The Hamlin-Johnson House is a one-and-one-half-story building with a cross-gable roof with narrow eaves and a largely rectangular footprint (a hipped-roof utility room has been added at the northeast corner). The house is centrally located within the main portion of its 1.95-acre parcel and faces west overlooking 282nd Avenue, a suburban arterial. The wood-frame building is clad in drop siding with a wide reveal (channel rustic siding) with some shingle siding under the south-facing gable. The foundation is post-and-pier and the roof is clad in asphalt shingles. It is a ca. 1888 Gothic Revival house that was remodeled ca. 1903, adding Queen Anne features and details. The most dominant feature of the house is the symmetry of the front façade, with its narrow, front-facing gable on the structure's side gable roof, and the full-width front porch with its turned balustrade and decorative spindle frieze and brackets. A Victorian-era door is centrally located under the front-facing gable, on the back wall of the front porch. Windows are primarily one-over-one-light, wood-frame, double-hung windows with simple surrounds and crown molding, placed individually and in pairs throughout the building. Additional character-defining features include two corbelled chimneys mounted on the east-west ridge of the house and a recessed porch within the single-story ell on the north side. The interior layout of the house includes a full-width living room across the front of the house, with a stairway to the second floor located on the back wall, followed by a formal dining room and a kitchen at the rear of the house. Three bedrooms, a bathroom, and auxiliary storage are located on the second floor. All interior detailing, including window and door surrounds and baseboards, is original. Major changes to the house include the addition of a sun room, on the south side, the utility room, and the previously mentioned Queen Anne styling. The parcel also includes two non-contributing resources: a twentieth-century barn or workshop and a small 1984 playhouse that repeats the materials of the house. Also present on the parcel are numerous mature trees, including remnants of a pear orchard.

HISTORY

(The 1888 Hamlin-Johnson House is significant under Criterion C as an excellent and rare example of a rural residential type in Gresham, a vernacular structure that displays elements of the Gothic Revival style of the mid-nineteenth century. It was remodeled in the first decade of the twentieth century, adding Queen Anne features and details, which place it among three known examples in Gresham of this trend to update earlier, simpler houses in this very popular style. It is the only known modestly scaled and modestly detailed expression of this phenomenon in the city. The house is associated with its attributed builder, Charles Hunter Hamlin, a steamboat engineer who was on the first boat that traveled above Willamette Falls via the Willamette Falls Locks, in 1873. It is also associated with the Rev. Jonas Johnson and his family, who owned the house for six decades. The Johnsons' association represents the building's affiliation with Powell Valley's Swedish history and heritage. The house is significant at the local level.)

RESEARCH INFORMATION

- Title Records
- Sanborn Maps
- Obituaries
- Census Records
- Biographical Sources
- Newspapers
- Building Permits
- Property Tax Records
- SHPO Files
- State Archives
- Local Histories
- Interviews
- Historic Photographs
- Oregon Historic Preservation Office
- State Library
- OR Historical Society, Gresham Historical Society

Bibliography: