

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 5 1979
DATE ENTERED MAR 26 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Laughlin (Lee) House
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 100 Laurel Street
CITY, TOWN Yamhill VICINITY OF 1st
STATE Oregon CODE 41 COUNTY Yamhill 11 CODE 071

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Ron Kerns and Pam Lamb
STREET & NUMBER 100 Laurel Street
CITY, TOWN Yamhill VICINITY OF Oregon STATE 97148

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Yamhill County Clerk, County Court House
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN McMinnville Oregon STATE 97128

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE State Wide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings
DATE 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historic Preservation Office
CITY, TOWN Salem Oregon STATE 97310

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This building was the home of prominent Yamhill businessman and civic leader, Lee Laughlin. The house, an adaptation of the Italian Villa style with Gothic Revival elements, was built in the year 1879, which was the height of Mr. Laughlin's affluence. The house was known as one of the finest residences in the county. The exterior of the building remains virtually intact. Most interiors are intact, with minor alterations consisting mostly of new surface materials.

The house is located in Section 4, T.3 S., R.4 W, W.M. The first town plat, dated 1891, shows the house on Lot 1 of Block 8. Because the town was laid out after the house was built, and because of the many land transactions Mr. Laughlin was involved in, it is hard to use county land records to date the house. The corner lot fronts Main Street on the North and Laurel Street on the East. The house sits roughly in the center of the lot, and the front entry faces due east towards Laurel Street.

A "landmark" effective in its context, the house sits on top of a slight rise above the center of town and is surrounded by an expanse of well-kept lawn. Much of the original landscaping remains and the low height of these plantings tend to dramatize the verticality of each elevation, enhancing the qualities of the house. South of the house is a mature oak tree and to the East, two large maple trees flank the front walk. These characteristics combine to create a parklike setting that commands the town and countryside surrounding the house.

Beyond the site is a ring of well-executed 1920s Bungalow residences. A distinctive Gothic Revival Methodist Church (circa 1900), also in excellent condition, is diagonally across Laurel Street to the Southeast. Mention should also be made of the public school yard and lawn directly across Main Street. The prominent location within Yamhill makes the site a handsome center of attention for the townspeople.

The house is cruciform in shape with gabled roofs modified with parts of a hip roof where gables meet. The overall length in plan is approximately forty feet North to South and forty seven feet East to West. The house is forty five feet high. There is an East-West central hall with staircase. North of this main hall, a fifteen by twenty foot front parlor and bay window face North. South of the hall, a fifteen by fifteen foot family room and bay window are oriented towards the East. Immediately West of the family room is the dining room, also fifteen by fifteen feet. At the West end of the central hall is the kitchen and back porch. This plan is repeated upstairs, with three bedrooms and a bathroom over the kitchen. Both stories have twelve foot high ceilings. There is a full attic and a full basement with brick walls.

The house sits on a foundation of twelve inch thick brick walls which run floor to ceiling in the basement. The exterior brick face is parged with a half inch coat of cement. The foundation is in excellent structural

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condition. Exterior walls are balloon frame with half-inch clapboard siding and square nails. Interior walls are plaster mixed with horsehair. The steeply pitched (sixty degree slope) Gothic roof dormers are clad with wooden shingles. The house is in need of a new roof.

The scale and mass of the house are basically in the Italian Villa style, capped with Gothic Revival roof forms and decoration. On the east elevation a flat-roofed bay window of three windows is balanced by a set-back entry porch in the Villa style. The light supporting members of the porch make it one of the most elegant spaces in the house--and the neighborhood. The posts support thin, sticklike curved kneebraces of Gothic style. These curved forms are echoed in the Gothic detailing on the bay windows and the hood molding over the doorways. The flat roof of the bay and porch created a very strong horizontal de-emphasized by a low roof railing. This railing has since been removed, the resulting elevation being a more clear and simple composition than the original.

Coupled Gothic windows are centered over the first floor bay window. The two light windows are capped in a curve that has become a parabolic shape of more dramatic Gothic origin. The double windows are capped by label molding similar to that over the exterior doors. Above these windows is the steeply pitched dormer roof. This powerful Gothic form is enhanced by an infill of elements carried above parabolic kneebraces. The finials which surmounted this detail in each gable have been removed.

An unobtrusive Southwest bathroom has been added which is hidden from the street. The major interior change was the North parlor fireplace was removed to enlarge the front room in 1930. The mantel piece is stored on the premises. The interior is in excellent condition. Other alterations have been in surface materials, including veneer room siding over original walls. Most original molding is intact as well as some ornate plaster rosettes and plaster brackets framing bay window recesses.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1879 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In this house the local adaptation of published housing patterns and details create a striking blend of architectural styles that is exceptional in the Willamette Valley. Consideration should also be given to the context of the house as "the mansion on the hill" in the small farming community of Yamhill on the Yamhill River.

The "mansion of town" when it was built, the house was the home of prominent early citizen Lee Laughlin. The Laughlin family were early pioneers in this locality. Laughlin (born 1833 in Missouri) crossed the Great Plains with his parents in 1847. They took a donation claim in Yamhill County but at the age of sixteen Lee went south to participate in the California Gold Rush of 1849. Laughlin's infatuation with mining lasted until 1851 at which time he returned to Yamhill and made his own land claim of a quarter section in North Yamhill. He enrolled at the Tualatin Academy (now Pacific University) for three years. Lee cut short his education to enlist and serve in the Yakima Indian War of 1855. Upon his return in 1851 he married Emma Stewart. He then embarked on a career that was to make him North Yamhill's most prominent businessman.

In 1858 Laughlin opened a general merchandise store in North Yamhill which prospered. He built a second store which was one of the area's largest commercial buildings. The upstairs of the store was Laughlin Hall where community social events were held. Laughlin's growing wealth enabled him to invest in local real estate, and county records show numerous land transactions in his name.

Mr. Laughlin also established a significant record of public service in this region. He was an active Republican (his first vote was for Abe Lincoln). Laughlin's first official political office was that of Yamhill County Assessor in 1861. He was also instrumental in organizing the town's first school. As one of the founders and as secretary of the North Yamhill Education Company, he helped purchase land and construct the first school building in 1867. Laughlin continued his involvement and even served as a teacher for a period. The company deeded the building and property to School District Sixteen in 1880. The original town plat bears Laughlin's signature, and he served terms as president of the city council and as director of public schools.

(continued)

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In 1870, Laughlin was elected to the State Legislature but was denied a seat by the Democratic Party who held a majority. He was again elected to the office in 1870 and this time he assumed his place in that assembly. He was re-elected to his last term in 1880. His senatorial record includes chairmanship of the Committee on Public Lands in 1880, organization of the state's first mental institution and support of an early women's suffrage amendment.

In 1887 Laughlin sold his store and retired from the merchandising business. In 1888 he was one of the organizers of the McMinnville National Bank. Laughlin served as that bank's first vice-president for seven years, than as its president for a period of eleven years.

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Stoller, Mrs. Harvey. Old Yamhill: The Early History of Its Towns and Cities. Lafayette: Yamhill County Historical Society. 1976 pp 90-100.

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