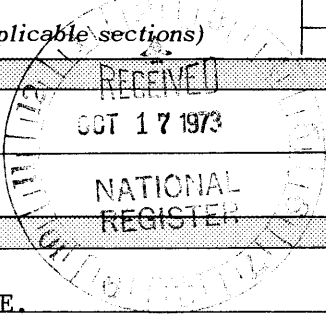


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <u>Oregon</u>	
COUNTY: <u>Marion</u>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 21 1974



1. NAME

COMMON:
Bush (Asahel) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
600 Mission Street S. E.

CITY OR TOWN:
Salem

STATE:
Oregon

CODE:
97301

COUNTY:
Marion

CODE:
047

Oregon Second Congressional Dist.
Representative Al Ullman

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"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Salem (owner proponent of nomination)

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:
Salem

STATE:
Oregon

CODE:
97301

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Marion County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Salem

STATE:
Oregon

CODE:
97301

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Parks and Recreation Section

STREET AND NUMBER:
Oregon State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Salem

STATE:
Oregon

CODE:
97310

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oregon

COUNTY: Marion

ENTRY NUMBER: JAN 21 1974

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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 home built in 1877-78 by pioneer banker and newspaper publisher Asahel Bush was occupied by the Bush family until 1953, when it was acquired by the City of Salem.

Local contractor Wilbur F. Boothby, builder of the old Second Empire Baroque Marion County Courthouse, is credited with the design of Bush's house. His workmen labored through autumn and winter storms to complete the building, purportedly copying a fashionable wood frame house in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where Asahel's deceased wife Eugenia, had attended the Moravian Seminary. Plans may also have been based upon one or more of the builder's handbooks of the day. When Asahel and his four children, Estelle, Asahel Nesmith, Sally and Eugenia moved into the house it was on the south edge of Salem in a grove of oak trees at the crest of a hill over looking broad avenues leading toward the Capitol.

Italianate in style, the house has drop siding, bracketed gable roofs, elongated windows with segmental arch heads, a high basement, a polygonal bay, and a veranda from which a long flight of stairs leads to the lawn. The uniqueness of the Bush House today lies chiefly in its rich, unaltered interior, which includes original embossed French wall papers, brass fittings, and elaborate woodwork.

The family lived out their lives in the 12-room mansion. Sally died in 1946. Asahel Nesmith returned to spend his last days in the dwelling, dying in 1952 at the age of 95.

The Salem Art Association purchased many of the original furnishings from the family with the view in mind of administering a historic house museum. Meanwhile, the City had been deeded the property long known as "Bush's Pasture" for park purposes. A section of the 100-acre park to the east of the house was sold in turn to Willamette University of an athletic stadium and playing field.

The Bush home, sturdy and solid despite its 75 years, was formally opened as an historical museum and art gallery on October 20, 1953. Downstairs are a sitting room, library, master bedroom, parlor, dining room and kitchen. A broad staircase of walnut and mahogany leads from the central entrance hall to bedrooms, sitting rooms and servants' quarters upstairs. Ten of the twelve rooms have marble fireplaces. Over two of them are large French gilt mirrors for which Asahel purportedly paid a total of \$235 in New York the Christmas of 1880. Some of the furniture is the work of a cabinet maker friend of Mr. Bush. Several of the stands were carved by the New England craftsman from oak and cherry trees that fell on the grounds. Each bedroom has not only its own fireplace but its own lavatory, with marble basins and up-to-date fixtures. The old kitchen range with a charcoal broiler attachment was made at the State Penitentiary, of which Asahel was Superintendent during the 1880s.

Being situated on the outskirts of town in 1878, Mr. Bush saw to it that his residence was self-sufficient. Not only did a deep enclosed well provide water for all the rooms, but Asahel installed his own gas plant. Tirrell's "underwriters approved gas machine for illumination" was shipped to him via Cape Horn from New York in 1878 at a cost of \$277.80. Four pages of instructions on assembling preceded it by mail, in longhand.

Ever since its opening in 1953, through an agreement with the City of Salem, the house has been administered by the Salem Art Association, which also administers an art center on the grounds. After it was partially destroyed by fire in 1963, the Art Association remodeled the barn behind Bush, for gallery and classroom use.

S E M I N S T R U C T I O N S

House

3. 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) **1878**

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 type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Any history of Oregon, touching upon its early political, commercial or civic development must include reference to Asahel Bush. As a newspaperman, banker, and public official, he was recognized as one of Oregon's most influential men for nearly sixty years. The only remaining memorial to him is his house built in 1878 in the "Italian Villa" style on a sizeable estate which includes open ground for pasturing cows.

