

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received JUN 6 1982
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Travelers Home
and/or common Savage-Mendenhall-Seth House (Preferred)

2. Location

street & number 147 NE Yamhill Street N/A not for publication
city, town Sheridan N/A vicinity of congressional district First
state Oregon code 41 county Yamhill code 071

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Marilyn E. Troup and Mr. Richard L. Miller
street & number 147 NE Yamhill Street
city, town Sheridan N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97378

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Yamhill County Clerk
street & number Yamhill County Courthouse
city, town McMinnville state Oregon 97128

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1976 federal state county local
depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office
city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Savage-Mendenhall-Seth House is situated at the northwest corner of Yamhill and Faulconer Streets, one block north of Main Street, in Sheridan, Oregon. Built in 1892, it is of wood frame construction on a poured concrete foundation which was added in the 1970s. There is no basement. Rectangular in plan, its hip-roofed, two-story main volume faces south onto Yamhill Street with its main axis running east to west. A single-story rear kitchen and dining-room volume and a lower, lean-to addition extend across the north face parallel with the main axis. A sizeable, gable-roofed wood shed is offset from the northeast corner of the house and is joined to the lean-to by a latticed porch. The compact ensemble occupies the southerly 72 feet of Lot 8 of the Original Plat of Sheridan, a parcel which measured 66 x 132 feet before its subdivision in 1929.

Stylistically, the house is a symmetrical Italian Villa with surface decoration in the Queen Anne/Eastlake tradition. The low, hipped roof has boxed eaves which project beyond the wall plane without brackets. Original shingle roof cover is overlaid by composition shingles. The facade roofline is broken by a low central gable with patterned shingle cladding and vergeboard decoration combining bosses and a sunburst of turned spindles and drop ornaments. Below the eaves, pickets, or vertical boards with pointed ends are laid to create a 12-inch frieze with sawtooth bottom edge.

Exterior walls are clad with shiplap siding and trimmed with a low waterskirt and corner boards capped with moldings creating simple capitals. The facade is organized into three bays with windows on either side of the central entrance bay. The panelled and glazed front door has an etched glass top light and is sheltered by a simple porch with turned uprights and upper deck with railing built in the 1970s to approximate the original porch. A central second story door gives access to the porch deck. Its screen door with spindle and scroll work is a reproduction. All door and window openings have simple classical architraves with cornice molding. Typical windows are double hung with colored border lights in upper sashes. Ground story windows in the facade are wider and have eight colored panes in upper sashes. Decorative shutters have been added to all windows in the main volume by the current owners.

The frame wood shed, which, on the basis of Sanborn fire insurance maps, appears to date from the original period of construction, is rectangular in plan with a gable roof, shiplap siding and plain corner boards. Its gable ends are oriented east to west, and a single rectangular window with fixed pane lights the east gable end fronting Faulconer Street. The building was converted to a garage, presumably after the property was no longer used as a boarding house.

The interior of the main volume^{is} arranged on a central hall plan with two rooms on either side of the hall on both floors. The single-story volume contains the dining room and kitchen, the lean-to, a new bath and back porch. The door hardware throughout is embossed black cast metal, and all doorknobs are porcelain. Window and door trim is typical of the period with beaded frames and decorated corner blocks. The present owner has applied sheet rock over much of the original plank walls and has stripped and refinished the original oak stair railing and newell post. The original fir floors have been painted.

The Savage-Mendenhall-Seth House is a well-preserved example of simplified, rural Queen Anne architecture. It is the only example of its type in the Original Plat of Sheridan, and it is the town's oldest boarding house.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1892 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The symmetrical, two-story house at the northwest corner of Yamhill and Faulconer Streets in the small farming community of Sheridan, Oregon was built in 1892. With its hipped roof and central front gable with shingle cladding and vergeboard decoration combining bosses and turned spindles, its sawtooth-edged frieze, and its colored border lights in upper sashes of double-hung windows, it is basically an Italian Villa with surface decoration in the Queen Anne/Eastlake Style which was fashionable in the late 19th century. It is significant as a well preserved example of a simple but dignified architectural type and as the last remaining boarding house dating from the 19th century in Sheridan. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association with Sarah Savage and Lucy Mendenhall, women who, in succession, operated the house as a prosperous boarding place from the time of its completion until Lucy Mendenhall's death in 1924. It was Emma Seth, who acquired the house at a sheriff's sale in 1930, whose long period of occupancy insured the preservation of the boarding house in unaltered condition for another 42 years.

