

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oregon	
COUNTY: Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 23 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Lee (Jason) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 260 12th Street S. E., Oregon 2nd Congressional District Representative Al Ullman

CITY OR TOWN: Salem

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

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 checked="" 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)

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Mission Mill Museum Association (Owner notified of proposed nomination 11-7-72.)

STREET AND NUMBER: 580 State Street, Suite 207

CITY OR TOWN: Salem 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: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

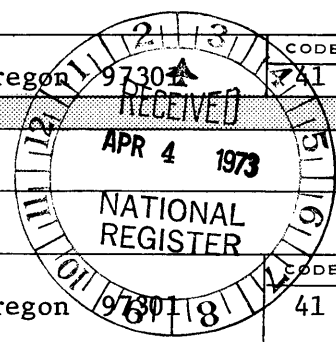
DATE OF SURVEY: 1960s  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Oregon

COUNTY: Marion

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 23 1973

DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Jason Lee's house was originally sited in the midst of an oak grove on Mill Creek on Chemeketa Plain. It was the first dwelling constructed at the location which would later become the mid-Willamette Valley town of Salem. As completed late in the spring of 1841, it was an 18 by 50-foot two-story building, 20 feet in height, with lath and plaster walls and lap siding. The original double-hung window sash contained nine lights over six. The panes measured 7 by 9 inches. The frame house had an 8-foot loft and a roof with a one-to-one pitch. It was a quartered, rectangular box with stove chimneys, rather than fireplaces, and possibly an outside access to the second story.

The earliest dated pictorial rendering of the house appeared in the margin of a panorama of Salem lithographed in 1858 by San Francisco artists Charles Conrad Kuchel and Emil Dresel. It shows a double porch, or "piazza," extending across the face of the house.

During the course of its long career as a multi-family dwelling, the most fundamental changes were made in the 1880s, when the house was occupied by a prominent local citizen, Judge Reuben P. Boise, who added fireplaces and carried out a variety of enlargements and alterations.

In the 1960s the house was rescued from demolition as a result of a land-use conflict, and was moved onto the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill property along with the Parsonage, which was returned to its historic ground. Located on the eastern edge of Willamette University campus, the 4.5-acre property is now known as Thomas Kay Historical Park. The objective of the non-profit Mission Mill Museum Association is not to create an artificial district but to make the most of enforced circumstances by combining two historical interpretive themes in a park-like setting in the heart of the city. The mission houses are sited in casual relationship to one another on level ground of lower elevation to the rear of the property.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

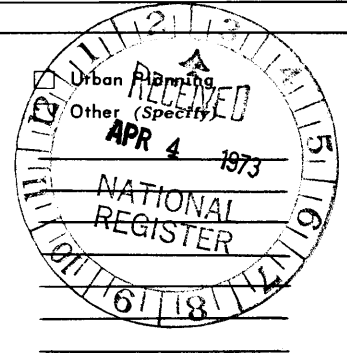
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1841

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <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    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |   |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oregon was the domain of men of the fur trade until 1834, the year in which the Reverend Jason Lee and his small band of Methodist missionaries established a station on the Willamette River, about ten miles north of present-day Salem. This mission to the Indians, the first to be established anywhere in the Pacific Northwest, operated satellite stations The Dalles, Clatsop Plains, Oregon City and south of Puget Sound.

In 1841 the mission expanded to Salem, and a house for Superintendent Lee and a parsonage for the Preacher-in-Charge and Director of the Indian Manual Labor Training School (forerunner of Willamette University) were erected. These white-painted frame buildings are the only structures to have remained from the mission period anywhere in the region. Their significance locally relates to the founding of Salem and Willamette University and on a national scale relates to the evangelical missionary movement and westward expansion.

In the Willamette Valley, ministering to a dwindling Indian population was made more difficult by native migratory habits. When a Catholic Mission was started by Jesuits at nearby St. Paul in 1838, even the need to minister to a largely French-Canadian settler community faded. These factors notwithstanding, the Superintendent determined that the mission's survival was important to the growing colony along the Willamette, for it exerted an influence for "good" and order. Lee sought to make the mission self-sustaining, and to enlarge secular operations (farms, stores, mills) in the Willamette Valley, while at the same time extending the Indian missionary effort to the interior station at The Dalles of the Columbia, to Clatsop Plains at the mouth of the Columbia, and to the Cowlitz region south of Puget Sound.

