

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Washington
COUNTY: Whitman
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUL 30 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Collins House and Granary

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Ruddy - Collins House and Granary

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: SE of Uniontown off  
U.S. Highway 195

CITY OR TOWN: ~~5 miles southeast of Uniontown~~ VIC Fifth - Hon. Thomas S. Foley

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fifth - Hon. Thomas S. Foley

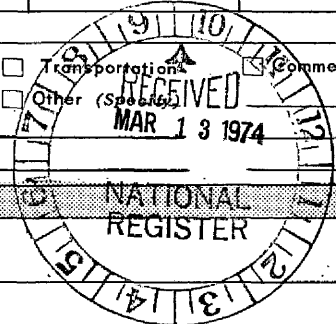
STATE: Washington CODE: 53 COUNTY: Whitman CODE: 075

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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<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: Estate of O. M. Collins

STREET AND NUMBER: c/o Robert Collins

CITY OR TOWN: Uniontown STATE: Washington CODE: 53

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Colfax STATE: Washington CODE: 53

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1941  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 011

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Washington

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DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

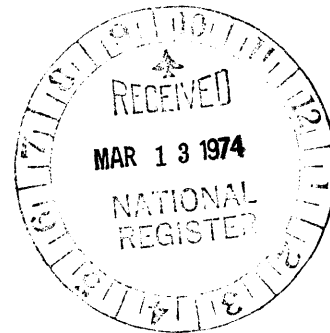
CONDITION

(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

Michael Ruddy (sometimes misspelled "Reddy") built the main unit of the Ruddy-Collins House in 1870-71. In some way he may have included in the structure a combination inn and roadhouse which had been erected at or near this location in the late 1860's by W. A. Caldwell, pioneer northern Idaho cattleman of the Caldwell & Hall cattle ranch. The main unit, which is now the two-story front section of the house, consisted of two rooms on the ground floor and two more rooms above. Undistinguished in architectural style, the gable-roofed structure was built with square nails and rough, hand-sawn lumber from nearby trees. On the inside of a present downstairs closet where the old wall is exposed, one can see that each of the rough-hewn planks varies in width from one end to the other. It is not known when a more refined clapboard exterior (shown in photographs of the 1880's) was added. Some time after his family joined him in 1871, Ruddy built a ground floor addition of two rooms on the back of the house. Orville M. Collins purchased the property in 1884. In 1888 he constructed two more rooms on the rear to accommodate his growing family. Although general repairs and improvements have been made over the years, there have been no major alterations since this second addition was completed.

A wooden granary building with a rock foundation, erected on the property by Orville M. Collins, was one of the first such structures built for the bulk storage of grain in Whitman County. The granary was unique in that outside chutes for unloading grain into the building were constructed at roof level, with a ramp leading up to that height. Six-horse teams and wagons hauled the wheat up the ramp for dumping into the bins below. The ramp was torn down in 1918 or 1920 and the granary then became a barn for storing hay. It is still standing. The actual date of construction is unknown.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**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) 1870 - 71

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____  |
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ruddy-Collins House is believed to be the oldest house still standing in Whitman County, and one of the oldest buildings in southeastern Washington, having been built in 1870-71. It is located just inside the Washington state line at the head of Hatwai Canyon, a natural cleavage that knifes for several miles down to the Clearwater River near its junction with the Snake River at the twin cities of Lewiston, Idaho, and Clarkston, Washington. The wooded canyon was used by the Indians as a gathering place for councils and by the whites as a route up the grade of the Clearwater-Snake depression. W. A. Caldwell of the Caldwell & Hall cattle ranch in adjoining northern Idaho is supposed to have built an inn and roadhouse at or near this location in the late 1860's. Although one or two other permanent settlers had preceded him in the area, Michael Ruddy arrived in the fall of 1870. The great influx of population, made up to a large extent of German Catholic immigrants, did not begin until the middle of the 1870's. Whitman County was organized in 1871, with the county seat at Colfax. The agriculturally rich, rolling land now known as the "Palouse county" was then covered with bunch grass and sagebrush, and lanky cattle ranged over much of it.

