

**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



81

**1. Name**

historic Bybee, Frank E., House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 4491 Jacksonville Highway  <sup>Hwy.</sup> not for publication

city, town Jacksonville  <sup>vic.</sup> vicinity of congressional district fourth

state Oregon code 41 county Jackson code 029

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Antonio and Verne Beebe

street & number 560 North Oregon Street, PO Box 155

city, town Jacksonville vicinity of state Oregon 97530

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jackson County Courthouse

street & number Main and Oakdale Streets (PO Box 1569)

city, town Medford state Oregon 97501

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Jackson County Historical Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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

The Frank E. Bybee House was constructed around 1900 by an unknown architect and builder. It is a noteworthy late example of vernacular architecture in the Rural Gothic tradition. While the plan and shape of the house are essentially symmetrical, other elements such as the steeply pitched gable roof and turned porch posts, the vertical one-over-one double hung sash windows, and minor textural variation of the exterior walls are related to the Gothic and Stick Styles. Such eclecticism was a common feature of the early pioneer period of building in Oregon and continued past the turn of the century in more rural isolated areas. The house is presently maintained in good condition. The attached water tower structure is in fair condition.

The Frank E. Bybee House is located in Section 28, Township 37 south, Range 2 west of the Willamette Meridian. As recorded in the Jackson County Courthouse, the Bybee House property is tax lot number 3900 on plat map 37 2W 28. It is situated on the northern portion of an irregularly shaped lot comprising 2.10 acres. The main facade, with twin gable roof dormers, is oriented toward the northeast. The house is set back from the Jacksonville Highway (Oregon State Highway 238) approximately fifty feet. Both the house and water tower are set among a grove of aged black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) and big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*). Large maple and black walnut trees are also spaced at regular intervals along the northern edges of the property and form a shaded canopy over the two lane highway.

The house and its battered-walled water tower are sited near the north projecting corner at a sharp bend in the road which borders the property on two sides. A second road (Hanley Road) joins the Jacksonville Highway at this bend, forming a Y intersection locally known as "Bybee Corners." From this vantage point, along what has been historically and is presently the main transportation route between Jacksonville and Medford, Oregon, the Frank Bybee House is a conspicuous and prominent feature on the landscape.

Adjoining the Bybee property on the southeast is a small mobile home park occupying no more than two and one half acres. To the southwest is an elongated parcel paralleling the highway that is presently used for the cutting and open stockpiling of firewood.

The Bybee House is situated on a relatively flat parcel of land at 1440 feet elevation near the western perimeter of Bear Creek Valley. Bear Creek Valley opens into the Rogue River Valley approximately fifteen miles to the north, and is characterized by broad open fields, traversed by intermittent streams and interrupted by occasional small hills.

Historically, and still today, large parcels of land extending to the north and south of the Bybee property are utilized for the production of hay and grains, the harvesting of pears and apples, and for the grazing of livestock. Recognizing the economic and aesthetic importance of these large tracts of open agricultural land, Jackson County Planning Department is in the final phase of adopting a countywide Comprehensive Plan (in compliance with Oregon's state-wide land use planning law, Senate Bill 100) which endeavors to "preserve, enhance and stabilize the principal agricultural and farm use areas within Jackson County." The Frank Bybee House is located in the Comprehensive Plan's proposed "Exclusive Farm Use" (EFU) district. The stated purpose of the EFU is "to prevent obstructive, damaging, or nuisance uses or activities which are not compatible with agriculture."

Bear Creek Valley is contained by two mountain ranges that extend generally in a north-south direction. The Bybee House property enjoys a panoramic view of the sharply rising slopes and

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foothill ridges of the Klamath Mountains (locally known as the Siskiyou Mountains) to the west and south, and the Western Cascade Mountains to the east.

