

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

Significance Primary No. 23
County Jackson
Theme
Name
(Common) "McCully House"
(Historic) McCully House
Address 240 East California Street
Jacksonville, Oregon 97530
Present Owner Meadows, E.K./Edna F.
Address P.O. Box 387
Jacksonville, Oregon 97530
Original Use Residential
Date of Construction 1861

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The McCully House was constructed in 1861 by Ludwig Hartwig. The architect is not known. This two story Classic Revival style house is rectangular in shape with a rear (south) one and one half story extension. A small, one story rectangular building is attached to the main house by a breezeway and carport. Both structures are wood frame and painted white.

Both buildings are sheathed with clapboards. All portions have corner boards with pilaster caps. A small porch with pairs of square columns and a balustraded balcony project over the main entry bay. The main north facade is five bays wide. Pairs of six-over-six, double hung sash windows on both first and second floors flank the central doorway. The west wall of the main portion of the house is an unbroken wall and the east elevation has a single window on the first floor. The south (rear) elevation has a single second floor, six-over-six double hung sash window on each side of the rear extension.

The roof of both the main portion and the south extension are gables with composition shingles. Brick chimneys project from the ridge at each end of the main block of the house and a

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Recorded by Gail E.H. Evans Date December 1979
Photographed by Gail E.H. Evans (repeat)
Sources consulted (continue on back if necessary):

Please refer to footnotes

Please enclose map. Township 37 (N/S) 2 (E/W) Section 32 Block 9, lots 3 and 4, part of 7 and 8

Account No. 9200 (32 BA)

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third brick chimney rises from the ridge of the south extension. A characteristic Classic Revival feature is the three part entablature in the gable ends and along the sides of the gable which returns into the face of the gable to suggest a pediment.

The foundation under the main north portion is squared rubble sandstone inlaid in mortar.

The small one story, rectangular building off of the southeast corner of the McCully House has two bays of six-over-six windows on the east elevation. All are framed with louvered shutters, at present painted dark green. The front (north) wall appears to have had, at one time, a porch which is now enclosed with a series of small paned windows. The roof is a gable sloping to the north and south. Three brick chimneys project from the south-sloping portion.

The two structures are now connected by a more recent partially enclosed breezeway and carport with a flat balustraded roof. A similar porch roof now extends from the west wall of the building's rear extension.

The McCully House complex of buildings is located on a flat parcel of land. The main portion of the house is set back from the street approximately twenty-five feet. This corner lot is abutted by East California Street on the north, South Fifth Street on the east, and the Jacksonville Lumber Company open lumber yard on the south. A six foot hedge screens the property from non-compatible commercial buildings on the west.

The buildings are surrounded by lawn on three sides which is broken by a single large tree and randomly-placed shrubbery. Foundation shrubbery is planted around the main portion of the house. The house is at present maintained in good condition.

The house of John and Jane McCully was completed "on or about 19 December A.D. 1861," according to a mechanic's lien filed by Ludwig Hartwig on December 20, 1861[1] Hartwig, the builder, was one of several people who placed mechanic's liens against the McCully house. The sum total of John McCully's indebtedness indicated that this two story "dwelling house"[2] must have been one of the most expensive and palatial residences in Jacksonville at that time.[3]

Both John and Jane McCully became influential figures in the commercial and cultural development of Jacksonville. The McCullys came to Jackson County in 1852[4] soon after the discovery of gold. Jane McCully is believed to have been one of the first three women in Jacksonville[5] and, according to well-established folklore, to have given birth to the first Euro-American child in the county.[6] Their first child, a son, was named, appropriately, in honor of the founder of Jacksonville, James Cluggage (McCully).[7]

John Wilmer McCully, a doctor by training, was the earliest known physician in Jacksonville and in present-day Jackson County.[8] In 1853 Dr. John McCully was appointed first Justice of the Peace for the precinct of Jacksonville prior to the time the first elections were held.[9] It appears that McCully was more involved in speculative real estate and business ventures in Jacksonville's developing years than in practicing medicine. Today he is perhaps best known for erecting the first two story brick structure in Jacksonville around 1856[10] which was occupied on the first floor by one of Jacksonville's earliest merchants, John

Anderson.[11] On the second floor, "McCully's Theatre", traveling dramatic troupes entertained the local residents and brought culture to the early town.[12] Escaping four of Jacksonville's destructive fires in the commercial district, McCully Building still stands at what was the main business intersection (South Oregon and Main Street) and is the only commercial building to have retained its original iron fire shutters.

No doubt burdened by his heavy indebtedness to several Jacksonville residents, John McCully left Jacksonville in 1862 and in the next five years visited Idaho, Montana, and finally St. Louis, where he took a course at a medical college.[13] He eventually moved to Joseph, Oregon, and apparently practiced medicine there until his death.[14]

