

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 30 1975
DATE ENTERED	OCT 29 1975

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

AND/OR COMMON

*NW* Fletcher (Francis) House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

*W of Dayton off*  
Route 2, Box 141

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Dayton *vic* — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First - Wendall Wyatt

STATE

Oregon

CODE

41

COUNTY

Yamhill

CODE

071

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input 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"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

John Albertson

STREET & NUMBER

RFD 2, Box 141

CITY, TOWN

Dayton — VICINITY OF

STATE

Oregon 97114

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Yamhill County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

McMinnville

STATE

Oregon 97128

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Building Survey

DATE

1934

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

District of Columbia

## 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		

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

The east-facing Francis Fletcher house is situated in the rural environment a mile south of the small town of Lafayette overlooking a bend in the Yamhill River at a point which allowed year-round navigation. There is no clear documentary evidence of when the house was built, but the date often given, 1863, is likely correct.

The two-and-a-half story house with Federal type detail has a one-story kitchen wing on the west side which appears to have been built at the same time as the main block and by the same hand, as detailing of the two sections is identical. The fairly steeply pitched gable roofs of both sections have boxed cornices and a plain board frieze. There is no suggestion of pediments at the gable ends, and the overhangs are somewhat broader than is usual in the 1850s. Both the main house and the wing are built of box construction, a structural system known for its strength and durability. An outside chimney at the south end of the main block penetrates the east slope of the roof at the ridge. It is thought that this chimney is not original. Historic American Buildings Survey photographs of the house taken in 1934 show what appears to be a patch in the shingle roof at a point above the second and third windows from the south of the east face. The original chimney probably penetrated the ridge at this point. HABS notes state that some alterations were made to the house, but does not state what those alterations were. A boarded-up fireplace in the kitchen wing possibly dates from Fletcher's original log cabin. HABS photos show a recessed porch on the north side of the kitchen wing which has since been enclosed.

Four turned Doric columns support the hipped roof of the porch which extends the length of the east face of the main block. There was likely a porch here originally, but there is some question that the present porch is the original. It may date from the 1920s and be one of the alterations to which HABS notes refer. Fenestration is formal--a centered main door with sidelights and transom window with two double-hung windows containing six lights over six on either side, and five equally-spaced similar windows centered above. There are three regularly spaced windows on each floor at the north end with a single window of equal dimensions lighting the attic. At present there are two windows on each floor at the south end with one in the attic. Openings are set in simple board architraves with cornice trim which is butted against the frieze board on the second floor of the east side. The house has weather board siding with uncaped corner board trim. The interior is arranged in the standard central hall plan of the time.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" 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. 1863

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Francis Fletcher House near Lafayette is a good example of the substantial domestic architecture in Oregon in the early 1860s built in a vernacular interpretation of the Federal style. Francis Fletcher was among the earliest American settlers in Oregon, arriving in 1840 as a member of the famous Peoria Party. Fletcher strongly agitated for American control of the Oregon Country and was instrumental in achieving that goal. The Francis Fletcher house is very similar in form to the neighboring Amos Cook House, built about a decade earlier. The two form an interesting comparison in the progression of early Willamette Valley architectural style.

Francis Fletcher was a member of the "Peoria Party," the first true immigrants to Oregon. Fletcher was born in Yorkshire, England in 1814. His family moved to Ontario, Canada when he was fourteen and then to Peoria, Illinois, where he heard Jason Lee from the Willamette Mission to the Indians in the Oregon Country speak on the virtues of the Pacific Northwest in 1838. Lee was encouraging Americans to come to the Oregon Country to strengthen the American claim to the region, which was dominated by the British through the Hudson's Bay Company at the time. Lee's lecture fired the enthusiasm of a group of young men, 19 of whom departed from Peoria in May of 1839 with a flag bearing the motto: "Oregon or the Grave." Though they took a pledge to be true to their comrades and never to desert one another, only eight eventually arrived in Oregon, and of these, only four, one of whom was Francis Fletcher, arrived together in the spring of 1840. He and a friend, Amos Cook, also of the "Peoria Party," took adjacent land claims on the Yamhill River.

He married Elizabeth Smith in 1843, became a naturalized American citizen in 1853, and was selected trustee of Willamette University in Salem in 1853. He lived on his land claim and was a prosperous and much respected farmer until his death in 1871.

Francis Fletcher was an important figure in the establishment of an early government in Oregon. In 1843, he took an active part in the meetings at Champoege to establish a provisional government. His name is listed as one of the 52 who voted for the provisional government (50 voted no).

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Corning, Howard McKinley, Dictionary of Oregon History, Portland; Binfort and Mort, 1956.

Hafen, Leroy R. and Ann W. (eds.), To the Rockies and Oregon 1839-1842, (Glendale, Calif.: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1955) Vol. III, pp. 144-146.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre *Dimension*

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,0	49,16,00	5,010,716,0,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				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

Paul B. Hartwig and Greg Olson, State Historic Preservation Staff

ORGANIZATION

Oregon State Highway Division

DATE

July 28, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

State Highway Building

TELEPHONE

(503) 378-6118

CITY OR TOWN

Salem

STATE

Oregon 97310

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*David G. Talbot*

TITLE Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

Sept. 19, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Noting*

*Jerry de Roope*

DATE

10/29/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

OCT 2-4 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

FLETCHER (FRANCIS) HOUSE

2. Location (cont.)

The Fletcher House is located in the SE 1/4 NW 1/4, Sec. 18, T. 4 S., R. 3 W. of the Willamette Meridian, in Yamhill County, Oregon.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (cont.)

Also: Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings, 1970, Parks and Recreation Branch, Oregon State Highway Division, Salem, Oregon 97310. (Code: 41)

9. Major Bibliographical References (cont.)

Lockly, Fred, "Impressions and Observations of the Journal Man," Oregon Journal, March 22, 1925, p. 10.

Space, Style and Structure, "Buildings and Gardens," Philip Dole, p. 98-99.