

Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME					
address:	12050 NW Cornell Rd Portland vcty, Washington County		historic name:	Young, John Quincy Adams & Elizabeth, House	
assoc addresses:			current/other names:		
location descr:			block/lot/tax lot:		
			twshp/rng/sect/qtr sect:	1N 1W 34	
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS					
resource type:	Building	height (stories):	2.0	total elig resources:	1
elig evaluation:	eligible/significant			total inelig resources:	0
prim constr date:	c.1869	second date:		NR Status:	Individually Listed
				date indiv listed:	12/31/2008
primary orig use:	Single Dwelling		orig use comments:		
second orig use:					
primary style:	Vernacular		prim style comments:		
secondary style:			sec style comments:		
primary siding:	Horizontal Board		siding comments:		
secondary siding:					
plan type:	Salt Box		architect:		
			builder:		
comments/notes:					
PEE Evaluation, 7/18/2007					
GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS					
Not associated with any surveys or groupings.					
SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY					
NR date listed:	12/31/2008		106 Project(s):	None	
ILS survey date:			Special Assess Project(s):	None	
RLS survey date:			Federal Tax Project(s):	None	
ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION					
<i>(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)</i>					
<p>Summary The John Quincy Adams and Elizabeth Young House is located at 12050 NW Cornell Road in the unincorporated community of Cedar Mill, Washington County, Oregon. Built circa 1863, the building is a vernacular one-and-a-half story form encompassing approximately 1500 square feet in its five downstairs rooms and two attic bedrooms. The building retains integrity of location, basic design, workmanship, and association. In the areas of setting, feeling and materials the building has undergone some change; the closely linked setting and feeling have been impacted by the newer development nearby, but the immediate surroundings (i.e. the lot on which the house is located) still retain a rural character that reflects the historic setting. Material changes include removal of some of the window sash, porch replacement, and the application of later siding types. Many of these alterations appear to have taken place within the historic period, and none is sufficient to significantly impact the building's ability to convey its original appearance and period of significance. The Young House is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion A for its association with and early contributions to the initial development of the rural community of Cedar Mill in Washington County. Setting "In broad geographic terms, Cedar Mill is located...seven miles west of Portland, nine miles east of Hillsboro and four miles north of Beaverton. ...specific boundaries for the area have never been established..." Cedar Mill is nestled in the eastern Washington County foothills, an area traversed by small creeks and wooded with cedar, fir and deciduous trees. The Young house is located on the south side of NW Cornell Road near NW 119th just east of the business center of Cedar Mill and near the city limits of Beaverton. (Figures 1-3) NW Cornell Road is a major arterial street characterized by a mix of suburban commercial and residential development as well as some remaining open space. The Young house fronts north on the northwestern portion of a 0.57-acre, triangular lot. The eastern property boundary is delineated by Cedar Mill Creek, the northern boundary is NW Cornell Road, and the western boundary abuts the Cedar Mill Bible Church property. The house and lot were originally part of a larger rural parcel that historically included the Jones/Young family sawmill, of which no built remnant remains visible other than a depression marking the location of the mill pond. No outbuildings or other associative built features associated with the house remain on the subject property. Landscape features include a large hickory to the southwest, and a pear and an apple tree west of the house. Aerial photographs of the 1930s and 1940s indicate a small orchard was located to the west of the house, and the fruit trees are remnants of that historic feature. (Figure 5) To the east is the natural riparian growth along Cedar Mill Creek. A natural draw east of the house that is visible in historic photographs remained until at least recently, but has been filled in the area immediately around the house. (Figures 5, 6 and 14; Photos 4, 5 and 11) Exterior Description The Young house is a one-and-a-half story side-gabled house with a double-pitched roof that gives it a "saltbox" appearance. The nearly square footprint measures approximately 36' wide x 30' deep. Small projections include a small covered front stoop and a small west side/kitchen porch addition measuring approximately 14' x 6'. The current land configuration is such that the front (north) elevation sits at grade, and the rear (south) elevation is approximately 4' above grade, exposing the foundation wall along the east and south. An early photograph of the house, dated circa 1888, shows the house situated on the west bank of a creekbed or slough, resulting in the partial exposure of the north (front) foundation wall, and full exposure on the east side. This topographic feature has recently been partially obliterated by fill (in the area of the house) that buries north foundation wall, and encroaches significantly on the eastern side, though this eastern wall is still almost completely visible. (Photos 2-4) The foundation consists of a combination of stone, brick, concrete, and post-and-pier, with wood post and modern concrete pier supports. A stone, concrete block and brick-walled cellar with an earthen floor encompasses slightly more than one-quarter of the total basement area at the northeast corner. (Figure 7) The east wall is brick, and part of the north wall is concrete block, giving the impression that the area was open at one time, and later walls were infilled. (Photos 3 and 4) Once enclosed, access to the cellar was provided via a