

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Morton Matthew McCarver House DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1850
COMMON NAME: "Locust Farm" ORIGINAL USE: Residence
ADDRESS: 554 Warner Parrott Road PRESENT USE: Residence
OWNER: Mrs. Ruth McBride Powers, ARCH./BLDR.: McCarver?
554 Warner Parrott Road, Oregon City, OR 97045 STYLE: Classic Revival
T/R/S: 3-2E-6 TAX LOT: _____ BLDG. STRUC. DIST. SITE OBJ. (CIRCLE)
ADDITION: _____ THEME: Architecture, 19th Century;
LOT: _____ BLOCK: _____ QUAD: Oregon City Oregon City Settlement

PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: Rectangular NO. OF STORIES: 2 1/2
FOUNDATION MATERIAL: _____ BASEMENT (Y/N): No
ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: Low-pitched gable roof. Exposed eaves. Central chimney.
WALL CONSTRUCTION: Wood STRUCTURAL FRAME: Stud
PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: Six-over-six double-hung windows with architrave trim.
SURFACING MATERIALS: Board and batten siding.

DECORATIVE FEATURES: _____
OTHER: One-story kitchen wing. One-story gabled front entry porch with square columns.

CONDITION: EXCELLENT _____ GOOD X FAIR _____ DETERIORATED _____ MOVED _____ (date)
EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS (dated): One-story kitchen wing with three additional rooms added, 1852. Two-story addition, 1900. Original corbelled chimney altered, n.d.

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: Long isolated drive. Locust trees line drive.

ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: Caretaker's house on site.

KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES: None.

GEOGRAPHIC SETTING: Occupies a large lot on Warner Parrott Road. The house is invisible from Warner Parrott Road, and is arrived at by traveling a long, narrow driveway. No other landmarks in this vicinity. A completely residential area, of mostly newer subdivision homes.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: (Historical and/or architectural importance, dates, events, persons, contexts): It was in 1850 that General Morton Matthew McCarver, who crossed the plains in 1843, built his two and one-half story farm house on the outskirts of Oregon City. He used sawed timber which had been shipped around the Horn. Because most of the houses of that time were of somewhat more primitive nature, the house was for a time one of the showplaces of the lower Willamette Valley. McCarver was born in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1807. He settled in Galena, Illinois in 1839. During the Black Hawk Indian War, he served as commissary-general of Iowa, and it was from this period that his title of "General" derived. McCarver founded Burlington, Iowa before emigrating (continued)

SOURCES: McCarver (Morton Matthew) House, National Register Nomination Form, 1973.

NEGATIVE NO: Roll N, #0, 1
SLIDE NO: _____

RECORDED BY: Patricia Erigero
DATE: 1985

SHPO INVENTORY NO.: _____

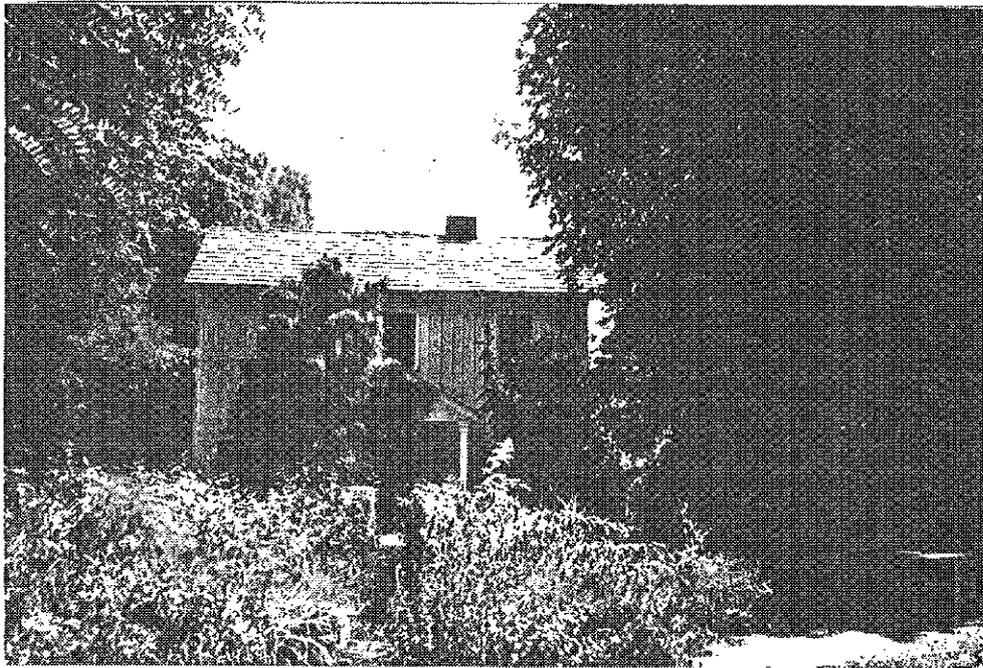
OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM - TWO

