

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

PHO 698920

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 5 1979
DATE ENTERED	MAR 13 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 Campbell (Hamilton) House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 41

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Jefferson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
2nd

STATE

Oregon

CODE

41

COUNTY

Marion

CODE

047

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Arthur L. Brandt

STREET & NUMBER Route 1, Box 41

CITY, TOWN

Jefferson

VICINITY OF

Oregon STATE 97352

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Marion County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Salem

Oregon STATE 97301

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties

DATE 1970 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Salem

Oregon STATE 97310

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR
 DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hamilton Campbell House has been in continuous use as a farmhouse since its erection in the early 1850s. It is remarkably intact. This Greek Revival house is beautifully situated on high rolling hills east of the Willamette River three miles north of Jefferson. The most disturbing change, although superficial, is the yellow asbestos shingles fairly recently applied over the original siding and trim.

Donation Land Claim records indicate Hamilton Campbell settled a claim December 1, 1845, in Sections 26, 27, 34 and 35, Township 9 South, Range 3 West of the Willamette Meridian--a site which includes the house. An 1852 Federal Survey Map locates the house where the existing house now stands. The house must have been constructed in 1851 because property assessment records show a \$14,000 increase for that year.

The house is sited on high and rolling terrain which drops off to the Willamette floodplain and river to the west. To the south lies the Santiam River. A backdrop of high brilliant green hills lies to the northeast. Facing due east on top of a prominent knoll, the house commands a view down a long driveway that rises between fields. Traces of the old stage road are still visible in these fields.

Remnants of very early garden landscaping near the house remain, but additional trees and shrubs have been planted over the years. The front yard includes a huge, mature Douglas Fir, a Mimosa tree, a Mountain Ash, Thorn Apple, Highbush Cranberry, a Magnolia bush, and a Pink Dogwood. Back and side yards have Holly trees, two Fir trees, a Swiss Beech, a Corkscrew Willow and two Cherry trees believed to be over 100 years old. Five outbuildings, none of them original, lie below the house to the rear. Land surrounding the property has remained in farms and is agriculturally zoned at present. The closest neighboring residence lies three-tenths of a mile east.

The house is T-shaped in plan. The vertical bar is a one story service wing (kitchen and wood shed). The arms of the T comprise the rectangular two story main body of the house, 26 feet high. Both sections have medium gabled roofs--6½ in 12 pitch. The overall length in plan is 57 feet east to west, and 43 feet north to south.

The main body of the house has a hand-hewn mortise and tenon frame. It is six bays wide. Old growth Douglas Fir sills were laid on fieldstones and corner posts tenoned into them. Posts and rough sawn studs support the second floor by means of the front and end girts which are mortised into them. Posts and studs carry the second floor and roof by means of plates and the end girts. Horizontal wavy edged sheathing nailed to the rafters supports an old wooden roof, presently covered with asphalt shingles. The structural system of the kitchen is original and integrated with the main house, although the original walls are of vertical planks.

The Hamilton Campbell House was built with plain functionalism in mind, yet it evokes immediate respect. Its facade and mass are well proportioned and its reticent details well composed. The front elevation includes twelve window openings with six panes per double hung sash and oval chord muntin profiles. Single vertical boards twenty inches wide are applied to the corners of the house and lapped to form a quirk

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joint. Hand-planed pilasters, also single boards, are mounted on them. The frieze and architrave run unbroken from end to end with a cove of cavetto profile against the soffit. There are four single stack chimneys--the main house has two interior end chimneys with corbelled caps.

A number of changes have been made to the exterior front portions of the house. The original center door with sidelights has been replaced by double doors. Windows have been added to the other elevations. A late Victorian open porch with scrolled brackets has replaced the original front porch.

The exterior of the service wing lacks all classical detail of the main house for it was built in a purely functional but rather unusual vernacular form. A wide board and batten eave, projecting about thirty inches, is carried around three sides of its perimeter and forms a pent roof at the gable end. These eaves "resemble the flat extended eaves of a Virginia plantation outbuilding."¹ A kitchen porch with pantry and an exterior door into the living room at the other end are located on the north side of the house. The porch is presently enclosed with corrugated sheet metal. An inconspicuous kitchen addition used as a family room has been built to the south in the angle where the service wing joins the main house. Consequently, the original southwest bedroom is used for food preparation.

The original plan was formal in both upper and lower stories. The front entrance opened directly into a central salon used for dining and passage between the kitchen and front rooms. Suites of rooms to either side were identical in shape and elements, each having enclosed stairs and a rear bedroom. The second floor repeats the first with the addition of a rafter-hung chimney in the central bedroom. The kitchen has a brick-lined root cellar beneath it, accessible from the wood shed.

Moderate alteration of the interior spatial organization now accommodates a less formal living arrangement. The first floor northwest bedroom has been divided into a small portion enclosing a forced air heating system, and into an open alcove with a semicircular mahogany staircase. A living room door opening has been enlarged (original door stored on premises). The northeast winder staircase has been removed. Upstairs the small west bedrooms have been connected to serve as a corridor with a bathroom added in the southwest corner.

Original interior finishes include panelled wainscoting carried through the three main rooms. First floor door and window openings have plain shouldered architrave trim. The south front room, formerly the parlor, is distinguished from all other rooms by the addition of a flat moulding surround on its door and window trim. Fireplace openings are faced with brick or sandstone and framed by pilasters and plain friezes with simple mantel shelves. All doors are of two vertical panels, recessed and bevel faced on one surface. Principal rooms on both floors have plastered ceilings and walls. The lath is of rough and hand split wood. Kitchen walls

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had paper over boards. Floors are straight grain Fir throughout. Door hardware includes several rim locks, patented in 1845, with brown on black ceramic knobs.

