

**OREGON CITY
PARK PLACE NEIGHBORHOOD
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY 1990**

HISTORIC NAME:	Straight, Hiram, House
COMMON NAME:	
PROPERTY ADDRESS:	16000 S. Clackamas River Drive
OWNER:	Earl D. Merrifield
OWNER'S ADDRESS:	P.O. Box 644, Clackamas, Or. 97015
RESOURCE TYPE:	Building
PRESENT USE:	Vacant
THEME:	Culture, Settlement
ARCHITECT/BUILDER:	Unknown
COUNTY:	Clackamas
QUAD:	Gladstone
T/R/S:	2-2E-20DD
TAX LOT:	5300
ADDITION	Straight's Addition
BLOCK:	3, 4
LOT:	1
LOT SIZE:	.43 acre
ZONE:	LO - Limited Office

HOUSE

DATE BUILT:	c 1858
STYLE:	Classical Revival
PLAN TYPE/SHAPE:	T-Plan
NO. OF STORIES:	2½
FOUNDATION MATERIAL:	Stone
BASEMENT:	Yes
ROOF FORM AND MATERIALS:	Intersecting gable w/ wood shingles
WALL CONSTRUCTION/STRUCTURAL FRAME:	Wood/unknown
PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE:	Double-hung sash, 6/6
EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS:	Lap, corner boards w/caps, rake boards, watertable
DECORATIVE FEATURES:	six-paneled door w/paneled multi-paneled sidelights and transom and two multi-light w/transom
OTHER:	Full width flat roof porch with deck above w. elev.; two interior end-wall chimneys
CONDITION:	Fair
EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS (DATE):	Doors replaced (n.d.)
NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES:	Mature deciduous trees

NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

None

SETTING: Located on the east side of Depot Lane and Clackamas River Drive. Houses in this area date from late 19th century to mid-20th century. Interstate 205 is located on the west side of Clackamas River Drive; it is visible and audible. The parcel is level and landscaped with mature plantings around the house.

RECORDED BY: Koler/Morrison

DATE: August 1990

SHPO NO. 1066

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

ADDRESS: 16000 Clackamas River Drive
HISTORIC NAME: Straight, Hiram, House

Hiram Straight was the original owner of the subject property, for which he received a patent from the United States government in 1873. Straight had claimed the land in 1843, upsetting an unofficial claim made by John McLoughlin. In January of 1892 Straight filed a subdivision plat which included the subject property. Shortly after filing Straight's Addition to Park Place, the lot upon which the Straight House sits was sold to Mary E. Huerth. In 1909 Huerth moved to Portland and sold the subject property to John and Ida Kent, a carpenter for the Crown Willamette Paper Company. They held it for ten years and then sold to Jennie Zielaskowski et. al. During the Depression the property was sold at sheriff's auction to the mortgage holder, Noah Stingley. He sold the property to Claud and Sadie Salisbury in 1943.

Hiram Straight was pioneer of the 1840s. Straight was born in New York in 1814, the second of 12 children. He married Susan Lasswell of Ohio and traveled to Iowa in 1838. In 1843 they crossed the plains to Oregon, staking a claim directly across the Clackamas from Fendel Cason, who constructed the first bridge across the river. Hiram and Susan had six children: Cyrus, Mary (Cason), Jane (Bingham), Hiram, George (died in infancy), Julia (Frost) and John.

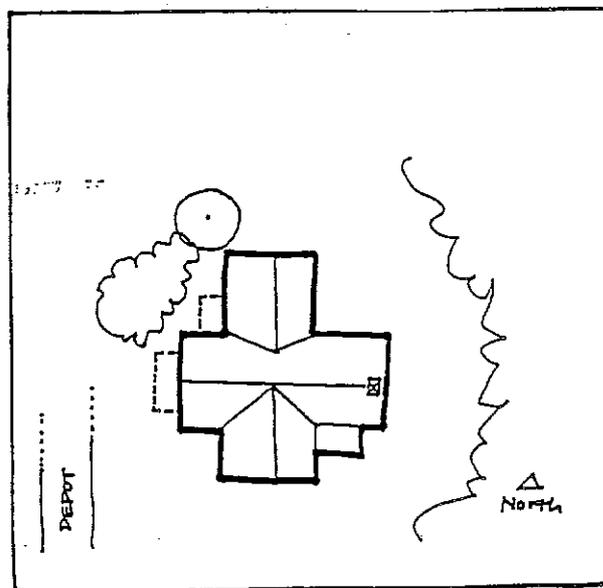
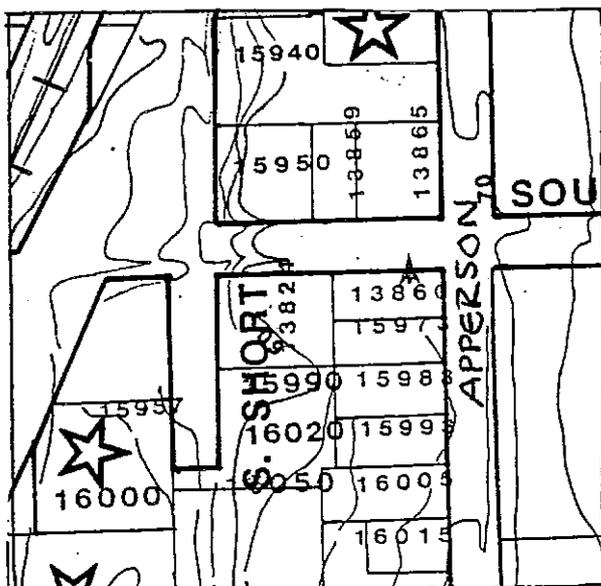
Straight was active in government, as well as civic and social activities. He was a representative in the first Provisional legislature at Oregon City in 1845. He served as the clerk for the local school district and was a member of the literary club. Straight was selected to be the foreman of the jury for the trial of the Indians who allegedly were responsible for the Whitman Massacre, which was perhaps the most notorious crime of the period. After selling the subject property, Straight moved to Canemah. His son, Hiram, held the office of mayor of Oregon City in 1894, 1895 and 1896.

The Straight House was built in 1856. It is an excellent example of the Classical Revival style of architecture. The two-story wood-frame house sits on a stone foundation. Salient architectural elements include the balanced symmetrical facade, six-over-six double-hung sash windows and lap siding. The most notable feature is the handsome entrance. The panel door is flanked by paneled sidelights and multi-light transom. Doors of the type and date, as well as interior features such as staircases, were frequently milled on the East Coast and shipped by boat around the Horn. It is not known if this entrance or interior features were imported or not. The house is remarkably intact considering its age.

Sources: Clackamas County Cultural Resource Inventory, 1984.
Lynch, Vera Martin. Free Land for Free Men. Portland: 1973.
Oregon City Landmarks Inventory, Urban Growth Boundary, 1982.
Oregon City Telephone Directory, 1916.
Oregonian. 9 January 1897.
Oregonian. 11 March 1923, page 20.
TICOR Title Company records, Oregon City, OR

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SITE PLAN AND PHOTOGRAPH: 16000 Clackamas River Drive



SHPO NO. _____