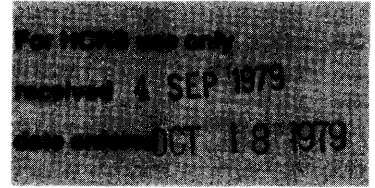


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Beall, (Robert Vinton), House (pronounced Bell)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1253 Beall Lane S of Central Point at not for publication

city, town Central Point vicinity of congressional district 4

state Oregon code 41 county Jackson code 029

3. 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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Irvin and Carol Warren

street & number 1253 Beall Lane

city, town Central Point vicinity of state Oregon 97502

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jackson County Courthouse

street & number West Main Street

city, town Medford state Oregon 97501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Jackson Co. Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 (extension of Statewide Inventory) federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Robert Vinton Beall House is a 19th century dwelling (with associated outbuildings and other features) which was built in a simplified version of the "rural Gothic Revival" style. The Beall House (built 1863-64) is a T-shaped, 1½-story structure. The north elevation, which fronts on Beall Lane and is the main facade, is three bays wide (ie, entrance door, flanked by a window on each side; the east bay projects out from the main volume of the house, flush with the covered porch which extends across the central and west bays). The house is a wood-frame structure with exterior walls of horizontal, clapboard siding (boards of knotless, "clear" sugar pine, milled locally), with vertical boards forming corner posts. It has a steep-pitched roof which is covered with wood shingles. (There are no dormers) The house currently is painted white with dark brown trim. The front steps are made out of large blocks of carved Hornbrook Formation sandstone, and the foundation is composed of coursed fragments of this same stone. (This material, available from sedimentary outcrops in the floor of the Bear Creek Valley, was very popular for foundations, steps, retaining walls, etc. of 19th and early 20th century structures in Central Point, Jacksonville, Ashland, and other Jackson County communities). The kitchen (or south) wing collapsed in about 1950 and has been restored to its original exterior appearance with similar materials.

The roof of the front porch (north elevation) is a hipped covering (see photographs) supported by two square posts (these posts are composed of boxed boards around a hollow core). The eight major windows (six on the first floor and two on the upper half-story in the gable ends) are six-over-six light, double-hung sash type. (All of the panes are believed to be original; they have the characteristic bubbles and "wavy" appearance of 19th century window glass). The main doors (two in the north elevation) are four-panel, windowless wooden doors with ornamental brass knobs and other trim (see photographs). An unornamented, brick chimney protrudes from the ridge line of the main volume of the house, extending about two feet above the roof line. (A chimney on the south elevation dates from the restoration of the kitchen).

The major decorative details of the Beall House are the curvilinear scrollwork bargeboards (using an S-shaped motif, possibly inspired by the shape of the metal shutter stops found on window shutters of earlier architectural styles). These "gingerbread" vergeboards (with pendant "acorn" drops at the eaves lines) are located beneath the north and west gable ends. An additional decorative element are the "pineapple" finials and drops which are located where the vergeboards meet at the gable peaks. Each of the porch posts is bracketed by curvilinear, ornate scrollwork. The windows and doors have pedimented trim, probable evidence of influence from the Classical Revival style - which still remained popular in many parts of Oregon during the 1860s.

The original board walls of the interior have been modified by recent painting and/or papering (using "19th century style" patterns). The most notable feature of the Beall House interior is the woodwork (doors and trim) which retains its original hand-painted "graining". The doors include simulated "bird's eye" maple graining on the panels and walnut graining on the frame; the door jambs and baseboard trim have been painted to simulate oak. The graining in the Beall House almost certainly represents the work of a master craftsman. The original brick fireplace is located in the east parlor.

The present owners of the Beall House plan to preserve and/or rehabilitate as much of the historical character of the property as is economically feasible. Current maintenance goals include a new wood shingle roof, and possibly the identical replacement of severely deteriorated portions of the exterior trim.