Asahel Bush, born in Westfield, Massachusetts, June 4, 1824, attended school until he was fifteen, when his father died. He then went to Saratoga Springs, New York, and spent three years learning the printing trade. He next went to Albany, where for a few months he was connected with state printing, and from there went to Cleveland, Ohio, where he remained about a year. He then returned to Westfield, where he studied law and was admitted to the bar of Massachusetts in 1850. From January 24, 1849, until July 3, 1850, he served as editor of the Westfield Standard, a position he resigned in July of that year, when he decided to locate in Oregon. He traveled to Panama, then across the isthmus, and up the coast to San Francisco where he proceeded by boat to Astoria, Oregon, and continued up the Columbia and Willamette rivers to Portland, then a town of only a few hundred inhabitants. After a brief period he located in Oregon City and on March 28, 1851, he began the publication of the first distinctively Democratic paper in the state, the Oregon Statesman, for which he had the printing press shipped from the East around Cape Horn. When the Territorial capital was moved in 1853, he transferred the office and plant to Salem. There he continued publishing until 1863 when he sold the newspaper.

During his newspaper publishing period Bush became one of the most influential men in the public affairs of the state. The Oregon Statesman and its friends were credited with practically controlling the government at Salem. Bush exerted a strong influence in party affairs statewide. On the division of the Democratic Party in 1860, Bush supported the Union cause. At the Democratic State Convention in 1888 he was chosen chairman of the State Central Committee, in which position he antagonized some newspaper men by refusing to subsidize their papers.

In the early 1860s Mr. Bush was for four years a silent partner in the mercantile firm of Lucien Health and Company of Salem, and in 1868 he engaged in banking in association with William S. Ladd, under the firm name of Ladd and Bush, and erected in Salem an imposing brick masonry bank building with cast iron front. In December, 1882, Mr. Bush acquired the sole ownership of the bank, which continued to operate under the old name. In 1910, when it was incorporated as a state bank with capital of five hundred thousand dollars, it was the largest bank in Oregon outside of Portland. (continued)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Downs, Winfield Scott, ed., Encyclopedia of Northwest Biography (New York: The American Historical Company, 1941), 78-80.
Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley Oregon (Chicago: Chapman Publishing Company, 1903), 27-29.
 Lang, A.O., ed., History of the Willamette Valley (Portland: Himes & Lang, 1885), 710-11.
 Ross, Marion D., "Architecture in Oregon, 1845-1895," Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. 57, no. 1 (March 1956), 54.

(Continued)

HR
 4977000
 4975150

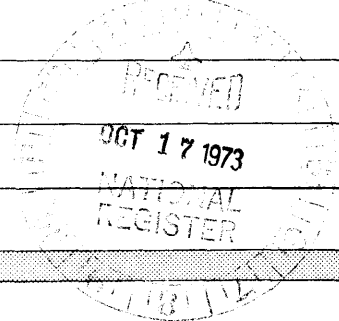
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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 , "		44 ^o	55.	53 ^o
NE	0 , "	0 , "		123 ^o	02 ,	16 ^o
SE	0 , "	0 , "				
SW	0 , "	0 , "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9.5 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: September 1973
 STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building
 CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon CODE: 97310 41

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: George M. Baldwin
 Title: Director of Transportation
 Date: 10-10-73

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.
AR Montrose
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 Date: 11/21/74
 ATTEST:
Ronald M. Greenberg
 Actg. Keeper of The National Register
 Date: 11/18/74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		Oregon
COUNTY		Marion
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

(Number all entries)

Bush (Asahel) House

2. Location

The Asahel Bush House is located in SE ¼, Sec. 27, T. 7 S., R. 3 W., of the Willamette Meridian, in Marion County, Oregon.

8. Significance

Bush continued to head his bank as president until his death on December 13, 1913, in his ninetieth year.

Bush performed a less widely known but valuable service for eight years as Oregon's Territorial Printer. He was the only man to ever hold that office. In 1859 he became the first State Printer, a position he held for twelve years. He served for a number of years as a Regent of the University of Oregon, and was one of the first Trustees of Willamette University.

In October, 1854, in Salem, Asahel Bush had married Eugenia Zeiber, whose father, John S. Zeiber, was at the time Surveyor General of Oregon. Eugenia died in Salem on September 11, 1863, leaving four children. The children kept their parents' house and grounds intact throughout their lives as a living memorial.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bush, Stuart, "The Bush Home, Salem," Oregon Historic Landmarks, (Portland: Oregon Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1957), 26-27.

Snyder, Susan, "The Development of the Bush House," Marion County History, Vol. 5 (1959), 3-7.

Oregon Statesman, "Bush Home Survivor of Victorian Period" (March 12, 1948), 14.

