Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

****** DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 5 1977

DATE ENTERED FEB 1 5 1977

SE	E INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW T TYPE ALL ENTRIES (O COMPLETE NATIONAL COMPLETE APPLICABLE		5
1 NAME				
HISTORIC	William Bybee House			
AND/OR COMMON	Same			
LOCATIC	DN w workedford	,		
STREET & NUMBE	r		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN	Medford mic .	VICINITY OF Jacksonville	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT
STATE	Oregon 41	CODE	COUNTY Jackson	code 029
CLASSIF	CATION			
CATEGOR	OWNERSHIP	OWNERSHIP STATUS		ENTUSE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC		AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X_BUILDING(S)		UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	X_WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDEN
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
OWNED	OF PROPERTY	NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
OWNER	JF I KOI EKI I			
NAME	Elwood K. and Wilma E	. Dughi	~1	₽ <u>1</u> , 1
	883 Old Stage Road	1		
CITY, TOWN	Medford	VICINITY OF Jacksonville	STATE	
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COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEE	^{DS,ETC.} Jackson County C	ourthouse		
STREET & NUMBER	Main and Oakdale	-		
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REPRESE	NTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
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DATE	1945		TECOUNTYLOCAL	
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SURVEY RECORDS	Library of Congress			
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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	
EXCELLENT _XGOOD FAIR	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	UNALTERED XALTERED	_XORIGINAL MOVED	SITE DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

William M. Bybee's house in Jacksonville, Oregon, is an excellent example of the Classical Revival style. It is very similar to the Bybee-Howell House on Sauvie Island, built by his cousin, James F. Bybee (entered on the National Register 11/5/74).

The exact date of construction of William Bybee's house is not known. The Bybee family, however, dates it between 1857-1861. The existing house was built after the oldest son, James William Bybee, was born but before the other children came along. James William was born in October of 1856 and the second child, Lillie May, died in January of 1864 at the age of three. While her exact birth date is not known, she could have been born no later than January of 1861, thus the house had to be built before that date.

The two-story house is wood frame with lap board siding. It consists of a main block measuring about 42' x 22', and an ell measuring about 21' x 28', extending from the west side. The one remaining outbuilding is a carriage house, some 100' west of the house.

A one-story porch emphasizes the central door in the five-bay facade. The door is flanked by side and top lights in a diamond pattern, although the purple and green glass in them is not considered to be original. The gables of the main block and the ell intersect over the stair hall. The entablature does not wrap around to form complete pediments but is present everywhere else.

All the sash windows with one exception are 6 over 6 lights. The exception is the window over the porch balcony. This was originally a door but was altered when an FHA loan required the addition of a bathroom in the middle 1900s.

The lower story of the main block contains two chambers divided by a central stair hall. The central ell on the rear (west) side contains the kitchen and dining room. A small office was added between the dining room and the main block on the north side, some time before 1945 when the HABS drawings were done. The original veranda that wrapped around the ell on the south and west sides has been enclosed. Other alterations on the ground floor include the addition of a storage area on the north side of the kitchen adjoining the office and a doorway cut into the south parlor to provide a direct entrance to the dining area.

The south parlor ceiling is decorated with mouldings and stucco ornamentation. A diamond shaped moulding surrounds concentric circles of moulding, stucco, and a chandelier ornament. The doors in this room were both hand-painted to simulate wood graining, but unfortunately one has been refinished.

Both the chambers in the main block contain fireplaces which project inward. The plain classical mantels have been covered with more ornate stone and carved wood mantels.

The upper story also is situated around a central stairhall. The north side of the main block contains two bedrooms, neither of which has a fireplace, while the south side is one large room with a fireplace. The east end of the stairhall is now a bathroom. The ell holds two bedrooms with a hall on the north side. Neither of these rooms contain fireplaces.



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8 SIGNIFICANCE

The William Bybee House is an interesting example of Classical Revival Architecture in Oregon and nearly identical to the house built by William's cousin, James Bybee, nearly 300 miles away on Sauvie Island. William Bybee was also an important and influential citizen in Jackson County.

William M. Bybee was born in Clark County, Kentucky, in 1830. In 1850, Bybee went to Missouri where he became a freight driver for the US Government. Two years later, Bybee went to the California Gold Mines. Then in 1853, William headed north through Jacksonville to Sauvie Island, where his cousin James, also from Clark County, Kentucky, had settled in 1847.

Bybee returned to Jacksonville in 1854 where he and fifty others fought the Indians under the command of Jesse Walker. Walker and his family had migrated to Oregon from Missouri, settling first on Sauvie Island. They then moved south and established a Donation Land Claim near Jacksonville in 1852.

In November of 1854, Bybee maried Walker's daughter, Elizabeth Ann. After his marriage, he purchased a portion of the Walker DLC, upon which he built his house. Bybee was "unusually successful in his agricultural affairs" and at one time owned more than 5,000 acres in Jackson County, 2,000 of which were in one piece.

Although his principal occupation was stock raising, Bybee was a very influential man and was active in Democratic (Copperhead) politics. He was also sheriff for two terms beginning in 1878 and, like his cousin James, he was a horse breeder and racer. "Horse races were run at Bybees' where a course famous up and down the coast was used by owners of thoroughbreds whenever the occasion demanded."

After Bybee died in November of 1908, it was said that "during his entire life he was counted among the safe and progressive leaders in all matters relating to public affairs."

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Finch, Sheila Ann. "The Bybee Houses and the Appearance of the Greek Revival in Oregon". M.A. Thesis, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 1970.

Manuscript Collection, Oregon Historical Society.

Manuscript Collection, Jacksonville Museum.

Oregon Journal (October 2, 1934).

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