Sheridan, a small farming community (current population 2,360) on the South Yamhill River on the western edge of the Willamette Valley, was incorporated in 1880. Grain stored in warehouses in Sheridan was shipped, at first, by boat to Portland and other markets. Sheridan prospered appreciably with the completion of a Southern Pacific Railroad line to southwest Yamhill County points in 1901. The town had been platted by Absolom Faulconer in 1866 and was named in honor of Faulconer's friend, the famous Phil Sheridan who, as a lieutenant, commanded U.S. Army Infantry detachments guarding the Coast Indian Reservation at Fort Yamhill between 1856 and 1861.

Absolom Faulconer, a native of Kentucky, had come to Oregon in 1846. He took up a donation land claim, platted Sheridan on it, and built the first house in the city. By 1881, he had a livery stable and hotel. In 1888, the hotel part of the business seems to have dissolved. He died in 1889 and is buried in the Masonic Cemetery in Sheridan.

Sarah Savage, the first proprietress of the boarding house at Yamhill and Faulconer Streets, was the daughter of James H. Brown and Sophia Hussey. Brown had a donation land claim and hailed from Virginia. In the 1850 census, Sarah was 11 years old. She married William Savage in 1854, had ten children by him, and was divorced sometime before 1883. Apparently, after her divorce she began keeping a boarding house in nearby Willamina and then moved to Sheridan. Oral tradition has it that she operated her boarding house in the house on Yamhill Street. A scrapbook she kept during the boarding house years--1892-1901--reveals a few things. Her clientele were mostly "drummers", a colloquialism for traveling salesmen, and the scrapbook is full of the cards they used to leave. There are cards which date from 1882, 1890, and 1889 bearing the names of Arbuckle Brothers Coffee, Advance Portrait House, Portland, New York Life Insurance Company, and Clark's Spool Cotton. One card, a ticket from the Opera House in McMinnville, bears a pencilled note made by one of the drummers:

"George Raleigh. Woods, Oregon, Tillamook County, July 16, 1896. Travelers' Home. Mrs. Savage, Proprietress."

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Sheridan, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	0	4	6	9	0	7	0	4	9	9	4	0	0	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing									

B

Zone		Easting				Northing									

C

Zone		Easting				Northing									

D

Zone		Easting				Northing									

E

Zone		Easting				Northing									

F

Zone		Easting				Northing									

G

Zone		Easting				Northing									

H

Zone		Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Savage-Mendenhall-Seth House occupies the southerly 72 feet of Lot 8 of Block 6 of the Original Plat of Sheridan, Yamhill County, Oregon.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marilyn Troup with assistance from Janice Rutherford

organization N/A date September 14, 1981

street & number 147 NE Yamhill Street telephone 503/843-4704 or 472-8411

city or town Sheridan state Oregon 97378

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

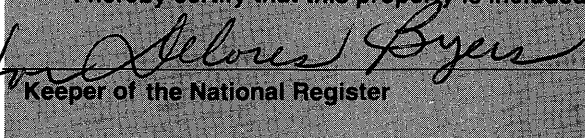
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature ✓ 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date May 3, 1982

For HCRS use only

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

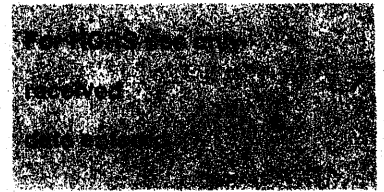
 Entered in the National Register date 7/8/82

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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This message indicates that she was, indeed, leasing and operating the subject property as a boarding house, for another oral tradition says that Mrs. Seth, owner of the house from 1930 until 1972, threw in the trash a sign over the entrance bearing the words "Travelers Home."

Other items in the scrapbook include the following notations, presumably Sarah Savage's diary notations, predating 1892.

"Oct. 27th, '89. Everybody in town. Weather very blustering."

"Mar. 17th. Bill Raleigh wants breakfast at 5. o'clock a.m. Em won't give it to him. She is mad as the devil."

"Sheridan, Nov. 28th '90. Boys are all in town and sleepy as the devil."

Oral tradition indicates that Sarah Savage was an unusual woman. She supposedly kept one child from her divorced husband, William, who kept all the others, and hid the boy. She was reportedly outspoken, a very good cook, and much talked about.

About 1901, Sarah Savage's establishment was moved to Main Street in Sheridan. Advertisements appeared in the 1901 Sheridan Sun for several months which read: "Mother Savage's Eating House. Board by the Day or Week. First Class in Every Respect. Main Street, Sheridan." In April of that year, a notice revealed that "Mother Savage has moved the dining room and kitchen in another building and is fixing up the rooms just vacated for bedrooms." In August, an item read: "Mrs. Savage is fitting up a sample room for the drummer trade near Stewart Bros. Livery Stable on Main Street, North Sheridan." According to Fern Eberhard, there was a livery stable on the corner of Faulconer and Main.