doorway in the east brick wall that has since been filled in; a later access door to the basement is located on the south wall. The southeast corner of the basement is excavated but unfinished, and the western portion is unexcavated. The substructure of the building is comprised of a combination of hand-hewn and sawn beams measuring approximately 10" x 7" at the perimeter, and 4" x 6" on the interior, joined with lap joints. Corner and interior support posts are similar in size, and have been placed on modern concrete footings. A majority of the sub-structural elements along the southern (rear) portion of the building are sawn, suggesting either a slightly later construction date or perhaps early repairs. Utilizing the plank wall construction (more specifically plank-on-frame) commonly employed in the 1840s-1860s in Oregon, the walls are built of 2"-thick planks set vertically to form a solid wall; they are resting on a ledger at the sill and are nailed to the sill and to the hand-hewn top plate. These planks in conjunction with the hewn members form the support system for the building. The house is clad in wood clapboard siding in short lengths of contemporary material and size with 7" exposure, with a later application of narrow vertical boards at the foundation level. Beneath this siding, the west elevation retains older 6 1/2"-exposure droplap siding that appears to be historic but is likely not original. Portions of this older siding are visible in and around the kitchen porch addition, with the majority of it obscured by the later clapboard. Original siding would have likely been wood weatherboard. On the northeast and northwest corners the siding terminates at 4 1/2" - 5" cornerboards that appear to be original. (Photo 10) Cornerboards at the southeast and southwest corners have been replaced with curved corner boards that physically wrap the corners, and appear to be of circa 1940s vintage. The fenestration pattern is regular and appears to be unaltered. Original windows would have included a number of wood six-over-six (6:6) double-hung sash, and four-pane casement sash. Several of the original 6:6 windows have been replaced with one-over-one double-hung sash of the same dimensions; at least seven of the six-pane sash that were removed are being stored in the house. These appear to be in generally good condition and retain many of</p>					

their original (or historic) glass panes. Window surrounds are simple flat sawn boards with no molding. Fenestration on the front (north) elevation is symmetrical and consists of a centrally-placed front door (the original door is missing) flanked by a set of double-hung windows. (Photos 1 and 2) At the attic level of this elevation are three smaller four-pane wood sash windows – equally spaced and corresponding in placement to the lower level openings. The entrance is marked by a non-historic narrow gabled porch with 4' x 4' supports, a concrete slab floor and open side rails of modern lumber. The circa-1888 photograph shows a full-width, shed-roofed front porch supported by either narrow paired posts or sawn supports. (Figure 14) The only evidence of this porch that remains visible today is a notch in the remaining original northeast cornerboard at the height of the porch roof. The east and west gable-end elevations display two openings on the lower level, and one in the gable end. (Photos 3 and 7) All openings are double-hung sash configurations ~~and~~ the west elevation upper four-paned casement sash window, and the west elevation door into the kitchen. The west elevation has been altered by a small low-pitched gable addition – essentially an enclosed porch – that was added sometime after the application of the dropslat siding. The rear (south) elevation is also symmetrical, with three widely spaced windows: a central square one-over-one double hung sash window flanked by 6:6 double hung windows. (Photo 5) A non-historic basement door is protected by a small gabled roof similar to that at the front entrance. The approach to this entrance is otherwise unmarked by retaining walls or stairs. The moderate double-pitched side-gable roof is built with sawn 2"x4" rafters and a central ridge beam. The skip sheathing consists of waney-edged sawn boards, and the roof is clad in newer asphalt composition shingles. The red brick stove chimney rises from the southern roof slope. The exposed portion of the chimney is deteriorated, with the top several courses of brick and mortar missing. A wide frieze board wraps the east, north and west sides of the house, and the shallow eaves are boxed with a modest curved bed molding. The frieze on the south (rear) elevation has been removed. Other decorative features are limited to the features inherent in the simple, utilitarian design: the double-pitch gable roof, six-over-six and four-pane windows and simple window and door trim. Other than the early full-width front porch and attendant details seen in the historic photograph, it does not appear that the house was ever any more embellished. Interior Description The Young House plan is arranged with four major rooms downstairs and two upstairs. (Figures 7-9) On the main floor, there are two "public" rooms in northern (front) half of the house: the living room and dining room. In the southern (rear) half of the house are the kitchen, a modern bathroom and a bedroom. Stairs accessing the attic and the basement are centered in the house, with attic stairs approached from the living room and basement stairs accessed from the hallway adjacent to the kitchen. Correlation between the structural support system visible in the basement and the existing wall configuration suggests that few major subtractive changes to the original floor plan have occurred, though several short walls have been added to provide accommodation for the bathrooms, closets and staircase to the attic. Interior partition walls appear to be 1"-1½"-thick boards set horizontally to form a solid wall. Few, if any, of the visible finishes on the main floor are original. While most of the walls and ceilings were likely originally finished with muslin and