Isolated by large parcels of agricultural open space, the Frank Bybee House is one of several farm houses dating from the last half of the 1800's and early 1900's, that are concentrated in this section of the valley. One of the oldest farm houses in the neighborhood, dating from circa 1857, is less than a mile from the Frank Bybee House, and was the home of William and Elizabeth Bybee, Frank's parents. The William Bybee House was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

The Frank Bybee House is located one and one quarter miles east of Jacksonville, designated a National Historic Landmark in 1967. The property is approximately six miles west of Medford. Ironically, the Bybee House is situated on the main road connecting a town which was described nearly one hundred years ago by A.G. Walling as "the most flourishing locality in Oregon and a most important trade center. . ." At that time Jacksonville was the county seat of government and the most populous town in southern Oregon. Medford now lays claim to this status.

The Frank E. Bybee House is a one and one half story structure built on a T plan. The house is of single wall construction and originally had no studs in either interior partitions or exterior walls. The arm of the T measures approximately 16 x 36 feet, and the stem, or ell portion, is roughly 12 x 24 feet. On the rear (southeast) side of the stem of the T, a single story porch measuring 12 x 24 feet has been enclosed in more recent years.

The roof of both portions of the T has a steeply pitched gable roof with light gray composition shingles. Overhanging eaves reveal exposed rafters. A simple unadorned frieze is in the gable ends and rakes under the eaves. Two gable roof dormers project from the northeast slope of the arm portion of the T. There is a single dark red corbeled brick chimney which breaks from the roof ridge of the northeast block of the house, and a gray brick chimney on the southeast slope of the ell.

The house is sheathed with horizontal clapboards with four inches exposed to the weather. There are corner boards on all portions. Imbricated shingles applied to the gable ends of the main block provide textural variety to the exterior wall surface.

The main facade on the arm portion of the T is three bays wide on the ground floor: a central door is flanked by one-over-one double hung sash windows. The half story above has two dormer windows that are also one-over-one double hung sash. The northwest and southeast sides of the main block are each one bay wide. Window openings on the northwest wall of the ell portion of the house are predominantly fixed glazed lights. The enclosed shed roof porch addition, attached to the southeast wall of the ell, has large stationary single light windows that form a continuous band around the two exposed walls. All window and door openings are framed by wide plain trim. Windows on the main block have a narrow strip of architrave trim at the top of the head molding.

A hip roof porch, supported by turned wood posts and embellished with decorative brackets and tracery under the eaves, projects from the northeast facade. A shed roof porch extends

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the length of the ell portion and wraps around the southwest wall of the ell.

The foundation, although not readily visible, is reported to be stacked sandstone piers. The body of the house, as well as the water tower and connecting portions of the structure, are painted white. The window sashes are accented in black.

The water tower is a wood frame truncated structure that measures approximately 18 x 18 feet at the base and stands roughly forty-five feet high. The roof is hip, clad with light gray composition shingles, and has exposed rafters. Horizontal clapboards are applied directly onto the structural cross members. Three window openings that are vertically aligned are on two parallel sides of the tower. The remaining two walls have a single window opening near the top of the tower. At the base of the water tower three sides have a single door. The plain window and door molding closely resembles the trim of the house.

Internally, the water tower is divided into four levels. The upper level, which once held the wood water tank, is inaccessible. The ground, second and third floor levels are joined by wood stairs running along the inside wall.

At one time a wind driven mill was attached to the roof of the water tower and water was drawn from a nearby well up into a wood holding tank on the highest level of the water tower. Neither the wood tank, nor the mill apparatus, is still in existence. A square opening in the roof of the tower was, no doubt, once used for the mechanism that drew water up into the tank.

Flanking the water tower on two sides are one story shed roof clapboarded storage rooms and an enclosed porch area that joins the water tower to the ell portion of the house. Plumbing has been added (although is not presently utilized) in one room: another room appears to have been used as a sleeping or living area, and at another time as a storage room for fruits and vegetables.

