

Oregon Historic Site Form

Methodist Meeting House Site
253rd St
Hillsboro, Washington County

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address: <u>253rd St</u> <input type="checkbox"/> apprx. addr	historic name: <u>Methodist Meeting House Site</u>
<u>Hillsboro</u> <input type="checkbox"/> vcnt <u>Washington County</u>	current/ other names:
Optional Information assoc addresses: (former addresses, intersections, etc.) location descr: (remote sites)	block nbr: _____ lot nbr: _____ tax lot nbr: _____ township: <u>1N</u> range: <u>2 W</u> section: <u>21</u> 1/4: _____ zip: _____

PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

resource type: <u>site</u> height (# stories): _____	total # eligible resources: <u>1</u> total # ineligible resources: <input type="checkbox"/>
elig. evaluation: _____	NR status: _____ (indiv listed only; see Grouping for hist dist)
primary constr date: <u>1843</u> (c.) <input type="checkbox"/> secondary date: <u>1844</u> (c.) <input type="checkbox"/> (optional--use for major addns)	NR date listed: _____
primary orig use: <u>RELIGION: General</u>	orig use comments: _____
secondary orig use: _____	prim style comments: _____
primary style: <u>Other / Undefined</u>	sec style comments: _____
secondary style: _____	siding comments: _____
primary siding: _____	architect: _____
secondary siding: _____	builder: _____
plan type: _____	
comments/notes: <u>In county</u>	

GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

survey project name or other grouping name	<u>Hillsboro Local Inventory Update 2008 2008</u>	<u>Survey & Inventory Project</u>
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farmstead/cluster name: _____ external site #: 192/277
(ID# used in city/agency database)

SHPO INFO FOR THIS PROPERTY

NR date listed: _____
ILS survey date: _____
RLS survey date: _____
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)

Contextual Description:

The site of the Methodist Meeting House is in the Tualatin Plains, five miles Northeast of Hillsboro. It was located east of 253rd Avenue, across from the Shute residence on the Richard Constable Donation Land Claim. A thick grove of fir trees and berry bushes are north of the field.

HISTORY

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

Historical Significance:

The Methodist Meeting House was the forerunner of the Hillsboro Methodist Church. The Meeting House was constructed in 1844 by Reverend Joseph Hosgry, on the Richard Constable Farm. There is no evidence that the church members had legal rights to this property, as no deed was issued. The building resembled an early day church; it had a belfry but no bell. It is said that the church members could not afford to buy a bell.

Prior to the construction of the Meeting House, camp meetings were held outdoors on this site. Jason Lee preached his first sermon here on Sunday, July 12, 1843, with a congregation of 16 people. A week later, 60 people came here for the meeting, which was followed by services in the home of Richard Constable. Constable later helped organize and build the Meeting House. Rev. James Cave preached at the Meeting House until 1860, when Rev. C. C. Hosford took over. The Meeting House was used by other denominations and for other purposes besides church services. The Baptists conducted services in the building from 1845-1852. During the early days of the Territorial and Provisional Governments, court sessions were held at the Meeting House. By 1865, a site had both been purchased in Hillsboro for a new church by a group of trustees. This site was sold shortly thereafter, and a new site for the church was purchased on what is now the corner of 3rd and Washington Streets. People stopped attending the Meeting House, and the church was abandoned in 1865. It was dismantled at this time by William O. Gibson and James Gibson, and the timber was hauled to Hillsboro for reconstruction of the new church. This church was started, but was not completed until 1872. It did have a bell, brought from Portland, for the belfry. It is said that there was an Indian uprising near the Methodist Meeting House in 1855. Because the church was the largest building at that time in the Plains area, church members built a stockade around the church to defend their families in case of an attack. After the Indian threat subsided, the fence was removed. The site of the Methodist Meeting House is significant in its association with the religious activities of early Washington County pioneers.

The actual siting of the Methodist Meeting House is unclear, although it is reputed to be in the general area of the Constable DLC. It is a very important settlement area in HGA 4.

RESEARCH INFORMATION

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

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|---|--|---|---|
| <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 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:

- Washington County Museum, Vertical Files: Methodist Churches: Lester C. Mooberry. "The Methodist Church", 1859. pp. 1-7.
Nixon, Birgetta, Ed. Hillsboro Argus-Bicentennial Edition, Washington County, 1976. P. 108.