

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | SEP 30 1975 |
| DATE ENTERED | 90T 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

100 Baber (Granville H.) House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

NE of Albany 1/2 mi.??
Route 2, Box 296

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Albany *vic.*

VICINITY OF

Second - Rep. Al Ullman

STATE

Oregon

CODE

41

COUNTY

Linn

CODE

043

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

LeAnn Cool

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2, Box 296

CITY, TOWN

Albany

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oregon

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Linn County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Albany

STATE

Oregon

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 | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated on a knoll approximately a mile north of Knox Butte in Linn County, the Granville H. Baber house is fronted with a line of old oaks and overlooks the rich bottom farmland of the Willamette Valley. Dating most probably from the 1850s, the exact date of construction is not known.

The house consists of three sections in an S-shaped plan. The east-facing front section is a rectangle measuring about 18 x 42 feet with a pedimented portico eccentrically placed on the east side with two window bays to the north and three to the south. The roof gable ends are fully pedimented and like the portico pediment have molded raking and horizontal cornices. A broad plain frieze surrounds this portion of the house and the portico. Window architraves with lug sills and trim molding at the top butt against the frieze. The double-hung sashes contain nine lights over nine. The portico pediment is carried on four free-standing fluted Roman Doric columns with four similar engaged columns against the house wall. The center columns are farther apart in straddle fashion, with the main door set in a shallow recess between them. This door is flanked by two smaller engaged fluted Doric columns and sidelights with a transom window over all, and opens into a central hall. Originally this hall was about half as deep as the house, the west half being occupied by back-to-back fireplaces which heated two large rooms with paneled wainscoting flanking the hall. A brick chimney with a corbelled cap penetrated the west slope of the roof. There appears at one time to have been one or two small bedrooms at the south end.

The gabled wing runs perpendicular to the main form starting from the south end of the west side. The gable at the west end of this wing is pedimented with small eave returns. The molded cornice is similar to the east block of the house. This wing is one and a half stories in height with the second floor overhanging the porch on the north side of the wing, which contains a kitchen and dining room on the first floor. Access to the second floor bedrooms is by an enclosed winding stair from the porch. Ceiling height of the kitchen and dining room is 6'-10" compared with 11'-4" for the main section, enabling cornice and gable elevations to be the same.

The wing containing a pantry, another small room, and a woodshed begins at the west end of the south side of the kitchen wing. It has a gable roof with a simple undetailed overhang at the gable end, and is much lower in elevation than the rest of the house so that the ridge does not extend above the eave cornice of the kitchen wing.

The house has been rebuilt in recent years, apparently without concern for historical accuracy. A split shake roof and replacement of the original clapboard siding with broader clapboards tends to change the scale of the house. The central chimney has been removed and replaced with single fireplace and exterior chimney at the south end of the east block, and a block foundation has replaced

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. 1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Granville H. Baber house is one of the finest examples of the Classical Revival style of architecture in Oregon. Baber, one of Oregon's early pioneers, is thought to have built the house with its unusually fine plan, detail, and proportions in the 1850s.

G. H. Baber arrived in Oregon City November 10, 1845. He was a native of Virginia, born the 14th of February, 1817. He grew up and was educated in what is now West Virginia. In 1841 he moved to Jefferson County, Iowa, where he met and married Elizabeth Jane Knox two years later. In 1845 he crossed the plains for Oregon with his wife and her father and family. They wintered in Oregon City and then journeyed to what is now Linn County, where they and others in the party including James Knox, Anderson Cox, two men named Keez, and a Mr. Hale were the first settlers. The Baber Donation Land Claim was for 640 acres. The discovery of gold attracted Baber to California in 1848, where he mined successfully for three months on the American River, returning to Oregon early in 1849. In 1851 he was elected the first County Judge of Linn County, serving one three-year term.

It was about this time that Baber with the aid of others in the area constructed the house. Baber is thought to have done most of the carpentry work himself, including the fashioning of the fluted Doric columns. He is known to have brought carpentry tools with him across the plains, and the finishing work on the columns, main door architrave, mortised doors, panelling and trim is of exceptionally high quality for the time in Oregon. It took nearly a year to complete construction. According to local tradition Baber modeled the house on childhood memories of the White House in Washington, DC, but it would seem that one of the architectural pattern books of the time is a more likely source of plan and detail.

The exact date of construction is uncertain. Some sources place it as early as 1846, but this seems unlikely. It is known to have been built before 1860 for that year the house was sold along with Baber's Donation Land Claim to Silas Haight. That it was built in the early 1850s with proceeds from the California gold fields would seem most likely; at least two other Willamette Valley settlers are known to have done so.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harris, Katherine, "Pioneer Knox Butte House Still Used After 108 Years,"
Capital Journal, February 8, 1954, Sec. 2, page 12.

Lang, H. O. (ed.), History of the Willamette Valley, (Portland: Himes &
 Lang, 1885), p. 631.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

0.1m OK Loh

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|--------------|---------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 1,0 | 4,9,8,2,2,15 | 4,9,4,7,0,2,9 | 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

D. W. Powers III, Paul B. Hartwig, Greg Olson, State Historic Preservation

ORGANIZATION

Parks and Recreation Section

DATE

July 24, 1975

Office Staff

STREET & NUMBER

State Highway Division

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 Stalbot

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

DATE

10/29/95

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

OCT 24 1975

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Janet [Signature]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

BABER (GRANVILLE H.) HOUSE

2. Location (cont.)

The G. H. Baber House is located 1/2 mile of the junction of Licksillet and Scrael Hill roads in the NE 1/4 NW 1/4 Sec. 26, T. 10 S., R. 3 W. of the Willamette Meridian, Linn County, Oregon.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (cont.)

Also: Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings, 1972,
Parks and Recreation Section, Oregon State Highway Division,
Salem, Oregon 97310. (Code: 41)

7. Description (cont.)

the original piers and wooden skirting. Some interior alterations have also been made, but the house is substantially original. The current owner seems sympathetic to not altering the structure further.

8. Significance (cont.)

Baber moved to Albany where he was engaged in the money-lending business until 1883, at which time he sold his business and moved to Forest Grove. Descendants of the Haight family owned the Baber House until the 1960s.

9. Major Bibliographical References (cont.)

HABS Data Sheet ORE-32, revised January 1938.

Hines, H. K., An Illustrated History of the State of Oregon, (Chicago:
The Lewis Publishing Co., 1893) pp. 997-98.