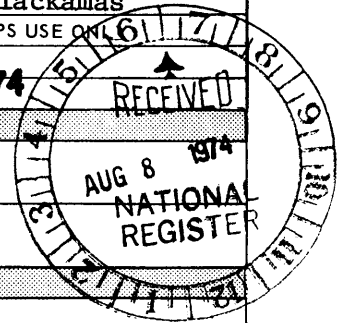


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Oregon
COUNTY:	Clackamas
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	DEC 19 1974



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Dibble (Horace L.) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
616 South Molalla Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Molalla

STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Representative Wendall Wyatt  
Oregon's First Congressional District

COUNTY: Clackamas CODE: 005

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Molalla Area Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:  
320 Lola Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Molalla

STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Clackamas County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Oregon City

STATE: Oregon CODE: 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 Parks Service

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oregon

COUNTY: Clackamas

ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: DEC 19 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Horace L. Dibble house in Molalla, about fifteen miles south of Oregon City on the eastern edge of the Willamette Valley, was finished by 1859 and took three years to build. A simple farmhouse of the "salt box" type commonly associated with New England, it was built for Dibble by a man possibly named Phillips in exchange for 320 acres of land. Two storeys in height on the east facing front and one storey in the rear, the house is structured of hand-sawn posts and beams, the posts being about 6" x 6" in dimension. The "lean-to" portion was built at the same time as the original house.

A large brick chimney containing shallow back-to-back fireplaces penetrates the western slope of the roof toward the south side. Within, the house is divided into quadrants of unequal size on the ground floor. The south-east room is the living room and contains the front door and fireplace. The south-west room, thought to be a sitting-room, is small and cozy and contains the other fireplace. The north-west room is the kitchen, and it contains an outside door and a small chimney supported on the inside of the west wall. This chimney does not penetrate the roof at the present time and it is not known for sure if it is original. However, the fireplaces are very shallow and do not contain cooking hooks, so it is assumed that a range connected to this small chimney is where cooking was originally done. The fourth room on the ground floor is a bedroom on the north-east side. The narrow, steep enclosed stairway runs from west to east between the living room and bedroom. There are two bedrooms on the second floor and a long storage space over the "lean-to" portion.

Siding on the house is hand-sawn lapped boards. The roof rafters are un-squared poles stripped of bark. Corner boards and a freize-like board under the simple box cornice with a slight return at the gable ends are the only decorative elements on the house.

Restoration of the house was begun in 1969 by a private party, and is continuing under the direction of the Molalla Area Historical Society, who now owns the building. A fire had destroyed part of the roof. Replacement rafter poles match the original ones. Some outbuildings of a latter heritage which had been clumsily added to the rear of the house have been removed, and the exterior has been painted a shade of gold matching the original color, with white trim. The front porch with chamfered posts, though probably not original, has been left in place. Most of the window panes with wave lines and bubbles are original.

The four rooms on the ground floor have been restored to their original appearance. The bathroom plumbing has been removed from the south-west sitting room, restoring its original function. Numerous layers of wallpaper have been removed from all rooms downstairs. The plank walls have been painted. The upstairs rooms have not been restored. A closet in the downstairs bedroom and the door at the foot of the stairs have unusual hand-made latches.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

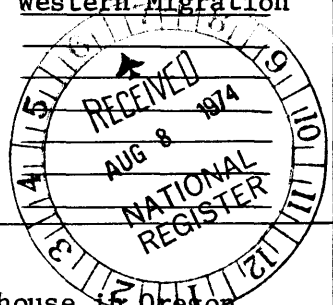
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1856-59

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Western Migration</u>
<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 type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Dibble house is a rare example of a salt box house in Oregon. Furthermore, it is a rather late example of the post and beam framing system; the balloon frame was known in Oregon and was in common use by the mid 1850s. Thus, it represents a conservative vernacular building type, both in style and method of construction, transplanted possibly from New England just as the first buildings in New England were vernacular Medieval types transplanted from England.