Jane McCully, of Scottish descent, remained in Jacksonville, raised the four McCully children, and presumably was able to erase the family debts through several enterprising pursuits. In June 1862 Mrs. McCully established the first school for girls in Jacksonville[15] known as "Mrs. McCully's Seminary."[16] In the same month, 1862, the Oregon Sentinel newspaper announced the opening of a "New Boarding House" in town: "Amos E. Rogers has taken Mrs. J.W. McCully's new dwelling on California Street for the above purpose. His table will be furnished with the best market affords and gotten up in 'Apple-pie order.' Cost $7.00/week or .50 for a single call."[17] In subsequent years, tax roll records for 1870 and 1872 had a residence and saloon on California Street and on Third Street.[18] In 1863 Jane McCully bought, and later attempted to develop, a substantial parcel of property in the southeastern part of town known as McCully's Addition, which was the first addition to the platted area of the town.[19] Still involved in real estate investment in 1879, a local newspaper announced that "George Brown and John Hockenjos /were/ erecting /a/ frame building for Mrs. McCully to be occupied by E.T. Kugler, professor of music."[20] In 1880 P.P. Prim opened a law office in Mrs. McCully's building.[21]

Maps of Jacksonville in the 1880's and '90's indicate that portions of the McCully House, with its assortment of clustered out buildings, also was used for "dress making"[22] and two "Off." (offices).[23] By 1892 a one story building used as "Sleep'g Rms." had been constructed a few feet from the southeast corner of the main house.[24]

With the addition of the front porch in the late 1880's and the removal of all of the outbuildings except the one used for sleeping rooms, the McCully house appears much as it did in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. In recent years a balustraded carport has been attached to the east wall and a one story porch roof of similar design on the west wall. The McCully House is open to the public at certain times of the year.

FOOTNOTES

1. Jackson County Deeds, December 20, 1861. (Hartwig's expenses amounted to $2125.00.) (Christopher Owens)
2. Ibid., November 16, 1861. (Christopher Owens)

3. Ross, Marion D.; Owens, Christopher, manuscript completed for the Historic American Buildings Survey.
4. Walling, A.G., History of Southern Oregon Comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties, Publishing House of A.G. Walling, Portland, Oregon, 1884, p. 505.
5. Ibid., p. 362.
6. The Oregon Sentinel, February 27, 1886.
7. Walling, A.G., History of Southern Oregon Comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties, Publishing House of A.G. Walling, Portland, Oregon, 1884, p. 364.
8. Larsell, O., The Doctor in Oregon, Binford and Mort for the Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon, 1947, p. 254. Jackson County Commissioners' Journals, July Session, 1859. (McCully was paid by the county for his services as "examining physician.")
9. Jackson County Commissioners' Journals, March 7, 1853.
10. Kuchel and Dressel, "Jacksonville, Jackson County Oregon, Oregon T./erritory/." 1856.
11. Southern Oregon Historical Society, photographic collection. (A photograph dated 1858 has "John Anderson" written above the first floor entry bays.)
12. The Oregon Sentinel, February 27, 1858; June 26, 1858. (Marshall Lango)
13. Larsell, O., The Doctor in Oregon, Binford and Mort for the Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon, 1947, pp. 254-55.
14. Ibid., p. 255.
Walling, A.G., History of Southern Oregon Comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties, Publishing House of A.G. Walling, Portland, Oregon 1884, p. 505.
15. The Oregon Sentinel, June 21, 1862.
16. Curley, J.M., "Map of Jacksonville," 1864.
17. The Oregon Sentinel, June 14, 1862.
18. Southern Oregon Historical Society, vertical file.
19. Ross, Marion D.; Owens, Christopher, "Historical Area Study of Jacksonville: An Early Oregon Mining and Agricultural Settlement," c. 1975.
20. The Democratic Times, July 8, 1878. (Christopher Owens)
21. The Oregon Sentinel, October 27, 1880.
22. Jacksonville, Sanborn Map and Publishing Company., 1884.
23. Ibid., 1888 (corrected to 1890).
24. Ibid., 1892.



STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem 97310

County Jackson

Theme 10-A

Name
(Common) McCully (J.W.) House

(Historic) (same)

Address 240 E. California
Jacksonville, Oregon

Present Owner

Address

Original Use Residence

Date of Construction 1861

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The John Wilmer McCully house is a two story, wood frame structure in the Classical Revival Style. This building, which faces north, has a clapboard exterior and has six-over-six, double hung sash windows. The center entry has a formal portico or porch protecting it. The building has a rubble stone foundation.

John Wilmer McCully's house was long dated at 1860. Christopher Owens has established a firm date of 1861 for this structure in new research on buildings in Jacksonville.

McCully was born in New Brunswick and emigrated to Oregon in 1851. He settled in Jackson County in 1852. On June 28, 1848 he married Janet Mason of Allowa, Scotland. By 1884 McCully had moved to Joseph in Wallowa County. McCully has a physician. McCully was probably a brother of David McCully who emigrated to Oregon in 1852. David McCully was born in New Brunswick, Canada, September 15, 1814, and was a son of John and Mary (Kopp) McCully. David McCully and a brother, Asa, emigrated to California in 1849. Frank D. McCully, a son of David McCully, was the leading investor and financier of Joseph, Oregon (see file sheets for McCully buildings in Wallowa County).

For more information on the architecture and history of this structure see the forthcoming publication:

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Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date 27 Aug. 1976

For Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

Please enclose map Township 37 (S) N 2 (W) E Section 32

Sources Consulted:
"John Wilmer McCully." Walling, A. G. History of Southern Oregon. Portland, Ore.: A.G. Walling, 1884, p. 505.

"David McCully." Portrait and Biographical Record of Willamette Valley, Oregon. Chicago: Chapman Publishing Co., 1903, pp. 519-520.

see p. 59 Vol. 1 1999 Jacksonville survey 95

McCully House

