

AURORA COLONY
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY



Aurora, Oregon

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

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Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

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Philips Dole, 1985

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Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

DEDICATION

To Clark M. Will, a Colony descendent who devoted many years of his life to diligently collecting information on the Aurora Colony. Without his maps, interviews of Colony members and descendants, photographs, genealogical charts, and myriad other materials, the historical association of Colony members and their descendants with buildings would not have been possible.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Project Scope.....	p 6
Project Objectives.....	p 7
Historical Overview of the Aurora Colony.....	p 8
Evolution of Aurora's Built Environment.....	p 9
Dating Aurora Colony Buildings.....	p 12
Aurora's Architectural Idiom.....	p 13
The Colony Period House.....	p 13
The Post-Colony Period House.....	p 14
Classification System.....	p 15
Recommendations.....	p 16
Maps.....	p 19
Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory.....	p 22
Bibliography.....	p 281

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

PROJECT SCOPE

1985

The Aurora Colony Historic Resources Inventory is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural resources and separately held properties within the boundaries of the National Register Historic District, an area of approximately 150 acres containing 143 properties. Potential archeological sites were identified and recommendations concerning their future study and interpretation are contained elsewhere in this report. As requested by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, a review of the boundaries of the historic district was also done to determine whether they should be expanded or contracted. The discussion or boundary revisions are also contained elsewhere in this report. Although all buildings and vacant properties were inventoried, the greatest emphasis in regard to physical description and statements of historical significance has been placed on structures built during the Colony period, Aurora's primary period of development, and structures built in the Colony's architectural idiom during the post-Colony period. It has been determined that some significant historic sites were not included in the 1985 original survey.

2016

The update of 2016 was to verify the information on properties within the National Register of Historic Districts, adding relevant changes that have occurred since 1988 as well as new information that has come to light by way of historical research and new photographs. Significant work was done on identifying resources with accurate tax lot number, infill, and changes to street addresses as well as introducing an updated resource identification system.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the inventory were:

- To conduct a comprehensive inventory of all cultural resources and separately held parcels within the boundaries of the Aurora Colony Historic District, Aurora, Oregon.
- To collate and present the inventory information in such a way that it will assist the State Historic Preservation Office in administering the State's Special Assessment for Historic Properties in the Aurora Colony Historic District.
- To identify and recommend, if there is a need, adjustments in the historic district boundaries due to land use changes since the district's nomination to the National Register in 1974.
- To identify future phases of survey work which should be done when resources become available, including identification of cultural resources within the vicinity, but outside the boundaries of the Aurora Colony Historic District which are related to the Colony's primary period of significance.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE AURORA COLONY

The Aurora Colony Historic District contains the nucleus of a major American communal society which developed during the third quarter of the 19th century. The only one of its kind in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, its architecture stands apart in terms of form, detail and stylistic expression. It is the most extensive 19th century architectural grouping in the northwest built by people with a Germanic background.

The Aurora Colony, or Aurora Cooperative Society, was the last of a succession of communistic settlements which was developed under the leadership of Dr. William Keil. Keil, who was born in Germany in 1812 began to attract to himself others of Germanic background and similar belief within a decade of his arrival in the United States in 1836. Keil had been trained as a tailor, a trade which he seems to have abandoned early in favor of preaching and the practice of medicine. Although not earned through formal training of professional qualifications as a physician, he was known as "Doctor Keil" for the rest of his life. Keil's group was drawn and held together by his dynamic leadership and preaching. His ideas were based on a literal reading of the Book of Acts in the Bible. Descriptions of church services recall the revival spirit of the Methodists in the 19th century, a group which Keil had briefly belonged to.

Following his preaching in the vicinity of Pittsburgh, the earliest people to join up with Keil were a number who had broken away from the Harmony Society of George Rapp at Economy, Pennsylvania, northwest of Pittsburgh. For a time, this group lived at Phillipsburg, Pennsylvania before they ventured west to join Dr. Keil in Bethel, Missouri, and then Oregon. The first colony was established in 1844 in Bethel, Missouri, and a later extension at Nineveh, Missouri; in 1853 at Willapa, Washington Territory; and in 1856 at Aurora, Oregon.

Like many other American communal societies, Keil's colonies were based on community ownership of all property. Those joining gave their worldly goods to the organization and, in return, all their needs were provided for. The architecture in Aurora reflects its communal ownership in its standardization and large scale, as the households usually contained, in addition to family members, a number of single Colony members, both young and old. An expression of the communal society is also evident in the large buildings which contained, within one structure, works hops for a number of trades.

During Keil's years in Aurora, 1856-1877, the Colony went through great expansion and development; apparently, however, in the face of growing dissatisfaction among the younger members of the Colony. Before 1866, there were no written agreements between Colony members and Keil. In that year, a brief document was written to accompany the formal transfer of leadership from Dr. Keil to seven men, Although the greatest period of expansion and architectural accomplishments followed the signing of the agreement, the agreement did not change or modify the long established practices of the Colony in any way or Keil's evident involvement. Following Keil's death in December 1877, another group was formed to administer the Colony's property and eventually the disbanding of the Colony. In 1881, the Colony was dissolved and all property divided among the former members.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

EVOLUTION OF AURORA'S BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Aurora is sited on the eastern edge of an extensive prairie in Marion County. Flowing northeast across White's quarter section, Mill Creek's meandering streambed has formed a low valley about 1,000 feet wide which is flanked by higher elevations of land. In about 1850, White constructed a dam in this valley. French Prairie settlers W.H. Rees and William Whitney constructed saw and grist mills. Later, the Colony constructed its buildings on the sloping edges of the valley, first its administrative and social institution on the hills to the northwest and, then later, its industries, business buildings and the village on the flatter rise to the southeast.

The existing Historic District lies almost entirely within the first purchase of land made by Keil in Marion County, Oregon. On June 10, 1856, he purchased 160 acres from George F. White, which constituted White's Donation Land Claim of one-quarter section. The southeast corner of the Donation Land Claim is just east of the intersection of Third and Liberty Streets; the northwest corner is about 600 feet north of the Keil Family Cemetery (Resource # 160). The northeast corner of the Donation Land Claim is not included within the current boundaries of the Historic District. It contains the sites of the second Colony School, the Colony Grist Mill and a complex of workshops including the Cooper's and Tin Smith's Shops.

On June 11, 1856, the day after purchasing White's Donation Land Claim, Keil bought David and Anna Maria Smith's Donation Land Claim of 320 acres. The Smith Claim consisted of two quarter sections; the eastern quarter section was directly south of the land formerly owned by George White. At the time of the purchase a sawmill and gristmill were on the claim dating from 1849. Later, during the Colony period, the Giesy-Kraus House (Resource #3), the Mohler House (Resource #34) and the Snyder House (Resource #23) were all located on this quarter section, as well as the Colony's Mill Pond and Dam, constructed in 1867. Although the Smith Claim contains several important Colony period sites, the Historic District extends only into the eastern quarter section to include the Snyder House, just south of Third Street, and the Mohler House, on Highway 99E near Bob's Avenue. In the southwest corner of Smith's adjoining quarter sections, lies the Aurora Cemetery; it was known as the "general cemetery" to distinguish it from the other, more exclusive Colony period burial ground for members of the Keil family.

The community at Aurora Mills developed in two phases during the Colony period, from 1857 to 1881. During the first phase (1857-1863), the population was small, numbering no more than 50 inhabitants. In the early summer of 1857, a dozen or more men arrived with Keil. The colonists used the buildings George White had constructed. White's small log cabin, which the colonists first lived in, sat just west of the sawmill close to the northern edge of Ehlen Road; the grist mill was located several hundred feet further north, and the millpond was located south of Ehlen Road. In the early years, the sawmill and grist mill provided the Aurora Cooperative Society with its main source of income. Logs were supplied to the mill as Aurora's heavily wooded site was cleared for agriculture and other Colony requirements. Colony Store records indicate a complex economy from as early as January 1 1857. Many local pioneers bartered and traded for Colony products with cash and goods.

–The first buildings the colonists constructed were of logs and built west of White's structures in a concentrated group on the "Point." The "Point" was a sloping elevated site bordering the flood plain to the northwest, a few hundred yards from the mills. It is located at the northwest corner of the junction of Ehlen and Airport Roads, then known as French Prairie Road and Boones Ferry Road, respectively. The most important of the new Colony buildings was the huge, hewn log, "das Gross Haus" that was built for Dr. Keil in about 1859 marking the end of the first phase of Colony development is the arrival of the large group of immigrants in the fall of 1863 and construction of the John Giesy House, completed in

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

1864. The Giesy House may be the oldest surviving Colony period building. It and its outbuildings are located directly across from the site of the enclave of Keil buildings on the Point, a suitable location for the man who managed the grist mill and was one of the most important leaders in the community.

The second phase of Colony development lasted from 1863 until the dissolution of the Colony in 1881. The three migrations of 1863, 1865 and 1867 greatly increased Aurora's population; they numbered about 150, 75 and 50, respectively. The great influx of colonists not only required residences, but also specialized buildings for the many trades and craftsmen. Within this group of colonists there were many representatives of the building trades which performed this construction. Although in the fall of 1863 the only building activity mentioned in the area of the present village was the construction of the Hotel and a bridge across the Pudding River, by 1872 residences for a dozen households had been constructed within the village and the immediate vicinity. Some households resided in the Hotel and in the workshop buildings. Some of the newcomers also settled on newly acquired outlying farms in Marion and Clackamas Counties. In 1865, the land holdings in Marion County amounted to 1,440 acres, and by the 1870s the acreage had increased about ten-fold.

The extensive construction which followed the mid-1860s coincided with the major shift in the administration of the Colony, from Dr. William Keil to the seven trustees. A number of the developments were industrial; beginning in 1867 a new dam was constructed several hundred yards south of White's old millpond, greatly improving the watershed. It appears the alignment of the railroad constructed in 1869-70 through Aurora was known long before its actual construction, as the mill race parallels the alignment and the new sawmill, woolen mill and grist mill constructed soon after were all placed closed to the future railroad right-of-way.

The Hotel, built in 1863-67, was the first structure whose position adjoined the alignment later taken by the railroad. In addition to serving as a commercial hotel with a famous dining room, the Hotel also served as a residence for colonists. Before the construction of the railroad, the Hotel served as a stage stop on the stage road which passed right in front of it. The road later became Aurora's Main Street and a number of commercial buildings were constructed along it in the 1870s. Some of these were part of the Colony's private enterprise system, such as the building which housed the Colony Members' Supply Store (Resource #98), but a number catered to both the colonists and the general public: the F. Keil & Co. General Merchandise Store (Resource #68), the Geisy Drugstore (Resource #78), and the Railroad Station (resource 97). In 1872, the plat of "Aurora" was recorded in the Marion County Court house. In that same year, distribution of Colony property was made, including rural acreage as well as village lots. Which village houses existed before that date is not known; although it appears that the Andrew Voght House on First Street (Resource # 61) and the Leonard Will House on Main Street (Resource # 64) were built in the mid-1860s. However, it appears that a number of other houses were built after the distribution of lots; the William Fry House (Resource #73) is one example.

In 1873, journalist Charles Nordhoff described the houses as being factory-like, the village disorderly and rather unimaginative or not tasteful -- he objected to the use of a grid layout. However, the New York Herald journalist wrote with a certain pomp and circumstance that gives a condescending impression. Other visitors spoke of the neatness. The layout did provide for unusually wide streets which had no curbs. At a later date, Main Street at least had boardwalks, while other streets had footpaths in the grass verges. Where buildings were enclosed by picket fences, their yards were distinguished from the street; in unfenced yards, the spaces merged. Today, streets which are representative of Aurora's 19th century character are Liberty Street south of Highway 99E, and Second Street between the F. Keil & Co. Store and the William Fry House.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

The village had an order and pervasive pattern. Buildings for trade and business activities were regularly and widely dispersed throughout the village. The location of the Ox Barn is representative of this. The typical residential complex included several outbuildings: a small barn, a woodshed, a wash house and often a shop building. The house and its lot with vegetable garden, enclosures for stock, piles of firewood and materials related to the specific trade carried on in the shop, had an utilitarian character. The houses were regularly spaced and, apparently without exception, stood on the corner with no more than two houses to a block; however, not every corner had a house. It appears that Colony period public and commercial buildings in the village were also sited on corners, with the exception of the Martin Giesy Drugstore (Resource #78), which sat near the center of its block.

Up into the 1890s few substantive changes appear to have occurred within the village. However, by the late 19th century, photographs show an increase in commercial and public buildings, especially along Main Street. The increase of commercial buildings for this time was tied to the town of Aurora being incorporated in 1893. Stylistically and functionally, the singular, more focal character of the utopian center was transformed into a typical small Oregon town. Through the years, individual buildings have been lost to fire and owners' changing needs. However, the most destructive impact was the State Highway construction in 1933 and 1934, which caused the demolition of several major Colony period buildings and cut a swath diagonally through the original grid layout of the village.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

DATING AURORA COLONY BUILDINGS

While definite construction dates are hard to find, sources such as newspaper reports, personal letters, memoirs, county deeds, and other records provide guidance. Communal ownership obscures conventional sources of information and there is little oral tradition that is applicable. However, the 1860 and 1870 censuses and the 1867 and 1872 directories have provided some assistance in dating buildings of the Colony period.

Within the boundaries of the Historic District, the 1860 census appears to list only two households of Colony members, William Keil's and Henry Snyder, Sr.'s. Both contained immediate family members as well as other adult male and female Colony members. The Keil household numbered 19 and the Snyder household numbered 11. It is assumed that these two households lived in log structures which are frequently mentioned as standing on the "Point" and included Dr. Keil's "das Gross Haus." The 1860 census also lists several families who had been members of the Bethel Colony, but did not join the cooperative in Aurora. It appears that all of these families lived outside the Historic District boundaries; they include the households of Christian Boehringer, Henry Hager, and William Keil's brothers, Charles and Frederick. This tends to indicate that there were no residential buildings within the village until after 1860. It appears that little construction occurred before 1864-1865 and that no buildings constructed prior to that date survive.

A number of other surviving Colony period buildings have characteristics similar to these buildings; based on this, a construction date of circa 1870 has been assigned to indicate that they were probably built between 1864 and 1875. A few buildings, with characteristics which indicate a slightly later construction date, have been assigned a date of circa 1875.

Oral tradition, as well as marriage and property records provide more information for dating construction of buildings.

AURORA' S ARCHITECTURAL IDIOM

The Colony Period House

One kind of house, in general form and character, was built in the village of Aurora from about 1864 to 1881, during the Colony period. The farm houses built outside the village were also of this kind, although the farm houses tended to be larger. The typical house can be described as follows:

The gable roof house is sided with its eaves parallel to the street. It has a three-bay front facade and is two bays in depth, about 35 feet long and 20 feet deep. One and a half to two stories in height, it usually has windows on the second floor front facade. The attic ends may have two fixed, six-light sash windows. Each gable end contains an interior brick chimney, but of unequal sizes, one for a stove and the other for a fireplace. A one-story lean-to, containing an open porch and enclosed room, extends across the full length of the rear facade. The main body of the house has two rooms on the main floor, and two on the second. The house seldom has a front porch, although most surviving houses have porches which were added later, during the post-Colony period. The continuous or pier foundation is constructed of brick and an exterior staircase with brick walls usually provides access to a full basement.

The typical house is predominantly 18th century in character. It has white painted, horizontal weatherboarding. There may be a pronounced asymmetry in the position of its "central" front door, which usually has a transom and is sometimes double-leafed. The house rarely has Classical detailing and curvilinear moldings in its exterior finish. However, it always has six-over-six, double-hung sash windows which are smaller in size on the second story than on the first. The window surrounds are flat boards and the head is capped with a flat projecting, rectangular cap about a half-inch square.

The characteristic eave detailing is utilitarian. The front eave is boxed with its soffit perpendicular to the house wall, in contrast to the eave at the rake, which is open. The rake eave has a projection of a foot, and a suspended fascia. The soffit is deeply recessed and made of a painted board set directly against the roof sheathing. The intersection of the rake with the ends of the front facade boxed soffit and fascia is often resolved by carrying the horizontal line a foot or so around the end of the house. This produces a triangular boxed element which has no moldings. It is utilitarian in character and in placement makes no reference to a classically detailed eave return. This eave intersection is one of the most characteristic details of Aurora Colony architecture, almost exclusive in Oregon to that group's building. Occasionally, just below the eave intersection, a few houses also have a residual, two dimensional version of a Classical eave return. It consists of the architrave board, but not the cornice, carried around from the front facade. At its simplest, it is one flat board set flush with the surface of the siding, as on the Frederick Keil House (Resource #111). A more complex assembly consists of two or three graduated rectangular boards as a cap which is a continuation of the bed moldings, such as on the Charles Snyder House (Resource #23). This unorthodox but pleasing version of Classical detailing is rarely found in Oregon outside the Colony territory.

A common exception to horizontal weatherboarding is the use of vertical boards and battens. The vertical board and batten house is of single wall "box" construction. However, it should be noted that some box constructed houses in Aurora are covered with horizontal weatherboarding.

A remarkable quality of the Colony period Aurora house is that, contrary to the general impression, it

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

can be said that no two are alike. Within a very conservative and limited vocabulary, and with the distinct expression of only one or two builders, each house is rather easily distinguished from all others. This is a feature also found in furniture and craft made within the Colony indicating an appreciation for individualistic aspect.

The Post-Colony Period House

For a generation following the death of Dr. William Keil in 1877, the general characteristics of the typical Colony period house survived in post-Colony period houses built for Colony members and their descendants. The post-Colony house is easily distinguished from its predecessor by the following modifications which characterize it:

The house is sided with shiplap. Its two interior brick chimneys are the same size, the smaller stove type, and each has a base, shaft and pronounced bands of corbelling forming the cap. The front door bay is covered with a small hip roof porch detailed with turned posts and jigsaw brackets. Post-Colony eave detailing lacks the distinctive utilitarian eave and rake construction of the Colony period with its total absence of molding and Classical elements. There are moldings at the crown and bed of the eave assembly and on the horizontal caps of openings. The windows are one-over-one, double-hung sash. At the rear of the house there is a one or two-story kitchen wing enclosing two to three rooms. It has a third stove chimney, porches with shed roofs, and often a pantry within the porch area.

The building has a tall and light character which is in contrast to the rather squatty and heavy sense of the typical Colony period house. The detailing and moldings have the sharper, more attenuated attributes of late Gothic, rather than the attributes of the Classical.

It is not surprising that these architecturally conservative houses were usually the first homes of individuals who had played a major role in the Colony during Dr. Keil's lifetime. The following post-Colony houses conform to this trend: Jacob Miller House (Resource #18), Samuel Giesy House (Resource #54), William Miley House (Resource # 48), and George Miller House (Resource #39).

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The properties surveyed within the boundaries of the Aurora Colony Historic District have been classified into three categories:

Contributing: Buildings that have been constructed between 1856-1920, Aurora's Period of Significance
SP (Special Property) 1856-1883 Colony
SP (Special Property) 1884-1900 Post Colony if the building is on the original application list for the national historical district

Noncontributing: Buildings that have been constructed any time after 1921.
Not in Period (NP): Buildings constructed after Aurora's Period of Significance (1921 – present)

Vacant: Properties that have no buildings or structures sited on them, including alleys, parking lots, remnant parcels left over from the realignment of Highway 99E, pasture land and wood lands.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RECOMMENDATIONS

Oregon State Special Assessment Program

The Oregon State Special Assessment Program is a state-sponsored incentive program established in 1975 to encourage the preservation and appropriate rehabilitation of properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Under this program a property is specially assessed for a period of ten years. This allows the owner to restore or improve the condition of the property and not pay additional taxes on the resulting increase in the property's value until the ten-year benefit period expires.

In order to be eligible, an Aurora property must be listed either as a Contributing resource in the Aurora Colony Historic District or be individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For more information visit <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/HCD/SHPO/pages/tax.aspx> or contact Oregon State Historic Preservation office.

Aurora Colony Historic District Boundaries

The existing boundaries of the historic district have been reviewed in respect to land use changes since the district's nomination to the National Register in 1974, and in respect to Colony-related historic resources which are not contained within the existing boundaries. Based on this review, the following recommendations are made:

1. That no adjustments to the boundaries are necessary due to land use changes since 1974; and
2. That the following boundary expansions, described in general terms and depicted on the attached map, be considered in order to include within the Historic District, structures and sites which are related to Aurora's primary and secondary periods of development:
 - a. The northern boundary be extended east along the northern edge of George White's Donation Land Claim (DLC) and south along its eastern edge and the eastern edge of the plat of "Aurora" to include the Aurora Colony School site, Hurst Mill site, and other industrial buildings on the east side of Liberty Street north of First Street;
 - b. The northern boundary be extended to the west along the northern edge of William Yergen's DLC to the Wilsonville cut-off, then south along the cut-off to the northwest corner of David Smith's DLC, then south along the western edge of the Smith DLC, then east along the southern line of Smith's DLC to the railroad right-of-way, then north along the railroad to the Mohler property (Resource #34) to include the Park House site, the Henry Fink House site, Aurora Colony Cemetery, and 1867 Colony Dam and Millpond;
 - c. The eastern boundary be extended south along the east side of Liberty Street to south of Bob's Avenue, and the southern boundary, between Liberty Street and Highway 99E, include properties on the south side of Bob's Avenue to include a number of buildings from the secondary period of development associated with Colony members, descendants and others, including the Charles Snyder Barn, Aurora City Jail, and John Sadler Residence.

The proposed boundary expansions have been described in general terms; it is expected that they may be refined upon closer examination.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

Archeological Studies of Colony Period Sites

Within the present historic district boundaries, several sites offer potential for historic archeological studies of Colony period architecture, building materials, and aspects of material culture. Most of the sites in the following list are unique, as they were locations of important and specialized Colony activities that are no longer represented by surviving Colony period buildings.

Resource Number	Site
61	Andrew Voght House
64	Leonard Will House
77	William Fry's Blacksmith Shop
78	Martin Giesy's Drugstore
83	Mill Creek Bridges
84	Old Aurora Hall
88	Sawmill Log Pond
92	Colony Mills and Office
93	Spinning and Lumber Mills
98	Aurora Colony Store and Workshop and Andrew Giesy House
109	George White's Grist Mill
112	Carpentry Finishing Shop
127-128	Aurora Colony Church
145	White's Dam and Millpond
154	David Smith's Sawmill

Historic archeological investigations of these sites are recommended, as they would provide information about the entire community. A number of sites contain a complex of buildings and the spaces around and between buildings may have a high yield of artifacts because of the intensive, functional uses made of these areas. Building complexes have consisted of buildings related to a specialized use or trade and residential buildings with supportive outbuildings, including small scale agricultural structures. Unfortunately, most of the sites have been disturbed through repeated plowing or through grade changes for the construction of parking lots or roads. However, even in these cases, artifacts may survive, as most residential buildings had basements of brick or board construction. Almost all of the identified archeological sites are vacant and few had more than one Colony building constructed on any specific site.

Sources which will be helpful in providing more detailed information on the location of Colony period sites are:

- Photographs of Aurora, especially the circa 1889 panoramic view;
- 1922 Sanborn Map;
- State Highway Plans for the Pacific Highway, Project Number E-7A, December 1932, and Mill Creek Bridge, Project Number NRS 231, January 1934.
- Marion County Deed Books

Colony-Related Cultural Resources in the Aurora Vicinity

The Aurora Colony was economically dependent on both agricultural and industrial undertakings. However, the boundaries of the present historic district cover only industrial sites, a fraction of the Colony's holdings, and omit the Colony's farm lands and buildings.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

A specialized research project should focus on identification of the Colony's agricultural holdings, including buildings, general house hold and farming operations, orchards, and other specialized operations such as wool and fruit production. Some sites may also be appropriate for archeological studies. Identify original orchard sites and possible original building sites by growth of flowers and vegetation.

There are also several Colony-related institutions and industries outside the historic district boundaries. Some were owned by Colony members, other were not. All of these sites, now without historic structures, are worthy of both research and site investigation. The following sites are especially recommended because of their significance to the Colony:

- The Colony Schools, north of the district;
- The Hurst Grist Mill Complex, northeast of the district;
- The Cooper's and Tinner's Shop, east of the district;
- The Park House and surrounding garden, north of the district;
- The 1867 Colony Dam and Millpond, southwest of the district;
- The Yergen Brickyard, northwest of the district;
- The Yost Brickyard, across the Pudding River in Clackamas County;
- The Tannery, in Clackamas County

Other Colony-Related Research Projects

The following research projects are recommended to assist in better understanding the historical associations of existing sites:

- Archival research in the Clackamas and Marion County Court houses, including the examination of deeds, mortgages, assessments, probates and wills; this would assist in the tracing of the early history of individual properties, determination of construction dates and the owners of Aurora Colony buildings and sites.
- Further research on where people lived, as distinguished from ownership, especially following the migrations of 1863 and 1864; this would provide information about the relationship of Aurora architecture to the social fabric of the community.
- Coordinated review of the census records, early photographic overviews and genealogical information; this would assist in gaining some of this information.
- Expansion of the existing collection of oral histories on individuals associated with particular buildings to include topical investigations relating to specific buildings such as the William Keil House, industries such as the carding or spinning mill, events such as the building of the railroad through Aurora, and trades such as carpentry.

In 2016, we note that some properties are not currently located within the Historic District could be potentially eligible for the Oregon State Special Assessment Program for Historic Properties if they became listed on the National Register of Historic Places or if the Aurora Colony National Historic District boundaries were enlarged to include the area from Third Street to Bob's Avenue on both Liberty and Main Streets. The Aurora Community Cemetery is also a potential property for National Register listing, yet outside of the Historic District.

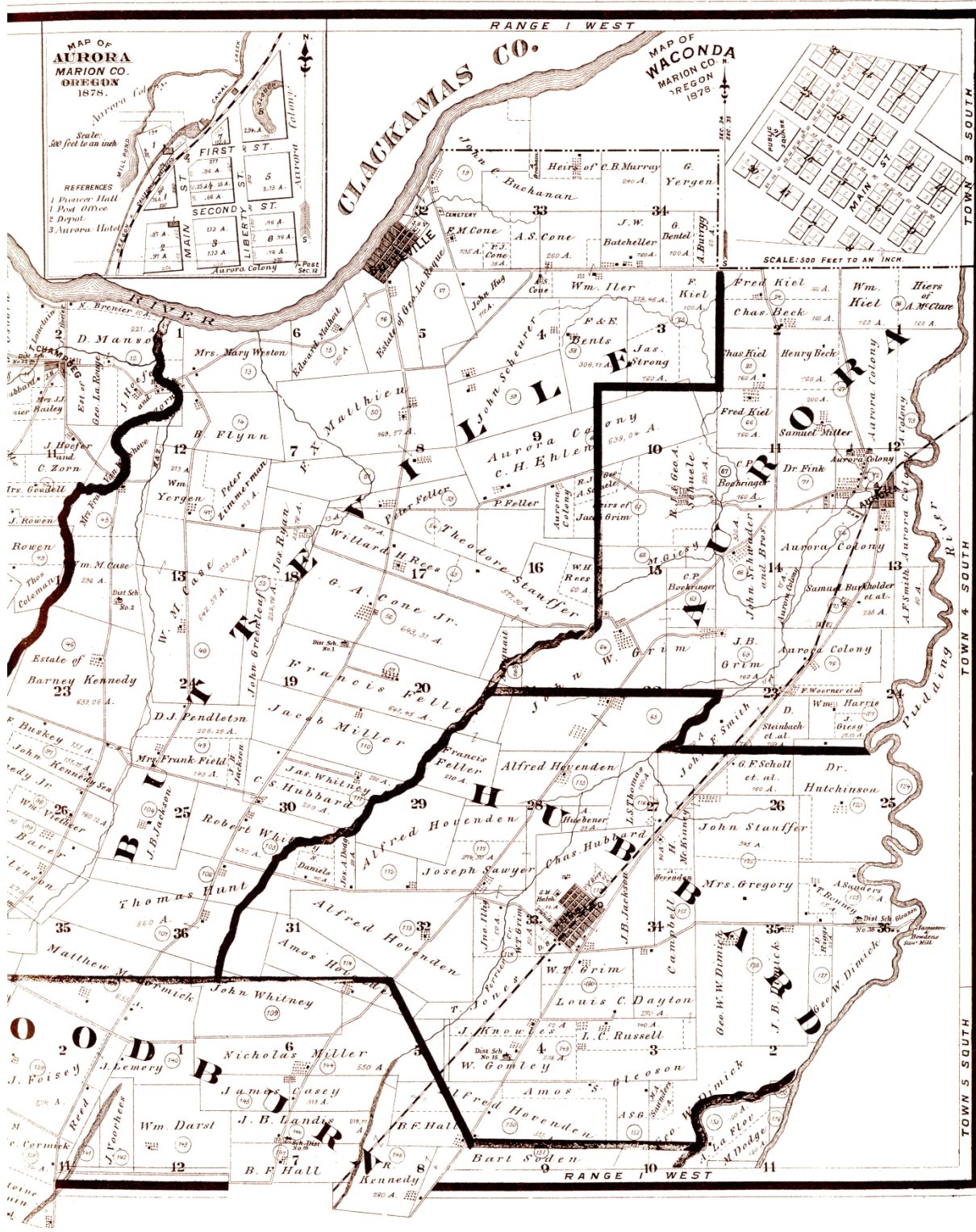
Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

Maps

Illustrated History Atlas for Marion and Linn Counties¹

SCALE 50 CHAINS TO AN INCH.

