



WEBFOOTER EXTRA

October 2022

Early Hood River and the Mt. Hood Hotel



Hood River Looking West About 1885
Stephen Kenney Collection

Real photo postcard of Hood River, Oregon looking west about 1885. Published by the Hood River County Historical Society in 1951. Postally unused.

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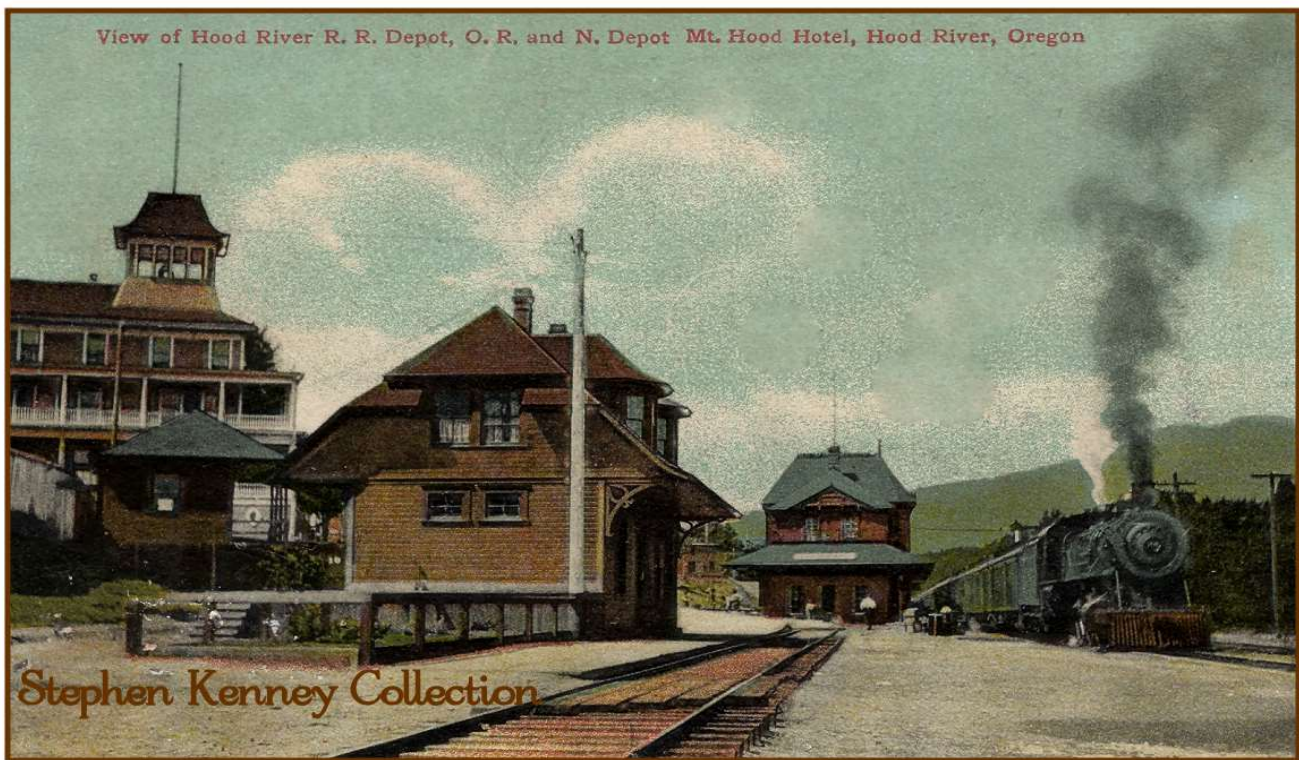
Photo of the Mt. Hood Hotel in Hood River, Oregon circa 1890.

The original Mt. Hood Hotel dates back to the early 1880s. Strategically adjacent to the railroad depot, the hotel formed the social center of Hood River. Explorers and settlers alike gathered there to discuss business, eat, drink, and rest.

