

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED DEC 19 1975  
DATE ENTERED JAN 1 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

*h* Isham Saling House

AND/OR COMMON

Saling House

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

*off OR 204*

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Weston

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Oregon

CODE

41

COUNTY

Umatilla

CODE

059

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

*br* Joanna Rheume

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Seattle

VICINITY OF

STATE

Washington

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Umatilla County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Pendleton

STATE

Oregon

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE

August 18, 1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Parks and Recreation Branch, State Highway Building

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Oregon

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                     DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                             RUINS  
 FAIR                              UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Isham Saling House was constructed in 1880 in Weston, a small town in the northeast corner of Oregon. The two-story red brick structure has a truncated hipped roof which was surmounted by a belvedere (removed about 1947). The building is a symmetrical example of the Italian Villa style.

The house, which includes a full-length front porch with balustrade (now missing), a large back porch (now missing) with similar detail, an original small brick kitchen wing, and a nearby brick cellar, is located on Water Street just east of two large maple trees. A double parlor with sliding double doors is located on the north side of the central hall plan. It was divided, according to a newspaper account in 1936, into a formal, seldom-used front parlor and a room formerly known as the "Billiard Room." The south side was divided into three rooms, in addition to the kitchen located in the wing. The front room, which features a small fireplace with a segmental arch and marble facing (now missing), was the bedroom of Mrs. Isham Saling in 1936. It is possible that the front room was a sitting chamber and the narrow adjoining room to the east was a sleeping chamber, office or study. A square room thought to be a dining room is located in the southeast corner, connected to the sleeping chamber, the central hall, the kitchen, and to a small space located at the back of the central hall, thought to be a pantry. A cupboard and pass-through connects this space with the adjoining kitchen. The upstairs is divided into six bedrooms heated by four stoves. One is located above the fireplace, one connects to the kitchen flue, and two are located directly above the parlor stoves. Both the first and second floor ceilings are twelve feet high. The attic space, visible from the extant cupola stairs, is large. The ceiling of the second floor is located at the bottom of the outside bracketed frieze (now missing). This area has two joist systems and was used for drying food.

The brick for the Saling House was made several blocks northwest of the site, in the local brickyard which was partially owned by Mr. Saling. The same yard also made the brick used in all the surrounding communities. The brickmaker's residence, the Nelson House constructed in 1865 and located on Water Street in front of the brickyard, contains the same curved brick detail surrounding the windows and doors as that found in the Saling House. The Saling House has segmental arched openings on the first floor similar to several brick houses in Weston. The upper-story openings are round-headed, as were those of the now-missing wooden belvedere. None of these openings have keystone detail.

The woodwork included a large bracketed cornice and smaller porch detail, double-hung windows two lights over two, moulded raised paneled doors, ornamented window and door casings, and a handsome staircase with a heavy turned newel and delicately turned spindles connected by a solid oak banister. These items were probably factory made. Other more common ornament such as the beaded stair stringer and corresponding flat cove mouldings, the moulded baseboard and the chamfered detail in the downstairs windows were more likely formed by the carpenters. The heavy four-paneled front door is surrounded by a transom and side lights which originally contained etched glass. The tall sliding double doors separating the double parlor are six panel, three panels over three. The interior surfaces are plaster over brick except the north-south interior divisions. The major rooms of the house have ceiling rosettes and a plaster cove moulding.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

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The house at present is missing the belvedere, the balustrade to the front porch, two of the six porch columns, the porch ceiling, the overall bracketed cornice, the entire back porch, and the door over the back porch. The spaces inside remain original except for an added bathroom upstairs at the end of the hall and an added division in the downstairs central hall. The baluster at the top of the staircase near the attic is broken off, and it is probable that the connection between the staircase and the winding belvedere stairway was altered during the removal of the belvedere. The building appears to be structurally sound throughout except for the east end of the north wall which has moved away from the surrounding structure at the top, approximately one and one quarter inches. The brick cellar is partially subterranean, has a low hipped roof and simple detail. It remains in good restorable condition.

# 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

1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Saling House, built in 1880, is the largest historic brick house in Weston, Oregon, a town with unique historical distinction. Isham Saling was the leading merchant in Weston and the first farmer to prove the fertility of the upland soil. He was also part owner of the Brick Hotel, three brick stores, and large amounts of farmland and livestock. The home of Isham and Melinda Morton Saling is an unusual and important Oregon example of the Italian Villa style. Belvedere structures were never common, and brick structures of this period are practically unknown.

Mr. Saling was born in 1830 in Monroe County, Missouri. In 1852 he came to Oregon across the Oregon Trail. At Salmon Falls on the Snake he exchanged his oxen for horses, packing in from that point to the Jacksonville mines. He remained in that section until 1855, and then journeyed to Yamhill County where he engaged in farming until 1859. From here he crossed with his stock into the Walla Walla country, now Umatilla County. After the hard winter of 1863, which took the lives of many of his cattle, he decided to confine himself to farming. This occupation he followed until 1874 when he established himself in the mercantile business in Weston.

Melinda Morton, Isham Saling's wife, was born in Fairmont, Virginia in 1839. Her family moved to Bellerville, Illinois and started for Oregon in 1852 with a party of 20 wagons led by William Johnson. The trip was a difficult one. Melinda was one of few who contracted cholera to survive, and food was nearly gone by the time the train reached The Dalles. At this point the party floated down the Columbia on flat boats to Portland. The Morton family then moved to McMinnville where Isham Saling and Melinda Morton were married. They had eleven children - three died when young.

The Brick House in which these children were raised remains in restorable condition. It is important to the City of Weston because it was the most pretentious house in town and known to contain fine furniture. Before the death of Mrs. Isham Saling in 1938, the fine house contained its original square grand piano, marble-topped parlor set, upholstery of crimson satin tufting and brocaded gold, two huge walnut-framed mirrors, three-ply crimson carpeting, black and gold window cornices with green, gold-braided lambrquins and white lace curtains, and five walnut and marble bedroom sets.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Reminiscences of Oregon Pioneers, Ladies Club of Pendleton.

History of the Pacific Northwest, North Pacific History Company, 1889.

Oregon Daily Journal, October 11, 1936; June 12, 1938.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .34 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1	3 8 9 3 7 5	5 0 7 4 4 7 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Gregg Olson, State Historic Preservation Office Staff

ORGANIZATION

Oregon State Parks

DATE

September 23, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

State Highway Building

TELEPHONE

(503) 378-6118

CITY OR TOWN

Salem

STATE

Oregon

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE xx

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

November 15, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11/1/96

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/31/75