

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Oregon
COUNTY:	Marion
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAY 1 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Stauffer (John) House and Barn

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
NE of Hubbard

CITY OR TOWN:  
Hubbard vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Second - Al Ullman

STATE: Oregon CODE: 41 COUNTY: Marion CODE: 047

**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"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

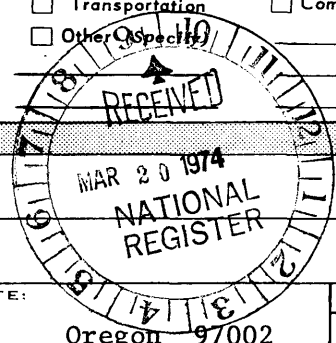
**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Aurora Colony Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:  
c/o Colony Ox Barn Museum

CITY OR TOWN:  
Aurora

STATE: Oregon CODE: 41



**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Marion County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Salem

STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Parks and Recreation Branch, Oregon State Highway Division

STREET AND NUMBER:  
State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN:  
Salem

STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oregon

COUNTY: Marion

ENTRY NUMBER: MAY 1 1974

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

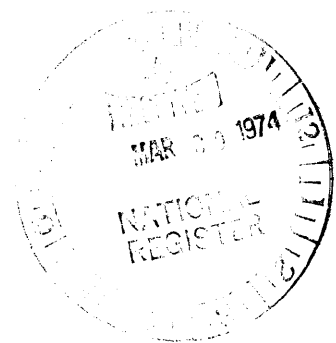
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Stauffer House and Barn stand on ground which was held in common bond until 1872, at which time the founder of Aurora Christian Communal Colony, William Keil, released the property to private ownership. Stauffer and fellow workmen constructed the house with hand-hewn logs, which were chinked in a tradition believed derived from Pennsylvania German prototypes. According to tradition, demand for materials from the Colony saw mill exceeded the supply at the time Stauffer was preparing to build, so medium growth timber was selected for the rough-hewn construction.

The plan of the two-and-a-half story house is rectangular, measuring 37 by 23 feet. A porch extends across the full length of the west face, as does a one-story porch, partially enclosed, on the rear, or east face. The shingled gable roof has a simple boxed cornice. The south end wall and the gable of the north end wall are lap-sided against the weather. The house measures 16 logs in height from the base (on wooden piers) to the rafters. Corner joints of the logs are dovetailed. Fenestration is asymmetrical in the west face, in which there are two windows in either story on one side of the door, and one in either story on the other side of the door which is slightly offset to the north. Original double-hung sash windows with simple framements and six lights over six are intact. There are 20 timber joists flattened on top to carry the flooring. The rough joists are 3 by 10 inches and set full into the logs of the walls. Workmen hand-planed the 6-inch tongue-in-groove floor boards.

The house and barn are in fair condition, although in need of some extensive repairs. The porch across the west face and the rear porch are comparatively early additions, but not original. The early fireplace has been removed. Six board and batten outbuildings which have survived in their Old World orientation behind the house include the barn and sheds for chickens and hogs. A Chinese laborers' shack and the woodshed were taken down recently.

The Aurora Colony Historical Society is in the process of purchasing about one-and-a-half acres on which the house and outbuildings stand. The last owner, Lester Will, obtained the property from John Stauffer, Jr., a bachelor. The Society plans to restore the house and outbuildings and operate them *in situ* as a historic complex. The buildings, including those backbuildings recently torn down, have been measured and drawn by students under supervision of the University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

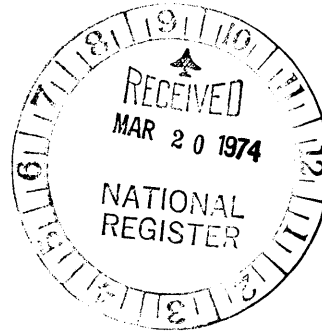
STATE	
Oregon	
COUNTY	
Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 1	1974

(Number all entries)

STAUFFER (JOHN) HOUSE AND BARN

2. Location

The Stauffer farm buildings are situated athwart the section line between Sections 27 and 26, T. 4 S., R. 1 W., of the Willamette Meridian in Marion County, Oregon.



**4. 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)      ca, 1865

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

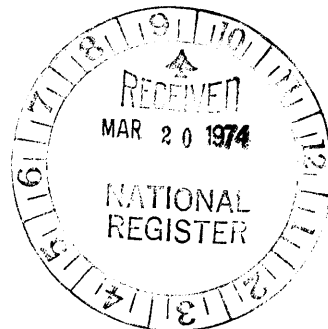
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Aurora was the largest and most successful of four Christian communal settlements founded in the American West by Prussian emigre William Keil, Transplanted from Bethel, Missouri, via Willapa Bay in the present state of Washington, the settlement was established on the Pudding River in the broad Mid-Willamette Valley by a small advance party from Willapa Bay in the winter of 1855-1856. Aurora came to be known for hospitality, music, fine food, and high quality craftsmanship. Farming was a vital economic factor, and some 23,000 acres were brought into agricultural use before the Colony was dissolved in 1881 as a result of waning leadership and outside influences signaled by the coming of the railroad.

The Stauffer House is one of six major structures associated with the Christian communal colony which are still standing on farms in the area outlying Aurora. Though constructed about 1865, it is typical of rough-hewn Colony buildings of the earlier decade and is the least altered of those in rural settings outside the town. The house is one of few log structures dating from the nineteenth century remaining in Western Oregon,

The house was built by Keillite John Stauffer, a native of Switzerland. Stauffer and his wife Maria and ten children (four of whom had been born in Pennsylvania, four more in Missouri, and two on Willapa Bay) arrived in Aurora ca. 1864. The property is located two-and-a-half miles south of Aurora at the crossroads of a historic trail and stage road. The Oregon and California Railroad, completed in 1870, passed within a half mile of the farm.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Will, Clark M., "John Stauffer Log House," Oregon Historic Landmarks (Portland: Oregon Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1957), 18-19.

Corning, Howard McKinley, ed., Dictionary of Oregon History (Portland: Binford and Mort, 1956), 15.

Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Marion and Linn Counties, Oregon (San Francisco: Edgar Williams and Company, 1878).

Hendricks, R. J., Bethel and Aurora, An Experiment in Communism as Practical Christianity with some Account of Past and Present Ventures in Collective Living (New York: The Press of the Pioneers, 1933).

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

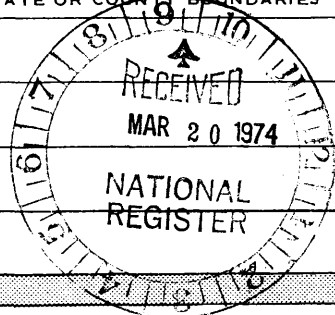
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		45° 11' 45"	122° 46' 57"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

HR  
10/51607C  
5004510

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: ca. 1.5 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Paul B. Hartwig, Assistant Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: Oregon State Highway Division DATE: March 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon 97310 CODE: 41

**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: *David A. Felber*

Title: State Parks Superintendent

Date: 3/15/74

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

*A. P. Mortensen*  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/1/74

ATTEST:  
*Wm. H. ...*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5.1.74