

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Washington
COUNTY:	Lewis
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	APR 1 1975

1. NAME

* COMMON:
O. B. McFadden House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1639 Chehalis Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Chehalis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
#3 - Honorable Julia B. Hansen

STATE: Washington CODE: 53 COUNTY: Lewis CODE: 041

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress 	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Miller

STREET AND NUMBER:
1639 Chehalis Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Chehalis

STATE: Washington CODE: 53

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Auditor's Office, Lewis County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
1630 Chehalis Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Chehalis

STATE: Washington CODE: 53

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937 Federal State County Local

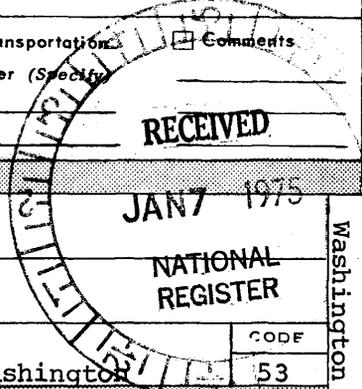
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Washington	FOR NPS USE ONLY
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The O. B. McFadden House is a one and one half story log building located in a residential neighborhood a short distance from the business and commercial districts of Chehalis. It was built in 1859 for the large family of Judge Obadiah McFadden.

As a consequence of extensive modernization around 1918 there is little remaining of the original structure with the exception of the log joists, plank subfloor, and outside walls. There are no known photographs of the building before alteration, however, it was apparently a large, simple rectangular plan cabin with a gable roof, the ridge running across the longer dimension parallel to the road in front.

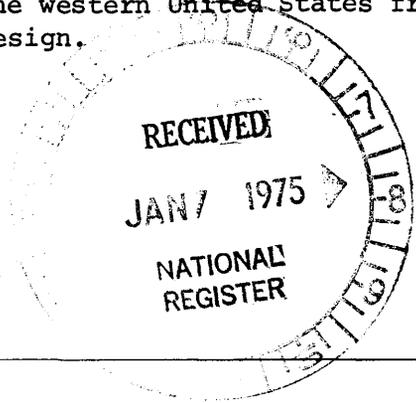
The log work is somewhat unusual in that the individual logs are squared on only the two vertical sides down their entire length, while the overlapping portions at the ends are squared on all four sides to provide a neat, stable connection. The ends are cut off flush with the adjacent wall. This assembly results in large voids between the log layers, which are only partly filled by the unflattened top and bottom log surfaces projecting above and below the joinery. Triangular, random lengths of wood are wedged into the intermediate spaces which are then chinked with mortar, the wedge pieces acting as lath. The mortar is troweled level with the squared faces of the logs creating a band of chinking approximately equal in width to that portion of the logs exposed in between.

The floor system consists of log joists flattened on the top and spaced at intervals of about thirty inches with rough sawn planks nailed across as flooring. The ends of the second floor joists are exposed on the outside walls flush with the surface.

When the house was remodeled, the roof was replaced with dimensioned lumber rafters and a wide shed roof dormer was added to the slope of the roof toward the front. The foundation was raised up on posts, windows and doors were replaced, and a full width veranda was added across the front; in the rear, a porch was added. The gable ends were shingled above the eaves level, and the remaining logs on one end were covered with clapboards. On the interior there is almost nothing that would reveal that the house is constructed of logs.

The present appearance of the house resembles the style of numerous simple frame homes built in the western United States from 1900-1920 with a bungaloid influenced design.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Built in 1859

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Obadiah B. McFadden was born on November 10, 1814, in West Middletown, Pennsylvania, located about midway between Wheeling and Pittsburgh. There he attended public schools and McKeever Academy, marrying Margaret Caldwell of Monongahela, Pennsylvania, at the age of twenty three. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1843. That same year he was elected to the state legislature, serving out a two year term, after which he was appointed Prothonotary of Washington County (in effect Clerk of the Court). He then practiced law in Washington City, which was otherwise known as Little Washington to distinguish it from the nation's capital. McFadden was a Democrat who actively promoted the election of President Franklin Pierce.

In 1853, McFadden was appointed by President Pierce to the Supreme Court of Oregon Territory, filling a vacancy created by an apparent mistake in the naming of the previous associate justice, Matthew P. Deady, whose appointment had been declared void because of this error. As the story is retold by Sidney Teiser:

There was speculation that General Joseph Lane, the Territorial Delegate from Oregon, whose term was about to expire, planned to run for re-election. Deady was casting his eyes on that office and was expecting to oppose Lane in the coming contest. It was surmised that Lane, in order to eliminate Deady from the race, had caused Deady's appointment to the Supreme Court bench, an office which Deady preferred to that of delegate to Congress. Lane's recommendation, at that time, was tantamount to an appointment. Many of the political adversaries of Lane, who thought him unscrupulously crafty, asserted that he saw to it that the name was erroneously given as Mordecai instead of Matthew, so that in the event he were re-elected, he would carry out his scheme and take advantage of this "error" and then recommend another to replace Deady.

When he was appointed to the Territorial Supreme Court, McFadden was

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Teiser, Sidney. "Obadia B. McFadden, Oregon and Washington Territorial Judge", Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. LXVI, No. 1, March 1965, pp. 26-39.

McDonald, Lucile. Where the Washingtonians Lived, Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, 1969.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

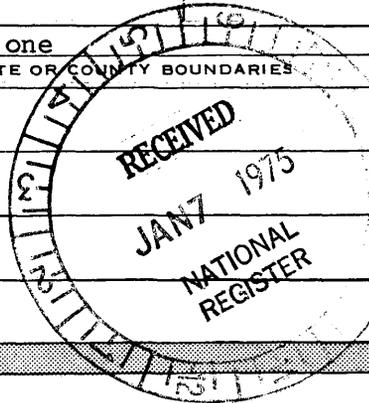
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		46 °	39 ' 29 "	122 ° 57 ' 55 "
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

10/502670
5166940
C

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mr. & Mrs. William Lemke

ORGANIZATION: Lewis County Historical Society DATE: February 5, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 1341 Adams Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Chehalis STATE: Washington CODE: 53

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Charles H. Odegaard
Charles H. Odegaard

Title Director - Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

Date Jan. 3, 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

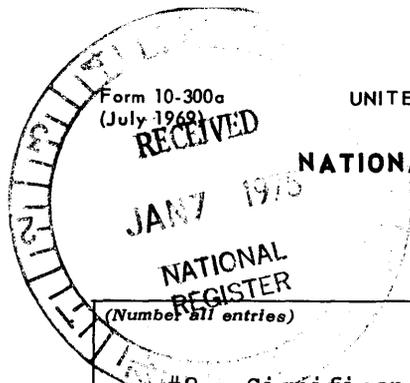
Robert W. ...
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/1/75

ATTEST:

W. ...
Keeper of the National Register

Date APR 1 1975



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Lewis	
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Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

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NATIONAL REGISTER

(Number all entries)

#8 - Significance

O. B. McFadden House

thirty-six years old and the father of seven children. He departed for the Northwest from New York City, traveling by water, crossing the Isthmus at Panama and continuing up the Pacific Coast. In San Francisco he learned that he was to replace a fellow Democrat and not, as he had thought, a Whig appointee of President Filmore, whose term had just expired.

On November 2, 1853, O. B. McFadden took the oath of office as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Territory of Oregon before Justice Cyrus Olney of that court. As a circuit judge McFadden's jurisdiction was the western valleys from Vancouver to the Rogue River. It is said that he traveled to court sessions on horseback with his law books and documents in saddlebags.

Unfortunately, he had replaced a popular judge, who was deposed under somewhat suspicious political circumstances. Justice Olney had offered his own resignation in order that Judge Deady might be reappointed if the administration thought it desirable, and from this many inferred that it was McFadden who should resign.

Among the three original appointees to the Supreme Court of Washington Territory, newly separated from Oregon Territory in 1853, there occurred a vacancy due to an illness and failure to qualify on the part of Judge John R. Miller. McFadden was transferred in 1854 to fill this vacancy at his own request, his new district including the counties of Walla Walla, Skamania, Clark, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum and Pacific -- all unaffected by any resentment or controversy.

He soon moved his family and residence to Chehalis in Washington Territory, then known as Saundersville. There he purchased the southern half of the Shuyler S. Saunder's donation land claim, and Saunders built for him a large log house on the property. This was in the wilderness and accessible only by trails. Although extensively altered since then, the house still stands as the oldest home in Chehalis.

Near the end of McFadden's term as Associate Justice, and after the election of President James Buchanan in 1856, there was again a political controversy concerning the selection of judges for the territorial courts.

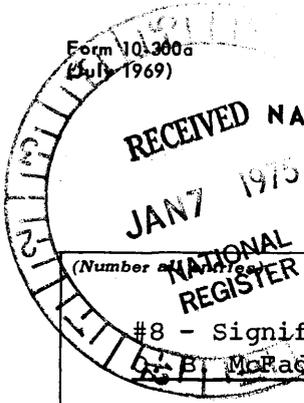
According to Teiser:

Chief Justice Lander was being attacked for a variety of reasons and particularly because of his stand in ignoring the actions of Governor I.I. Stevens in

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#8 - Significance (2)
O. B. McFadden House

declaring martial law in Pierce County, Washington Territory, and thereby suspending the writs of *habeas corpus*. Because of his refusal to recognize Stevens' right to act in this regard, Lander was taken into custody by the military, and in retaliation Governor Stevens was cited for contempt by Lander.

McFadden was not personally involved and although he had strong local support, he wrote in 1857 an almost frantic letter to Attorney General Black in Washington, D.C., pleading for reappointment. In addition to being granted a second term, he was elevated to the Chief Justiceship where he remained until 1861. When Abraham Lincoln, Republican, was elected President he appointed three new judges to the territorial court, and McFadden's judicial career came to an end.

On the Fourth of July, 1862, he presided over a mass meeting at Claquato, in Lewis County, that drew people from throughout Washington Territory. There he delivered a persuasive speech that inspired such a response that it is said to have influenced Washington's resolve to maintain the federal Union.

In 1862, he was elected to the Territorial Council, as the Senate was known at the time. He was reelected twice, presiding in his last term as President of the Council.

During the following years he successfully practiced law from an office in Olympia. As a skilled and influential lawyer he served numerous clients until, in 1872, he ran for Delegate to Congress as a dark horse candidate against the incumbent Republican, Selucius Garfield. This seemed to be a pointless attempt since the territorial government was dominated by the Republican party which had strong and consistent support from the electorate. McFadden won, however, and for the following two years he represented Washington Territory in the nation's capital. There his health deteriorated, forcing him to retire at the end of the term.

He died in Olympia two years later on June 20, 1875, at the age of sixty-one, survived by his wife of thirty-eight years marriage and six of their ten children.

The O. B. McFadden house is significant as an interesting example of a particular method of log construction that illustrates the great diversity

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#8 - Significance (3)
O. B. McFadden House

of techniques used by individual builders. By comparison, this system would have provided for more rapid assembly using fewer logs while still maintaining a neat, finished appearance. O. B. McFadden was sworn in as the first Associate Justice of Washington Territory, serving subsequently as Chief Justice, state legislator, and delegate to Congress. Although extensively altered, his house is now the oldest residence in the City of Chehalis.

