

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only
received NOV 24 1981
date entered DEC -9 1981

1. Name

historic Bents, Frederick, House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 22776 Bents Road, NE _____ not for publication

city, town Aurora _____ vicinity of congressional district Second

state Oregon code 41 county Marion code 047

3. 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Michael and Susan Flannagan

street & number 22776 Bents Road NE

city, town Aurora _____ vicinity of state Oregon 97002

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marion County Courthouse

street & number 100 High Street NE

city, town Salem _____ state Oregon 97301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>Unknown</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		(rear wing)

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The wood frame house of Frederick Bents is composed of two structures, originally separate, and joined at an unknown date. The main volume of the house is an imposing two and a half story structure raised on a brick foundation, prominent in the flat landscape. The smaller two-story element, attached as an ell to the original, has a pier foundation.

The Queen Anne Style house of 1887 is slightly L-shaped in plan, with a recessed corner entrance and intersecting gables for the roof. The scale of the building, the pedimented gables, the roof pitch, and the symmetry of the window placement recall the Classical Revival. However, the projecting bay window with small border lights in upper sash, recessed front porch with pediment, variegated siding, and decorative trim of jigsaw and spindle work are decidedly Queen Anne. The impression the house imparts is not that of farmhouse, but of a commodious urban house with considerable attention to fashionable detailing. Roof cover was misguidedly replaced with shakes by previous owners and will be reversed by present owners at the time of the next scheduled replacement.

The west-facing entrance facade has a large pedimented gable, intersecting a smaller north-south gable. The facade gable has a pierced verge board with small spindles that stops where the siding becomes a flared eave that connects to the pediment corona. The flared surface is banded above and surmounted by a lunette with an articulated keystone. The other gables have a smaller pierced verge board without spindles on the north, and, on the south, a prominent attached plain barge board and lunette with keystone, but no flared eave. The siding in all the gables is fish-scale shingles.

The two-story facade is composed of three major elements: a recessed front porch, a projecting first floor bay window, and a central, four-window composition on the second floor. The porch is announced on the facade by an attached pedimented gable supported by end brackets. The porch is open to the west and south; originally flights of steps gave access to the porch from both sides. These steps and railings have disappeared, but it is the owner's intention to rebuild them.

A low, solid shingled railing appears at each corner of the porch supporting single turned columns at the interior corners, and three columns, paired on each elevation, at the exterior corner. Spanning the space between columns on each facade is a skirting of spindles.

The facade bay window is composed of movable sash on the sides and fixed panes in the center. The top half of the movable sash has muntins in an "X" pattern, the bottom is plain. The toplight of the central window has a border of small colored lights. The second floor window grouping is composed of two small diamond pane casements flanked by larger unornamented double hung windows. Each window casing is topped by the frieze board of a bracketed cornice. An additional bracket appears at either end of the cornice.

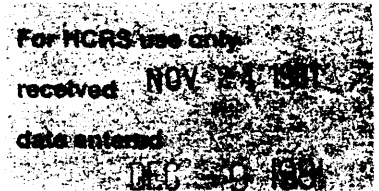
Typical siding is clapboard, set off by a plain belt course, water skirt and corner boards. Below the second floor window sill, fish scale shingles appear on all elevations, flaring out slightly above the belt course.

The north elevation is composed of both the main volume and the ell, or rear wing. An example of Rural Gothic architecture believed to date from about 1870, ^{the wing} is smaller in scale. The precise date and the original location of the wing are unknown. On the interior, the second floor level of the main volume is a step above the second floor of the wing. Also indicating that the wing was moved onto the site and attached to the larger is the fact that the pier foundation of the ell is not uniform. Neighbors claim that the earlier house was moved to this location from elsewhere on Bents family holdings.

The smaller two-story structure is rectangular in plan, but later single-story additions were made on the north and south. The roof is composed of a major gable on the longitudinal

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axis with intersecting gables on the north and south. These side gables, in pitch and proportion, are the distinguishing features of the Rural Gothic farmhouse.

On the north elevation of the main volume, the small leg of the L projects from the main wall plane. Its western face contains no ornamentation except brackets at the corners of the cornice. On the first floor, paired plain double hung windows appear on the projection. Originally, the house had no fireplace on this elevation, as the house was heated by a stove in the parlor. Some time ago, the current owner installed a fireplace and began construction of a brick flue and chimney on the north elevation. No windows were removed, and it is the owner's hope that he will be allowed to continue its construction.

