

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oregon
 COUNTY: Marion
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE

JAN 21 1974



1. NAME

COMMON: Conser (Jacob) House
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 114 Main Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson
 STATE: Oregon CODE: 97352
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Oregon Second Congressional District
 REPRESENTATIVE: Representative Al Ullman
 COUNTY: Marion CODE: 047

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<u>City Hall</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: City of Jefferson (owner notified of nomination 9-7-73)
 STREET AND NUMBER: 114 Main Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson STATE: Oregon CODE: 97352 41

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Marion County Court House
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon CODE: 97301 41

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1934 Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Park Service
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oregon
 COUNTY: Marion
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jacob Conser House, located on the Sanitam River sixteen miles south of Salem, is currently the Jefferson City Hall. Built in 1854 in the Classical Revival Style, the house is situated in the center of a long, un-interrupted block in the heart of the small town of Jefferson. The grounds are informal and well maintained. The building was included in the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1934.

The one and a half story gable-roofed house has an L-shaped plan which provided two separate and distinct areas. The area on the north side had the larger of the two parlors, three bedrooms on the first floor, and two bedrooms and a dormitory area on the second floor. The south side of the house had the kitchen and dining room, a parlor, three smaller rooms on the first floor and a large room on the second floor. Reportedly, the large room on the second floor was used as a meeting room, dance hall, and hotel space during the high point of stagecoach travel. Access to either area was through doors in the recessed front portico. There was a single, double-flue chimney for the parlor fireplaces and ^achimney in the kitchen.

The Jacob Conser House was acquired by the City of Jefferson on September 14, 1937. It is used as a city hall and library, and is well maintained and structurally sound. In 1939 the City remodeled the interior in cooperation with the Works Projects Administration. Work included removing some interior walls, replacing flooring, adding a new stairway, and installing shelves for the library. Much of the original finish work was retained, however, including the paneled walls and doors with three light transoms. The 1939 restoration of the exterior was not so radical. The only major change was the replacement of the front porch steps with concrete.

The most outstanding feature of the exterior is the recessed portico on the east facade. ~~This~~ ^{is} this feature which causes the house to be classified as a prime example of the so-called "saddle-bag" type. The portico has two free-standing fluted columns and two fluted half columns attached to the porch walls. The one and a half story porch measures 29' 4 1/2" by 7' 4". Small double-hung sash windows with three over three lights open from the second floor onto the portico. The plain boxed cornice with returns on the gable ends is "supported" ^{by} corner boards with simple capitals in imitation of pilasters. Original clapboard siding has been retained. Fenestration is regular. Double hung sash windows with six lights over six on the first floor have simple surrounds and slip sills. The house measures c. 55' by 55 feet. The wings are c. 34 feet wide.

In his article on Oregon architecture cited among the major bibliographical references, Professor Marion Ross suggests that the builders of the house were fairly experienced (Conser himself was trained as a millwright) and that they were provided with some of the popular pattern books of the day. He suggests that plates 13 and 14 in Edward Shaw's Rural Architecture published in Boston in 1843 may have offered the prototype.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1854

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The town of Jefferson on the Santiam River was originally known as Conser's Ferry. The founder, Jacob Conser, crossed the plains in 1848, acquired the improvements from a donation land claim near Scio, and the following year took up a half-section of land at what is now Jefferson and acquired an additional half-section that adjoined the claim. In 1853 he started a saw-mill, and a few years later erected a flour and grist mill.

Conser was born in Pennsylvania in 1818. He was bound out when a small boy, and not liking the man to whom he was bound, he ran away and made his way to Illinois, where he learned the millwright's trade. In 1849, shortly after he immigrated to Oregon, he was elected a member of the first Territorial Legislature. He was elected again in 1856. When he settled at what is now Jefferson, Santiam City was the post office and trading point for the district. After a flood in 1851, he devoted much time to the promotion of a new townsite on his claim upstream from Santiam City.

The first two houses to be built within the present limits of Jefferson were the log cabins of James Bates and Jacob Conser, town proprietor. Conser operated the ferry across the Santiam River at this point from 1851. In 1854 Jacob Conser built his town's first frame building, the subject of this nomination. It was a residence and hotel.

Conser involved himself in yet another enterprise when, in 1871, he joined in a partnership with Absalom Smith and a man named Culver to operate the Beaver Hosiery Manufacturing Co. which had been started a few years earlier by Smith.

When Jefferson Institute was organized at Conser's Ferry in 1856, Jacob Conser not only donated a large tract of land for the school, but also advanced money toward the construction of the building which was opened for use in 1858. It was this academic enterprise for which the town was eventually named.

In 1885 Conser retired from his varied business pursuits and moved to Eugene. He died there in 1894, at the age of 75, and his remains were returned to be buried in the town he founded.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ross, Marion D., "Architecture in Oregon, 1845-1895." Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. 57, no. 1 (March 1956), 38-39.
 Corning, Howard McKinley, ed., Dictionary of Oregon History (Portland: Binford and Mort, 1956), 128.
 McArthur, Lewis A., Oregon Geographic Names (Portland: Binford and Mort, 1965), 324-325.
 Walling, A.G., Illustrated History of Lane County, Oregon (Portland: author 1884), 493.
 Shields, Gladys, "Old Jefferson Colonial House to be Dedicated as Landmark," Albany Democrat-Herald (February 1967).

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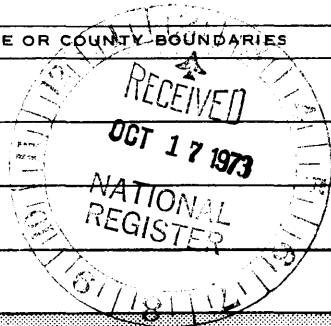
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	OR		
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "	44° 43' 10"	123 ° 00 ' 40 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .688 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Paul Hartwig - Assistant Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: Oregon State Highway Division DATE: September 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon CODE: 97310

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Roger M. Soldum
 Title: Director of Transportation
 Date: 10-10-73

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Arthur W. Mauter
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 1/71/74

ATTEST:
Ronald M. Greenberg
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 1/18/74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oregon	
COUNTY	
Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 21 1974

(Number all entries)

CONSER (JACOB) HOUSE

2. Location

The Jacob Conser House is located in SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 11, T. 10 S., R. 3 W., of the Willamette Meridian, in Marion County, Oregon. It occupies a central lot in Block 3 of the town plat of Jefferson.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lockley, Fred, "Impressions and Observations of the Journal Man," Oregon Daily Journal (June 10, 1932), 8.

Hendricks, R.J., "Bits for Breakfast," The Oregon Statesman (May 20, 1939), 4.

Benninghoff, Joe, "The Early History of Jefferson," Marion County History, Vol. 4 (1958), 3-10.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings
1970

Oregon State Highway Division, Branch of Parks and Recreation
Salem, Oregon Code: 41

