



Approved 12/17/2020

## LANDMARK REGISTRATION FORM

### PART I: PROPERTY INFORMATION

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name: W. D. GIBBON GENERAL STORE

other names/site number: GIBBON-MEZZAVILLA GENERAL STORE

#### 2. Location

street address: 22020 SE 248th St., Maple Valley

parcel no(s): 212206-9184

legal description(s):

#### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- ☐ private  
☒ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property:

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ Site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

#### 4. Property Owner(s)

name: City of Maple Valley

street: 22017 SE Wax Rd., Ste. 200 / PO Box 320

city: Maple Valley

state: WA

zip: 98038

#### 5. Form Prepared By

name/title: Sarah J. Martin, Historian

organization: SJM Cultural Resource Services  
3901 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NE #202, Seattle, WA 98105  
On behalf of Maple Valley Historical Society  
PO Box 123, Maple Valley, WA 98038

date: October 28, 2020

## 6. Nomination Checklist

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site Map (REQUIRED)  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuation Sheets |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photographs (REQUIRED): <i>please label or caption photographs and include an index</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please indicate):       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Last Deed of Title: <i>this document can usually be obtained for little or no cost from a title company</i> |   |

## PART II: PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

### 7. Alterations

Check the appropriate box if there have been changes to plan, cladding, windows, interior features or other significant elements. These changes should be described specifically in the narrative section below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Plan (i.e. no additions to footprint, relocation of walls, or roof plan)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Interior features (woodwork, finishes, flooring, fixtures)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Cladding	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Other elements
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Windows			

### Narrative Description

Use the space below to describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance, condition, architectural characteristics, and the above-noted alterations (use continuation sheet if necessary).

*The following narratives draw upon a recent visit to the building by the author, examination of property records and historic photographs, and conversations with long-time residents. Additional and confirming information from primary sources, including maps, census records, period newspaper accounts, and carefully selected published histories, has been used to tell the story of the W. D. Gibbon General Store. The author wishes to thank Dick Peacock and Dave Pilgrim for their assistance throughout this effort.*

### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The W. D. Gibbon General Store, named for its longtime proprietor William D. Gibbon, was built in 1894 and is among Maple Valley's oldest surviving buildings. Its survival is due in part to its relocation three times – in 1907, 1959, and 1999. The false-front, wood-frame building first occupied a parcel near the southeast corner of today's SE 216th Street and highway 169. Gibbon moved it across the road to make way for railroad realignment in 1907. His successor, Joe Mezzavilla, moved the building a few blocks farther west to make way for a shopping center expansion in 1959. The building sat vacant until the Maple Valley Historical Society acquired it in 1999 and moved it to its current location and restored the building to function as a community museum. The Gibbon General Store is now located at 22020 SE 248th St., approximately two miles south of its previous location. It is at the north end of a 4.72-acre parcel that the Historical Society shares with the Greater Maple Valley Community Center.

### MAPLE VALLEY SETTING

Maple Valley is located in south King County, approximately 25 miles south of Seattle, along the Cedar River in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains (see figure A1). The area initially developed in the late nineteenth century around the logging and mining industries, consisting of a patchwork of homesteads and small farms. Maple Valley and the surrounding districts remained decidedly rural through much of the twentieth century. In response to tremendous growth, Maple Valley incorporated in 1997 and is currently a city of 5.8 square miles with a population of 26,180 in 2019.

The area within the original town plat where the Gibbon General Store was first located has been transformed by transportation projects and commercial development during the second half of the twentieth century (see figures A2, C1, and C2). Only a few references to Maple Valley's early history remain on the landscape of the original plat, including the relocated Gibbon residence, the Cedar Grange, and the former railroad corridor that now functions as the Cedar River Trail. The recreational trail follows the path of the old Columbia & Puget Sound Railroad, which meanders southward around Lake Wilderness to Black Diamond.

The Gibbon General Store's current location is along this same former railroad path in a wooded area approximately one-half mile west of Lake Wilderness (see figure A3). The building is on the south side of the trail and a graveled, rock-lined path leads from the trail around both sides of the building to the primary entry. The building faces south toward the parking lot and overlooks a graveled courtyard encircled by the Historical Society's other buildings and features (see figure A4). These include the fire engine garage (1987) and a picnic seating area to the east, a flagpole and memorial to military veterans to the west, and a covered open-air display featuring a 20-foot section of a 1930s-era wooden pipeline to the south. Immediately south of the fire engine garage is the Historical Society's new collections storage facility, built in 2018 (see figures C9 through C11).

#### ORIGINAL LOCATION & RELOCATIONS

The Gibbon General Store was constructed in 1894 as an expansion to an earlier building. The two buildings occupied Lots 10 and 11 in Block 7 of the original Maple Valley plat, near where today's 216th Way intersects with highway 169 (see figure A6). Railroad development in 1907 forced Gibbon to relocate the 1894 building across the street, to the northwest corner of today's SE 218th Street and highway 169. He located the store next to his impressive new residence.

In 1949, the Gibbon house was moved a half-block west to make way for a new shopping center. The house survives and is at 22520 SE 218th Street. The general store remained in place until the shopping center was expanded in 1959. Store proprietor and owner Joe Mezzavilla moved the building a few blocks farther west to a privately-owned parcel near the end of today's 216th Place, where it sat shuttered and was used for storage until 1999 when the Historical Society moved the building to its current location and restored it for use as a museum.

#### EXTERIOR

This late Victorian-era general store is a simple false-front, wood building with a rectangular plan measuring 30' by 50'. The one-story building rests on a slightly raised concrete foundation with a crawlspace on a generally flat grade and is clad in horizontal wood drop siding with corner boards. The false front, topped by a bracketed pent-roof cornice, obscures a medium-pitched gabled roof with composition shingles (see figures C3 and C4).

The **primary south façade** is distinguished by a storefront with a center entry that is covered by a full-width shed roof supported by square posts. Three wood steps span the width of the building and access the porch. The flush double-door entry consists of panel-and-glass doors with a four-light transom window. On either side of the entry is a grouping of three one-over-one wood windows. The openings have plain, square-edge trim. The false front extends above the shed roof and functions as a signboard. The storefront windows, entry, shed roof, and false front were reconstructed following the building's move to the site in 1999 (see figures C3, C4, and C12).

The **east and west side elevations** have no window or door openings and simply consist of horizontal wood cladding that is consistent with the primary façade. Small vent openings are located near the base of each wall. The top of each wall is finished with a wide frieze board. The roof eaves have very little overhang and feature gutters that lead to downspouts at the north and south corners. There are six small vents near the peak of the roof on the east-facing slope (see figures C5, C6, and C8).

The **rear north elevation** is clad in the same horizontal wood siding that is consistent with the rest of the building. There is a single one-over-one wood window at the northwest corner and a single panel-and-glass door at the northeast corner. Both openings have plain, square-edge trim and protective metal grating installed over the window and glass in the door. A wood ramp with balustrade spans the width of the elevation, leading to the raised, covered porch at the northeast corner. A shed roof supported by square wood posts covers the entry.



The roof eaves have very little overhang, and the gable wall is finished with a narrow frieze board (see figures C6 and C7).

## INTERIOR

The primary, double-door entry opens directly into the former general store space. On each side of the entry is an enclosed display window area that is accessed by an interior window opening (see figures C13 and C15).

The building interior consists of three primary spaces – a large open area that historically functioned as the general store, a small office in the rear northwest corner that is interpreted as a post office, and a small utility room at the northeast corner that accesses the restroom and rear entry. The interior finishes include wood-plank flooring, horizontal wood-plank walls, and a tall ceiling finished in beadboard. Door and window openings have square-edge trim. Newer track lights and hanging pendant lights illuminate the interior, which now functions as a museum space that reflects the general store during the 1920s. Tall detached shelves, reminiscent of showcase shelves that are typically found in an early twentieth century general store, line the side walls, while shorter wood-framed glass display cases form aisles around which to observe the museum displays. The space is intended to look and feel like the old general store it once was (see figures C13 through C17).

There is a wood stove with a stovepipe centered on the rear (north) wall of the general store space. The stove is non-functioning and is for interpretive purposes only. On either side of the stove is a single-leaf door. The door on the left leads to the post office space, while the door on the far-right side leads to a small utility room that accesses the rear entry.

These enclosed rear spaces were not previously part of the interior layout but rather were added during the 1999-2001 renovation. They feature the same interior finishes as the general store space, but with newer, in-kind replacement material including wood flooring, horizontal wood-plank walls, and a tall ceiling finished in beadboard. The post office space has a tall window on the north wall, a wood-panel door to a closet on the east partition wall, and a small, square hinged opening on the east wall near the ceiling that accesses the building's heating system (see figure C18). The adjacent utility room has two wood-panel doors on the east wall, one to the restroom and the other to a closet, and a glass-and-wood-panel door to the exterior on the north wall (see figure C19).

## CHANGE OVER TIME

The building has had three longtime owners who have used the structure in different ways, each of which resulted in physical changes to the property. Changes are documented below from a mix of primary sources, oral history, and secondary accounts.

### Gibbon and Mezzavilla General Store Era (1894-1959)

- A photograph of the store in its original location, taken around the turn of the twentieth century, shows the newly constructed building adjoined to the older store building that Gibbon purchased. The two buildings are joined under a bracketed pent-roof cornice (see figure B2).
- The subject building was relocated in 1907.
- In 1937, the original, double-hung wood windows of the storefront were replaced with plate glass (see figures B15 through B21).<sup>1</sup>
- At an unknown date, but perhaps when the storefront windows were replaced in 1937, a front-gabled canopy or carport, was added to the primary façade to shelter customers and employees who used the

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<sup>1</sup> Jayne Wissell, "Gibbon's Store," King County Historic Sites Survey Inventory Record #0326. 1978.

## Physical Description (continued)

gasoline pump. Photographs of the building from the 1950s show the canopy (see figures B12, B15, and B16).

- The canopy was removed prior to the building's relocation in 1959 (see figures B17 through B21).

## Vacant, Used for Storage (1959-1999)

- There was little active change or upkeep to the building during this period, during which it sat vacant and functioned as storage space (see figures B18 through B21).

## Museum Era (1999-present)

- The building was in poor condition when the Historical Society acquired it. To save it, the building was moved a third time, to its current location (see figures B20 and B21).
- To prepare the building for relocation in 1999, the false front was removed so that it could safely clear bridge heights along the two-mile route as it sat on a flatbed trailer pulled by a truck (see figures B22 through B25).
- The building was placed on a concrete foundation at its current location (see figures B26, B28, and B29).
- A major renovation of the building took place between 1999 to 2001. The storefront windows and false front were rebuilt (see figures B27, B32, C4, and C12). Salvaged exterior siding was consolidated to the south and west elevations, while the east and north sides were re-clad with in-kind wood siding that matched the profile and appearance of the original cladding (see figures B28 through B31 and C5 and C6). On the side elevations, doors and windows were removed and the openings framed in during the renovation. These features were documented in 1978, when field surveyor Jayne Wissel noted that aside from the storefront windows, "most of the other windows around the building are high, single pane, fixed sash with plain surrounds." She also noted both side elevations "contain a wooden door with a single glass panel in the upper half," (see figures B20 and B21).
- The old roofing materials and rafters were removed in 1999. The new roof reused what framing materials were salvageable, and a new composition shingle roof was installed (see figures B26, B30, B31, and C8).
- Prior to rehabilitation the interior was one open space with shelving along the sidewalls. The two rooms at the rear were built new during the renovation as was the storefront window enclosure flanking the entrance. Historic materials include the wood flooring that was re-milled and re-finished (although not in the rear rooms) and the beadboard ceiling complete with holes from old light fixtures. The interior wood plank walls are a mix of old and new, with the oldest material consolidated on the west wall. Insulation was added during the renovation. Some of the old store shelving seen in the 1999 photos was used to build doors on today's building (see figures B14, B33 through 35, and C13 through C19).

## INTEGRITY

The W. D. Gibbon General Store is among the earliest surviving buildings in the Cedar River Valley, and it clearly illustrates its original and longtime use as small-town general store. The building no longer retains integrity of location because of its three relocations, but these removals are what saved it from destruction, first in 1907 and then in 1959 and 1999. The building is currently located approximately two miles south of its first two sites, and importantly the building retains its proximity to the path of the railroad. The building's integrity of feeling and association remain vital. Exterior design, massing, and materials, and the interior plan and finishes reflect its historically public function as a general store, post office, and now a community museum. While parts of the building were rebuilt between 1999 and 2001, the rehabilitation was thoughtfully done, based on historic photographs, and used in-kind replacement materials where salvage was not possible.

### PART III: HISTORICAL / ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

#### 8. Evaluation Criteria

##### Designation Criteria:

- ☒ A1 Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, state, or local history.
- ☒ A2 Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in national, state, or local history.
- ☒ A3 Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, style, or method of design or construction or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ A4 Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.
- ☐ A5 Property is an outstanding work of a designer or builder who has made a substantial contribution to the art.

##### Criteria Considerations:

##### Property is

- ☐ a cemetery, birthplace, or grave or property owned by a religious institution/used for religious purposes
- ☒ moved from its original location
- ☐ a reconstructed historic building
- ☐ a commemorative property
- ☐ less than 40 years old or achieving significance within the last 40 years

#### Historical Data (if known)

Date(s) of Construction: 1894	Other Date(s) of Significance: 1907, 1959, 1999	
Architect: Unknown	Builder: Unknown	Engineer: Unknown

#### Statement of Significance

Describe in detail the chronological history of the property and how it meets the landmark designation criteria. Please provide a summary in the first paragraph (use continuation sheets if necessary). If using a Multiple Property Nomination that is already on record, or another historical context narrative, please reference it by name and source.

#### NARRATIVE SIGNIFICANCE

The W. D. Gibbon General Store was built in 1894 alongside the new Columbia & Puget Sound Railroad that was shaping and transforming the Cedar River Valley as industry made its way into the resource-rich hills of southern King County. The building functioned as a general store from 1894 to 1959 and was located within the original townsite of Maple Valley that was situated along the banks of the Cedar River where it intersected with two railroad lines. The modest Victorian-era false-front building is a product of the optimism of the community during the bustling railroad era of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and is associated with two longtime valley residents – William D. Gibbon and Giuseppe (Joe) Mezzavilla. It is one of the oldest surviving commercial buildings in the Maple Valley area.

The building is significant under Maple Valley Landmark **Criterion A1** for its association with the early history and development of Maple Valley. The modest commercial building functioned as a general store and community hub from 1894 to 1959. The building reflects an important chapter in the valley's history, the post-pioneer years of the 1890s, when the valley took shape as a railroad town. The story of the building's relocations is reflective of broader change in the valley, particularly as it relates to the evolving transportation network and local economy, and of the community's desire to save a piece of its early history.

The building is also significant under Maple Valley Landmark **Criterion A2** for its association with two individuals who are important in Maple Valley history – William D. Gibbon and his successor Joe Mezzavilla. Both were involved leaders in the community for many years and are still remembered. Gibbon built Gibbon Hall (later home to the Cedar Grange) in the early 1900s, and he donated land for a Community Club building for which Mezzavilla donated materials. Mezzavilla sponsored a Boy Scout Troop that met at the Community Club. He also helped form and support a community volunteer fire department, and he donated land for a fire department facility built in 1949. Notably, these two longtime proprietors – first the Welsh Gibbon and then the Italian Mezzavilla – are reflective of the immigrant and first-generation American clientele they served.

Finally, the building is significant under **Criterion A3** as a relatively intact example of a vernacular false-front building of which there are few if any others remaining in Maple Valley. It has modest embellishments typical of commercial buildings erected during the first wave of town development following initial settlement by non-Native immigrants.

#### LOCAL CONTEXT

Prior to non-Native settlement in the mid-nineteenth century, the central Puget Sound region was home to Native peoples, namely the Duwamish, which is an Anglicized name for du-AHBSH or People of the Inside Place. They established seasonal and permanent settlements along the area's bodies of water and a network of transportation routes connecting them.<sup>2</sup> The rich natural resources of the lakes and forests attracted non-Native settlers and entrepreneurs to the Pacific Northwest. Early European-American settlement concentrated near Elliott Bay, and abundant forests drew those with logging interests inland, pushing out Native dwellers.<sup>3</sup>

Small farms and mills developed along the rivers and around the lakes as the foothills were cleared. By the 1870s, immigrant settlers had made their way inland along the Cedar River. Among the earliest settlers were those recorded on an 1881 survey map of Township 22, where Maple Valley would later develop. They included James Taylor, E.W. Davis, George Ames, Israel Stevens, J. Stevens, E. Hooker, and Charles O. Russell (see figure A5). John McCoy and James Maxwell, early settlers of the Cedar Grove area, and Henry Sidebotham, who settled two miles east of Russell and Ames, are credited with naming the area Vinemaplevalley, which later became Maple Valley.

It was Russell who hosted on his property the area's first school and post office, which was first named Arthur (after Russell's son) and then renamed to Maple Valley.<sup>4</sup> The Columbia & Puget Sound Railroad (C&PS), later

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<sup>2</sup> David B. Williams, *Too High & Too Steep* (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2015), 15.

<sup>3</sup> For additional information on this early period, see Sharon Boswell's "King County Historic Settlement Context, 1850-1920," King County, 2017. [https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/services/home-property/historic-preservation/documents/resources/king\\_county\\_historic\\_context\\_vol\\_1.ashx?la=en](https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/services/home-property/historic-preservation/documents/resources/king_county_historic_context_vol_1.ashx?la=en)

<sup>4</sup> Greg Lange, "Maple Valley Beginnings: Arthur Post Office Opens on May 22, 1882," HistoryLink: <https://historylink.org/File/518>, citing Guy Reed Ramsey, "Postmarked Washington, 1850-1960," Microfilm (Olympia: Washington State Library, February, 1966), 578-579.

Pacific Coast Railroad, pushed through the valley in 1885 connecting Black Diamond, Franklin, and surrounding mining operations to Maple Valley, Renton, and beyond to Seattle. The small settlement that had formed in anticipation of the railroad was energized by the activity. After service began on the rail line, Russell turned over operation of the post office to Emma McDonald, who managed a general store closer to the rail stop.<sup>5</sup>

Although Russell reportedly laid out the Maple Valley townsite in 1887, it was F. A. Hill who filed the plat in May 1890 (see figure A6). Later that year, Hill and others organized the Coast Commercial Company, headquartered in Seattle's Haller Block, to invest in railroad construction, mining, real estate, and timber land.<sup>6</sup> The plat located the community of Maple Valley along the north bank of the Cedar River where it intersected with the C&PS Railroad and a logging railroad line in Section 9 of Township 22. The plat included ten irregular-shaped blocks subdivided into lots.

A bustling community of wood-frame buildings built up around the rail stop and supported the many small farms throughout the surrounding township. Activity in the valley intensified as a second railroad developed through Maple Valley. There were camps of men working on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, which progressed throughout 1907. *The Seattle Times* reported:

...two steam shovels are excavating a large cut through the heart of the little town. Two miniature trains are employed in carrying the earth removed by the shovels to fill in the grade, which is now extended a half-mile south. This cut will be the last connecting link between the new road and the right-of-way of the Columbia & Puget Sound Railway, which will be doubled-tracked shortly and placed at the disposal of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, thus saving to the big transcontinental line an immense amount of construction work.<sup>7</sup>

This major infrastructure project through the heart of the river town established Maple Valley as a crossroads (see figures A7 and A8). It led to the relocation of community buildings around the railroad, a scenario that would play out again and again as this area redeveloped to accommodate roads and highways.

The 1900 federal census recorded 240 inhabitants in the Arthur precinct of which Maple Valley was a part. This included 159 U.S.-born and 81 foreign-born residents. The census recorded immigrants from England, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Sweden, Norway, Canada, Germany Switzerland, Bohemia, China, and Japan. Seventy percent of residents were male, which reflected a local economy dependent on the male-dominated extractive and railroad sectors. These demographics generally held steady for the 1910 federal census, which recorded 216 residents in the Arthur precinct.<sup>8</sup> By the 1920s, farming had become a bigger part of the local economy, and the area became known for its dairy, poultry, and fruit farming.<sup>9</sup>

Maple Valley and its environs became more accessible to non-residents as roads improved and more people purchased automobiles. The area's lakes and rivers attracted visitors from nearby Seattle and Tacoma. Maple Valley's Lake Wilderness, where early activity centered on logging and agriculture, transitioned to recreational

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<sup>5</sup> Morda C. Slauson, *One Hundred Years Along the Cedar River*, sixth reprint (Maple Valley, WA: Maple Valley Historical Society, 1971), 33. Laura Lorenz, *Historical Sketch of the Greater Maple Valley Area*, fifth edition (Maple Valley, WA: Maple Valley Historical Society, 1996), 8, 19. These local histories refer to Emma McDonald only as Mrs. McDonald, but property deeds and census records identify her as Emma McDonald.

<sup>6</sup> "Coast Commercial Company Organized," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, Nov. 1, 1890, 5.

<sup>7</sup> "Through Hill and Forest Milwaukee Road Eats Its Way Down Maple Valley," *The Seattle Times*, July 28, 1907, 34.

<sup>8</sup> "Arthur Precinct, King County, WA," U.S. Federal Census, 1900 and 1910. Accessed via FamilySearch.org.

<sup>9</sup> Lorenz, 18-19.

use as a lake resort. In the early 1920s, three small family resorts operated on the northwest shore of the lake. By mid-century, the Gaffney family had developed the resort into one of the most popular lake resorts in King County.<sup>10</sup> Lake Wilderness is just a half-mile east of the Historical Society's Gibbon Store Museum.

The Maple Valley Highway developed through the heart of the valley, generally following the path of the C&PS Railroad. By the 1930s most of the route had been rebuilt and paved, connecting Enumclaw and Black Diamond to the south with Renton to the north (see figure A8). It became a state highway in the 1930s and was re-designated 169 in the 1960s. Work on a second highway through Maple Valley – state highway 18 – began in the early 1960s. As these two roads improved and expanded over the years, the first-generation, wood-frame commercial buildings like the Gibbon/Mezzavilla store gave way to bigger, permanent structures built for modern businesses like supermarkets (see figures B7, B17, C1, and C2).

Maple Valley never developed as the concentrated settlement that F. A. Hill envisioned in his 1890 plat. Area residents remained scattered throughout the valley on farms and rural parcels, and the community remained unincorporated until 1997.

#### BUILDING & OWNERSHIP HISTORY

The Gibbon General Store that is the subject of this application was built in 1894 as an addition to an existing building. The origins of the first building are not well documented, but based on property deed records it was probably constructed in 1891 (see figure B1). Following F. A. Hill's filing of the Maple Valley plat, his Coast Commercial Company sold two prime-location lots (10 and 11 in Block 7) to M.F. and Emma McDonald on January 11, 1891.<sup>11</sup> The McDonalds paid \$375 for the property that was located adjacent to the the new Columbia & Puget Sound Railway. The McDonalds were natives of Michigan and in their thirties at this time. M.F. worked as a foreman and section boss for the railroad, while Emma managed a general store and the post office while caring for their young children.<sup>12</sup>

#### *The Gibbon Era (1891-mid-1920s)*

The McDonalds sold the property later that same year, on September 25, 1891, to Thomas G. Spaight, William D. Gibbon, and Alexander G. Hanson for \$800.<sup>13</sup> The three formed a partnership under the name W.D. Gibbon and Co., suggesting that Spaight and Hanson served as investors or backers in the business.<sup>14</sup> They sold their shares of the property to Gibbon in August and September 1895.<sup>15</sup> Gibbon paid each former partner \$1,000 for their share of the property, indicating the property value had increased considerably in just a few years. Not only did

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<sup>10</sup> Philip Seven Esser and Kate Krafft, Gaffney's Lake Wilderness Lodge National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2003, Sec. 8, p. 2. The Gaffney lodge is the only property within Maple Valley city limits that is a designated a Maple Valley Landmark.

<sup>11</sup> Warranty Deed, Recorded Documents, King County Archives. "Real Estate Sales," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, September 26, 1891, 8.

<sup>12</sup> The 1887 state census recorded the McDonalds as living in the Kent/White River/McAlister precinct. The couple had likely recently moved from Missouri, as their three-year-old son was recorded in the census as a Missouri native. The 1889 state census recorded the McDonalds as living in the Franklin/Black Diamond precinct. Washington Census Records, 1887 and 1889. Washington State Archives, Cheney, WA. Accessed via Ancestry.com.

<sup>13</sup> Warranty Deed, Recorded Documents, King County Archives. "Real Estate Sales," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, September 26, 1891, 8.

<sup>14</sup> Spaight later married Gibbon's sister Elizabeth. "Personal," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, January 18, 1894, 4.

<sup>15</sup> "Notice of Dissolution," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, August 30, 1895, 6. "Real Estate Sales," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, September 13, 1895, 7.

the increasing railroad and mining activity likely add value, the original building had been expanded to grow the business (see figure B2).

Gibbon (1862-1944), a native of Wales, was born to David and Mary Gibbon. When William was a child, the family immigrated to the U.S., settling in Carbon County, Pennsylvania, where David worked as a miner.<sup>16</sup> William later attended West Chester Normal School near Philadelphia and, while seeking work as a teacher, was offered work in a general merchandise store in Freeland, Pennsylvania. About 1890, he moved to Washington where his father was working as a miner in Black Diamond, which is where William most likely met his future business partners, Spaight and Hanson, who both lived in the Black Diamond area.<sup>17</sup> William became a naturalized citizen on December 26, 1890.<sup>18</sup>

The earliest record of Gibbon in Maple Valley is his purchase of the McDonald property with Spaight and Hanson in September 1891. Gibbon married Jeanette Snook at the First Baptist Church in Seattle in 1893, but their marriage was brief as she died during a visit to Seattle on November 16, 1895.<sup>19</sup> He married Elizabeth Jones, a teacher, at Seattle's Southern Hotel in 1897.<sup>20</sup> The couple had one son, Chester, born in 1899. The operation of the general store was a family affair, with Lizzie, Chester, and others including Lizzie's brother John all spending time behind the counter. While Lizzie's involvement is not well documented, it is likely she co-managed the store with her husband until her death in 1919. (See image B37 for a photograph of William, Lizzie, and Chester Gibbon.)

Over the following many years, Gibbon established himself as an involved community member. He joined the local chapter of the Good Templars fraternal organization. He hosted in his store the Maple Valley Post Office from 1891 to 1922. He built Gibbon Hall in the early 1900s, and it became the social center of the community and eventually home to the Cedar Grange.<sup>21</sup> In partnership with the Grange, Gibbon's son Chester began his career in journalism in the early 1920s by printing a local newspaper, the *Maplevalley Messenger*. The budding newsman also set up a radiophone receiver in his father's store so visitors could hear music and the latest news bulletins sent out by the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.<sup>22</sup>

The Gibbon store was a center of the community, where people dropped in to pick up and send mail, exchange goods, catch up with friends, and get the latest news. One particularly vivid recollection of the store during this period comes from Madeleine Koester Gesell, who lived in the valley as a child in the 1910s and 1920s. She recalled her memories of visits to the Gibbon store to local historian Laura Lorenz:

The interior of the store was an old-fashioned place. The post-office was a little room at the front of the store. A sign in the window advertised shoes. In the middle of the store was a big pot-bellied stove around which a few wooden easy chairs were clustered as well as the usual spittoons. The men chatted by the stove's warmth while the women shopped and exchanged recipes. Yard goods, rick rack, lace, and buttons were sold on one counter. The selection of dress yardage and flannels for winter night clothes was limited.

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<sup>16</sup> 1870 U.S. Census. Accessed via Familysearch.org.

<sup>17</sup> Eric Erickson, "Gibbon and Company General Merchandise," [undated pamphlet], Maple Valley Historical Society. R.L. Polk Company, Seattle City Directory, 1891-1893, 875.

<sup>18</sup> William D. Gibbon Naturalization Record – Declaration of Intention, Washington District, District Court of the United States, December 26, 1890. Accessed via Familysearch.org.

<sup>19</sup> "Death of Mrs. W.D. Gibbon," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, November 18, 1895, 5.

<sup>20</sup> "Weddings," *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, October 17, 1897, 10. Jones' brother John E. Jones operated the hotel.

<sup>21</sup> Gibbon's hall still stands at 22531 SE 218th Street and has been home to the Cedar Grange since 1919.

<sup>22</sup> "Customers in Gibbon's Store Hear Radiophone Concerts," *Maplevalley Messenger*, March 23, 1922, 5.

Our better dresses were ordered from Sears and Roebuck or Montgomery Ward. Opposite the dry goods counter was the shelf containing a few canned goods. On the floor stood barrels holding the butter in brine to keep it sweet. There were barrels filled with dill pickles which we bought in a small cardboard box. A big dill pickle handed out was a treat to the children. Flour, sugar, and other staples were sold in one hundred pound lots. Rarely did we buy less than fifty pounds of lard unless we rendered our own. Sticks of penny candies stood on the counter. In the back of the store were small tools while chicken and dry cow feed were kept in another room. [The] highlight of the day was the arrival of the mail train at 5:30 p.m., known as the short Milwaukee. The mailman carried the mail from the depot as we anxiously waited.<sup>23</sup>

Gibbon's store evolved to include things his customers needed, like gasoline for trucks and automobiles and dynamite that farmers used for stump clearing (see figures B39).<sup>24</sup> A sizeable addition was completed in early 1923 on the south side of the building to provide storage space for store supplies, coverage for cattle feed, and a room for the post office with living space for the next postmaster (see figure B11). Sylvia Webb was appointed postmistress and succeed Gibbon in that role in early 1923.<sup>25</sup>

Sometime in the mid-1920s Gibbon apparently experienced financial hardships and sold both the community hall and his store. He later opened another general merchandise store and roadside station in Maple Valley, which he maintained until his death in 1944. Area newspapers remembered him as a pioneer Maple Valley merchant known to generations of residents.<sup>26</sup>

#### *The Mezzavilla Era (1929-1991)*

The Grange was managing the store when a young Giuseppe (Joe) Mezzavilla (1896-1991) set up a barber chair there. In 1929, Mezzavilla became manager of the store and within a decade had purchased both the business and the building. Thus, began the store's long association with another well-known and community-oriented Maple Valley resident.

Mezzavilla immigrated to the U.S., by way of Canada, from his native northern Italy in the early 1920s. He arrived in Washington in May 1922 and became a naturalized citizen on October 13, 1923.<sup>27</sup> He had been on his way to California and had stopped off at Taylor, Washington, to visit his uncle Angelo Cochitto, who had lived in Washington since 1915.<sup>28</sup> Mezzavilla stayed in the area, working first in the clay works to save money to attend barber school in Seattle. He married Teresa Bagnariol of Taylor in 1925. Following a fire that destroyed their house in Ronald, the Mezzavillas moved first to Taylor and then to Maple Valley where Joe set up his barber chair at the Grange store, Gibbon's former store. When he became manager of the store in 1929, his family moved into the back of the lean-to addition. Within a few years, Mezzavilla gave up the barber chair to make

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<sup>23</sup> Lorenz, 20.

<sup>24</sup> "Red Crown Gasoline [advertisement]," *The Seattle Star*, November 23, 1922, 11.

<sup>25</sup> "Sylvia G. Webb appointed to postmastership here – office now being rushed to completion," *Maplevalley Messenger*, January 25, 1923, n.p. As referenced in Black Diamond History [blog], accessed online September 4, 2020. <https://blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com/2017/01/25/new-postmistress-will-take-charge-first-of-february/>. Bud Byers, "Maple Valley's First Store," *Maple Valley Bugle*, vol. 14, no. 1 (February 2000): 5.

<sup>26</sup> "W.D. Gibbon Funeral," *The Seattle Times*, December 13, 1944, 13. "William Gibbon, Pioneer, Much Missed In Maple Valley Community," *Renton News Record*, December 21, 1944, n.p.

<sup>27</sup> Joseph Mezzavilla Naturalization Record – Declaration of Intention, Western Washington District, District Court of the United States, December 26, 1890. Accessed via Familysearch.org.

<sup>28</sup> Application for Equalized Compensation – Angelo Cochitto, State of Washington, 1921. Accessed via Familysearch.org.



room for a hardware supply in his general store. At this time, the store dealt in a variety of goods, including everything from hay, oil, gas, lampwicks, and nails, to food or anything else one might need.<sup>29</sup>

Like his predecessor Gibbon, Mezzavilla was active in the community, and in time, he became known to many as Papa Joe. He was a member the Maple Valley Commercial Club and its successor, the Cedar River United Club. He donated materials to build the Community Club and sponsored the Boy Scout Troop that met there. He helped form and support a community volunteer fire department, and he donated land for a fire department facility built in 1949.<sup>30</sup> Also like his predecessor, he remodeled and adapted his store to meet the changing times. He added a canopy over the gasoline pumps out front to better accommodate automobiles and he expanded the storefront windows, likely to draw customers inside. His family, including his wife Teresa, their daughter Delia (Mezzavilla) Merlini, son-in-law Tony Merlini, and Tony's sister Marie Merlini worked in the store over the years. (See images B13, B14 and B38 for photographs Joe, Teresa, and Marie.)

In the 1950s, Mezzavilla's store included a hardware supply, a feed store, a tv repair shop, gasoline sales, and grocery items. Dick Peacock, who grew up in the valley, recalls that the shop had a tv and kids would gather to watch sports broadcasts and playoff games.<sup>31</sup> Bud Byers provides another recollection of the store from this period:

[The store had] canned goods stacked like pyramids in the middle of the floor. The walls had shelves that reached to the ceiling and were stocked with household items. They used a ladder and grapple hook to remove ordered items. In the rear of the store, part of the area was stocked with clothes and sewing items. In this rear area was also a boxed-in space with an open front. In its middle sat a barber chair backed by a counter full of shaving needs.<sup>32</sup>

In 1959, Mezzavilla sold the business to his son-in-law Tony Merlini and Ralph Glidewell and moved the store building to keep it from being demolished. The building was moved a short distance west to a privately-owned parcel near the end of today's 216th Place. It sat shuttered and was used for storage until 1999. Before his death in 1991, Mezzavilla donated the building to the Maple Valley Historical Society.

#### *The Maple Valley Historical Society Era (1991-present)*

The Maple Valley Historical Society (MVHS) hoped to move the former Gibbon/Mezzavilla store to a county-owned parcel at 22020 SE 248th Street where the Historical Society had built a garage in 1987 for its 1926 fire engine. However, the agreements were not reached until after the site had transferred from King County to the newly incorporated City of Maple Valley.

The project was led by Historical Society president, Mona Pickering, with the involvement of the Maple Valley Coalition Services, and many volunteers and sponsors. King County's 4Culture provided a \$120,000 grant to the project. The City of Maple Valley earmarked \$10,000 to assist in relocating the building and the Historical Society

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<sup>29</sup> Debra Merlini, "Giuseppe (Papa Joe) Mezzavilla," in *Maple Valley Family Recollections III* [pamphlet], Maple Valley Historical Society, 1987, 1-6.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid. Eric Erickson, "Gibbon and Company General Merchandise," [undated pamphlet], Maple Valley Historical Society.

<sup>31</sup> Peacock, Dick. Personal conversation with the Sarah Martin, July 28, 2020. Notes in possession of the author. Barbara Nilson, "Memories of the Gibbon/Mezzavilla Store," *Maple Valley Bugle*, vol. 14, no. 1 (February 2000): 1-2.

<sup>32</sup> Bud Byers, "Maple Valley's First Store," *Maple Valley Bugle*, vol. 14, no. 1 (February 2000): 5.

raised funds and in-kind donations from individuals and businesses.<sup>33</sup> Jay Lewis of Lewis Construction was hired for \$2,000 to remove the false front for the move. The old roof and rafters were removed by Bruce Ward of Award Roofing, Inc., who then installed the new roof reusing what materials they could, for \$6,100. Jeff Ponder of Emerald City Building Restoration, Inc., moved the building in the early morning hours of March 28 at a cost of \$14,000. Volunteers Earl Iddings of Cascade Excavators and his son E.J. cleared the new site of trees and prepped the site. The new concrete foundation was poured by Vero Ward of AFW Construction Company.<sup>34</sup>

The subsequent construction work took many months to complete, with the goal of using the building as a community museum. Although no plans or notes of the rehabilitation efforts were found, the many photographs documenting the work illustrate a well-thought-out plan that adhered to the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation*. Early-twentieth century photographs of the building from the Gibbon era (see figures B2 and B3) guided the exterior rehabilitation work. The team preserved and consolidated existing materials when possible and used matching, in-kind materials elsewhere (see figures B26 through B35). There were no historic photographs of the interior to guide rehabilitation work, but there were memories and written recollections. The building was completed and opened in June 2001. Today, the interior of the store interprets the building's history from the late 1920s.

#### ARCHITECTURAL TYPE & PERIOD

The Gibbon General Store is an excellent example of the false-front building type, also known as the Western Falsefront, that is commonly associated with late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century settlement of the American West. However, false-front buildings can be found all over the United States because this building type was versatile, simple to construct, and could easily be adapted to fit lots of varying sizes. False-front buildings were most commonly used for commercial stores, meeting halls, and small hotels. In King County, false-front buildings like the Gibbon General Store reflect an early wave of town development following initial settlement by non-Native immigrants. Photographs of Maple Valley in the early twentieth century reveal that the Gibbon General Store was one of many false-front buildings in the thriving railroad town (see figure B7). They were frequently relocated, renovated, and reused to accommodate rapidly changing needs, and they eventually gave way to more permanent buildings. Today, the building is among the only – if not *the* only – remaining false-front buildings in Maple Valley.

The design intent of a false-front building is to make the structure look bigger than it really is, which was important for new towns developing along railroad lines and waterways. Not only would false-front buildings give passers-by the impression of a thriving and prosperous town, the false facades served as signboards advertising the businesses occupying the buildings. The vertical false wall obscured from view a building's roof, most often a gable or flat roof, giving a structure the appearance of a taller building.<sup>35</sup>

Like most one-story, false-front buildings, the Gibbon General Store façade extends just high enough to cover the highest point of the gable and it doubles as a business signboard. Modest decorative elements, such as a cornice with brackets, are often applied to the roofline of the false-front building, and the false front is usually

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<sup>33</sup> Barbara Nilson, "Historic store to be moved to new site and restored," *Voice of the Valley*, early 1999. Maple Valley Historical Society collections, Gibbon Store renovation scrapbook.

<sup>34</sup> Barbara Nilson, "Historical Gibbon/Mezzavilla store moved to new home," *Voice of the Valley*, April 7, 1999, n.p. As referenced in Black Diamond History [blog], accessed online August 4, 2020. <https://blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com/2018/04/09/historical-gibbon-mezzavilla-store-moved-to-new-home/>

<sup>35</sup> Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings, *American Vernacular: Buildings and Interiors, 1870-1960* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2009), 234-235.

integrated into the storefront by cornerboards or pilasters. An orderly storefront with large windows and a center entrance also are common features of this building type.

#### SUMMARY

The W. D. Gibbon General Store is an important surviving piece of early-day Maple Valley. The building outwardly reflects the post-pioneer settlement period of the 1890s, when the potential for development in the valley was seemingly endless. However, the building embodies much more Maple Valley history than that of the early period. Its owners adapted the building and the business to ongoing community change and to evolving clientele needs throughout the twentieth century. The story of its rehabilitation and reuse as a museum also is important. Not only did the effort to save the building establish a strong partnership between the newly incorporated City of Maple Valley with the Maple Valley Historical Society, it guaranteed the building's long-term use as a community museum. Today, the general store remains as one of the few extant buildings in Maple Valley to have witnessed the development of the community – from the small unincorporated railroad settlement to a thriving small city.

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- Figure B18. Tax Assessor photo, 1960
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- Figure B21. Vacant Gibbon/Mezzavilla Store, 1999, being readied for final relocation
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- Figure C16. View of front part of the interior
- Figure C17. View of west part of the store
- Figure C18. View of room at the rear northwest corner of the building
- Figure C19. View of the small room at the rear northeast corner of the building

Figure A1. Current map of region, with a circle noting the present-day location of the Gibbon General Store. King County iMap, 2020.

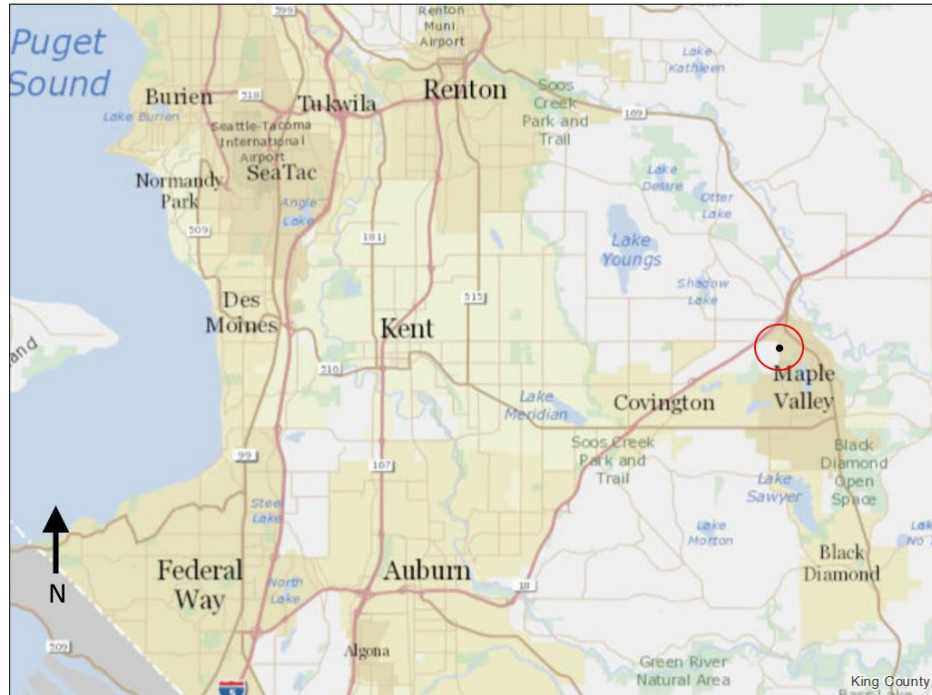


Figure A2. Current map of Maple Valley noting former locations of the Gibbon General Store. King County iMap, 2020. **(A) Original location**, 1894-1907, Lat/Long: 47.406261, -122.038183. **(B) Second location**, 1907-1959, Lat/Long: 47.407863, -122.041935. **(C) Third location**, 1959-1999, Lat/Long: 47.407068, -122.040427.

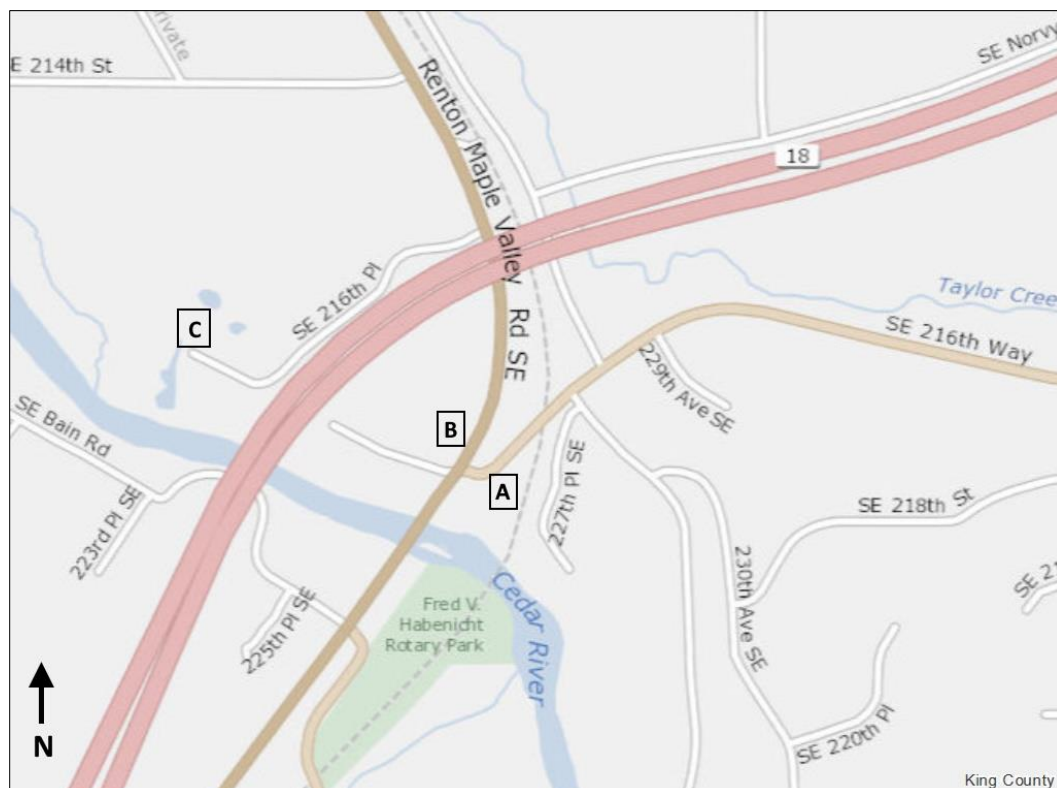




Figure A3. Current close-in map of Maple Valley noting current (fourth) location of Gibbon General Store. King County iMap, 2020.