The extent and dates of alterations on the Frank Bybee House are not precisely known. An eighty-six year old nephew of Frank Bybee (Fred Luy Jr.) recalls that the original house had two rooms on the ground floor and two above. (Both sections of the original house had this internal configuration.) Inconsistencies between the chimneys, most of the window openings, and the porch posts on the main and the ell portion of the house, suggest that the ell portion may have been a slightly later addition. Another possibility is that both portions of the house were constructed at the same time, but with later alterations occurring on the ell. Enclosure of the rear (southeast) porch, as well as the construction of the shed roof storage/work rooms connecting the water tower to the house, appear to have been made after the original house was built.

It is most likely that any major exterior alterations occurred not long after the original house was constructed, and that these changes were made by Frank Bybee. Bybee occupied the house continuously from around the turn of the century until his death in 1946. The house and water tower presently retain an overall consistency and compatibility of exterior materials, scale and design.

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The floor plan of the Frank Bybee House is simple: both the main portion and the adjoining ell have two rooms on the ground floor and two rooms above. The internal spatial organization appears unaltered except for the removal of a wall partition on the first floor of the ell. Studs and insulation have been recently installed on the ground floor of the main block of the house.

A section of wall adjacent to the main central chimney reveals a small area of the original cheesecloth overlaid with wallpaper. Although recent owners of the house installed wall-board on much of the interior walls of main portion of the house, this has been removed by the present owners and horizontal wood walls are now exposed. Wallpaper covers much of the downstairs walls and is used predominantly throughout the bedrooms on the second floor.

The flooring in the main block of the house is wide wood boards painted a dark color. These are believed to be original. Wood floorboards are also present on the second floor of the ell. The ceilings throughout the house are wide wood boards with the exception of the rear enclosed porch which has narrow V-groove strips.

Six to eight inch high plain painted base boards are found throughout the house. Windows and doors are framed by plain wide molding. There are a variety of door styles including one panel, two panel and four panel. All are painted a dark color.

The central fireplace in the main portion of the house is concrete. It has an unadorned rectangular opening with a simple mantel shelf above. The wall chimney in the ell has a flue opening which is now covered.

Plumbing fixtures in the kitchen and bathrooms are modern. While restoring certain sections of the house, the present owners added a half bath on the ground floor at one end of the enclosed rear porch.

It is apparent that the Frank Bybee House has undergone numerous interior alterations in recent years. The present owners, who have undertaken several house restoration and rehabilitation projects in Jacksonville, are keenly aware and appreciative of the value of historic property. In their work on the Frank Bybee House and other historic houses they have demonstrated a sensitivity for original materials, decor and historically appropriate feel.

Within the past five years two detached farm equipment sheds, that stood approximately forty feet west of the house, have been removed. The Frank Bybee barn and farm buildings, located north of the house on the opposite side of the highway, are no longer standing. A well house presently stands about thirty feet west of the house and water tower.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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** ca. 1900      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Frank Bybee House at 4491 Jacksonville Highway is located approximately a mile and a quarter northeasterly of Jacksonville National Historic Landmark District on a 2.10-acre parcel in a neighborhood zoned for exclusive farm use. Built around 1900, the two-story T-shaped farmhouse is a belated example of Rural Gothic architecture remarkable for a pair of wall dormers in the principal facade and for an intact water tower, one of a finite number still standing in Jackson County. Behind the house, to the southwest, is a small mobile home park. The view to the north is traditional for the neighborhood, namely, agricultural open space used for orchard and livestock grazing. While the house is intact structurally, it has undergone some interior alteration in recent years, work which includes the removal of a partition in the ground story of the ell, addition of studs and insulation in the main volume, addition of a half bath in the end of the enclosed rear porch, and installation of modern kitchen fixtures. Of historic outbuildings, only a well house remains and it is situated about 30 feet west of the house. The property is significant to Jackson County for its association with the son of William Bybee, who was among the earliest settlers in the Rogue River Valley and whose Classic Revival house of ca. 1860 north of Jacksonville has been entered into the National Register. The Frank Bybee House is the only house of note still standing in the area to represent the fortunes of the second generation of the settler family. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Rural Gothic vernacular architecture and the attached water tower farm type. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association with an important pioneer family in the Rogue Valley.

