

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 23 1977
DATE ENTERED	AUG 18 1977

**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 Charles Newell House

AND/OR COMMON
The Red House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
114 Sentinel Street

CITY, TOWN Goldendale --- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Washington --- VICINITY OF 4th - Mike McCormack

COUNTY Klickitat CODE 039

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Franklin M. Miller

STREET & NUMBER
210 W. Putnam Street

CITY, TOWN Goldendale --- VICINITY OF STATE Washington

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Klickitat County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Goldendale STATE Washington

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Washington State Inventory of Historic Places

DATE October, 1974 --- FEDERAL STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

CITY, TOWN Olympia STATE Washington

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

Built c. 1891 on the southern outskirts of Goldendale, Washington, the Newell House is a frame structure with design elements related to the Stick Style. It was constructed for Charles Newell, a famed central Washington horse-trader, by the local postmaster Howard Spaulding. The house has become a well-known landmark in the community, frequently immortalized over the past several decades by artists and photographers.

The small town of Goldendale was platted in 1872 and developed as a rural trading post in the heart of the Klickitat Valley. At the southern edge of town, the Newell House faces in a northerly direction on Sentinel Street. Once bounded largely by open countryside, the property is now surrounded for the most part by low-density residential blocks. The original Newell estate occupied the entire block, defined by Sentinel and Putnam Streets on the north and south, Columbus Avenue and Grant Street to the east and west. The property was enclosed by a picket fence, and bordered by wooden sidewalks to the north and west. Original outbuildings included a hipped roof barn to the rear of the house with a carriage entrance on Putnam Street, and a privy situated between the house and barn. Both of these structures have since been demolished.

The Newell House is a two and one-half story building which rests on a rubble stone foundation. Its massing is characterized by an asymmetrical silhouette, steeply pitched gabled roofs, and by remarkably elongated proportions. The main body of the house is a gabled unit oriented north-south. To the east is a slender rectangular bay of nearly equal height. The front or Sentinel Street facade features a covered verandah with variant roof forms supported by bracketed uprights. The frame house is sided entirely with shiplap, and the original wood-shingled roofing has been replaced with hand-split cedar shakes. In combination with its attenuated proportions and complex massing, moulded chimneys contribute to the Gothic spirit of this Stick Style design.

One of the most distinctive elements of the Newell House is its fenestration. For the most part, windows are composed of double-hung sash with varying arrangements of rectangular stained-glass panes. Some units consist largely of clear glass, while others are entirely filled with colored panes. The total effect is medieval in flavor, both on the interior and exterior of the house. Many of the original stained-glass panes have been destroyed and replaced over the years with slightly varying styles of glass.

Another feature of major importance is the ornamental millwork on the exterior of the Newell House. Much of the trim is essentially Stick Style in character - angular, two-dimensional, and "half-timbered" in effect. Furthermore, certain surface areas such as gablets, porch brackets and soffits are overlaid with vertical and diagonal boarding - a later development of the Stick Style. Some elements of millwork, however, exhibit the more contemporary and more fashionable details of the Eastlake Style. Curvilinear brackets with incised patterns, decorative bosses and rosettes, and a stylized sunburst, or peacock fan, in the main gable motif are clearly concessions to the popular Eastlake mode.

Although the total exterior color scheme of the Newell House at the time of its completion c.1891 is unknown, it is a firmly held local tradition that the major exterior color has always been the present day barn-red. Subsequent coats of this distinctive red are documented for 1949 and 1971.

Some or perhaps all of the milled ornament was, at an earlier date, painted black

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(both trim and wall surfaces are now barn-red). It is highly possible that the original color scheme combined barn-red wall surfaces with black as well as additional trim colors - the effect of which must certainly have been arresting.