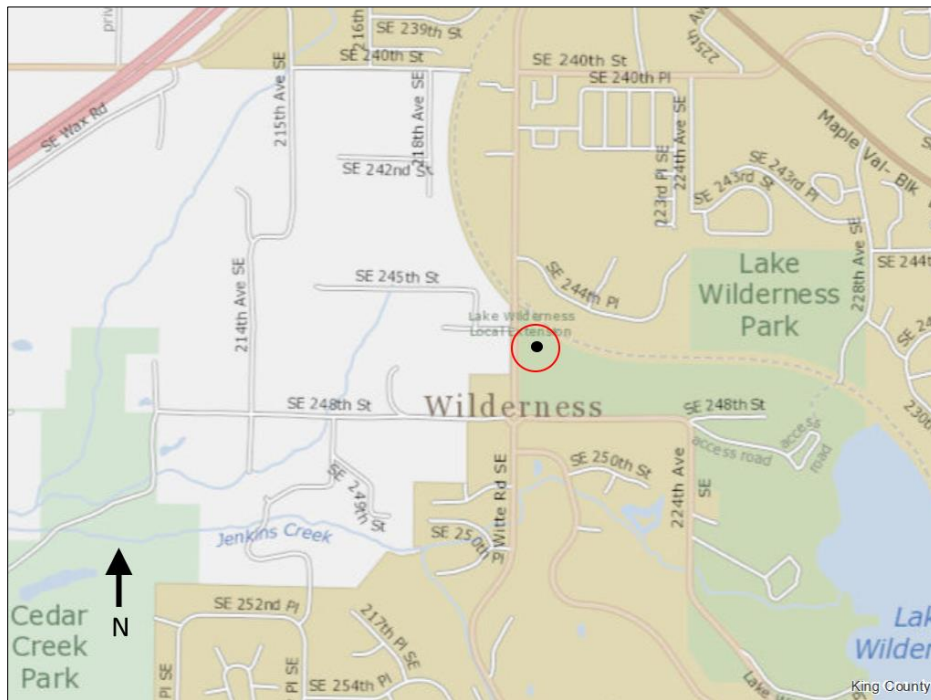


Figure A4. Aerial image, showing Gibbon Store in current location. King County IMap, 2020.





Figure A5. Land Survey Map of Township 22N, Range 6E. General Land Office, Bureau of Land Management. Recorded February 4, 1881. Maple Valley would be platted in the SE quarter of Section 9 in 1890 (shown below).

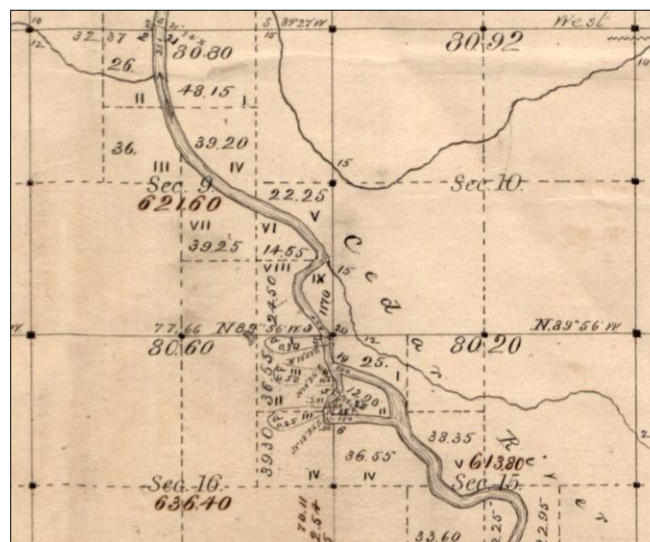
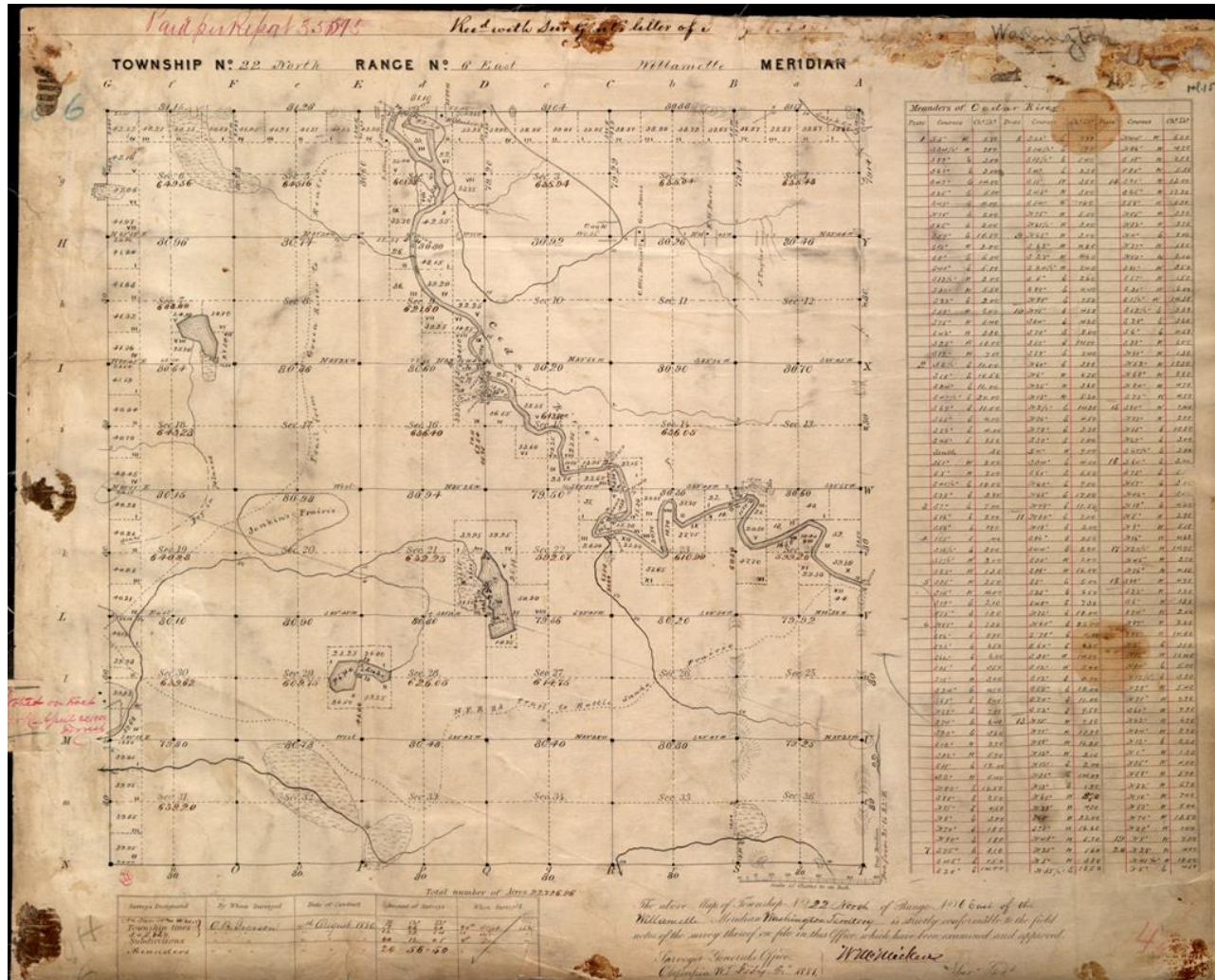
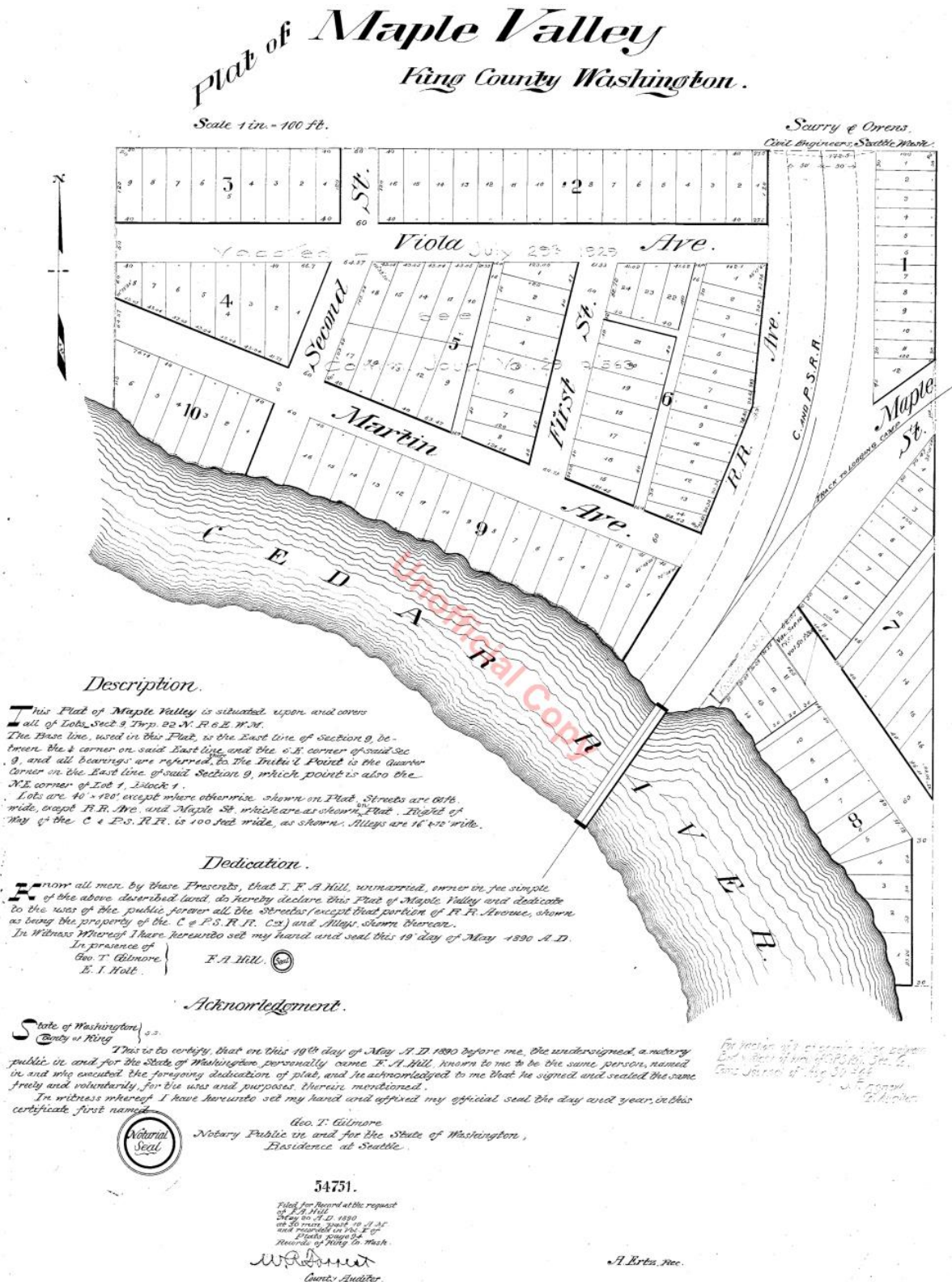
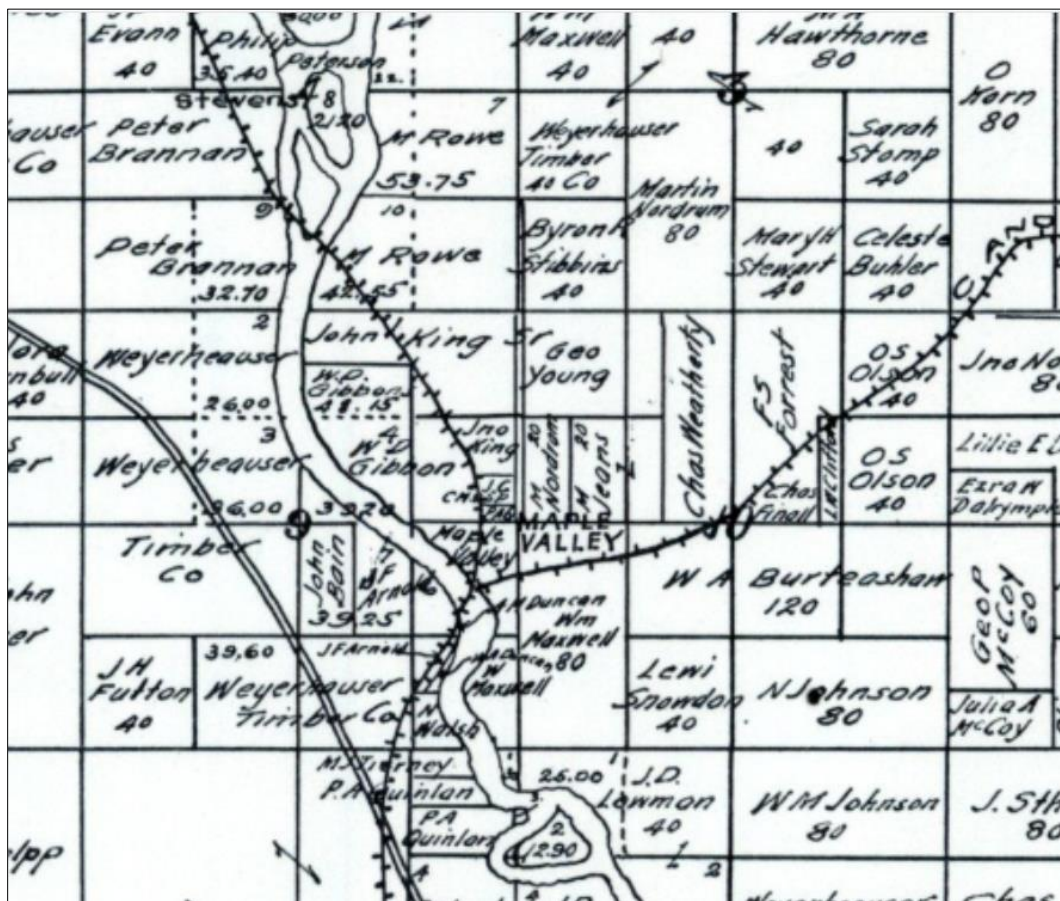