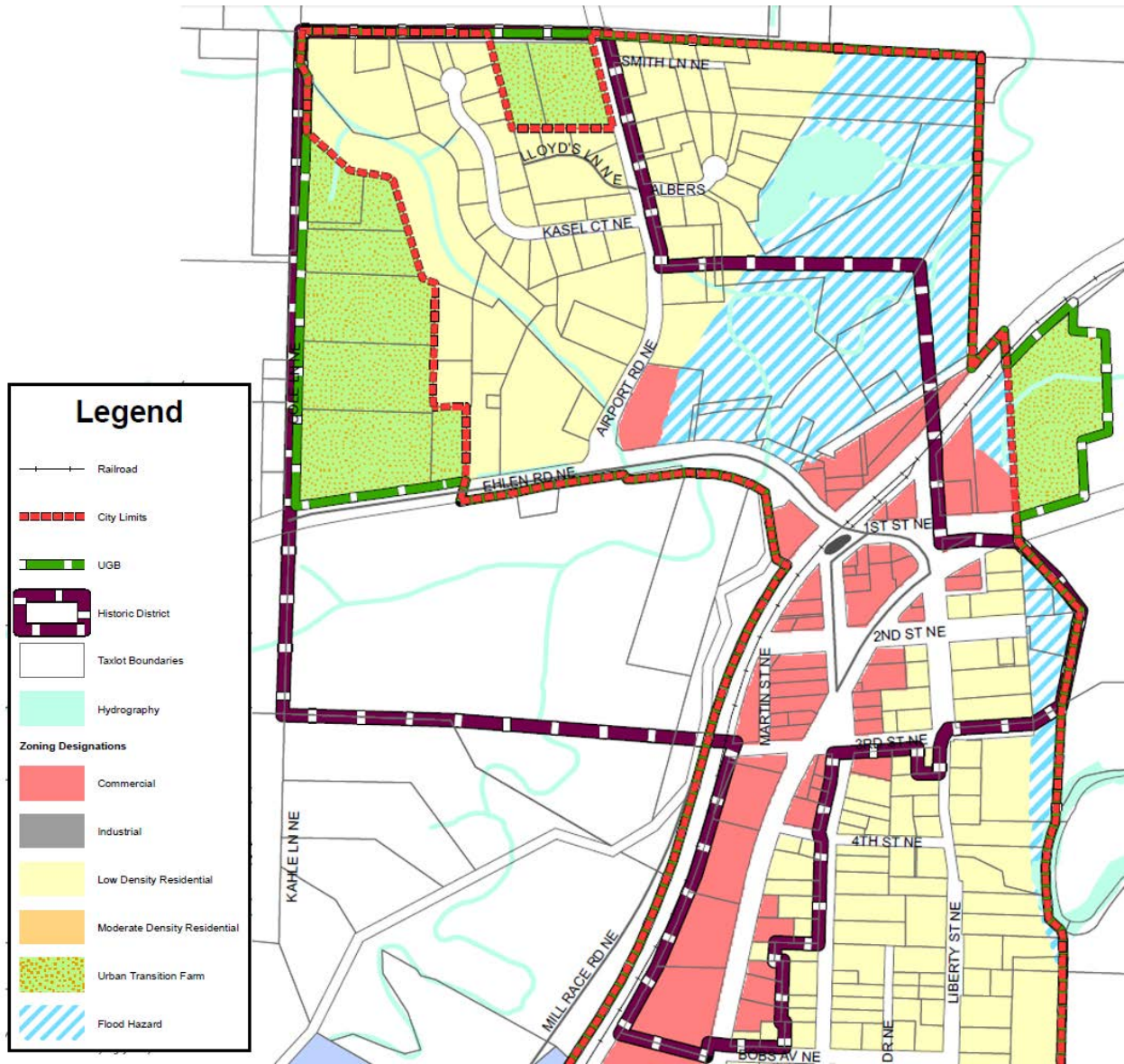
29



¹ Illustrated History Atlas for Marion and Linn Counties Oregon. 1878. Page 29

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

Aurora Historic District²

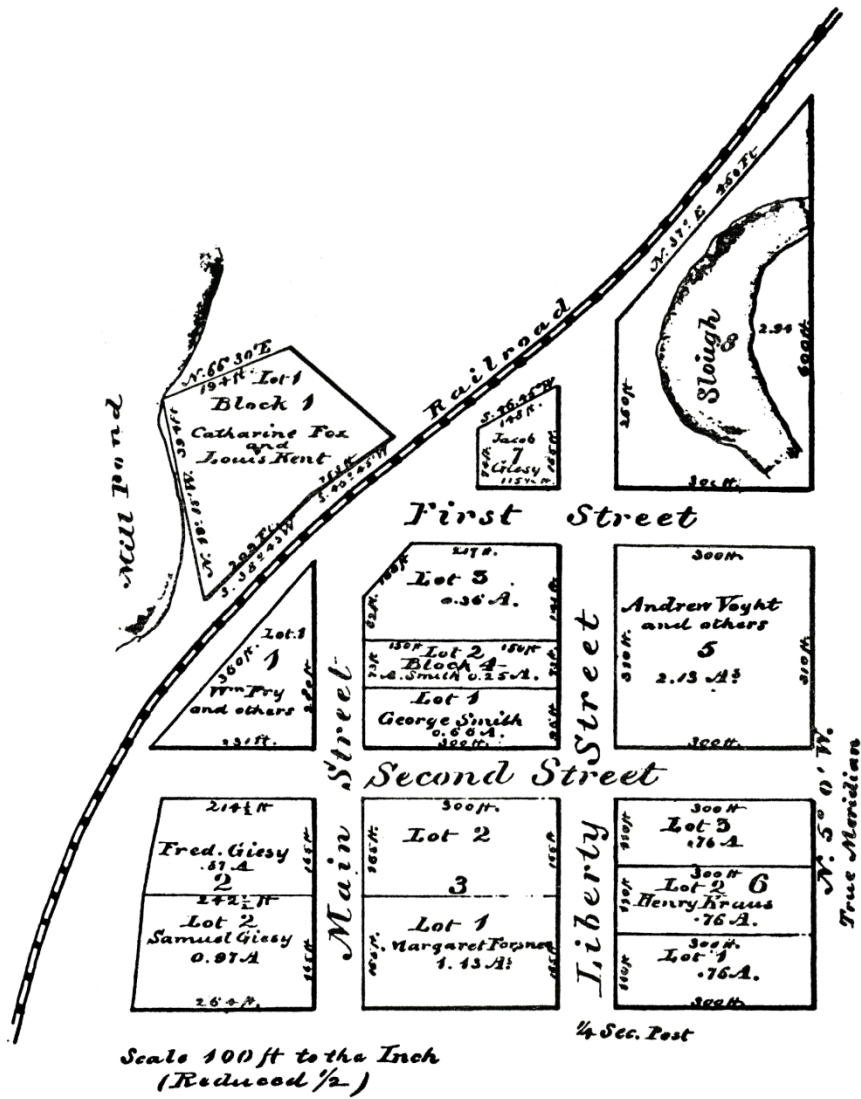


² Aurora Zone Map

http://www.ci.aurora.or.us/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=119&Itemid=181

1872 Map of Aurora by John Giesy

Map of Aurora,



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE#: 1
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 15018 2nd Street NE Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#:-041W12CD07400 (partial)
Property ID: R97914

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Ox Barn
YEAR BUILT: c1863
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Barn/Museum



The Ox Barn is believed to be one of three existing community buildings which date back to the Colony period; the other two are the Octagon Building (Resource #70) and the F. Keil & Company General Merchandise Store (Resource #68). Although altered to serve as a museum for the Aurora Colony Historical Society in the 1960s, the building today has substantially the same commercial, not barn-like, appearance it has had for over 100 years. William Miley, who came on the 1863 wagon train, stated that both the Ox Barn and Horse Barn were under construction when he arrived. Interior study affirms this statement. According to local tradition, the Ox Barn was one of two community barns located within the village of Aurora, and built to house oxen used in the community's heavy work in the mills and construction. The other barn, known as the Blue Barn (Resource # 96) and long since demolished, was for horses. The Blue Barn stood in the half block east of the railroad station.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

The two-story gable roof Ox Barn is 61 feet long by 30 feet deep. An 11 foot deep lean-to extends 44 feet across the rear. The building is two bays in depth on its east end and four bays on its west end. The front facade is eight bays in length on the second story and nine on the first. The roof, which has a pitch of about 40 degrees, is covered with shingles and a shingled ridge cap. There are two massive exterior fireplace chimneys built of randomly placed used brick; one is located on the east gable end, the other on the rear facade against the eaves between the western end of the building and the lean-to.

The eaves are boxed in with their soffits parallel to the slope. The fascia are plain flat boards, but at the juncture of the soffit and the wall, there is a shaped bed molding. Attached to the eaves, there are half-round metal gutters with metal downspouts. The eave construction completely lacks any of the characteristics found on the eaves of Colony period architecture. All exterior wood surfaces are painted white. The siding is a shiplap with a wide exposure, approximately eight inches. On the front facade, it is carried down to the ground, concealing the crawlspace beneath the building. There is no water table and plain boards cover the corners.

The windows are four-over-four, double-hung sash except for one 12 light fixed sash in the west end of the attic. Smaller sized, four-over-four windows are used in the rear lean-to. A fire escape leads down from a window on the east end of the building. There are two doors in the front facade; one is a simple paneled, single-leaf door, the other a double-leaf which appears to be handmade and reused from a Colony period building. A circa 1900 photograph shows the Ox Barn with a single-leaf door in this position. In front of each door, there are three or four wooden steps with plain handrails supported on rectangular spindles.

Discussion of the sequence of the alterations to the building is limited because there are no known photographs before the 1880s to document the buildings original appearance, or provide visual evidence that it was built as a barn in the 1860s or 1870s. The exterior finishes, shiplap siding, eave detail and window type all indicate either that the building was extensively altered about 1880 or that it was not built until then. The Charles Keil (Hugo Keil) Farm house, outside the district which has details similar to that of the Ox Barn, was built in 1879. The circa 1889 panoramic view of Aurora shows the Ox Barn from three-quarters of a mile distance. Although its detailing is not clear, the white painted structure had the same form, size and regularly spaced openings as it does today.

A photograph taken between 1897 and 1902 shows the building similar to its present appearance, although the rear lean-to across the entire back. On the ridge there were two stove-type brick chimneys, which no longer stand. The second story front facade had seven four-over-four, double-hung sash windows and the first story had five windows alternating with four doors of single-leaf, four panel design. Across the two western bays of the front facade there was a sign, "Fred Will, General Merchandise." When photographed in 1962, the building was in derelict condition. At that time, the chimneys and openings across the front facade were the same as circa 1900. The western gable end had a six-over-six window in the attic, two four-over-four windows at the second story and two garage size doors at the first story. A reconstructed lean-to across the back also had a similar garage door. The garage doors were alterations, made subsequent to the circa 1900 photograph.

The exterior alterations made between 1963 and 1966 when the building was converted to a museum include: demolition of part of the rear lean-to, the addition of windows including four each at the first and second stories of the western facade, removal of two entrance doors on the front facade, replacement of one single-leaf door with a double-leaf door, and the addition of two large exterior chimneys, one on the eastern facade and one on the rear.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

The building, which faces north toward Second Street, is located on the southeast corner of Second and Liberty. It is sited on the front property lines near the sidewalk, which emphasizes its corner location and is characteristic of Colony-era buildings. The grounds of the Ox Barn Museum have been enclosed with a white picket fence about three feet high. The fence simulates one of Aurora's traditional fence patterns, i.e. one-by-four boards set vertically with the upper end of each piece cut in tear drop or lozenge shape. The fence is about one foot lower than the traditional fence, for the horizontal board usually placed at ground level and upon which the pickets normally are placed has been omitted. Within the fence enclosure, the grounds contain various types of older plants which have been collected, a French burr millstone from the gristmill, and four other structures, (Resource #1).

The early history of the building is largely derived from memories of William Miley and George Wolfer, both members of the 1863 wagon train from Bethel, MO to Aurora, OR. The earliest specific statement that this building served as an ox barn is from William Miley's oral tradition. Clark Will's 1924 map, which was derived from sketches provided by octogenarian George Wolfer, a Colony member who had come to Aurora in 1863 correlates this information. It has been suggested that the building was in existence as early as 1859, although it has been observed that all the oxen from the 1856 wagon train were sold and that not until the arrival of 42 wagons in 1863 would there have been need for such a barn. Although the 1865 Marion County Assessment lists the stock of Dr. William Keil and Company as three horses, 15 mules, 42 cattle, it is possible that the oxen could have been included in the cattle enumeration. Oxen were used in the Colony; George Wolfer mentions them in 1869, "Ox team work, at which I did lots while helping work up the Oregon-California railroad grade through the Aurora section." It is also assumed that many yoke of oxen were used in constructing the Colony dam and its long millrace in 1867.

In 1881, the building was sold to Christian Zimmerman, an Aurora Colony carpenter. In 1884, the property was acquired by Fred and Henrietta Will. It was then renovated into a general merchandise store and operated for more than 20 years under the Will family -- Mrs. H. Will, Fred Will and Alan H. Will, Fred's son. Mrs. H. Will is believed to be Margaret, the wife of Capt. Henry Will, a first cousin once removed of Fred Will. The directories first list Mrs. H. Will (1831-1898) in relation to the store in 1886, but her business was probably in operation several years before that date. In 1884 and 1885, Henry Fry in his account book records purchasing such items as cups and saucers, as well as food, from F. Will. Henry may also have had lodgings in the building, for most months he records paying F. Will rent of \$2.00, and on occasion, \$1.00.

In a 1956 publication, Mansfield said that the building "was the former headquarters of the Hurst Hauling Business, which operated a pioneer-type transfer company." The 1905 directory is the first reference to Ezra Hurst, a hop grower. The 1910 census lists him as a farmer, but starting in 1921 through 1935 he is associated with the trucking business, Hurst Truck Line. Ezra Hurst does not appear to be related to the Hursts associated with the flour mill. Later uses of the building are summarized in roughly chronological order as "a combined grocery and residence, a garage, storage and residence."

In 1931, Amy Will Hurst, Ezra's wife and daughter of Fred Will, inherited the property. In 1963, it was sold to the Aurora Colony Historical Society. The Ox Barn was officially opened as a museum on Sunday, September 25, 1966. Governor Mark Hatfield and Dr. Burt Brown Barker were speakers, and Mrs. Albert H. Powers presided at the occasion, which was attended by more than 1,000 people.

While all of this 1985 research is interesting, Colony descendants living in the 1960s asserted that the

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

building was, in its original form, the Aurora Colony's Ox Barn. An interior study of the building supports this notion.

This building was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 2
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 2nd Street NE Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#:-041W12CD07400 (partial)
Property ID: R97914

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: George Steinbach Cabin
YEAR BUILT: 1876
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Museum



The George Steinbach Cabin is a hewn log structure. It was a temporary home built until a more substantial home could be afforded. In form and plan, the log structure is similar to many which, at one time, stood throughout western Oregon. Although it was built in 1876 during the Colony period, it is difficult to ascribe to it any features specifically representative of the Germanic background of its owners. However, it is one of three surviving log structures from the Aurora Colony which provide further opportunity for architectural research.

The cabin, a rectangle 29 feet by 26 feet, is a one and a half-story hewn log structure with one-story lean-tos attached to its south and west sides. Although the lean-tos look additive and are of frame construction, in two places the interior frame members are logs which extend from the main log

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

structure itself, indicating that the whole was constructed at one time. The log portion of the building is about 15 feet by 18 feet, and the lean-to project another 11 feet.

The walls are constructed of horizontally laid logs, hewn flat inside and out. Their diameters are about eight to ten inches, which is unusually small in section for log construction. The corner notching is a full dovetail, but the log overlaps are only one or two inches, creating unusually large chinking spaces between logs, as much as six to eight inches. On the east wall, the ends of the rafters which support the second floor can be seen. The log walls extend to the eaves, and above them in the gable ends horizontal weatherboarding covers over the stud walls. The north and west walls of the lean-to are also covered with horizontal weatherboarding. All wood surfaces are, at present, unpainted and natural in finish.

The main roof pitch is about 40 degrees. From its eave line spring the lean-to roofs at a pitch of about 30 degrees. The roofs are covered with shingles and the ridge has a shingled cap. The eaves are open with a small plain board fascia. A brick chimney about 15 inches by 30 inches pierces the ridge at the south end of the log portion of the building.

The front door is constructed of plain, flush face, vertical boards detailed with cross battens behind. The two window openings on the eastern front elevation and the two on the north are horizontally placed rectangles, each composed of a pair of six light sash, placed side by side. In the second floor gable end a single six-light sash is also placed on edge with its three panes making the height of the opening and the two panes the width. The non-traditional treatment of openings, as well as the less expert and lighter character of the log construction supports the late 1876 date, assigned to it by tradition.

George Steinbach, who had come to Bethel in 1845 with his parents, came to Aurora in 1875 at the age of 51. The cabin, which was built on the Steinbach farm on Miley Road north of Aurora, was used as a home until replaced in 1883 by a new house. After 1883, the log house was used as an outbuilding on the farm, including a machine shed, granary, and work shop. In 1967, the cabin was donated to the Aurora Colony Historical Society by Ernest and Marian Becke, owners of the farm and a grandson of George Steinbach. It was moved to the Museum grounds in July 1967. There exists no description of the building before its removal to the Museum grounds or what modifications or repairs were made when it was restored. In 1967, *The Statesman* described the move as being made "without losing a mud chink", which suggests that the log portion may have been substantially intact. Areas of the lean-to walls appear to be reconstructions, and the chimney was rebuilt following the move reusing the old brick. The log cabin was formally dedicated and opened to the public September 1969.

The building, which faces east, is located in the yard behind the Museum at the southwest corner of the Aurora Colony Historical Society property. To the east of the cabin, there is an open equipment shed. It is used to house wagons and agricultural machines and was constructed in the 1960s. It is sited along the southern property line and is entirely open on its northern side, which faces the lawn behind the museum. It is a simple utilitarian structure of vertical boarding on an exposed frame, 75 feet long and 25 feet deep.

The west side of the cabin siding was redone in the 1990s.

This building was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 3
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 15028 2nd Street NE Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#:-041W12CD07400 (partial)
Property ID: R97914

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Emma Wagner Giesy-George Kraus House
YEAR BUILT: c1875
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Museum



By tradition, Emma Wagner Giesy, the widow of Christian Giesy, and George Kraus are associated with the Colony period Giesy-Kraus House. The house was the property of the Kraus family for nearly 100 years until it was donated to the Aurora Colony Historical Society in 1969 to become a part of the museum complex. Emma Giesy, the first woman member of the Colony to come west, was one of the advance scouting party which selected Willapa, Washington as a future home for Colony members from Bethel, Missouri. Although relocated from its original site, the house is in excellent condition and almost historically intact. It is one of few, and best examples of, surviving board and batten structure, once common as a construction type among houses and public buildings in the Aurora Colony. A construction date of circa 1875 is attributed to the house based on its stylistic characteristics and associated history.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

The two-story gable roof structure is 37 feet long by 31 feet wide, including a one-story Lean-to across the back. The front facade is three bays wide on the second story and four bays on the first, as it has two front doors in the center bay. This is the only unaltered double-door house surviving from the Colony period. The John Giesy House (Resource #150) had two asymmetrically arranged front doors before it was altered. The side facades of the house are two bays deep. The roof has a pitch of about 40 degrees and is covered with wood shingles and a shingled ridge cap. The two chimneys which stand on the ridge have strongly corbelled caps; the eastern chimney, which is about 16 inches square, is for a stove, and the western one, which is 16 inches by 32 inches, serves the fireplace.

The eaves are boxed across the front and rear and have recessed soffits at the rake. The eave assembly has a series of three rectangular boards which serve as bed moldings; there are no eave returns. The building is of box construction. The vertical planks, which provide the entire structural function of the walls, are of random widths and are covered at their exterior joints with rectangular battens. All elements are painted white.

The six-over-six, double-hung windows are slightly smaller at the second story than the first. The three windows across the second story front facade are set several inches lower than those on the gable ends, a characteristic Aurora relationship. This misalignment of the windows on the second floor was produced by the eave detailing and gives the impression that the house is one and a half stories when it is two. There are two fixed sash windows in the western attic gable end, and one in the eastern. The windows have plain, narrow surrounds of batten stock. In contrast to the handmade doors prevalent in the Colony, the two front doors are both four paneled, machine made doors. The front porch covering the two front doors is one story tall and has a shingled hip roof. It is supported by four rectangular chamfered posts ornamented with solid brackets the lower edge of which is cut in a complex scroll. The lintel is solid and the eaves boxed. The railings and spindles have plain rectangular sections. The porch is not of the same utilitarian tradition as the body of the house. The front porch, which has been on the house since the 1880s, has characteristics similar to porches of several Aurora houses dating from the 1880s and 1890s. A panoramic photograph of circa 1889 shows the porch in place on the Giesy-Kraus House. The lean-to across the rear of the house consists of an open porch at the eastern end and an enclosed room at the western end.

A few alterations were made to the house at the time of its relocation: the ridge cap, now shingled, originally was a board assembly; the chimney corbelling had a different configuration; and, less clear in its significance because of prior changes, nearly three-quarters of the lean-to was enclosed in 1967. However, the most serious construction change was the substitution of a concrete block foundation and crawlspace for the original brick foundation and basement.

When it was given to the Historical Society by John Kraus, Sr. in 1969, the house was moved to its present site, just east of the Ox Barn Museum. Now facing north toward Second Street, the original orientation of the house has been preserved. Although the relocation of the house has contributed to a group of historic buildings, this tight spacing of buildings is not characteristic of residential buildings in the Colony period. The house was originally located at the southeast corner of Third and Main Streets, and faced north toward Third. The original site was not originally included in the 1985 survey. It stood at the western end of the block and the Charles Snyder House (Resource #23) at the eastern end, each on large lots, equivalent to a half-block. Every Colony period house in the village seems to have been sited in a similar manner.

A low picket fence which surrounds the entire Ox Barn Museum complex encloses a small yard with

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

lilacs and other deciduous plants. It should be noted that the fence which once enclosed the Giesy-Kraus House on its original site was of another type. The outbuilding located on the same tax lot and directly behind the Giesy-Kraus House on the Ox Barn Museum grounds is one of three surviving summer kitchens in the Aurora vicinity. The building which originally faced east, was moved in 1977 from the rear of the Leonard Will property (Resource #14). At that time it was repaired and appears to be in good condition.

The summer kitchen, circa 1890, is one and a half stories high, and rectangular in shape, 12 feet by 15 feet. Its roof, pitched at 45 degrees, is covered with wood shingles. On the east end of the ridge is a large plain brick chimney. Its eaves are boxed, but without any bed moldings. The siding is a six-inch shiplap with plain six-inch corner boards. All woodwork is painted white. The windows are four light and the front door, which is on the west elevation, has four panels.

Emma Wagner Giesy (1833-1916), a daughter of David Wagner, was born in Pennsylvania. She, and her husband Christian Giesy, were two of ten scouts sent west from Bethel, Missouri in 1853 by Dr. William Keil to find a new location for the Colony. They settled in Willapa, Washington Territory, and there Christian Giesy died in 1857. In 1861 Emma came to Aurora from Willapa with her four children and lived with Dr. Keil until her parents and siblings arrived from Bethel in late 1862. Whereupon the entire family moved to a farm site near Needy, OR. After Emma's father died in 1873, she became a formal member of the Aurora Colony in 1874. Local tradition states that her brother Johnathon built this house for her and her two unmarried daughters. Her sons were then apprenticed elsewhere.

The house became the property of George Kraus as his share of the property division after 1878. George's parents, Michael and Elizabeth Kraus, had "conducted to the Colony in money and valuables" the unusually large sum of \$2,485 in 1845. George (1841-1921) came to Aurora in 1863, two years before his mother and siblings. In 1879, he married Elizabeth Giesy (1852-1936) a niece of Emma Wagner Giesy. Starting in 1881, the city directories list George as a shoemaker and, from 1891 on intermittently as a "shoemaker and hop grower."

This building was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 4
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 15029 2nd Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT #:041W12CD02600
Property ID: R97909

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
YEAR BUILT: 1903 (original building not standing)
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Church/Church



1985: The 19,530 square foot property is located on the north side of Liberty Street and developed with the Christ Lutheran Church. The church was extensively remodeled in the early 1950s when a large addition in the Builder's Tudor Revival style was added to the east side of the original building, built in 1903. The two-story building has a steeply pitched, gable roof with gable wings. The roof is sheathed with composition shingles and extends down to the first floor ceiling. The church has horizontal clapboard siding, a poured concrete foundation, and a variety of windows, including leaded and stained glass. The entry is at the juncture of the new and old buildings on the south side adjacent to the bell tower, constructed of red raked brick. The original building has been extensively altered and only its basic form is recognizable. The church is surrounded by a lawn and foundation plantings of broadleaf

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

evergreen and coniferous shrubs.

This was the first church building in Aurora after the Colony era church.

The church will be undergoing extensive remodeling inside in 2016-2017 as well as major façade changes. The exterior modifications are to be based on drawings and photographs of the original 1903 steeple and doorway.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE#: 5
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 15038 2nd Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD07400 (partial)
Property ID: R97914

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Jacob Miller House Shed
YEAR BUILT: c1890
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



The small cottage, reminiscent of the Colony period in its simplicity and general form, faces north onto Second Street east of Liberty. The house is one story with an attic, and 24 feet wide by 28 feet deep. The medium-pitched, gable roof is oriented with the eave end to the street and there is a one-story shed roof addition across the rear of the house. The house is sided with shiplap and the eaves are boxed and detailed with a simple bed molding. The fenestration is asymmetrical, and the windows are typically one-over-one, double-hung wood sash, but may have replaced earlier four-over-four windows which are still extant in the attic. A small stoop with cantilevered roof covers the central front entry. The stoop is a later addition and may date from the relocation of the house.

According to descendant Bob Hurst and longtime local resident William Wettstein, the building was

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

moved from the site of the Jacob Miller house across the street sometime around 1950 as a result of the expansion of the Lutheran Church. The shed located behind the house is reminiscent of Colony outbuildings and, from the 1922 Sanborn Map, appears to have been originally associated with the house to the east (Resource #6). It is approximately 10 feet wide by 14 feet deep. It is not known who built or resided in the house.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 6
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 15048 2nd Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#:-041W12CD07500
Property ID: R97915

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Siebert House
YEAR BUILT: c1890
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



This simple rural house, while reminiscent of the plainness and general form of the Colony period, varies greatly in its detailing, identifying it as a building dating from Aurora's secondary period of development. The house faces north onto Second Street east of Liberty, and has a garage with dirt floor located behind it to the southeast. The gable roof house is one and a half stories with a one-story shed addition across the rear. It is three asymmetrical bays wide across the front, and two bays deep. The house has shiplap siding, drip cap and water table, and a concrete block foundation. The two front facade windows are one-over-one, double-hung wood sash with lambs tongues, while all the side facade windows are four-over-four. The porch, which extends across the front of the house, is one story with a hip roof supported by four chamfered posts which rest on a solid rail. It is assumed that the house was constructed about 1890, but the builder and original owner are unknown.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

The land on which this house was built was purchased by Christian Giesy Jr. in 1881. The Louis Siebert family came to Aurora in 1889 and were still living in it as of 1924 when they had the house up for sale. The house, attributed to the Siebert family, may have been built before its given date as a portion of the original board and batten boards survive, which is the style found on some earlier structures.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 7
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 15058 2nd Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT #-041W12CD07600
Property ID: R97916

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: George Smith House
YEAR BUILT: c1872
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



The George S. Smith House appears to be typical of homes built in the village of Aurora during the Colony period. It has been moved from its original site, but remains within the limits of the original plat of Aurora. The building has been extensively remodeled, but its original form is still apparent. The house has traditionally been associated with Stephen, the son of George Smith, who was an important person in the administrative history of Aurora.

The house is one and a half stories high, 40 feet wide by 20 feet deep with a 10 foot one-story lean-to across the back. The front facade, which now faces north, is three bays wide with the front door in the middle bay but slightly off center; it is two bays deep. The roof, covered with composition shingles, is pitched at approximately 40 degrees. On the east end, there is a chimney of 20th century brickwork.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

The eaves are boxed across the front with plain elements on the rake, which meet in triangular forms on the gable ends. The house is sheathed with 20th century large dimensional siding with plain corner boards. There is no water table above the concrete foundation. The double-hung windows are eight-over-twelve on the first story of the front facade, and six-over-six elsewhere on the first and second stories. The second story windows in the front facade are set at a slightly lower level than those on the end elevations. The front door has a shallow pediment supported on brackets above fluted pilasters. There is a brick stoop with a wrought iron railing before the front door.

Alterations and replacements have been extensive, and those on the exterior include the following: Colonial six-panel front door capped with a Colonial Revival pediment and pilaster surrounds; a brick stoop; siding sheathed over; windows replaced; and shutters added.

A date of circa 1872 has been selected based on land records³ and the form of the building, because alterations to the house have been so extensive that exterior stylistic clues for dating the building are not sufficient. Early photographs, such as one of a town view from 1889 provide incomplete views of the Smith House on its original site. However, a newspaper clipping in 1958 shows a close-up of the structure at the time it was remodeled into its present condition. From that view, indications are that the original siding was the typical horizontal weatherboarding, that the openings were generally located in the same positions as at present, and that the west end of the Smith House originally had two attic windows. There was also a small front porch with square posts which was probably a turn of the century addition. The form and original detailing of the Smith House indicate a strong resemblance to the Andrew Voght House (Resource #61), another early Aurora village house which was built before 1870 and demolished in 1933.

A driveway on the eastern side of the house leads directly to a one-story, 20 foot square garage, built in 1967. It has board and batten siding and a concrete foundation. The plants surrounding the house are 20th century in character, except for two large Persian walnut trees. On its present site, it is one of a row of six architecturally compatible structures of which four date from the Colony period. The Ox Barn (Resource #1) and the Solomon Miller House (Resource #9) on opposite ends of the block, were originally built where they now sit and were the only buildings in the block until at least circa 1889. Although the Smith House is usefully sited in terms of its historic associations, the tight spacing of the six structures is in complete contrast to the architectural and landscape relationships characteristic of the widely spaced village houses of the Colony period. The Solomon Miller House has since been torn down and the site has been replaced by two modern houses approved according to HRB guidelines.

The original location of the house was on the southeast corner³ of Second and Main Streets, facing west directly across from the William Fry House (Resource # 73). A panoramic view of Aurora, circa 1889, shows the Smith House on its original site. The Smith House was apparently moved to its present location on Second east of Liberty about 1912 to allow for construction of the Will-Snyder General Merchandise Store.

George S. Smith (1806-1888), Stephen's father, received Lot 1, Block 4 of the original plat of Aurora, the original site of the house, in the 1872 distribution of Colony-held property. George came to Aurora from Bethel in 1870. Stephen Smith (1845-1898), who came to Aurora in 1867 and is usually associated with the house, would scarcely have been 25 if the house was built in 1870. In the 1870 census, he is listed as

³ Marion County Deed Book #15, page 336.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

a single person in the household of Andrew Voght, and in the 1880 census as a widower with one child in the household of his father, George. Stephen is listed as a wagon maker from 1872 until his death in 1898. On January 12, 1878, less than two weeks after the death of Dr. Keil, Stephen Smith was one of the seven who were assigned authority to manage the Colony's affairs. In 1879, he was selected with Samuel Miller and Henry Will to go to Bethel, Missouri and act on behalf of the Aurora Colony members in the division of the Bethel property.

Surviving photographs show the Smith house on the corner of Second and Main Streets from at least 1889 to 1905. Marion County Deed Records indicate that the Smith family owned the property from 1872.⁴ Hugo Keil remembered that after the Smith family, the house was lived in by Dave Keil and his family. The house was moved to its current location when the Will-Snyder store was constructed on the original site c1912.

This building was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.

⁴ Marion County Deed Book #15, page 336.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 8
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#:-041W12D00802
Property ID: R10518

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Vacant Land/Vacant Land



The property is a .01 acre strip of vacant land along the east edge of the George Smith House (Resource #7). The property is planted with an English laurel hedge and overgrown with long grass.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 9
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 15068 2nd Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#:-041W12D00802
Property ID: R10518

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: Solomon Miller House
YEAR BUILT: c1875
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/ Residential



This building is gone and replaced with a new house

1985: The Solomon Miller House is representative of board and batten houses built in the village of Aurora during the Colony period. The building is in a serious state of disrepair. The surroundings of the house, its landscape and outbuildings comprise one of the most extensive surviving complexes. A construction date of circa 1875 is attributed to the building based on its detailing.

The Miller House is a one and a half-story building which faces south; curiously, its rear elevation is directly accessible from the street. The 34 foot by 19 foot building is three bays wide and two deep. On

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

the front, the three bays are unevenly spaced and the entrance door in the middle bay is off center. All frame and eave elements of the original roof assembly have been replaced. However, the position and pitch, approximately 35 degrees, has been retained. No evidence of detailing of the original eaves remains. On the west end walls in line with the presumed eave location, there are simple flat eave returns without cornices, constructed of four layers of boards. Above these, the rake line of the walls are edged in a similar tier of boards in lieu of bed moldings. The new roof is covered with composition shingles. There is an exterior fireplace chimney against the east end of the house. The exterior firebox is coated with cement and exposed brick above. Although the fireplace's form and brickwork are characteristic of the 19th century and appear to be original to the building, an exterior position for a chimney is unusual in Aurora, and no other Colony period example now exists.

The siding is random with vertical boards and battens painted white, but with some indication of a "pink." The building is of box construction similar in its detailing and form to the Giesy- Kraus House (Resource #3), the only other important survivor using these materials, once prevalent in Aurora. Brick piers support the house above a full basement, its' walls of earth and boards another rare example. Steps in a covered stairway on the east end give access to the basement.

On the first floor, there are six-over-six, double-hung windows, although many openings no longer have sash and none have glass. The openings on the second floor are smaller in size with two windows on each end elevation and each eave elevation. The windows have narrow surrounds with rectangular caps. Plywood now covers the front door opening and the transom above. There are no doors on the two rear doorways.

Alterations include the application of a three foot high vertical board skirt across the front of the building over the original painted boards. A small delicate, flat roof porch, about four feet square, formerly sheltered the front door. The porch had curvilinear moldings crowning the eaves with small brackets beneath them. Each of the corner posts was formed by three one-by-twos joined at intervals with shaped blocks. Across the east end of the house and along the back there is evidence of connections for two lean-tos which were built at the time of the house's construction. A panoramic view of Aurora, circa 1889, clearly shows the house and the rear lean-to in place. The 1922 Sanborn Map also shows both of these one-story lean-tos. The eastern one with a shed roof was open and apparently had an earth floor. The shed roof extended over the basement access steps and was reached directly from the house by a door south of the chimney, now blocked in. The shed roof lean-to across the-back of the building was set below the main eaves and gave clearance for the small second story windows. The rear lean-to contained an enclosed and finished room on the western end and an open porch on the eastern. Each space was reached directly by means of a door from the main part of the house.

The Miller House sits at the eastern termination of Second Street on a large lot with adjoining pasture land just outside the original plat of Aurora. There is a line of five buildings, four houses and the Ox Barn Museum west of it. Most of the other houses have been relocated. In contrast to these buildings, which face north, the Miller House faces south away from the street toward a large garden area. However, there is no indication that the Miller House has been relocated. Also in contrast to the characteristic Aurora house, the Miller House had its back porch and lean-to nearer the street.

The Miller House and surrounding complex is one of the most significant in Aurora because it contains a large garden and older plants, several service areas, and several outbuildings. The following older plants are on the property: a huge Persian walnut, approximately 100 years old, by the west wall of the shop; several younger walnut trees to the east along the slope; two large lilacs at the corner of the shop; and

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

fruit trees around the vegetable garden south of the house, including three pears and three apples. The modest farm operation with a predominantly utilitarian character on the edge of the village represents the survival of what was characteristic of most Aurora Colony houses.

The house is the most westerly and southerly of the four buildings on the property. Forty feet to the northeast there is an outbuilding of similar alignment to the house, referred to here as the shop. The one and a half-story, four room structure is approximately 30-feet by 18-feet, with two spaces or rooms on each floor, and a straight flight of stairs rising in the center. The structure has a mortise and tenon frame which is exposed on the interior. It is covered with boards and battens, painted white, and has a shingled roof. Its south wall is three bays wide with a central door between two windows. There is also a sash window on the west elevation with an exterior hinged batten door above it. Some of the windows are four-over-four, double hung, others one-over-one. On the north elevation, there are two vehicular sized openings, although the east room has an earth floor, the west has a framed wood floor. No evidence of a chimney was found. A date of circa 1880 is assigned to the shop.

Further away from the house, there are two other gable roof buildings; their ridges run north and south, perpendicular to that of the shop and the house. They stand at the edge of a steep bank which drops down from the more elevated site of the village to the pasture land and flood plain of the Pudding River. The cow barn to the south is a one and a half-story, unpainted, vertical sided building. It is approximately 25 feet by 35 feet, has a mortise and tenon frame, earth floor, concrete foundation and metal roof. A one-story granary, 17-feet by 21-feet, sits to the north. It has shiplap siding and a shingle roof. Its' one opening, a door constructed of vertical boards, faces west. The barn appears to date from the late 19th century, and the granary from about 1900.

Although the association of Solomon Miller, a farmer and tinner, with the house before 1888 has not been verified, in a 1971 interview of Al Zimmerman (1885-1972) by Clark Will, the house is referred to as "the Solomon Miller House, the lowest house east of Liberty Street on Second Street, south side -- the building Rudolph Wolfer died in 1904." This association is supported by two maps which show Miller at this location, an 1888 Road District Map and Clark Will's 1924 map which was drawn from the recollections of George Wolfer, Rudolph's son, who had come to Aurora in 1863. The census of 1900 lists Rudolph Wolfer as a member of the Solomon Miller household. This makes sense because Solomon was a son of Rudolph. Although Miller is not listed in either the 1870 or 1880 census of the Aurora precinct, it is clear that he was present in the Aurora Colony between 1867 and 1878. The Colony Members List compiled in 1878 states that both John Miller (1804-1890) and Solomon Miller (1843-1905), father and son, "came to Aurora in 1867 settled up in 1872" and were "members to date" in 1878.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 10
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 15069 2nd Street NE, Aurora , OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT #- 041W12D00900
Property ID: R10520

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: c1950
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Agricultural/Residential



The .28 acre property, located at the east end of Second Street, is developed with a circa 1950 Suburban Ranch style house. The one-story, rectangular-shaped house with attached garage was the parsonage for the adjacent Christ Lutheran Church. It has a low pitched, hip roof sheathed with composition shingles, horizontal clapboard and vertical tongue-and-groove siding, and a concrete slab foundation. A reentrant porch in the center of the front facade is flanked by a projecting Roman brick bay and covered with a cantilevered, hip roof. The house faces southwest and is at an angle to the street. The house has a large front lawn and a few small shrubs planted near its foundation.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

Resource #: 11
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 15109 2nd Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT #: 041W12D00801
Property ID: R10517

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: Solomon Miller property (partial)
YEAR BUILT: c1875/1995
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



This property was once part of Resource #9. A new house has been constructed on this site. The property is significant because it once was part of Colonist Solomon Miller's property. However the house is built in 1995, making it noncontributing

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE#: 12
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21513 Liberty Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#:-041W12CD07100
Property ID: R97887

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Anton Will House
YEAR BUILT: 1897-1898
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



The Anton Will House, built in about 1897, is an example of the Queen Anne Victorian style of architecture and representative of Aurora's secondary period of development. It is one and a half-stories high, irregular in shape, with a steeply-pitched hip roof with gable projections. Except for its front porch, which only extends across the front facade, its form and plan are very similar to the Leonard Will House (Resource #14) to its north. Its ornamental detailing is more typical of earlier Victorians than the

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

Leonard Will House's Classical style ornamentation. In addition to the shiplap siding, the gable ends and pediment over the front porch stairs are sheathed with diamond and scallop cut shingles. The bargeboard, as well as the gable ends, are decorated with cut and turned work. The front porch is detailed with turned posts, outwork brackets, and turned and cut tracery. The house appears to be little altered, except for a rear garage/carport/patio addition which was incorporated into the house in 1973.

The house is associated with Anton Will (1871-1962), the son of Leonard and Triphine Will (Resource #14), Colony members who came to Aurora in 1863. In about 1898, Anton married Anna Korschak, a German immigrant of 1884 and brought her home to his new house. After giving birth to a daughter, Anna died in 1902. From about 1900 to 1906, Anton was a partner in the Will Brothers General Merchandise Store located on the northeast corner of the family property (Resource #65). After his second marriage in 1905 to Alma Grim, the daughter of a local farmer, Anton turned his hand to real estate, specializing in farm lands, and eventually to farming. It appears that about this time, the house was sold to Louis Weibert, a Colony descendent and druggist who worked for Martin Giesy. The Weiberts lived in the house for almost fifty years. A large collection of original Aurora Observer newspapers dating to the early part of the twentieth century were salvaged by a house painter at this resource. Over fifty years later, in 2008, he donated them to the Museum (Resource #1), providing excellent documentation of early Aurora's day to day life.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 13
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21514 Liberty Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#:-041W12CD07200
Property ID: R97912

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Christian Zimmerman House
YEAR BUILT: c1900
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



The Christian Zimmerman House, built in about 1900, is representative of Aurora's secondary period of development. The house, which faces west on Liberty Street just north of Third Street, is two stories tall, rectangular in shape and has a broken hip roof. It is sided with shiplap and detailed with irregularly spaced brackets on the cornice. The windows are typically one-over-one, double-hung wood sash with lambs tongues. On the side facades the windows are paired. The first story front facade windows are typically ornamented, with large uneven sashes and small panes in the upper sash. The front porch extends across the first story facade and has a hip roof supported by four Tuscan columns which rest on a low shiplap railing. A second story porch, which extends across the central third of the front facade, is detailed with the same columns and railing, and a pedimented roof. A one-story enclosed porch with a hip roof extends across the rear facade. To the rear of the house are three outbuildings, a small shed 14

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

feet by 16 feet, a large shed 28 feet by 36 feet, and a barn 26 feet by 30 feet. The small shed is sided in shiplap, one and a half stories tall and has a roof which combines hip and gable forms. A large chimney with corbelled top projects from the north end of the shed. It appears to be a combination of wood shed and wash house and to date from the Colony period. The barn has board and batten siding and is two stories tall with double doors to the hayloft in the west gable end and a large wagon and stock door below. The barn appears to date from about 1873. The barn has an interior log structure indicating this earlier date. A 2011 Zimmerman family exhibit at the Museum produced a photograph of the Zimmerman family in front of a Colony-era home which pre-existed the current house on this property. Zimmerman received the title to this property January 22, 1873.⁵

Christian (1838-1920) and Catherine Will Zimmerman (1852-1934), who were Colony members and came to Aurora in 1863, received the property on which their house is situated upon dissolution of the Colony. It appears from census and directory information that Christian was a carpenter by trade, one of approximately three in the Colony. In the 1890s he is listed as a millwright and then, starting in 1896 until 1915, he is listed as a hop grower. It is assumed that, because of the late construction date of the house and its similarity in design to the Henry Kraus House (Resource #15), that Henry Kraus, a carpenter active at the time, built both houses. The Zimmerman house appears to be very little altered since its construction, and is almost identical in design to the Frederick Will House (Resource #27).

⁵ Marion County Deed Book #16, page 230.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 14
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21533 Liberty Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD06900
Property ID: R97888

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Leonard Will House, 2nd
YEAR BUILT: 1905
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential /Residential



The Leonard Will House, which faces east onto Liberty between Second and Third Streets, is the family's second house and is representative of Aurora's secondary period of development. Built just after the turn of the century, it is typical of late Queen Anne Victorian architecture with classical detailing and reflects nothing of the family's Colony heritage. The house is one and a half stories, irregular in shape with a steeply-pitched, hipped roof with gable projections. It has a brick foundation and is sided with shiplap. The eaves are boxed and detailed with eave returns and paired modillions at the corners. The gable ends are decorated with lace-like cut and turned work. Although the windows are various in shape and size, the typical window is one-over-one, double-hung wood sash. The one-story attached porch has a hip roof and wraps around the southeast corner of the house. It is supported by Tuscan columns which rest on a solid rail sheathed with shingles. It appears that the porch railing as well as the hand rails and steps have been rebuilt. A one-story addition has been attached to the rear facade of the house. The

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

house is in excellent condition and has been well maintained. The only other alterations appear to be aluminum sash storm windows, a shake roof, and the chimney pot rebuilt with used brick. The placement, shape and type of plants in the garden lend a Victorian atmosphere to the house. Leonard (1823-1906) and Triphine Forstner Will (1833-1927) came to Aurora in 1863. Their first house was located at the northeast corner of Third and Main. Built in the traditional Colony style, it was demolished in 1949 for construction of the American Legion Hall (Resource #64). It appears from census and county directories that Will was a farmer and, in later years, specialized as an apiarist and hop grower. Formerly, he was a butcher at the hotel during the Colony period. Both houses were built on property Triphine received through her parents, Michael and Margaret Forstner, upon dissolution of the Colony. The property is identified belonging to Margaret Forstner as early as 1872 in the first town survey by John Giesy; Michael Forstner died in 1869. Traditionally, according to Philip Dole, Aurora Colony members built their houses on corner lots providing room for outbuildings. This may be one factor in why we believe that this resource was built after Resource #12. Additionally, Leonard Will did not die until 1906. A new garage was added to the site and approved by the Historic Review Board. The family's washhouse was relocated to the Old Aurora Colony Museum complex in 1975.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 15
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21544 Liberty Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD07300
Property ID: R97913

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Henry Kraus House (Second)
YEAR BUILT: c1905
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



The second Henry Kraus House, which faces west on Liberty Street between Second and Third Streets, is situated on land Henry received when the Colony was dissolved. The house, which dates from about 1900, is a two-story, hip roof structure, generally rectangular in form. The structure has been extensively altered over the years. Its horizontal wood siding has been covered over with aluminum siding and used-brick by the front door, which has been enlarged to accommodate double doors. Non-functioning shutters have been added to most windows and door openings. The one-story front porch with second story deck has been replaced with a two-story porch, the roof of the house having been extended. The original wood cresting at the break in the hip roof is missing and metal cresting has been added to the front edge of the porch roof. The one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows are generally intact, although their trim has been removed in the process of residing, and at least two on the front facade

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

have been replaced with leaded glass. The corbelled chimney tops and the hip dormer on the front facade are intact. The original one-story porch on the north side has been enclosed and a porch added connecting it to a shed.

To the northeast of the house are the brick remains of a Colony era outbuilding. The fireplace with segmental arched opening and about ten feet of chimney stack and four brick foundation piers approximately six feet on center are all that remain of the outbuilding which existed in a ruinous state in March 1966. The building was about 14 feet by 24 feet, larger than any surviving wash house. It was a one and half-story, board and batten building, painted white. Its gable roof, sheathed with shingles, was perpendicular to Liberty Street and its front elevation faced north toward the rear of the Ox Barn (Resource #1). Its detailing was simple and utilitarian, as was characteristic of Colony buildings using this structural technique. The northern front elevation was divided into three bays, a door placed off center occupying the middle bay, with six-over-six, double-hung sash windows on either side. Above these windows, under the eaves, were openings for two small windows. The south wall of the building appeared to have had a similar window pattern. The form and simplicity of the fireplace chimney, which came through the ridge on the east end of the building, was in keeping with Aurora buildings of 1865 to 1875.

The yard contains some old fruit trees, including cherry, pear, walnut and filbert. The picket fence surrounding the yard has been replaced with a cast iron fence on used-brick piers.

The house, which is representative of Aurora's secondary period of development, was a later residence of the Henry Kraus family, who came to Aurora in 1865. Kraus (1845-1918) is listed as a carpenter in the 1880 census and county directories from 1886 until 1905, when he is listed as a hop grower. It is assumed that he built his own house as well as the Christian Zimmerman House (Resource #13) and the Frederick Will House (Resource #27) which are similar in design. Henry Kraus and Christian Zimmerman were both carpenters in the Colony and most likely worked on the buildings together.

The fact that William and Louisa Keil deeded this property to Henry Kraus October 19, 1872 indicates that there may have been an earlier Colony-era house on this site.⁶ In 1881 Michael Rapps divided the lot 30 x 125 feet on the Southwest corner, adding property to Henry Kraus.⁷

⁶ Marion County Deed Book #15, page 340.

⁷ Marion County Deed Book #26, page 451.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 16
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Liberty Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT #-041W12CD07400 (partial)
Property ID: R97914

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Agricultural /Vacant



The 10 foot by 185 foot vacant property, which has access to Liberty Street, runs along the south side of the Aurora Colony Historical Society property. Although it appears to be part of the side yard of then Henry Kraus House (Resource #15), it is owned by the Historical Society. One large, older filbert tree is located about 40 feet east of the front property line.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 17
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21553 Liberty Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT #: 041W12CD06800
Property ID: R97892

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Aurora Presbyterian Church
YEAR BUILT: c1910
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Church/Church



The Aurora United Presbyterian Church, representative of the Colony's secondary period of development, faces east onto Liberty between Second and Third Streets. It is a one-story, L-shaped structure with medium-pitched, intersecting gable roof. The building has a concrete block foundation, shiplap siding and open eaves with exposed rafter tails. The double entry doors to the church are located on the north wing at the intersection of the two wings of the building. The bell tower, which has lost its ornamental railing, is north of the entry. The church's major ornamentation is Gothic arched, four-over-four, double-hung wood sash windows. There is a group of three windows centered on the east wing, and a group of two on the north wing. A small gable roofed addition has been added to the east wing to protect the exterior basement entrance.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

The church appears to be little altered since the time of its construction, which is estimated to be about 1910. The church building originally faced west on Liberty between First and Second Streets. The building was relocated to its present site in 1933 when Highway 99E was realigned. The church has 14 of the original pews from the Colony church, all but one have been shortened in length.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 18
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21624 (15009 2nd Street NE) Liberty Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT #-041W12CD02700
Property ID: R97908

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Jacob Miller House
YEAR BUILT: c1890
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential /Residential



The Jacob G. Miller House, a vernacular Gothic Revival style building, is characteristic of Aurora architecture in the post- Colony period. On stylistic grounds, a construction date of circa 1890 is attributed to the Miller House. Jacob Miller was a turner and, as such, is associated with the Colony's most visually impressive buildings: the Aurora Colony Church (Resource #127 and 128), the F. Keil & Company General Merchandise Store (Resource #68), and the Frederick Keil House (Resource #111). An avid supporter of Keil, Miller was a trustee, minister and leader of the Bethel, Missouri community in the last days of the Colony.

The two-story house, which sits on a brick foundation, has a three bay front of 30 feet and a two bay depth of 18 feet. It is T-shaped in plan, with a two-story kitchen wing at the rear which is 20 feet by 12

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

feet. The gable roofs have pitches of 45 degrees and are covered with composition shingles. Three identical chimneys, each 12 by 16 inches in size, sit at the end of each gable, two in the front and one at the rear. They are Gothic in form with a wide base, narrow shaft and corbel led cap. The eaves are boxed with soffits, one board in width, parallel with the slope of the roof. The crown and bed moldings have a cyma profile. The walls are covered in shiplap and trimmed with plain corner boards. The six-inch wide window surrounds have a horizontal, rectangular cap over a base molding. The upper stiles of the one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash windows terminate in lambs tongues. The three, attic gable windows each have two fixed window sashes with a single light. All siding, trim and sash are painted white, which may be its original color scheme.

The centrally placed front door has two solid panels below a glazed panel bordered by small rectangular panes of colored glass. Covering the center bay, there is a hip roof porch supported on two turned columns. Beneath the eave structure of the porch, there is a continuous grille of turned work, joined to the posts with brackets. Along the wing and facing south to Second Street, there is a side porch, similar in many details to the front porch, but without the lintel grille. Across the north wall of the kitchen wing, there is a one-story lean-to; the portion, now enclosed, appears to have originally been an open porch, the remainder is a pantry.

Except for minor changes, previously described, and the addition of railings to the porches, the house is substantially unchanged from when it was first built. In form, style and detail, the Jacob Miller House is similar to a number of other post-Colony period houses, such as the William Miley House (Resource #48), the Samuel Giesy House (Resource #54), and the George Miller House (Resource #39).

The house faces west on Liberty Street at the northeast corner of Second Street. Its corner location follows the tradition of siting residential buildings practiced during the Colony period. The Ox Barn (Resource #1) is to its south across Second Street. A low fence of one-by-two pickets, painted white, encloses the house and its yard. In front of the house there are two old apple trees and some large lilacs. In the back, there are cherry, filbert, and walnut trees. North of the house there is a small one-story wood frame garage about 16 feet by 24 feet.

Jacob G. Miller (1837-1916) came to Aurora with his parents from Bethel in 1863. A bachelor in 1870 he lived in his father's, Samuel Miller's, house hold. Usually described as a turner, a sense of Miller's role in building Aurora is described in a 1901 interview⁸. "Before 1871, when Mr. Miller left, a number of houses had been built, and the old church erected ; Mr. Miller himself, who was a cabinetmaker and a turner by trade, turned the massive columns of the portico. " The reference seems to be to the Colony Church (Resource #127 and 128) which had no exterior columns, but did have columns in its interior. If he did that work, he undoubtedly had the skill to do the other architectural turned work in the Colony, such as the Frederick Keil House (Resource #111) and the F. Keil & Company General Merchandise Store (Resource #68). It should be noted that the Colony also had other turners; John Scholl implied that he had turned the columns of the Church.

In 1871, he was sent back to be "Deputy President" of the Colony in Bethel, Missouri , the third person to substitute for Dr. Keil, performing the leadership functions, "they ruled, they preached." After the dissolution of the Colony, as a devoted follower of Dr. Keil, he stayed on until 1882 and tried unsuccessfully to "reorganize the society at Bethel with a small following."⁹ He made a similar

⁸ Lyman, 86

⁹ Bek. Page 81

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

unsuccessful attempt to carry on the cooperative society at Aurora and, as one aspect of this; he bought the Colony Church for the rather high figure of \$1,500¹⁰. From 1886 until 1908, he is variously listed as a farmer, hop grower, justice of the peace and notary public. Both the 1900 and 1910 census list Miller as living in the house on Liberty Street in the Aurora village with his sister, Catharine, and boarders -- a house described as "a model of convenience and neatness" in 1901¹¹

This building was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.



¹⁰ Bek, page 79

¹¹ Lyman page 86

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 19
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Liberty St., Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#:-041W12CD02900
Property ID: R97906

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1939
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Storage/Storage



The 9,800 square foot interior lot is accessed by an alley from Liberty Street. It is developed with an L-shaped outbuilding built about 1939. The front part of the building has a gable roof with composition shingles, raked shingle siding, and a poured concrete foundation. The rear part of the building is of terra cotta tile block and also has a gable roof. The building faces west onto the alley and is surrounded by lawn and two small ornamental trees to the northwest. The property is surrounded by a cyclone fence.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 20
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21644 Liberty Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT #-041W12CD02700
Property ID: R97906

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Unknown
YEAR BUILT: c1890
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



The 7,000 square foot property is located on the east side of Liberty Street and developed with a one-story hip roof, rectangular-shaped house. The Queen Anne style cottage, built about 1890, has been extensively covered over, although its basic configuration is intact. It has a three-bay front with central doorway flanked by one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows. The original horizontal clapboards and fancy-cut shingles in the gable end of the front porch have all been covered over with horizontal aluminum siding. Although the windows are intact, the front door and trim around the door and windows have been replaced and non-functional shutters added. Ornamental wrought iron has replaced the turned porch posts and railings. Although the renovation has been extensive, most of the work appears reversible. The house faces west and is surrounded by a boxwood hedge, older ornamental shrubs near the foundation, and a large English walnut in the northwest corner of the front yard.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 21
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Liberty Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#:-041W12CD02900
Property ID: R97906

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: Site of Presbyterian Church
YEAR BUILT: c1910
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Church/Vacant Lot



The property is a 4,556 square foot triangular piece of land that is a remnant from the realignment of Highway 99E. Along its northern edge, adjacent to the highway, is a steep bank which is planted with a row of five sequoias. The 1922 Sanborn Map indicates it was formerly the site of the Presbyterian Church of Aurora (Resource #17). In 1933 when the highway was realigned, the Church was moved to its present location at 21553 Liberty Street NE.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 22
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14957 3rd Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD07000
Property ID: R97886

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: c1940
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential /Residential



The approximately 4,550 square foot property, located on the north side of Third Street between Liberty and Main, is developed with a one-story, rectangular shaped Eaveless Tract style house. Built about 1940, the house has a gable roof sheathed with composition shingles, wood shingle siding and a concrete foundation. It has one-over-one and two-over-two horizontal pane, double hung sash windows, and a small front stoop with a shed roof. A garage with a dirt floor is attached to the western facade of the house. The yard is enclosed with a picket fence and minimally landscaped, except for two Lawson False Cypresses.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 23
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14996 3rd Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT #: 041W13BA00100
Property ID: R10769

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Charles Snyder House
YEAR BUILT: c1875-1880
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



The front portion of the Charles Snyder House is an excellent example of Colony period architecture, being characteristic in form and detail. The front portion of the house, circa 1875, is constructed in the simplified mode of the Classical Revival style, distinctive to Aurora. The house has been altered with the addition of a front porch and rear kitchen wing. The additions, circa 1890, which exemplify the architecture of the post-Colony period, are a vernacular version of the Gothic Revival. Although slight modifications have been made to the house, in all important respects its historical condition is good. The house is associated with Charles Snyder, a farmer.

The two-story house is T-shaped in plan. The front portion, which is original, is three bays long and two bays wide, 36 feet by 20 feet. The two-story rear wing is 14 feet by 14 feet. The gable roof with a 40

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

degree pitch is covered with corrugated metal. At each of the three gable ends there is a brick chimney; two are dimensioned to serve wood stoves and the third, on the west end, is approximately 36 by 20 inches, indicative of a flue size to serve a fireplace. The fireplace chimney, which rises in a straight shaft, is capped by five corbelled courses. It and the rear chimney are in original condition.

Several eave details, characteristic of Colony period architecture, are combined in the Snyder House, a catalog of such detail found in no other building. As is typical of most circa 1865 houses, the front and rear eaves are boxed, but on the rake ends the soffits are deeply recessed. However, the termination of the eaves on the ends of the Snyder House is unusual in Aurora, as it has been treated in two contrasting ways, distinguishing the upper part of each return from the lower. The upper, strictly utilitarian element has a boxed triangular form. The lower element is made up of a lower portion of an entablature, the architrave and the frieze. Each is represented by a single board carried from the front wall around the rake ends for about two feet, making an extremely flat, modified Classical eave return. A similar reduced Classical return is found on the Frederick Keil House (Resource #111) and the Solomon Miller House (Resource #9). The upper utilitarian element of the Snyder House eave is found on the F. Keil & Company General Merchandise Store (Resource #68), the Giesy-Kraus House (Resource #3) and several others.

The house has horizontal weatherboard siding with a five to six inch exposure, 1/8 by four inch vertical corner boards, and a 12 inch high water table board. All wall surfaces are painted white. The full basement, constructed of brick and covered with stucco, is reached by means of an exterior brick-walled staircase at the east end of the house.

The windows in the front portion of the house are six-over-six, double-hung sash with smaller windows at the second story, and on the west attic end two fixed, six light sashes. The openings across the front facade are unevenly spaced and do not balance the door in the central bay. The door may originally have had a transom. At the center bay, there is a hip roof, shingle covered porch with metal ridge caps. Beneath the lintel, there is a shallow screen of turned work, and the cove molding at the eave has a curved profile. There are four turned posts and, against the house, two pilasters. The porch, which is not seen in a circa 1889 view of the house, appears to be of late 19th century construction and may have been added at the same time as the two-story rear kitchen wing.

In the two-story rear kitchen wing, the windows are one-over-one, double-hung sash and in the attic fixed. The kitchen wing has shiplap siding and exhibits construction characteristics of the post-Colony period. One-story, shed roof porches flank the rear wing on its east and west elevations and intersect with a lean-to across the back, perhaps part of the original building.

The house, which faces north toward Third Street, sits on a small corner lot bordered by Liberty Street on the east. A small shed or barn on the lot to the south and outside the District boundaries appears to be an original Snyder outbuilding. The house is in fair condition and alterations have been minor. They include: recapping the east chimney, addition of gutters and downspouts, replacement of the original six-over-six, double-hung windows to the left of the front door with a pair of fixed, 12 light sash windows, the addition of side lights to the front door entrance, and the addition of an obscure glass transom.

The house is associated with various members of the Snyder family. Henry Snyder, Sr. (1804-1864) came with his wife and family to Bethel, Missouri in 1845 and to Aurora with his sons Daniel and Charles in 1856. In the 1860 census, Henry is listed as a head of household and is living with eight other unrelated

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

adults in addition to his two sons. It appears that the house is associated with Charles, Henry's youngest son, as both Clark Will's map and the 1888 Marion County District Road Map identify the house as Charles Snyder's. In 1870, Charles and his wife, Christina Schuele, were living in a log house on their farm one mile north of Aurora. Andrew, their first child was born there on June 5, 1870. Subsequently, the family moved into Aurora and are listed in the 1880, 1900 and 1910 censuses. The later censuses indicate Charles and his family were residing on Liberty Street and in the house. The directories list Charles as a farmer, and from the 1880s onward, as a hop and fruit grower.

In 1872, John Giesy of the Aurora Colony, made the first official survey of the streets for the town of Aurora Mills. There were no properties constructed on this site at that time, hence the 1875 dating. A new garage to the rear of the house was approved by the Historic Review Board.

This building was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 24
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14813 Bob's Avenue NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W13BA02500
Property ID: R10721

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION:
HISTORIC NAME: Joseph Erbsland House
YEAR BUILT: c1914
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/ Vacant



This building burned and is now gone.

The property, which is located at the northeast corner of Highway 99E and Bob's Avenue, is developed with a simple Bungalow style house built in about 1914. It is one story tall with an attic, and has a gable roof with exposed rafter tails. The eave end is oriented toward Bob's Avenue. A one-story, gable roof porch with boxed posts on a solid rail is centered on the front facade. The house is sided with "California" clapboards and has one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash windows with lambs tongues. A small garage is located to rear of the northwest corner of the house. The house is located on the highest part of the property which slopes down to the highway. The plantings surrounding the house appear to be contemporary with it. There is an old walnut and apple tree to the west of the house, and lilacs behind it. The builder and original owner are unknown.

Joseph Erbsland was a son-in-law of Charles Becke Sr. Joseph married Louisa Becke.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 25
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14843 Bob's Avenue NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA02600
Property ID: R10719

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Unknown
YEAR BUILT: c 1910
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



The property, which is 78 feet wide and 60 feet deep, is developed with a simple Bungalow style house built in about 1910. The one-story with attic residence, which faces south on Bob's Avenue, has a gable roof with the gable end oriented toward the street. It is rectangular in form with an attached, one-story gable roof porch. The porch has solid posts which rest on a sided railing which extends across half of the front facade. It has a concrete block foundation, "California" clapboard siding and one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash windows. A deck with railing has been added to the rear of the house, and a carport/garage to the western side facade. In the lawn to the east of the house is an old lilac. The front yard is partially enclosed with a board fence of modern design.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 26
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA03800
Property ID: R10734

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Yard/Backyard



The property is a vacant parcel of land, 95 feet square, which fronts on Main Street. Although on a separate tax lot, it is the backyard of the George Miller House (Resource # 39), to its west. It has a rural aspect and consists of a large lawn with mature ornamental trees, including two California bay trees, dotted about.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 27
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21361 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA03700
Property ID: R10740

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Frederick Will House
YEAR BUILT: c1908
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential /Residential



The Frederick Will House, which faces east on Main Street is representative of Aurora's secondary period of development. The house, which was built about 1908,¹² is two stories tall, rectangular in shape and has a broken hip roof. It is sided with shiplap and detailed with irregularly spaced brackets on the cornice. The windows are typically one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash with lamb's tongues; and on the sides they are paired. The first story front facade windows are typically ornamented, with large uneven sashes and small panes in the upper sash. The front porch extends across the first story facade and has a hip roof supported by four Tuscan columns which rest on a low shiplap railing. A second story porch, which extends across the central third of the front facade, is detailed with the same columns, and

¹² Aurora Observer. 8/6/1908

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

a railing and pedimented roof decorated with fancy cut shingles. Except for the fancy cut shingles and subsequent alterations, the house appears to be identical to the Christian Zimmerman House (Resource # 13) and it is assumed may also have been built by Henry Kraus. Unlike the Zimmerman House, it has been altered. In 1974, the rear porch was replaced with a two-story addition equal in bulk to the original house and superficially detailed to resemble it. The front door has also been replaced with an elaborate double leaf door with beveled glass. Aluminum storm windows and doors have also been added.

It is assumed that the house was originally built for Frederick Will (1848-1911), a member of the Colony until 1873 when he and his wife Henrietta Miller Will (1851-1950) settled up and left Aurora. In later years the Fred Will house was passed on to the Will's daughter, Hattie (1882-1975) and son-in-law, William H. Ehlen (1876-1945). Ehlen was the son of J. William Ehlen (1826-1901) and grandson of Johann Diedrich Ehlen (1799-1882), the Colony's original basket maker and first music teacher in Bethel.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 28
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21371 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA03300
Property ID: R10742

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: c1930
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



The .3 acre property is developed with a Tudor Revival style house, built in about 1930. The one-story house with attic faces east on Main Street. It is L-shaped and has an intersecting gable roof with no eaves on the gable ends. It is sided with large shingles and has double-hung and casement windows. On the gable end, which faces Main Street, there is a raked brick chimney and a small reentrant stoop to the south of the chimney at the intersection of the wings of the house. A beautiful formal garden has been developed at the rear of the house.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 29
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21381 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA03400
Property ID: R10749

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Unknown
YEAR BUILT: c1890
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



The 21,000 square foot property south of Fourth Street is bordered by Highway 99E on the west and Main Street on the east. It is developed with a one and a half-story, T-shaped gable roof Vernacular Gothic house, built about 1890. The front and back of the house are reflections of each other. The house has boxed eaves with moldings in the coves and along the fascia board, and one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash windows with lamb's tongues. The house has been extensively remodeled over the years. Its original siding has been covered over with asphalt shingles, and its foundation with Masonite boards. The front and back porches, which have hip roofs and are attached at the junction of the house wings, have been partially enclosed. A garage has been attached to the northern facade of the building. The house is sited on a large lot which is partially hedged with laurel and landscaped with a combination of older fruit trees and lilacs, and modern broadleaf evergreen and coniferous shrubs. An old shed, 14 feet by 40 feet, with a gable roof, board-and-batten siding and concrete foundation, is located to the south of the house. It is not known who built or resided in the house.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 30
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21391 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA03600
Property ID: R10747

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1954
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



The 5,292 square foot property, located at the southwest corner of Fourth and Main, is developed with a one-story, L-shaped, Suburban Ranch style house built in 1954. The house has an intersecting gable roof sheathed with composition shingles, raked shingle siding, and concrete slab foundation. One large, fixed picture window extends across the front of the house. The rest of the windows are one-over-one, double-hung wood sash, except for an aluminum sash window which was partially used to enclose the original attached garage entrance. A lean-to carport has been added to the north side of the building. The landscaping is contemporary with the house.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 31
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21441 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: Kraus'
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA01500
Property ID: R97962

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: c1935
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



The 3,500 square foot property, located on Main Street between Third and Fourth Streets, is developed with a one-story, rectangular-shaped, Eave less Tract style house, built about 1935. It has a gable roof sheathed with composition shingles, clapboard siding, and a concrete block foundation. It has a variety of windows, including grouped vertical, fixed windows and two-over- two, horizontal-pane, double-hung windows. The front porch is a small stoop with a cantilevered hip roof supported by two brackets. The gable end faces east and fronts on Main Street. The front yard is planted with a variety of young, broad leaf evergreen and coniferous shrubs.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 32
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21451 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: Kraus'
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA01400
Property ID: R97961

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: Unknown
YEAR BUILT: c1900
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Vacant



This property burned down in August 1990, the same fire that burned Resource #62.