wallpaper, they have since been finished with gypsum wallboard or plaster. It is unclear whether original or historic finishes remain beneath the later wallboard. Historic wood floors have been covered with either tile or carpet in all rooms. Most if not all baseboards and door trim are newer. Window trim may also have been replaced. None of the doors appear to be original. Ceilings are wide rough-sawn boards that originally (or historically) were covered with muslin and wallpaper. The existing kitchen cabinetry appears to date to the mid-20th century, and while the flue remains in place the kitchen stove has been removed. (Photo 16) The 'kitchen porch' projecting from the west facade of the house appears to be a post-World War II addition that remains largely intact. (Photo 8) A historic ¾-light door with recessed panels below and four panes above is being stored on the porch. No specific date has been determined for the addition of the bathroom, but the existing fixtures appear to also date to the mid-20th century. Stairs to the attic are centrally located in this floorplan, and based on their location, U-shaped configuration and hall width do not appear to be original. The location and type of original access to the attic is not clear. A large elongated floor patch along the west wall of the attic suggests a possible stair or pull-down ladder located there originally; no evidence of this is visible from the dining room below. The attic is divided into two rooms with a horizontal board partition wall running north-south, and the space retains a higher degree of historic integrity than the main floor. (Figure 9; Photos 19-21) Historic wood floors, baseboards, windows, trim and ceiling boards are essentially intact. The north and south walls are the upper portions of the full-height planks that form the structural framing of the house, covered in newspaper, wallpaper and paint or gypsum board. The hand-hewn top plate to which the planks are attached are visible in both rooms. Access to the crawl space spanning the southern portion of the house (over the kitchen) is provided by an opening in the west bedroom. Windows are all four-pane casements with the exception of the eastern end-wall window, which is a six-over-six double hung. A 4-raised-panel door with a rim-lock remains in the attic that may be original to the house. Landscape It may be supposed that this house was once set in a quasi-industrial landscape given the close proximity to the sawmill; the historic photograph from the 1880s suggests little, if any, decorative plantings around the house. (Figure 14) After the turn of the century it appears the landscape changed to one more agrarian in nature, with foundation plantings and orchard trees. (Figure 5) By the mid-20th century the yard appears to have been nicely landscaped with a fenced front yard with a paved sidewalk and water pump, foundation plantings, flowering trees and shrubs and a small orchard to the west, landscaping the yard and surrounds today is minimal. (Figure 17) One non-historic ornamental tree of unknown type is growing near the foundation in the front yard. Two old pear and apple trees to the west, and a large hickory tree at the rear are all that remain of the historic plantings. (Photo 12) According to Susan Dolan, historical landscape architect with the National Park Service in Seattle, the pear appears to be a Bartlett and the apple was not identifiable at the time based on the young fruit. The following observations were made by Ms. Dolan regarding the pear tree: The fruits appear to be of the Bartlett variety, which is a naturally early-fruiting, and a small-sized tree variety. As a Bartlett has naturally small stature, this tree could be 80-100 years old. I would expect the pears of the Bartlett to be as far developed as they are by this time (many pears are later than Bartlett). I can see a graft union on the trunk. The variety part - the scion, is grafted to a seedling rootstock. The tree has an unusually tall trunk for the period in which it was first grown - leading me to think that livestock or deer were permitted to graze under the young tree and browse off the young lateral limbs. And the apple tree: The limbs of the tree are massive - telling me this is a large-sized tree variety – such as Newtown Pippin, Northern Spy or Baldwin, rather than Winesap or Yellow Transparent. The tree form is 19th-century, and the size of the tree indicates 100-120 years of age. The tree was not "low-headed" - typical of the 20th-century, and did not have a 20th-century scaffold developed. The tree received little pruning in its early life. Like the pear, it has indications of animal browsing - possibly from deer if not livestock. I can see a graft union on the trunk - the scion is grafted to a seedling rootstock. Ms. Dolan identified the hickory as a Shellbark or Kingnut hickory which is a ...relatively quick growing Midwest tree, and [this one] may be 100 years old... the nuts are sweet and edible, but I suspect the tree reflects the resident's association with the Midwest or East. The tree is native from New York to Iowa, south to Tennessee and Oklahoma. The tree was probably a familiar tree that was known to grow quickly, soak up a lot of water (help dry out wet soil conditions with a deep taproot) and create quick shade. Precise dating of historic trees is difficult without the use of an increment borer, the use of which carries several risks. Based on professional ~~assessments~~, the trees may well date to the period of significance for the Young house, probably to the later years (late 1870s-1880s), and they are consistent with the types of trees that would be found on an early farm or residential property of this period. They are therefore included in the nominated area as features that contribute to the overall historic character of the property, and should be managed in such a way as to protect and preserve them for as long as possible. Alterations The Young house has been the subject of several alterations, though none are significant enough to severely diminish the building's historic integrity. The siding has