On the second floor of the projection, the casings of the paired windows are again topped by a bracketed cornice. The use of brackets at the corners and above windows casings, as opposed to being evenly spaced across the elevation, provides an element of vitality. On the body of the house, at the second floor, there is a door which is thought to have been added at an early date. Its purpose is unknown, as no evidence of a north porch exists, although such a porch may have been planned. A single window opening is adjacent to the door.

The north elevation of the rear wing reveals a single-story addition with a hip roof. The first floor siding is partially clapboard, partially shingled. These shingles were added in recent years by a prior owner, and it is the current owner's intention to replace them with clapboard matching the body of the addition. A recent window will remain. On the second floor, under the central gable, is a door giving access to the hip roof. Originally, it may have led to a second story porch deck.

The east, or rear elevation is marred by a recent carport addition which the current owner intends to remove. A single ground floor door and second floor window appear on this elevation.

The south elevation contains major facades of both structures. The rear wing, or ell has a lean-to addition with clapboard siding. Three small six-pane casements and a set of French doors appear on the first floor. The second floor gable on this elevation is clad with imbricated shingles and is decorated with an original pierced verge board. It is lighted by a double hung window. An original brick chimney breaks the roofline at the valley of gable and south roof slope.

The south elevation of the main volume has paired double hung windows on the first and second floors, although here they are offset from one another, unlike the north elevation. A small casement and single double hung window complete the fenestration.

The main volume contains six rooms. The entrance stair hall off the porch leads directly to both the front parlor through an original single pocket door, and to a back room, perhaps originally the family parlor. Both of these lead into the dining room in the north-east corner. A double pocket door separates the dining room from the front parlor; transom doors appear in the family parlor. The dining room has an opening giving access to the rear wing.

It is believed that the original kitchen was an attached one story addition on the east side of the main block which would have been removed when the Rural Gothic structure was moved onto the site. This would explain the lack of cooking facilities in the main structure. No large cooking fireplaces or stove flue (except that of the parlor stove) exists in the main block. The parlor stove has the appearance of being a later addition,

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which suggests that the kitchen stove was meant to heat the entire house. In a house with this much attention to exterior style, it is rare to find a single metal flue attached to the parlor wall as an original solution. It is equally rare in substantial houses of this kind to find no brick chimney.

The first floor of the rear wing has a large room combining the kitchen and family sitting room. The earlier heating stove has been updated with a recent Franklin stove. A small storage room and half bath appear at the east end.

The second floor of the main block is reached by a stair L-shaped in plan, with the landing nearly centered in the house. Originally, there were only three bedrooms upstairs; now there are four rooms and two baths. The bedroom occupying the whole of the western facade was partitioned by prior owner into two rooms to form a master suite. A bath was added within this suite. Another bath was added off the landing, taking space from back-to-back closets. Originally, two bedrooms shared the whole of the eastern portion on this level. Now a hall connecting the stair landing to the rear wing separates the two. All of the modifications to the upstairs interior was done by previous owners.

The second story of the rear wing is a single large bedroom with a bath at the eastern end. A stair, L-shaped in plan, leads down to the kitchen level. Because of alterations by previous owners, it is not possible to be specific about the wing's original interior layout. It is believed, however, that the existing open plan was developed quite early by the Bents family after the Rural Gothic farmhouse was attached to the main block. Because of these changes, no original interior embellishments remain. The walls are finished with lath and plaster.

In the main block, the interior did not have as much fashionable detailing as the exterior. The walls are lath and plaster with wainscoting in the dining room. Because the wainscot was deteriorated, the current owner has removed it and installed new wainscoting milled to match the original. The original stair handrail, newel and spindles were removed by a previous owner. The current owner will replace these items, fabricating them in the style of the period. All of the door and window casings have corner blocks with a circular motifs. The first floor pocket doors are paneled and retain their original hardware. In the main parlor, the current owner has installed a wood fireplace front dating from the 1890s which is suitable in style and scale.

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1887. He built his house soon thereafter. William, who remained at home, built his house in 1892 and married in 1894. Fred married Minnie Byland of Linn County in 1885 and in 1887 "put some handsome improvements in the line of buildings, etc., and moved to the present location of his home." Frederick Bents, an active Republican, Mason and Oddfellow, died June 1, 1927, survived by Minnie, four children and four grandchildren. Minnie Bents occupied the house and middle 102.7-acre⁶ parcel until December, 1940, when all but eight acres of it were sold out of the family.

The land which was the original Bents holding of some 306 acres had as its western boundary, one mile in length, Bents Road, named for the family which occupied the land from 1864 until 1940.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Donation Land Claim records. Mss material, Oregon Historical Society.

² Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley, Oregon. Chapman Publishing Company, Chicago, 1903. Pgs. 743-744.