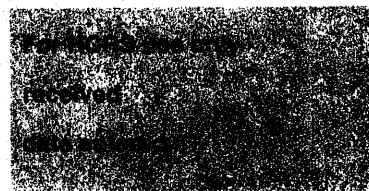
Sarah's husband, William Savage, was a man of some importance in Sheridan's history, and while he never lived in the house, as Sarah did, he has some association with it.

William Savage came to Oregon in 1845 with the wagon train of of Reuben Gant, the first such train to cross the Cascades over the Barlow Road. He had been born in Oswego County, New York in 1826. His lineage is impressive: his grandfather, Joel Savage, was in the Revolution and fought in the Battle of Saratoga. In 1848, William drove cattle from the Willamette Valley to The Dalles, and in '49, like many others, he went to California in search of gold. Upon his return, he married Sarah Brown in 1854 and had ten children by her. They settled in Polk County near Sheridan. Descendants claim they lived in Willamina; he raised cattle. In 1881 he was elected to the Oregon Legislature and helped establish the Insane Asylum at Salem. Sometime between 1854 and 1883, he divorced Sarah. In 1883, he remarried, this time a Mary Christina Lady, daughter of the same James W. Lady who at one time owned the land upon which the boarding house was built. An item in the Yamhill County Reporter for December 12, 1883 noted the marriage: "The Honorable William Savage and Christina Lady were married one day last week." One source says he founded the Dallas City Bank. Christina's parents, James W. Lady and Sarah Wood Lady, were both pioneers from Tennessee.

As deed records show, Lucy M. and Joseph Rees Mendenhall bought the subject property

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from Churchman and Son, the long time owners, in 1903. It is possible that the Mendenhalls rented the house from the Churchmans before buying it. At any rate, Sarah Savage had been out of the house two years by that time. Lucy Mendenhall resumed the use of the place as a boarding house.

A niece of J. R. Mendenhall's, Mrs. Thelma Mendenhall Lady, remembers visiting the Mendenhall House when "Aunt Lucy" operated her boarding house there. Again, the clientele were travelling salesmen, though people who lived in Sheridan ate there too, for Lucy, too, was known for her good cooking. She ran the boarding house for four of five years and the niece remembers "wonderful lace curtains that couldn't be touched." J. Rees Mendenhall, the niece remembers, was "a Southern gentleman who seemed to be retired." The 1880 census listed him, at age 38, as a clerk in a store. Lucy was his second wife, and the niece remembers that by the time he was married to her he may have been investing in real estate. That would explain why J. R. Mendenhall suffered foreclosure on the property in 1929. Lucy Mendenhall died in 1924 and title had passed to her husband. The niece recalls that J. R. Mendenhall was mayor of Sheridan at one time.

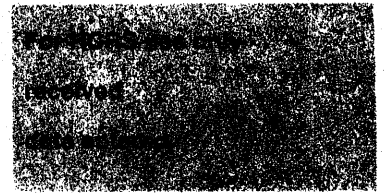
J. R. Mendenhall lost the property through foreclosure in 1929. In the following year, 1930, the house was acquired at a sheriff's sale by Emma Seth, longtime public school teacher in Sheridan.

Emma Seth was born Emma Ridgeway. Her grandfather had come to Oregon in a 1845 wagon train from Kentucky. Her father was William Ridgeway. John Ridgeway, her grandfather, had joined the Savannah-Oregon Emigrating Society, an emigration group who set up rules by which to traverse the vast country they were about to cross.

Emma attended Dallas College and taught at Scroggins School outside Sheridan. She returned for further education and received her Normal School diploma in 1924. For twenty-one years, she taught first grade at Faulconer Elementary School.

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Sheridan Sun. 1901.

The Yamhill County Reporter. 1883.

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The Oregon Journal. June 14, 1971, p. 3M.

Interviews:

Emma Seth, Telephone Interview, July 6, 1981.

Marian Johnston. Interview in Sheridan, June 15, 1981.

Telephone Interview, July 6, 1981.

Dora Cornell, Telephone Interview, July 6, 1981.

Fern Eberhard. Interview in Sheridan, July 2, 1981.

Thelma Mendenhall Lady. Interview in McMinnville, July 6, 1981.

Savage, Sarah. Scrapbook, in possession of R. Johnson, Sheridan.

Yamhill County Deed Records.

Seth, Emma. Videotape Interview.

Savage, William. Certificate. Mss 2214. Oregon Historical Society.

Chapman, John. Letter. Mss 1500. Oregon Historical Society.