1985: The 50 foot by 72 foot lot is developed with a one-story cottage with simple Queen Anne Victorian detailing. The house, which was built in about 1900, is representative of Aurora's secondary period of development. The L-shaped house has an intersecting gable roof detailed as a pediment on the wing which faces Main Street. The eaves are boxed and have returns on the other gable ends. It is sided with shiplap and has one-over-one, double-hung, and wood sash windows with lamb's tongues. The front porch, with low-pitched, hip roof, is located at the intersection of the wings and has been enclosed with 1940s-era windows. The following additional alterations have been made: the back porch has been enclosed; one window on the north elevation has been filled in; the chimney pots removed; the front

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

door replaced; and non-functional shutters added. While a number of alterations have been made to the house, they appear to be reversible and are considered to be relatively minor in nature. There are two outbuildings on the site, 11 feet by 31 feet and 6 feet by 7 feet, neither of which date from the historic period. It is not presently known who built or originally resided in the house.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 33
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Hwy 99E NE Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA02700
Property ID: R10723

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Agricultural /Vacant Lot



The .43 acre vacant property, which slopes to the west, is located on the east side of Highway 99E just north of Bob's Avenue. It has three large filbert trees along its eastern property line and is overgrown with wild grass.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 34
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21317 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA02300
Property ID: R10722

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Maria Mohler House
YEAR BUILT: c1875
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Commercial



The Mohler House is one of the finer examples of a Colony house, both in its features and its intactness. However, in contrast to the many early attributes of the house, there are three which suggest a later date; the shutters (1985), molded window caps and shiplap siding. Although the Mohler family came to Aurora in 1863, we do not believe that houses were constructed in this part of Aurora until after 1872. The city survey of 1872, conducted by John Giesy, does not include this house; thus, dating this house to c1875.

The one and a half-story Mohler House is two bays deep and, although the first story is obscured, apparently three bays wide, as the second story facade has three low, six-light windows. The house is 32 feet wide by 21 feet deep, and a small, one-story addition at the southwest corner is 15 feet square. The

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

gable roof has a pitch of about 40 degrees and is covered with composition shingles. Two original brick chimneys sit on either end of the ridge; the southern one is of fireplace flue dimensions, the northern one is of stove flue dimensions. The northern one has a corbelled cap and has been painted or covered with a cement coat; the southern one has lost its cap.

The eaves are boxed across the front and rear facades, have recessed soffits on the rake and meet in triangular forms at the corner. They are detailed with simple crown and bed moldings. The walls are sided with six-inch shiplap, have plain one-by-six corner boards, and no water table. The windows are six-over-six, double-hung sash, smaller in size on the second floor than on the first. There are hinged, operable, louvered shutters at the windows. The condition and character of the house suggests that the original color scheme has survived; the shutters are painted green, the sash black and the house white.

Across the full length of the front facade is an eight foot deep, hip roof porch. On the south end, it contains a six foot wide, enclosed room. The porch has low solid rails faced in shiplap with a screen of lattice work filling the space above. Solid brackets at the eaves are visible, but not the form of the porch supports. The porch and its enclosure totally obscure the first story front facade, including the front door and other openings.

The house was carefully restored in the 1990s based on photographs and Historic Review Board guidelines. The front façade is now fully visible and shutters removed.

The house, which faces east toward Highway 99E, sits on a slight rise surrounded by an old garden and orchards to the north and east.

Mohler is the name associated with the house on Clark Will's 1924 map. Samuel Mohler died in 1871, aged 85; his wife, Maria, in 1893, aged 94; and their daughter, Elizabeth, in 1898, aged 62. The Mohlers came to Bethel in 1845 and "conducted to the Bethel fund in money and valuables \$888.37." This was a much larger amount than the majority of members gave. They came to Aurora in 1863 and settled up in 1872. Maria and Elizabeth were members in 1878. After the death of Maria Mohler in 1898, Israel Snyder inherited the house. Israel, a son of Henry Snyder Sr., did not accompany his father and two of his brothers across the Oregon Trail in 1855, and stayed with the Mohler's in Bethel. He then came west with the Mohlers and lived in their house. Descendants often refer to this house as the Emma Snyder Smith house (Israel's daughter).

This building was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 35
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21328 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W13BA02800
Property ID: R10725

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Ernest Snyder House
YEAR BUILT: c1890
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Commercial



The .36 acre property is developed with a turn of the century house which faces west on Highway 99E. The original portion of the house, which has been extensively altered over the years, appears to be Italianate in style. It is L-shaped with one and two-story wings, a hipped roof with wide overhanging boxed eaves, and one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash windows. The one-story front porch which is located at the intersection of the wings has a hip roof, and porch railing and post which have been altered. Two Craftsman era additions have been built on the two-story portion of the house -- a one-story bay on the west side facing Highway 99E, and a 14 foot by 24 foot one-story addition on the south side. It appears the original shiplap siding, visible on the porch, was covered over with shingle siding at the time of construction of the additions. A new shop and garage addition, approximately 1,500 square feet in size, is connected to the northeast corner of the house by a breezeway. The property, which is surrounded by a newer style picket fence, has two black locust trees bordering the highway and older lilacs in the backyard. In 2015, all windows in the house were replaced with vinyl windows that were not approved by the city.

Ernest Snyder was a brother of Andrew Snyder, sons of Charles and Christina Schuele Snyder.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 36
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21338 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA02900
Property ID: R10727

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: c1950
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Commercial/Commercial



The .18 acre property, located on the east side of Highway 99E north of Bob's Avenue, is developed with a one-story, rectangular-shaped, highway-oriented commercial structure. The building has a gable roof with a shed addition across the front; the eave end is oriented to the highway. The building has a corrugated, galvanized metal roof, plywood siding, aluminum sash windows and door, and a concrete slab foundation. The entrance to the store is recessed within the shed addition. The building, which faces west, is set back and the entire front yard is paved with asphalt for parking.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 37, 40
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21347 and 21367 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA02200
Property ID: R10728

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: Unknown
YEAR BUILT: 1914 & 1969
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



(#37)



(#40)

The 1.37 acre property, located between the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way and Highway 99E, is developed with two houses. The house sited on the northern half of the property was built in 1969 and is a Suburban Ranch style structure. It is a one-story structure with full daylight basement and gable roof sheathed with composition shingles. It has plywood siding, aluminum sash windows and, on its northern elevation, an exterior fireplace chimney constructed of used brick. The house sited on the southern half of the property is a Bungalow style structure built in 1914. It is one story, rectangular in plan, with a symmetrical three-bay front facade. It has a gable roof with composition shingles and is oriented with its eave end toward the street. It is sided with shiplap and, below the drip cap and water table, has a vertical skirting of shiplap over its hollow- block tile foundation. The wood windows are one-over-one, double hung sash, single and paired, except for the shed dormer on the front facade, which has two single-light casement windows. The small front porch has a shed roof, tongue-and-groove flooring, and simple square posts. The gable ends are supported with simple brackets and the rafter tails are exposed on the eave ends. A fireplace chimney with corbel cap protrudes from the center of the roof. Both houses are sited in a swale between the highway and the railroad right-of-way.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 38
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21348 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: Snyder's
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA03000
Property ID: R98010

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Andrew Snyder Property
YEAR BUILT: c1900
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



1985: The property, which is 70 feet wide by 98 feet deep, is developed with a one-story residential structure which faces west on Highway 99E. The front section of the house, which is 24 feet wide and 19 feet deep, was built in about 1920, and the rear section, which is 14 feet wide by 16 feet deep, sometime before 1900. The Bungalow style front section has horizontal weatherboard siding, one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash windows, and a gable roof with brackets and exposed rafter tails. The rear section and a 13 foot deep rear shed addition, has four-over-four, double-hung, wood sash windows. A recent carport addition has been built on the north side of the house, obscuring the older front door which has four lights with ornamental carving below.

In the 1990s, a covered porch was built facing Hwy 99E and a front door added there. In 2015-16, the house underwent extensive changes within the Historic Review Board design code including lifting the building to accommodate a new foundation and basement, original door opening on the north side, an addition at the rear, and a new porch (north side).

Andrew Snyder, son of Charles and Christina Snyder, developed this property. In 2015 and 2016, this house has been extensively remodeled based on HRB guidelines.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 39
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21358 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA03100
Property ID: R10735

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: George Miller House
YEAR BUILT: c1883-1885
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/ Commercial



The George Miller House, a post-Colony type house, sits on a rise and faces west toward Highway 99E. The house appears to have been built in two stages and the rear portion appears to be older than the front. George Miller, who is professionally associated with Aurora's second period of development, became an agent for the Southern Pacific Railroad in the mid-1880s and held that position for 30 years.

The front portion of the house, circa 1900, is two stories in height, three bays wide by one bay deep, 32 feet by 18 feet, respectively. The gable roof is covered with composition shingles and a ventilation grille marks the attic area. The siding, which is painted white, is a V-joint shiplap. The corners are edged with one-by-six vertical boards which have a molded cap. At the base of the walls there is an eight-inch water

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

table which has a plain drip cap. The foundation is enclosed with a wood skirt of vertical V-edged boards.

The center bay contains the front entrance with a single light transom; the front door has two solid panels below and a large single pane of glass above, which is surrounded by small rectangles of colored glass. The one-story, hip roof entrance porch has two turned, tapered posts and two engaged, half-round pilasters at the wall. An open grille of spool work supported on brackets at the posts is under the lintel. A plain railing with rectangular spindles encloses the porch between the posts and also flanks the long flight of 11 steps which lead up from the front walk.

The fenestration is one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash which have upper stiles terminating in lamb's tongues. The plain window surrounds have horizontal rectangular caps above 4 cyma base. While the placement of the windows is essentially regular and symmetrical, the center bay is slightly off center and on the second floor an eccentric accent is created by the placement of a single fixed light to the right of the central bay. Some balance to this asymmetry is provided by a left hand window on the first floor which is double hung, of typical height, but twice the width. These few complications give this simple house a sense of "the turn of the century" in the use of motifs found in more elaborate and stylish buildings of the time. The building's color scheme, white with black sashes, seems to be original and is supported by black and white photography of Aurora near the end of the 19th century.

The wing at the rear, circa 1890, contrasts with the Gothic style front in basic character, mass and -style, being closer to the Italian Villa style. The rear wing is one story tall with a hip roof and a small hip dormer on its eastern facade. Across the eastern end is a one-story lean-to porch. While many details are similar to the front portion of the house, its most notable differences are its smaller windows and its boxed eaves supported on small solid wood brackets, exhibiting some jigsaw work in their shaped profiles. The plan of the rear portion is in contrast to the single room thickness of the front; it is divided into a double tier of rooms, north and south, in keeping with its thicker volume. It contains a living room with a fireplace and mantel detail original to the construction. The rear portion of the building appears to have been a complete house built before the front portion. The building is substantially intact on the exterior, as well as in the interior.

About 20 feet south of the back porch there is a one-story shed with a gable roof parallel to the rear wing. It is 16 feet by 22 feet with vertical board and batten walls, and appears to be contemporary with the rear portion of the house. The front of the lot is bordered by Highway 99E to the west. Main Street to the east appears to border the property at the rear; however, a vacant parcel which is developed as a rear yard intervenes. The site is landscaped with plants that are primarily modern in character.

George Miller (1855-1933) was the son of William Miller, the head of one of three Miller families that came to the Bethel Colony in 1845 and later to Aurora. William Miller came to Aurora with his family in 1877, the year before Dr. William Keil's death. Born in Bethel, Missouri, George Miller was 21 when his family arrived in Oregon. In 1883, George married Emily Giesy, daughter of Andrew Giesy, and began service that same year as the Southern Pacific Railroad agent until 1925. An earlier construction date is based off of the marriage date.

Exterior changes to the building have recently completed based on Historic Review Board guidelines, including the replacement of original windows and the front staircase in 2014.

This building was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 41
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21368 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA03200
Property ID: R10739

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1979-1980
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Commercial/Commercial



The .14 acre property, located on the east side of Highway 99E south of Fourth Street, is developed with a one-story, gable roof structure built in 1979-80. It is a replica of the Woodburn Railroad Station which the property owners originally intended to move to the site. It has shiplap siding, modern double-hung windows with snap-on muntins, and a concrete slab foundation. Along the eave end of the building, which faces the highway, there are exposed rafter tails and brackets. The front facade is detailed with double-leaf doors with a transom above. A gravel parking lot is located between the building and the highway.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 42
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21377 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA02100
Property ID: R10743

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Unknown
YEAR BUILT: C. 1908 remodeled 1947
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



The 1.32 acre property, located between the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way and Highway 99E, is developed with a one-story, rectangular-shaped building with a hip roof sheathed with composition shingles. The Craftsman style house, built about 1908, was extensively remodeled in 1947. It has been resided with raked shingles and the front porch entrance has been altered. Intact features include one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows with lambs tongues, boxed eaves detailed with block modillions, a hip roof dormer on the front facade, and chimney with corbelled cap. An addition, which is slightly different in detailing but compatible, has been made to its northern end. The house, which faces east onto Highway 99E, is surrounded by lawn and a boxwood hedge. The property is level along its highway frontage and then slopes down to the railroad right-of-way along its western edge. To the southwest of the house is a two-story outbuilding, referred to as a horse barn by the property owners. It has a gable roof, board-and-batten siding, and irregular fenestration. It is surrounded by Douglas firs, maples, and other native forest plants.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 43
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21398 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA03500
Property ID: R10755

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1956
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Commercial



The 5,390 square foot property, located at the southeast corner of Highway 99E and Fourth Street, is developed with a one-story L-shaped Suburban Ranch style house built in 1956. It has a low pitched, gable roof with the eave end oriented towards the front and Highway 99E. It has a concrete slab foundation and is sided with wide clapboards, except for the gable ends which have vertical tongue-and-groove siding with a scalloped edge. It has fixed and horizontal slider, wood sash windows and an interior fireplace chimney of Roman brick. The attached garage and an extension of its roof create a covered entry porch which is supported by iron pipe posts.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 44
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21418 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: Kraus'
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA01600
Property ID: R97963

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: Lumberyard
YEAR BUILT: c1950
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Commercial/Commercial



The approximately 14,310 square foot property is located on the north side of Fourth Street and is bordered by Highway 99E on the west and Main Street on the east. Two rectangular-shaped buildings connected by a breezeway face west and are located along the Highway 99E frontage. The one-story buildings, typical of commercial strip development, have flat roofs with pseudo mansard detailing, are sided with plywood, and have poured concrete foundations. Four fixed windows are located across the front of the southerly building. The site is paved in front of the southerly building and behind both buildings for use as a parking lot.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 45
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Hwy 99E NE Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: Kraus'
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA01650
Property ID: R97964

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Vacant Land



The approximately 5,160 square foot, wedge-shaped property, located at the southeast corner of Third and Highway 99E, is a remnant from the realignment of Highway 99E. Now vacant, it was formerly the site of three single-family houses.¹³ One of the two houses on the southern part of the property appears to have been moved in 1933 in conjunction with the highway realignment (Resource # 46).

¹³ 1922 Sanborn Map and 1928 Oregonian Photograph

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 46
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21477 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA02000
Property ID: R10762

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Historic Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing (Secondary Significant)
HISTORIC NAME: William Miley House
YEAR BUILT: c1890
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/ Vacant



This house was torn down and is now gone.

1985: The .94 acre property is bordered by Highway 99E on the east and slopes down toward the Southern Pacific Railroad to the west. The property is separated from the railroad right-of-way by a narrow wedge of vacant land (Resource #47). The property is developed with a Vernacular Gothic style house, built in about 1890. The gable roof house is T-shaped in plan, with a one and a half-story wing which faces the highway with its gable end, and a one-story kitchen wing to the south. It has shiplap siding above a simply molded drip cap and water table, one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows with lambs tongues, and plain boxed eaves with attenuated triangular eave returns. The house has been

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

altered in a number of ways. A bubble skylight has been added to the roof which has been sheathed with green corrugated metal. The chimney has been replaced with a metal stovepipe stack; the upper story window replaced with a larger, fixed, 16-light sash; and the porch across the one-story wing enclosed.

The house was originally located on the east side of Highway 99E, but was moved and turned 180 degrees when the highway was realigned in 1933. A photograph taken in 1928 from the water tower, located to the east, shows the house on its original site. The builder and original owner of the house are unknown. Hugo Keil remembers this building and Resource #48 belonging to William Miley.¹⁴



¹⁴ Hugo Keil interview

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 47
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA01900
Property ID: R10761

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Vacant Land/Vacant Land



The .07 acre property is a narrow wedge of vacant land bordered by the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way on the west, and Resource # 46 on the east. It appears to be part of Resource #46. It appears from early maps that a county road originally ran on this property through Aurora to Salem. Once Main Street was cut through to Bob's Avenue (c1908), this was the preferred road for traffic until the construction of Highway 99E.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 48
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21497 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA01700
Property ID: R10770

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: William Miley House
YEAR BUILT: c1885
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



The William Miley House, c1885, is associated with Aurora's post-Colony period and was one of the first houses built in Aurora after dissolution of the Colony. Stylistically, it is a vernacular variant of the Gothic Revival style, of a particularly small size and modest form, especially characteristic of post-Colony houses before the turn of the century. Captain William Miley, a shoemaker and bachelor, was an important Colony figure. While Miley is associated with the house, it appears that he only resided there in his later years.

The one and half-story house has a three bay front and two bayside and is T-shaped in plan. South of Third Street, the house faces east toward Highway 99E. It is 28 feet by 18 feet deep, and the wing is 16 feet deep by 18 feet wide. The one-story rear kitchen wing matches the front in all its detailing except

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

for its porch, which was recessed and had no posts. The gable roofs have a 45 degree pitch and are covered with wood shingles and metal ridge covers. Three narrow stove-type chimneys sit at the end of each gable, two in the front and one in the back. They are Gothic in form, with a base, shaft and corbelled collar and cap. The eaves are boxed with soffits parallel with the pitch of the roof and have both crown and bed moldings with a cyma profile. The walls are sided with 8 inch shiplap, with a plain corner board and no water table or base piece. The six inch wide window surrounds have a horizontal, rectangular cap over a base molding. The one-over-one, double-hung sash windows have upper stiles which terminate in lambs tongues. Brick piers support the house and are enclosed along the rear of the building with a vertical board skirting.

The front door is centrally placed, has four panels with molded surrounds, and a single light transom. There is a hip roof porch covering the central bay. It is supported by two six-inch turned columns with two semi-circular pilasters against the wall flanking the front door. There are solid wood brackets about two feet high by 18 inches wide connecting the pilasters and columns to the porch roof lintel. The brackets are deeply cut at their outer edge in scroll-like concave and convex curves. The shingled roof has board caps.

The house is substantially intact. Alterations have been minor and generally nonobtrusive, except for the replacement on the north elevation of the two second floor windows with aluminum sash. Other alterations include the addition of metal gutters and downspouts, an enclosed wooden entry over the basement access, and the enclosure of the north rear kitchen porch.

The description of this outbuilding, no longer standing, was written in 1985. To the rear of the house is a small, one story woodshed approximately 8 feet by 10 feet. The gable roof structure has an earth floor, braced frame, and vertical board siding. It is painted red and appears to have been constructed in about 1900. The simple landscaping around the house includes an old quince tree and plantings which appear to date from the 1920s. This structure is no longer here.

The association of the house with William "Cap" Miley (1844- 1930), the Colony shoemaker, poses some questions. Miley came to Aurora in 1863 as a young man of 19. The sobriquets "Cap" and "Captain" were apparently earned when he drove a four-yoke ox team across the plains in the move from Bethel, Missouri. Miley is described as a shoemaker for over 20 years in the various censuses and directories, but after the Colony's dissolution, he also engaged in politics, serving on the Aurora City Council and as a Marion County Commissioner for two terms. Chapman described Miley's abilities in this area as follows, "Captain Miley is a vivacious and interesting talker ... (He) often approaches the borders of eloquence. He is extremely well informed".

In 1878, according to Colony records, Miley had "settled up in 1872," was 33 years old and a "member to date." According to census records, Miley, who was bachelor, lived in Andrew Voght' household in 1870, and in John Giesy's in 1880. According to Harkness, Captain Miley received "1.33 acres and his little workshop with its tools and a small house" in the settlement of 1881. Whether the house and shed behind are those buildings is not known. In a description of William Miley, the 1898 Oregon Daily Statesman refers to his living places, "He was able to purchase a quarter section of land in the northeastern part of Marion County. This he has improved, making a beautiful, productive farm on it. He also owns a handsome residence in Aurora where he lives in the winter, during which time he works in his shoe shop. His attention during the summer is turned to farming."

An undated photograph of the house in the Old Aurora Colony Museum collection has a notation on it which states "William (Cap) Miley House where Ernie Becke was born, built about 1895." The 1900

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

census indicates that the Edward Becke family, including Ernest R. Becke, born in September 1899, were residing in the house, and that Miley was residing with Martin Giesy in his drugstore (Resource #78). In 1903, Chapman wrote of William Miley, "He has built a comfortable and pleasant residence in the town and his household is increased by his niece and her husband, the former ...is the housekeeper". Miley lived in this house from about 1895 until his death. He often shared the space with other families including his niece, Catherine Steinbach Becke, and later with the Bents family. The 1910 census indicates that Miley was living with the Henry Bents family in the house or in a house across the street on the southeast corner of Third and the Old Stage Road (better known as the County Road).



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 49
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Hwy 99E, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA01800
Property ID: R10772

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Vacant Land/Vacant Land

The approximately 685 square foot piece of vacant property is located on the south side of Third Street at its western end where it dead ends into the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way. The property looks as though it is part of the William Miley House property (Resource #48).

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE#: 50
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Martin Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD05400
Property ID: R10773

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Vacant Land/Vacant Land



The .43 acre vacant property is bordered by the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way on its west, Martin Street NE on its east, and Second and Third Streets on its north and south, respectively. It is overgrown with scotch broom, teasel, blackberries, bracken ferns and a few poplar, plum and pear trees.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

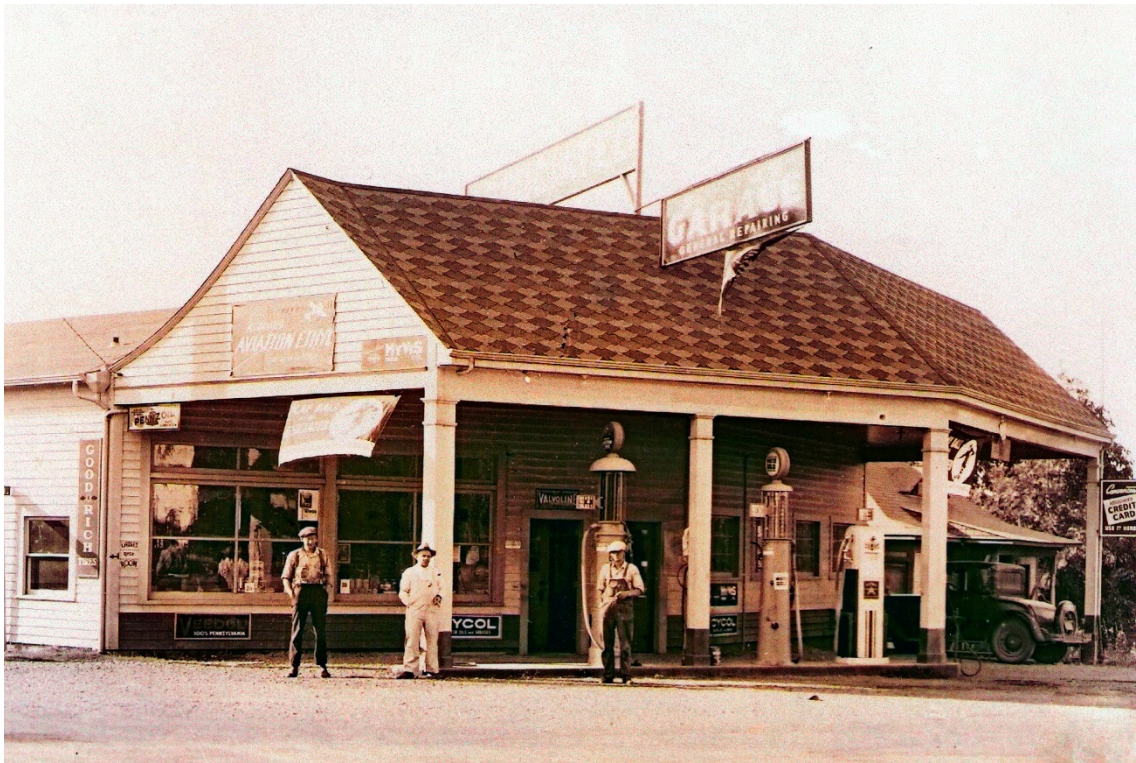
RESOURCE #: 51
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21507 Hwy 99E NE Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD06100
Property ID: R97884

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Stoner Brothers Garage
YEAR BUILT: c1920
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Garage/Commercial



The 7,920 square foot property, located at the northwest corner of Third and Highway 99E, is developed with a one-story, irregularly-shaped building. The building, which is currently used as an auction hall and warehouse, appears to be part of the Stoner Bros. Garage, built about 1920 and extensively remodeled in 1933 when Highway 99E was realigned (see Resource #67). The building has clap-board siding on its north and east sides; its south side along Third Avenue has been resided with corrugated metal to match a Butler building addition to its west. The roof is a complex of gables in various pitches with a steep pitched, gable roof covering the porch across the angled front of the building. The windows are various, including 12 light, single-sash on the north and east sides, fixed commercial storefront windows with transoms along the angled front facade, and aluminum slider windows in the rear addition. The front yard of the building, which is used for unloading, is paved.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 52
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21517 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT #: 041W12CD06000
Property ID: R97883

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: C.W. Damm House
YEAR BUILT: c1909
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Commercial



Representative of Aurora's secondary period of development, the Craftsman era house with Victorian detailing faces east onto Highway 99E. Built in about 1912, the house is a one-story, rectangular structure with a steeply-pitched, bellcast roof. It has a small front porch with attached shed roof centered between two shallow bay windows. The house has horizontal "California" clapboard siding and one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows with lambs tongues. The house is ornamented with fancy cut shingles on a small attic dormer, turned porch posts, multi-paned colored side lights by the front door, and an oval-paned front door with applied wood ornamentation. Except for the addition of a small enclosed porch at the rear, the house appears unaltered. The Front yard has a newer brick walkway and stairway leading from a small graveled parking area at the front of the property.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

From photographic documentation, it can be seen that, prior to the realignment of Highway 99E in 1933, the house was west of the former Stoner Brothers garage and faced south onto Third Street. The house is located on property Samuel Giesy received upon dissolution of the Colony.

From photograph documentation, it can be seen that, prior to the realignment of Highway 99E in 1933, the house was west of the former Stoner Brothers garage and faced south onto Third Street. The house is located on property Samuel Giesy received upon dissolution of the Colony, but it is not known who owned or built the house. An earlier date for construction has been assigned to the house based on a photograph taken of the C.W. Damm family that shows them on the porch of this house in 1909. He was a photographer who briefly lived in Aurora at this time. No other association has yet been made with this house.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 53
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21512 Martin Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT #: 041W12CD06001
Property ID: R97883

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: C.W. Damm Property
YEAR BUILT: 1980
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Commercial



To the rear of the C.W. Damm house is a 30 foot by 40 foot metal Butler building with aluminum sash windows and concrete foundation sitting that acts as a warehouse. The structure sits on a .08 acre parcel of land. This lot was once part of the C.W. Damm house property (Resource #52). The property was divided so that the commercial warehouse would be on a separate lot.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE # 54
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21527 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD05900
Property ID: R97882

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Samuel Giesy House
YEAR BUILT: c1872
ORIGINAL USE/PRESENT USE: Residential/Restaurant



The Samuel Giesy House, although extensively altered, still has some of the architectural outlines of a Colony era house. Considering the tax records, it could be as old as 1872, it is one of the earliest residential buildings erected in Aurora.¹⁵

As originally built, the house faced east on Main Street between Second and Third Streets. It now faces southeast toward Highway 99E. It was apparently moved slightly westward and turned when Highway 99E was realigned in 1933. 20th century additions unrelated to each other in style or form have been added to the original 19th century structure, encrusting it in all directions. The additions appear to date

¹⁵ Marion County Deed Book no. 15, page 339.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

from the 1930s and later. On the front facade, only the original chimney and the length of the ridge can be seen. Half the roof has been altered by lifting the front slope and attaching a lower, more steeply pitched roof to it, creating a gambrel. On the front facade of the gambrel roof there are two symmetrically placed, stucco surfaced, gable dormers, each with one-over-one sash. The upper slope of the rear roof appears to be original, but it has been extended with a later, long lean-to of flatter pitch. The end elevations of these additions are covered uniformly in shiplap, portions of which may be original.

To each side of the building dissimilar one-story, flat roofed additions have been attached. The southern addition is much taller and capped with a quasi-Victorian jigsaw railing. It is sided with painted shingles. The northern addition is covered in shiplap and pierced by a variety of nondescript styleless openings, doors, and windows. Extending approximately 40 feet across two-thirds of the present front and added to it slightly off center, there is a low one-story, shingle structure. Its roof springs from the eave of the gambrel, but with a very flat pitch. A continuous band of aluminum windows fills the upper half of its walls.

Two windows with one-over-one sash on the second floor of the north elevation are original. They have plain surrounds and the horizontal cap with bed moldings, found in the Jacob Miller and William Miley Houses. The original boxed eave construction on the rake ends has been removed and replaced with a plain wide, flat board.

A circa 1890 photograph shows that, before alterations, the house was very similar to the Jacob Miller and William Miley Houses. Undoubtedly, they all have similar construction dates and, perhaps, the same builder. The house can also be seen in its original state in several panoramic photographs taken from the water tower looking across the business district in a northwesterly and northerly direction.

The building was originally T-shaped in plan with a one and a half-story, three bay front. It had a small, centrally placed, hip roof porch. The windows had exterior shutters. The rear wing was slightly lower than the front and was three bays in length. It should be noted that there is still considerable evidence remaining in the interior of the building of its original detailing, including a central staircase and several four-panel doors.

Samuel Giesy and his brother, Frederick, who came to Aurora in 1856, received the whole block bounded by Second and Third, Main Street and the railroad right-of-way upon dissolution of the Colony. The property on which the house is located became the property of Samuel Giesy, who received the southern half of the block. Samuel (1831-1911), the son of Andrew and Barbara, was the Colony's saddler and harness maker. It appears that he rented the house to his nephew, William Giesy (1846-1911), who was also a saddler and harness maker. William, a Colony member, was the son of Andrew Giesy Jr., Samuel's brother.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 55
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21558 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD06400
Property ID: R97890

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1963
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Vacant Land/ Commercial



The 1,440 square foot property, located on the east side of Highway 99E between Second and Third, is developed with a one-story, flat roof, irregularly-shaped building, built in 1963 and expanded in 1973. The Moderne style commercial structure has plywood siding and aluminum sash slider windows. Except for a small area landscaped with 1960s era plant materials at the southwest corner, the site is paved with asphalt. The building faces west onto Highway 99E.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 56
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21568 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT #: 041W12CD06500
Property ID: R97891

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: Aurora Colony Commercial Center (partial)
YEAR BUILT: 1932 & c1940
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Commercial & Residential/Commercial



The 11,050 square foot property, located on the east side of Highway 99E between Second and Third Streets, is developed with a commercial building at the southwest corner and a single-family dwelling, converted to commercial space, at the southeast corner. Built in 1932, the one-story, irregularly-shaped commercial building has a gable roof sheathed with composition shingles, plywood siding, and fixed wood and aluminum sash slider windows. The front elevation of the building is detailed with a parapet and cantilevered shed roof over the entrance. The one-story, rectangular-shaped Eaveless Tract style house, circa 1940, has a gable roof sheathed with composition shingles, raked shingle siding, and fixed and double-hung wood sash windows. This is now connected to the commercial building. The site is paved with asphalt for parking except for the eastern edge which is planted with arborvitae and a large

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

English walnut. Records state that Fred Peters was a tavern operator at this site c1938. A significant part of this property was originally associated with the Aurora Colony Commercial Center. August 25 1931 states the following: Old Giesy house on Main Street wrecked; built in 1870 it was the principal manufacturing center and Old Colony Store for exclusive use of colonists; the store was in the second story of the building in the rear, as well as a tailor shop in which all of the men's clothes were made. The lower store was occupied by a shoe shop, harness shop, boarding house for some Colony members; in August 1881 the house became the dwelling of Andrew Giesy Sr.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 57

COUNTY: Marion

ADDRESS: 21607 Hwy 99 NE Aurora, OR 97002

Building contains the following physical addresses: (21610 Main Street NE, 21620 Main Street NE, and 21627 Hwy 99E NE)

T4S R1W S12

ADDITION: Aurora

TAX LOT#: 041W12CD03600 (partial)

Property ID: R97895

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony

CLASSIFICATION: Contributing

HISTORIC NAME: Will-Snyder General Merchandise

YEAR BUILT: 1912

ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Retail/Retail



The Will-Snyder General Merchandise Company, at the northeast corner of Second and Main Streets, is typical of masonry commercial architecture built after the turn of the century during the secondary period of development. The building is one story tall with a mezzanine level, and irregular in shape. The original building, constructed in 1912, was 56 feet wide by 75 feet deep. After construction of Highway 99E in 1933, a triangular addition, 40 feet in depth and similar in design to the original building, was made to the north side. The roof is concealed behind a parapet detailed with a simple corbelled cap and corner piers. The building is constructed of honey colored brick piers (now painted over) and hollow tile panels covered over with a stucco finish. The north wall of the building, which was not originally stuccoed, remains intact with the original masonry exposed. The brick protrudes from the stucco walls

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

to provide a panel effect and indentations for signage on the parapet. The Main Street facade is four irregular bays wide. Each bay is detailed with a storefront window with mezzanine windows above. Originally, the building housed one business. Over the years, the building has been redesigned to accommodate a different business in each bay. Although the storefront windows have been altered to accomplish this, the mezzanine windows with obscure glass are intact. It appears from an early County Assessor's photograph that the entrance to the building was located in the third bay from the north, and that an awning suspended on metal rods extended across the front of the building and one bay on the south side. The facade paralleling Highway 99E is also four bays wide and appears to be intact.