Horace L. Dibble was born in Madison County, New York, in 1815 and married Julia Ann Dibble in Van Bureu County, Iowa in the 1840s. They immigrated to Oregon with their oldest children in 1852, arriving in September, taking a Donation Land Claim of 316.22 acres in Township 4S, Range 1E, Section 34 of the Willamette Meridian, and proving settlement on claim no. 1924 January 26, 1853. According to some sources, while hunting runaway oxen Dibble came across a prairie knoll the Indians had kept burned off, and he bought 360 acres of it. HABS records, based on interviews with a daughter and granddaughter of Dibble's indicate this is where he built the house, which stands in Township 5S, Range 2E, Section 17, on or near the original Larkin Donation Land Claim. HABS records also say that the builder's name was Phillips and that he was given 320 acres of land in exchange for it. A conversation this year with Miss Ina Dibble, who was born in 1880 and remembers her grandmother and grandfather Dibble clearly, provides additional information, some of which is contradictory. She substantiates that the builder was given 320 acres of land, but does not think that his name was Phillips. She also says that the land the builder was given was south of Molalla "on Soda Springs Road" (now without a road) near the present Memorial Gardens Cemetery on the Southwestern quarter of T.5S., R.2E. or the Northwestern quarter of T.6S., R.2E. Records however show most land in this vicinity to be unclaimed by the early 1860s. At any rate, the builder apparently was not given the original Dibble D.L.C., as some sources state. Miss Dibble recalls that two of Dibble's sons farmed that land and it appears with Dibble's name on records of the mid-1860s.

HABS records indicate Horace Dibble died in 1899 and Julia Ann in 1904. Miss Dibble emphatically states that "Grandma Dibble died first." She confirms that they lived in the house until they died, and adds that Grandpa Dibble had to be cared for by one of his daughters after Grandma Dibble died. She recalls that her grandparents came to Oregon in 1852, (continued)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

HABS No. ORE-7, p.1.

Oregon State Archives, Record of Search, 7 Nov. 1969.

Telephone conversations with:

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Ridings, 117 Vick Road, Molalla, OR 97038 (6 June and 14 June 1974) (continued)

HIS 200 175

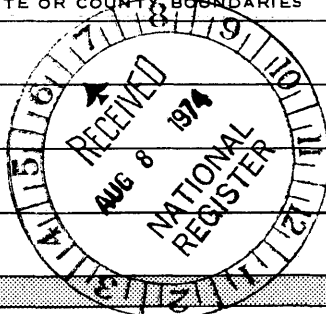
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	45	08	33
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	122	34	43
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .27 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Paul Hartwig, Assistant Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: Oregon State Highway Division DATE: July 17, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon 97310 CODE: 41

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: [Signature]

Title: State Parks Superintendent

Date: August 2, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/19/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register

Date: 11-18-74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oregon	
COUNTY	
Clackamas	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 19 1974

(Number all entries)

DIBBLE (HORACE L.) HOUSE (CONTINUED)

2. Location

The Dibble house is located in the NE 1/4 NE 1/4, Sec. 17, T. 5S. R. 2E of the Willamette Meridian on Lot 14, Block 3 of Metzter Hart's addition to Molalla, Oregon.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Also:

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings  
1970  
Parks and Recreation Section  
Oregon State Highway Building  
Salem, Oregon 97310

Code: 41.



8. Significance

that her father was born in 1854, and that he was five years old when they moved into the house. Therefore, the date 1859 is used here rather than 1857 as is found in some sources. Members of the Molalla Area Historical Society concur that 1859 is most probable. Miss Dibble concurs with the sources that the house took three years to build.

HABS records say Dibble was "famed for his thrift." Miss Dibble adds that the trip across the plains ruined Dibble's health, that he was always "poorly" afterwards, "never did much," that Grandma Dibble expended considerable energy caring for him until her death, and that sons took care of the farming. She also adds that one of the Dibble's daughters was bitten by a rattlesnake on the trip and forever after had a bad leg. Miss Dibble's parents, incidentally, lived in the front two rooms of the house until she was about two and she may have been born there. Thus, the Dibble house in addition to its atypical style, has associated with it a rich human fabric typical of now lost or anonomous numbers of ordinary Oregon pioneers.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Miss Ina Dibble, Rt. 1, Box 155, Molalla, OR 97038 (6 June 1974).