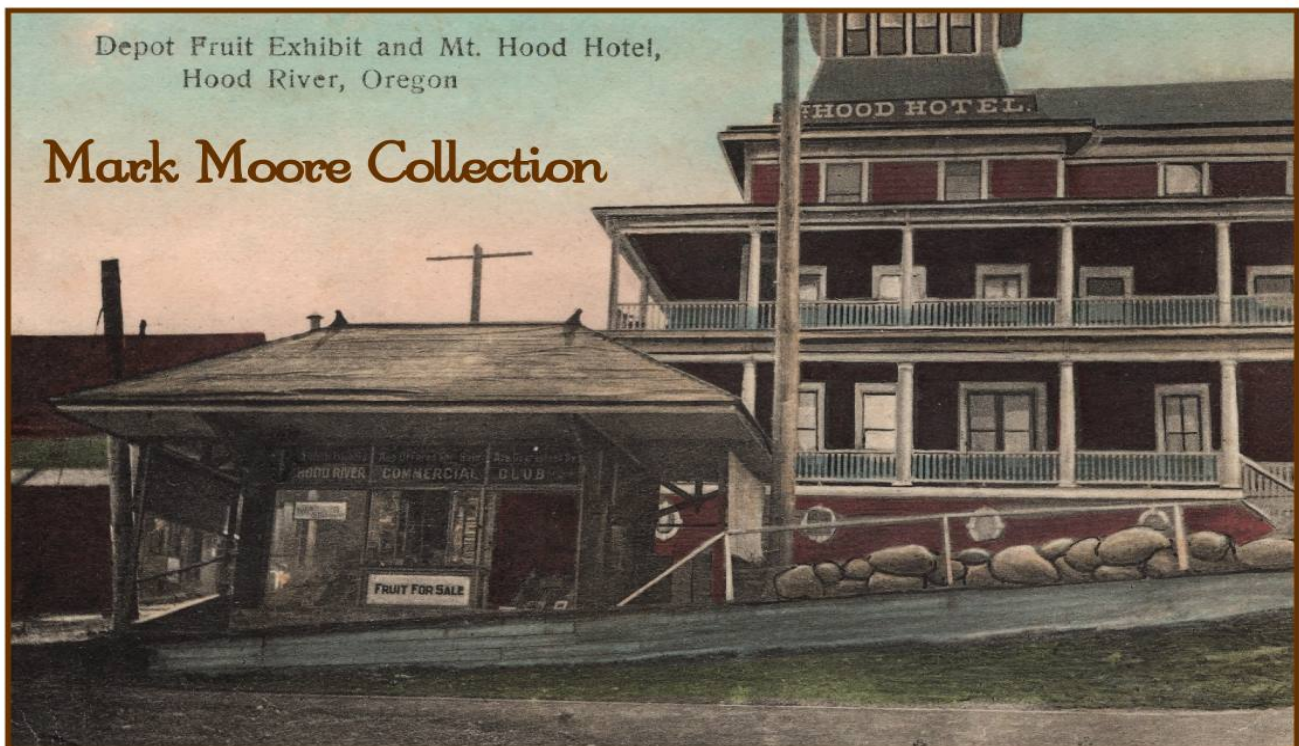
According to an article in *The Oregonian* published on August 15, 1915, the Mt. Hood Hotel was built by Peter Hosford in 1882. As word spread throughout the country of the region's successful fruit industry and scenic beauty, the town began to flourish. The original Mt. Hood Hotel consisted of a long two and one-half story building and rooms sold out nearly every night in the early 1880s while the Oregon Railway and Navigation Railroad was being built.

Robert Rand purchased the Hotel a few months after it was built and he operated the hostelry until 1890 when he sold it to C.A. Bell. One of the most memorable days in the history of the Mt. Hood Hotel happened in 1891 when President Benjamin Harrison and his staff stayed at the Hotel. President Harrison was accompanied on his visit to Hood River by the Vice-President, Levi Morton, Secretary, Jeremiah Rusk, and Postmaster-General Wannamaker.

When President Harrison and his staff arrived by train, they were greeted by members of the Oregon National Guard, local residents, and school children with flowers. That evening, the Presidential party had dinner at the Mt. Hood Hotel dining room which was decorated for the occasion and the tables were laden with the bounty of the fertile Hood River Valley.