Michael Ruddy brought his wife and seven children from eastern Canada to San Francisco in 1869, traveling across the United States on the new trans-continental railroad. After a year in San Francisco, the father and one of the sons came ahead to the new area to acquire land and build a house, and the rest of the family followed in 1871. For several years the Ruddy home also served as a station for the stagecoaches of the Northwestern Stage Company on their way from Lewiston to Colfax, Spokane, and other points north. Travelers could obtain lodging and meals there, and mail was also left at the home to be called for by the settlers. Before the Catholic church was constructed in nearby Uniontown in 1879, Jesuit priests from Lapwai or DeSmet in Idaho would occasionally say mass in the Ruddy house and one or two other farm homes in the area.

Orville M. Collins purchased the Ruddy property in 1884. A native of Iowa, Collins had crossed the northern plains to the Pacific Northwest as a young man of twenty-one, driving horse and mule teams in a company of fortune seekers. With the Ruddy property as his "home place," he became one of the largest landowners in southeastern Washington. His farm home and its two large red barns, which could hold 300 tons of feed and house 125 head of horses and cattle, became the pride of the entire community. In the 1880's Collins operated a horse-powered threshing machine which

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

An Illustrated History of North Idaho, Embracing Nez Perce, Idaho, Latah, Kootenai and Shoshone Counties, State of Idaho (n.p.: Western Historical Publishing Co., 1903), pp. 42, 140-41, 616.

Historic Preservation File, Whitman County Historical Society, contains copies of items from Collins family archives, including photographs, deeds, newspaper clippings, and pamphlets.

W. H. Lever, An Illustrated History of Whitman County, State of Washington (n.p.: W. H. Lever, Publisher, 1901), pp. 440-41 passim. (Cont.)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

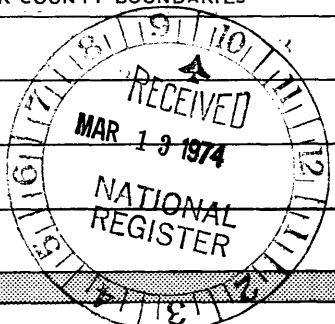
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		46 ° 28 ' 25 "	117 ° 02 ' 59 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

11/496160  
5146500

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Five**

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:  
**Douglas C. Moore, Historic Preservation Researcher**

ORGANIZATION: **Whitman County Historical Society** DATE: **October 10, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**P.O. Box 447**

CITY OR TOWN: **Pullman** STATE: **Washington 99163** CODE: **53**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 Charles H. Odegaard  
**Charles H. Odegaard**

Title Director - Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

Date 2/22/74

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

A. Amundson  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/30/74

ATTEST:

Charles H. Odegaard  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 7-24-74

Form 10-306a  
(July 1989)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Washington	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (Cont.)

harvested patches of grain for the settlers over a circuit of some sixty miles. He raised sheep for several years until homesteaders took up the available winter range land along the side hills of the Clearwater and Snake canyons. During the Klondike gold excitement of the late 1890's, a herd of steers was sent north from his farm each summer to provide meat for Alaskan miners. He operated a feed store in Lewiston, supplying most of the grain from his own farm lands, and he also manufactured brick and became president of a Cottonwood, Idaho, bank. But his principal activity through the years until his death in 1939 was the same one that had first brought prosperity to the Palouse country -- the growing of wheat.

Today Whitman County is the most productive wheat-growing county in the United States. One of the early settlers who realized such benefits while living on his home place at the head of Hatwai Canyon was Orville M. Collins. His wife doubled as private secretary in business affairs, in addition to cooking for large crews of field hands, doing farmyard chores, and raising a family of nine children, not to mention coping with the typhoid fever epidemic of 1892 that laid low the whole family. Mr. and Mrs. Collins helped organize the first public school in the community and to erect the first schoolhouse. Three of their children graduated from Washington State University in nearby Pullman and three others finished at either normal or business schools. To a large extent the account of the two families who have lived in the Ruddy-Collins House epitomizes the social and economic development of the community.

The house is still occupied as a farm home by a Collins grandson and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Collins, and barns and outbuildings are still in use. As a reminder of the days when it was a way station for stagecoaches and travelers, the 100-year-old structure overlooks busy U.S. Highway 95 where it comes up the "Lewiston Grade" from the Clearwater-Snake depression and forms a fork with U.S. Highway 195.

9. Major Bibliographical References (Cont.)

Obituary of Orville M. Collins, Clarkston Herald (Clarkston, Wn.), April 28, 1939.

Pamphlet, Souvenir of the 50th Anniversary of the Consecration of St. Boniface Church and Dedication of the New St. Boniface School, June 9, 1960, Uniontown, Washington.