³ Title insurance records.

⁴ Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley, Oregon. Unless otherwise noted, information about the Bents family is from this volume. Fred - Pgs. 743-4; Henry - Pgs. 1228-9; William - Pg. 1463.

⁵ Title insurance records.

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 checked="" 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 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 1887

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The 2 1/2-story, formally-composed Queen Anne Style farmhouse on Bents Road between Butteville and Aurora in Marion County, Oregon was built in 1887 for Frederick Bents, who succeeded to a portion of the farm settled by his father, Henry Bents, a Swiss emigre, in 1864. Following Frederick Bents' death in 1927, the house was occupied by Bents' widow as late as 1940, at which time it passed out of the family's hands. At a date as yet unknown, a smaller two-story farm house with gabled wall dormers in the vernacular Gothic tradition was joined to the rear face of the main block to serve as a kitchen, sitting room and bedroom ell. It may have displaced an earlier small kitchen wing. The Rural Gothic ell, which has later lean-to additions, is thought to have been an earlier site elsewhere on the farm. Present owners are in the process of renovating the house, reversing some of the misguided improvements of previous owners of recent years, and generally bringing the house into conformance with current code requirements. The house is a result of the changing requirements of farm life over a period of more than 90 years. It is significant as an unusual example of farmhouse growth by accretion of existing structures and, thereby, is a noteworthy aggregate of 19th century architecture in which either component exhibits the distinctive characteristics of its style. The house possesses sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling and association with long-time members of the French Prairie farming community to meet the criteria of the National Register.

Luther Cary of New London County, Connecticut, arrived in Oregon in 1850. In 1852 he and his wife Rebecca settled a Donation Land Claim on French Prairie near Butteville.¹ Part of this claim was subsequently sold to W. John and Elizabeth Scheurer, who later sold the land to the Bents family.

Henry and Anna Bosshard Bents, natives of Switzerland, emigrated to the United States in 1854. They originally settled in Kansas, where their oldest surviving son, Frederick, was born in 1855. After losing the Kansas land in 1862 because of a defective title, the Bents family moved on to Oregon, settling in Marion County.² In 1864, Henry Bents purchased 306 acres plus 18 rods from W. John and Elizabeth Scheurer for \$500.³ The initial payment was \$100 and an ox used on the plains crossing. "Upon his farm Mr. Bents at once built a cabin of hewed logs, which consisted of two rooms, the entire building being only 16 x 16 feet, and in this the family found shelter for many years, . . ."⁴ The family was occupied in general farming until 1881, at which time they began growing hops, being among the earliest in the neighborhood to do so. This crop was so successful that ultimately they had 70 acres in hops.

After Henry Bents' death in 1869, Frederick, aged 15, assumed responsibility for the family and farm. Fred had three surviving younger brothers - Edward, William and Henry, and one sister. Until after their mother's death in 1890 the four brothers owned the land jointly; in 1892 Edward ceded his portion to his three brothers and moved to Salem.⁵ It was not until 1904 that the land was split into three parcels of 102.7 acres - one each for Fred, William and Henry. The brothers had, however, each built a home upon the land prior to 1904.

Henry, who had been teaching in the public schools, married and returned to the farm in

9. Major Bibliographical References

Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley, Oregon. Champan Publishing Co., Chicago, 1903.
Title insurance records.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property ca. 1.55
Quadrangle name Sherwood, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	0	5	1	5	1	5	0	5	0	1	0	4	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Frederick Bents house is situated on part of the Luther Cary Donation Land Claim, in Section 4, Township 4 South, Range 1 West of the Willamette Meridian, Marion County, Oregon and the property proposed for nomination is more particularly described as follows: (Cont.)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sheila Finch-Tepper
 organization Finch-Tepper & Associates AIA date March 18, 1981
 street & number 919 SW Taylor #215 telephone 503/227-0736
 city or town Portland state Oregon 97205

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date August 20, 1981

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

 date 12/9/81

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:  date 12/2/81

Chief of Registration

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Beginning at a point on the SW corner of Marion County Tax Lot 99-1 in Section 4, Township 4 South, Range 1 West, W. M., in Marion County, Oregon, thence SE approximately 130 feet in a line extended from the west boundary line of said Lot 99-1, thence N 87° 24' E. approximately 500 feet to a point on the east boundary line of Lot 99-1 extended, thence north along said east boundary line extended N 2° 38' E. approximately 135 feet, thence west along the south boundary line of Tax Lot 99-1 approximately 505 feet to the point of beginning, containing in all 1.55 acres, more or less.