

Oregon Historic Site Form

Sewell, John, House
557 Main St
Hillsboro, Washington County

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address: 557 E Main St apprx. addr

historic name: Sewell, John, House

Hillsboro vcnt Washington County

current/
other names: Sewell, Fred & Jessie, House

Optional Information

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

location descr:
(remote sites)

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

township: 1N range: 2 W section: 31 1/4: _____

zip: _____

PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

resource type: building height (# stories): 1.5

total # eligible resources: 2 total # ineligible resources: 1

elig. evaluation: eligible/contributing

NR status: _____

primary constr date: 1919 (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: Arts & Crafts / Craftsman

prim style comments: _____

secondary style: _____

sec style comments: _____

primary siding: Horizontal Board

siding comments: _____

secondary siding: Shingle

architect: _____

plan type: _____

builder: _____

comments/notes: EC garage; NC shed

GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

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

farmstead/cluster name: _____ external site #: 27
(ID# used in city/agency database)

SHPO INFO FOR THIS PROPERTY

NR date listed: _____

ILS survey date: _____

RLS survey date: 7/1/2008

Gen File date: _____

106 Project(s)



South façade

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ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

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

Architectural Description: The Sewell house is a one-story bungalow with a hipped roof and a large, gabled, triangular dormer on the facade. It is a symmetrically composed, rectangularly-massed, wood-framed structure built on a cement foundation over a full basement. The house is sided with shiplap except for the dormers, which are finished with imbricated diamond-shaped shingles. Additional features include bell-cast eaves and a wide, plan frieze. The porch is included under the main roof, and is supported by turned pillars set on a shiplap-clad half-wall. The entry door light and the sidelights feature beveled glass. The fenestrations include one-over-one double-hung sash windows of various sizes, in pairs or in single groupings. Two brick chimneys are located on the interior.

HISTORY

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

Historical Significance: John Sewell had this house built in c.1905, probably for his son Fred and his new wife Jessie. The Sewell family is one of the oldest families in Hillsboro. Henry Sewell settled just north of Hillsboro in 1843. He was a minister, a farmer and a carpenter. Henry was born in England in 1816, and emigrated to the United States when he was sixteen. After working in Iowa and Missouri as a carpenter, he decided to come to Oregon in Iowa and Missouri as a carpenter, he decided to come to Oregon in 1843, and drove a team across the plains as payment for his meals. He settled on 526 acres of land north of Hillsboro, and married Mary Anne Gerrish in 1845. Henry served Washington County as Justice of the Peace, and County Superintendent of Schools. (See Resource #31.) His son John was born in 1854. John was married in 1880 to Eliza, and they had two children, Fred and Mary. John was a farmer, and continued to farm part of his father's original claim, raising hops and grain. Fred was married to Jessie Donelson in 1909. She was the daughter of William Donelson, who was a furniture dealer and an undertaker. Fred worked at the Commercial Bank as a cashier, but was persuaded to go to work managing the funeral parlor, and circa 1921 they moved into the house next to the funeral parlor (see resource #17), and sold this house to Maud Williams. Fred and Jessie Sewell were prominent citizens, involved in local clubs and in civic improvement. Jessie was a well known musician, and was called upon to sing or play piano at local social occasions. This house is significant due to its associations with the Sewell and Donelson families of Hillsboro.

RESEARCH INFORMATION

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

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title Records | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> City Directories | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Permits | <input type="checkbox"/> State Library | |

Local Library: _____ University Library: _____

Historical Society: _____ Other Repository: _____

Bibliography: Sources Consulted:

Argus Bicentennial Edition, Oct. 19, 1976.

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

Harvey K. Hines An Illustrated History of Oregon, Chicago, The Lewis Publishing co. 1893. pp. 935-6

Polks Oregon and Washington Gazetteer 1909-1910

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

Ticor Title Company

Recorded By: McLaughlin, Emde
O'Brien, Cole

Date: 1980, 1985