Figure A6. Plat of Maple Valley, King County, Washington, 1890. King County Recorder's Office.



[illegible]



## Section B - Historic Images

Figure B1. Original store that Gibbon and his business partners purchased in 1891 from M. F. and Emma McDonald, shown here in about 1894. Not long after this photo was taken, Gibbon built a second storefront attached to the left side of the building in the photo. Source: Maple Valley Historical Society Photograph Collection, 85.183.1PR.



Figure B2. Image shows Gibbon General Store in its original location, 1903. The left building is what survives.  
Source: Maple Valley Historical Society Photograph Collection, 85.70.1PR.



Property of Maple Valley Historical Society

Figure B3. Image shows the Gibbon General Store (second location) and Gibbon's house (right), with the railroad tracks in the foreground, ca. 1907-1909. Source: Maple Valley Historical Society Photograph Collection 85.47.1PR.



Figure B4. Image shows Gibbon General Store (second location) and Gibbon's house, with the railroad tracks in the foreground, ca. 1907-1909. Source: "Maple Valley, Washington." *The Coast*, vol. XVII, no. 6 (June, 1909): 407.



Store and residence of W. D. Gibbon, Maple Valley, Washington.



Figure B5. Image shows Gibbon General Store (second location), Maple Valley Post Office, ca. 1907-1909.  
Source: Maple Valley Historical Society Photograph Collection, P00.06.4.



Figure B6. Image shows Gibbon General Store (second location), Maple Valley Post Office, ca. 1907-1909.  
Source: Maple Valley Historical Society, uncatalogued.



B7. View of Maple Valley, camera facing south, ca. 1910. The red arrow points to the Gibbon General Store, at right. Source: Maple Valley Historical Society Photograph Collection, 86.71.10



Figure B8. Image shows Gibbon General Store (second location) next to Gibbon House, ca. 1910. Source: Maple Valley Historical Society Photograph Collection, 93.07.01.





Figure B9. Image shows Gibbon General Store (second location), ca. 1910. Source: Maple Valley Historical Society Photograph Collection, 85.188.1PR.



Figure B10. Image shows W. D Gibbon House and General Store (at left), ca. 1910. Source: Maple Valley Historical Society Photograph Collection, 85.68.1P.



Figure B11. Image shows Gibbon General Store (second location) and lean-to addition being constructed, ca. 1923. Source: Maple Valley Historical Society Photograph Collection, P00.06.11.

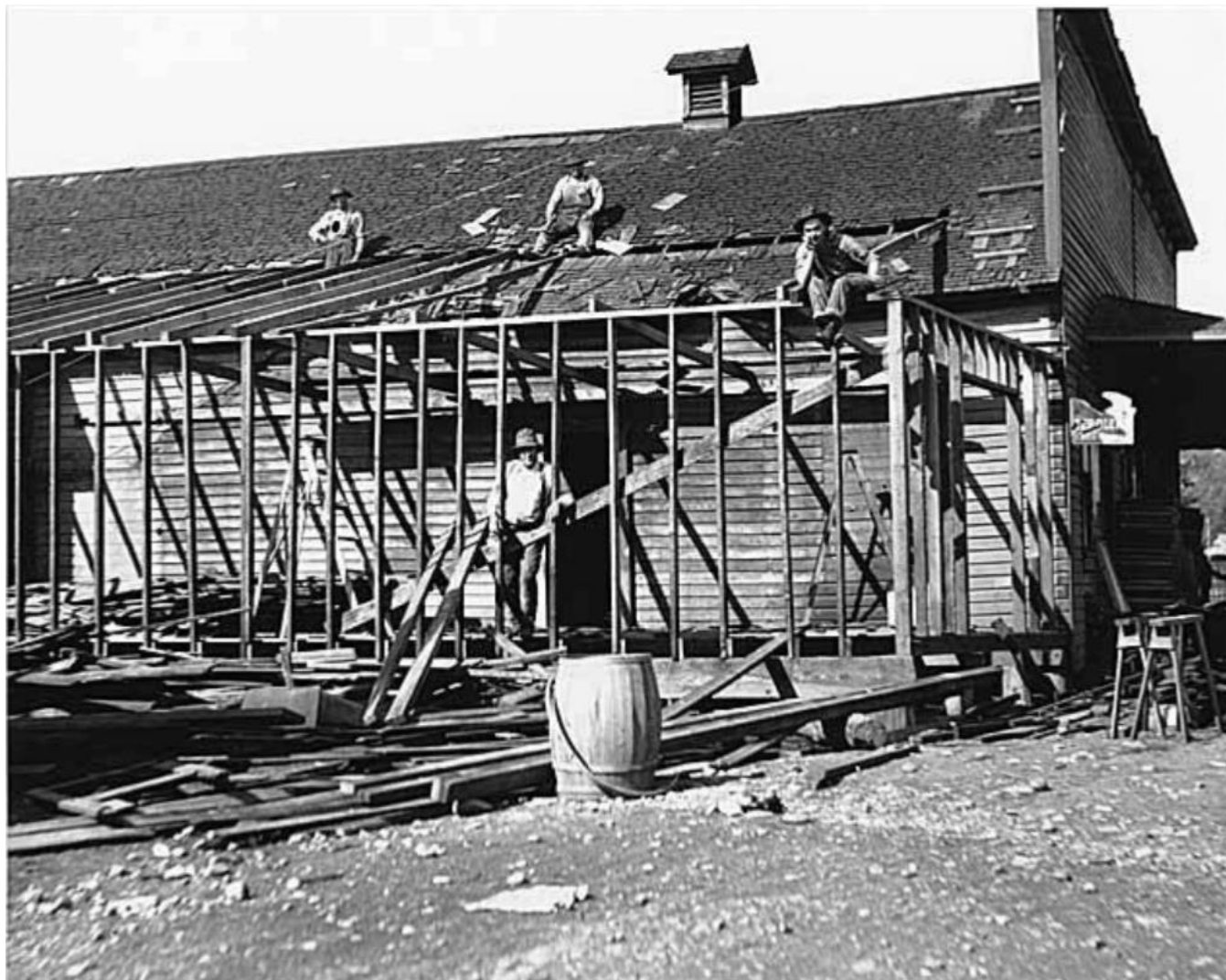


Figure B12. View from building adjacent to Mezzavilla's general store, camera facing southeast toward the highway, ca. 1949. Source: Maple Valley Historical Society Photograph Collection, P17.02.16.





Figure B13. Marie Merlini standing outside the Valley Sport Shop, with Mezzavilla General Store at left, ca. 1949. Source: Maple Valley Historical Society Photograph Collection, P17.02.12.



Figure B14. Mezzavilla General Store, interior, ca. 1950. Marie Merlini is assisting shoppers. Source: Maple Valley Historical Society Photograph Collection, P17.02.15.



Figure B15. Mezzavilla General Store (second location), 1957. Source: Maple Valley Historical Society Photograph Collection, 10.05.1.



Figure B16. Mezzavilla General Store (second location), 1957. Source: Maple Valley Historical Society, uncatalogued.





