side elevations typically have 6 over 6 lights. Front windows, one on either side of the central entrance, are wide picture window sash of the early 20th Century having one-over-one lights. The front entrance has the tripartite organization of the Downingesque type. The straight-headed frame includes narrow side lights. Two formally-placed brick stove chimneys straddle the roof ridge near the center of the house reflecting, along with the entry, the central hall plan of the interior. There are two rooms on either floor of the core volume.
9. Major Bibliographical References


Crandall, Lulu, "Captain Orlando Humason, Father of Wasco County," The Dalles Chronicle, 1914.

McNeal, William Howard, A Brief History of Old Wasco County, Oregon Pioneers Assoc., 1975.

McNeal, William Howard, History of Wasco County, Oregon, 1952.


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 0.11 acres The Dalles South, Oregon-Washington 1:24000

UTM References

Zone Easting Northing

Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located in NW¼ SW¼ Section 3, Township 1N, Range 13E, Willamette Meridian, in The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon. It is legally described as the north 50 feet of Lots 6 and 7, Block 22 of Gates Addition to Dalles City, Wasco County, Oregon, and is otherwise identified as Tax Lot 9100 at said location.

Boundary Justification

The nominated area corresponds to the legally recorded lot lines associated with the house. A shed, or garage at the northeast corner of the 96.66' x 50' lot dates from the early 20th Century and is counted a non-historic/non-contributing feature.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jan Mlnarik-Holt with assistance of Dan Meader

organization

street & number 606 Washington Street, PO Box 1212

city or town The Dalles

date November 15, 1990

telephone (503) 296-3081

state Oregon zip code 97058
8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally     ☑ statewide     ☑ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria

☐ A  ☑ B  ☑ C  ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)

☐ A  ☑ B  ☐ C  ☐ D  ☐ E  ☐ F  ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

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<th>Significant Dates</th>
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<td>1860</td>
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<tr>
<td>Politics/Government</td>
<td>1860-1875</td>
<td>1862, 1866, 1867</td>
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</table>

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Orlando Furman (1828-1875)

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
A shed garage at the northeast corner of the lot dates from the time of relocation from the original site two blocks to the north. It is counted a non-contributing feature. Because of its rarity as an example of type locally and because it is the property most closely associated with Orlando Humason, the house meets Criteria Consideration B relating to the normal exclusion of relocated properties. The house stands in near proximity to its original site and thus retains a link to its traditional setting. Humason introduced the momentous legislation creating Wasco County in 1854, while serving in the Territorial Legislature. Although the nominated house post-dates that event, there is no other house in The Dalles remaining to evoke his legislative career.

Interior finishes were compromised in a major remodeling of 1976, at which time original plaster walls and ceilings were replaced with sheetrock. A concrete block foundation and new plumbing and wiring were installed at the same time. Woodwork, evidently hand-grained originally, remains in place, though refinished with paint. The Humason House is an officially declared City of The Dalles Landmark.

Orlando Humason (1828-1875) occupied the house from 1860 to the time of his death at the age of 47, fifteen years later. A perpetually active man, he was a native of Ohio who was orphaned at the age of fifteen. He migrated to Texas, Mexico and California before arriving in Oregon's Willamette Valley in 1851. There he set type and acted as an emergency editor for the Oregon Statesman and took up farming briefly before moving east of the Cascades to The Dalles in 1853. At The Dalles on the Columbia River he opened a general store that prospered from the trade of Oregon Trail immigrants. In 1857, he married Phoebe Jackson of Dufur, daughter of sawmill owner Jonathan Jackson, who is thought to have supplied material for the Humasons' Gothic house. Humason was involved in numerous enterprises, including operation of riverboat and wagon freight lines to supply miners in the gold regions of the John Day country. At The Dalles he engaged in farming and the practice of law and served in the Territorial Legislature in 1854, at which time he introduced the bill creating Wasco County. This benchmark in Oregon's political subdivision served to the benefit of eastern Oregon. When Wasco County was created from the original Champoeg (Champooick) district by act of the Territorial Legislature January 11, 1854, it embraced all of Oregon east of the Cascade Mountains, most of Idaho and parts of Montana and Wyoming. It was named for
the Wascopam tribal groups native to The Dalles area. Humason served as Judge of Wasco County in 1858. The act to create Multnomah County, the political subdivision that eventually would become the State's most populous, was signed into law December 22, 1854. Humason had introduced that legislation also.