The exterior of the Newell House has undergone some alteration over the years. The front porch flooring has been relaid, and the balustered railing replaced by a simple wooden, Chippendale railing. Since 1949 when the present-day owner acquired the property, all alterations have been well-documented. Three presumably original gabled appendages at the rear of the house, all without foundations, were removed. These frame extensions included an ice-house, a root cellar and a wood shed. They were connected by a raised, covered porch with a well opening through the porch floor. After the demolition of these appendages, a compatible sun porch sided with shiplap was added to the rear kitchen in the approximate location of the ice-house. Siding on the west elevation of the house was replaced with identical shiplap in 1970.

The interior of the Newell House, particularly at ground-floor level, has been substantially remodelled since its purchase in 1949. The house contains a total of ten small rooms, the third or uppermost story being a single space. First floor partitions were altered to enlarge the sitting room and to insert a downstairs bath. Original folding doors between the front parlor and sitting room have been removed. Plumbing and electricity were installed throughout the house, and utilities were reorganized within the kitchen.

On first and second stories, original plaster walls were replaced with sheet rock. Downstairs, deteriorated flooring in every room was covered over by a new layer of floor boards. Some of the woodwork in various locations remains in its natural stained condition, while other elements have been obscured by paint. Currently, lowered ceilings and a wainscoting of mixed wood paneling are being installed in the parlor and sitting room.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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

1890-1891

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Attributed to Howard Spaulding -
Carpenter

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historic significance of the Newell House in Goldendale, Washington may be attributed to the fame of its original owner Charles Newell, a horse-trader of considerable renown in central Washington and throughout the Northwest. Charles Newell and his wife Mary are said to have built the unusual home c.1890 or 1891. They occupied it until c.1902 when changing fortunes brought them to the town of Toppenish in the Yakima Valley. Characterized by curiously slender proportions and a picturesque appearance, the Stick Style Newell House has long been a landmark to residents and travelers through Goldendale. The house commemorates one of central Washington's most colorful pioneers, and is a remarkable architectural specimen in its own right.

Charles Newell was a native Ohioan, born in 1847. At the age of twelve, he accompanied his family on a westward trek with major stops in Kansas, Colorado, and finally in 1864, the Willamette Valley in Oregon. The young Newell farmed in the Willamette, apparently successfully, until 1877, during which time he acquired a herd of cattle and grazed them on the range lands of Klickitat County, Washington. In 1877, Newell and his new wife Mary Wren moved to Klickitat where they homesteaded ten miles from the village of Goldendale.

Over the next decade, Charlie Newell built up a substantial empire based on horse dealing and land speculation. Newell soon earned the title "Horse King" of the Northwest, and is believed by some to have shipped and sold more horses than any individual dealer in the country. From his home base in Klickitat and later Yakima County, Newell supplied horses for the Boer War (British agents from Sheridan, Wyoming, serving as contacts), the Spanish-American War, the Russo-Japanese War, and World War I. Newell dealt exclusively with the Yakima Indians whose cayuses ran wild on the open range of the reservation. Corrals were constructed at various locations on the range, and Newell would dispatch his own riders to participate in the roundup. With bags of silver at his side, Newell then toured the corrals, driving a hard bargain for each and every horse.

At the outset of his career, Newell entered into partnership with a W. D. Hoxter, and the two apparently remained in association for at least ten years. From 1879 through 1883, they sold stock across the Columbia into Oregon. In 1884, Newell drove 700 horses overland to Kearney, Nebraska for rail shipment to Ohio. When the Northern Pacific Railroad reached the Washington Territory in 1885, Newell was the first to ship carloads of horses from Prosser, Washington to the New York market. In the years to follow Newell remained active in the horse industry, shipping to Minnesota, Rhode Island, and other points east, as well as to Puget Sound and California. During the years 1903 and 1904 the horse industry reached its peak, and Newell traded some 6000 head of horses annually.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Helland, Maurice. Our Valley, too. Maurice Helland, publ. (Yakima, 1976)
2. An Illustrated History of Klickitat, Yakima, and Kittitas Counties. Interstate Publishing Company. (1904).
3. Johnson, Dr. H. M. "Charles Newell" from A History of Toppenish. No date.
4. Kimmel, Thelma. "Charlie Newell: Early Day Hosteler" from the Spokesman Review. (Spokane, July 10, 1948).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one
UTM REFERENCES