American farmsteads have been significant elements in the settlement fabric of this country. This is especially true in the Rogue River Valley in southwestern Oregon. Following the discovery of gold in early 1852 and the rapid depletion of placer deposits, agriculture quickly replaced mining as the mainstay of the economy. In 1884 it was written "without competition from abroad, and with almost positive certainty of at least a tolerable crop, the industrious and provident farmers, became, in the course of time, the most prosperous and wealthy of their class on the Pacific slope, and the Rogue River Valley, partaking of their good fortune, advanced with rapid strides toward prosperity and plenty." (Walling: 341-42)

The Frank Bybee House and water tower are a "second generation" agricultural feature that represents an important period in the growth and development of the Rogue River Valley. Locally, the Bybee House symbolizes a way of life and an attitude toward the land that is all but extinct in this region of the state, as well, as the nation.

The Frank Bybee House stands on land that was once part of the original donation land claim of Robert E. and Sarah Campbell F. Miller. Robert, a native of Ireland, and Sarah, born in Kentucky, settled in the Valley in 1853, after residing on Sauvie Island (near Portland, Oregon), for several years. (Southern Oregon Historical Society: Ms 384) Both were elderly when they moved to southern Oregon. Two years after Robert Miller died in 1856 (Strom), his wife, Sarah, deeded a large parcel of land to Elizabeth Ann Bybee. (Lot Book: Lawyers Title Insurance Corporation)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data UTM NOT VERIFIED ABSTRACT NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 2.10 acres

Quadrangle name Medford, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

### UMT References

A 

1	0	5	0	4	7	7	5	4	6	8	5	6	5	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 Frank E. Bybee House is located in Sec. 28, T. 37S., R. 2W., W.M., in Jackson County, Oregon. It is legally described as Tax Lot 3900, Map No. 37-2W-28.

### 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 Gail E. H. Evans

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date August 30, 1980

street & number 540 South Oregon Street PO Box 339 telephone (503) 899-8216

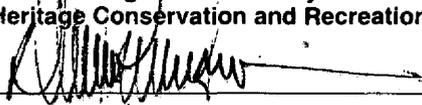
city or town Jacksonville state Oregon 97530

# 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 July 2, 1981

For HCRS use only

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

date 12/9/81

 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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Elizabeth Ann Walker and William Bybee were among the earliest, most prosperous and influential residents of the Rogue River Valley. William, born in Clark County, Kentucky in 1830, and Elizabeth Ann Walker, born in Adair County, Missouri in 1838, emigrated to Oregon in different years. Elizabeth and her parents arrived in the Willamette Valley in 1847 (Southern Oregon Pioneer Association Records: 82-83): William came to Portland, Oregon in 1853 after mining for gold in California for a few months. (Oregon Sentinel: 5/7/1879) Both lived on Sauvie Island before moving to southern Oregon. In 1852 Jesse Walker, father of Elizabeth, took up a donation land claim a short distance north of Jacksonville. In 1854 Jesse Walker became Captain of a company of volunteers that was organized to quell the disturbances between the Indians and settlers in that area. (Southern Oregon Pioneer Association Records: 82-83) William Bybee, who arrived in the Valley in the spring of 1854, was one of the fifty volunteers led by Captain Walker. (Portrait and Biographical Record. . .: 300-301)

William Bybee and Elizabeth Walker were married in November, 1854. William acquired a portion of the donation land claim of Jesse Walker and in subsequent years added to it until it is claimed that, at one time, he owned more than half of Jackson County. (Jacksonville Post: 11/14/1908) In 1879 a local newspaper reported that William Bybee was "the owner of over fifty-five hundred acres of land, a large portion of which is situated only one mile north of town (Jacksonville)." (Oregon Sentinel: 5/7/1879).