After Oregon achieved statehood in 1859, and during his period of occupancy of the nominated house, Humason continued to be elected to represent his district in the State Legislature. He served in the sessions of 1862 and in 1866, during which time he introduced legislation leading to construction of a United States Mint at The Dalles that was erected in 1868, though never completed and occupied for its intended purpose. Humason also is remembered for agitating for United States construction of a lock and ship canal at Cascade Locks. The Columbia River improvement project was authorized by Congress in 1874 when Humason was still living. Construction was not commenced, however, until 1879. After the locks were opened to traffic in 1896, they eliminated the barrier to direct steam shipping between The Dalles and the Pacific Ocean and allowed The Dalles to enhance its position as trading hub of the central Columbia high plateau, drawing upon wheat and livestock ranches of a vast inland territory. Humason headed city government as Mayor of The Dalles in 1867.
The Humason House is significant to the history of the City of The Dalles, Wasco County and the Oregon territory in that the house served as a residence for Orlando Humason. Mr. Humason has been called the Father of Wasco County and the Father of The Dalles as well. This Carpenter Gothic home was built in 1860 and is one of the oldest standing houses in the City of The Dalles. It is one of the better examples of the Gothic Revival residences built in this era. Orland Humason occupied the residence from when it was finished until his death in 1875.

Orlando Humason was born in Vienna, Ohio, in 1828. He went on to graduate from Vienna Academy in that city and then Western Reserve College at Warren, Ohio, where he studied law. He eventually practiced with the Todd and Hutchens Law Firm. In 1849, at the age of 21, he headed for the gold fields in California with John A. Simms, his partner in this and later endeavors. After the gold fields played out, they came north by saddle pony to Champoeg where he took a Donation Land Claim. Later the pair moved to Oregon City where Humason became a Clackamas County legislative representative and worked on a newspaper, the Oregon City Statesman, with Victor Trevitt. The Oregon City Statesman eventually moved to Salem and is now known as the Salem Statesman-Journal. Victor Trevitt went on to become a very prominent resident of the City of The Dalles.

Humason came to The Dalles in 1853 where he worked at the Hudson Bay Company Store. He was the second businessman at "The Landing," as The Dalles was known. In 1854 he opened up a store with John A. Simms again as his partner. The store was located at the Northeast corner of First and Union Streets where the Umatilla House would later stand for many years. The settlement at The Landing grew and prospered under the protective arm of the military authorities at Fort Dalles. Immigrants, completing the Oregon Trail, utilized stores at this location to replace their depleted supplies. Many of them looked about for land to build on east of the Cascades.

Humason married Phoebe Jackson, whose father, Jonathan, had a sawmill at Dufur. The Humasons had two children, Ivan and Clara, whose descendants now live in Salem and Corvallis. Clara married John Waldo, for whom the Waldo Hills in Salem and Waldo Hall at Oregon State University are named.
Humason, an attorney by education, earned the title of Father of Wasco County by drafting the 1854 legislation which created the largest county ever in existence in the United States, containing some 130,000 square miles. The county boundaries stretched from the summit of the Rockies to the Summit of the Cascades, from the Columbia River to California. Wasco County reached east to Butte, Montana, and took in Yellowstone National Park until such time that Oregon became a state on February 14, 1859. At that time, Wasco County lost Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana.

At the 1853-1854 Legislative Session, Humason was a representative from Clackamas while a merchant of Dalles City. He realized that the Columbia River area needed protection and organization. He introduced legislation to bring a new county seat to Dalles City and set into motion platting of the new township. Humason drafted the first papers to create the municipal government of Dalles City in September of 1855, and served on the first Board of Trustees, thus he is also known as the Father of The Dalles. Dalles City was called Wascopam by the post office and the navigation companies of that day.

Humason authored the legislation which provided for the first mint west of the Mississippi to be constructed in Dalles City. The mint was never put into production because the gold from John Day Strike east of The Dalles played out before the building was finished. The stone building constructed to serve as the mint is still intact and is now used for storage.

Humason drafted the bill which provided for the installation of the Cascade Locks Canal in the Columbia River. This opened the river to the Pacific Ocean upon completion of the Lock in 1896. Humason was the Wasco County Judge in 1858, the year the original County Courthouse was built at Third and Court Streets where The Dalles City Hall now stands. The original Courthouse has been moved to a place adjacent to the Chamber of Commerce offices on East Second Street in The Dalles and serves as a meeting place and museum for the community. It is maintained by a volunteer organization. Humason served as Mayor of The Dalles in 1867 and served three terms in the Oregon Legislature, including 1854, 1862, and 1866. His portrait hangs in the Wasco County Courthouse at Fifth and Washington.

