FORM NO. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

White, John B.

House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

86 N. River Road

CITY, TOWN

Rock Point

STATE

Oregon

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

__DISTRICT

__BUILDING(S)

__STRUCTURE

__SITE

__OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

__PUBLIC

__PRIVATE

__BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

__IN PROCESS

__BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

__UNOCCUPIED

__WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

__YES: RESTRICTED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__NO

PRESENT USE

__AGRICULTURE

__COMMERCIAL

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__GOVERNMENT

__INDUSTRIAL

__MILITARY

__TRANSPORTATION

__OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Leonard J. and Lenore D. Peck

STREET & NUMBER

86 N. River Road

CITY, TOWN

Rock Point

STATE

Oregon

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jackson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main and Oakdale

CITY, TOWN

Medford

STATE

Oregon

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE

1970

FEDERAL

STATE

COUNTY

LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Oregon
**DESCRIPTION**

<table>
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<td>X—GOOD</td>
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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The house built for John B. White at Rock Point in 1859 is one of the "four other old buildings nearby" the Rock Point Tavern noted by HABS surveyors in the 1930s. The three other buildings were a dwelling, store, and a deteriorating barn. As is the Rock Point Tavern of 1864, the John B. White House is attributed to carpenter-builder W. O'Harrar. It is of box construction, a method of construction employing hand-hewn framing timbers and heavy undressed boards placed on end without studding. Exterior siding is dressed clapboards.

The single-story house is oriented toward the south, facing the Rogue River, and has an L-shaped plan. The shingled gable roof was replaced recently. The shingle ridge cap is not an historic treatment, however, and the chimney was rebuilt with a flare top instead of a simple corbeled necking. The only other modification apparent from the public right-of-way is the rebuilt floor of the central portico. The solid paneled railing, which resembled wainscoting in the Wolf Creek Tavern in Josephine County, was not retained. Otherwise, the Classical Revival building is externally intact.

The 31-foot facade is formally organized, having a double-hung sash window with pedimented architrave and nine over six lights on either side of a central entry with transom and side lights. A gable roof with boxed cornice and frieze boards matching those of the main block shelters the main entry, and its gable end is finished with raking frieze and plain board tympanum. Capitals of porch posts and shadow pilasters are similar to those used on the neighboring Rock Point Tavern some five years later. The posts are composed of a decorative framework of verticals and diagonal braces. The railing of the second story porch of the Tavern also makes use of such cross-members to achieve a decorative pattern as well as rigidity. Window and door trim of the neighboring buildings is identical.

Either end of the main block is lighted by a single double-hung window with nine lights over six. The rear slope of the roof of the main block breaks to a lower pitch over the back rooms. Windows in the back rooms and the westerly ell have straight architraves and double-hung sash with six lights over six.

Originally, a shed-roofed porch extended the length of the inside, or east, elevation of the ell. Siding on the north end of the ell is board and batten. A lean-to bathroom addition was added to the northeast corner of the ell in 1943. It is believed that a gable-roofed portico originally sheltered an entrance in the west side of the ell. The existing porch at this location consists of a shed roof, two posts and wooden flooring.

Parlor and sitting room are situated on either side of the central entry hall. The parlor chimneypiece has a hand-painted wood-grain finish in fair condition. The sitting room has a working fireplace and an ungrained mantelpiece. Eight of the interior doors have one or both sides with their original graining in good condition, as do most of the door and window frammements and the remaining baseboards. The sitting room ceiling was lowered by earlier occupants and, as previously noted, a bathroom addition was made to the ell some 35 years ago. The present owners are considering plans to re-do the bathroom addition siding to conform with that of the ell and to replace shutters, window screens, side porch, and paneled front porch railing.

Also occupying the property is a double garage and workshop. It is offset from the northwest corner of the house, to the rear, some twenty feet. Built about 1965, the garage is a wood frome construction with white-painted plywood sheathing, and a rolled paper roof.
SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

PREHISTORIC
1400-1499
1500-1599
1600-1699
1700-1799
1800-1899
1900-1999

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCIAL
- COMMUNICATIONS
- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

1859

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historic single-story frame house at Rock Point, on the old pack train and stage route through the Rogue River Valley, was erected in 1859 for John B. White--townsite proprietor, storekeeper and postmaster. It is significant to the community and to Jackson County as a well-preserved example of Classical Revival architecture and as the oldest dwelling remaining in the settlement established during local gold excitement in the mid-1850s. The house is noted for its intact hand-grained interior woodwork. Construction is attributed to a carpenter-builder named W. O'Hara, who--according to local tradition--is also linked with the Rock Point Tavern, which was built with a traditional double piazza in 1864, and recorded by HABS in 1934, and the William Bybee House (1857-1860), an important Greek Revival house in the vicinity of Jacksonville which also was recorded by HABS and subsequently entered in the National Register. The John B. White House has been refurbished recently by its current owners.