Figure B17. These photos appeared in the *Voice of the Valley* on Dec. 29, 1971. The top photo shows the Gibbon-Mezzavilla store being moved in 1959 to make way for the Serve-U shopping center expansion. The bottom photo shows the expanded Serve-U shopping center in 1971.

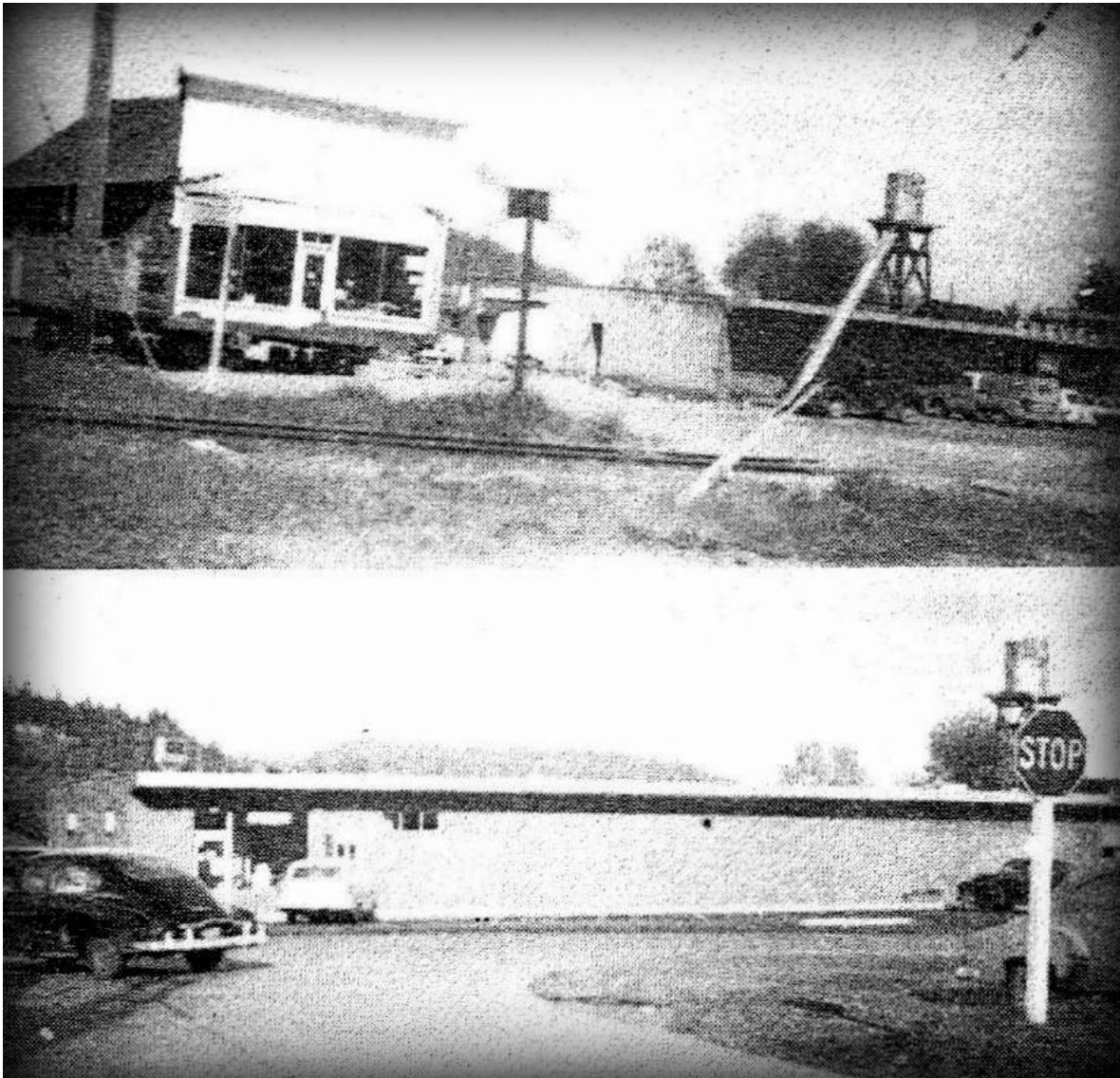


Figure B18. King County Tax Assessor Photograph, 1960 (third location). King County Tax Assessor Property Record Cards. Washington State Archives, Puget Sound Branch.



Figure B19. Gibbon General Store shown in its third location, 1978. King County Survey Photo, 1978. Source: King County Historic Resource Inventory file (#0326).





Figure B20. Gibbon General Store shown in its third location, 1999. Source: MVHS Scrapbook Coll.



Figure B21. Gibbon General Store shown in its third location, 1999. Source: MVHS Scrapbook Coll.



Figure B22. Gibbon General Store shown in its third location, with the false front and roof structure removed in preparation for relocation. 1999. Source: MVHS Scrapbook Coll.



Figure B23. View of the rear side of the Gibbon General Store shown in its third location, with the false front and roof structure removed in preparation for relocation. 1999. Source: MVHS Scrapbook Coll.





Figure B24. View of the Gibbon General Store being moved to its current location, 1999. Source: MVHS Scrapbook Coll.



Figure B25. View of the Gibbon General Store in its current location before the foundation was completed, 1999. Source: MVHS Scrapbook Coll.



Figure B26. View of the Gibbon General Store during renovation, 1999-2000. Source: MVHS Scrapbook Coll.



Figure B27. View of the new false front framing during renovation, 1999-2000. Source: MVHS Scrapbook Coll.





Figure B28. View of the west wall of the Gibbon General Store during renovation, 1999. Source: MVHS Scrapbook Coll.



Figure B29. View of the west wall showing the consolidation and reuse of original materials during renovation, 1999-2000. Source: MVHS Scrapbook Coll.



Figure B30. View of the north (rear) and west (side) walls showing the original and new materials using during renovation, 1999-2000. Source: MVHS Scrapbook Coll.



Figure B31. View of the east (side) wall showing where most of the new material was used, 1999-2000. Source: MVHS Scrapbook Coll.





Figure B32. View of the front porch and entry, 1999-2000. Source: MVHS Scrapbook Coll.



Figure B33. View of the interior during renovation, west wall at right, 1999-2000. Source: MVHS Scrapbook Coll.



Figure B34. View of the interior during renovation, east wall at left, 1999-2000. Source: MVHS Scrapbook Coll.



Figure B35. View of the interior during renovation, facing northwest corner, 1999-2000. Source: MVHS Scrapbook Coll.





Figure B36. Gibbon General Store shown fully restored in its current location, 2002. Source: King County Historic Resource Inventory file (#0326).

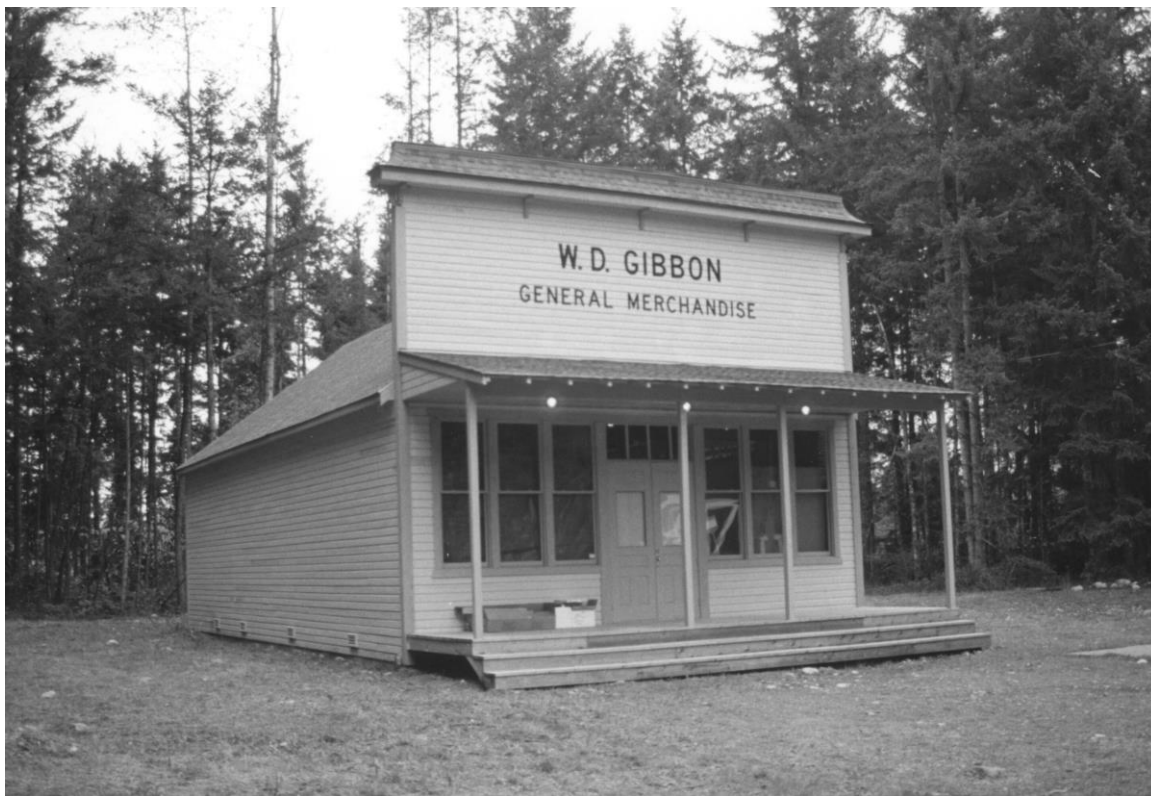


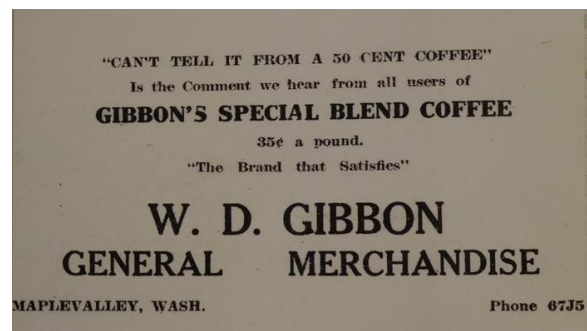
Figure B37. W. D. Gibbon (left), his wife Lizzie, and son Charles, ca. 1920. Source: MVHS Photo Collection P00.06.18.



Figure B38. (Left) Joe Mezzavilla is pictured behind the counter at his store in this undated photograph. Source: MVHS. Teresa Mezzavilla is pictured at left. Source: Naturalization record, 1931.



Figure B39. Advertisements for Gibbon General Store. Source: MVHS Clippings files.



SINCE 1891

# W. D. GIBBON

*General Merchandise*

## Flour--Hay---Feed--Groceries

### BARGAINS!

Cleaning up our old shoe stock. Big bargains in Men's and Women's Shoes.

Big stock of overalls and jumpers. 'Way under the market price.

Genuine old Diamond Dyes. Same old price—10c a package.

Graniteware, stone

crocks and dishes at "before-the-war" prices.

Men's Shirts and Underwear at remarkably low prices. Come in and look them over and you'll be sure to buy.