The interior of this twelve room house is in excellent condition. The only finish work not intact is a result of spatial alteration. These are slight. This alteration is readily apparent from visual evidence, has been subsequently documented, and could be readily reconstructed.

¹ Philip H. Dole, "The Greek Revival House and Hamilton Campbell, Architect," Elisabeth Walton Potter, ed., Festschrift, A Collection of Essays on Architectural History. Salem, Oregon, 1978.

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Within the .7-acre area* nominated there are three non-contributing structures which are excluded from the nomination. The oldest of these is a horse barn post dating 1900. The next, an auto garage, post dates 1920; and the third, a machine shed dates from about 1948. Earlier outbuildings believed to have been erected by second and third occupants of the house have been lost to deterioration at various points over the past twenty years.

*seven tenths of an acre

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1851

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

attributed to Hamilton Campbell

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hamilton Campbell House is significant for its historic associations with the development of architecture, agriculture, and the Methodist Church in Oregon. The house has a traditional Southern vernacular plan exceptional to Oregon's Greek Revival period. Its construction, craftsmanship and detailing are excellent. Consideration should also be given to the prominent role its original owner played in the construction of a number of Oregon's first buildings.

Hamilton Campbell was born June 12, 1812, in Kanawha County, Virginia. He was the second child of Robert Campbell, who emigrated from Scotland to America in the late eighteenth century and became a large sale manufacturer. At an early age, Hamilton was apprenticed to an Illinois cabinet maker. He married Harriet B. Biddle, February 5, 1835, in Sangamon County, Illinois. He settled in Springfield, Illinois, until 1839. In his own words, he knew carpentry, cabinet making, wagon making, turning, painting, chair making, and farming. In 1839 the Campbells joined a missionary party of fifty people enlisted by Reverend Jason Lee to "come to Oregon and aid in the settlement and civilization of the then almost unknown territory." The appointing committee of the Methodist Missionary Board listed Campbell's function for the Oregon Mission as "architect."¹ The rare application of this term in Oregon at such an early date attests as much to the lack of the professionally-trained as it does to Campbell's superior building skills and inventiveness as a designer. Thus, in any event, Oregon received its "first designate architect."²

Following the expedition's arrival in 1840 at Chemeketa Plain (present-day Salem), Hamilton worked on several Mission buildings, a gristmill, grannery, threshing mill, and a sawmill. In 1841 Campbell and other men constructed the Parsonage under the supervision of the Reverend Gustavus Hines. This was the second house built in Salem, the first being the house for Jason Lee started earlier the same year. The Parsonage of the Methodist Mission in Oregon is the oldest building connected to Campbell still standing, although the exact nature of his involvement with its design remains unclear.

In the summer of 1841 Hamilton Campbell also began supervision of the construction of the Indian Manual Labor Training School--the earliest permanent structure built for educational use in Oregon. This three-storied edifice with square belfry shortly became the Oregon Institute--predecessor of Willamette University. Campbell served on the Oregon Institute Board of Trustees from 1842 until the close of the Mission in 1844. "The closing meeting of the Mission was held in Mrs. Campbell's parlor. Mr. Campbell was urged to join the conference and engage as circuit rider, but with his other responsibilities he could not accept. He did, however, become a local preacher and preached to the Indians in their own language."³

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In 1845 Campbell purchased the Mission horses and cattle and removed them to his 640 acre donation claim eight miles south of Salem. In 1849 he engraved the first dies for coins issued by the Provisional Government at Oregon City. From April to September of that year he was working the California gold fields, and in 1850 he joined a four-way partnership to construct the Oregon steamship "Canemah." During one year, 1850-1851, his house was built--a prodigious undertaking for its size and quality.

No existing records of construction, materials, or crew for the house have been located. However, Hamilton Campbell did have the opportunity to work on it and one might assume he designed it and completed much of the finish construction due to his skill as "architect" and carpenter. The spatial organization of the house--including a large central room connecting front and back, enclosed symmetrical stairs, and a seemingly detached kitchen--are features derived from a house plan type typically found in Virginia. As an example of this particular vernacular form transplanted here from the South, it is unique for its period.

The Campbell House was built with unusual care and solidity. Its parts are generally large and employed with restraint--so that the whole has an uncommon dignity and strength. The classic detailing is simple and well composed--all part of the Greek Revival ideal. The use of plaster on walls and ceilings in the major interior rooms may be the earliest example in the state.

Hamilton Campbell resided on his claim until 1854, then moved to Corvallis and pursued the photography business until 1859. The Oregon Territorial District Court recorded the sheriff's sale of Campbell's Donation Land Claim to William Cosper in 1858. Campbell pursued photography in San Francisco, but returned his family to Portland in 1862. His life ended in 1863 at the mines in Guaymas, Mexico. He was robbed and murdered while superintending the crucibles.

¹ Elisabeth Walton, "Mill Place on the Willamette: A New Mission House for the Methodists in Oregon, 1841-1844." Unpublished master's thesis, University of Delaware, 1965.

² Phillip H. Dole, "The Greek Revival House and Hamilton Campbell, Architect," Elisabeth Walton Potter, ed., Festschrift, A Collection of Essays on Architectural History (Salem, Oregon, 1978), p. 34.

³ R. J. Hendricks, "Bits for Breakfast", Oregon Statesman, 12,15,17 May, 1934, p. 4.

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Philip H. Dole, "The Greek Revival House and Hamilton Campbell, Architect," Elisabeth Potter, ed., Festschrift, A Collection of Essays on Architectural History (Salem, Oregon, 1978).

Interviews with Tom Brandt and Mrs. Arthur Brandt, May 20, 1978 and Sept. 15, 1978.