The property also includes four outbuildings, the well, and the landscaped yard of the house--all of which are included in this National Register nomination. The "spring house", a gable-roofed, brick (common bond), shamm (c. 9x14' in plan) structure, is attached to the east

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wall of the kitchen. The owners hope to use the interior as a wine cellar. The smoke-house--a rectangular (c. 18x14' in plan), brick structure with a hipped roof and rectangular, wood-louvered cupola--is located directly behind (south) of the main house, to which it is connected by a grape arbor trellis. The building currently is used for storage. The mortar bonding of the lower 2-3 feet of the walls (double brick thickness) is extremely deteriorated, and the facing has spalled off from a number of the bricks. The owners hope to be able to restore the bond and brick in a manner similar to that recently accomplished on the old Jackson County Courthouse (Jacksonville Museum).

The garage is a wood-frame, rectangular (c. 35x15') structure which has been built on the site of the earlier carriage house. The exposed rafter ends, wide boxed window trim, channeled horizontal siding and presence of cut-wire nails indicate that it was constructed sometime between 1910 and 1925. It is now used for vehicle and miscellaneous storage, and it remains in good physical condition.

The Beall Barn is a large (c. 75x75') structure which is located in the south end of the property. Said to have been built in 1860, it housed the teams of horses which were used for the plowing, threshing and other duties on Robert Beall's large wheat farm. It is constructed of hand-hewn timbers (some of them 30' in length), mortised-and-tenored frame members, square nails, rough-sawn boards and wood shingles. The barn's roof needs to be replaced (the owners would prefer to use shingles, but economics may force them to use shakes; metal is considered a last resort), and the lower two feet of many of the timbers are heavily rotted--some form of replacement and preservation treatment will be necessary.

The well is a circular, brick-lined shaft approximately 16' deep. First excavated in the late 1850s to early 1860s, it is now surmounted by a Chicago Aermoter Co. steel-frame windmill (vintage: c. 1910-1920) and galvanized storage tank. The well and pump are in operation, supplying irrigation water to the present owners. (During the 19th century the Beall Well is said to have served as a "control well" for the periodic measurement of the Rogue River Valley's water table. Each month or so during the spring and summer, water level measurements were taken and published so that Valley farmers would know the relative amount of subsurface water then available for agricultural and domestic purposes.)

The yard of the Beall House is enclosed by a white picket fence. The yard includes large expanses of grass lawn and planting beds along the house and fence. The present owners have built several paths, using a herringbone pattern of fire brick salvaged from the boiler of the old Timber Products Company sawmill powerhouse which was located nearby. The dominant and by far most significant feature of the yard is the well-known Beall Walnut Tree, a 6'+ diameter (at chest height) "Illinois" black walnut tree which was planted by Robert Vinton Beall in 1864. The huge girth of the tree led many local people to claim that it was the largest member of its species in the world. Recent records indicate that the Beall Tree comes in a close second, behind a large diameter walnut tree in Humboldt County, California. (The Beall Walnut Tree continues to be an object of curiosity and interest to sightseers and photographers. Mr. Irvin Warren, the present owner of the property, states that hardly a summer weekend goes by but that several carloads of people drive by slowly, occasionally stopping and asking about the tree.)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	XX agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	XX architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
XX 1800-1899	XX commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates	1863-1864	Builder/Architect	said to have been built by carpenter/ cabinet maker David Linn
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Robert Vinton Beall House is significant to Central Point and Jackson County for two major reasons: it is a well-preserved and representative example of a particular 19th century architectural style, and it is directly associated with the lives of two individuals who figured prominently in the commercial, agricultural and cultural affairs of the Rogue River Valley during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The house was built for Robert Vinton Beall, Maryland native and Oregon Trail pioneer of 1852 who, with his brother, took up a claim at Central Point in 1854 and operated pack trains between Jacksonville and Crescent City before eventually concentrating on ranching. The house was subsequently occupied by Robert V. (Vintie) Beall, Jr., operator of a Central Point photography studio, until the latter's death in 1961.

The Beall House is an excellent example of the relatively modest-sized rural Gothic Revival residences which were built in western Oregon during the 1860s (ie, between the heyday of the Classical Revival and the Italianate styles). It is the only known surviving house of this style existent in southwestern Oregon. (Peter Britt's Jacksonville home was another, slightly more ornate example). The Beall House retains its original 1863-1864 design (as well as most of the original materials), and very little modification of the exterior has occurred. The kitchen wing, which collapsed c. 1950, has been restored with materials which are virtually identical in appearance to those used on the rest of the structure's exterior.