been replaced at least once, possibly twice, probably due to the deterioration of the original weatherboard rather than a desire for stylistic change. Remnants of the second round of siding – the lap siding found on the west elevation – remain visible. Several windows were replaced during the historic period, though most of the original sash remain in the house, and the window openings remain as-built in size and location. The original or historic porches seen in historic views have been removed. At the time of a 1970s photograph, the existing front porch appears to have been in place for some years. It is unclear whether the porch shown in the circa 1888 photograph is original or a later addition; many early residential buildings of this type were originally constructed without a front porch, and the feature was later added as finances allowed and updating was desired. A gabled, enclosed "porch" was added to the west elevation with access to the kitchen, probably after World War II. The foundation walls have been altered by infill and the addition and enclosure of access doors. A gabled entrance of similar design to the front porch was added to the south (rear) elevation basement entrance. On the interior, the opening of the wall between the current living room and dining room has been enlarged. A bathroom was added at an unknown date. The existing stair to the attic is a later addition (no date). The original stair is no longer extant. Original flooring on the main level has been replaced or covered with 3" tongue-and-groove wood flooring, which has in turn been covered with either carpet and/or floor tiles. Many of the original wall surfaces have been covered with wallboard, and baseboards, door trim and doors appear to have been replaced on the main floor. In spite of these changes, the Young house has not suffered any major additions or structural alterations, and it retains integrity of location, design, workmanship, and association. While showing some compromise in the areas of setting, feeling and materials, the overall integrity is high enough to allow the property to effectively convey its historical associations and period of significance.

HISTORY

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

Introduction The circa 1863 John Quincy Adams and Elizabeth Young house is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the early growth and community development of the Cedar Mill area in Washington County, Oregon. Serving as the residence of the John Q.A. and Elizabeth Constable Young family (circa 1863-1874) and then as the first post office and a store for the community (1874-1881), this is the oldest remaining historic resource in Cedar Mill, and one of a diminishing number of resources from this period in Washington County and in Oregon. The house is also the last remaining above-ground resource associated with the cedar mill for which the community was named. Although not being nominated under National Register Criterion C, the Young House clearly displays the physical characteristics of the vernacular, utilitarian houses commonly built in mid-19th century rural Oregon. Included in the nominated area are three historic trees – a pear, an apple and a hickory – all of which contribute to visual and historic character of the property. Cedar Mill began its physical manifestation as a community in 1874 with the establishment of the post office in the Young house. Located on the south side of Cornell Road in unincorporated Washington County just east of the present-day Cedar Mill business core, the house was identified in Oregon's first historic resource survey of 1976, and was subsequently identified as a property of "Primary" significance in the 1983 Washington County Survey. The Young family (Elam & Irene Young and their three youngest sons, including John Q.A.) 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 a sawmill next to Cedar Mill Creek with his partner William Everson and lived in this house just west of the mill. The Youngs occupied the house until 1874 when they moved to a newer, larger residence they had built across Cornell Road. That same year John Q.A. Young was named postmaster, naming the settlement "Cedar Mill" and the subject

house was converted for use as a general store and post office for the community. The house continued to be used in this capacity until the end of 1881 when the post office was moved to another nearby location. The period of significance spans from the presumed construction date of circa 1863 through 1881 when the post office and store operated by John Q.A. Young were closed. There seems to be no definitive information concerning the construction date of the house, and family sources provide dates of either 1863-64 or 1869-70. The earlier beginning date was chosen to accommodate the possibility that the building could have been constructed as early as 1863 (based on family sources) or as late as 1869. Structurally the building is in fair condition, and while it has sustained some alterations (most within the historic period), they do not significantly hinder the building's ability to convey its historical design, function, or associations. Washington County Settlement and Community Development Euro-american settlement in Washington County had begun by 1840 with the arrival of independent fur traders to the Tualatin Plains, among them Joseph Meek. Missionaries and settlers from Canada (Red River Settlers) soon followed, and by 1843 emigration to the Oregon Country was in full swing with 800 settlers arriving from "the States"; the following year there were 1500 settlers, and in 1845 there were nearly 3000. Attracted by the promise of productive farmland, a healthy climate and abundant water, many people braved the difficult crossing in order to have the opportunity to establish farms in the Oregon Territory. In the Tualatin Valley of what would become Washington County, the most fertile lands – those that were clear and readily plow-able, perhaps with some available timber - 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 along the west slope of the Tualatin Hills (near