It was on the crest of such optimism that the "Great Reinforcement" arrived on the Willamette in June, 1840. The Willamette Station received the major buttressing. Those of the mission's secular department who were skilled in joinery and the mechanical arts were dispatched to Mill Creek on Chemeketa plain south of the original mission station to build a grist mill and saw mill. By spring of 1841 the first lumber milled by the missionaries was available, and the ambitious construction program began. First of the buildings to be erected with the new lumber was "Mill Place," adjacent to the sawmill. As headquarters of the principal station of the mission, it housed Superintendent Lee and three other families. At some distance away on Chemeketa plain construction was started on a sophisticated edifice for the Oregon Mission Manual Labor Training School. Some 40 rods east of the school the parsonage for the School's Director, Gustavus Hines, was hurried to completion for use as a temporary classroom early in the summer of 1841, a few weeks following completion of Jason Lee's house. The School building was destroyed by fire years ago. "Mill Place," or Jason Lee's house was relinquish

by the New York-based Board of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church during

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Walton, Elisabeth, "Jason Lee's Home on the Willamette: Restoring Last Vestiges of the Methodist Mission in Oregon." The Pacific Historian Vol. 14, No. 1 (Winter 1970), 66-75.

Soldier and Brave, Indian and Military Affairs in the Trans-Mississippi West, Including a Guide to Historic Sites and Landmarks, Vol. XII, The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior (New York, Evanston and London: Harper and Row, 1963), 218-219. Methodist Mission sites and the Jason Lee House are included among "Other sites considered" in the National Survey.

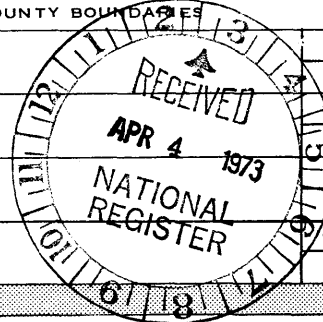
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		44° 56' 05"	123° 01' 31"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

HR  
10/498080  
4975450

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4.5 acres, including vacated streets & alleys

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: Elisabeth Walton, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: Oregon State Highway Division DATE: March 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

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

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION** NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: George M. Baldwin

Title: Administrator of Highways

Date: 3-30-73

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

Robert M. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/23/73

ATTEST:

Arthur J. ...  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4/16/73

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Oregon	
COUNTY Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 23 1973

(Number all entries)

LEE (JASON) HOUSE

2. Location

The Jason Lee House is located in a fraction of Block 38 of the University Addition to Salem. The 4.5-acre property comprising Thomas Kay Historical Park is located in the NW 1/4 Sec. 26, T. 7 S., R. 3 W. of the Willamette Meridian, in Marion County, Oregon.

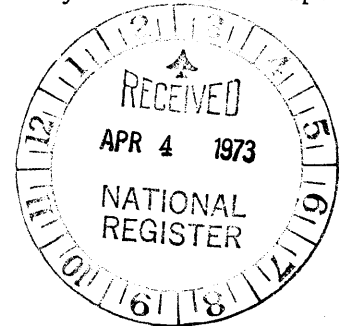
6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings  
1970  
Parks and Recreation Section  
Oregon State Highway Division  
Salem, Oregon 97310

Code: 41

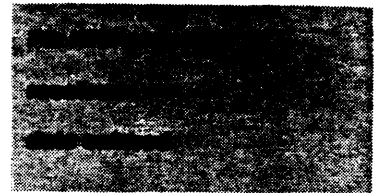
8. Significance (Continued)

a retrenchment in 1844 and, as did the Parsonage ultimately, it eased into a long career as a dwelling and apartment house culminated by a narrow escape from demolition.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Name Lee, Jason, House  
State Marion County, OREGON

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

Address Change Approval

Keeper

Attest

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 10/22

Keeper

Attest

Keeper

Attest

Keeper

Attest

Keeper

Attest

Keeper

Attest

Keeper

Attest

Keeper

Attest

Keeper

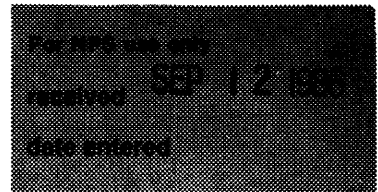
Attest

Keeper

Attest

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 2

Page 1

LEE, JASON, HOUSE  
1313 Mill Street SE  
Salem  
Marion County  
Oregon

Control number: 73001580

Listing date: 4-23-73

The purpose of this continuation sheet is to verify that the correct and current address of the above-named property is 1313 Mill Street SE, Salem, Marion County, Oregon. The address change owes not to a change of location, but the establishment of a new address for the owner organization, whose property fronts both 12th Street and Mill Street.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

September 5, 1986