"Macbeth" lamp chimneys  
No. 1s .....15c  
No. 2s .....20c

# BLAST STUMPS SAVE DOLLARS



With the proper explosive you can blast out as many stumps in a day as you could pull or burn out in a week—and get them out cleaner, too. Farmers around here are getting excellent results with

**GIANT FARM POWDERS**  
STUMPING — AGRICULTURAL

Come in and see us when you're ready to blast.

**W. D. GIBBON**



## Section C – Field Photographs

Figure C1. Original location of the Gibbon General Store, where today's SE 216th Way intersects with highway 169. Camera facing N. July 27, 2020.



Figure C2. The foreground is where the railroad ran parallel to highway 169. The arrow notes the second location of the Gibbon General Store, across the highway. July 27, 2020.





Figure C3. Gibbon General Store shown in its current location. Camera facing N. July 27, 2020.

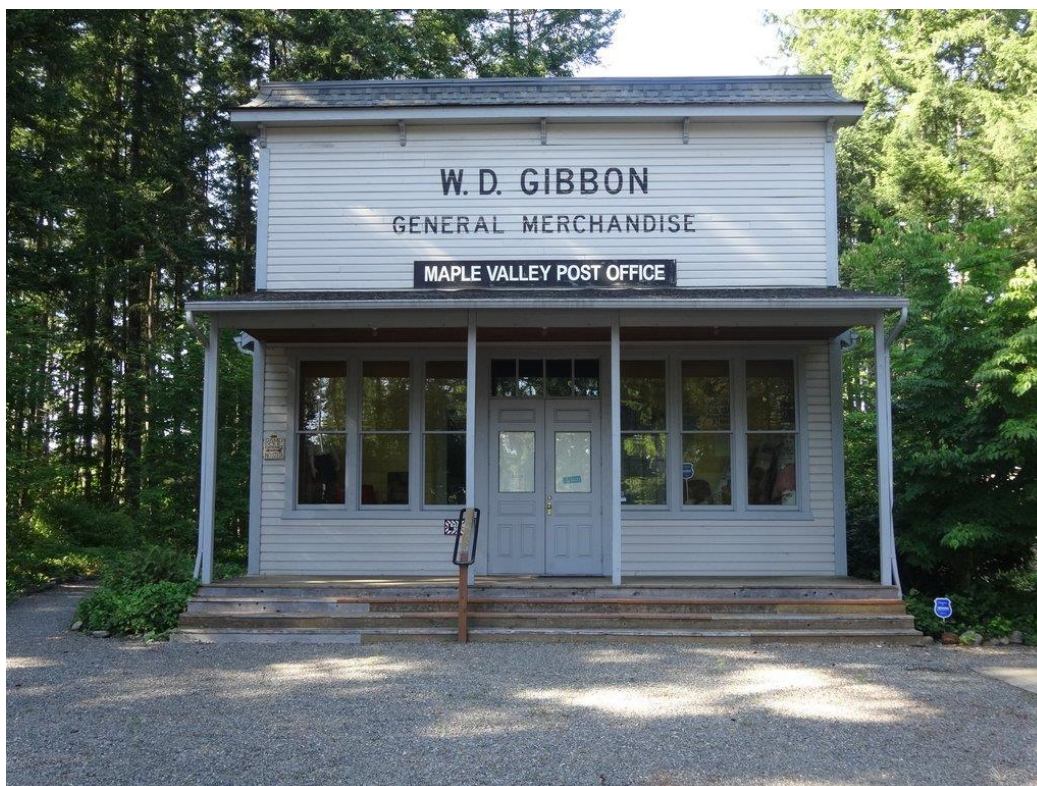


Figure C4. The false front on the primary (south) façade is shown. Camera facing NE. July 27, 2020.





Figure C5. The west exterior wall, which features original cladding, is shown. Camera facing NE. July 27, 2020.



Figure C6. The rear (north) wall is pictured. The ramp leads to the rear entry. Camera facing S. July 27, 2020.





Figure C7. This view of the building is from the steps that lead to the Cedar River Trail that passes north of the property. Camera facing S. July 27, 2020.



Figure C8. The east (side) wall and adjacent landscaping is pictured. Camera facing NW. Nov. 15, 2019.





Figure C9. The graveled area in front of the building and a flagpole and memorial to military veterans southwest of the building are shown. Camera facing NW. Nov. 15, 2019.

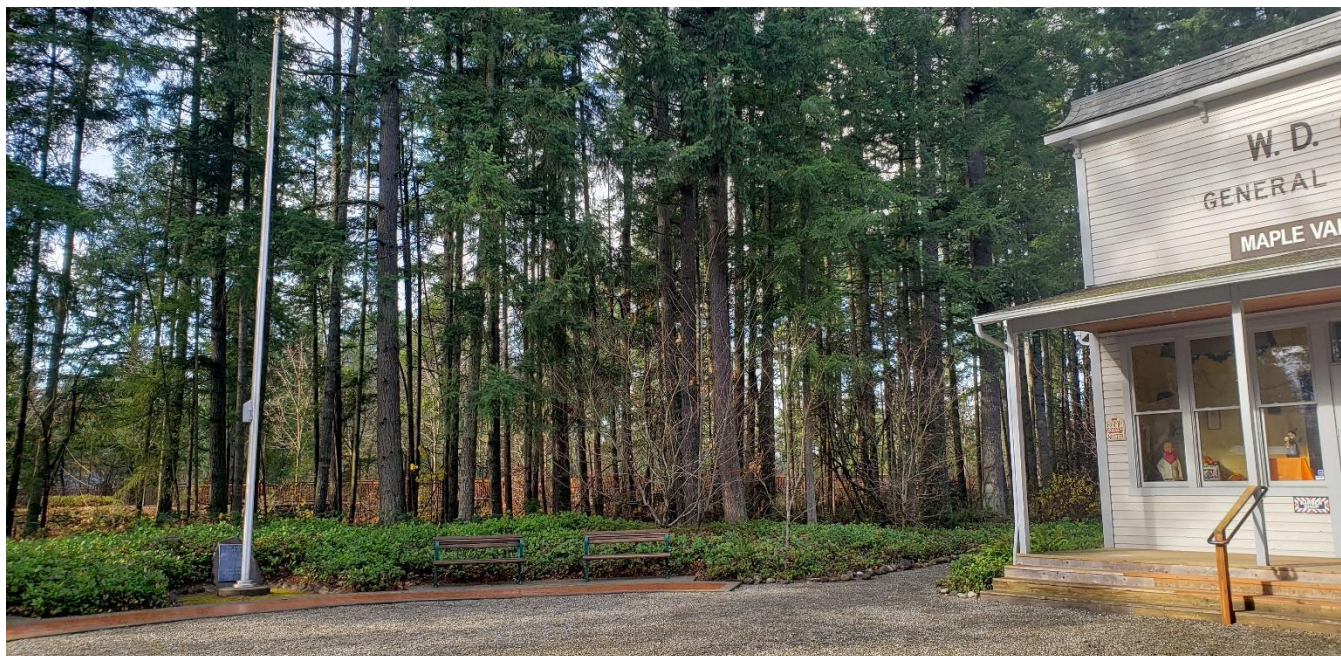


Figure C10. The graveled area in front of the building and the fire truck garage southeast of the building are shown. Camera facing E. Nov. 15, 2019.





Figure C11. This photograph shows the path from the main parking lot into the graveled area in front of the building. Camera facing S. July 27, 2020.



Figure C12. The storefront and double-door entry to the building are shown. Camera facing E. July 27, 2020.





Figure C13. The entry and front part of the interior of the store are shown. Camera facing S. Nov. 15, 2019.



Figure C14. This photograph of the interior is taken from near the entry. Camera facing N. Nov. 15, 2019.





Figure C15. The front part of the interior is pictured, with the entry to the left. Camera facing W. July 27, 2020.

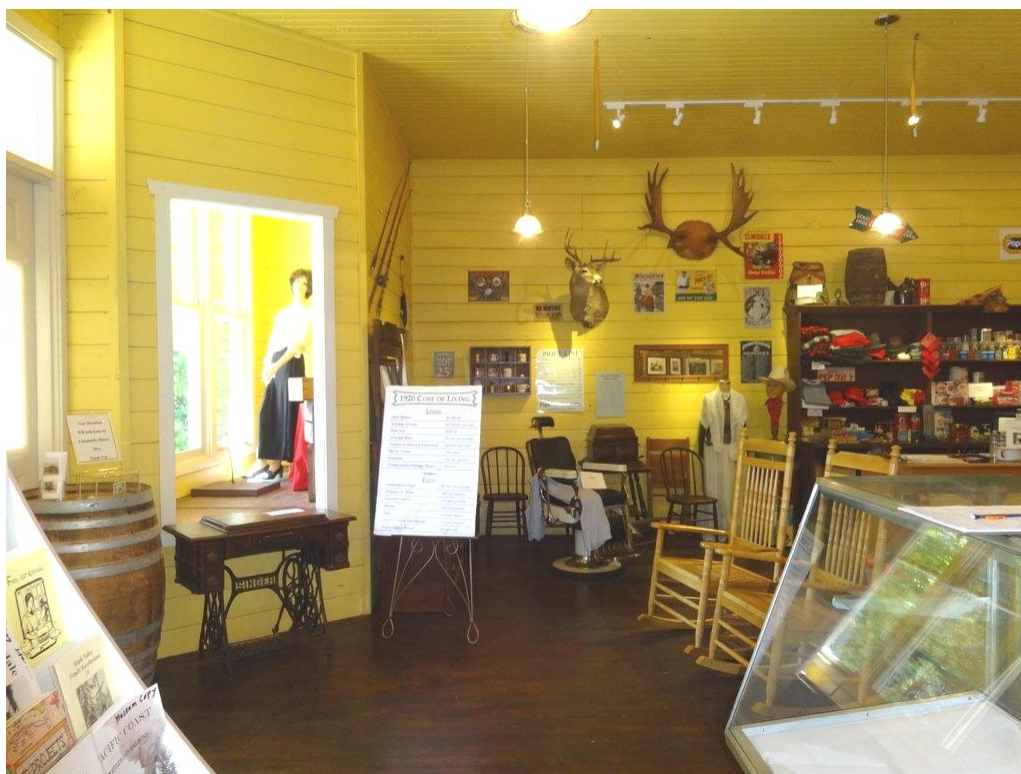


Figure C16. The front part of the interior is pictured, with the entry to the right. Camera facing east. July 27, 2020.





Figure C17. The west part of the store is shown, with the west wall at left. Camera facing N. July 27, 2020.



Figure C18. This photograph shows the room at the rear northwest corner of the building that is interpreted as an office. Camera facing E. July 27, 2020.



Figure C19. This photograph shows a small room at the rear northeast corner of the building. The space accesses the rear entry (right) and restrooms (left). Camera facing N. July 27, 2020.





## PART IV: MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

### 9. Previous Documentation

Use the space below to cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form (use continuation sheet if necessary).

Previous documentation on file:

- ☒ included in King County Historic Resource Inventory #0326
- ☐ previously designated a Kirkland Landmark
- ☐ previously designated a Community Landmark
- ☐ listed in Washington State Register of Historic Places
- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing
- ☐ (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings, Survey #:
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering, Rec. #:

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ King County Historic Preservation Program
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other (specify repository)  
Maple Valley Historical Society

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