

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 30 1975
DATE ENTERED	MAR 24 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

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HISTORIC

Vonder Ahe (Fred) House and Summer Kitchen

AND/OR COMMON

SAME

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

625 Metzler Avenue

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Molalla

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Oregon

\_\_ VICINITY OF  
CODE  
41

COUNTY  
Clackamas

CODE

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Molalla Area Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

625 Metzler Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Molalla

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Oregon

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clackamas County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Oregon City

STATE

Oregon 97045

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE

January, 1975

\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Parks & Recreation Branch, State Highway Building

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE  
Oregon 97310

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE 1972

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Vonder Ahe House, finished in 1869, is a vernacular interpretation of late federal style architecture found often in Oregon, with ancient east coast derivation.<sup>1</sup>

The large full two story farm house has a simple gabled roof with a boxed cornice, one mid chimney, and blank end walls. The five bay plank structure contains eight regular and symmetrical six lights over six double hung federal style windows. The middle bay upstairs is blank and beneath the missing porch roof is an asymmetrical doorway with a simple pedimented architrave. The upper story windows are shorter than those below which gives the house an interesting perspective.

A small single story kitchen addition attaches on the east side below the drip line of the main roof to form an ell shaped plan. Along the south wall of the kitchen and the east wall of the main house, is an open porch with chamfered posts. The shed roof to this porch has a flatter pitch than the kitchen addition. A summer kitchen accompanies the house and is built in the same style. It is well crafted, interesting spacially, and contains an interesting original multicolored paneled wainscot.

Whether or not there was originally a central hall is uncertain as many interior partitions have been removed. It appears, however, that the front door opened directly into a large room which contained a fireplace, the chimney of which straddles the ridge to the right of the center. An enclosed stair to the second floor abutts the back side of the fireplace. The exact organization of the second floor is uncertain as the partitions are now removed. It is known, however, that these partitions consisted of vertical board planks set into notches in the floor and ceiling, and some of the floor notches are extant.

The house was moved in 1972, along with the separate summer kitchen, to prevent its destruction and to extend its useful life. The Vonder Ahe house now sits back-to-back with the Horace Dibble house, a salt box dating from c. 1857, and the juxtaposition of the two presents some interesting comparisons and contrasts of early Oregon architecture. The present Vonder Ahe fireplace was built after the move and though well crafted, it is not accurately detailed. The front and part of the rear porches are missing, though the parts are in storage awaiting replacement. Some of the original interior finish remains in the Vonder Ahe house, presenting a unique opportunity to observe paint schemes and wallpapers dating from 1869. The entire interior of the summer kitchen, which dates from 1876, remains intact presenting a most unusual opportunity to observe at first hand a very tastefully coordinated scheme of wainscoting in alternating light and dark vertical tongue-and-groove boards, doors with dark painted rails and light panels, flowered wallpaper, and ceiling paper with elaborate border and corner trim. The ceiling above the range in both the main and summer kitchens contains an unusual pyramidal recess which serves as a vent above the range.

1. Interview with Professor Philip Dole, University of Oregon, School of Architecture, July 15, 1975.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1868-69

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Mr. Kirk

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Vonder Ahe House and summer kitchen although built in a style once common in Oregon are good surviving examples of rural Oregon construction in the late 1860-70s. The house is essentially intact, is one of few surviving two story plank houses in Oregon, and has well preserved interior paint and wallpaper detail. The summer kitchen is a rare survivor, and contains interesting detail. Fred Vonder Ahe was an early settler and farmer in Clackamas County; his buildings show his taste in building style and experience with Oregon weather.

Fred Vonder Ahe came to Oregon from Germany in 1852. He landed in New York, then travelled to Oregon via the Oregon Trail. As was true of many newly arrived travellers, Vonder Ahe had expended all of his earnings on the overland trek. To earn money, he worked in a hardware store in Oregon City. By 1857 he had saved enough money to acquire a 320-acre farm with a log cabin between Oregon City and Molalla. When the deal was closed, he wrote to Germany for his childhood sweetheart, Marie Louisa Kleine, to come join him in Oregon. She arrived in Oregon in 1858 and they were married.

It was 1868 before the Vonder Ahes could afford to build a house. The plain federal style house was built by the hired carpenter Mr. Kirk and was strategically located halfway between Oregon City and Molalla. In this location the Vonder Ahe house for travellers between the two towns. The descendants have made numerous references to the visitors who spent the night at the Vonder Ahe house. In 1887, a post office was established for the small community of Carus. Since the Vonder Ahe house was the oldest and most prominent, it was selected as the post office building.

In 1972, the Molalla Area Historical Society took an interest in the vacated Vonder Ahe house and had it moved (along with the summer kitchen) to a site in Molalla. At its present location, the Vonder Ahe house nicely compliments the Horace Dibble house (listed on the National Register) which is back to back. Moving the Vonder Ahe house also saved it from being demolished. The Society plans to restore the house and open it to the public.





NPS Number

3/26/76

Title:

Vonder Ahe (Fred) House & Summer Kitchen

Clackamas County, Oregon

Loc.

View from Southwest

1 of 5



NPS Number

3/26/76

Title:

Vonder Phe (Fred) House & Summer Kitchen

Clackamas County, Oregon

Loc.

View from southeast. Porch has

not been replaced.



NPS Number 3/26/76

Title: VonderAhe (Fred) House & Summer Kitchen.

Clackamas County, Oregon

Loc. View from northeast

3 of 5



NPS Number

3/26/76

Title:

Wonder She (Fred) House & Summer Kitchen

Clackamas County, Oregon

Loc.

Interior of Summer  
Kitchen wainscot

475



NPS Number

3/26/76

Title:

Vonderthe (Fred) House & Summer Kitchen

Clackamas County, Oregon

Loc.

Interior of Summer Kitchen  
ceiling paper detail

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