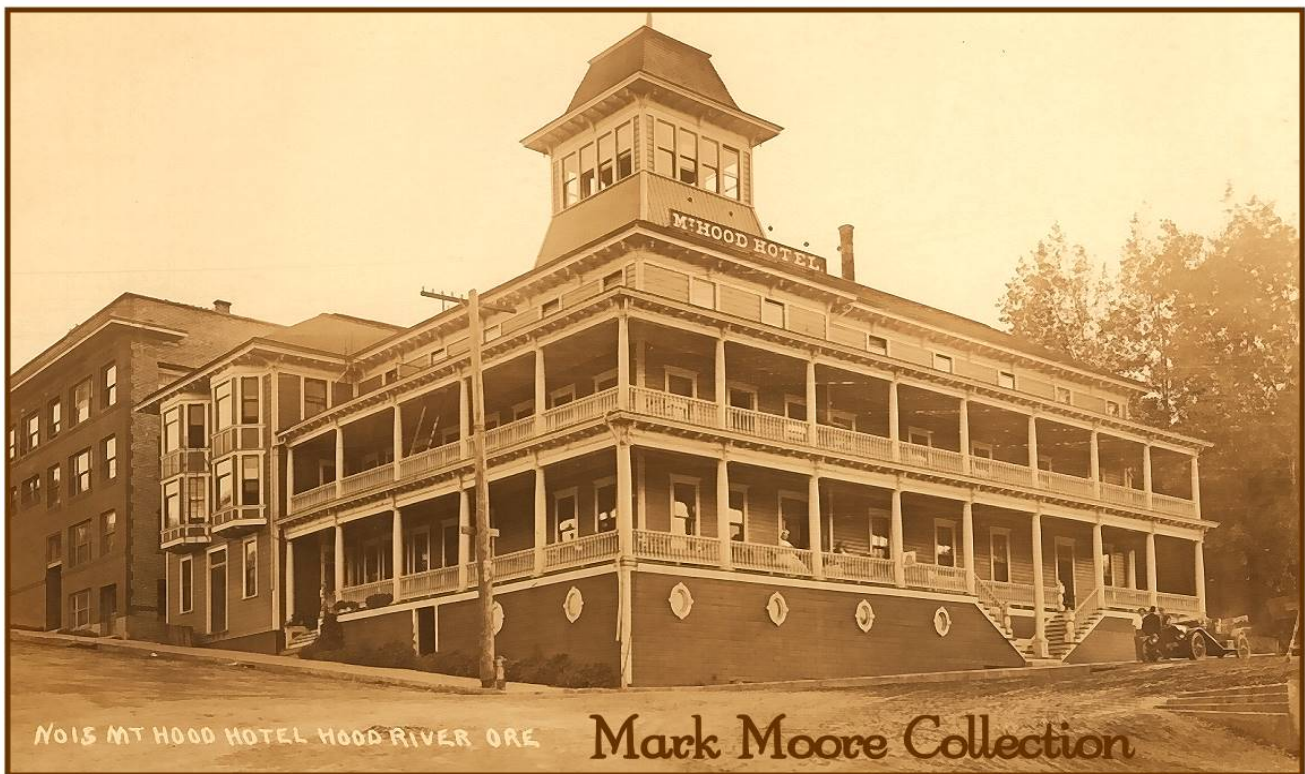
Lithographed postcard view of the Hood River Railroad Depot, the Oregon Railway and Navigation Depot and the Mt. Hood Hotel (left) in Hood River, Oregon. Published by Sprouse & Sons, Tacoma, Washington. Postmarked February 4, 1910 in Hood River, Oregon.



Lithographed postcard view of the Depot Fruit Exhibit and the Mt. Hood Hotel in Hood River, Oregon. Published by Sprouse & Sons, Tacoma, Washington. Postmarked June 22, 1909 in Hood River, Oregon.



Lithographed postcard view of the Mt. Hood Hotel in Hood River, Oregon. Postmarked August 20, 1912 by the Pocatello-Portland Railway Post Office (RPO).



Real photo postcard view of the Mt. Hood Hotel in Hood River, Oregon. Published by Patton Post Card Company of Salem, Oregon. Postmarked August 22, 1915 in Hood River, Oregon.

The Hotel was remodeled and expanded to three stories with the original structure incorporated into the office and lobby of the main building. In 1912, the Mt. Hood Hotel expanded with an Annex. C.A. Bell was still operating the Hotel in 1915.

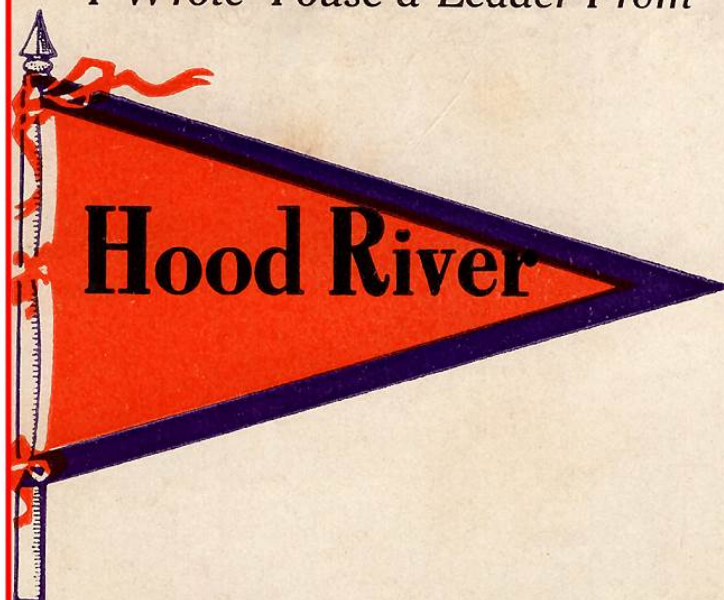
In 1926, the main lobby was moved to the Annex. The new lobby opened on the same day as the dedication of the newly completed Mt. Hood Loop Highway, symbolizing the transition from a community dependent on the railroad to the automobile.

In the 1930s, the original hotel building was demolished, leaving the Annex in operation until the 1960s. The Annex building was restored and it was reopened in 1989 by a local developer. It was renamed the Hood River Hotel and the current owners purchased the hotel in January of 2017. They have continued to maintain its rich history.



Real photo postcard view of the Mt. Hood Hotel Annex Building in Hood River, Oregon, circa late 1930s. Postally unused. It was renamed the Hood River Hotel in 1989.

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Pennant postcard sent from Hood River, Oregon on September 20, 1913.



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