Stock raising and driving was Bybee's principal enterprise and for many years he had full control of the hog business. He was also engaged in breeding and racing horses, and built a race track near the Bybee family home, one mile north of Jacksonville. By the 1870s he became extensively involved in hydraulic mining. Prosperity also came to Bybee through the buying and selling of portions of his large land holdings. (Portrait and Biographical Record . . .: 300) In 1887 it was written that "'Billy Bybee' has done more for the general prosperity of Jackson county than any other of its citizens." (Oregon Sentinel: 5/7/1879).

In the political arena, William Bybee was a successful candidate of the Democratic party for the office of county sheriff, elected for two terms, in 1878 and 1880. (Ironically, William Bybee was charged with, but later acquitted of, the murder of Thomas F. Bybee, near Waldo in the adjoining county, in 1886. (Oregon Sentinel: 4/3/1886)) Later in life William Bybee changed from an ultra Democrat to an Independent, "voting and thinking just about as he pleases." (Oregon Sentinel: 5/7/1879).

As a reflection of the notoriety of William Bybee in southwestern Oregon, a number of cultural features in the county carry the Bybee name including Bybee Bridge, Bybee's Ferry, Bybee Springs (Resort) and Bybee Springs School.

William Bybee was but one of many of the Bybee family who emigrated to Oregon from the south central portion of the country and became prosperous farmers and influential citizens. James F. Bybee, a cousin of William, established a donation land claim on Sauvie Island (near Portland, Oregon) before moving to southern Washington. He was known on the Pacific Coast as the "King of the Oregon turf", and was successfully engaged in stock and horse raising and county politics. (Vaughan: 11).

Both the William Bybee House and the James F. Bybee House are listed in the National Register of Historic Places for their architectural and historical significance.

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Of the eleven children born to Elizabeth Ann Bybee, five survived to adulthood. The three sons, James William Walker, Francis (Frank) and Robert, continued on in the family tradition of farming. Robert relocated to Idaho at a young age. James W. W. Bybee, who became the subsequent owner of the Bybee family homestead, owned eight hundred acres of continuous range land north of Jacksonville, and was identified with business interests in the town. Like his father, James W. W. was 'one of the best known men in this portion of the state (and is) regarded as one of the enterprising, practical and successful agriculturists in southeastern (sic) Oregon.'" (Gaston, Centennial History. . . : 176-179)

Francis (Frank) Emerson Bybee, the seventh child of William and Elizabeth Bybee, was born December 30, 1865. At a young age he pursued stock raising and eventually purchased several parcels of range land in and around the Rogue River Valley. In 1898 Frank Bybee purchased 2.08 acres on which the Bybee House now stands from James D. and Hattie Stevens. (Lot Book: Lawyers Title Insurance Corporation) (Ten years before William and Elizabeth Bybee sold the same parcel to James and Hattie Stevens.) Although no precise date of construction has been established for the present house, all indications are that the house and water tower were not built until after Frank Bybee purchased his corner property. A nephew of Frank Bybee, born in 1893 who worked intimately with Frank as a stockman, recalls that he was five or six years old when Frank Bybee erected the house at Bybee Corners. (Fred Luy Jr: personal communication, 8/17/1980)

By 1926 the Frank Bybee House had assumed its present configuration and was acclaimed as one of the "prosperous ranches" along the Jacksonville Highway. "The home is a spacious eight room house equipped with modern conveniences, has electric service and a gravity water system. Surrounding the house are shade and fruit trees and a profusion of flowers... Across the highway stand the big barn, stables and outbuildings. . . F. E. Bybee has a fine farm of 100 acres devoted chiefly to the production of alfalfa, hay and in the winter for feeding cattle." (Medford Mail Tribune: 7/6/1926) Frank Bybee, who never married, was assisted in the operation of his home and farm by John and Alice Vincent, who presumably lived in the house with Bybee until his death in March 1946.