The Will-Snyder General Merchandise Company was built in 1912 on the original site of the George Smith House (Resource # 7). It appears that the building was a result of the state-wide building boom after the Lewis & Clark Exposition. Jonas Will (1867-1963), the president and managing partner, was the son of Leonard and Triphine Will (Resource #14 and #64) who came to Aurora in 1863. Jonas and his brother, Anton, had engaged in the general merchandise business as The Will Brothers Store (Resource #65) from just after the turn of the century until 1906 when they became hop growers. Ernest J. Snyder (1884-1960) and Andrew C. Snyder (1870-1941), sons of Charles and Christina Snyder (Resource #23) who came to Aurora in 1856, were the Wills' partners, acting as secretary/treasurer and vice president, respectively. It is not known when the company went out of business, but it was sometime after 1935.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 58
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21637 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT #: 041W12CD03600 (partial)
Property ID: R97895

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1971
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Vacant Land/Grocery



The 4,900 square foot lot with frontage on Main Street and Highway 99E is developed with a one-story, rectangular-shaped building used as a grocery store. Built in 1971, the building has a flat roof with pseudo-mansard detailing, plywood siding with vertical battens, fixed wood windows with shutters, and a concrete block foundation. The building is sited at the southeast corner of the property and faces north onto an asphalt parking lot.

This property is part of a larger tax lot (Resource #57).

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 59
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21668 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD03300
Property ID: R97896

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: c1940 remodeled 1973 and 2015
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Vacant Land/ Commercial



1985: The 2,450 square foot property, bordered by Liberty Street on the east and Highway 99E on the north, is developed with a one- story, flat roof, irregularly-shaped building. The building is sided with plywood and used brick below the storefront windows on its north and northwest sides. Built in 1940 and remodeled in 1973, it is a collage of pseudo-historic themes with country kitchen doors, fixed picture windows with irregular muntin patterns, and columns supporting the pseudo-mansard roof veranda along its north and northwest sides. The building faces north onto Highway 99E.

In 2015, the building was extensively remodeled with the addition of many classic exterior elements.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 60
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21687 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#:041W12CD03200
Property ID: R97898

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1952
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Livery (partial) /Gas Station



The .2 acre property is irregularly shaped and fronts on Highway 99E and Liberty Street. It is developed with a service station built in 1952. The rectangular-shaped building has flat roof, and wedge shaped tower which was used for signage. It has a concrete slab foundation and is sided with metal panels. A glass curtain wall encloses the office area. The garage area has two large doors on the east side, and windows along the north side. The building faces east onto an asphalt-paved area with free standing gasoline pumps.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 61
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21717 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD03000
Property ID: R97905

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: Andrew Voght House Site
YEAR BUILT: c1870/1967
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential /Commercial



The 3,600 square foot property is a small triangle of land bordered by First Street on the west, Liberty Street on the south, and Highway 99E on the southeast. It is a remnant of Block 5 of the Original Plat of Aurora cut off by the realignment of Highway 99E. A trapezoidal shaped, one-story structure with full basement was built on the site in 1967. It has a flat roof modified to resemble a mansard, vertical tongue-in-groove cedar siding and large, fixed picture windows. It faces south on to the highway.

Formerly, the property was the site of the Andrew Voght House, an early Colony period residence. The house, which faced north, was located on the southeast corner of First and Liberty Streets. It was two stories high, three bays wide and two bays deep with a one-story porch across the rear facade. It was

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

demolished in 1933 for construction of the Pacific Highway which passed diagonally from northeast to southwest across the lot. Although the highway covers most of the lot, the actual footprint of the house has survived in a triangular wedge of land which is now the site of the existing building.

Andrew Voght (1804-1884) came to Aurora in 1865 with his wife and children. He had joined the Colony in 1848, contributing to the Bethel fund \$200. From census records, it appears his children continued to reside in the house until the early 1900s. His children were without issue.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 62
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21728 Hwy 99E NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD02400
Property ID: R97911

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Unknown
YEAR BUILT: c1920
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential /Residential



Bordered by Highway 99E on the north, the 12,950 square foot, irregularly shaped property is a result of the highway realignment in 1933. The Bungalow style house, built about 1920, was moved from the northwest corner of the lot to the southeast. The one and a half-story structure with full basement has a foundation of terra cotta tile block. The gable roof with exposed rafter tails is sheathed with composition shingles and, on its eave end, has a shed dormer facing the highway. Its original siding has been covered over with asphalt shingles, and the reentrant porch across the front of the house has been enclosed. These alterations appear to date from the 1940s or 1950s and appear to be reversible. Most of the original one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows are intact. An exterior fireplace chimney is located in the middle of the west side of the building. To its south, at the first story, is a square bay window with a hip roof. The house is sited above the highway and surrounded with a vertical board fence in a rustic setting, with Douglas firs across the front yard, and maples in its western side yard.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 63
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21491 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S13
ADDITION: Kraus'
TAX LOT#: 041W13BA01300
Property ID: R97960

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: Sadler & Kraus General Merchandise
YEAR BUILT: c1910
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Commercial/Vacant



This building burned down in 1990.

1985: The Sadler & Kraus General Merchandise Store, located at the southwest corner of Third and Main, is a substantial commercial building representative of Aurora's secondary period of development. The two-story building has five sides and is irregular in shape. Two faces of the building are oriented toward Main Street, which has a jog in it as it passes from the "Original Plat of Aurora" into "Kraus' Addition." The building is constructed of reinforced concrete and finished with a stucco wash. The cornice, also constructed of concrete, is detailed with two sets of paired brackets, with an ornamental tile above each, toward the ends of each major street facade. The extended first story contains a full

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

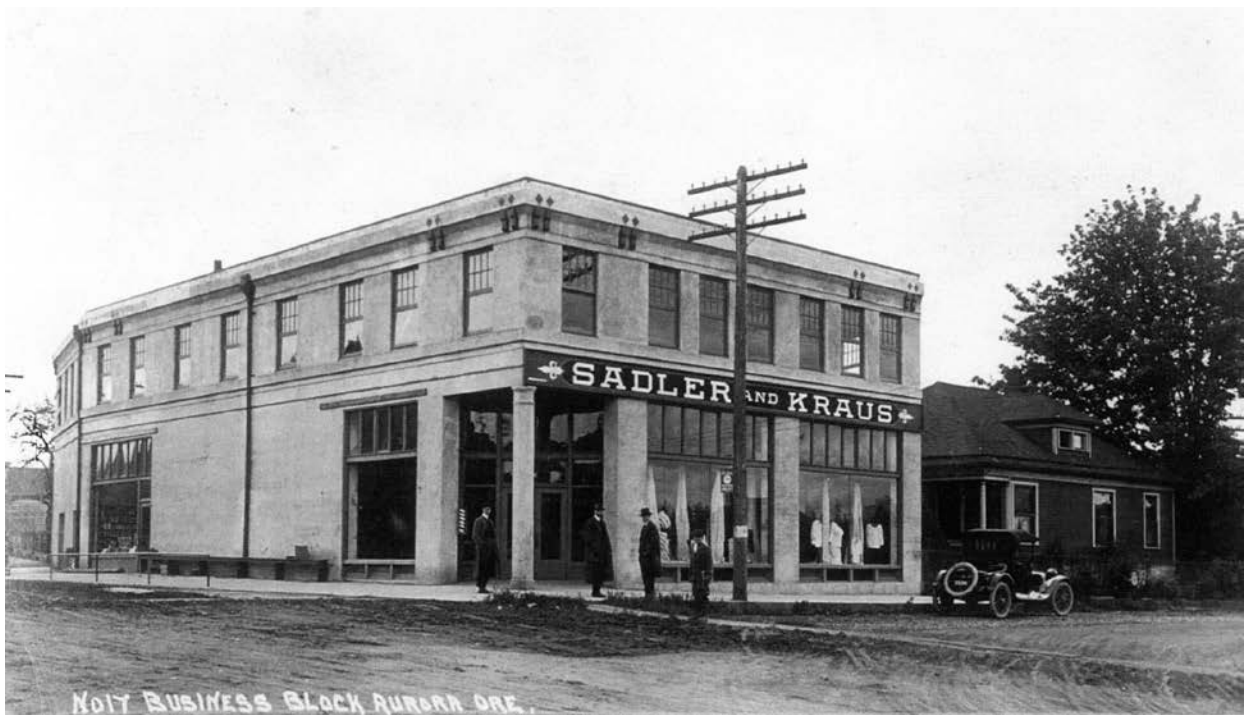
mezzanine level across the rear of the building. The first story has large storefront windows which extend across the Third Street frontage and wrap around one bay on Main Street. There is another storefront window located at the angle in the Main Street facade and service doors at the south end of the Main Street facade. The recessed entrance to the store is canted across the corner of the building at Third and Main. The glass paneled entrance doors, which are located behind a hexagonal post that supports the corner of the building, are double leaf with transom, mezzanine and side lights. The storefront windows are detailed with wood panels below and mezzanine windows above, the central one being operable. The second story is irregularly fenestrated and has eight-over-one, wood sash windows, the bottom sash of which is hinged and tilts inward for ventilation. The flat roof is sheathed with composition.

The Sadler & Kraus General Merchandise Store was established in 1907 by John W. Sadler (1871-1934) and Arthur W. Kraus (1881-1956). A photograph taken by C.W. Damm in 1909 shows that the business was first situated in the original Willamette Trading Company/Will Brothers Bazaar building. Sadler, 36 at the time, was from Virginia and not a Colony descendent. It is speculated that he may have come to Oregon as a result of the Lewis & Clark Exposition in 1905.

In 1934, the store is no longer jointly listed in the County directories; Sadler is listed as postmaster and appears to have died within the year, as his wife is listed as a widow in the 1935 directory. Arthur Kraus is listed as being in general merchandise and president of the Stafford Pickle Company. It appears that he continued to run the store, as a 1956 photograph in the Aurora Colony Centennial Celebration Souvenir Booklet shows the building with signage "Kraus Store Dry Goods and Grocery." Kraus was the son of George and Elizabeth Giesy Kraus who came to Aurora in 1863 and 1862, respectively. George Kraus appears to have received the property south of Third Street at Main in 1879 as part of the settlement of Colony affairs. In that same year, he married Elizabeth Giesy, a niece of Emma Wagner Giesy. Sometime before 1900, they moved into Emma's house (Resource #3), which was located to the east of the store across Main.

Photographic evidence illustrates that this site originally featured George Kraus' shoe shop, dating to after the Colony's settlement in 1881.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 64
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21510 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT #: 041W12CD06200
Property ID: R97885

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: Leonard Will House Site
YEAR BUILT: c1864/1949
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential /Lodge Hall



The 6,050 square foot property, located at the northeast corner of Third and Main Streets, is developed with the American Legion Hall, a one-story rectangular shaped building with a barrel vault roof sheathed with composition shingles. Built in 1949, the building has asbestos shingle siding, eight-over-eight, double hung sash windows, a concrete foundation and full basement. A small entry porch is located at the center of its western facade on Main Street. The porch has a barrel vault roof, iron pipe railings and posts, and poured concrete floor and stairs. The site is minimally landscaped with lawn, foundation plantings of juniper, and one maple tree.

In 2013 the windows were replaced and the porch and stairway were half enclosed.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

The site was formerly the location of the Leonard and Triphine Will House, built about 1864. The Aurora news of 1949, noted at the time of its demolition that it “had been the Will home for many years later... it was enlarged somewhat and used as a school house ... and for some years it housed the office and plant of the Aurora Observer.”¹⁶ Leonard and Triphine Will were early Colony members settling in Bethel in 1845 and arriving in Aurora in 1863. A later residence (Resource #14) associated with them and located within the same block, but facing on Liberty Street, still exists.



¹⁶Statesman Journal. April 17, 1949.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 65
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21520 Main Street, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD06300
Property ID: R97889

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: Will Brothers General Merchandise
YEAR BUILT: c1900
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Commercial & Residential/ Vacant



This resource burned down late July 2002.

1985: The Will Brothers General Merchandise Store faces west on Main Street between Second and Third Streets. The two-story, simple Italianate style building is 50 feet wide and 60 feet deep. It is sheathed with shiplap and has a flat roof ornamented with a bracketed and paneled cornice. While the first story facade has been extensively altered with the addition of a one-story, enclosed, hip roof porch, the second story with four, evenly spaced, one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows, is intact. The windows are detailed with simple crown moldings. Early photographs of the building show that a shed roof extended all the way across the building front, protecting the wooden porch. The northern part of the building was used for ware housing, and the southern part with large, square paned,

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

storefront windows and central doorway was used for retailing. The existing porch, Classical in detailing, appears to have been constructed in about 1920. It has a central recessed entry detailed with a pediment, Tuscan columns and low railing. A second story porch entrance on the south side of the building is similar in detailing and appears to have been built at the same time.

The Will Brothers General Merchandise Store was completed in 1893.¹⁷ Anton (1871-1962) and Jonas (1867-1963), the store proprietors, were the sons of Leonard and Triphine Will, Colony members (Resource #14). They engaged in the general merchandise business until about 1906 when they turned to hop growing. Later on, Jonas returned to the general merchandise business in partnership with Ernest and Andrew Snyder, also Colony descendants (Resource #57). The building was first called the Willamette Trading Company and owned by the Muecke family. It was later sold to the Will Brothers around 1892. They named it Will Brothers Bazaar which they then changed it to the Will Brothers General Merchandise Store. Before construction of their own Sadler Kraus building (Resource #63) John Sadler and Arthur Kraus started their business here in 1908.

Sam Miller had a funeral home business in this property from 1910 to 1942. Funeral records are part of the ACHS collection.



¹⁷ Woodburn Independent Nov. 17, 1893.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 66
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21551 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD05800
Property ID: R97881

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Benjamin F. Giesy House
YEAR BUILT: 1915
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



The Benjamin F. Giesy House, which faces east on Main Street, is an elaborate Craftsman Bungalow with Swiss detailing. The house was constructed in 1915 by Eugene Mossberger. The one-story house with attic is rectangular in shape with a medium-pitched, hip roof with fancy cut rafter tails and gable dormers on all sides. The dormers, with paired windows, are detailed with ornamental bargeboards and brackets and, beneath the front dormer, a window box. The reentrant porch, which extends across the entire front facade, is supported by four groups of turned Tuscan columns and short beams with ornamentally carved ends. The columns rest on a solid clapboard sided railing. The house is sided with horizontal "California" clapboards and appears to have been originally painted a dark brown with cream white trim. The windows are generally one-over-one, double-hung wood sash with lambs tongues and grouped in twos and threes. However, three larger fixed windows, two on the front facade and one to

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

the north in a bay window, are detailed with upper lights of leaded glass in a diaper pattern. The house appears to be intact, except for the addition of front porch handrails and modifications to the rear and side porches. The front yard is planted with lawn and broadleaf evergreens near the foundation of the house. The backyard, which slopes down toward the railroad tracks, is planted with older walnut, filbert and apple trees. The house is associated with Benjamin F. Giesy (1875-1967), the son of Martin Giesy (1835-1916) (Resource #77). Like his father, he was a physician, and practiced in Aurora from 1898 into the 1960s. He was also associated with the Aurora State Bank as its original vice president and then its president from 1915 until its demise in about 1933 (Resource #80).

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 67
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21561 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD05700
Property ID: R97880

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Samuel Stoner House
YEAR BUILT: c1910
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



The 10,560 square foot property is developed with a simply detailed bungalow, built in about 1910. The gable end of the gable roof house faces east onto Main Street. The one-story house with an attic is rectangular in shape, with an attached shed roof porch across the front. It has a concrete foundation and is sided with horizontal beveled tongue-and-groove. The eaves are open with the rafter tails exposed on the eave ends, and simple brackets at the gable ends. The windows are generally one-over-one, double-hung wood sash with lambs tongues. However, the first story front facade windows are ornamented with unequal sash and small panes. The front porch is detailed with a solid rail and three boxed posts. A small shed, similar to the house in design, and a barn with dirt floor and metal roof and siding, are sited to the rear of the house. The site is planted with old fashioned, fountain-shaped shrubs and a large Persian walnut at the rear of the lot. It is not known who constructed or

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

originally resided in the house.

Samuel Stoner is listed in the Salem city Directory for 1915. Five years later he is living next door to Dr. Benjamin Giesy in his house. This comes from federal census records. His two sons, Benjamin and Edwin, were machinist in the auto shop (Resource #51)



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 68, 69
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21581 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT #-041W12CD05600 (partial)
Property ID: R97878

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Wm. Keil & Co. General Merchandise Store
YEAR BUILT: c1871
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Retail Store & Hall/Retail Store



The Wm. Keil & Company General Merchandise Store is the most intact and important of the public or community buildings which have survived from the Colony period. Among Colony buildings it is unique in having a pedimented front and is especially distinguished by its two-story porch with superimposed columns. The turned work of the columns and the balusters is attributed to Jacob Miller. The building was constructed in 1870 or 1871, although Frederick Keil's operation of a general store goes back to at least 1861. The general store, managed by Frederick Keil, sold merchandise to outsiders, housed the post office, and was the center for the Colony's commercial business affairs; the second floor hall was used for public meetings.

The store, which faces east toward Main, south of Second Street, is two stories high with an attic and a

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

two-story reentrant porch on the front facade. It is three bays across the front façade and five unequally spaced bays deep, 30 feet by 80 feet. Along the northern Second Street side, there is a platform with steps for access to a side door. The gable roof is covered with wood shingles with a shingled ridge cap. One bay from the rear of the structure, a brick chimney serving an interior fireplace penetrates the ridge.

The eaves are boxed on the sides, but characteristic of Aurora, have deeply recessed soffits along the rakes of the front and rear gables. The eaves, which meet the rakes in small solid, triangular blocks, have no crown moldings, which is typical; the cyma molding now in place as a bed molding may be part of the 1970s restoration work. In early photographs, the horizontal weatherboarding appears to be white or a very light color, but is now darker. At the corners are 3 inch vertical boards. The plain, 9-inch water table has a beveled upper edge. Beneath the building at the rear, there is a small access door to the basement which is enclosed in concrete and a wood skirting.

Except for the storefront, the windows throughout are six-over-six, double-hung sash and are smaller in the attic, where there are two on each gable. The windows have plain vertical trim, but the rectangular cap has a cyma profiled base. Whether this detail is original or part of the restoration work is not known; it is an unusual ornamental treatment for Aurora Colony period architecture. The two large, storefront windows, restored in 1973, have fixed four-light sash and flank the paneled, double leaf door and six-light transom. The side door is similar in design. On the second floor, the front porch door is single leaf with a five-light transom and flanked by two six-over-six windows. The doors have caps similar to those above the double-hung windows.

The back wall of the two-story, front porch is sheathed with flat horizontal matched boarding. The turned work on the porch is very similar to the Frederick Keil House (Resource #111), although the four second-story columns are taller than the first story columns. The store's columns are attenuated and lighter in appearance than the Keil House's. The caps and bases also recall the cylindrical drums, necking and astragal details of the Keil House columns. The balusters on both buildings are also similar.

It is assumed the store was constructed in 1870 or 1871 based on its turned work, as well as the advertised location of the store. From its construction in 1864 until 1870, the Aurora Colony Hotel apparently included the general store operation. In the 1867 Directory, Frederick Keil advertised as a "varieties, hotel proprietor, and postmaster", and in the 1870 census, he is listed as "hotel keeper." The building's turned work is attributed to Jacob Miller, a turner who resided in Aurora from 1863 until 1871. In 1901, Miller told H.S. Lyman that he had "turned the massive columns of the portico." It is not known if he was referring to the General Store, Frederick Keil House (Resource #110) or another building now gone.

Two stores which existed through much of the Colony period tend to be confused with each other, the F. Keil & Company General Merchandise Store and the "Colony" store. The "Colony" store was "internal" to the community, giving to the Colony members "according to their needs." The Keil & Co. Store, built about 1871, was "external", selling merchandise to the outside world. The two stores were described in 1875 by Nordoff, "There is a supply store for the community ... and a general store at which neighboring farmers, not communists, deal for cash." The location of the "Colony" store was across the street from the Keil & Co. Store in a large two-story, T-shaped building (Resource #97) which contained, in addition to the store, workshops and a residence. The building was variously known as the Aurora Colony Workshop, as it housed the tailor and other craftsmen, and, after 1876, as the Andrew Giesy House, as it served as the Giesy family residence. Later, it was known as the "Giesy girls' house." When the building

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

was demolished in 1933 for the realignment of Highway 99-E, the newspaper noted, “The Colony store which supplied the frugal needs of the Colonists was situated on the second floor wing.” It is assumed that the “Colony” store ceased to function after 1880 upon dissolution of the Colony.

The early history of the building is primarily associated with Frederick Keil, the son of Dr. William Keil, and with Frederick's brother-in-law, Frederick Giesy. An indication of the breadth of business operations, as well as the partnership, is suggested by the succession of titles given the account books over a 20-year period. The 1860 census listed then 19-year-old Frederick Keil as a “storekeeper.” The first account book (and many following it) appears to be in his hand; it is titled, “January 1, 1857 to 1860, Dr. William Keil & Company”. The next book is titled “Frederick Keil & Company, Account Book for 1861, William Keil & Company.” In 1863, the title is “Frederick Keil & Company, Account Book & F. Giesy & Company with the same firm.”

Although Frederick Giesy received Lot 1, Block 2, the location of the store, in the 1872 property division of the Colony's real estate, he is not mentioned in the business directories until 1886. It is assumed he continued in business with his brother-in-law during this period, as he is listed as “clerk” in the 1870 census and as “merchant” in 1880. In addition, Williams' 1878 Atlas shows a building on the site called Pioneer Hall and post office, and starting in 1872, Keil was listed in the directory as “General Merchandise, Keil, F. and Company Postmaster, Frederick Keil”. The last mention of Frederick Keil (1841-1883) and Keil & Company is in the directory of 1881.

From 1886 to 1896, Frederick Giesy (1833-1898) is listed in the directories under various names, of “Aurora Pioneer Hall, F. Giesy Proprietor”, and “F. and J. Giesy (Frederick Giesy) General Merchandise”. Starting in 1888, he is also listed as postmaster. Following Frederick's death in 1898, his nephew, Andrew H. Giesy, and other members of the Giesy family, continued to run the store as A.H. Geisy & Co. until 1920. The second floor hall, which seated 300, was variously known as “Pioneer Hall”, “Aurora Pioneer Hall” and “Aurora Hall”, and, in 1881, was used “for meetings, lectures and dancing.”

The building continued as a general merchandise store into the third quarter of the 20th century. In 1956, it was occupied by Wirth and Lowrie, IGA Groceries. By that time, a number of alterations had been made to the front facade. The lower porch had been completely glazed in, and the turned posts of the upper porch had been replaced or covered with square boxed posts. Following a fire in 1973, Mrs. John Sprouse had the building restored to its circa 1900 appearance, except for the front door, which was originally much taller, had no transom and a different panel system. At that time, the adjoining one-story building to the east was connected and remodeled, giving it an earlier appearance. Since then, the store has been painted dark with white trim, a scheme uncharacteristic of the Aurora Colony.

In 2015, a major front façade restoration project was completed. This included rebuilding the porch and the balcony; as well as replacing the columns and bannister.

Early in the spring of 1984, the Octagon Building (Resource #70) was relocated here from its original site on the lot of the Aurora Hotel.

This building was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 70
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Main Street NE Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT #: 041W12CD05600 (partial)
Property ID: R97878

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Octagon Building
YEAR BUILT:
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Unknown/Museum



The Octagon Building, which stood for at least 100 years on the hotel site (Resource #82), was disassembled and moved in 1984 to this location. No other octagonal structure is known to have existed within the Colony.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

The Octagon, a one-story building with basement, contains about 480 square feet of area on its main floor. Each face of the building is approximately eight feet wide and twelve feet tall. The roof is capped with an octagonal lantern, each of its three foot by three foot faces is louvered. Both tiers of the roof are shingled and have shingled ridges. The main walls are covered with horizontal shiplap with six-inch wide vertical boards at each corner. The eaves are boxed with a shaped bed molding. A four-panel door facing east toward Main Street with a single light transom is the only opening in the main body of the building. The trim is painted dark green, the siding is painted white.

As it originally stood, in front of the building, the ground level was a foot or two below the threshold, but the abrupt slope to the west placed the rear of the building six feet or more above grade. The supports and foundations of the building are rough posts, and between them random size horizontal boarding which holds back the earth. The basement structure was a makeshift affair, in contrast to the professional workmanship of the building above. The interior of the main floor is open to the roof and the lantern. The interior framing, approximately 16 inches on center, is exposed and the surfaces at one time were whitewashed. In the center of the six-inch wood floor is a cutout, approximately two feet in diameter, made with some care and presumed to be original.

The building presents dating problems, for its detailing is of a later period than the Colony period with which it has been traditionally associated. A construction date of circa 1880 is attributed to it based on its architectural characteristics. A circa 1889 panoramic photograph of Aurora shows the Octagon Building at the center of the view in the distance. About 60 feet northeast of the Octagon was the rear corner of the hotel.

There is little historic information about the building. Its original use is not known; and all functional associations which have been mentioned over the years may be correct for various periods of time. Speculations as to the original purpose of this structure leads repeatedly to a role as a domestic outbuilding, suggested in part by its proximity to other outbuildings at the rear of the property. Its exterior resemblance to a smoke house is not supported by telltale interior smoke damage. A food storage building, perhaps above a well, is the most logical role for such a form, although no evidence of a well head or hoist were found in a recent examination of the area below the circular hole in the floor.

The tradition associating the building with the storage of musical instruments, although odd, is of special interest, as the Aurora Band was famous all over the Northwest in the 1860s and 1870s. The band was often called out of town to play for special events, for example, the 1876 Centennial Celebration of the Fourth of July in Portland. It played regularly at events in Aurora, at the "Park House," from the balcony of the Colony Church steeple, and greeted incoming trains from the porches and balconies of the Aurora Hotel. Clark Will's 1924 map of Aurora calls the Octagon the "band stand." Although it is not an open structure, the association does go back to George Wolfer, a band member, who in old age provided the sketch from which Clark Will drew his 1924 map.

This building was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #:71
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 2nd Street NE Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD05500
Property ID: R97879

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Vacant Land/Vacant Land



The property is a small triangle, 1,220 square feet, of vacant land located on the south side of Second Street near its west end. It appears as though it is a part of the Aurora Colony Store property (Resource #67). It is planted with rhododendrons, sumacs, and other modern exotic plants to provide a buffer from the alley and railroad for the old-fashioned flower garden to its east. The property has not been maintained and is currently overgrown with teasel and blackberries.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 72
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 2nd Street NE Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD05300
Property ID: R97877

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential Backyard/Public Restroom



The property is a 3,680 square foot parcel of vacant land located behind the William Fry House at Second and Main (Resource #73). The Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way borders it on the west.

In 1994 a public restroom was built on this site.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 73
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21611 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD05200
Property ID: R97876

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: William Fry House
YEAR BUILT: 1874
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential / Commercial



The William Fry House, built in 1874, is an excellent example of the characteristic house built in the village of Aurora during the Colony period and associated with a major Colony personage, William Fry, the blacksmith.

The house, which faces east at the northwest corner of Second and Main, is one and a half stories tall, two bays in depth and three in length. The three bays across the front are asymmetrically arranged, with the front door placed in the extreme left bay. The house is 32 feet wide and 22 feet deep with a one-story, 11 foot deep enclosed lean-to across the rear of the house. The gable roof is pitched at about 40 degrees and covered with wood shingles with a "laced" ridge. On the south end of the roof stands a 16-

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

inch by 32 inch fireplace chimney of brick with a corbelled cap. Evidence exists within the structure that a brick chimney to serve a stove was originally located within the north end of the house.

The eaves are boxed across the front and rear facades and have recessed soffits on the rake end which meet in a small triangular shaped box on the gable ends. The eave assembly has neither crown moldings nor bed moldings and there are no eave returns. The outer raking boards taper from six inches at the eave to four inches at the ridge. The siding, painted white, is of horizontal weatherboarding with an exposure of five to six inches. Both faces at the corner are covered with 1.125 inch by 3 inch vertical boards. At the base of the walls, there is a plain, 9 inch high water table with the upper edge beveled. Beneath the house, there is a full basement constructed of brick. Access to the basement is by means of an exterior stairway with brick walls, wooden steps and sloping access door at the north end of the house.

The double-hung windows are eight-over-eight on the first floor, six-over-six on the second floor rake ends, and six-over-three beneath the front eaves. The windows have plain surrounds with a narrow rectangular cap molding. The front door is four paneled with beveled intersections, but no molding. Over the door there is a four-light transom; a similar door at the rear of the house is now enclosed in the lean-to. There is a small stoop in front of the front door.

The building is in very good shape and almost completely intact in a historical sense, however, the first floor window sash has been changed from six-over-six to eight-over-eight. A patch on the southwest corner board indicates that the existing lean-to replaced a narrower lean-to. Interior doors on the back wall of the house suggest that the original lean-to consisted of an open porch on its southern end, and an enclosed room on its northern end. A number of careful restoration projects have been carried out on the house in the past few years: replacement of the main chimney's corbelled cap; reshingling the roof with laced ridge; and reconstruction of the rectangular wood gutters and downspouts in keeping with the type once found on Aurora houses. In 2014, the shingled roof was replaced with black composition roofing.

Ten feet behind the house to the west, there is a one-story, gable roof shed which has a ridge perpendicular to that of the house. At the far end of the 36 foot by 18 foot building, there is a garage size door of vertical boards carried by two rollers on an exterior mounted metal track. The eastern end wall has a door and a six-over-six, double-hung sash window. The roof is shingled and has a metal ridge cap. The shiplap walls are painted white. The shed appears to date from the Colony period. The yard is primarily planted with 20th century plants and in a 20th century layout. There is one older lilac, a plum tree and some berry bushes.

William Fry (1835-1909), the Colony blacksmith, came to Aurora in 1863. For over 40 years, from 1867 to 1909, he is described as a blacksmith in the business directories. His shop (Resource #77) stood a short distance north of the house. In the property distribution of 1872, he and his brother, Henry, received Lot 2, Block 1 in the "Original Plat of Aurora" bordered by Main and Second Streets and the railroad right-of-way. Both the shop and house were sited on the property. It is believed that the house was built in 1874. In the 1870 census, William is listed in the house hold of Andrew Voght, but in late 1870 or 1871, he married Anna Miller, the daughter of John Miller, and by the 1880 census they are listed as a separate household. A well respected Colony figure, on January 12, 1878, less than two weeks after Dr. Keil's death, William Fry was one of seven people who were appointed to administer the Colony's affairs. In July 1934, Anna Fry, then 95, stated that the house had been built for her in 1874 by her husband, William.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

This building was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 74
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD05100
Property ID: R97875

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Vacant Land/Commercial



The property is a parcel of land 10 feet wide and 195 feet deep, running from Main Street west to the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way. It is maintained as though it is part of the yard of the Walter Fry House (Resource #75); it is planted with lawn at the front and miscellaneous shrubs. A post-Colony era wooden smokehouse was transported to this lot around 1989.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 75
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21631 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD05000 (partial)
Property ID: R97874

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Walter Fry House
YEAR BUILT: c1920
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residence/Commercial



The Walter Fry House is an example of a house built by a Colony member after dissolution of the Colony which does not follow the traditional Colony building patterns. The house, built in about c1920, it is a Classical Revival style structure which faces east and is located just north of the William Fry House on Main Street (Resource #73). It is one and one-half stories tall, with three bays across its 36 foot front, and two bays along its 30 foot side. A one-story addition, 16 feet by 20 feet, projects from the rear of the building. The truncated hip roof is sheathed with composition shingles and pierced by hip dormers centered on its north, east and south sides. The eaves are boxed and detailed with a corner molding. The siding is horizontal shiplap and the corners are covered with vertical boards with a simple classical cap molding. The foundation is brick and sheathed with vertical tongue-and-groove skirting below the drip cap and water table. The windows are one-over-one, double-hung wood sash with lambs tongues

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

and have a cap molding. The front door is Victorian, with a single light above carved work and four wooden panels. The door has been relocated; however, the colored glass transom over its original location is still intact. The attached front porch with hip roof is centered and extends across the front facade with the original turn columns.

