

Oregon Historic Site Form

Donelson House
171 3rd
Hillsboro, Washington County

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address: 171 NE 3rd apprx. addr

historic name: Donelson House

Hillsboro vcnt Washington County

current/ other names: _____

Optional Information

assoc addresses: _____
(former addresses, intersections, etc.)

location descr: _____
(remote sites)

block nbr: _____ lot nbr: _____ tax lot nbr: _____

township: _____ range: _____ section: _____ 1/4: _____

zip: _____

PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

resource type: building height (# stories): 1.5

total # eligible resources: 1 total # ineligible resources:

elig. evaluation: eligible/contributing

NR status: _____

primary constr date: 191 (c.) secondary date: _____ (c.)
(optional--use for major addns)

NR date listed: _____ (indiv listed only; see Grouping for hist dist)

primary orig use: Single Dwelling

orig use comments: _____

secondary orig use: _____

primary style: Bungalow (Gen.)

prim style comments: _____

secondary style: _____

sec style comments: _____

primary siding: Horizontal Board

siding comments: _____

secondary siding: Shingle

architect: _____

plan type: Bungalow

builder: _____

comments/notes: _____

GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

survey project name or other grouping name: Hillsboro Local Inventory Update 2008 2008 Survey & Inventory Project

farmstead/cluster name: _____ external site #: 17
(ID# used in city/agency database)

SHPO INFO FOR THIS PROPERTY

NR date listed: _____

ILS survey date: _____

RLS survey date: 3/1/2008

Gen File date: _____

106 Project(s)



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ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

(Include expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings, and alterations)

Architectural Description:

The Donelson house is a one and one-half story hipped-roof wood-framed bungalow with a large triangular dormer on the façade. The building is rectangularly massed with hipped dormers on the side and back elevations. It was built on a cement foundation, and is sided with shiplap, except for the dormers which are clad with shingles.

The roof is bell cast, with a boxed eave. The most notable features on this building are the decoratively milled brackets which are crowded along the major eave and can also be seen on the eaves of the dormers. The capitals on the porch posts reflect the brackets in the eave.

The front porch runs the length of the façade. It is supported by boxed posts, in groupings of three, set on half walls. The entry door is elaborate, featuring a beveled glass light. The door is flanked by recessed diamond and lozenge leaded side lights.

The windows are one-over-one double hung sash in various sizes, groupings and distributions. The main living space is lighted by a wide bay, flanked by narrow double hung windows. Paired bays are situated in the gabled dormer. The side elevations feature polygonal bays with three windows each.

Architecturally this house resembles several other houses in the city. The common feature they share is a bracketed eave that encircles the house, and often pediments and gables. Gabled dormers and porches under the main roof line are commonly found on these houses which may be the work of one builder.

Contextual Description:

The residence is sited in a commercial district, on the west side of Third, between Main and Lincoln Streets.

HISTORY

(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period [preferably to the present])

Historical Significance:

W.H. Connell owned the lot when the house was built. He may have built it himself, or had it built on speculation, between 1907 and 1909. W.H. Connell was married to Letitia Hoover, the daughter of a local farmer and pioneer. Connell himself was a farmer from Kentucky. He sold the house to W.O. Donelson for \$4,000 in 1909.

William Donelson was the town undertaker, as well as a furniture dealer and farmer. The funeral parlor was located on the next lot to the north. It was an elaborately detailed Queen Anne-style of residence with a watertower.

William was born in Missouri in 1861. He was married in 1888 to Mary who was from Illinois. They had two children, Earl and Jessie. William had been an undertaker in Hillsboro since the 1880's. The Donelson family owned several lots and tracts of land outside of Hillsboro. William's brother Amos managed the furniture store which was across the street from this residence.

Jessie married Fred Sewell in 1909 when she was twenty. Fred was the son of John Sewell, and the grandson of a distinguished pioneer and Baptist minister who had a donation land claim northeast of Hillsboro. (see Resource #31).

They moved into a house on Main Street that Fred's father had bought for them, (see Resource #27). Fred was an assistant cashier at the Hillsboro Commercial Bank. He also served as the City Treasurer for Hillsboro in 1911-1912. Fred and Jessie were active in community life: Jessie was a well known musician who was called to perform at weddings, celebrations, and club meetings.

Earl Donelson persuaded his brother-in-law Fred Sewell to leave his position at the Commercial Bank and manage the funeral parlor. Fred and Jessie took over the management of the funeral parlor, and received the deed to the house in 1932. Earl later sold out his interest to Fred's son-in-law, Jim Dierick.

This house is significant due to its associations with the Donelson and Sewell families of Hillsboro, and because of its social importance to the community. Architecturally it exhibits fine detail and is in nearly original condition.

RESEARCH INFORMATION

(Check all of the basic sources consulted and cite specific important sources)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title Records | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Census Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Tax Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Histories |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps | <input type="checkbox"/> Biographical Sources | <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Files | <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obituaries | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> State Archives | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Photographs |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Directories | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Permits | <input type="checkbox"/> State Library | |

Local Library: _____

University Library: _____

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Historical Society: _____ Other Repository: _____

Bibliography: Sources Consulted:

The Argus Bicentennial Edition, Oct. 19, 1976.

1880 Census of Washington County

1910 Census, Thirteenth Census of the United States, Department of Commerce and Labor.

Harvey K. Hines, An Illustrated History of the State of Oregon, Chicago. The Lewis Publishing Co. pp. 935-936.

Polks Oregon and Washington Gazetteer 1903-1904.

Polks Washington County Directory, 1912-1913.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, City of Hillsboro. 1902, 1912.

Ticor Title Company

Recorded by: McLaughlin, Emde Date: 1980

O'Brien, Cole 1985