present day Cedar Mill) were settled last and used primarily for timber. The Oregon Territory was originally divided into four administrative districts – the Twality (also spelled "Tuality" and "Tualatin"), Clackamas, Yamhill and Champoick. In 1846 the Twality District became Twality County, and later Washington County in 1849. By 1855, after several boundary adjustments, the county had "...assumed a shape approximating its present configuration..." and the county's governmental framework had been established. The 1850 Donation Land Act provided incentive in the form of "free" land for settlers who emigrated to Oregon: a married couple arriving in the Oregon Territory prior to December 1, 1850 was eligible to receive 640 acres after "proving up," or living on and improving a portion of their claim for several years. Those arriving after 1850 were eligible for 320 acres. Emigrants who settled in Washington County came from states known as the 'Old Northwest', which included Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, and many had already migrated from states further east, such as Tennessee, Kentucky or northeastern states. Clan migration to Oregon was fairly common. Families, friends and neighbors would make the decision to come west, and would often travel together and settle claims in close proximity to each other, resulting in pre-established "communities" on the Oregon frontier. When basic subsistence needs – housing, livestock shelter, and food – had been established, agriculture and timber processing expanded to provide for the increased market. Farming and lumber processing were among the first industries in the Tualatin Valley. The arable soil in the valley between the Tualatin Mountains and the Coast Range was ideal for agricultural development. The California Gold Rush was a significant catalyst for such growth, as much of the produce and lumber needed to support burgeoning mining towns came by ship from the fertile lands in Oregon. As more settlers arrived, lumber was needed to construct homes, buildings, and plank roads for the growing settlements. Local landholders sold or leased timbered areas, and as they were cleared more acreage became available for farming. Goods were initially transported from the Tualatin Plains to Portland via Canyon Road (through Tanner Creek Canyon), which was improved in response to this need. The Portland & Valley Plank Road Company was established in 1850 to fund the development of this route, which remained the primary "improved" road to Portland until the 1860s. The 1868 survey and construction of Cornell Road would later provide Tualatin Valley farmers and mills with better market access to Portland. While some towns were named and platted almost immediately, others were formed as population density, infrastructure development and social and commercial needs grew in a particular area. As the need and means arose, the nucleus of a town center would appear in the form of a concentration of buildings, and the early framework of the towns seen today became established. The impetus for such development varied, depending on the site's proximity to major transportation routes and the needs of the surrounding occupants. The growing trade and commercial center of Portland enticed a number of the early Tualatin area settlers to sell their land not long after arriving, and then relocate to Portland where they invested money, time and effort into that town's development. Much of Washington County, however, remained rural well into the 20th century. Cedar Mill is not an incorporated town, but it boasts a strong sense of identity nonetheless. Its boundaries may be roughly defined by "...the community of Bethany on the west and northwest, Bonny Slope on the northeast, Multnomah County line due east, the old Swedeville community to the southeast and Highway 26 directly south." Samuel Walters is credited with being the original settler in Cedar Mill proper, having arrived in 1847 and remaining on his claim until the 1890s. Other early settlers to Cedar Mill included James and Amanda Flippin, Thomas Pearson, the McGuires', and the Halls; the Young family settled several miles west. Approximately seven square miles, or 4,300 acres comprised the Cedar Mill area and between 1850 to 1855 sixteen claims were settled. "By the mid-1850s, the ... judicial precincts of Cedar Mill...Hillsboro...Forest Grove [and others] ... had been named, testifying to the concentration of population and the emergence of discrete regional zones." Once proper shelter and subsistence crops had been established, settlers turned their efforts to the broader cultural needs of the community. Following the organization of subscription schools in the mid-1850s, the Union School District No. 6 was formally established in 1856; the school was located on NW 143rd Avenue adjacent to the Union Cemetery, also established in the mid-1850s. The district encompassed much of Cedar Mill: all or portions of ten land claims in the area as well as several south. As early as 1858 the Methodist Episcopal church was active in the Cedar Mill area, served by circuit riders who initially met in private residences or in the Union School house. In 1867 Wesley Chapel was finally constructed a few blocks west of the present-day NW Cornell and Murray Blvd. intersection to serve the Cedar Mill faithful. (Figure 10) Much of the land in the vicinity of Cedar Mill was originally wooded, and lumber milling in the area began early with the establishment of the Jones "cedar mill" circa 1855. Justus Jones, his wife Eliza and sons John (19) and Elihu (4) had come to Oregon in 1852 and initially settled in Clatskanie. They moved to the area now known as Cedar Mill in 1855 and purchased land near NW 119th and Cornell Road from a squatter, subsequently filing a donation land claim for the 183-acre parcel. The Jones' constructed the first sawmill in the area on the south side of what would become the Cornell Road alignment near a 32-foot drop of Cedar (Mill) Creek. The mill produced cut lumber as well as cedar shingles that were sold to residents of the immediate vicinity and in Portland but also as far away as Lake Michigan. In the early years ... 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 ... 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) ... For several years the mill products were hauled to Portland through the canyons by oxen, later by horses. As with many early rural Willamette Valley settlements, Cedar Mill's early community development history was limited to the housing and feeding of families, and the establishment of reliable crops for consumption and market, educational and worship opportunities, and transportation routes. Farms could be as much as a mile apart, and the sense of a community core or business center as it is understood today was limited to larger shipping or commercial points like Portland. By the mid-1860s, the future Cedar Mill community consisted of the Union School, the Union Cemetery, Wesley Chapel and the mill in addition to the farms scattered throughout the area. The earliest business endeavor – and the only one for many years – was the saw mill. The [Jones] mill provided the economic focal point for the community and was among others in the region, such as Potter's Mill and Bonlock's Mill, that were fed by the vast stands of timber along the upper eastern edges of the Tualatin Valley. The lumbering of these tracts induced, or at least coincided with, the second wave of settlement within the region during the late 1870s. The earlier DLCs were subdivided and purchased by immigrants in search of productive farmland, most of which was created by the conversion of the surrounding stumplands. More extensive growth occurred throughout Washington County with road improvements and the arrival of the railroad in 1870-71, thus effectively ending the isolation of the early Tualatin valley settlements. Though not on the rail line, Cedar Mill became an important link in the Tualatin Valley-Portland travel route, and as a result a more tangible community began to emerge. The Young house, being closely associated with the mill as the residence of the mill owner/operator, was also part of this early "economic focal point," particularly with the establishment of the Cedar Mill post office and general store in 1874. The Young Family and Cedar Mill Community Development It is unclear exactly when John Quincy Adams & Elizabeth Constable Young moved to the Cedar Mill area, but it appears they relocated around 1863 from the Elam Young family land claim, located further west. John Quincy Adams Young was born in Clermont County, Ohio in 1828, the youngest son of Elam & Irene Eaton Young. Elam was a veteran of the War of 1812, and following that war moved to Ohio and eventually to Missouri where he worked as a farmer and millwright. Struck by the desire to travel to Oregon, Elam Young and his family (wife Irene and three sons James, Daniel and John) embarked on their trip west in the Spring of 1847. According to John Q.A. Young, they arrived at the Whitman Mission in October 1847 en route to The Dalles, and stayed on to work at the Mission so that they could replenish their supplies. At the request of Dr. Whitman, the family traveled to a site some twenty miles north of the Mission to mill lumber at a newly constructed sawmill. The Young family was at this site at the time of the Whitman Massacre on November 29, 1847, and James Young was killed by the members of the Cayuse tribe the following day as he was hauling a load of lumber to the Mission. Following this tragedy, the family traveled down the Columbia River to Fort Vancouver, and on to Oregon City and where they settled, working at a local sawmill and making tools. In May of 1848 they moved to the Tualatin Valley where Elam took up a claim near present-day Hillsboro. According to John, they ...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... 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. McElowney. 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. Census data indicates that Elam Young worked as a millwright while in Washington County, but died in 1855, and is buried at the Union Cemetery. His wife Irene, their two sons Daniel and John and their families continued to live and work on the farm. Irene died in 1865, and Daniel and his family stayed on the claim until circa 1880. John Q.A. married Elizabeth Constable on December 25, 1856. Little verifiable information has been found about Elizabeth Constable Young. According to the 1850 census, she was born in Missouri and was living there in that year with her parents James Barton & Martha and several younger siblings. The family started on the Oregon Trail in 1852, but in June 1852 Barton and Martha died on the Trail, apparently of cholera. According to J.Q.A. Young's memoir, "She was one of five orphans brought to the Oregon Territory by their father's nephew and lived at his home until grown. Her parents perished while enroute [sic] across the plains

to the West [1852]," and it appears that Elizabeth and her younger sister Mary grew up on the Constable claim north of Elam Young and his family. On marrying John in 1856, she moved to the Young claim. John had received the east half of his parents' claim from his father in 1854, and John Q.A. and Elizabeth remained on that land and continued farming it until circa 1863 when they relocated several miles east to Cedar Mill. The house in which they lived in Cedar Mill (the subject house) was built sometime in the 1860s, but a precise date of construction or by whom it was built has not been determined. Some family tradition supports a construction date of 1863-64, but a number of other citations suggest 1869 or 1870 as the date of Young's purchase of the land and the mill, construction of the house, and the family's relocation to Cedar Mill. One family source provides this insight on the years following John and Elizabeth's 1856 marriage: They lived on his parents farm (Elam Young DLC, Orenco) a few years, later moving to Cedar Mill area in 1862 and built a log cabin as a temporary [sic] home, on a creek just south of the mill. In 1863-1864 they built a 2-story 'box' house, near the mill and falls where they resided for ten years – then built a third residence, a large two-story home on 200 acres of ground, to the north. The 1863-64 date is echoed in several other sources, including notes on the back of a circa 1888 photograph of the house, a 1958 Hillsboro Argus article, as well as in a 1943 entry in Oregon Geographic Names. The 1869 date may be a simplified (but perhaps inaccurate) way of dating the house by encompassing a series of events that actually happened over a period of years starting in the early 1860s. Sources that support the later date include a document supposedly written by J.Q.A. Young himself; this information has also been attributed to his daughter, Mabel Young McIlwain. Regardless, neither date is currently verifiable through archival research or physical analysis of the building. Lacking any additional or more compelling evidence, the period of significance therefore begins circa 1863 in order to encompass the possibility that the building may have been constructed at that time. Whether the house was built by the Jones' or the Youngs is also not clear. Sited approximately one block south and west of the sawmill, the builder likely utilized wood sawn at the mill, but by or for whom the house was constructed remains unknown. By 1869, the Jones' had been operating their mill for almost 15 years and in December of that year, John Q.A. Young and William R. Everson formed a business partnership and purchased the Jones family sawmill for the sum of \$5,000. The relationship between these two men does not appear to be sudden or purely economic. The Eversons and the Youngs had both come from the same Ohio county, settled Oregon claims in close proximity, and lived near each other in Cedar Mill; it is possible, perhaps likely, that they knew each other before arriving in Oregon. 1870 census records indicate that John (listed as "Lumberman") and Elizabeth (listed as "Keeping House") and their five children James, William, Jasper, Abraham Lincoln, and Lowell were then residing in the subject house. (The family would continue to grow with the birth of Frank in 1871, Martha Elizabeth in 1878 and Mabel in 1882.) (Figures 11-13) Everson and Young operated the mill for several years and continued producing shakes, shingles and milled lumber, with many of the products being sold in Portland. During this time John Q.A. Young and his growing family occupied the subject house, which was located just west and south of the mill site. No other mill-related buildings remain, but a depression indicates the location of the former mill pond across Cornell to the northeast of the house. "About the time J.Q.A. Young and William Everson purchased Justus Jones' cedar mill in 1869, the business community of the area began to emerge. By 1867, Barnes Road had been surveyed and the following year Cornell Road was connected to Portland. Once these routes were established, a ready commercial market was created." With these improvements, the arrival of the railroad to the region, and the splitting up of larger early land holdings, a second wave of settlement occurred in the 1870s, bringing immigrants from Ireland, Switzerland and Germany as well as new arrivals from the eastern states. Most of these later settlers engaged in agriculture, making use of the former timber land that had been cleared by the mills operating along the west slope of the Tualatin Hills. In 1871, John Q.A. Young sold his interest in the mill business to Everson for \$2,000, and in January of 1874 he ... received an appointment as postmaster and was commissioned to establish a post office in the area. The name Young selected, "Cedar Mill," was an obvious choice for two reasons. The sawmill, which specialized in cedar products, was located next to the postal building and had long been a source of revenue for the area. Young had operated the mill, the only organized business in the community, until shortly before his appointment as postmaster. Although the location of the Cedar Mill Post Office changed three times, the service was continually maintained in a local store. Young's small store, on the ground floor of his two-story former home, served as the first post office headquarters. Here the postmaster constructed a pigeonhole cabinet where patrons received mail delivered weekly from Portland. For his postal duties, Young received a commission based on the number of 2¢ postage stamps and 1¢ postcards purchased at the office. The family moved to a larger new house he had constructed across Cornell Road and converted part of the first floor of the older house into the post-office and the first general store in the Cedar Mill community. (Figures 14 and 15) Notes on the circa 1888 historic photograph of the house indicate that the post office was located in an enclosed portion of the west end of the front porch. (Figure 14) Prior to the establishment of the Cedar Mill post office, area residents received mail at the Oceola post office (located about a mile south of Cedar Mill on Walker Road) beginning in 1854. The Oceola office closed in 1863, leaving Portland and Hillsboro the two closest post offices to the Cedar Mill community. The establishment of the Cedar Mill post office in the Young house perpetuated its position – along with the mill – as the economic center of the agrarian and lumber-based community, providing both a business and social gathering point for the surrounding residents. In mid- to late-19th century rural Oregon communities, mail was often delivered on a weekly basis rather than every day, making the post office a social gathering place where local news was exchanged. Young served as the postmaster until he resigned on December 29, 1881, which is the closing date for the period of significance. Post office responsibilities were then shifted to George Reeves who moved the office to the Reeves general store, said to be located north of the Barnes-Cornell intersection. It was in this vicinity, about a block west of the Young House along Cornell Road at the Barnes Road-Saltzman Road and Murray Boulevard intersections, that the commercial area of Cedar Mill developed historically