STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310

Place Photo Here

County Yamhill

Theme 10a, 4a,b

Name
(Common) Fort Yamhill Blockhouse

(Historic) same as above

Address Dayton City Park

Dayton, OR 97114

Present Owner City of Dayton

Address same as above

Original Use Fortification

Date of Construction 1856

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

An unusual two storey building of hewn log construction, it is the last remaining blockhouse of its type in Oregon. The second storey is rotated 45 degrees providing eight sides instead of four. This design configuration offers better visibility combined with extra positions from which to fire at an attacking enemy. Small hipped roofs covered three corners of the lower floor with an entrance platform over the fourth. Construction dates to 1856 at which time an army detachment was dispatched to Grand Ronde in response to a request by uneasy settlers after the recent Rogue River Indian Wars. The blockhouse the soldiers built became a central feature of what was to become Fort Yamhill

The blockhouse was disassembled sometime after the closing of Fort Yamhill in 1866. Moved to the nearby Grand Ronde Agency and reassembled it was to serve as jail and storehouse for some forty years or more. In 1911 the structure was taken down once again and moved to Dayton City Park. There it was dedicated to General Joel Palmer, the city's founder, in 1912. Over the decades repair, replacement of deteriorated timbers, some rebuilding and placement on a cement foundation were measures taken to keep the blockhouse intact. Today the building although altered, retains its unusual eight-sided configuration and its basic form, if not its substance, provides an authentic representation of the original blockhouse that was a salient feature of old Fort Yamhill.

continue on back if necessary

Recorded by Paul Hartwig/Paul Morrow Date November, 1973 (JR:8/8/78)

For Oregon State Highway Division Sources Consulted:

Lewis, John Q., History of the Grand Ronde Military Blockhouse (Dayton, Oregon: Tribune Publishing Co.-1911) (see back)

Please enclose map. Township 4S N S 3W E W Section 17 Case File Available

NOT ACCEPTED TO NAT'L REGISTER

SHPO 1419

Sources Consulted, cont'd:

Barth, Gunter, ed., All Quiet on the Yamhill: The Civil War in Oregon, The Journal of Corporal Royal A. Benwell, Company D, Fourth California Infantry (Eugene: University of Oregon Books, 1959), 202-206

HABS Photo Data Sheet (Ore-21), 1934, revised 1938

Grant, Bruce, American Forts Yesterday and Today (New York: E.P. Dutton and Company, 1959)

Corning, Howard McKinley, ed., Dictionary of Oregon History (Portland: Binford and Mort, 1956), 91, 122, 123, 191