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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

Florence K. Lentz

ORGANIZATION

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

DATE

January, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1128

TELEPHONE

(206) 753-4116

CITY OR TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Jeanne M. Welch

TITLE

Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3/16/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Ann J. Smith

DATE

8/18/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles Adams

DATE

2.16.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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The advent of the automobile signaled the end of Charlie Newell's horse-trading career, but he had shrewdly diversified at an early date. From his first purchase of cattle in Oregon in 1870, he had continued to build his own stock and land holdings. The Newells owned a large portion of the townsite of Goldendale, a quarter section of land adjoining the town, and later, two large ranches in the Yakima Valley. In addition, Newell held considerable stock in mining interests throughout the region.

In 1890, or perhaps in 1891, the Newells moved from their country homestead to the newly-constructed frame mansion in town. Here they remained during the prosperous years of Charlie's horse business. In 1902, Newell built a frame hotel in Toppenish, and presumably the family abandoned the "Red House" in Goldendale at about that time. Newell's Kilickitat enterprises had begun to suffer, and a new fortune was to be made in Toppenish. Feverish land speculation was taking place there, resulting from the sale of large portions of the arid Yakima reservation for irrigation purposes. Business in town flourished, and in 1907 Newell constructed a more substantial concrete block hotel with an arcaded street facade. Only recently demolished, the Hotel Toppenish was known for its elegantly appointed interiors and its fine cuisine. Its owner Charlie Newell gained fame as a polished innkeeper and owner-host.

Personally, Newell and his wife were unusually interesting characters. Many local stories, often contradictory in nature, surround Newell's wife Mary Wren. She is said to have been part Indian and part French, her parents having emigrated to Oregon from Canada where they were connected with Hudson's Bay Company. Although extraordinarily beautiful and always elegantly attired, Mrs. Newell is believed by some to have remained a social outcast in Goldendale. Charlie Newell himself is known to have been ambitious and hard-driving, but whether he was perhaps unscrupulous in his dealings with the Indians is no longer remembered. He learned the Yakima language at an early date, and often served as a self-appointed agent, both a lawyer and lawman to the Yakimas. Newell gained a reputation as a practical joker, and was equally at home camping among the coyotes as he was presiding in the dining room of the Toppenish Hotel.

Facts concerning the construction of the Newell House in Goldendale are largely undocumented. However, a large body of oral tradition surrounds the town's most unusual mansion, and the stories from various sources are largely in agreement. The precise date of construction remains uncertain, although the Newell's are thought to have left their homestead and moved into Goldendale in 1891. The architect and design source of the house are also unknown today. Goldendale postmaster Howard Spaulding is generally believed to have served as head carpenter for the project. Local men by the names of Loney and Johnson worked as painter and carpenter's helper, and lumber is said to have been purchased from Goldendale's Whitney Mill. One tradition which appears to be unanimously accepted by the community is that the Newell House's stained-glass window panes were imported from Europe.

Without benefit of organized publicity, the Newell House has emerged as a tourist attraction in Goldendale. The building frequently serves as a subject for Northwest artists and

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photographers. Notable for its unusually tall, narrow proportions, the Newell House has a Gothic character. Its asymmetrical massing and multiple gables reinforce this medieval flavor. Simple but consistent jigsaw trim is derived chiefly from the Eastlake and Stick Styles. Although its original color scheme has been altered by the loss of black contrasting trim (additional trim colors may originally have existed), the present-day barn red is firmly believed by local residents to be the originally all-over color. The architectural effect of the Newell House, set in a rather stark landscape dropping to the Columbia River Gorge, is as visually striking today as it was in the 1890's.

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5. Kimmel, Thelma. "Horse King of the Northwest" from Frontier Times, April-May, 1971.
6. McDonald, Lucille. Where The Washingtonians Lived. Superior Publishing Company. (Seattle, 1969).
7. Miller, Franklin. "The Old Red House As It Is, As It Was". Franklin Miller, publ. (Goldendale, 1972).