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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 formhouse 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 storevs 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 quadrents 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 The bathroom plumbing has been removed from the south-west appearance. 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 handmade latches.

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The Dibble house is a rare example of a salt box house is 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 formed 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) 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)

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	STATE Oregon	
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM	COUNTY Clackamas	
	(Continuation Sheet)	FOR NPS USE ONL	DATE
(Number all entr		DEC 1 9 1974	1
The	DIBBLE (HORACE L.) HOUSE (CONT <u>tion</u> Dibble house is located in the NE 1/4 NE illamette Meridian on Lot 14, Block 3 of M Oregon.	1/4, Sec. 17, T. 5S.	R. 2E .on to
6. <u>Repr</u> Als	esentation in Existing Surveys o:	KOLIGITI71	BILO

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings 1970 Parks and Recreation Section Oregon State Highway Building Salem, Oregon 97310 Code: 41.



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).