The present Beall House property was entered as part of a 320-acre Donation Land Claim (#563) by Robert Vinton Beall in March, 1854. Robert V. Beall and his older brother, Thomas Fletcher Beall, arrived in Oregon City in July of 1852, having traveled the Oregon Trail from St. Joseph, Missouri with a team of six mules in 78 days--the shortest crossing period recorded on the trail up until that time.

Robert Vinton Beall was born June 15, 1831 in Montgomery County, Maryland. (His forebear, "Colonel" Ninian Beall, had arrived in Maryland from Scotland in the mid-17th century, and the Beall family became very prominent in the political and social affairs of the colony and young state.) His parents moved to Sangamon County, Illinois (near Springfield) during the 1830s, and in 1852 the two Beall brothers crossed the plains to Oregon. They left the Willamette Valley almost immediately for the gold mines of Josephine County. Using their record-breaking mule team, the brothers began a supply-packing enterprise between the Valley settlements and the new mines of southwestern Oregon. (They purchased flour, groceries, etc from Dr. John McLoughlin, then of Oregon City.) In about 1857 the Beall brothers expanded their pack-train business, bringing supplies to Jacksonville via the new road from Crescent City, California.

The Bealls settled on their adjacent Donation Land Claims near present-day Central Point in 1854. They lived in rude "bachelor quarters" while continuing their pack-train endeavor, but by the late 1850s both of them turned to cattle raising and wheat farming as more profitable, long-range undertakings. Robert Beall soon owned a large (c. 1,000-acre) cattle ranch in the Cascades (near present-day Butte Falls) at Rancheria Prairie. He built a large horse barn on his Central Point land in 1860, and enclosed the farm with several miles of split-rail fence. Wheat farming became the mainstay of the Beall fortune--he and his brother were the two largest Jackson County subscribers to the preliminary Oregon-and-California Railroad survey in 1863, donating "100 bushels of wheat" toward that project (and evidently with some

9. Major Bibliographical References

Central Point Press, 1978. "After 114 Years, It's Still a Strong Second" (4/11/78 article on Beall Walnut Tree, by Sharon Olson), Central Point.
 Gaston, Joseph. The Centennial History of Oregon, 1811-1912, Vol. IV. S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago: 1912 (pp. 143-144) (continued)

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property ca. 2.78 acres

Quadrangle name Medford, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	0	5	0	7	5	0	0	4	6	8	8	8	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing						

C

Zone			Easting				Northing						

D

Zone			Easting				Northing						

E

Zone			Easting				Northing						

F

Zone			Easting				Northing						

G

Zone			Easting				Northing						

H

Zone			Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 14, T.37S, R.2W, of the Willamette Meridian. (see continuation sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeffrey M. LaLande

organization consulting historian

date April 5, 1979

street & number 171 Granite Street #1

telephone 503/482-0711, 503/770-2351 Ex. 38

city or town Ashland

state Oregon 97520

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

David A. Truller

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 8/8/79

For HCPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Carol Shull
 Keeper of the National Register

date 10-18-79

Attest: *W. Ray Lee*
 Chief of the National Register

date Oct 16, 1979

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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effect...the tracks were built adjacent to the eastern property line of Robert Beall's land). During the late 19th century the Beall brothers became known as the county's largest and most prosperous farmers. While brother Thomas involved himself in state politics (serving two terms in the legislature), Robert concentrated his energies on running the farm.

Robert Beall married Ann Maria Riddle of Douglas County (who also was a former resident of Sangamon County, Illinois) in 1864, having completed his Gothic Revival house on Beall Lane that same year. (Thomas F. Beall married Annie Hall, Miss Riddle's cousin and adoptive sister, in 1859, and built a large Classic Revival style house fronting on Beall Lane, just to the west of Robert's property line. The Thomas Beall house was torn down in 1930.) Robert Beall continued to prosper, and around 1900 he planted a portion of his land to pear trees--becoming a major participant of the great Rogue River Valley fruit orchard boom of the early 20th century. Robert Vinton Beall died on July 17, 1915 at the age of 85. His obituary (in unidentified June 1915 newspaper clipping, Jacksonville Museum Library files) remarked on his as "a bundle of energy...and his good cheer endeared him to everyone...In the passing of this strong race of pioneer men and women he will be much missed."