Rock Point is situated on the north bank of the Rogue River between the later communities of Rogue River and Gold Hill. Rock Point began as a way-station for packers and miners, and, later, was a waypoint for travelers on the main stage route between Jacksonville and the Willamette Valley. After 1883, it was a stop on the Southern Pacific Railroad. At the height of its historic period, in the 1880s, Rock Point boasted a store, hotel, livery stable, blacksmith shop, saloon, post office, schoolhouse, and telegraph office. Today, the house of the townsite proprietor and the neighboring Rock Point Tavern are among the oldest remnants of the settlement.

John White, a native of Pennsylvania, built his house on a tract of land awarded to him for his participation in the Rogue River Indian Wars (1852-1856). His general merchandise store was located on the lot just west of his house.

On November 17, 1859, a post office was established in Rock Point at the general store, and White was the postmaster. Several years later, the office of postmaster was taken over by Benjamin Haymond, a business partner of White and husband of White's stepdaughter, Hattie Beach. Haymond was to hold that office for over 33 years, right up until the time of his death. He hailed from Virginia and had arrived in Oregon in 1852; Jackson County in 1857.

Haymond and his wife Hattie are believed to have lived in the John B. White House for most of their married life. Together they operated the store, bought the miners' gold, and sold mining supplies. Beginning in 1868, Haymond was partner to J.B. White; then, in 1874, White sold his interest to the Magruder brothers (H.H. and Constantine). In 1878 Haymond bought the Rock Point covered bridge and put it into first-class repair for travel. Haymond thrived in business and bought out the Magruder brothers in 1886. His business ledgers show that several times a year he would travel to San Francisco on buying trips, spending several thousands of dollars each time. On one trip, he bought a square grand piano which is now in the possession of his granddaughter, Mrs. June Hutchins, a Jackson County resident.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
United States census records for Jackson County 1860, 1870 and 1880.
Obituary articles on Benjamin Haymond, unidentified newspaper clippings in collections of the Jacksonville Museum, Jacksonville, Oregon.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 164'x154', less than One

UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
The property nominated is a rectangular lot (Block 2, Plat of Rock Point) measuring 164'x154', bounded on the north by Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way, on the east by the Rock Point Tavern, on the west by vacant lots, on the south by North River Road.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

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<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
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FORM PREPARED BY
NAME/TITLE
Lenore D. Peck

ORGANIZATION

DATE
April, 1978

STREET & NUMBER
86 N. River Road

TELEPHONE
(503) 855-7221

CITY OR TOWN
Gold Hill

STATE
Oregon 97525

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer under 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

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE August 23, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: William Young

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11/21/78

DATE 10/26/78
A solid financial man, prominent in several of the leading banking institutions, Haymond also took interest in public affairs. He served as Jackson County Commissioner two terms. He also was active in the Democratic Party. His private papers and letters show that he was called upon several times to execute wills and manage property for his friends and neighbors.

Widowed in 1891, Haymond married Rose Ann Morris in 1892. He died in 1906 after the couple had several children. The second Mrs. Haymond continued to live in the house at Rock Point, raising her children and keeping the store open a few more years. She closed the store without having to sell it. After her death in 1943, it was burned down. The post office at Rock Point was discontinued in 1912, and thereafter mail for area residents was distributed from Gold Hill.

With the exception of a small cottage on the river of a more recent date, the John B. White House and the Rock Point Tavern are the only surviving buildings used as dwellings from the original townsite. It should be pointed out that the Tavern is believed to have been built about five years later than the house for Lytte J. White (ca. 1819-1877), a native of New York. Hosteler White had a land patent immediately adjoining the claim of John White, and it is very likely that the two men were related. This would account for similarities in project design and construction as well as for the proximity of the buildings and claims. Upon his father's death in 1877, Henry L. White took charge of operating the Rock Point Tavern. L. J. White had arrived at Rock Point in 1858, the same year, or perhaps a year later than the time John White is understood to have arrived on the scene.