

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 8 1975
DATE ENTERED MAY 21 1975

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC *and*
Monteith, (Thomas & Walter) House
AND/OR COMMON
SAME

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
518 West 2nd Avenue
CITY, TOWN Albany
STATE Oregon
VICINITY OF
COUNTY Linn
CODE
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
City of Albany
STREET & NUMBER
City Hall
CITY, TOWN Albany
STATE Oregon
VICINITY OF
STATE Oregon 97321

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Linn County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Albany
STATE Oregon 97321

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings
DATE
1970
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
State Historic Preservation Office
CITY, TOWN Salem
STATE Oregon
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

Built as a two-storied, five bay, central hall with open stair house, with a full length two-storied porch across the front and a story and a half kitchen wing at the rear with wood shed beyond. The front is approximately 45 feet in length, 20 feet in depth, the kitchen extending back another 20 feet. These characteristics suggest a form appropriate to the New York State background of the Monteiths and a conservative, plain style primarily pre-Classic Revival in treatment, with the major exception of bold Classic Revival eave detail.

Structurally the building is intact except for the partial removal of two interior walls and the raising of the kitchen roof from one and a half to a full two stories. The sub-floor is a heavy hewn sill and girder system, mortised and tenoned with large joists of surfaced logs. These characteristics and others suggest that the walls above may include some heavy hewn members too. In the 1920s lath and plaster surfaces were introduced (perhaps fortunately) for under this are the original board walls and ceilings had on some walls the original first layer of wall paper is still in place.

Despite some additions, the original floor plans are quite clear; apparently nine rooms in all, with three interior end chimneys, two or three fireplaces (one portion of the frame has yet to be examined). The ground floor rooms were large, rather square, pleasant portions, three rooms each about 20 x 20 and one other. One end fireplace was in the kitchen, which also had a wainscoting of vertical boards. Upstairs had four rooms in front and a fifth room above the kitchen; no fireplaces.

By the 1860s the number and distribution of large two-story houses was extensive throughout western Oregon, yet comparatively few survive. Their number and size indicated both a rapid development of wilderness and a level of prosperity; their characteristics indicated a level of craftsmanship and diverse cultural affinities. Within the general category of two-storied houses were several distinct types including the type with a full length, two-storied porch. Of this type the Monteith house is the sole survivor in Linn County. Several other counties which once had them now have none, and in the entire Willamette Valley only approximately half a dozen remain. Within these few survivors other significant variations are manifest in major detail or plan features (central hall, no hall). Each surviving example is culturally and stylistically unique and significant.

Of the four major house framing systems, plank (box), balloon, hewn log house, and hewn frame, prevalent in the pioneer period, the latter is the most rare among survivors. Characteristics of the Monteith house suggest it may belong or be closely allied to this fourth group. Structurally, too, its workmanship is of better than average quality when the quality of the average was high.

Preservation of the Monteith house has now been initiated. Despite two or more phases of alteration that the building has experienced, a very good restoration is attainable. The extent or the examples of elements in place leave only a few aspects to be interpreted. A more extensive examination during the removal of later materials will answer some questions. Because of the building's simplicity, precedent noted in other Oregon detail of the period can suitably be used to answer remaining questions.

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The major alteration loss occurred with the removal of the original chimneys, the central staircase and the front porch. In place are much original flooring, almost all walls, some wall paper, all ceilings, large extents of original siding, much eave, some windows, wainscot, doors, and the front door frame with side lights. A major detail which probably can only be resolved through precedent is the stair railing.

Two early photographs, one from the back, one from the front, cover most exterior detail questions.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Community Development	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1850 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Monteith Brothers

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Monteith House was the first frame structure built in Albany. It was built and lived in by the Monteith Brothers who planned and platted the city and played an important role in the town's early development. Under the leadership of the Monteiths, Albany became a major shipping point in the 1850s. The house was a copy of the Jason Lee House in Salem (Mission Mill Complex) who were friends of the Monteiths. The Monteith House served not only as a residence, but as a store, meeting hall, church and military headquarters.

