

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received **AUG 20 1979**
date entered **OCT 16 1979**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Anderson (James Mechlin) House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Route 2, Box 95 *off I-5* not for publication

city, town Jefferson vicinity of congressional district Second

state Oregon code 41 county Marion code 047

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 James W. Anderson

street & number Route 2, Box 95

city, town Jefferson vicinity of state Oregon 97352

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marion County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Salem state Oregon 97301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 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

In a rural setting near Ankeny Hill, the James Mechlin Anderson House still serves as the residence for the remaining acreage of the family's original donation land claim. The symmetrical design and quality of its finish details distinguish the house as an unusually fine example of the Greek Revival Style adapted to western domestic use. According to family tradition, the design is a duplicate of the home of James Anderson's parents in Lancaster, Ohio. The house was built in 1855 with James' savings from mining adventures in the 1849 California Gold Rush. At present, the house is in very good condition and its structural integrity is intact. Such alterations as have been carried out are related to kitchen and bathroom remodeling.

The property is located in Section 21, Township 9 South, Range 3 West of the Willamette Meridian. The house is situated on a southwest slope above the seasonal flood level of Ankeny Bottom. From the back of the house a vista stretches west across the original cultivated holdings toward the confluence of the Santiam and Willamette Rivers some two miles distant. The present surroundings of farm land and overgrown orchard dating from the 1860s are still supportive of the original character of the site. Three barns built at different times on the Anderson farm have been removed.

The main body of the rectangular, one-story building measures 53 by 32 feet and has two opposing recessed porches. The simply-finished gable roofed attic was once inhabited, which accounts for the added Gothic dormer.

The foundation is laid with irregular sandstone block, hand-chiseled from a nearby quarry and bonded with a clay mortar. The structural frame of the wood post and beam building used hewn timber connected with mortise and tenon joints. The rough-cut stud walls have narrow clapboard exterior siding with hand spilt lath and plaster on the interior surface, most of which is still original. The roof was covered with wood shingles.

The identical end elevations each had four evenly spaced windows lighting the ground story beneath the gables. All of the original windows were double-hung, six-pane sashes with glass reported to have been shipped around Cape Horn. The front and rear elevations are identical, divided by the recessed porches into three bays on one side, and one bay on the other. Either porch has three exterior doors consisting of a main entry set between two windows in the back wall, and side doors at opposite ends of the porch. Two single-stack chimneys protruding near the ridge of the roof are set back 12 and 18 feet respectively from the north and south ends. The trim detailing is one of the distinguishing features of Greek Revival architecture. Wide, hand-planed pilasters with built-up section profile caps are applied to each corner. Pilasters also flank the porch and frame the main entry and side windows on the inset wall.

In the late 1870s (about 1878), the house was slightly remodeled, and a service wing of unusually fine design was added to the north end. The smaller rectangular wing, somewhat in the Carpenter Gothic vein, included a summer kitchen and brick dairy cellar surrounded on two sides by a porch with lattice screens still in good condition. The gable roof over this addition has a bell mounted in a cupola at the peak of the north end. A carriage shed, probably open-sided; was attached to the east side of the dairy cellar. Exterior remodeling at this time included a Gothic dormer added at the center of the roof on the east elevation and the addition of two double-hung, four-pane sash windows in either gable end. These additions should be considered historically significant as reflections of the evolutionary character of the house.

(continued)

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The floor plan is an exceptional adaptation of a typically Virginia Greek Revival design. The rooms are organized around the central hall-living room (which has a fireplace and main exterior doors to both porches). The latter room separates the kitchen, with small wayfarer rooms at either end, from the parlor and parents' bedroom. The parlor and bedroom are approximately equal-sized 15-foot squares divided by a single fireplace and side closets. These two rooms open into four small cell bedrooms, each about 8 by 8 feet in area, that line the south wall of the house.

The remodeling of the 1870s made the attic habitable by adding a corner stair, which had a pantry underneath it, to the west end of the kitchen. The attic was divided into three rooms when the dormer and end windows were installed. The east wayfarer room was opened to the kitchen, and an interior door was opened in the south wall of the large bedroom.

All interior walls are plastered and painted and have simple, wide board trim. Notable intact features include two-panel doors with transoms and pediment trim caps, original door hardware and porcelain knobs, and marbelized wood mantels, which have remained unpainted. The parlor is more ornate. It uses thirteen pilasters of varying width, and with caps identical to those on the exterior walls, to frame doors, windows and closets. The closet doors exhibit very high quality painting, simulating English walnut grain. The house contains many of the original furnishings, including spool beds thought to have been unusual in the district in 1865.

