

# Oregon Historic Site Form

Sewell, John, House #1  
135 6th  
Hillsboro, Washington County

## LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address: 135 SE 6th  apprx. addr

historic name: Sewell, John, House #1

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: 1N range: 2 W section: 31 1/4: \_\_\_\_\_

zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

resource type: building height (# stories): 2

total # eligible resources: 1 total # ineligible resources:

elig. evaluation: eligible/contributing

NR status: \_\_\_\_\_

primary constr date: 19   (c.)  secondary date: 192   (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: LATE 19TH/2  TH AMER. MVMTS: Other

prim style comments: \_\_\_\_\_

secondary style: Vernacular

sec style comments: \_\_\_\_\_

primary siding: Horizontal Board

siding comments: \_\_\_\_\_

secondary siding: Wood:Other/Undefined

architect: \_\_\_\_\_

plan type: \_\_\_\_\_

builder: \_\_\_\_\_

comments/notes: (Moved Twice/3rd Floor Lost)

## GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

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

farmstead/cluster name: \_\_\_\_\_ external site #: 31  
(ID# used in city/agency database)

## SHPO INFO FOR THIS PROPERTY

NR date listed: \_\_\_\_\_

ILS survey date: \_\_\_\_\_

RLS survey date: 7/1/2  8

Gen File date: \_\_\_\_\_

**106 Project(s)**



East 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 was built around the turn of the century. It is an American Foursquare style of house; square in massing with a hipped roof. According to a previous owner this residence has been moved twice, and it once had a third story which was destroyed by fire. The building is clad in shiplap, and is finished with cornerboards and a simple frieze. The cornice is boxed. One central interior chimney is present. The house is currently set on a cement foundation. The entry door is decorative and highlighted by a transom. The headboard and door surrounds are detailed in a geometric motif in an alternating circular and linear pattern. The flanking windows also feature transoms. The hipped porch roof is supported by 4" x 4" posts in two groupings of three. The window treatments are the most striking elements of this structure. The fenestrations on the facade are paired one-over-one double-hung sash with the same decoratively detailed surrounds as the door. Polygonal bays are present on the north and south elevations. The projecting bay on the north elevation is an elaborate two-story attachment capped by a small gable, and embellished with Italianate style brackets on the first story cornice. Since the house has been moved twice and damaged by fire, it is difficult to determine its original configuration. It seems to retain the original massing, original doors and windows. The front porch and foundation are replacements.

## HISTORY

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

Historical Significance: John Sewell bought the property from X. Williams in 1905 for \$500. According to a previous owner the house was moved to this location in the 1920's from a location adjacent to Shute Park. It was during this era that the third story burned. The Sewell Family is one of the oldest families in Hillsboro. Henry Sewell settled just north of what is now Hillsboro in 1843. He was a minister, a farmer, and a carpenter, born in England in 1816. Henry emigrated to the United States when he was sixteen, and found work in Iowa and Missouri as a carpenter. In 1843 he drove a wagon across the plains as payment for his meals, and claimed 526 acres of land north of Hillsboro. He met and married Mary Anne Gerrish in 1845. Henry went to the California gold mines in 1848, and came back with \$500. He later served Washington County as Justice of the Peace, and as County Superintendent of Schools. He died in 1870. His son James was founder of North Pacific Clay Works, which was the largest factory of its kind in the state. After Henry died James, took over the farm and care of the younger children. Another son, John Sewell, was a farmer. He raised hops and grain on a portion of his father's original claim. He moved to Hillsboro circa 1905. He had this house moved here from its original location at Shute Park circa 1920. John's son, Fred (see Resources #17 and #27), was also a prominent Hillsboro citizen. The significance of this structure is historic for its associations with the Sewell family, who were pioneers and prominent in the development and progress of Hillsboro.

## RESEARCH INFORMATION

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

- |                                           |                                               |                                               |                                               |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Title Records    | <input type="checkbox"/> Census Records       | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Tax Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Histories      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps     | <input type="checkbox"/> Biographical Sources | <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Files           | <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obituaries       | <input 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: