The John Quincy Adams Young house is a one and one-half story, wood frame building which stands on the north side of Cedar Mill Creek on the west side of the Tualatin Mountains. This building has a gable roof covered with shingles. The windows have been altered and are of several varieties. Aluminum siding has been placed on the exterior. The building has a stone foundation. A lean-to has been attached on the south (rear) elevation. The building has one brick chimney. A hickory tree stands in the backyard.

A wood plaque on this house states:

"Built by J.Q.A. Young as his home, later used as a store & post office. Lumber used was sawn at the cedar mill, 1 block east, from which this area derived its name. House owned by the Russell family since 1914."

J.Q.A. Young was born July 19, 1828, in Clermont County, Ohio. He was a son of Elam Young. Young emigrated in 1847 to Oregon with his parents. After being caught in the turmoil of the Cayuse Indian War, the family settled in 1848 on the Tualatin Plains. Young married Elizabeth Constable.
WASHINGTON COUNTY CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

PRESENT OWNER: Stanley G. Russell

ORIGINAL OWNER: J.Q.A. Young

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: 

LOCATION: 12050 NW Cornell Road

COMMON/HISTORIC NAME: Russell/Young House

USE: PRESENT residence

ORIGINAL residence

RESOURCE NO: 15/136

T INR IW Sec. 34 1/4

TAX LOT #: 200

CONDITION: Good

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1869

THEME: Architecture: 19th Cent.

TYPE: Building

Description of the resource and statement of historical significance:

(Continue on back if necessary)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:
The Russell/Young House is a two story Classical style building, rectangular in plan. It is sided with weatherboard, and has a plain frieze. The roof, a medium pitch gable, of composition shingle, extends over a shed attachment on the south elevation. An interior chimney is located on the south side of the gable. The building is supported by two types of foundations; post and beam, and stone mixed with hardened mud. The first floor windows have been replaced with aluminum sash on the north facade; the original 1/1 double hung windows have been retained on the south facade. The second floor has casement windows of 4 lights each. All windows have two slat, ornamental shutters and restrained cornices. The entry is centrally located on the north facade, encompassing a small gabled stoop porch, which has replaced the original porch. The porch is supported by two 4" x 4" posts and two pilasters. The west elevation of the residence has a gabled enclosed porch which provides a side entry. The outbuildings associated with the residence include a one story garage with weatherboard siding, a shed, and the modern Russell residence, also located on the property.

CONTEXTUAL DESCRIPTION:
The residence is situated 1/8 mile northeast of Cedar Mill business district on the south side of Cornell Road. A new housing development is located across Cornell Road, as is the second Young residence.

(continues)

Sources consulted:
. Washington County Museum, MSS #8. Tualatin Valley Heritage Association Marking Program, #18,19.

Recorded by: Demuth/O'Brien Date: September 1983

PRESENT OWNER'S ADDRESS
(If different from above):
WASHINGTON COUNTY CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

COMMON/HISTORIC NAME:  Russell/Young  
T1N  R 1W  Sec. 34  1/4

[Diagram showing a house, garage, shed, and labeled "Russell Residence", "Cornell Road", and "Historic Residence"]

[Photo of a house with trees and shrubs around it]
June 18, 2007

Tualatin Hills Parks Foundation  
c/o Kimberli Fitzgerald  
1012 SW King, Suite 104  
Portland, OR 97205

RE: National Register eligibility of the JQA Young House

Tualatin Hills Parks Foundation Representative,

Thank you for your interest in listing the JQA Young House in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on the information in the preliminary submittal, I concur with the evaluation submitted by historic preservation consultant Kimberli Fitzgerald that the building may be individually eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A in the areas of exploration and settlement and commerce. Further research conclusively demonstrating the importance of JQA Young and the activities that occurred in and around the building, the building’s association with this story, and documentation of the historic integrity of the resource’s interior will be needed to confirm this preliminary determination.

In reviewing the application, I noticed that it is the intention of the Tualatin Hills Parks Foundation to move the building to make way for planned road improvements. Because this action may potentially make the building ineligible for listing, I encourage the Foundation to address this issue before proceeding with the planned move or a National Register nomination. While moving the building will not necessarily make it ineligible for the National Register, it will require that the resource meet Criteria Consideration B. The provision states that for a building to maintain its status it should be re-located to a comparable setting. To achieve this, special attention should be given to maintaining the original orientation, landscaping, and view sheds, among many other considerations, in the new location. Any move, no matter how far or well-planned, will remove the building from its original setting, and thus more emphasis will be placed on the building’s interior and exterior integrity. If the Foundation intends to both move and rehabilitate the building, I suggest that the organization consider the impact of future rehabilitation plans in order to maintain the resource’s National Register status. If requested, SHPO can provide guidance on these issues.

Thank you again for your interest in the National Register.

Sincerely,

Ian P. Johnson  Historian
National Register program
OREGON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
PRELIMINARY NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION FORM

Owner/Contact Information:
Name: Tualatin Hills Park Foundation/Kimberli Fitzgerald
Mailing Address: 1012 SW King Suite 104
City/State/Zip: Portland, OR 97205
Phone number: 503.227.5146

Property Information:
Historic Name, if known: "JQA Young House"
Date of Construction: 1869
City/Town: Cedar Mill County: Washington

Exterior Description
Siding material(s), original or replacement? Horizontal lap (original).
Window type(s) & material(s), Original or replacement? No original windows remain. Some sashes are on site. The openings are boarded up to protect from vandalism.

Significant architectural features and other description: Frame of thick vertical timbers. Saltbox style/plan.

Interior Description: No ornate architectural features. Typical of period.

Alterations and Approximate Dates: Original porch shed roof on front & side of the house removed. Small dormer roof over front door added. Otherwise the house retains its original integrity.

Note: There is a need to relocate the house on the existing site in the near future because of the proposed widening of Cornell Road. The plan is to maintain the existing orientation of the house, and just move it to the south of the road expansion.

Why is the property significant?

The JQA Young House is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT. The Young family came across the Oregon Trail to settle in the Oregon Territory in the early 1860's. John Quincy Adams Young bought the sawmill next to Cedar Mill Creek with his partner William Everson from John Halsey Jones who had constructed the mill in 1850. Young built this house in 1869 most likely on the foundation of a cabin previously constructed at the site by Jones.

Additionally, the JQA Young House is also locally significant under Criterion A in the area of COMMERCE. The Young sawmill specialized in cedar products and was located next to the house, serving as the major employer in the community for many years. When JQA Young was named postmaster in 1874 he named the town "Cedar Mill". The Youngs built a newer house across Cornell, and the JQA Young house became a general store and post office for the community of Cedar Mill.
Friends of the
John Quincy Adams Young House
Cedar Mill, Oregon

The John Quincy Adams Young House, c. 1903.
The group is standing on Cornell Road.
The Jones Cedar Mill c. 1883. The mill was dismantled in 1892 for lack of timber in the area.

The 1868 Survey Map of Cornell Road, showing the mill and the original Jones cabin location. The current house may have been built on the foundation of the cabin.
View of the house from the northeast

West side of the house showing the kitchen addition
East side of the house. Trees have since been removed by the district because of potential damage.

South side of the house. This entry into the basement will be restored and used for storage.
Cedar Mill Falls, east of the house. The falls will be part of the park that will surround the house and grounds.
Friends of the JQA Young House is part of the THPRD Parks Foundation. Donations toward the restoration of the house can be made to
TO: Ian Johnson  
From: Kimberli Fitzgerald, Peter Meijer  
Date: January 25, 2008  
RE: John Quincy Adams Young House

Attached please find a draft of the nomination for your review. We have identified the following issues and would like your input:

**Integrity:**
Should we include the criteria consideration for reconstruction? Please refer to Section 7-as well as the alteration description attached to review the Alterations to the Young House to make this determination.

**Significance:**
We have developed a story of John Q.A. Young, and have found primary source material (his autobiography-manuscript)- where he writes of his life and experiences specifically at the Whitman Massacre and settling here. He has not provided a lot of detailed information about life at the mill, the house, or life as postmaster or store clerk. Some additional information has been gathered through deed research as well as information from family members. Do you have any recommendations to help us improve our argument of significance under A in the areas of both Exploration/Settlement as well as Commerce?

**Comparative Analysis:**
Please let us know of other extant residential structures on NR from this time period from SHPO database, specifically those associated with a mill. We would welcome any recommendations regarding how to approach this comparative analysis. In the draft we have presented three extant houses in the local vicinity from the general time period which are on the NR, however all of these three houses were associated with farms, none with mills. Does the fact that none exist in Washington County help make our case?

Based upon your evaluation, we are specifically interested in your determination of whether or not a case can be made for the J.Q.A. Young House for listing on the National Register. If a case cannot be made, we would prefer to convey this information to our client as soon as possible.

Thank you for your help and consideration.
John Quincy Adams Young House
Building Alterations Summary

Exterior

Contemporary mass-produced clap board siding has replaced older lapped siding
Siding has been applied over historic plank framing
Existing double hung wood 1-over-1 windows have replaced original multi-pane windows
Asphalt roof shingles have replaced wood shake
Doors have been modified
Based on a single historic photograph, the original front porch has been removed
A 'kitchen shed' entry has been added to the side façade
A 'cellar shed' entry has been added to the rear façade
Central stove chimney remains intact

Interior

Without confirmation of historic photographs or other documentation, room configurations and spatial adjacencies appear to reflect historic periods

Lower level
All rooms have been modified in varying degrees over time
Bathroom and kitchen exposed finishes reflect the time of last habitation (circa 1970's)
Living areas walls have been faced with gypsum board over the plank framing.
Living areas have been 'furred' to accommodate installation of electrical service

Historic finishes are located beneath the contemporary materials.

Upper level
Original plank walls, plank floors, and bark roof sheathing are visible and remain intact within the east room.
Contemporary finishes have been applied over historic material in the west room.
Original framing members are exposed to view behind the cripple wall.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instruction in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classifications, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name _Young, John Quincy Adams, House_

other names/site number _______________________________________________________

2. Location

street & number _______ 12050 NW Cornell ____________________________ □ not for publication
city or town _______ Portland ____________________________ □ vicinity
state _______ Oregon code ___ OR county _______ Washington code ___ zip code 97229

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination ______ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _______ meets _______ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _______ nationally _______ statewide _______ locally.

Signature of certifying official/Title - Deputy SHPO ____________________________ Date __________

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

____ entered in the National Register _____ See continuation sheet.

____ determined eligible for the National Register _____ See continuation sheet.

____ determined not eligible for the National Register

____ removed from the National Register

____ other (explain): _______________________________________________________

Signature of the Keeper ____________________________ Date of Action __________

OMB No. 10024-0018
Young, John Quincy Adams, House

Washington, OR

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many as apply)

- private
- public - local
- public - state
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing
1

Noncontributing

buildings
sites
structures
objects

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century: Other

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: stone
walls: wood
roof:
Other:

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

See continuation sheets.
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing):

- [X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

1869

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B removed from its original location
- C a birthplace or grave
- D a cemetery
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F a commemorative property
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance Within the past 50 years

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite books, articles, and other sources used in preparing the form on one or more continuation sheets) See continuation sheets

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36CFR67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: ____________________________

OMB No. 10024-0018
Young, John Quincy Adams, House  
Name of Property  

Washington, OR  
County and State  

10. Geographical Data  

Acreage of Property  .64 acres  

UTM References  
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)  

1  
Zone  Easting  Northing  

2  

3  
Zone  Easting  Northing  

Verbal Boundary Description  
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)  

Boundary Justification  
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)  

11. Form Prepared By  

name/title  Kimberli Fitzgerald, Preservation Consultant  

organization  Peter Meijer Architects, LLC  
date  March 1, 2008  
street & number  710 NE 21st Suite 200  
telephone  503.517-0283  
city or town  Portland  
state  OR  zip code  

Additional Documentation  
Submit the following items with the completed form:  

Continuation sheets  

Maps:  A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.  

Photographs:  Representative black and white photographs of the property.  

Additional items (check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)  

Property Owner  

name  Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation  
street & number  
telephone  
city or town  Portland  
state  OR  zip code  

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:  This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings.  Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).  

Estimated Burden Statement:  Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form.  Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
Summary

The John Quincy Adams Young House is located at 12050 NW Cornell in Portland, Oregon. Built in 1869, the building is a two-story wood structure executed in a Salt Box style. As a classic salt box design, the existing roof has a steep pitch section above the upper level rooms and central ridge parallel with the length of the upper story transitioning to a shallower pitch over the kitchen and bedroom areas. In the nearly 140 years of its existence the Young House has had alterations, however these alterations have occurred within the historic period and the building retains a sufficient degree of integrity to convey its original style and period of significance.

Setting

The John Quincy Adams house is located at 12050 NW Cornell in the suburb of Beaverton. The house fronts Cornell, a major arterial street, and is surrounded by new residential development and backs against Fano Creek. The John Quincy Adams Young house was located on property near the family saw mill.

Because of the family saw mill, it is reasonable to assume that the John Quincy Adams house was located for its proximity to ample lumber supplies. In addition, its use as the local postmaster’s quarters suggest proximity to well used rural roads. It is unknown whether the house contained a small orchard typical of early Willamette settlement houses but the Hickory and pear trees have been dated to original varieties brought to Oregon by the first settlers.

Exterior Description

The existing house is a two-story salt box plan with a small covered front stoop and a shed side entry and covered rear entry to the “basement.” Most of the house currently has 1½” thick x 7 ¾” wood clapboard siding of contemporary material and size with a 6” exposure consisting of many short lengths, approx. 30” long, over building felt. The siding has been painted white. An exposed section of exterior siding within the side entry has older shiplap siding with a 6 ½” exposure nailed directly to the plank wall. The exterior siding terminates at the corners against vertical corner boards either shaped or square. It is unlikely that either shaped corner board date to the original construction. The shaped corner boards are similar to mass produced products available during the 1930s-1950s. Below
the roof overhang, a large square unadorned soffit board wraps the perimeter of the house. Structural members near the first floor level are exposed to the weather, including end grain perimeter beams.

The existing foundation is a combination of multi-wythe brick, random, uncut stone, and wood post on mass produced contemporary concrete pads. It appears that the original house was built into the side of a hill such that half the house foundation below the dining and kitchen is un-excavated, one fourth of the foundation built of stone and masonry below the living room is an earthen floor cellar, and the remaining ¼ of the foundation below the bedroom is unfinished without interior finishes or flooring.

Three structural systems are associated with settlement-era buildings in the Willamette Valley: hewn frame, balloon frame, and box construction. ¹ Exterior wall construction of the John Quincy Adams Young house box construction, a “plank” framing using 2 inch thick vertical boards set next to each other nailed at the sill and top plate, providing support for the house. Interior partitions are also constructed with plank framing. Floor sheathing is typically 2 x 10 members with no finished floor on the upper level and various finished floor material on the ground floor level. The roof framing is traditional 2 x lumber spaced approximately 24” on center with a central ridge beam above the upper two rooms. Roof sheathing, however, is unique in that it consists of rough sawn, undressed varying in width depending on the cross section width of the sawn log. Many of the roof sheathing members still have the bark.

The front elevation is very simple in design with a plain central door flanked by two double-hung wood windows centrally located within the interior rooms. The second floor has three double-hung wood windows aligned with the windows and door below. The front stoop consists of square posts set on a concrete slab supporting a hip roof. Contemporary dimensional lumber is used to form side rails. Recent site in-fill has occluded most of the original stone “cellar” walls and masonry in-fill has closed the original cellar entry. However, the open elevated area is discernable given the change in siding material to vertical plain boards nailed to the perimeter floor framing.

Existing windows are double hung wood sash in wood frames. Window sashes are a mix of one-over-one and three-over two divided panes. Additional three-over two divided light windows are found setting inside the house and are thought to represent original styles. The placement of all

windows appears to be original locations providing each interior space with two sources of natural light and ventilation. The wood trim, including the apron, are square boards painted black.

As a classic salt box design, the existing roof has a steep pitch section above the upper level rooms and central ridge parallel with the length of the upper story transitioning to a shallower pitch over the kitchen and bedroom areas. A strong break in the pitch is visible from the exterior and access to a crawl space above the bedroom and kitchen is gained from the upper level spaces. A contemporary light gray 3-tab composition shingle roof has been installed. Historic photographs suggest the original roof was either wood shakes or wood shingles. Gutters and downspouts are contemporary galvanized sheet metal not connected to a drainage system. The gutter running along the south side, near the eastern corner, has failed and contributed to decomposition of the original lumber wall members in the bedroom. The upper chimney is in poor condition with missing bricks and mortar.

**Interior Description**

The salt box plan is partitioned into two distinct areas with no hallway: a formal living room and dining room wing: and a bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen wing. The four main rooms wrap around a center positioned chimney and an unadorned central stairway. Direct entry to the living room without an entry hall occurs at the front door. Directly on axis with the front door is a U-shaped plan stair leading to the upper level. Two rooms of roughly equal size comprise the second story.

Several modifications to the original interior finishes have occurred on the first floor during the intervening years. Current finishes include painted gypsum wall board applied directly to the plank framing concealing the original structural walls. Gypsum or plaster ceilings are applied directly to 2 x 12 plank second floor sub flooring. Space for electric wiring was created by the use of furring of an unknown type between the plank framing and gypsum wall board. Beneath shag carpet in the dining room is a hardwood, 3" wide tongue and groove finish floor. It is evident that all rooms had heating stoves piped directly to the central chimney.

Two stairs exist in the John Quincy Adams house. A central stairway leads from the living room to the second floor and a second, extremely narrow wood ships ladder type stair, connects the kitchen and below floor areas. Kitchen cabinets and composition flooring date to the 1950s as do the bathroom finishes. Existing bathroom tile finishes and fixtures may be more recent. Given the box
construction, no walls are insulated. Because of access to the ceiling crawl space, the first floor bedroom, bath room, and kitchen contain six inches of blown-in insulation.

The Second Floor has limited areas where composition floor tiles have been applied directly to the plank sub-floor. Most areas are exposed original floor framing. Plank framing walls have been covered with newsprint. In lieu of the typical vertical planking, one ‘closet’ has been framed with horizontal boards.

The area below the first floor has a gravel and dirt floor.

Major Alterations

The John Q. A. Young House has undergone a variety of changes over its nearly 140 years. While alterations to the exterior include replacement siding and windows, the replacements are similar in nature to the original. Additional changes include a variety of changes to the internal configuration of the structure as well as the removal of the original front porch, the addition of a ‘kitchen shed’ entry to the side façade, and the addition of a ‘cellar shed’ entry to the rear façade. The central stove chimney remains intact, and the overall structure retains sufficient integrity to convey its original style and period of significance.
Statement of Significance
The John Quincy Adams Young House (1869) is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT. The Young family came across the Oregon Trail to settle in the Oregon Territory in the late 1840s and survived the Whitman Massacre. In 1869, John Quincy Adams Young bought the sawmill next to Cedar Mill Creek with his partner William Everson and at this time the Young House was constructed near the mill. Additionally, the JQA Young House is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of COMMERCE. When JQA Young was named postmaster in 1874 he named the town “Cedar Mill” and the JQA Young house became a general store and post office for the community of Cedar Mill. The building is in good condition and retains a sufficient degree of integrity to convey its original style and period of significance.

Exploration and Settlement: 1840- westward movement:
In May 1804 Lewis and Clark led an expedition to the Pacific Coast, through what is now Oregon. After their initial exploration, interest in this unexplored territory continued to grow and in 1829, Hall J. Kelley organized the American Society for Encouraging the Settlement of the Oregon Territory. The society was incorporated by the Massachusetts legislature and Kelley was named general agent. His first publication was: “A Geographical Sketch of that Part of North America called Oregon”. He later published a pamphlet called: “Manual of Oregon Expedition: a general circular to all persons of good character who wish to emigrate to the Oregon Territory.” In 1837 William Slacum was the first official U.S. visitor to the Pacific Northwest, since the Lewis and Clark expedition. He found only thirty Americans permanently residing in the Willamette Valley. In addition to Halls pamphlets, other similar pamphlets and circulars testified to Oregon as an ideal place to live. Philip Edwards developed a report of his four year residence in the Willamette Valley in 1842: “...no weather a western or northern man would call cold, and the fields produced wheat seven feet high and yields of fifteen to twenty bushels per acre. In no country in the world, may the husbandman look forward with more assurance to the reward of his toil.” The great migration westward began with the Great Migration of 1843 when wagon trains brought over 800 settlers to Oregon territory. The following year there were 1500 settlers, and the year after that were nearly 3000. Attracted by the promise of productive

3 Ibid.
farmland, a healthy climate and abundant water, many people braved the harsh crossing in order to have the opportunity to establish farms in the Tualatin Valley. The most fertile lands in Washington County were settled first, mostly near present day Hillsboro and Forest Grove, stretching up toward North Plains. The mountainous places on the eastern side of county, near present day Cedar Mill were settled last, and used primarily for timber.

Washington County also attracted missionaries, specifically to the western edge of the county, near present day Forest Grove. Alvin T. Smith was one of the first missionaries to turn to farming. He wrote in the summer of 1845 to his home paper in Connecticut: “For wheat I do not think this country can be surpassed by any other on the face of the globe—fifty-five bushels of wheat to the acre was raised last year.”

In 1850, the Donation Land Claim Act was passed, providing a further incentive for settlers to emigrate to Oregon. A married couple arriving in Oregon territory prior to December 1, 1850 was eligible to receive 640 acres. There were approximately seven square miles available in the Cedar Mill area, or 4,300 acres. From 1850 to 1855 sixteen claims were settled. Settlers were required to live on the land for at least four years, at which time they could sell portions of their land. By 1884, only two of the original claim holders still remained on their land, Samuel Walters, who was the first to arrive in the area, and James Flippin, who had arrived in 1845. Most of the emigrants who settled in Washington County came from states known as the ‘old northwest’, which included: Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

Young Family
John Q.A. Young was born in Clermont county, Ohio in 1828. In his own account, Life Sketches of J.Q.A Young, Young describes his father:
“My father enlisted in the war of 1812. He was at the siege of Fort Erie, the battles of Chippewa and Lundy’s Lane. He was wounded in the last battle. Soon after the close of the war he moved to Ohio, where I was born, the youngest of the family. My father had the wandering pioneer nature, as he never lived more than five years in a place. My schooling was very limited, on account of my father’s restless disposition. He emigrated to Missouri when I was eight years old. We lived there eleven years, until he heard of the land of the West — “In the continuous wood where rolls the Oregon And hears no sound save its own dashing.” He was almost wild

5 Ibid.
with the description of the sunset land, "The land of red apples and rain." So in 1847 we got our teams and provisions ready for a trip across the "Great American Desert," as it was termed in those days. It is written, "The desert shall blossom as the rose," and that prediction is literally fulfilled in this case."

Sparked by their own interest in the Oregon territory, Elam Young, his wife, and eight children (including John Quincy Adams Young), moved west from Ohio in 1847. They arrived at the Whitman Mission in October 1847 en route to The Dalles. The family stayed to work at the Mission so that they could replenish their supplies. John Quincy Adams Young, 19, and his brothers Daniel, 21, and James, 24, went with their family to construct a grist mill called Whitman Station, twenty miles outside of the Mission. Young describes:

“As we camped that evening on the Umatilla River, Dr. Whitman, of the Whitman missionary station, on the Walla Walla, came into our camp and his talk encouraged us very much. He told us of the best route to The Dalles and seemed to take great interest in the migration to this country. When a party has been traveling five or six months through dust and sagebrush, with their teams tired out, their clothes worn out, their pocket books rubbed very thin, and their patience about exhausted, a few words of encouragement and cheer from one they know they can trust is like "oil poured on the troubled waters." It seems to give us new life. Dr. Whitman engaged my father to go to his station thirty miles north and build a grist mill for him, or rather for the Cayuse Indians, as he was their missionary. Accordingly, the next morning we left the train and traveled towards the station.”

The Whitman Massacre occurred on Nov. 29, 1847, when Cayuse Indians killed 14 people. The Young family was at the Station at the time of the attack. James Young was killed by Indians the following day as he was hauling a load of timber to the Mission. Young describes:

“We stayed at the mission a week to recuperate, then started with our teams and cattle, thirty head in all, up Mill Creek twenty miles to the Blue Mountains to saw lumber for the doctor to build a granary for the Indians, also to frame the grist mill and have it hauled down to the mission. A man named Smith and his family came up to cut logs for the mill. My brother James was engaged as a teamster by Dr. Whitman to team between the mill and the mission. He had been working for about six weeks when one Saturday he came up intending to return on Monday, but it rained so hard that he waited until Tuesday. We told him we were out of beef and for

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8 Ibid., p6.
him to bring some when he returned. Dr. Whitman was to furnish us with provisions through the winter. We waited until the following Monday, meanwhile living on salmon trout and bread made of unbolted flour without salt. My brother Daniel then went down to the mission to see why James had not returned. When he arrived at the mission, he learned that Dr. Whitman, his wife and all those associated with him, fourteen in all, had been massacred by the Cayuse Indians on Monday, November 29th, 1847, and that James was killed the day he left us about a mile from the mission.”

The rest of the Young family were taken prisoner and were released Dec. 31, 1847 after Peter S. Ogden of the Hudson Bay Company made arrangements with the Cayuse to trade the prisoners for supplies. Young describes:

“The Indians held a council the night my brother got there in order to determine what they should do with us at the mill. Their conclusion was to keep my brother Daniel all night and have him come to the mill and tell us all to come down to the mission the day following. He got to the mill about an hour before sundown and told us the terrible news, and about half an hour afterwards five big Indians came up to see that we did not get away, which was useless as there were no white folks nearer than the Willamette Valley. The next morning we started for the mission with the Indians following behind as a kind of rear guard. In fact we were prisoners, and were guarded as such… (weeks later)Peter S. Ogden, the chief factor of the Hudson Bay Company, came up from Fort Vancouver to Fort Walla Walla, and bought us from the Indians by giving them blankets, butcher-knives and ammunition. Happily for the captives of the Wailatpu and elsewhere, the prompt action of the Hudson Bay Company averted any collision between the Indians and the Americans until after they had been ransomed.”

The family then traveled with Hudson’s Bay employees down the Columbia River to Fort Vancouver. Young describes:

“The day after we arrived at the fort was New Year’s Day. On this day we all started down the Columbia River in three boats, or bateaux, with crees of Canadian Frenchmen, with the chief factor, Mr. Ogden, in the leading boat. Think of this, going down the Columbia in midwinter in open boats and with only the scanty clothing we had on when taken prisoners by the Indians four weeks before. No shelter to cover ourselves, and nothing but a few old quilts and blankets to make our beds, on the cold, bleak shore of the Columbia, for sixty-two captives, ranging from one to fifty-seven years of age. All this we suffered and endured in coming from

9 Ibid, p. 7
10 Ibid, p. 7, 11
Fort Walla Walla to the Willamette Valley. This was paradise compared with being held by the Indians and a council held every few days to determine what they should do with us.”

Though the party stopped in The Dalles, the family did not settle there as they had originally planned. From Fort Vancouver they continued on to Oregon City and settled there, working at a local sawmill and making tools. Young recalls:

"We came on to Portland and stopped there an hour or two. Portland at that time contained two frame houses and a few log huts. The houses stood on Washington Street. We camped that night on Ross Island, about two miles above Portland, and the next day we reached Oregon City, destitute of everything. The Indians had taken all of our property except what few bundles we could carry in our hands, and a sorry lot it was....My brother Daniel and I secured a contract cutting twenty cords of wood at one dollar a cord for a man by the name of Stewart, a blacksmith, to make charcoal for this shop... My brother then went to work in a sawmill. My father made patterns occasionally for one Price, who owned a foundry, and as for myself, I made ax handles with a butcher-knife and sold them to the stores. We took pay for our work in what was called Oregon Scrip; that is, the merchants would issue their paper saying it was good for one or five dollars as the case might be, to the bearer, and when we presented this paper they would shave it about one third, selling their goods at two prices. That is the way we lived through the winter.”

The Young family moved to the Tualatin Valley in May of 1848 where Elam Young took a donation land claim near Orenco, near present day Hillsboro. Young recalls:

"On the 10th of May, 1848, we moved to the Tualatin plains in Washington County, and worked that summer for Walter Pomeroy, Sr. ... In the fall of 1849, we went on the place now occupied by T.L. McEldowney. There we got along about as Oregonians usually did in those days. We lived on boiled, dried and boiled wheat when we failed to get our wheat ground at Oregon City, the nearest mill. Father and mother died here. Here I was married to an estimable young lady, whose sweet face I now behold.” John Quincy Adams Young married neighbor Elizabeth Constable in 1856.

Settlement and Economy in Washington County

One of the primary goals of the Donation Land Law was that substantial grants of rich agricultural land would create a large scale farming culture, therefore farming and lumber processing were among the first industries in the Tualatin Valley. The arable soil in the valley west of the Tuality Mountains and east of the coastal mountains was ideal for agricultural development. As more settlers arrived, lumber was needed to construct homes, buildings, and plank roadways for the growing settlements. Timbered areas were purchased and leased from local landholders, and as they were cleared more acreage became available for farming.

Early settlement of Cedar Mill
While Cedar Mill was not officially designated until 1874, when the post office was established by JQA Young, settlement occurred in this area well before that time, and the primary means for making a living here gave the community its name.

Jones Family
Justus Jones, his wife and sons came to Oregon in 1852 and settled initially in Clatskanie. They moved to the area now known as Cedar Mill in 1855 and filed the donation land claim for the area surrounding NW 119th and Cornell Road. The family constructed the first mill on a creek with a natural waterfall. The mill was located on the south side of the current Cornell Road near a 32 foot drop of Cedar Creek.14 The Jones family operated the mill for almost fifteen years. The early operation of the mill was described as follows:

"In the early years of the mill, when owned by Justus Jones, the power for the mill was furnished by a large 'overshot' wheel (waterwheel) using water from the creek nearby, (later named Mill Creek) the water falling over a natural rock waterfall, giving a 32-foot drop. The same creek also furnished water for the log pond, just north of the mill. The saw was a 'muley', i.e. the saw was a ripsaw with a long stiff blade guided by clamps at either end and the logs being guided by hand, a one-man operation, contrary to the rigid saw method, with the saw stretched into a frame as commonly used in those days in small mills...Logging was done by oxen in the early days, and it was no common sight to see a 3-yoke of oxen hitched to a drag of logs destined for the storage pond. Also, in slack-water periods, the millhands cut shingles with a froe, which is a wedge-shaped cleaving tool, making an up-and down chop from rounds of cedar logs."15

The mill produced cut lumber as well as cedar shingles which were sold in Portland but also as far away as Lake Michigan:

"When water was plentiful the mill was kept busy cutting lumber, mostly cedar and occasionally cut logs hauled in from other areas, such as oak from the Bethany area and also from the northeast area in Portland. Many of the homes in the northeast area of Portland were built, and shingled, from the products of this mill, as well as some of the homes in Cedar Mill which are still standing today (1977). A wharf on Lake Michigan was built from oak sawn at this mill...For several years the mill products were hauled to Portland through the canyons by oxen, later by horses."

It was difficult to transport the lumber during the early operation of the mill. Cornell Road did not exist until 1868. The first route to be used for hauling was the present day Canyon Road, which was known locally as the ‘planked road’, and it took a great deal of effort to transport the cut lumber into Portland: "They (Justus, John and Elihu) would start up sawing logs to make a wagon load of lumber, shut down the mill and haul it to Portland about eight miles away. It took all three and the horses or oxen to get the lumber into town because of the bad roads. Then they would go back and cut another load and repeat it."

The Jones decided to sell the mill to John Quincy Adams Young and William Everson in 1869. The Jones family continued in the lumber business, opening a lumber company in Portland on the Willamette River, between Portland and Sellwood. This larger mill was operated by steam and operated until 1889, when it burned down. Another mill was opened in 1891, known as the Jones Lumber Company of Portland, and operated until the early 1960's.

Prior to deciding to go into business together, the Young family had been operating a farm in the Orenco area near Hillsboro, and the Eversons had settled a donation land claim in Washington County. The Eversons and the Youngs had both come from Ohio, where they had most likely known

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16 Ibid.
17 Work on Cornell Road began in February 1868 when it cut through from the Multnomah County Line at Balch Creek past the mill down to the intersection of present day Barnes and Cornell Roads and then down through to Hillsboro.
18 Ibid. p 44.
each other. According to deed records, William R. Everson and John Q.A. Young purchased the mill and surrounding property on December 16, 1869 for $4,000.  

Young-Everson Mill: 1869-1871
In 1849, Oregon sawmills produced 17 million board feet of lumber. That increased to 41 million board feet in 1859 and to 75 million in 1869, the year Young and Everson purchased the Cedar Creek Mill.  
Young and Everson operated the mill together for several years and produced products like shakes and shingles, in addition to manufacturing lumber. During this time period, this was the only operating mill in the Cedar Mill Community. The products were typically sold in Portland. Young sold his interest in the mill to Everson in 1871 for $2,000.  
At this time the mill property was surveyed by William E. Smith, and two acres were set aside as mill property described as follows: "2 acres in Sec. 34 T1N R1W as surveyed by William E. Smith on the 6th day of February 1871 together with the mill privileges and all the appurtenances thereunto appertaining including the right to saw timber on the lands near said mill heretofore conveyed to and reserved by the firm Everson and Young and their assigns."

Later owners of the Mill: 1875-1891
On February 4, 1875, Everson sold a portion of his interest in the mill to H.E. Smith for $1,000 and the mill was renamed the Everson-Smith mill. Smith ran the mill with Everson until 1879 when he sold his interest to W. Simmons for $1,700. In 1883, Everson sold his interest in the property for $2,900. Value in the mill declined after this time. John Q.A. Young purchased the mill from Simmons.

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20 Arb. 29, T1 R1 Sec. 34. Ticor Title Archives, Abstracts for Arbitrary Chains of Title. Specific legal; east half of northwest quarter and lots 1,2,3, and 4 of Section 34, Township 1, Range 1.
22 Arb. 29, T1 R1 Sec. 34. Ticor Title Archives, Abstracts for Arbitrary Chains of Title.
23 Ibid.
24 Ibid.
in 1889 for $315. J.Q.A. Young transferred ownership to his sons, Jasper and A.L. (Linc), who briefly operated the sawmill as the Young Brothers Sawmill. The mill closed in 1891, and the brothers obtained a mortgage on the property in 1894.25

JQAY House as Young family residence: 1869 to 1874
In addition to the mill, in 1869 Young purchased 160.7 acres of land from Justus Jones. Young built the house on this property adjacent to the mill.26 At the time the Youngs lived in this house, an 1870 census showed that Young had five children, James, William, Jasper, Abraham Lincoln and Lowell. Three children died in infancy, and three were born later. The Young family lived there until they constructed a larger house across the street (no longer extant).

JQAY House as post office and store: 1874 to 1882
On January 27, 1874 John Quincy Adams Young was commissioned to establish a post office near his mill. At this time he named the community “Cedar Mill”. He moved the family to a larger new home he constructed across the street and converted the first floor of the JQAY House into Cedar Mills’ first post-office. Young constructed a pigeonhole cabinet where patrons received mail delivered weekly from Portland.27 Young earned a commission based upon the number of postage stamps (2 cent) as well as the number of postcards purchased.28 As he recalled in his manuscripts Young also named the post office at West Union, which opened on the same date as the Cedar Mill office.29 Young served as the postmaster until he resigned on December 29, 1881.

In addition to operating the post office, Young also operated a general store on the ground floor of his former home. John Q.A. Young describes his life and career in Cedar Mill:
“Here most of my children were born. Three of them lie buried here, and to this place I have devoted half my days in Oregon. It is a spot where twines many recollections of the past. I lived here when Hillsboro was

25 Ibid. mortgage included the house and the mill, as well as the rights to cut timber.
26 There is some speculation that Jones had a cabin here, and that the Youngs built their house on the site of the original cabin.
27 The pigeonhole cabinet as well as one of the hand cancellation stamps were kept in the Reeves family, and another one of the hand stamps belongs to the Young family. (Brody, Cedar Mill History, p95)
named, and when the first Circuit Court was held in a log school house in Hillsboro. I hauled the first merchandise brought to Hillsboro for Abraham Suglar—a great many friends remember his congenial face. In 1870 I moved to Cedar Mill, and in company with W.R. Everson bought a sawmill. I ran the mill for two years, sold out, went into the merchandise business, and kept store and post office for seven years. I was the means of procuring the mail route from Portland to Glencoe, and also named the post offices of West Union and Cedar Mill. And now I have gone into farming and horticulture, the noblest calling of man.”

Cedar Mill and Washington County at the turn of the century
Lumber production increased rapidly statewide, as well as in Washington County, in the mid-nineteenth century. By 1889, Oregon’s total lumber production was 463 million board feet and increased to 735 million by 1899.

In eastern Washington County several mills operated in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. They included Potter’s mill and Bonlock’s mill. Potter’s mill was owned by the Union Lumber Company, and located near Laidlaw Rd, near Cedar Mill. Bonlock’s mill was located near the southeast corner of the intersection of Saltzman and Thompson Rd. By the early twentieth century, the timber supplies in the local vicinity were exhausted and the mills were closed.

When Young retired and George Reeves was appointed to replace him as postmaster in 1882, the post office was moved to the Reeves’ General Store. The post office was moved to another store, operated by Daniel A. Griffen in 1884. For the next ten years, several subsequent postmasters served. The Reeves family returned to the mail service when Mary Reeves became postmistress in 1895. Her husband George, received his second appointment in 1898 and served until the Cedar Mill post office was closed on July 11, 1904. At this time, rural free delivery was established to bring mail to residents of the area. While Cedar Mill was never incorporated as a city, the area is still known as Cedar Mill, and there are several community organizations which still retain that name, like the Cedar Mill Library.

Young continued to be an active member in the local community and throughout the rest of his life, served as Justice of the Peace and as a Washington County Commissioner from 1898 to 1902. He died in 1905 and is buried in Union Cemetery in Cedar Mill.32

The land near the Young House was surveyed in 1906 in preparation of construction of Cornell Blvd. Between 1909 and 1912 several road easements were purchased from the Youngs by Washington County. Both the mill and the Young house passed out of the Young family in 1912. The property passed through a variety of hands until it was purchased by Oscar G. Russell in 1924. The house remained in the Russell family until it was sold to the Cedar Mill Bible Church in 1970. The Tualatin Valley Parks and Recreation District purchased the property from the Church in 2005.

Comparative Analysis: other structures from this time period in Cedar Mill, Washington County

While there are many structures built in Washington County in the mid-nineteenth century listed on the National Register, only a handful of examples of residential architecture from this era remain, and a majority of these houses were once part of farms or farming complexes in Washington County.33

The A.T. Smith House was constructed in 1854/1855 near the current City of Forest Grove. The two story house was constructed in the Classical Revival style. Smith has a similar story to that of J.Q.A. Young in that he became postmaster of the Tualatin Post Office and established the Smith Grocery store in 1857. Interestingly enough Smith also was at Dr. Whitman’s mission at Wailatpu (Walla Walla, WA), in 1840 and worked on the construction of a fanning mill.
The Imbrie Farm complex, located in Hillsboro was constructed in 1866 and the farmhouse is a fine example of Italian Villa architecture. Imbrie Farm was constructed in 1866. Robert was also a farmer and was president of the Washington County Agricultural Society, as well as one of the original members of the Hillsboro Grange.

The Fanno Century Farm House located at 8385 SW Hall Blvd. in Beaverton was constructed in 1859 on the Augustus Fanno Donation Land Claim. Two houses were constructed, the first in 1847 and is no longer extant. The second was constructed in 1859 with lumber from his brother-in-law’s sawmill. Fanno Farm was locally known for producing excellent onions, and the Fanno Farmhouse is the oldest extant house within the City of Beaverton and is currently owned by the Tualatin Valley Park and Recreation District.

There are no other extant examples of residential architecture associated with mills from this era in Washington County, the Cedar Mill area or its local vicinity.

Conclusion

The John Quincy Adams Young House (1869) is representative of residential architecture constructed in Oregon in the mid-nineteenth century. The John Quincy Adams Young House is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT for its association with Young who survived the Whitman Massacre to settle in the Willamette Valley. Additionally the Young House is significant under Criterion A in the area of COMMERCE. The Young house retains sufficient integrity to convey its style and period of significance specifically relating to its use as a general store and post office for the community of Cedar Mill.

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34 Imbrie Farm, National Register Nomination., 1970.
35 Fanno Century Farm House, National Register Nomination.
Bibliography

Arb. 29, T1 R1 Sec. 34. Ticor Title Archives, Abstracts for Arbitrary Chains of Title. Specific legal; east half of northwest quarter and lots 1,2,3, and 4 of Section 34, Township 1, Range 1.


Fanno Century Farm House, National Register Nomination.

Hillsboro Argus, Jan. 29, 1942

Imbrie Farm, National Register Nomination., 1970.


The Young, John Quincy Adams, House is located at 12050 NW Cornell in the Cedar Mill area just west of Portland, Oregon just south of the intersection of NW 119th and NW Cornell. The boundary was determined by the lot lines of the tax lot for this property. The identification number for this property is R1436921, which is located on the east half of northwest quarter of Section 34, Township 1, Range 1.
Landscape plan