Walter Fry was the only one of four children to marry. The son of William and Anna Fry, he married Lottie Galbreath in 1921. Lottie came to Aurora in 1915, and became the Aurora School teacher and principal. There seems to be no practical reason for this house to be built before this relationship.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 76
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21641 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#:-041W12CD05000 (partial)
Property ID: R97874

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Jacob Miley House
YEAR BUILT: c1865
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Vacant Land/Commercial



Jacob Miley came to Aurora from Bethel in 1865. Soon after, he built a log house on a property located near the Willamette River and within the current boundaries of the Charbonneau district. The Miley log house was moved to Aurora in 1990 and placed in its current location behind the Walter Fry house (Resource #75). The building is one of three surviving log structures from the Aurora Colony.

Since this Colony structure was still in its original location some distance outside the historic district in 1974, it could not be included in the list of significant structures in the original application for national historic status. However, it is an important surviving Colony house and one of two log structures within the historic district.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 77
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21651 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD04700
Property ID: R97873

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Site of New Aurora Hotel, Hop Brokers Office, and William Fry Blacksmith Shop
YEAR BUILT: c1885
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Hotel/Commercial



The Southern Pacific Depot was moved to this site in 1985. See Resource #97. It has been converted into a commercial building. The lot originally had three buildings on it: A. The New Aurora Hotel; B. Hop Brokers Office; C. William Fry Blacksmith Shop.

A. By 1893, the New Aurora Hotel was built on the site for Fred Gansneder.¹⁸ The hotel, a two-story, high roof building, also housed the offices of the "Aurora Borealis," the local newspaper. It was demolished about 1960.

¹⁸ Woodburn Independent May 19 1893

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

B. A two-story, false front commercial style structure, which housed the post office from about 1910 to 1935, was built on the site by 1893. A 1908 promotional brochure identifies the building as an electric plant. Later it was converted to broker's office for agricultural industries. The building was demolished about 1960.

C. The site was occupied by William Fry's blacksmith shop from approximately 1863, when he arrived in the Colony, until his death in 1909. From photographs of the building, it can be seen that it was a one-story, gable roof structure with a false front on Main Street. The false front was sided with horizontal shiplap, and the northern side with vertical boards and battens, which may indicate that the false front was added at the same time the properties to the north were developed in 1889. The building was later used to house the steam power plant that pumped city water, and later on as a garage until it was demolished in about 1960. For further information on William Fry, see Resource #73.

It can be assumed that the shop was developed around the same time as the property was deeded to William Fry by William and Louisa Keil on Sept. 14 1872.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 78
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD04000
-Property ID: R97899

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: Martin Giesy Drug Store Site
YEAR BUILT: c1869
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Retail & Residence/Vacant Lot



The 5,130 square foot vacant property, overgrown with wild grass, fronts on the east side of Main Street. Its parking strip is planted with corkscrew willows.

According to the 1922 Sanborn Map and photographic documentation, a two-story, gable roof building used as a drug store and dwelling formerly occupied the site. It was the site of Martin Giesy's drug store, similar in design to the F. Keil & Company General Merchandise Store (Resource #68). It was built by the Colony in about 1869,¹⁹ and acquired by Giesy in 1881 when the Colony dissolved. Martin (1835-1916), the third of Andrew and Helena Giesy's fourteen children, practiced as a physician and druggist in Aurora from the late 1860s until his death in 1916. He and his wife, Martha (1841-1917), daughter of

¹⁹ Lyman, H.S. The Aurora Community. The Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society, Vol. 2, no. 5. Page 92.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

Samuel Miller, resided in the drug store until 1915 when they moved to a residence on Main Street (Resource #66). An unknown newspaper article, including a photograph, dated June 28, 1962 states that two old buildings were going to be demolished.²⁰ One was the Martin Giesy Drug Store and the other was the National Bank.



²⁰ A2007.41

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 79
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21680 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD04600
Property ID: R97900

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: Site of Henry J. Miller Building
YEAR BUILT: c1893/c1954
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Commercial/ Commercial



The 1,825 square foot property is developed with a one-story, rectangular-shaped building which faces west onto Main Street. The Eaveless Tract style house, built about 1954, is constructed of concrete block and has a hip roof sheathed with composition shingles. It has a centrally located, small front stoop with an attached hip roof supported by brackets. The windows are two-over-two, horizontally paned, double-hung wood sash, typical of this style.

It is the former site of the Henry J. Miller Building constructed as part of the development of Main Street after the incorporation of the city of Aurora in 1893. The one-story wood- frame building had a gable roof with ornamental parapet wall. It was "erected and owned by Henry J. Miller, the well-known and

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

prosperous hop broker of Aurora. Mr. Miller uses part of the building for his office, while the other is occupied by the post office".²¹



²¹"Aurora, Oregon," The Woodburn Independent power Press. December 1908.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 80
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21690 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD04500
Property ID: R97901

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Aurora State Bank
YEAR BUILT: c1905
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Bank & Offices/Commercial with Residential Apt above



The former Aurora State Bank, built about 1905, is typical of commercial development which occurred after the turn of the century during Aurora's secondary period of development. The two-story building is generally rectangular, approximately 20 feet by 50 feet, with a canted wall at the corner of First and Main Street. It is constructed of ornamental, rusticated concrete block on its north and west street facades, and plain block along its two interior lot facades. The first and second stories are separated by a stringcourse of plain block. The cornice is composed of two types of ornamental blocks, a corbel table block supporting a bas-relief garland block which appears to have been set upside down. The parapet

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

wall was originally crenellated along the street facades. The second story windows are one-over-one, double-hung wood sash with lambs tongues. One window on the west side and the paired windows on the canted wall have been removed, the openings partially filled in and refitted with a fixed sash. The first story, wood sash, storefront windows are large fixed panes with operable transoms of small squares of obscure glass. There are three entrances at the first story. The major entrance on the canted wall is a double leaf door with beveled glass above and two panels below. The doorway has a transom similar in design to the storefront windows. The two entrances on First Street are similar to the main entrance, except they have single doors. Three of the transoms have been altered and the beveled glass in one door has been replaced with plywood. Except for the above described minor alterations, the building is intact and appears to be easily restorable because of its condition and available photographic documentation.

The bank was “organized in 1905 with a capital stock of \$25,000.” The Board of Directors consisted of Colony descendants Jacob Miley (1838-1907) a hop grower, Dr. Benjamin Giesy (1875-1967) a physician, Henry A. Snyder (1872-1910) bank vice president, postmaster and partner in Hurst & Snyder, a real estate firm; and four non-Colony descendants Henry L. Bents, bank vice president and cashier, W.S. Hurst, a produce merchant and partner in Hurst & Snyder, Franz Kraxberger, a hop grower, and Grant Dimick. Anton F. Will (1871-1962), a Colony descendent and realtor, was also an original occupant of the building (Resource #12).

Hugo Keil, who was 13 in 1905, recalled in a 1985 interview with Patrick Harris that this building came to Aurora from the Lewis and Clark Exposition. “I was standing there looking at it [when it came in on the train].”²² The cement blocks also match other known Lewis and Clark Exposition buildings.



²² Hugo Keil oral interview

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 81
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT #: 041W12CD04400
Property ID: R97902

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Agricultural / Commercial



The property is a 4,770 square foot vacant parcel of land which is used as a garden space for the building to the southwest (Resource #79). The garden is enclosed with a picket fence and has a central lawn area surrounded by garden beds filled with a variety of shrubs and flowers. A large California bay tree is located in the southeast corner of the lot. The garden is associated with Resource #79.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 50 and 82
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21711 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD01200
Property ID: R97872

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: Aurora Hotel & Octagon Building Site
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Hotel/ Conservation Land



1985: The Aurora Hotel site, irregular in shape, is presently occupied by a small stucco, one-story, 20 foot square service station and several minor structures related to it. The site is bordered by Main Street on the east and the railroad right-of-way on the south. To the west behind the Octagon (since moved) and down a steep back, is the millrace, constructed in 1867, and further west is the original millpond. Most of the front of the site is paved with gravel and asphalt, while the rear of the site to the north and west, is overgrown with brush and blackberry bushes.

The Octagon Building, which stood for at least 100 years on the hotel site, was disassembled and moved in 1984 behind the Keil & Company General Merchandise store (Resource #68). For historical purposes,

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

its physical description is given as it was on its original site, where it was still located when examined for this report. No other octagonal structure is known to have existed in the Colony.

The Octagon, a one-story building with basement, contains about 480 square feet of area on its main floor. Each face of the building is approximately eight feet wide and twelve feet tall. The roof is capped with an octagonal lantern, each of its three foot by three foot faces is louvered. Both tiers of the roof are shingled and have shingled ridges. The main walls are covered with horizontal shiplap with six-inch wide vertical boards at each corner. The eaves are boxed with a shaped bed molding. A four-panel door facing east toward Main Street with a single light transom is the only opening in the main body of the building. The trim is painted dark green, the siding is painted white.

As it originally stood, in front of the building, the ground level ~~is~~ was a foot or two below the threshold, but the abrupt slope to the west placed the rear of the building six feet or more above grade. The supports and foundations of the building are rough posts, and between them random size horizontal boarding which holds back the earth. This excavated area has been used as a crude stable. The basement structure was a makeshift affair, in contrast to the professional workmanship of the building above. The interior of the main floor is open to the roof and the lantern. The interior framing, approximately 16 inches on center, is exposed and the surfaces at one time were whitewashed. In the center of the six-inch wood floor is a cutout, approximately two feet in diameter, made with some care and presumed to be original.

The building presents dating problems, for its detailing is of a later period than the Colony period with which it has been traditionally associated. A construction date of circa 1880 is attributed to it based on its architectural characteristics. A circa 1889 panoramic photograph of Aurora shows the Octagon Building at the center of the view in the distance. It sat on the back of the lot and appeared to be on the exact site it occupied in 1984. About 60 feet northeast of the Octagon was the rear corner of the hotel, which extended 100 feet or more to Main Street.

There is little historic information about the building. Its original use is not known; and all functional associations which have been mentioned over the years may be correct for various periods of time. Speculations as to the original purpose of this structure leads repeatedly to a role as a domestic outbuilding, suggested in part by its proximity to other outbuildings at the rear of the property. Its exterior resemblance to a smoke house is not supported by telltale interior smoke damage. A food storage building, perhaps above a well, is the most logical role for such a form, although no evidence of a well head or hoist were found in a recent examination of the area below the circular hole in the floor.

The tradition associating the building with the storage of musical instruments, although odd, is of special interest, as the Aurora Band was famous all over the Northwest in the 1860s and 1870s. The band was often called out of town to play for special events, for example, the 1876 Centennial Celebration of the Fourth of July in Portland. It played regularly at events in Aurora, at the "Park House," from the balcony of the Colony Church steeple, and greeted incoming trains from the porches and balconies of the Aurora Hotel. Clark Will's 1924 map of Aurora calls the Octagon the "band stand." Although it is not an open structure, the association does go back to George Wolfer, a band member, who in old age provided the sketch from which Clark Will drew his 1924 map.

The circa 1889 panoramic photograph of Aurora shows the Hotel site contained at least seven buildings. Six buildings sat along the northern and western edges of the site in an L-shaped group. According to the 1922 Sanborn Map, the northern arm consisted of two "sheds", and the western arm, from north to

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

south, consisted of a summer kitchen, a large, one and a half-story stable, a privy, and the Octagon Building. The Colony Hotel, an L-shaped, two and a half-story structure, was sited at the heart of the group. The rear wing of the Hotel, a two-story, gable roof form, 40 feet by 30 feet, appears to have been constructed in 1867. The hipped roof front portion of the Hotel, circa 1885, had a 60 foot facade facing Main Street, and 40 foot side facades. Under the northeast portion of the building, there was a daylight basement; a full basement probably extended under the rest of the Hotel.

The Hotel was demolished in 1934 for the realignment of Main Street and the construction of the present Mill Creek Bridge. The new right-of-way cut through approximately 30 feet of the front portion of the Hotel. Most of the rest of the Hotel site has been covered by the paved surface of the service station. However, it is possible that the sites of the perimeter outbuildings have not been seriously disturbed.

An archaeological dig on this site was conducted in 1995 by Rick Minor (OR MA 32). Its contents are in the Aurora Colony Historical Society's collection. This is now a land Archaeological Conservancy property.

This site was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 83
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Hurst's
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD01300
Property ID: R97930

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: Site of Mill Creek Bridges
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Bridge/Farm Land



The property is a .19 acre vacant parcel of land cut into three non-contiguous pieces. It is used as pasture land and is fenced on the south, but otherwise merges with the adjacent properties (Resource #84). The configuration of Mill Creek, which runs through the westerly piece of the property, has been obscured with debris. The remnants of two bridges which spanned Mill Creek are located near the southwest corner of the westerly piece. One is a log bridge, four logs wide; all that remains of the other bridge are concrete footings at each side of the creek.

Resource #83 was moved to this site after the 1890 flood. The Mill Creek Bridge at the extreme north-end of Main Street was eventually torn down as part of the highway realignment that occurred in 1934.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 84
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Hurst's
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD00500
Property ID: R97926

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: Site of Mill Creek (pre-flood)
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Mill Creek Channel/Mill Creek Channel

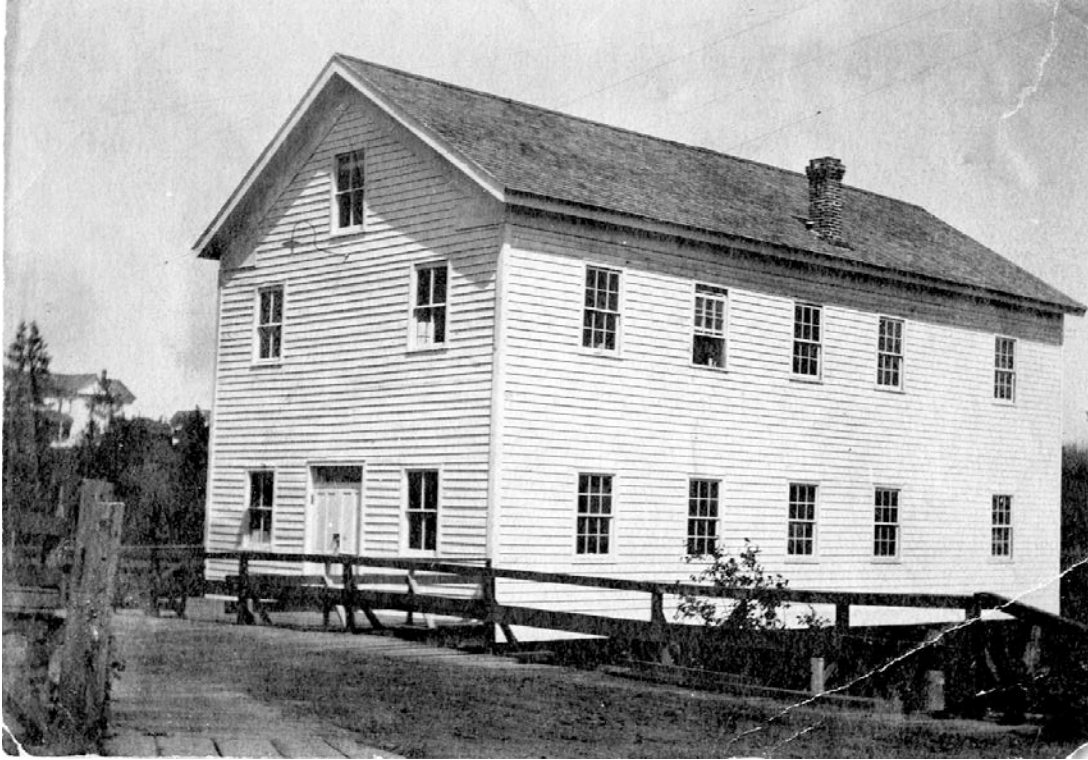


The property, a parcel of land 130 feet by 50 feet, appears to be part of the channel of Mill Creek. It is overgrown with riparian vegetation and partially filled with refuse and debris.

This site was flood land for Mill Creek. In 1890, after a severe flood, the original Aurora Colony Sawmill/Spinning Mill, which was located several hundred yards to the east, was moved to this site,

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

perpendicular to the bridge.²³ After this time, the building was also used for fraternal organizations and the Aurora Presbyterian Sunday School meetings.



²³ Woodburn Independent

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 85
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21781 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Hurst's
TAX LOT#:-041W12CD01400
Property ID: R97929

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Unknown
YEAR BUILT: c1890
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Retail Store/ Residential



The false front Commercial style building, located on the west side of the northern end of Main Street, is typical of commercial development after the dissolution of the Colony. It is one of few wooden commercial structures which survive from this secondary period of development. The building is one and a half-stories, rectangular in shape, with three bays across the 21 foot front, and two bays along the 33 foot side. A later, one-story shed addition, 14 feet deep, extends across the back of the building. The medium-pitched gable roof, sheathed with composition shingles, is finished as a parapet on the gable end which faces Main Street. The eaves are boxed and simply finished with a quarter-round cove molding. The parapet is finished with a hipped cap and similar eave detailing. A stove chimney without a corbelled top projects from the peak of the roof toward the rear of the building. The horizontal shiplap siding extends all the way to the ground, as there is no drip cap or water table. The windows are one-over-one, double-hung wood sash, with lambs tongues, except for the storefront windows across the first story front facade of the building. The 14 foot deep shed roof porch which extends across the front of the building is of recent construction; however, the 1922 Sanborn Map indicates a one-story porch, approximately six feet deep in the same location. The door at the center of the second story front

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

facade has four lights above a wood panel and is topped with a transom. The building, except for the minor alterations described above and the addition of shutters and diamond-paned windows at the basement level towards the rear, remains intact and essentially unaltered.

The building's date of construction, original use and occupant are unknown. However, it appears, based on the materials used and the building evolution of the Colony that it was constructed about 1890. The 1922 Sanborn Map indicates it was used as an undertaker's facility. The local tradition relates that during Prohibition it was used as a speakeasy.

This site was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 86
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Hurst's
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD01301
Property ID: R97931

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Causeway/Vacant Land



The property, an irregularly-shaped parcel of land approximately 175 feet by 55 feet, is a vacated remnant of Main Street. This part of Main Street appears to have been a causeway which spanned Mill Creek. The area is low with visible remnants of the creek, and is overgrown with riparian vegetation.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 87
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Hurst's
TAX LOT #: 041W12CD01500
Property ID: R97928

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Vacant Land/Vacant Land



The vacant property is located north of the intersection of Main Street (vacated) and Ehlen Road. Although in public ownership, it appears as though it is part of the property to the north (Resource #85). Landscaped with lilacs and junipers, it slopes steeply to the west and is bordered by an old concrete sidewalk along its eastern edge. It appears to be a remnant of land left over from realignment of Mill Creek Bridge in 1934.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE#: 88
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21790 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Hurst's
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD01600
Property ID: R97923

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: Site of Sawmill Log Pond
YEAR BUILT: 1950
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Sawmill Log Pond/ Vacant



This building no longer exists.

1985: The property is located northeast of the vacated end of Main Street. A one and a half story house with full daylight basement, built in 1950, faces west onto Main Street (vacated). It is rectangular in form with a gable roof sheathed with composition shingles. The concrete block walls and foundation have been stuccoed over, except for a rear addition of concrete block and a small entry porch sheathed with shiplap siding. The yard is minimally landscaped. The property, which is at grade with the street at the front, falls steeply to a lower level at the rear of the property. A private road to the north of the house provides access to the rear of the property. It appears from photographs and Clark Will's maps (1925 and 1972) that this was the location of the log pond for the sawmill.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 89
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Hurst's
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD01700
Property ID: R97922

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: Hardware Store and Band Hall
YEAR BUILT: 1911
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Retail Store and Meeting Hall/Vacant Land



The property, approximately 52 feet wide and 125 feet deep, is located on the northern vacated section of Main Street. The front (western edge) of the site has been excavated to a depth of 10 to 15 feet so that it is level with the grade at the rear of the site. It is barricaded with a tire and pipe barrier. It appears that this section of Main Street may have been partially built up with fill by the Colonists to provide access over the millrace. The 1922 Sanborn Map indicates the site was occupied by a two-story building which housed a hardware and paint store on the first story, and a meeting hall on the second story. This was the original site of the George Armstrong Ehlen Hardware Store, with a band hall on the upper level.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

This is owned by the city of Aurora and used as additional parking for events.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 90
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Hurst's
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD01800
Property ID: R10526

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: Unknown
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Warehouse/Vacant Land



The property, located northeast of the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way where it intersects Main Street, contains a vacated portion of Main Street. Overgrown with blackberries, it slopes to the north and appears to have been used for a dumping site by the railroad. Remnants of a concrete sidewalk and a building's foundation are visible. The 1922 Sanborn Map indicates a flour and feed ware house occupied the site.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 91
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Hurst's
TAX LOT #: 041W12CD00299, 041W12CD00200
Property ID: R10530, R10542

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: Mill Complex/Farm Land
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Mill Complex/Vacant



The property is a vacant, .62 acre parcel which is 20 feet below grade and floods in the winter. It appears to be part of the former Colony spinning and lumber mill complex.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 92
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD00100
Property ID: R10528

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: Site of Colony Mills and Office
YEAR BUILT: c1883
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Industrial/Vacant



This property is a vacant strip of land, approximately 50 feet wide, which parallels the northern side of the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way. It is .67 acres in extent and only partially within the boundaries of the historic district. It appears, from photographic documentation, that the Colony's spinning, lumber and grist mills may have been partially located on the property and used it for grade level access to the railroad. A small Victorian era structure and outbuilding were also located on the property at the north end of Liberty Street.

We believe this existing storage building was associated with the Hurst family industries.

This site was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 93
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W12CA01800
Property ID: R10541

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: Colony Lumber and Spinning Mills
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Mills/Vacant



The property is the western portion of a vacant 5.16 acre parcel which consists of low pasture land with Mill Creek running through it. It appears, from photographic documentation and Clark Will's maps of the Aurora Colony (1925 and 1972), that the Colony lumber and spinning mills were partially located on the parcel, directly north of Liberty Street near the eastern edge of the historic district. The Colony gristmill, later the Aurora Roller Mills, purchased by J.D. Hurst upon dissolution of the Colony in 1881, appears to have been on the same parcel, but to the east, outside the historic district boundaries. In 1877, Henry Conrad Finck wrote to his son, Henry T. Finck, that the Colony was building a new extravagant and unnecessary millrace that would have serviced the gristmill.

This site was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 94
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD00300
Property ID: R97925

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: Colony Lumber and Spinning Mills
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Mills/City property



This .34 acre parcel of land was once part of a larger tax lot (Resource #93). It is now city property.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 95
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14950 1st Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD04300
Property ID: R97903

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1973
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Livery (partial) /Warehouse



The property, which is located on the south side of First Street across from Union Mills, is developed with a one-story warehouse. The rectangular-shaped building has a flat roof and is constructed of concrete block. The roof is cantilevered across the front of the building where major access to the building is provided through two large, metal, and loading dock garage doors. The building, sited at the rear of the property, faces north onto an asphalted parking lot.

A photograph taken of the Southern Pacific Depot (c1900) shows a barn on this site, associated with Dr. Martin Giesy.²⁴

²⁴ A2006.09.003

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 96

COUNTY: Marion

ADDRESS: 14971 1st Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002

T4S R1W S12

ADDITION: Aurora

TAX LOT#: 041W12CD02000, 041W12CD02100, 041W12CD02200, 041W12CD02300

Property ID: R97917, R97920, R97919, 97921

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony

CLASSIFICATION: Contributing

HISTORIC NAME: SPRR Hop & Ziegler Warehouses

YEAR BUILT: c1885

ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Hop & Produce Warehouses/Feed Mill & Grain Elevators/Commercial



The Aurora Mills, a configuration of more than a half dozen structures of various shapes and heights, crowd the property with such complexity as to confound simple description. The site, Block 7 of the Original Plat of Aurora, has been associated with industrial uses for over 140 years, from the Colony period to the present. At least two of the structures still standing were built about 1885.

The shape of the Aurora Mills property is a result of the conjunction of the rectangular layout of "Aurora" and the diagonal alignment of the railroad. The lot is 100 feet long on its western edge and nearly 200 feet on its eastern edge. Liberty Street borders the lot on its eastern edge now vacated by the city, First Street, now known as Elhen Rd., on its southern edge and, since 1870, the railroad has bordered the property on the north. To the west, the site was bordered by a triangular piece of land

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

which contained the circa 1885 Southern Pacific Railroad freight warehouse, 150 feet to the west with the passenger station beyond. The SPRR "Freight" Warehouse is not to be confused with the SPRR "Hop" Warehouse which is one of the structures within the Aurora Mills building complex.

On the north and south, one-story buildings, the SPRR Hop Warehouse and the Ziegler Building, respectively, dominate the edges of the site. Three or four taller buildings or partial buildings with the character of grain elevators, occupy the center of the lot and stand along its eastern boundary. The buildings' numerous additions, variety of heights and infill construction are further complicated by the irregular aspect of the site which has added another axis for building alignments. The majority of roofs, however, are parallel or sometimes perpendicular, to First Street, apparently because most of them are additions to or extensions of the Ziegler Building.

The majority of the elevator-type buildings are enclosed with corrugated metal walls and roofs. There are several indications of earlier wooden structures beneath the mid-20th century and later claddings. It is presumed that a portion of the building on the eastern boundary contains the first grain elevator built in about 1890.

The two, one-story buildings bordering the site on the north and south are the two oldest structures on the property and appear to be among the first buildings constructed in Aurora following the dissolution of the Colony. A date of circa 1885 is attributed to each, the Ziegler Warehouse and the SPRR Hop Warehouse. A construction date of circa 1885 for the SPRR Hop Warehouse, which parallels the tracks, is supported by the evolution of hop growing in the Aurora vicinity; while the 1881 directory does not mention hops, the 1886 directory lists 25 people associated with hop growing and says that "hop raising is the leading industry." The red painted, vertical board building has battens which are rectangular and of a rough quality wood. The roof has a pitch of about 30 degrees and is covered with metal original wood exists under metal. There are a few openings in the building in its east gable end and, under a projecting cantilevered roof below it, a double-leaf sliding door opening onto a small loading platform.

In contrast to the more utilitarian character of the SPRR Hop Warehouse, the Ziegler Warehouse to the south is a building of noticeable detail and fine craftsmanship. The green-painted structure, original color SPRR yellow which is about 95 feet long and 30 feet wide, has board and batten walls with bevel edged battens. The roof, which has a pitch of 40 degrees, is covered with corrugated metal and constructed with a broad overhang of about 18 inches which is supported on the rake ends with plain exposed outriggers. The building's finished floor elevation is several feet above the ground, but its board and batten walls extend down to ground level. At the building's gable ends, there are raised wooden platforms served by hinged double-leaf doors. High in each gable end there is a small, square, four-light window placed lozenge fashion. Below these are large rectangular, wall mounted signs which have been painted over many times, only the word "seed" is identifiable. Along the south wall, there are several window openings; the two pairs of fixed nine-light sash appear original. The rest of the window openings either have six lights and appear to be of later construction, or have been boarded up. In appearance, the Ziegler Building suggests the possibility of an even earlier construction date than the hop warehouse, but in the absence of further information, is also given a circa 1885 construction date.

Across the south wall of the Ziegler Building, an alteration has been made which extends the roof slope about 10 feet beyond the building wall supported on horizontal outriggers. The alteration, which is not in character with the building, was made prior to 1922. High on the south wall against the eaves is a 90 foot long by 3 foot high paneled signboard which is obscured by the large overhang. This indicates that the overhang is an addition and that the building was in existence for some time before 1922. The

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

extended roof does not cover a platform and there are no freight doors in the wall below it. Although the Ziegler Building is only one story, it is about 18 feet high at its main eave line.

The first building constructed on the property was the Blue Barn, a Colony-period structure which is no longer standing. In contrast to the Ox Barn, the Blue Barn was for horses. A construction date of circa 1870 is indirectly suggested by Clark Will who wrote that the Blue Barn was “primarily a team exchange barn in conjunction with the Giesy Hotel, and that prior to 1867, when the hotel opened, a barn at a different location had served that purpose.” According to Harkness, John Giesy, a brother of Jacob Giesy, the hotel proprietor, received this block in the 1872 property distribution. In the 1867 and 1872 directories, John Giesy is listed as the proprietor of the flour mill which stood 200 feet or more to the northeast of this block. The proximity of the Blue Barn suggests a possible association of it with the work of the mill.

The earliest photograph of the site, a panoramic view of circa 1889, shows three buildings. The long gable roof structures are roughly in alignment with each other, the more northerly is canted to parallel the railroad tracks and extends in a northeast/ southeast direction; the other two extend in an east/west direction and are parallel to First Street. The central building of the three, seen in the photograph, is assumed to be the Blue Barn. It is an open end barn with siding in a much darker value than its trim. Its dark color is in contrast to the typical white-painted primary buildings and the typically unpainted farm buildings of the Colony period. Its central position in the block coincides with the map location, albeit diagrammatic, given the Blue Barn by George Wolfer and Clark Will in 1924. It was demolished before 1922. The two buildings flanking the Blue Barn in the circa 1889 photograph appear to still exist and stand along the northern and southern boundaries of the site. Their formal characteristics, including size, proportions, raised floor levels and end opening door positions are remarkably similar to the buildings in the photograph. Based on the photograph, both buildings would have been constructed before 1889.

The first reference to an elevator building on the site is found in the directory of 1891-92 which states, “a hop warehouse and grain elevator have been recently erected” in Aurora. The hop warehouse was apparently built by the Southern Pacific Railroad. The 1922 Sanborn Map shows that the site contained five buildings as well as several platforms and enclosures. Extending across the center of the lot, in the location of the Blue Barn is an irregular “corral”, basically parallel to the tracks, 130 feet long by 30 feet wide. Between the “corral” and the track is the “SPRR Warehouse, Hops Storage with three barrels of water on the roof”, a one-story structure 100 feet by 30 feet. Along First Street and the southern edge of the property is “H.G. Ziegler's Warehouse, Hay and Potatoes”, a one-story wooden structure, 90 feet long and 35 feet wide. Across its southern facade, it had a 10 foot wide platform and overhang. Along the western 65 feet of the northern side of the Ziegler Building, there was an adjoining structure or lean-to labeled “potatoes.” At the eastern end of the northern side of the Ziegler Building is the grain elevator built before 1891 labeled “Feed Mill Grain Warehouse.” It is about 40 feet by 30 feet. The elevator is abutted on its north by a “feed mill.” Despite enlargements and alterations, these descriptions taken from the 1922 Sanborn Map have striking similarities to several structures found on the site today.

A newspaper article from the Aurora Observer dated to 1917, describes the current configuration of this site.²⁵

²⁵ Aurora Observer. 06/07/1917.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 97
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 1st Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Hurst's Garden Tracts
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD01900
Property ID: R97918

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: Aurora Railroad Depot Site
YEAR BUILT: c1883-1885
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Railroad Depot/Vacant



Since the 1985 survey, the Aurora Railroad Depot building has been moved from this site to the west side of Main Street, between 1st and 2nd Streets (Resource #77). The original site of the depot is now vacant land.

The Aurora Railroad Depot building, is typical of turn of the century, wood constructed depots built by Southern Pacific Railroad. The depot, built in 1900, is the second one to occupy the site. Oral tradition suggests that an earlier depot structure was on this site prior to 1900. It is a one-story, rectangular building, 26 feet deep by 50 feet long, which faces northwest parallel with the railroad tracks. Originally, it was 95 feet long, but the freight warehouse was cut off and moved to a site on the east side of the north end of Liberty Street, just outside of the historic district boundaries. It is assumed the building was

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

cut in half and moved about 1934 when Mill Creek Bridge was rebuilt. The part of the depot which remains on its original site contained a baggage room, ticket office, and passenger waiting room.

The depot has a gable roof with wide, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails supported by fancy cut brackets, now missing at the westward end. The siding, horizontal shiplap, extends all the way to the ground and is divided into panels by vertical boards. The windows, originally 12-over-12, double-hung wood sash, have been covered over with sheets of plywood or filled in with siding. The ticket office, which protruded from the northerly side of the building in a square bay with four double-hung windows, has been removed, except for its top which remains in the eaves. Although neither part of the building has been maintained for a number of years and alterations have been made, especially to the doors and windows, the depot is essentially intact and appears restorable. Excellent photographic documentation of the building exists, which would aid in its restoration.

George Miller was a depot agent at Aurora for the Southern Pacific Railroad Company from 1883-1925.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 98
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14800 2nd Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD06600
Property ID: R97894

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: Aurora Colony Store & Workshop & Andrew Giesy House Site
YEAR BUILT: 1870
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Workshop & Residence/Parking Lot



The 8,450 square foot property is located at the southeast corner of Second Street and Highway 99E. Used as a parking lot for the tavern to its south, the site is almost totally paved with asphalt. The property, along with land to its west which was used for the realignment of the highway, was the site of the Aurora Colony Store and Workshop, also commonly referred to as the Andrew Giesy House.