In 1857, Humason began a riverboat hauling operation from the mouth of the DesChutes River (known as Deschutes Landing) to Wallula, carrying supplies, livestock, and optimistic prospectors upriver. Using wood from his father-in-law's Dufur sawmill, he built a 270-foot boat with an 11-foot beam which could carry 80 tons of freight. Humason towed the boat from Dalles City to the Deschutes River with eight head of oxen and the use of rollers and planks. The journey took eight weeks. The boat was christened "The Mountaineer." It operated on sails and poles and was steered by crewmen with oars. It paid for itself on the first trip and was the first commercial boat on the Upper Columbia River.
Humason and R.R. Thompson built boats at Deschutesville—first scow or sailboats, then the steamer Colonel Wright. In 1862, they merged with the powerful Oregon Steam & Navigation Company which later built The Dalles to Celilo Railroad. Humason and Thompson organized The Dalles to Deschutesville Portage Freight & Passenger Company in 1857, over the Old Oregon Trail, via Fairbanks. After gold was discovered in the John Day Country, this road handled a constant stream of mammoth freight wagons, the largest ever seen in Oregon. Freight was charged at $15 per ton during the six years the freight wagon was in operation, until 1863. They were never able to move all the freight received. Freight wagons operated from daylight until dusk. The descendants of R. R. Thompson now own the Multnomah Hotel Block in Portland. The passenger stages left The Dalles at 5 a.m. to make boat connections at Deschutesville at 7 a.m. Company Hollow was their half-way station, actually a small town where horses and mules were changed and shod, wagons repaired, and mule skinner fed and bunked.

Humason was one of the originators and one of the engineers of the Fort Dalles Military Road. His signature is on the maps charting the course of that road which stretched across the Oregon Territory. Humason became known as Captain Humason after his stint with the mounted volunteers in the Yakima Indian Wars of 1855-56. He commanded Dalles Company B, a group of 80 volunteers mounted October of 1855 through May of 1856. This company of volunteers was credited with capturing Pen Pen Mox Mox, a Cayuse Indian Chief from Walla Walla. Also serving in Company B were Nathan Olney, an Indian Agent, and Amos Underwood who was famous for shooting and killing more Redskins than any other single member of the expedition.

As an attorney and civic leader, Humason was responsible for significant legislation creating Wasco County and The Dalles. As a businessman, he was responsible for facilitating transportation and commerce in the newly settled territory. He occupied the house from its construction until 1875 and used it as his local residence. This house has a great deal of significance to the community, the county, and to the state.
Humason House
908 Court Street
The Dalles, Oregon
**OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

**HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY SHEET**

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**Historic Name:** Humason House

**Common Name:**

**Address:** 908 Court Street

The Dalles, Oregon

**Owner:** Janice A. Mlnarik

**Address:** 308 E. 4th St.

The Dalles, OR 97058

- Lot 9100, 1N-13-3CB

**Date of Construction:** 1859

**Present use/function:** Residence

**Original use/function:** Residence

**Area of significance/study theme:** Architecture

**Architectural style:** Gothic Revival Cottage

**Plan type/shape:** Rectangle

**No. of stories:** One and ½

**Foundation materials:** Masonry

**Basement (y/n):**

**Roof form & materials:** Gable, green composition shingles

**Wall construction:** Wood frame

**Structural frame:** Wood frame

**Primary window type:** 6/6 DH at entrance, 1/1 DH sides and back.

**Primary exterior surfacing materials:** Horizontal drop siding.

**Outstanding decorative features:** Front veranda with balcony railing, entrance door with sidelites, center front gable with Gothic arched window.

**Condition:** X Excellent

**Associated Structures:** Shed garage in NE corner of yard.

**Exterior alterations/additions (dated):** None noted. Rear lean-to wing with shed roof.

**Known archaeological features of site:**

**Noteworthy landscape features:** Chain link fenced yard with plantings of shrubs and flowers, very attractive and well maintained.

**Recorded by:** Al Staehli and Daniel Meader

**Date:** 10/84 and 4/85

**Negative No.:** Roll 1, frame 5

**Slide No.:**

---

**State Inventory No.:** 169
Describe geographic location & immediate setting: Prominent corner lot at East Eighth and Court streets. Occupies a slightly sloping site on bench of Laughlin's Bluff area. Other supporting homes in area.

Statement of Significance (Historical and/or architectural importance, dates, events, persons, contexts): One of the best examples of the Gothic Revival Style in The Dalles. An early house located outside the lower main developed area of old The Dalles. Orlando Humason, a founding father of The Dalles, built the house in 1859, the same year he fought as a captain in the Yakima Indian War. He won election to the Territorial Legislature in 1854 and to the State Legislature in 1862 and 1866. He became Wasco County Judge in 1858, and during his first term in that elective office, the county built the first courthouse in this latitude between the Rockies and the Cascades.

Mr. Humason was an important figure in the early government of the area. He introduced legislation creating the county. After the organization of the county, he was instrumental in the birth of The Dalles municipal government.

Quadrangle name: ______________________
Township 1N Range 13 Section 3CB

Sources:
"The Dalles Landmarks List", City Planning Office, The Dalles, Oregon.
Crandall, Mrs. C.J. Typed notes from personal files. The Dalles, Oregon.