and continues to flourish today. It is presumed that the Young house then reverted to residential use. In addition to the establishment of the post office and general store, the surge in population in the mid-1870s promoted the growth of other community assets. In 1878 a Catholic church was constructed on the west side of Murray Boulevard. The Cedar Mill School was built in 1884, and was located on the Sam Walters claim along upper Cornell Road, serving the newly-formed Cedar Mill School District 62J. By 1886 Cedar Mill boasted a blacksmith, wagon maker, the Everson & Briggs steam saw mill, a general store, cattle dealers, and a number of other businesses. In 1891 Jasper Young donated land for a new Methodist Episcopal church building on Cornell Road, which in later years was leased to the Cedar Mill Bible Church (now just west of the Young House). The family's involvement with the sawmill did not end with John Young's sale of his interest in 1871. Deed records indicate that over a period of years, William Everson eventually sold all of his interest in the mill, and John Young re-purchased it from a man named Simmons in 1889. He then transferred ownership to his sons Jasper and Abraham, who briefly operated the business as the Young Brothers Mill. (Figure 16) The enterprise closed in 1891 due to a lack of available nearby timber, but Jasper Young continued in the lumber business, operating a mill in east Portland with Nils Sorenson in the early 1890s. After the turn of the 20th century, growth continued in Cedar Mill. In the early 1900s Cornell Road was resurveyed with John Q.A. Young acting as chairman and road viewer; several easements were sold by Young to Washington County for these road improvements. The circa 1901 Woodmen of the World Hall, located on NW 143rd across from the Union School and Cemetery, was purchased by the Leedy Grange (organized in 1903) in 1913. This building remains but has been substantially altered. When the automobile appeared, businesses such as the Cedar Mill Garage (1919) began to replace wagon makers and blacksmiths. The Young family, in addition to being early Washington County settlers, running the first organized business in the community, establishing the first post office and the town name, and running the first store, contributed significantly to the social development of Cedar Mill. Elizabeth Young was "...perhaps the earliest woman known as a midwife..." in this section of Washington County. Mabel Young recalled her mother's activities in the fledgling community: "...[Elizabeth] was a wonderful soul. She brought fifty babies into the world (and never charged a penny, of course), and the first thought among her neighbors in any sickness was "Send for Mrs. Young." She was also active in the Oregon Pioneer Association (established in 1873). John Young was active at Wesley Chapel (established 1858), the Oregon Pioneer Association, the Oregon Historical Society, the Oregon State Grange, and in local politics, serving as Justice of the Peace and as a Washington County Commissioner from 1898-1902. On reflection, John Q.A. Young described his life and career in Cedar Mill in an undated autobiographical sketch: 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 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. He died in 1905 and is buried in Union Cemetery in Cedar Mill. Elizabeth died in 1934 and is buried next to John. The Cedar Mill post office was discontinued soon after the turn of the 20th century, and residents adopted Portland addresses. Still known by locals as Cedar Mill (or sometimes "Cedar Mills"), the bustling community remains unincorporated but retains a strong identity, supporting a number of businesses and organizations, including its own Cedar Mill Library and the Cedar Mill Business Association. Since the closure of the post office and store in 1881, the house has been used as a residence. Both the mill and the Young house passed out of the Young family in 1912. After several changes of ownership it was purchased by Oscar G. Russell in 1924, and the house remained in the Russell family until it was sold to the Cedar Mill Bible Church in 1970. The Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District purchased the property from the Church in 2005. Conclusion The John Quincy Adams and Elizabeth Young House is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of community development for its association with the community development – including the commercial and social growth – of Cedar Mill and rural Washington County. The building served as the home of the Young family while they were operating the nearby sawmill, which was for many years the only business operating in the area. It later served as Cedar Mill's first post office and general store, forming the initial core component of what would become a well-developed and vibrant center of social and commercial activity for the area. This is the oldest remaining built resource in Cedar Mill; other extant historic resources date to the turn of the century or later, and most have been significantly altered. Though somewhat altered since its period of significance of circa 1863 to 1881, the Young house retains many of its original or historic physical elements. Visually, its external appearance is largely unchanged: no major additions have marred the building's massing or configuration, it remains on its original site, the siding is similar to the original, window placements have not been altered and original windows remain in place or on site. The house retains sufficient integrity to convey its historical associations and period of significance, and remains important in Cedar Mill as a marker of the community's settlement and development pa

RESEARCH INFORMATION

✓ Title Records	✓ Census Records	✓ Property Tax Records	✓ Local Histories
✓ Sanborn Maps	✓ Biographical Sources	✓ SHPO Files	✓ Interviews
✓ Obituaries	✓ Newspapers	✓ State Archives	✓ Historic Photographs

Local Library:

University Library:

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Other Repository:

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