

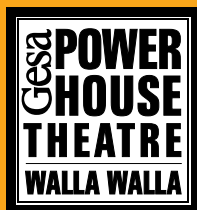


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About the Gesa Power House Theatre

The oldest Sanborn fire map published for Walla Walla was in 1884 and the Walla Walla Gas Works was named and drawn on that map. It included a building on the corner of Rose and Sixth streets, plus a coal shed and a round “gasometer” storage tank. In 1888, the three structures appear the same, and inside the rectangular building is labeled “retort” and “purifier”. In the 1889 footprint, a label in the corner building had been added for “meter” and “20hp engine”. The storage tank is now labeled “iron gas holder”. The 1890 fire map shows all of these details plus an “electric light works”, with the footprint of this building. The building would appear to be the one remaining structure from the Walla Walla Gas and Electric Company. The subsequent map in 1894 shows the same basic footprints but adds details on the contents of the electric works (4 dynamos, etc.) The 1905 map (the last available dated map) lists transformers and storage in the Electric Transformer HQ.

Owner History:

- 1881 Walla Walla Gas Company
- 1889 Walla Walla Gas and Electric Company
- 1903 Northwestern Gas and Electric Company
- 1909 Northwestern Corporation
- 1910 Columbia Power and Light Company
- 1994 Port of Walla Walla
- 1995 Gary D Johnson and Brenda Thomas
- 2002 Sesquipedalian, LLC
- 2011 Power House Theatre, LLC

Research by: Mary E Meeker

References:

*Bennett, Robert A. Walla Walla Portrait of a Western Town 1804-1899,
Pioneer Press, Walla Walla 1980*

Sanborn Fire Maps: 1884-1905 (with updates until 1950)

Walla Walla City Directories: 1880 – Present (Various publishers, not all years)

Whitman College Archives

A Little History on the Walla Walla Valley

The Washington Territory was created in 1853. The new legislature created Walla Walla County in 1854, which stretched from the crest of the Cascade Mountains to the crest of the Rocky Mountains in the present states of Washington, Idaho, and Montana. In 1855 an Indian council was held on the banks of Mill Creek, at the present site of Walla Walla, with the Yakama, Cayuse, Walla Walla, Nez Perce, and Palouse Tribes which resulted in creation of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Yakama Indian Reservation and the Nez Perce Reservation. The Cayuse, Walla Walla, and Umatilla had ceded 6.4 million acres to the United States and reserved rights for fishing, hunting, gathering foods and medicines, and pasturing livestock. They had also reserved 510,000 acres on which to live. The Treaty was subsequently ratified by Congress on March 8, 1859. Missionaries, former French-Canadian employees of the Hudson Bay Company trading post at Wallula, and soldiers at the military Fort Walla Walla were the primary European occupants of the area prior to 1859 when it was opened for settlement.

Walla Walla was originally laid out by County Surveyor H.H. Case in 1859, before its formal incorporation as a city in 1862, as a one-quarter mile square with its eastern side centered on the point where Main Street crossed Mill Creek (at roughly the point where it does now). The City of Walla Walla received a Trustee Townsite from the U.S. Government which consisted of 80 acres issued on July 20, 1869 by the Vancouver, W.T. District Land Office. Main Street originally followed the old Nez Perce Indian Trail. Consequently the streets leading off of it were at right angles to it, and were not in a north-south orientation. This was corrected as the city moved eastward which gave Walla Walla its peculiar street pattern with the three street intersection at Palouse, Boyer and Main Streets. To the original plat, additional parcels were annexed from time to time, usually bearing the name of the land owner of record at the time the additions were made.

Research by: Mary E Meeker (with additions by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, see <http://ctuir.org/history-culture/history-ctuir>)

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- **Bartender (MAST required)** – serve beer and wine
- **Poster & Brochure distribution** – put up posters of upcoming shows; disseminate brochures
- **Ticket Takers and Will Call** – greet patrons, confirm tickets, direct to proper entrance
- **Safety & Security** – backstage or auditorium monitoring
- **Stage Crew** – set up and tear down
- **Clean-up/Maintenance** – periodic or routine maintenance prior to and after events

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To Our Patrons

Growth and change continue to be in the air as the first half of 2016 rapidly comes to a close. We hope you have enjoyed our offerings of comedy, concerts, plays, readings, presentations by local playwrights, film, family shows and the live streaming of the Messiah featuring a sing-along with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

Our goal is always to provide you with variety and quality. We enjoy discovering the undiscovered when we bring shows to the theatre that are not yet world famous. It is our hope that you come to trust us on lesser known shows, confident you will be well entertained. Along with continuing our established programming, we made the commitment this year to bring names you recognize to the theater. It was with excitement that we were able to bring you Paula Poundstone, Judy Collins, and Madeleine Peyroux.

As always, our great community touches the heart of those who visit us. People are constantly surprised by what Walla Walla has to offer and our visiting performers always want to return to the Gesa Power House Theatre.

GPHT continues to grow as a community gathering place. We ended 2015 with 18 shows, hosting 35 nonprofit shows/events and 33 private events such as weddings, corporate meetings, church services, anniversary parties, and more.

As the second half of 2016 begins we look forward to welcoming the 133rd Army Bands, David Luning, Seattle Rock Orchestra, magician Adam Trent, The Second City Comedy, Dancing with the Walla Walla Stars, comedian Sharron Matthews, Improv Camp performances, the ever growing Dia de los Muertos Celebration and so much more. Check our website (www.phtww.com) for up to date information. Sign up for our newsletter or become a Member of the Gesa Power House Theatre to receive show information and early access to discounted tickets before the general public.

The creation of the Power House Theatre Walla Walla Foundation is underway to ensure the theater continues to be the premiere community gathering place for years to come.

Many changes are ahead as we look forward to growing our dream of enhancing the opportunities for the arts to be experienced in Walla Walla.

- The Owners



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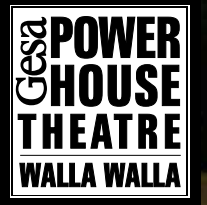
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The next time you are planning an event, let your imagination run wild at Gesa Power House Theatre. Our event staff will be happy to brainstorm with you and check our calendar for availability.

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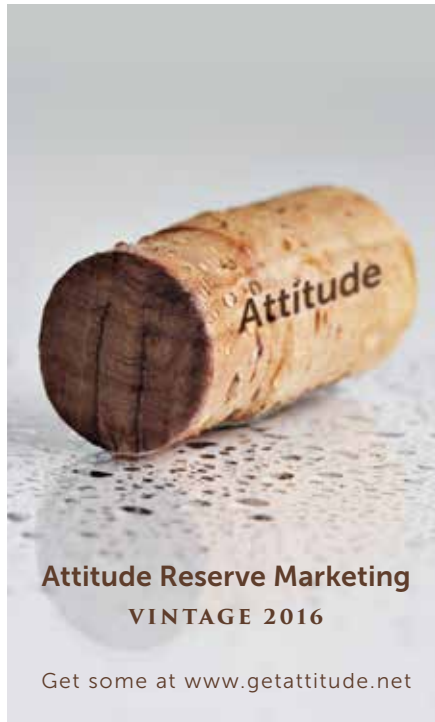


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Memberships ensure our success and sustainability. Ticket revenue alone does not cover the cost to operate and maintain this historical theater. We would be honored to welcome you into our family and, together, ensure the future of Gesa Power House Theatre. Stop by the Box Office before you leave and sign up today!

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