The Aurora Colony Store and Workshop, which faced west, was located on the southeast corner of Second and Main Streets. It was one of the largest buildings in the Colony, seven bays across the front facade and two bays deep, 60 feet by 25 feet. The T-shaped, two-story building had a basement and a rear wing which extended 60 feet behind the front portion of the building. The circa 1889 panoramic

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

view of Aurora indicates that there were a number of outbuildings on the site. The location of the front portion of the building lies under Highway 99E, and the rear wing and outbuildings beneath the parking lot.

Andrew Giesy (1817-1899), the oldest son and second of Andrew (Andreas) and Barbara Giesy's fourteen children, was the last member of the family to come west, arriving in Aurora in 1876. Andrew, who was "one of the young men whom Keil sent out to preach in German settlements, prior to the founding of the Colony,"²⁶ acted as deputy president of the Bethel Colony from 1863 to 1876. It appears that Andrew returned to preaching in his later years in Aurora, after dissolution of the Colony, as there is a listing in the directories of "Rev. Andrew Giesy (Lutheran)" from 1886 to 1892.

A newspaper article states that house was wrecked in 1931. The article further explains that it was built in 1870.²⁷



²⁶ Missouri Historical review. Page 108

²⁷ Oregon Statesman. Aug. 25, 1931.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 99
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14979 2nd Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#:-041W12CD03400
Property ID: R97896

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: Pythian Hall
YEAR BUILT: c1915/1992
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Lodge Hall & Warehouse /Lodge Hall & Retail

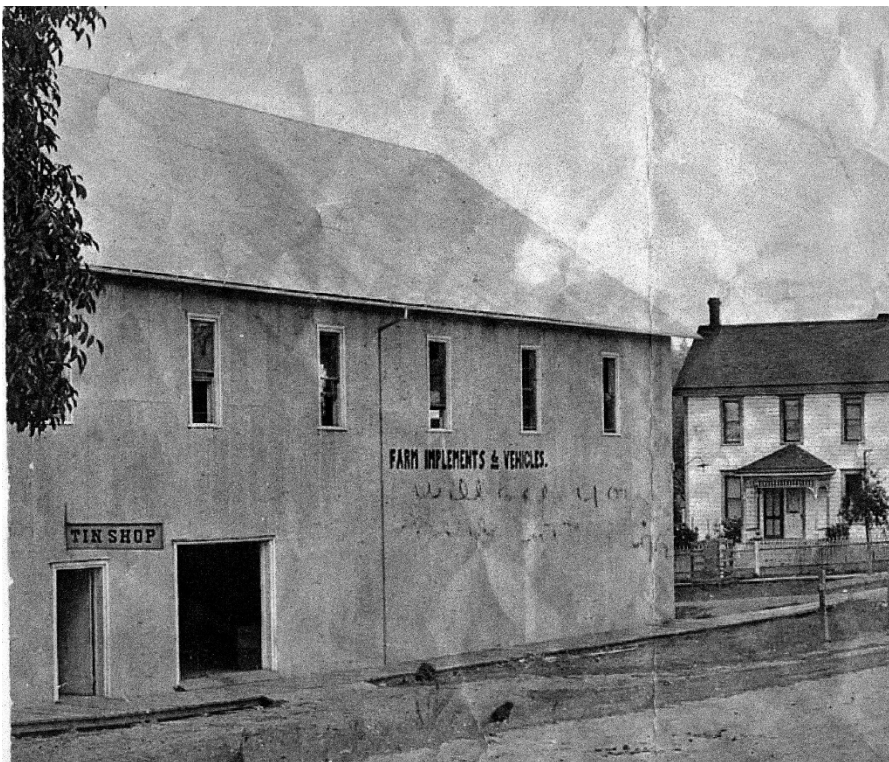


1985: The Knights of Pythias Building, built in about 1915 and located at the northeast corner of Second and Highway 99E, is an interesting example of a building constructed during Aurora's secondary period of development, as it reflects the plain and utilitarian architecture of the primary period and the impact of construction of Highway 99E in 1933 on Aurora. The two-story building, 45 feet wide and 96 feet long, has a canted wall at its northwest corner, providing two storefronts on Highway 99E. The gable roof, sheathed with corrugated metal, has been modified into an irregular hip at its west end. The eaves are open and the rafter tails exposed. Both planes of the western end of the building have a simple parapet wall with no cornice detailing. The siding, which runs to the ground, is shiplap on the west end and corrugated metal on the rest of the building. The windows are one-over-one, double-hung wood sash

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

with lambs tongues on the second story, and windows of various design on the first story. The two entrances on the west side are flanked by fixed storefront windows with a variety of muntin patterns. Both doors are recessed and surrounded by top and side lights. A second floor entrance with exterior staircase is located on the north side of the building. A 1922 Sanborn Map, which shows the building prior to its alteration, indicates that the building faced on Liberty and Second Streets, had a second story exterior entrance on its west end which was not then angled, and was sided with corrugated iron. It also notes that the first floor was used for tractor and auto storage, and the second floor for the Pythian Hall. The second floor, which appears unaltered on the interior, is still used as a lodge hall, but by the Knights of Pythias, Hermes Lodge #56.

The original two story Pythian Hall burned down in September 1991. The new building constructed in 1992, has only one story. Currently it contains an antique store in its western section and a lodge hall on the east.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 100
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14988 2nd Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Aurora
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD06700
Property ID: R97893

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: c1960
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Post Office/ Commercial



The 1,295 square foot property located at the northwest corner of Second and Liberty is the site of the Aurora Post Office. The one-story, flat roof building, circa 1960, is rectangular in shape and constructed of concrete block and trimmed with raked bricks on its northern facade. It has a reentrant porch across the eastern half of its northern facade which is supported by a metal post. The building has aluminum sash windows of various design on its two street facades. The site is almost entirely paved with asphalt for parking. In a 1988 interview, Hugo Keil remembered that Giesy family had a large red barn on this site.²⁸

This Post Office was moved to a different location outside of the historic district in 1997. This structure is now used as a commercial building

²⁸ Hugo Keil interview

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 101
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14600 Lloyd's Lane NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W12CB00300
Property ID: R10560

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME:
YEAR BUILT: 1972
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Church yard/Residential



The 1.15 acre property is bounded on the east by Airport Road and developed with a Suburban Ranch style house, built in about 1972. The house, surrounded by new homes, faces south/southeast and parallels the ridge line. The house is a one-story, rectangular shaped structure with a medium pitched gable roof and shallow porch across its front facade. It has a concrete slab foundation, horizontal clapboard siding, aluminum sash windows and thick composition shingle roofing. There is one contemporary, prefabricated outbuilding on the property.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 102
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Lloyd's Lane NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W12CB00303,
Property ID: R328332

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Vacant Land/Vacant



Since 1985, this .33 acre parcel of land has been separated from Resource #101.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 103
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14665 Lloyd's Lane NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W12CB00301
Property ID: R10561

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 2005
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Church yard/Residential



Since 1985, this .28 acre parcel of land has been separated from Resource #101. A house was built on this site in 2005.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 104
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14675 Lloyd's Lane NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W12CB00304
Property ID: R328470

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 2003
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Land/Residential



Since 1985, this .28 acre parcel of land has been separated from Resource #101. A house was built on this site in 2003.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 105
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14685 Lloyd's Lane NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W12CB00302
Property ID: R10562

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 2001
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Land/Residential



Since 1985, this .33 acre parcel of land has been separated from Resource #101. A house was built on this site in 2001.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 106
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21823 Airport Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12C00503
Property ID: R10565

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: c1950
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/ Residential



The .36 acre property bordered by Airport Road to the east is developed with a Suburban Ranch style house, circa 1950. The house is a one-story, generally rectangular-shaped structure with a hip roof. It has shiplap siding, wood sash windows and a shake roof. It has a concrete foundation and subterranean garage. A later addition with different detailing has been built on the rear of the structure.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 107
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21825 Airport Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12C00504
Property ID: R328484

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 2014
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Trout Farm/Residential

This property was once part of a 12.86 acre piece of property. The lower end of the drainage swale has been dammed and a trout farm has been developed at the property's frontage on Airport Road. The most prominent is a split-face, concrete block hatching shed and concession stand (circa 1978) which sits above Airport Road at the southern tip of the property.

A modern house was built in 2014. The property sits just south of the Frederick Keil house (Resource #111).

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 108

COUNTY: Marion

ADDRESS: 21827 Airport Road NE Aurora, OR 97002

T4S R1W S12

ADDITION: NA

TAX LOT #: 041W12C00501

Property ID: R10563

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony

CLASSIFICATION:

HISTORIC NAME: NA

YEAR BUILT: NA

ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm land/Farm Land

This was once part of a 12.86 acre piece of property. It is now a .82 acre parcel of land.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 109
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21852 Airport Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#:-041W12CA02000
Property ID: R10534

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: Site of Hurst Family House and George White's Grist Mill
YEAR BUILT: c1885/1971
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/ Residential



1985: The irregularly-shaped, 5.66 acre property is located to the east of Airport Road. A Suburban Ranch style house, built in 1971 and located near the northwest corner of the site, faces west onto Airport Road. The house is a one-story, rectangular-shaped structure with a medium pitched, gable roof with gablets. It is sided with plywood and has aluminum sash windows. The foundation is a concrete slab, as is the floor of the reentrant front porch, which is partially enclosed with a low stone wall. A two-story garage wing with gable roof is attached to the south side of the house and is sheathed in plywood and horizontal clapboards. The house is situated on the high part of the site and is landscaped with broadleaf evergreen and coniferous shrubs, and ornamental trees in the lawn, which extends to the street. The land at the rear of the house, which is vegetated with Douglas firs, maples and poplars,

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

slopes down steeply to pasture land. The banks of Mill Creek, which runs through the pasture, are lined with riparian vegetation.

The existing house occupies the site of the Hurst House, built around 1885, and visible in early photographic overviews of Aurora. The house was built for John D. Hurst, the proprietor of the Aurora Roller Mill, who acquired the mill property from the Colony upon its dissolution (see Resource #93). The property contains a potential archeological site, G.F. White's grist mill. Built in 1851, the mill was situated on Mill Creek at the bottom of the hill, to the east of the site of the Hurst House.²⁹



²⁹ Clark Will maps, 1925 and 1972

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

The John Hurst family came to Aurora c1883 where they built a home and established private businesses. The Colony had formally disbanded as of September 1881. The Hurst family moved out of Aurora c1915, the Oregon Statesman reported on July 31, 1931 that the Hurst house burned to the ground.

According to the August 1883 edition of the Western Shore Magazine, John Daniel Hurst had purchased the Aurora Flouring mill from the business managers from the former Aurora Colony. Hurst's family, operated this mill until it burned in 1901. An article in the Woodburn Independent of January 12, 1889 indicates that the Hursts had converted the former spinning mill into a community hall. The surrounding land that contained the former mill and community hall were severely damaged as a result of a Feb. 8, 1890 flood. The flood was the main reasoning for moving the former mill/hall to the north end of Main Street (Resource #83)

Other related information concerning the significance of the John Hurst family in the history of Aurora: A hops Commission Business started by John D Hurst in 1893; John Hurst died on May 26, 1899. In September of 1902 John's sons started the Aurora Electric Light Co on the site of the old mill, the site still contained a feed mill; the water power from Mill Creek was sufficient.³⁰ The company was sold to Molalla Electric in 1915 and it is believed that the Hurst family moved out of their house about that time.

³⁰ Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley, Oregon. Chapman Publishing Co, 1903. Pg 1107, 1372-1373

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 110
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21872 Airport Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#:041W12CA01901
Property ID: R10550

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/ Residential



The property, which is approximately .63 of an acre, fronts on the east side of Airport Road. A Suburban Ranch style house, built in 1960, is located at the western end of the property and faces west onto Airport Road. The house is a one-story, L-shaped structure with attached garage and low pitched, hip roofs. The walls are sided in a variety of materials, including horizontal clapboards, vertical tongue-and-groove, and honey-colored Roman bricks. The aluminum sash windows have one large central pane with smaller side panes. The foundation is a concrete slab, as is the floor of the reentrant front porch which is supported with a wrought iron post. The front yard has a large lawn, oak tree and small, ornamental coniferous and broadleaf evergreen shrubs around the house's foundation. One small storage building, contemporary with the house and similar in detail, is located near the northeast corner of the site.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 111
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21883 Airport Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB00900
Property ID: R10546

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Frederick Keil House
YEAR BUILT: c1865
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



While the Frederick Keil House, circa 1870, has aspects which are like a number of other larger Colony houses, it is exceptional in its plan accommodations, and particularly in its porches. Although the building has some Classical Revival detail, in spirit and in style it recalls the early 18th century. The house is especially significant because of its quality and its association with Frederick Keil, a son, and Elias Keil, a grandson of Dr. William Keil, the founder and leader of the utopian community.

The house, which faces east, sits well back from Airport Road on an elevated site of several acres. The ground slopes steeply down to the road and a trout pond to the south (Resource #106). The Colony Church was sited about 200 hundred yards to the north of the house, and the William Keil House a few hundred yards to the south. From the front porch, the outlook to the east and southeast is across a

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

small valley fed by Mill Creek and once occupied by the Colony's mills and small factories. Beyond the valley, the city of Aurora can be seen.

The house, a simple north end and three feet, respectively rectangle in plan, is two stories high at its stories at its south end, 38 feet and 45. The above-ground basement on the south end originally contained the kitchen, a location unique in Aurora houses. The front facade is five bays wide and two bays deep, 52 feet by 22 feet. There is a nine foot deep, two story porch across the front and, centered on the rear elevation, a small one-story gable roof porch. The porches are similar in detail and give the house the appearance of two front elevations, a degree of elegance not found in other Colony homes. The house has a gable roof with a pitch of about 35 degrees, from which a shed roof with a flatter pitch extends over the two-story front porch. The roof is covered with wood shingles. At each end of the main ridge, there is a large rectangular brick chimney with a simple corbelled cap. Each chimney serves two fireplaces.

The eaves are boxed with deeply recessed soffits across the front and rear facades and along the rake. In place of bed moldings, there are two stacked boards, one smaller than the other, each with its lower edge beveled. On the rear eave, the soffit is set parallel to the pitch and there are no boxed eave returns. Again, as in the Charles Snyder House (Resource #23), a semblance of the Classical Revival is affected through carrying the architrave board from the eave assembly around onto the gable ends as one flat element set within the plane of the siding. The white-painted siding is horizontal weatherboard, exposed five to six inches. The corners have vertical boards and a heavy large board with a beveled top serves as the water table. On the south end of the house, the siding is carried down to enclose the original kitchen space. Around the rest of the perimeter, boarding and other materials enclose the areas under the house which were originally partially excavated storage cellars.

The windows are six-over-six throughout, except the two six light sash in each attic gable end. The windows are all symmetrically arranged with five bays on both front and back facades, and two bays on each end. The house, the largest surviving Colony residence in the immediate vicinity of the village, is the only five bay house.

The two-story front porch is supported on superimposed turned wood columns, six to each story. The first story columns are almost 10 feet high and the second story over seven feet. The top and bottom of each column has similar turned detailing, the base resembling elements more appropriate to a cap. No abacus is present, as the capping element is a tall drum, its lower edge rounded to draw its diameter in to meet the cavetto or conge of the necking. Below, the conventional astragal appears in the form of a torus molding. Each of these elements occurs again at the base, but in reverse order, the column terminating in a tall drum. About a third of the way up, each column is swollen, suggesting entasis. However, each column is tapered below as well as above the area of largest diameter. Between the columns, there are railings made up of turned balusters. The sleeves of the balusters taper out to a belly and the turnings below and at the cap combine various cavetto, torus and fillet profiles. The cap is plain. The balusters are used on both stories of the front porch. The small, one-story, rear gable roof porch has the same detailing. There are four columns on its front face and similar railings along either side. A 1934 Historic American Buildings Survey drawing shows all the space above the railing of the rear porch filled with diagonal lattice, except for the center entry bay.

The exterior doors are another distinctive feature of the house. The central hall terminates in double-leaf, paneled doors. The front doors are flanked by side lights and topped with a transom divided by metal bars into eight circular headed lights. Each circular light is filled with clear glass, but the triangular

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

area between is filled with a single color of glass: purple, red, or green. The exterior door beneath the front porch on the south elevation which leads from the kitchen is also unique in Aurora. It is constructed of a double layer of boards, cinch nailed together. The outer layer is applied in diagonals, surrounding a central canted square and framing it in enlarging squares.

In 1934, the Historic American Building Survey recorded the house with photographs, measured drawings and a data sheet. It should be noted that the last line of the data sheet discussion, which describes the house as being "of Southern design with a double piazza" is not appropriate, as the building is the embodiment of Pennsylvania traditions. The house has remained, in most respects, unchanged since 1934. Major repairs and restoration were done to the house in the early 1960s during Robert Bogue's ownership and in the later 1960s during Fred Rothschild's ownership. Since this time, various owners have made numerous improvements including a substantial addition to the rear. The building is very well maintained.

The construction date of the house may be arrived at by considering labor involved in its construction, such as its turned work. The house's turned work is similar to that of the F. Keil and Company General Merchandise Store (Resource #68), built 1874. The turned work on both buildings may be attributed to Jacob Miller who told Lyman in 1901 that he had "turned the massive columns on the portico;" unfortunately, the specific building is not identified. Miller, who came to Aurora in the Fall of 1863, left in 1871 and did not return until 1882. Although three other carpenters came to Aurora between 1863 and 1865, only Miller is specifically listed as a "turner" (1867 and 1872 directories). Even though the 1934 Historic American Building Survey data sheet for the house gives the date of erection as 1862, it appears that the house could not have been built before 1864. Frederick Keil was only 21 and a single man in 1862. In a newspaper interview of Elias Keil, published in 1942 when he was 67, he stated that "the house was built by my father in 1870." However, an 1869 letter from Nicholas Giesy at Aurora to his nephew William at Bethel, MO says that Frederick Keil had his own house separate from Dr. Keil's house at this time. Frederick married Louisa Giesy in 1863, suggesting that his house would have been constructed closer to this earlier time rather than 1870. By 1883, both Frederick and Louisa had died; their three surviving children were raised by aunts and uncles.

As with many Aurora Colony houses, it is not clear who lived in the Frederick Keil House, particularly during its early years, and what the exact periods of Frederick's and Elias' association were with the house. In 1860, Frederick Keil (1841-1883), "a storekeeper", lived in the household his father, Dr. William Keil. For over 11 years, Frederick managed the F. Keil and Company General Merchandise Store which sold the community's surplus production to the outside world. The F. Keil and Company Store (Resource #68), which still stands, was built about 1871. Frederick was a record keeper for many aspects of the Colony's business, and his accounts during this period have been preserved. It is interesting to note the similarities in the turned work of the F. Keil and Company Store building and the Frederick Keil House. In the 1867 directory, Frederick is listed as the hotel proprietor and, in the 1870 census, he, his wife, Louisa Giesy; and their three children are listed as living in the household of Jacob Giesy in the hotel. In 1880, Louisa having died in 1877, Frederick is listed as the head of the household with two of his three small children and four older, single women members of the Colony. When Frederick died in 1883, his son Elias, who later owned the house, was only eight years old.

In the 1900 census, Elias Keil (1875-1963) is listed as living in the household of his sister, Aurora, and her husband, Henry Ehlen. From the early 1880s until early in the 1900s, the house appears to have been occupied by others.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

This building was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 112
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Airport Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W12CB00901 and 041W12CB01000
Property ID: R10547 and R10566

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: Colony Carpentry Finishing Shop
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm/ Residential Yard



The 1.6 acre, irregularly-shaped property, is bordered by Airport Road on its east and is developed with a horse stable, circa 1970, at its western edge. The middle part of the property contains a remnant of an old cherry and walnut orchard. Open farm land, dotted with occasional fruit and nut trees, slopes down to Airport Road on its eastern edge. The property, which is associated with the Frederick Keil House to the south (Resource #111), used to contain three outbuildings dating from the primary historic period, two toward its eastern edge and one to the rear of the house. One of the outbuildings, one and a half stories tall with unpainted, vertical board siding and six-over-six, double-hung windows, appears to have been the Colony's Carpentry Finishing Shop referred to by Clark Will.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 113
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21879 Airport Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB01600
Property ID: R10564

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Farm Land

This was once part of a 12.86 acre piece of property. It is now a 4.34 parcel of vacant land.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 114
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21892 Airport Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CA01500
Property ID: R10554

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Joseph Miller House
YEAR BUILT: c1890
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/ Residential



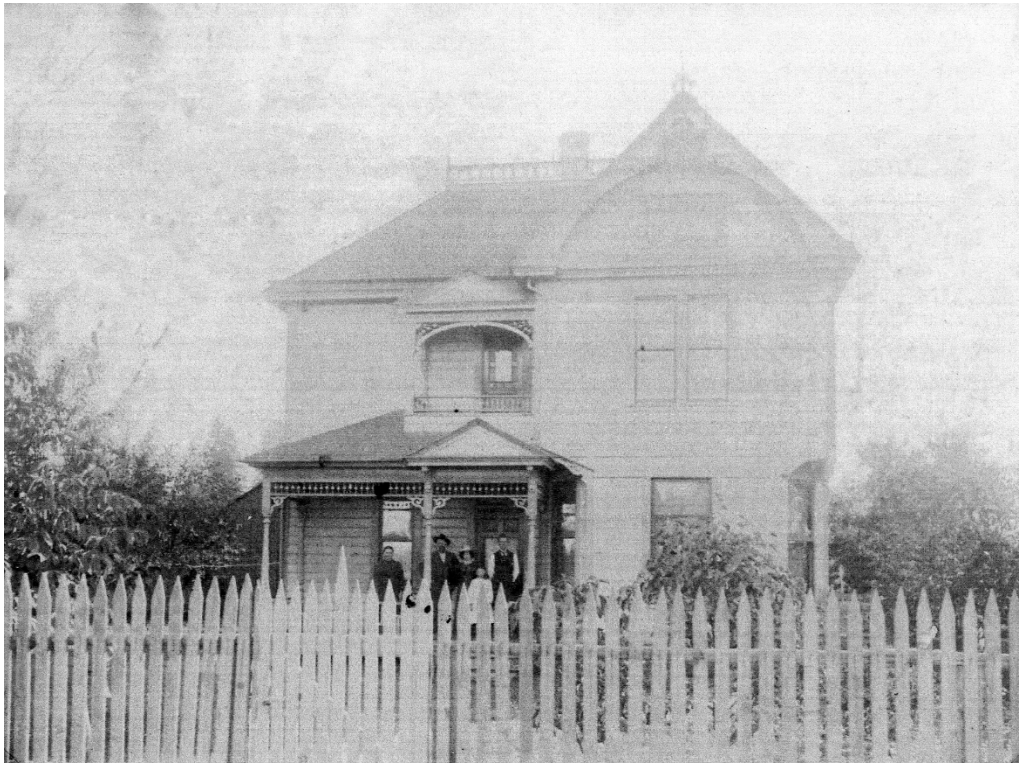
The .77 acre parcel is developed with a one and a half-story, Queen Anne Victorian style house, built in about 1890. The house is typically irregular in plan, with a truncated hip roof over the central body of the house and gable roofs over the projecting and flush wings of the house. The cornice is boxed and detailed with returns on the gable ends. The roof of the house is sheathed with composition shingles and the original crestring is missing. The original shiplap siding has been covered over with horizontal aluminum siding and a number of the original windows have been replaced with aluminum sash sliders. However, original windows are still intact at the first story on the northern side and on the western side in the vicinity of the front porch. The front door, with a single light above and a wood panel below, is intact as is the transom above the door. The one-story, attached front porch has a hip roof and turned posts with fancy-cut brackets. A one-story gable roof addition, circa 1940, has been built on the rear of

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

the house and extends to the north. Modifications to the house are considered moderate and appear reversible. The house faces north onto Airport Road. The yard is surrounded by a white board fence and consists of lawn and rose borders and beds.

A 2009 exhibit at the museum focused on the Miller family. Relatives identified this house to be the home where the Joseph Miller family lived in.

Joseph Miller came to Aurora in 1863. He married Gertrude Schuele c1869. One of their sons, Henry, developed the land in the east block around the bank in 1908. Also, the house is not in an 1889 view photograph taken from the church tower, but can be seen in a similar view from the church in 1908.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 115
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21973 Airport Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W12CB00100
Property ID: R10572

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1973
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/-Residential



The 2.02 acre property is at the northern edge of the historic district and is bordered by Airport Road along its eastern edge. A Northwest Vernacular style house, built in 1973, is located on flat land at the northern end of the property and faces east toward Airport Road. It is a one-story, L-shaped structure with a low-pitch gable roof. It has plywood siding, aluminum sash windows, a concrete slab foundation, and large reentrant carport. The house is surrounded by fallow farm land and its immediate site is minimally landscaped. There is one outbuilding, contemporary with the house, on the property.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 116
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Airport Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB00200
Property ID: R10573

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Farm Land

The property, one acre in extent, is located at the northern edge of the historic district. It is fallow pasture land, enclosed with wire-grid fencing and rough-split posts. There are no buildings on the property. This property is associated with the property to the east, Resource #115.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 117
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 22005 Airport Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB01800
Property ID: R10571

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1971
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential

This property and house was once part of another lot (Resource #118). It is a manufactured home with an attached garage.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 118
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 22015 Airport Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB01700
Property ID: R10570

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1993
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/-Residential

The 3.01 acre property is situated at the northwest corner of the historic district and has panhandle access to Airport Road. It is heavily forested with Douglas fir and contains a major swale which drains to the southeast into Mill Creek. The mobile home and two general purpose sheds on the property face north at the end of a long, unpaved country lane. They are not visible from Airport Road. The buildings are sited at the northeast corner of the property in a small clearing with forest to the south and west, orchards to the east, and a farm complex to the north. The sheds, 20 feet by 24 feet and 12 feet by 2 feet, are of recent construction.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 119
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14614 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB02900
Property ID: R97945

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1994
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/ Residential



This was once part of a 12.86 acre piece of property. It has been deduced that the Aurora Colony Church, built in 1867 and dismantled in 1911, was built at the top of the hill. The land that the church was built on, is now Resources #127 and #128. The wood constructed, Gothic Revival style church had a 114 foot high steeple. The steeple side of the church was on the west side (Resource #128).

Since 1985, this lot has been divided into 16 different lots. Thirteen homes have been added to a subdivision called Kasel Court.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 120
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14615 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB03200
Property ID: R97946

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1994
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/ Residential



Since 1985, a subdivision called Kasel Court has added three new homes into this area 1.22 acre parcel of land. All three houses were built in 1994.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 121
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14624 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB02800
Property ID: R97944

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1995
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



This was once part of a 12.86 acre piece of property. It has been deduced that the Aurora Colony Church, built in 1867 and dismantled in 1911, was built at the top of the hill. The land that the church was built, is now Resources #127 and #128. The wood constructed, Gothic Revival style church had a 114 foot high steeple. The steeple side of the church was on the west side (Resource #128).

Since 1985, this lot has been divided into 16 different lots. Thirteen homes have been added to a subdivision called Kasel Court.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 122
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14625 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #-041W12CB03300
Property ID: R97947

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1994
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



Since 1985, a subdivision called Kasel Court has added three new homes into this area 1.22 acre parcel of land. All three houses were built in 1994.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 123
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14634 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB02700
Property ID: R97943

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1995
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



This was once part of a 12.86 acre piece of property. It has been deduced that the Aurora Colony Church, built in 1867 and dismantled in 1911, was built at the top of the hill. The land that the church was built on, is now Resources #127 and #128. The wood constructed, Gothic Revival style church had a 114 foot high steeple. The steeple side of the church was on the west side (Resource #128).

Since 1985, this lot has been divided into 16 different lots. Thirteen homes have been added to a subdivision called Kasel Court.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 124
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14635 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB03400
Property ID: R97948

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1994
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/ Residential



Since 1985, a subdivision called Kasel Court has added three new homes into this area 1.22 acre parcel of land. All three houses were built in 1994.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 125
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14644 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB02600
Property ID: R97942

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1998
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



This was once part of a 12.86 acre piece of property. It has been deduced that the Aurora Colony Church, built in 1867 and dismantled in 1911, was built at the top of the hill. The land that the church was built, is now Resources #127 and #128. The wood constructed, Gothic Revival style church had a 114 foot high steeple. The steeple side of the church was on the west side (Resource #128).

Since 1985, this lot has been divided into 16 different lots. Thirteen homes have been added to a subdivision called Kasel Court.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 126
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14645 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB03500
Property ID: R97949

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1993
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



This was once part of a 12.86 acre piece of property. It has been deduced that the Aurora Colony Church, built in 1867 and dismantled in 1911, was built at the top of the hill. The land that the church was built on, is now Resources #127 and #128. The wood constructed, Gothic Revival style church had a 114 foot high steeple. The steeple side of the church was on the west side (Resource #128).

Since 1985, this lot has been divided into 16 different lots. Thirteen homes have been added to a subdivision called Kasel Court.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 127
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14654 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB02500
Property ID: R97941

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1997
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



This was once part of a 12.86 acre piece of property. It has been deduced that the Aurora Colony Church, built in 1867 and dismantled in 1911, was built at the top of the hill. The land that the church was built on, is now Resources #127 and #128. The wood constructed, Gothic Revival style church had a 114 foot high steeple. The steeple side of the church was on the west side (Resource #128).

Since 1985, this lot has been divided into 16 different lots. Thirteen homes have been added to a subdivision called Kasel Court.

This site was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

National Historic District.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 128
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14655 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB03600
Property ID: R97950

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1997
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



This was once part of a 12.86 acre piece of property. It has been deduced that the Aurora Colony Church, built in 1867 and dismantled in 1911, was built at the top of the hill. The land that the church was built on, is now Resources #127 and #128. The wood constructed, Gothic Revival style church had a 114 foot high steeple. The steeple side of the church was on the west side (Resource #128).

Since 1985, this lot has been divided into 16 different lots. Thirteen homes have been added to a subdivision called Kasel Court.

This site was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 129
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14664 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB02400
Property ID: R97940

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1996
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



This was once part of a 12.86 acre piece of property. It has been deduced that the Aurora Colony Church, built in 1867 and dismantled in 1911, was built at the top of the hill. The land that the church was built on, is now Resources #127 and #128. The wood constructed, Gothic Revival style church had a 114 foot high steeple. The steeple side of the church was on the west side (Resource #128).

Since 1985, this lot has been divided into 16 different lots. Thirteen homes have been added to a subdivision called Kasel Court.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 130
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14665 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB03700
Property ID: R97951

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1998
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



This was once part of a 12.86 acre piece of property. It has been deduced that the Aurora Colony Church, built in 1867 and dismantled in 1911, was built at the top of the hill. The land that the church was built on, is now Resources #127 and #128. The wood constructed, Gothic Revival style church had a 114 foot high steeple. The steeple side of the church was on the west side (Resource #128).

Since 1985, this lot has been divided into 16 different lots. Thirteen homes have been added to a subdivision called Kasel Court.

RESOURCE #: 131

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14666 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB02300
Property ID: R97939

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1997
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



This was once part of a 12.86 acre piece of property. It has been deduced that the Aurora Colony Church, built in 1867 and dismantled in 1911, was built at the top of the hill. The land that the church was built on, is now Resources #127 and #128. The wood constructed, Gothic Revival style church had a 114 foot high steeple. The steeple side of the church was on the west side (Resource #128).

Since 1985, this lot has been divided into 16 different lots. Thirteen homes have been added to a subdivision called Kasel Court.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 132
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14668 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB02200
Property ID: R97938

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1996
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



This was once part of a 12.86 acre piece of property. It has been deduced that the Aurora Colony Church, built in 1867 and dismantled in 1911, was built at the top of the hill. The land that the church was built on, is now Resources #127 and #128. The wood constructed, Gothic Revival style church had a 114 foot high steeple. The steeple side of the church was on the west side (Resource #128).

Since 1985, this lot has been divided into 16 different lots. Thirteen homes have been added to a subdivision called Kasel Court.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 133
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14670 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB02100
Property ID: R97937

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1994
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



This was once part of a 12.86 acre piece of property. It has been deduced that the Aurora Colony Church, built in 1867 and dismantled in 1911, was built at the top of the hill. The land that the church was built on, is now Resources #127 and #128. The wood constructed, Gothic Revival style church had a 114 foot high steeple. The steeple side of the church was on the west side (Resource #128).