The house is situated on 640 acres squatted on by Hiram Smead in 1846. He sold his claim to the land for \$400 and a Cayuse pony to brothers Walter and Thomas Monteith in 1848. The Monteiths had their land surveyed and divided it between them. Walter's western half was designated as DLC claim #55 and Thomas's eastern half as DLC claim #64. On the northern portion of both claims they platted a city and named it Albany. They angled the streets so the one named Washington would cross both their claims and where it crossed built Albany's first frame house.

Foundation timbers were cut and cured in 1848. Framing was begun in early 1849 by the brothers with the assistance of Sam Althouse. Construction was interrupted for a few months while the three went to the California gold fields. They returned to complete the house before hard winter set in, finishing their work in early 1850.

Although built as a home for the Monteith Brothers, it served as a "community center" for early Albany.

- 1850 - Dr. Kendal preached Albany's first sermon in the Monteith Frame House.
- 1851 - Walter went to San Francisco to purchase a huge supply of goods and the house was opened as a store until the following year when a store building was constructed.
- 1853 (Oct.) - The world's first congregation to be organized under the title "United Presbyterians" met at the Monteith House where they continued to meet until their church was built in 1861.
- 1853 (June 29) - St. Peter's Episcopal Church organized at a meeting here where they continued to meet until they built their church on land donated by the Monteiths.
- 1856 (Aug.) - The Monteiths held a meeting of "Free State Men." It is believed to have been held in their home. An outgrowth of this meeting was the formation of the Oregon Republican Party in the spring of 1857.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mullen, Floyd C. Land of Linn Lebanon: Daltons Printing, 1971

Corning, Howard McKinley Willamette Landings: Ghost Towns of the River Portland: Glass-Dahlstrom Printers, 1973 Page 111

Albany City Directory - History of Albany 1878

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 city lot 55' x 103'

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	B						
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			
C				D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 14, lot 3 original platt City of Albany

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Barbara Asai, Meredith Wiley and Professor Phillip Dole March 10, 1975

ORGANIZATION

MONTEITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1420 S. Park Terr. or 2608 N.W. Vista Dr.

TELEPHONE 928-7649 or 926-5780

CITY OR TOWN

Albany

STATE Oregon 97321

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE X 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.

SIGNATURE

David G. Stolbat

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

March 31, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Ernest G. Prunty

DATE

MAY 21 1975

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE

5/20/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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1863 - During the Civil War, Thomas Monteith was commissioned Lt. Col, and full Col. in 1864. The Monteith house served as headquarters for the 5th Regiment of the Oregon Volunteers under the command of Thomas Monteith.

1867 - Albany College was built on land donated by Thomas Monteith. For 70 years Albany College, operated by the Presbyterians, served as one of Oregon's institutions of higher learning until expanded facilities were opened in Portland in 1938. It is now known as Lewis and Clark College. Another brother, Rev. William J. Monteith, served as the first college president.

Due mostly to the foresight and generosity of the Monteiths, Albany progressed rapidly. By the time the courthouse was finished in 1865, there were facilities for most civic, cultural, and religious activities. Walter and Thomas had each built new homes and another Monteith brother, George, now occupied the frame house and operated a boarding house there. In 1880 the house was moved one lot west where it stands today remaining on a portion of the original claim. Research has not yet uncovered why the house was moved.

In 1974 the Monteith house was purchased by the City of Albany from the last of many landlord-owners. The inside has been abused by a succession of occupants. The original house, entombed under the abuses and neglect, will be brought back to life as authentically as possible by the Monteith Historical Society.

The Monteith House is a key property on the fringe of an important historical area. Community plans call for the establishment of a historical commercial district. Preliminary work on the project is underway. The Monteith Brothers played a central role in the early commercial development and their house still stands in its original relationship to early Albany.

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Evangelical Repository, November 15, 1853

Private notes of Mr. Lee Rohrbough 820 W. 8th, Albany, Oregon

Private notes of Mr. Floyd Mullen 539 W. 5th, Albany, Oregon