

PH 0663336

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED FEB 15 1978  
DATE ENTERED APR 14 1978

**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

Hoover (Thomas Benton) House

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

First Street, between Adams and Washington Streets

CITY, TOWN

Fossil

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Oregon

CODE

41

COUNTY

Wheeler

CODE

069 ✓

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Robert E. and Nadine I. Conner

STREET & NUMBER

PO Box 8

CITY, TOWN

Fossil

VICINITY OF

Oregon

STATE

97830

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wheeler County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Fossil

Oregon

STATE

97830

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties

DATE

October 1977

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Salem

Oregon

STATE

97310

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The home built by Thomas Benton Hoover in 1882 is a simple, two-story frame building, T-shaped in plan, with steeply-pitched gable roof. The house occupies a 66x168-foot lot fronting First Street in the heart of the small Columbia River Basin Plateau community of Fossil, Wheeler County seat. The Wheeler County Courthouse lies two blocks to the south on Adams Street.

There appear to have been two early additions in the southeast corner of the house, filling in the area between the main north/south-running block and the easterly ell. The first of these was two stories in height and shed-roofed; the second was a hipped roofed single-story addition.

The house is clad with clapboards, and present roofing material is asphalt shingles. Two stove chimneys are the only features above the roof line. Febestration is regular. The elongated windows are fitted with double-hung sash with four lights over four. The transomed entrance is offset to one side on the north end of the main block. The opening above it, a door, is believed to have been intended by the builder to open onto a porch deck, which was never provided.

The house was acquired by the present owners in 1974. It had been neglected, <sup>or</sup>poorly maintained for many years. Over the past three years, the owners have painted exterior and interior, repapered plaster walls, upgraded plumbing and surface-mounted electrical wiring, and repaired the picket fence. A "minimal" framework porch with deck was added to the entrance. A dilapidated screened back porch was removed and replaced, and an 8x16 foot flagstone patio was laid.

Interior trim is simple and intact. Tongue-in-groove wainscoting in kitchen, dining room and living room has been repaired. Among the minor modifications made by the current owners were the lowering of the kitchen ceiling and the addition of two kitchen walls to conceal plumbing.

A dilapidated barn on the adjoining lot to the west was torn down. A detached work shed atop a brick cellar to the rear of the house collapsed. It was reconstructed with lumber salvaged from the barn. Poplars lining the property are historic plantings. The current owners cleared the yard of blackberry vines and planted flowers, shrubs, fruit and nut trees.



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"Basic Knowledge of Fossil, Oregon," undated type script by Mrs. Elmer A. Frank, Jr., Portland, granddaughter of Thomas Benton Hoover.

Fossil Journal, miscellaneous historical articles reproduced from the newspaper's files prior to 1900.

Glimpses of Wheeler County's Past.

(continued)

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 16,632 sq. ft. (3/8 acre)

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	0	7	1	9	2	5	8	4	9	8	6	4	7	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 3 and S $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 4, Quimby Addition to Fossil.

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

Mrs. Robert E. Conner

ORGANIZATION

DATE

October 1977

STREET & NUMBER

PO Box 8

TELEPHONE

503/763-4878

CITY OR TOWN

Fossil

STATE

Oregon 97830

**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

*David B. Tolbert*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE February 1, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Attest: *Barbara Cole* DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE *1/14/78* KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE *4-12-78*

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Congregational minister at The Dalles 1862-1870.

Thomas Benton Hoover also was a County Commissioner and director of public schools. He was named Fossil's first mayor following an election that took place at Hoover and Watson Hall in 1891. The first town council rented Hoover's hall for a meeting place at the rate of \$1.50 per month. Hoover kept his post as Mayor until 1895. A year later, his oldest son, William, was voted into the office. The first born of the Hoovers' seven children, Annie Jeriah, married W. W. Steiwer, another prominent citizen of Fossil whose descendents are equally influential in the county.

The subject property was continuously owned by Hoover's descendents until 1974, at which time it was acquired by the current owners.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

McArthur, Lewis L., Oregon Geographic Names (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1974), 290. Entry pert. to Fossil.

Interviews with Patricia Frank, granddaughter of Thomas Benton Hoover, and Lester Reinhart, brother-in-law of Thomas Benton Hoover's son, Tom Hoover, Jr.