Since 1985, this lot has been divided into 16 different lots. Thirteen homes have been added to a subdivision called Kasel Court.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 134
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14674 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB00600
Property ID: R97934

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1989
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/-Residential



Since 1985, a subdivision called Kasel Court has added five new homes into this area 2.38 acre parcel of land. These lots are towards the entrance to the subdivision.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 135
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14675 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB00400
Property ID: R97932

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1990
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



Since 1985, a subdivision called Kasel Court has added five new homes into this area 2.38 acre parcel of land. These lots are towards the entrance to the subdivision.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 136
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14684 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB00700
Property ID: R97935

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1990
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



Since 1985, a subdivision called Kasel Court has added five new homes into this area 2.38 acre parcel of land. These lots are towards the entrance to the subdivision.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 137
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14694 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB00800
Property ID: R97936

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1990
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



Since 1985, a subdivision called Kasel Court has added five new homes into this area 2.38 acre parcel of land. These lots are towards the entrance to the subdivision.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 138
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14695 Kasel Court NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB00800
Property ID: R97933

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1990
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



Since 1985, a subdivision called Kasel Court has added five new homes into this area 2.38 acre parcel of land. These lots are towards the entrance to the subdivision.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 139
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14623 Donnelly Lane, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W12C02300
Property ID: R10527

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1966
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



This property is not within the city of Aurora. It is however, within the Historic District.

The property is .91 acre in size, with frontage on Ehlen Road along its southern edge. The southern half of the property is developed with a Suburban Ranch style house built in 1966. The one-story house is L-shaped and has an intersecting gable roof sheathed with shakes. The house, which faces east onto a private lane, is sided in plywood and stone, and has aluminum sash windows, a concrete foundation and exterior stone chimney on its southern facade. The immediate site of the house is heavily planted with broadleaf evergreen and coniferous shrubs and deciduous ornamental trees. The side yard on the northern half of the property is separated by a gravel drive backed by a row of ornamental flowering cherries and shrubs. The side yard maintains a rural aspect with fruit trees and open grass. Two contemporary general purpose sheds are located in the side yard.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 140
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14625 Donnelly Lane, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12C01501
Property ID: R10538

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1996
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



The .59 acre property was once the southern half of a larger lot. Since the original survey was completed in 1985, this property was split into two different tax lots (Resource #142).

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 141
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14627 Donnelly Lane, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12C01600
Property ID: R10540

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1969-1970
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/-Residential



The property is an irregularly-shaped, .98 acre parcel which gently slopes in a southerly direction toward Ehlen Road. The property is developed with a Suburban Ranch style house, built in 1969-1970, and two contemporary general purpose buildings, 28 feet by 35 feet and 8 feet by 8 feet. The house is a one-story, L-shaped building with full basement. It has a low pitched, gable roof sheathed with shakes and a combination of plywood and stone siding. While the house is surrounded by farm land to the west, south and east, and with forest to the north, its immediate site is developed with 1960s "Sunset" style plantings of coniferous shrubs and ornamental trees.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 142
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14629 Donnelly Lane, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12C01500
Property ID: R10537

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1993
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential

The .83 acre property was once the northern half of a larger lot. Since the original survey was completed in 1985, this property was split into two different tax lots (Resource #140).

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 143
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14633 Donnelly Lane, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W12C01502
Property ID: R10539

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: 1996
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



1985: The 1.11 acre parcel of vacant land is used to pasture horses. It slopes in a southerly direction to Ehlen Road.

It now has a house that was built in 1996.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 144
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Donnelly Lane, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #- 041W12C02200
Property ID: R10535

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: c1950
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Public Utility

The city of Aurora well is housed in a small rectangular, concrete block structure, approximately 6 foot by 12 foot, with a gable roof. It is situated on a 50 foot square plot and fenced off from adjacent pasture land with an electric fence.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 145
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Ehlen Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD00900
Property ID: R10519

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: Site of Original Millpond
YEAR BUILT: c1850
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Millpond/Farm Land



This property is not within the city of Aurora. It is however, within the Historic District.

The vacant, 4.61 acre property is located south of Ehlen Road and is approximately 860 feet deep and 250 feet wide. Although as recently as the 1950s, it was used as a race track with grandstand seating, it is now overgrown with wild grasses and native plants. From the time of initial settlement, it was used for pasture land and control of millrace waters. George F. White originally constructed (c1852) a dam along the northern edge of the property to provide power for his saw and grist mills. The Colony continued to use this millpond until about 1867 when they constructed a dam and millpond further to the southwest and a millrace along the western side of the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

The complex of half a dozen mill buildings, which gave the community the official name of “Aurora Mills,” from 1857 to 1894 extended in a three-quarter mile long crescent around the perimeter of a flood plain which was bordered by Airport Road on the west, Ehlen Road on the south, and, after 1869, by the railroad on the southeast. The crescent, extending from northwest to southeast, started across the road from the Frederick Keil House and terminated east of the northern end of Liberty Street. Although there is little information available about these buildings, including their exact locations, functions and construction dates, they can be divided into two groups. To the west, the first group consisted of both pre-Colony and Colony period buildings. To the southeast, the second group contained Colony and post-Colony period buildings. Each group of buildings was developed subsequent to water engineering projects, i.e. the construction of a dam, millpond and millrace.

The first group of mills developed following the circa 1850 construction of White's dam and millpond just south of Ehlen Road. From the millpond, a millrace led to White's sawmill (Resources# 154 and 155), built in about 1850, which was sited near the northern edge of Ehlen Road, just west of the earlier Mill Creek Bridge. The ruins of the log bridge (Resource #83) which survive may be from the Colony period. The site was used for milling until the 1930s when the construction of Mill Creek Bridge and realignment of Ehlen Road caused the demolition of the mill. From the sawmill, White's millrace continued in a northerly direction for about 500 feet, until it reached the site of White's grist mill (Resource #109), built in about 1851. East of Airport Road and a few hundred feet to the north/northwest of the gristmill is the site of the John D. Hurst House, a later owner of the gristmill.

The second group of mills developed east of Mill Creek. In 1867, White's dam was replaced by the Colony with a dam approximately 1,500 feet upstream, which increased the water head considerably. The 1867 earth and gravel dam is largely intact, but the 1867 millpond, now drained, has reverted to swamp and meadowland bordering Mill Creek. The dam and much of the millpond are outside the boundaries of the historic district. The development of the 1867 Colony dam and millpond included a new millrace which fed a log pond (Resource #88), north of the Mill Creek Bridge. As a result of the new dam and the construction of the railroad line through Aurora in 1869, new mills were built close to the northern edge of the railroad tracks. Roughly from west to east, the new mills were the spinning mill, lumber mill, offices and gristmill complex, just outside of the eastern boundary of the historic district (Resources #92 and 93).

This site was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 146
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Mill Race Lane NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CD01100
Property ID: R50630

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: Millrace Flume
YEAR BUILT: c1867
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Millrace Flume/Vacant Land



This property is not within the city of Aurora. It is however, within the Historic District.

This property is discontinuous and irregular in shape. Approximately 40 feet wide, it runs west of the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way. On the southwest side of Ehlen Road (Main Street realigned), it picks up again and runs to the south/southwest in an irregular course through Hurst's Garden Tract Addition. It is assumed that this is the abandoned course of the millrace flume for the second Colony dam, later acquired by J.D. Hurst after dissolution of the Colony.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 147
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Mill Race Lane NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Hurst's Garden Tracts
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD01000
Property ID: R50629

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Forest Land/Forest Land



This property is not within the city of Aurora. It is however, within the Historic District.

The property is an irregularly-shaped, .8 acre parcel of vacant land. The property is bordered by the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way on the east and the millrace flume built by the Colony in about 1867 on the west. The site is forested with Douglas fir, poplar, filbert and other native plant materials.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 148
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14634 Ehlen Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W12C02600
Property ID: R10512

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: John Giesy House
YEAR BUILT: 1864-1865
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



This property is not within the city of Aurora. It is however, within the Historic District.

The John Giesy House, built between 1864 and 1865, is in several respects the most unusual house of the Colony period now, surviving in Aurora. Although its plan and form bear little resemblance to other Colony homes, its detailing is typical of the techniques and elements used in Colony architecture. The house is relatively intact, although some major changes have been made. It is also significant because of its site, intact collection of outbuildings, and its association with John Giesy, a principal figure in administration of Aurora Colony affairs during the lifetime of Dr. Keil and following his death.

The house is a simple rectangle in plan, two stories high with an attic. The house, which faces north, is

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

four bays wide and two bays deep, 42 feet by 35 feet. There is a small hip roof porch with four turned posts and a plain railing centered on the front facade. Its form, style and detail are of a later date than the house. A modern deck, added in 1983, now extends across the back facade of the house. The gable roof, which has a pitch of between 40 and 45 degrees, is sheathed with corrugated metal. The porch roof is shingled. Two brick chimneys with corbelled tops protrude from the ridge near the center and at the east end. The end chimney serves a fireplace, the center a stove flue. The workmanship is 20th century, but the chimneys are constructed of older brick.

The eaves are boxed and are carried completely across on the east side of the house. The Classical Revival pediment thus formed is unique among extant Aurora architecture, as the portico pediment of the F. Keil & Company General Merchandise Store (Resource #68) does not have a semblance of Classical entablature elements. On the west end of the Giesy House, the eaves return only about three feet on the gable end. This distinction between the east and west ends of the buildings appears to be original, as a one and a half-story wing (which is no longer standing) adjoined the building on the west, its roof disrupting the full pediment. On the eaves and rakes, the simple trim pieces are composed of two stacked boards, the upper one shorter than the lower, each with its lower edge beveled. The design of the bed molding is identical to that on the Frederick Keil House (Resource #111) and similar to several other Colony' buildings. It may be argued that, because of the form of its eaves, the Giesy: House approaches the detailing of the Classical Revival style of architecture more closely than any other extant Aurora building, and perhaps more than any building ever built within the community.

The white painted siding is horizontal weatherboard, exposed five to six inches. There are vertical boards at the corners of the house and a heavy large board 10-12" inches high with a rectangular cap which serves as a water table and drip cap. The brick foundation, which extends above grade one to two feet on the front and west ends, encloses a full height basement. At the east end of the house, the sloping site reveals the full height of the basement wall and allows access through two symmetrically located, double-leaf doors. The doors and brick walls appear to be original or very early.

The front facade of the house has four bays of windows at the second story, but only three bays at the first -- a door nearly centered, with a window on either side. The windows are six-over-six, double-hung wood sash, with those on either end of the attic a smaller size. In the 1950s, false shutters were hung on either side of the windows. The existing front door has a paneled base and an etched glass upper panel, appropriate to the repositioning of the doorway in about 1905. There are doors elsewhere on the property which are paneled and have characteristics appropriate to original exterior doors.

The John Giesy House was an unusual example of a double front door arrangement. Originally, the front had openings in four bays on each floor; these were irregularly spaced with the western bay set at a wider interval. The second story had four windows, and the first story had two. On the first floor, there was a door in the second bay from the east and in the western bay. Following acquisition of the property in about 1904 by the Jonas Will family, the first major interior and exterior alterations were made to the house. The primary effect was upon the interiors, the chimneys and the first floor front facade. The changes to the front facade included removing one front door, relocating the other and adding the one-story porch, giving it the appearance it has today.

Several facts and oral tradition support an 1864-1865 construction date for the John Giesy House. In 1927, George Wolfer, who came to Aurora in 1863, when he was 21 years old, said that the house was built in 1863-1864. Other accounts state that the chimneys and fireplaces were built in the "spring of 1864" by the Colony brickmason, John Will, with the help of his son, John W. Will. As the Wills came to

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

Aurora from Bethel, Missouri in the fall of 1863, the 1864 date for their masonry work is reasonable. Finally, during rehabilitation work on the house in 1983, a piece of newspaper used under the original wallpaper as an underlayment was uncovered; it was a page of the "Union, Weekly Oregonian" dated February 16, 1866.

The house is down a slope 200 yards or more from Ehlen Road. There is a lawn in front of the house with some ornamental plantings which appear to date from the turn of the century. To the west of the house, a string of outbuildings flank the driveway, running perpendicular to Ehlen Road. Further to the west, there are several acres of very old orchard, containing trees thought to survive from the Colony period. There is a row of four to five, very old black locust trees, 15 to 20 feet behind the house. Beyond them on the south and east, the site drops abruptly. Several hundred yards to the east of the house there is a flood plain which once contained the millpond, built before 1856 by the original land claim settlers. Across Ehlen Road to the north, the Emanuel Keil House sits on higher ground. The site of the Emanuel Keil House once contained an extensive complex of buildings, including Dr. Keil's "das Gross Haus."

On the John Giesy property, there is one of the finest collections of Colony traditional outbuildings surviving from the Colony period. The group also includes several structures from the early 1900s, a pump house, a dryer and others. The hewn frame barn was originally sited parallel to and within a few feet of Ehlen Road and west of the driveway. Dismantled around 1930, it was reassembled with a new lean-to on a rise several hundred yards southwest of the house. Its present form is similar to its original form, visible in a photograph taken in 1928 from the city water tower. It is rectangular in form, approximately 30 feet by 60-70 feet, and has a gable roof. It is one of the few barns surviving from the Colony period.

Further south along the west side of the driveway there is a granary, probably dating from the 1870s. It is a gable roof building, approximately 30 feet by 15 feet with later lean-tos for machines added to its north and east sides. Its ridge runs parallel with the driveway and perpendicular to the house and Ehlen Road. It is a hewn frame structure covered with unpainted vertical siding. It has a raised wooden floor and a central passageway flanked by bins. This is the only early granary within the historic district.

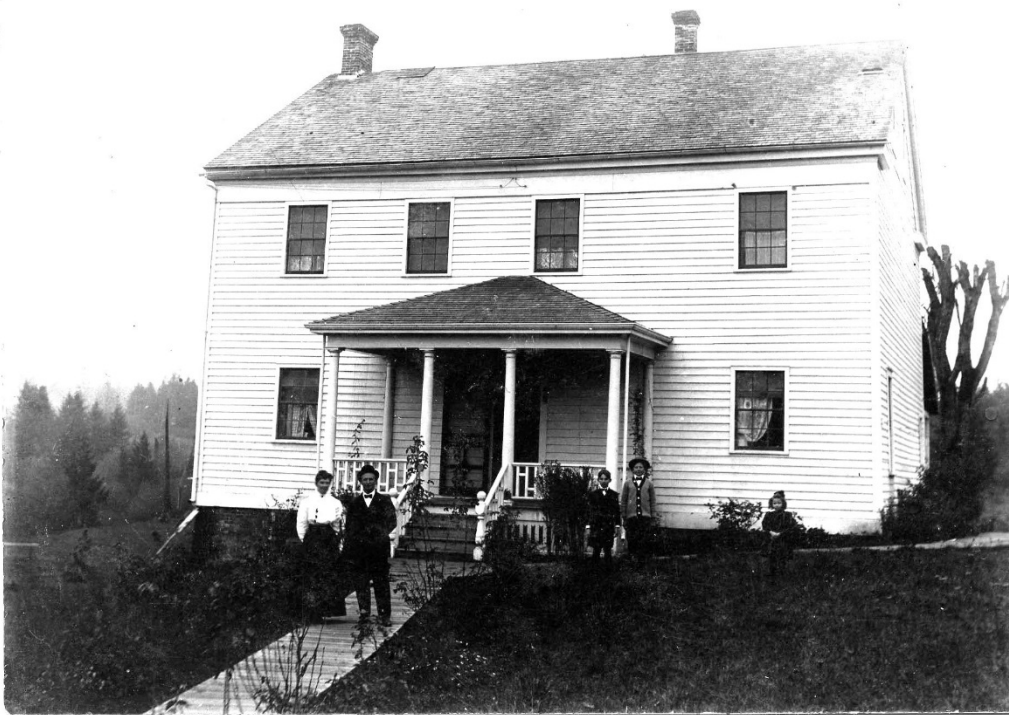
Within 30 feet of the house and slightly to its southwest there is a one and a half-story, vertically sided, sawn frame structure. It contains a wash house, a woodshed and a shop, all in one building and constructed at one time. About 30 feet by 20 feet, its gable roof runs parallel with the driveway and the granary, and perpendicular to the ridge line of the house. The woodshed is in the northern half of the building. It has an earth floor and a wide opening toward Ehlen Road to the north. The wash house is in the southern portion and has a raised wooden floor and a large brick fireplace. From the wash room, stairs lead to the second floor, which extends the entire length of the building. It contains the tools and remains of a workshop, with a workbench along the north wall.

The dating of the Giesy House is confusing. Family tradition states that the building was constructed around 1905, which seems appropriate in terms of its framing characteristics and the four-over-four, double-hung sash windows in the wash room. However, the use of a fireplace in a wash house is typical of the 19th century, and the brick and mortar match the house's foundation, which dates from 1864-1865. One or two doors also date from circa 1865. Of some interest is the 12-light fixed sash window in the north gable end of the shop. By tradition, it is said to be from the Colony Church at the time of its demolition in 1912. It is plausible and the window does resemble the sash shown in photographs of the Church.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

In 1855, John and Barbara Ann White Giesy moved from Bethel, Missouri to Willapa, Washington Territory. The John Giesy family was part of the first Colony group to arrive at the site selected by the scouts. They owned and resided on their Willapa farm until 1862 when they moved to Aurora. Giesy was appointed one of the trustees and aldermen of the Colony by Dr. Keil. In the property agreement of 1866 and in the 1870 census, he is listed as the "Colony agent." The 1867 and 1872 directories also indicate that he ran the Colony flour mill. Following John Giesy's death in Aurora in 1886, his property was eventually sold to Jonas Will. A photograph shows that the original John Giesy house was attached to what is described in some sources as a cider house.

This building was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 149
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14643 Ehlen Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W12C02100
Property ID: R10529

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Emanuel Keil House, 2nd
YEAR BUILT: 1903-1905
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/Residential



The Emanuel Keil House was built in about 1905 during the post-Colony period. The house, which was Queen Anne Victorian in style and representative of contemporary, turn of the century, American architecture, did not exemplify the continuation of Colony period traditions. Although the original appearance of the house has been altered beyond recognition, it is of major historical importance because of its association with Emanuel Keil, son of Dr. William Keil. The site is also of importance because of its long association with the Aurora Colony, from its earliest beginnings in 1856, and the number of major Colony buildings which have occupied the site. Because this site is considered to be a major historic archeological resource, an archaeological dig was conducted north of here in 2006 on the original site of Dr. Keil's house. Its contents are now part of the Aurora Colony Historical Society's collection. After the dig, the Historic Review Board granted new owners permission to dismantle the

house in order to develop the property for multiple homes.

The existing building is a large, two-story structure which is irregular in form with two bays facing south and three bays facing east. The roof is a low pitched hip, covered with composition shingles. On the eastern facade the end bays project a few feet beyond the center bay. The windows are one-over-one, double-hung sash with aluminum storm windows. There are several large fixed plate glass windows on the first story. A one-story, two car garage is attached to the northwest corner of the house, with the main entrance ad joining. The building, which lacks any notable detail, is plain, crude and severe in character.

The original appearance of the Queen Anne Victorian style house is recorded in a number of photographs. It was a tall, narrow, two-story house, T-shaped in plan. It was sided with shiplap and bands of embrocated shingles in the gable ends. The 45 degree pitched roof was capped with finials and standing jigsaw work which ran the length of the ridges. It had operating wood blinds and a number of porches with turned posts, and brackets supported lintels filled with spool work. Little hint of the original building remains. The form of the original building has been modified by the addition of a wing on its south side and by the replacement of the gable roof and attic with a low pitched hip roof. An earlier Emanuel Keil house, which is assumed to have been built around 1879 at the time of his marriage, was destroyed by fire on July 19, 1903. The current house is well documented in photographs.

The house is sited on a knoll north of Ehlen Road and the John Giesy House (Resource #148), called "The Point." The house is reached from Ehlen Road by a long driveway which appears to have provided access to the site for over 100 years. The house is surrounded by a number of trees, including several maples and fruit trees, as well as vegetable gardens and pasture land. A hundred feet or so northwest of the house is a small board and batten, one-story shed, approximately 20 feet by 10 feet. Now used as a small barn, it is understood to have been an outbuilding to Dr. William Keil's house which stood behind the Emanuel Keil House. The shed has no internal divisions or finishes.

At least 17, and possibly more than 20 buildings have stood on the Keil property, more than half of which were built in the Colony period; nine of these buildings appear to have been houses, five of which were built during the Colony period: William Keil's "das Gross Haus;" the first Colony log cabin which stood to the southeast of the Keil House; the first Emanuel Keil House; 150 feet to the northwest of it, a log cabin; and just west of the driveway, approximately 100 feet north of Ehlen Road, large board and batten house with a big central brick chimney. To the south of the board and batten house, there was a hop barn, and to the north, two attached sheds. There is little information available about most of these buildings, except for early photographic overviews and oral tradition. East of the driveway and roughly parallel to it, the following buildings ran in a line from south to north: the second Emanuel Keil House, still standing; to the rear of the second house, Emanuel's first house which burned in 1903; next, a large open yard flanked on the west by what appear to have been two matching privies and on the east by a barn; 100 feet or more behind the first Emanuel Keil house, William Keil's house, a huge, two and a half-story, log structure covered with horizontal weatherboarding; behind it the "community hall"; and some distance further, just over the present property line, a little house which "Ernie Becke had lived in." The "first stage barn" was sited near the southeast corner of the Keil property, and according to the 1922 Sanborn Map, two houses and two shed occupied the northeast corner of the property. The site of the latter buildings has been partitioned off and 20th century structures now occupy the site (Resource #105). The Gross Haus was torn down sometime between 1922 and 1930.³¹

³¹ Hugo Keil interview. November 19, 1985.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

The two children of William and Louisa Keil who survived to adulthood and remained in Aurora were Emanuel (1852-1922) and Frederick (1841-1883). August (1838-1903), a third son, returned to Bethel and died there. In 1878, Emanuel was 25 years old and described as a “member to date” of the Aurora Colony. In 1879, he married Sarah Giesy. He was listed in the 1886 directory as a photographer and, later, as an artist.

This site was identified as historically significant in Aurora’s successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 150
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14664 Ehlen Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12C02700
Property ID: R10522

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Dr. William W. Giesy House
YEAR BUILT: c1886
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential/ Residential



This property is not within the city of Aurora. It is however, within the Historic District.

The .38 acre parcel is developed with a one and a half-story, irregularly shaped residence which faces north onto Ehlen Road. The building, extensively remodeled in the 1920s, has a composition shingle, gable roof with a central gable dormer and two bay windows with gable roofs. The first story is sheathed with clapboard siding and the second with shingles. The foundation is finished with a stucco wash. The centrally located front porch recessed between the bays and covered with an extension of the house roof is Bungalow influenced with two truncated obelisk posts on brick piers. The windows are wood sash and of various design, but typically one-over-one or six-over-one, double-hung sash. The exterior fireplace chimney is constructed of raked brick. Three contemporary outbuildings are located on the

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

property.

The house was lived in by Dr. William W. Giesy. Giesy, the son of John and Barbara White Giesy, was born at Willapa in 1859; he married Julia Spencer on August 11, 1886. He graduated from the Willamette Medical Department then located in Portland in 1881³². He died September 18, 1912. Their daughter Sylvia's obituary from December 8, 1949 says that Julia left Aurora in 1912.



³² The Doctor in Oregon. Binford and Mort: Portland. 1947. Pg 199-200

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 151
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14723 Ehlen Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W12C01900
Property ID: R10531

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: Michael Rapps House
YEAR BUILT: 1879
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Residential /Residential



This house burned down in the 1990s.

1985: The Michael Rapps House is an important Aurora house because of its association with this long standing Colony member. Extensive modifications to the house's surfaces, openings and detailing have obscured many characteristics which would identify it as a Colony period house. A few details, the position of most openings and the building's proportions and shape suggest, however, that it is an important historic building.

The Rapps House faces south toward Ehlen Road, east of its juncture with Airport Road. The house, which is one and a half stories throughout, is L-shaped in plan and has an intersecting gable roof. The 30

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

foot rear wing gives evidence of being part of the original construction. The front of the house is three bays wide and about 30 feet in length, with a central door flanked by windows and three small, second story windows. The roof is pitched at about 45 degrees, and composition shingles cover the roof and walls. One small, plain brick chimney sits slightly off center on the front ridge. On the north and east between the front of the house and the rear wing, there are two one-story lean-tos, probably former porches. The building sits close to the ground and there is no indication of a basement.

The eaves are boxed, parallel with the roof pitch, and have simple crown and bed moldings, which are curvilinear in profile. The detailing appears to be original, as do the large wood entablature boards visible only on the rakes. Little other original surface trim remains visible.

The majority of openings appear to be in original locations, but only one six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash window remains. It is on the second floor at the rear of the rear wing. The majority of windows are now one-over-one, double hung sash and, on the west side of the front facade, there are two large fixed plate glass windows of recent introduction. There are two porches; one at the front door and one at the western side door on the rear wing. The latter is a small gable roof 20th century affair. The porch on the front, which extends entirely across the building, has a low hipped roof with boxed eaves, indicating an early 20th century construction date.

A panoramic view of Aurora from the church site, circa 1889, shows just a glimpse of the Rapps House, with a chimney on the roof of the rear wing as well as on the front, white siding and dark colored eaves. In addition to the alterations mentioned above, the following have also been changed: the window trim and sash, and the side and front entry porches. The building appears to be in run down condition.

No specific construction date has been found, and alterations have obscured stylistic details which could assist with dating. However, a date of circa 1875 is suggested by the extant detailing, the L-shaped plan, and the presence of the rear wing which appears integral to the house, characteristics typical of later Aurora Colony houses.

The land surrounding the house is low, flat and relatively barren, except for a large walnut tree and a black locust tree. To the north, northeast and east, the site adjoins the area which contained the Colony's factories and mills. The original Colony sawmill was sited just east of the Rapps House, which recalls that Michael Rapps was listed in the 1860 census and 1867 business directory as miller of the sawmill. In later years, after 1886, Rapps is listed as a butcher. According to one notation by Clark Will, White's log cabin sat between Rapps' house and the sawmill.

Michael Rapps, who was born in 1829 in Bavaria and died in Aurora in 1901, came to Aurora with Dr. Keil in 1856. In the census of 1860, Rapps was listed in the house hold of Henry Snyder. In later years, he is listed as the owner of this property on the 1888 "Road District Number 59" Map and associated with the house on Clark Will's maps of 1924 and 1972. In 1901, Lyman found that Michael Rapps had a "comfortable little home where he resides with his wife, Mary Schuele, to whom he was married in 1879." It is unlikely that the house was built before then.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 152
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Ehlen Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CD00800
Property ID: R10532

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Farm Land



The property is a strip of land approximately 20 feet wide and .06 acres in extent which runs north from Ehlen Road. It is used as pasture land. It is fenced as though it is part of the property to its east (Resources #154 and 155) and is currently held in common ownership.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 153
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Ehlen Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#:- 041W12CD00700
Property ID: R10533

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Farm Land

The property is .25 acres in size and vacant. It is pasture land which has been used as a refuse dump, i.e. tires and miscellaneous debris. Visually, it appears to be in common ownership with the parcel to its south (Resources 154 and 155).

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 154
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14783 Ehlen Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Hurst's
TAX LOT#: 041W12CD00600 (partial)
Property ID: R97927

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: David Smith Sawmill Site
YEAR BUILT: 1850/NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Sawmill Site/Retail Store & Residential



The property is .66 acres in extent and located on the northern side of Ehlen Road just before it turns south and becomes Main Street. A mobile home and 60 foot square general purpose shed used for commercial retail activities, are located on the site. The shed faces onto Ehlen Road and has a concrete block foundation and a gable roof with two shed additions, one on each eave end. The walls and roof of the shed are sheathed in corrugated galvanized metal, except for the front facade which is sheathed with plywood and detailed as a "false front."

William Whitney and W.H. Rees developed a sawmill and gristmill on this site in 1849 after their return from the gold fields in California. The sawmill was acquired by David Smith, and the gristmill by George F. White in c1852, and both purchased by Dr. William Keil in 1856.

RESOURCE #: 155

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 14785 Ehlen Road NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: Hurst's
TAX LOT#:-041W12CD00600 (partial)
Property ID: R97927

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: David Smith Sawmill Site
YEAR BUILT: 1850
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Sawmill Site/Retail Store & Residential



The property is .66 acres in extent and located on the northern side of Ehlen Road just before it turns south and becomes Main Street. A mobile home and 60 foot square general purpose shed used for commercial retail activities, are located on the site. The shed faces onto Ehlen Road and has a concrete block foundation and a gable roof with two shed additions, one on each eave end. The walls and roof of the shed are sheathed in corrugated galvanized metal, except for the front facade which is sheathed with plywood and detailed as a "false front."

William Whitney and W.H. Rees developed a sawmill and gristmill on this site in 1849 after their return from the gold fields in California. The sawmill was acquired by David Smith, and the gristmill by George F. White in c1852, and both purchased by Dr. William Keil in 1856.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 156
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Cole Lane NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #- 041W12C02500
Property ID: R10523

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Farm Land



This property is not within the city of Aurora. It is however, within the Historic District.

The property is a 3.96 acre parcel of vacant land at the north-east corner of Cole Lane and Ehlen Road. The rolling farm land, which has been recently plowed, slopes south to Ehlen Road.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 157
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Cole Lane NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#:- 041W12C02400
Property ID: R10536

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Farm Land



This property is not within the city of Aurora. It is however, within the Historic District.

The property is a 3.1 acre parcel of vacant land which fronts on Cole Lane to the west. The rolling farm land, which has been recently plowed, slopes to the south.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 158
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Cole Lane NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W12CB01100
Property ID: R10545

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Farm Land



This property is not within the city of Aurora. It is however, within the Historic District.

The 3.07 acre parcel of vacant land fronts on Cole Lane to the west. The recently plowed farm land forms a gentle swale which slopes to the south.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 159
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 21900 Cole Lane NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#: 041W12CB01200
Property ID: R10553

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Not in Period
AURORA: Noncontributing
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: c1960
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Residential



This property is not within the city of Aurora. It is however, within the Historic District.

The 1.73 acre property, which fronts Cole Lane along its western edge, is developed with a Suburban Ranch style house and a miscellany of contemporary outbuildings. The one-story house is T-shaped with a low-pitched; intersecting gable roof sheathed with composition shingles. It is sided with plywood and has a concrete slab foundation and aluminum sash slider windows. A reentrant porch with wrought iron supports extends across the southern face of the building. The house is sited at the edge of the top of the hill, and overlooks rolling farmland to its south. The property is filled with a miscellany of disheveled out-buildings, cars and debris.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 160
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Cole Lane NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#:-041W12CB01300
Property ID: R10557

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Contributing
HISTORIC NAME: Keil Cemetery
YEAR BUILT: 1862
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Cemetery/Cemetery



This property is not within the city of Aurora. It is however, within the Historic District.

The Keil Cemetery is a .81 acre site which has panhandle access to Cole Lane. The cemetery is at the top of a low hill overlooking gently rolling farm land to its west and south, and dense forest, and a deep ravine to its north and east. The path from the William Keil House to the "Park House," approximately a quarter mile northwest of the Keil Cemetery, passes just south of the cemetery.³³

³³ Clark Will maps, 1925 and 1972

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

Although the cemetery contains a few ornamental plantings, including an incense cedar and periwinkle groundcover, it is badly overgrown with black berries, quince and wild grass. There are two rows of headstones running north/south approximately 38 feet apart. Except for four other graves, the cemetery only contains the graves of William and Louisa Keil, their children and spouses, and their descendants. There are only 24 graves in all. Most of the Colony members are buried in the Aurora Cemetery located near the southwest corner of the David Smith D.L.C. and part of the original acquisition by the Aurora Colony. The Aurora Colony Cemetery is not within the boundary of the historic district.

A restoration project has been completed by ACHS which includes a new cast-iron fence, grave stone repair, and new signage.

This site was identified as historically significant in Aurora's successful 1974 application to become a National Historic District.



Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 161
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Cole Lane NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT #: 041W12CB01400
Property ID: R10558

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/ Farm Land



This property is not within the city of Aurora. It is however, within the Historic District.

The 1.26 acre parcel of vacant property is located at the northern end of Cole Lane to the west of the Keil Cemetery. The property is surrounded by a split-post and barbed wire fence. It is overgrown with grass and bordered along its northern edge with forest.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

RESOURCE #: 162
COUNTY: Marion
ADDRESS: 0 Cole Lane NE, Aurora, OR 97002
T4S R1W S12
ADDITION: NA
TAX LOT#:-041W12CB01500
Property ID: R10559

THEME: 19th Century Communal Religious Colony
CLASSIFICATION: Vacant
HISTORIC NAME: NA
YEAR BUILT: NA
ORIGINAL/PRESENT USE: Farm Land/Unimproved Road

This property is not within the city of Aurora. It is however, within the Historic District.

The .33 acre property is a strip of land, 24.5 feet wide by 564 feet long, which runs along the eastern edge of the north/south line between Sections 12 and 13 of Township 4 South, Range 1 West, and appears to be an unimproved extension of Cole Lane. It is filled with debris and blackberries.

Aurora Colony Historic District Inventory

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