NAME: Morton Matthew McCarver House "Locust Farm"

T/R/S: 3-2E-6 TAX LOT _____

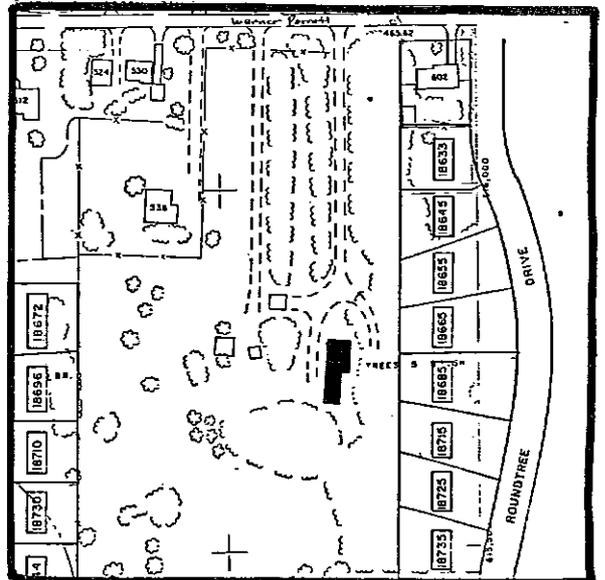
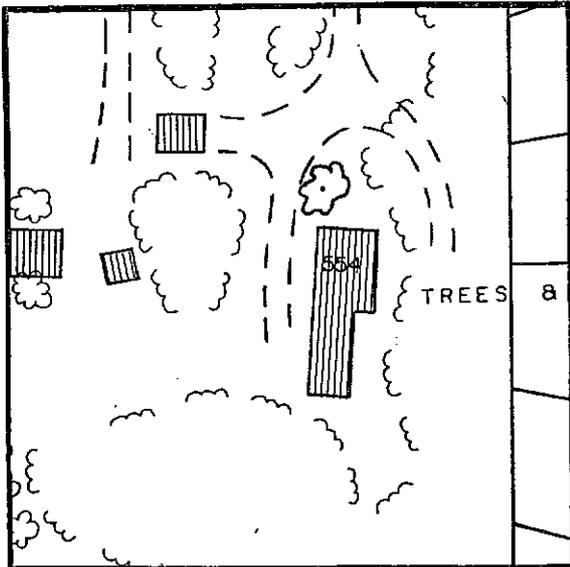
ADDRESS: 554 Warner Parrott Road

QUADRANGLE: Oregon City



NEGATIVE NO. Roll N, #0, 1

SLIDE NO. _____



GRAPHIC AND PHOTO SOURCES: Base Map of Oregon City, 1987.
Oregon City Planning Department Photograph, 1987.

SHPO INVENTORY NO.: _____

GENERAL MORTON MATTHEW McCARVER HOUSE "LOCUST FARM"
554 WARNER PARROTT ROAD

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

to Oregon in 1843. With Peter Burnett, fellow immigrant, and first governor of the state of California, he founded Linnton, Oregon (now part of Portland). In 1845 he was elected Speaker of the Provisional Government of Oregon, and he served two terms.

McCarver and his second wife, widow Julia Anne Buckalew, took up a donation land claim south of Oregon City and planted an orchard. On hearing news of the gold strike, he left for California. There he platted the town of Sacramento for the Sutters and was a delegate to the California Constitutional Convention in Monterey in 1849. McCarver purchased the passenger packet The Ocean Bird and returned to Oregon in 1850, bringing with him the materials for his house.

McCarver moved to Portland in 1859 and sold his interests to the Warner family, occupants of the house until 1947. It was during the latter period that the property became known as "Locust Farm", so named for the locust trees which lined the drive.

Among figures distinguished in Oregon history who were guests at McCarver's house were Dr. John McLoughlin, Peter Skene Ogden, Father Norbert Blanchet, and Robert Newell.

Before his death in 1875, McCarver founded the town of Tacoma, Washington.