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 checked="" 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 1855

Builder/Architect John E. Nye, carpenter, 1855

(Possible role in design attributed to
Hamilton Campbell, architect)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

William H. B. Stewart, additions of ca. 1878

The James Mechlin Anderson House (1855) is significant to Marion County and to Oregon as an early, distinctive, and exceptionally well-preserved example of the Greek Revival Style. It is noteworthy also for its association with the first wave of agricultural settlement in the Mid-Willamette Valley and members and clergy of the Methodist Church who played an important part in the settlement and orderly development of Oregon. The spatial arrangement of the rooms of various size exhibits a high degree of originality and skill compared with other farmhouses of the period. Additions and alterations of ca. 1878 also contribute to the significance of the building, as they represent regional vernacular adaptations to an imported style. The available craftsmanship and knowledge of the builders is apparent from the careful siting of the house on the hill, down to the mortised joints and trim details. The sophisticated parlor trim and the dairy cellar are unique features of the house, while the more typical door hardware, mantelpieces and other features are valuable for their undisturbed condition. The fact that good materials and sturdy construction were applied account for the building's present sound condition. Most of the alterations have been minor and do not detract from the essential character of the house.

James and Lucy Anderson, who initiated the building, were among the first settlers in upper Marion County. Their names are listed on the original Donation Land Claim deed which was issued and signed by President Andrew Jackson in 1865. The couple had settled their claim as early as 1848. James' successful sojourn in the California gold fields in 1849 provided the funds for building the house, which was completed in 1855 at a cost of \$8,000.

James Anderson was a charter member and first chaplain of the Chehulpum Grange, which stood within a mile of his house. He and Lucy were married by the Reverend James H. Wilbur, a Methodist minister who is known for establishing Umpqua Academy in the small Douglas County town which bears his name and Taylor Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Portland in addition to other institutions. James was a close friend of early Methodist ministers McKinney and Helm also.

It is possible that Anderson's friend and neighbor, Hamilton Campbell, a former lay member of the Methodist Mission in Oregon, played a major role in the design and construction of the house in 1855. Campbell's varied achievements included design and construction of the Indian Manual Labor Training School at Salem, a Methodist enterprise which became the Oregon Institute and, later, Willamette University. The three-story school building (begun 1841) was for many years the most imposing edifice in the territory. Campbell, recruited as "architect" for the Mission, may be considered one of Oregon's first architects, if not the first. John E. Nye, another neighbor of Anderson's, and an emigre from Ohio, is given credit for the actual construction and carpentry work of the Anderson House.

Design of the additions and remodeling of ca. 1878 is attributed to William Henry Burns Stewart, a relative of Anderson's. Stewart also is credited with design of the H. E. Ankeny commercial dairy, which no longer stands though the Ankeny name is on the land. It is felt that the milk cellar of the James Mechlin Anderson House is similar in principle and construction detail to the Ankeny Dairy.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Anderson, Ruth K., "The James Mechlin Anderson House," Marion County History, Vol. 5 (1959), 49-52.
Historical Atlas Map of Marion and Linn Counties (San Francisco: Edgar Williams & Co., 1878).

(continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property ca. 2.75 acres

Quadrangle name Sidney, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	0	4	9	6	4	4	0	4	9	5	7	9	4	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 The property proposed for nomination measures 200 by 600 feet, with the center line of the road in front of the house used as a stationary reference for the description. The NE and SE boundaries run parallel to the road, to include 150' SW (downhill) of the road and 50' NE (uphill) of the road. The SE boundary is formed by (con'

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 Ron K. Bills

Architecture student

organization University of Oregon School of Architecture date June 7, 1978

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town Eugene state Oregon 97403

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 *James G. Galbraith*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date August 7, 1979

For HCRS use only

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

James Carl Skell date 10-16-79
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *W. Ray Luce* date Oct 16, 1979
 Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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Anderson, Ruth K., "Jefferson Pioneers," Jefferson Review (March 20, March 27, 1968).

Dole, Philip Hinckley, "The Greek Revival House and Hamilton Campbell, Architect,"
Festschrift: A Collection of Essays on Architectural History (Salem, Oregon:
Northern Pacific Coast Chapter, Society of Architectural Historians, 1978), 34-40.

Youngberg, Elsie, 1850 Oregon Territorial Census (Lebanon, Oregon: End of Trail
Researchers, 1970).

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Wintel Road. The NW boundary can be drawn perpendicular to the center line of the first-mentioned road at a point 600 feet NW of the road's intersection with Wintel Road.