Unlike his brother, who had twelve children, Robert Beall's family was a small one--one daughter, Mary, and one son, Robert Vinton, Jr. Mary became the wife of Charles Strang, a Medford pharmacist. The son contracted spinal meningitis at the age of eight, and was left totally deaf. Robert V. "Vintie" Beall, Jr., perhaps because of his isolation from the world of sound, became very interested in the visual arts at a young age. Another unidentified and undated clipping in the Jacksonville Museum Library files states: "his beautiful and praiseworthy (artistic) efforts at the (county) fair are wonderful exhibitions of his taste and skill. Everyone who saw it was glad that a new world of effort and beauty is now spread before the little boy." "Vintie" Beall attended the University of Oregon for three years, but returned to Central Point in 1897 to help run the family farm. In 1900 he graduated from the Illinois College of Photography, and taught photography in the East for several years. After a few years he again returned to the house on Beall Lane, where he lived as a bachelor until his death in 1961 at the age of 83. He had maintained a photographic portrait studio in Central Point for many years, and he was a life-long collector of rock specimens and Indian artifacts, which were displayed on shelves in the west parlor of the Beall House.

Robert V. Beall, Jr. bequeathed an estate of over \$100,000 to the University of Oregon "for the erection..of a memorial dedicated to the pioneer women of Oregon." After several years of discussion, the memorial took the form of the Ahrend pipe organ in the University's School of Music Recital Hall.

The various outbuildings (especially the barn), the well, and the Beall Walnut Tree also contribute to the historic significance of the property. All of these features are symbolic of the practical, agricultural importance of the Robert V. Beall farm. The barn alone probably would qualify for National Register status as a representative example of mid-19th century Oregon barn construction.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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Jacksonville Museum Library, n.d. Beall File -- unidentified/undated clippings and miscellaneous material, Jacksonville.

Medford Mail Tribune, 1972. "Fine Tuning Remains on New Ahrend Organ at University." (9/24/72), Medford.

Medford Daily News, 1929. "Ancient Tree a Feature of Beall Lane Neighborhood." 9/11/29), Medford.

Oregon Historical Society, 1908. "Subscription List for Railroad Survey Fund," Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. IX No. 3, Portland. (p. 306).

Ross, Marion Dean. 1956. "Architecture in Oregon, 1845-1895", Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. LVII, No. 1, Portland. (p. 43, description of the R.V. Beall House, mistakenly identified in text as the Thomas F. Beall House).

Southern Oregon Pioneer Association, n.d. "Resolutions on Deaths of Members", Vol. 1, Jacksonville. (p. 94, held at Jacksonville Museum Library).

Walling, A.G. 1884. History of Southern Oregon, A.G. Walling Company, Portland. (pp. 44, 523-524).

Personal interview with Mr. Irvin Warren, present owner of the Beall House and long-time resident of Central Point area, drawn from recollections of his conversations with R.V. Beall, Jr., other past owners, and local residents.

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Commencing at the NW corner of Donation Land Claim No. 65, T.37S., R.2 W., of the Willamette Meridian in Jackson County, Oregon; thence along the centerline of Beall Lane (a county road) South 89° 53' 40" East, 1676.66 feet to a ½" bolt; thence along said lane centerline, North 89° 50' 30" East, 698.80 feet to the true point of beginning; thence South 0° 09' 30" East, 30 feet to a ¾" by 30" rebar located on the South right-of-way line of Beall Lane; thence continue South 0° 09' 30" East, 411.50 feet; thence North 89° 50' 30" East 294.70 feet; thence North 0° 09' 30" West, 441.50 feet to the centerline of Beall Lane; thence along said lane centerline South 89° 50' 30" West, 294.70 feet to the true point of beginning containing a net area lying outside of the right-of-way of Beall Lane of 2.78 acres, more or less.

Site Map: Robert Vinton
Beall House

Central Point, Oregon

-not to scale-