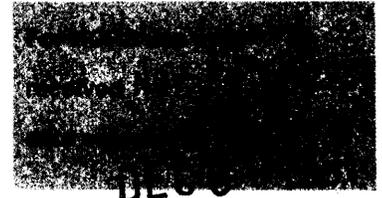
Although the Frank Bybee House has changed hands several times since 1946, the house and water tower retain their integrity of location, design and materials. Additions and exterior alterations made to the structure appear to have been completed soon after the original house was constructed, when Frank Bybee was the owner and occupant.

The Frank E. Bybee House and water tower maintain their integrity of exterior materials and design with only minor unobtrusive alterations. Stylistically, both the house and water tower are representative examples of rural vernacular architecture which embodies certain design and construction features characteristically found in this region of Oregon around the turn of the century.

Water tower structures have been ubiquitous cultural feature in the Rogue River Valley and a visual reminder of the area's deep agricultural roots. Presently, there are twenty to twenty-five water towers still standing in the county. (Clay) Because their usefulness is now viewed as being obsolete, many of these structures have decayed beyond reclamation, or have been demolished. The Frank Bybee water tower is not only a picturesque cultural feature, but is situated in one of the most conspicuous and publically visible locations in the Valley. As traditional energy sources become depleted, or increasingly costly, further study of these structures and their engineering principles may yield information which will not only provide

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insight into specific historical engineering techniques, but may be instructive in developing alternative energy sources. At the present time, there are no water tower structures in the county that have received official recognition and potential protection by inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Frank Bybee House possesses integrity of environmental and cultural setting. The building remains on its original site. The large black walnut and maple trees that shade the house and water tower and line the road, date from the general period of its construction. From time to time there has been a potential threat of encroachment of the state highway adjoining the Bybee property on two sides, as state highway officials explore alternatives for reducing the hazardous curve at Bybee Corners.

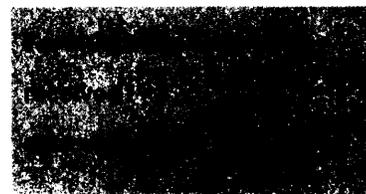
The large open agricultural fields and encircling mountain ridges provide an historically appropriate feel and setting for the Bybee property. The proposed Jackson County Comprehensive Plan should encourage continued agricultural use of the surrounding fields and provide adequate protection for the continued existence of open space in the area. The Bybee House is one of several nineteenth and early twentieth century farm houses and associated barns and outbuildings in the immediate vicinity. As such, it is a part of a distinguishable entity. It has been suggested in a recent historical sites survey of the county that the Bybee property be included in a rural agricultural district that has potential eligibility in the National Register of Historic Places. (Clay)

The Frank Bybee House is located one and one quarter miles northeast of Jacksonville, Oregon, a National Historic Landmark District. Founded by gold seekers in 1852, Jacksonville is recognized as "the State's most extensive and complete example of a late nineteenth century inland commercial and mining community. Jacksonville is nearly unique in that its fabric, its scale and spatial relationships have survived." (McKithan) Jacksonville maintained its prominence as the largest town in southwestern Oregon, and center of government, trade, culture and transportation for over fifty years. Since agriculture was the predominant economic activity that supported the town, the Frank Bybee House provides an historically appropriate entrance to the city of Jacksonville. In addition, the Bybee property and contiguous parcels of open agricultural land create an effective buffer between the town and the expanding residential sections of Medford, seven miles to the east.

The Frank E. Bybee House is presently occupied as a residence. A portion of the ground floor is being used for home occupation (sale of antiques).

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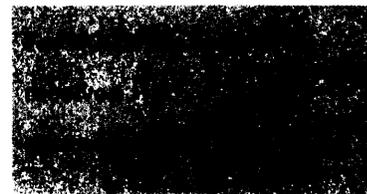
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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

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