

PHO 504939

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 27 1977

DATE ENTERED NOV 2 1977

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Eaton, Abel E., House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

464 N. Main St.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Union

VICINITY OF

2nd

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Oregon

CODE

41

COUNTY

Union

CODE

061

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"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

David and Lucille Rainey

STREET & NUMBER

PO Box 273

CITY, TOWN

Union

VICINITY OF

Oregon

STATE

97883

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Union County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

LaGrande

Oregon

STATE

97850

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Oregon State Parks Branch

CITY, TOWN

Salem

Oregon

STATE

97310

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Abel E. Eaton House is an attractive and unusual example of the Second Empire Style. The typical dormers in the mansard tower are present, as is the curbing around visible slopes, but the detailing is quite simple. The appearance of such a fine example of the Second Empire in eastern Oregon is unusual, but the small scale and lack of elaborate detailing is predictable.

The Eaton House is $1\frac{1}{2}$ stories with a $2\frac{1}{2}$ story bellcast mansard tower on the north-east corner. The tower is topped with an iron crested belvedere with four circular window dormers in the mansard half story. The half story of the house is within a bellcast mansard roof with palladian windows on the east and south facades and round-headed windows on the north and west facades. On the east facade next to the tower, a triangular headed door opens onto a small exterior landing. The brick first story is unadorned with segmental headed windows and two bays, one on the north and the other on the south facade.

There is an enclosed porch on the first floor entrance. From the evidence, it appears that the enclosed porch is original with the house. It has engaged classical columns and engaged baluster-like pilasters below the windows.

Within, the house is set off with an amazing spiral stairway within the tower. The wooden stairway extends from the first floor to the upper half story and features beautifully carved balusters with eight newel posts. There are eleven rooms with attractive hardwood parquet floors and two ornate fireplaces. The original interior configuration is intact with plaster walls throughout and transoms over each interior door.

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 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 c. 1898

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Eaton House is significant as an interesting example of Second Empire architecture and as the house of one of the most prominent businessmen in eastern Oregon--Abel E. Eaton.

The town of Union, Oregon was established in 1862 and was, as it sounds, patriotically named during the Civil War. Union, during much of the late 1800s, was an economic center in eastern Oregon. A woolen mill, flour mill and several sawmills developed in Union. Also, Union was the agricultural center for the area with the Agricultural Experimental Station for Oregon State University being located there. As a result of the economic importance of Union in eastern Oregon, very attractive houses and buildings were constructed by the prominent businessmen. Such was the case with the Eaton House. Abel Eaton was an establishing stockholder in the Union woolen mill and a prominent citizen in the community, serving as mayor for several terms.

Mr. Eaton built his house using a basic patented design prepared by a San Francisco architect. Many of the exterior features display the vocabulary of the Second Empire Style with bellcast mansard roofs on the tower and the half story, and circular windows in the tower dormers. There are also palladian windows on several sides of the house, and generally it is classically detailed. Second Empire architecture was present in Portland and the Willamette Valley, but this style was uncommon in eastern Oregon. This house is particularly interesting because the vocabulary of the Second Empire is present but with a simplicity uncommon in many of the western Oregon examples.

Abel E. Eaton (1834-1917), a native of New Hampshire, spent his early career as a school teacher in Indiana, Ohio and Illinois. Shortly after the outbreak of the Civil War, he crossed the plains to Baker County, Oregon, arriving in 1862. Using Baker City as a base, he established a successful freighting business buoyed by local gold excitement. In 1867 he married and settled a farm in the Grande Ronde Valley in neighboring Union County. By 1871 Eaton had added to his list of enterprises the Union Woolen Mill in Union, management of which became his chief occupation. Eaton served as Mayor of Union for one term and was once a candidate for Governor on the Prohibition ticket. Eaton served nearly continuously on the local school board for about 20 years. A staunch Methodist as well as a champion of education, Eaton shared part of his considerable wealth with Willamette University in Salem. This relationship was commemorated in the naming of Eaton Hall, the campus administration building designed by J. E. Tourtellotte & Co. and completed in 1909.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- "Abel E. Eaton." An Illustrated History of Union and Wallowa Counties. Spokane, WA: Western Historical Publishing Co., 1902, pp.319-320.
- Hug, Bernal D., ed. History of Union County, Oregon. LaGrande, OR: Eastern Oregon Review, 1961, pp. 245-246.
- "Victorian Homes Tour, Union, Oregon," Mimeo Typescript, n.d.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .45 acres (100 X 200 sq. ft.)

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 1	4, 3, 2, 1, 0, 0	5, 0, 0, 6, 6, 4, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 3, 4, 5 and 6 of Block 1, Plat of North Union

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

Robert K. Sutton

ORGANIZATION

Oregon State Parks

STREET & NUMBER

525 Trade St. SE

CITY OR TOWN

Salem

DATE

February 9, 1977

TELEPHONE

(503) 378-6118

STATE

Oregon

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

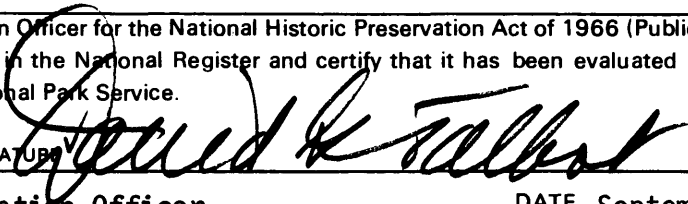
NATIONAL

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE September 15, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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



DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: William D. Miller COE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

2/2/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10-3-77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

"Abel Eaton," Evans, Elwood. History of the Pacific Northwest. Portland, OR: North Pacific History Co., 1889. vol. 2, pp. 312-313.