

Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME			
address:	Hwy 211 Molalla vcty, Clackamas County (97037)	historic name:	Rock Creek Methodist Church & Cemetery
assoc addresses:		current/other names:	
location descr:	NW corner of Sconce & Stuwe Roads; W Of Molalla	block/lot/tax lot:	N/A / N/A / 02200
		twshnp/rng/sect/qtr sect:	5S 1E 5
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS			
resource type:	Building	height (stories):	1.0
elig evaluation:	eligible/significant	total elig resources:	4
prim constr date:	1850	second date:	1854
		total inelig resources:	
		NR Status:	Individually Listed
		date indiv listed:	10/29/1975
primary orig use:	Religious Facility	orig use comments:	
second orig use:	Cemetery	prim style comments:	
primary style:	Classical Revival: other	sec style comments:	
secondary style:	Vernacular	siding comments:	Extremely wide drop siding w/ corner and rake boards
primary siding:	Horizontal Board	architect:	Unknown
secondary siding:	Wood:Other/Undefined	builder:	Killin, John With Church Laymen
plan type:	Church/Meetinghouse		
comments/notes:			
GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS			
Survey/Grouping Included In:	Type of Grouping	Date Listed	Date Compiled
Clackamas County Historic Landmarks	Survey & Inventory Project		2008
SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY			
NR date listed:	10/29/1975	106 Project(s):	None
ILS survey date:	09/30/2007	Special Assess Project(s):	None
RLS survey date:	03/30/1992	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>Church: ROOF FORM AND MATERIALS: Gable PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: Nine-over-six double-hung sash w/ plain surrounds OTHER: Paired paneled doors; gable roof ell; interior end-wall chimney ALTERATIONS: Ell added (n.d.); doors replaced (n.d.); entry stoop replaced (n.d.); shutters removed (n.d.); resided (n.d.) The vestibule is a later addition. Two features differ from the original section. The rafters are exposed and the two windows are double-hung sash, four-lights-over-four. The vestibule has five-panel double-leaf doors. Repairs and restoration have been accomplished over the years by the Rock Creek Cemetery Association organization which provides a sinking fund for future maintenance. Shed: ESTIMATED DATE BUILT: c. 1900 STYLE: Vernacular PLAN/TYPER/SHAPE: Rectangular NO. OF STORIES: 1 FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Post-and-beam ROOF FORM AND MATERIALS: Shed w/ wood shingles WALL CONSTRUCTION/STRUCTURAL FRAME: Wood/unknown EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Narrow drop siding OTHER: Door opening EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS (DATE): Door removed (n.d.)</p> <p>Outhouse #1: ESTIMATED DATE BUILT: c. 1900 STYLE: Vernacular PLAN/TYPER/SHAPE: Rectangular NO. OF STORIES: 1 FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Post-and-beam ROOF FORM AND MATERIALS: Shed w/ wood shingles WALL CONSTRUCTION/STRUCTURAL FRAME: Wood/unknown EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Board-and-batten OTHER: Hinged door Outhouse #2: ESTIMATED DATE BUILT: c. 1900 STYLE: Vernacular PLAN/TYPER/SHAPE: Rectangular NO. OF STORIES: 1 FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Post-and-beam ROOF FORM AND MATERIALS: Shed w/ wood shingles WALL CONSTRUCTION/STRUCTURAL FRAME: Wood/unknown EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Board-and-batten OTHER: DATE ESTABLISHED: c. 1858 LANDSCAPE: Ornamental plantings; mature deciduous trees; mature coniferous trees. The following is extracted from the National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form: Clusters of oak trees are interspersed through the cemetery which surrounds the church. The Rock Creek Church and Cemetery are located on the north side of Sconce Road, a quiet, two-lane thoroughfare, an early 20th century road. The church is set back from the road. The site is level. The cemetery is southwest of the church building. Across the road to the south is an open field. On the east there is a mid-20th century dwelling. On the north there is a cultivated field. Rock Creek is to the southwest of the subject property. The area is predominantly in agricultural use. The Rock Creek Church is located within the Charles and Mary Boynton homestead.</p>			
HISTORY			
<i>(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)</i>			
<p>SUBJECT PROPERTY According to county records, Charles O. Boynton received a patent for the property in 1897. According to the "National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form," Boynton's widow, Mary Ann Boynton sold the property in 1929 to Sarah S. Coffenberry. The Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church sold the property to the Rock Creek Cemetery in 1930. Sarah S. Coffenberry (1849-1923), born on the Clatsop plains, was the fourth and last child of James Bond and Laura Jewett Bond. Her father, a Baptist minister, was killed before she was born. After the death of her father, Sarah's mother married Ferdinand Ferrell, owner of a sawmill. Sarah grew up in Astoria with them. In 1867, on her 18th birthday, she married Nathan L. Coffenberry. Coffenberry worked in several sawmills. He went to Idaho and worked in the Florence City gold mines for a time. In the 1880s he joined Company E., first regiment of the Oregon volunteers. He was discharged in 1885 without ever seeing action. After his discharge Coffenberry ran an Astoria mill owned by his father-in-law, Ferrell. A fire destroyed the mill, but he built his own mill, the Clatsop Mill. Later the Coffenberrys moved to Hubbard, where Nathan became involved in general construction. It is not currently known how the Coffenberry's were associated with the church. Mrs. Coffenberry may have been one of the trustees. They had two children, Sarah Lillian and George. Lillian married Benjamin Smith and moved into a house across the street from her parents. The following is extracted from the "National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form: "Constructed in 1858 by early mid-Willamette Valley pioneers, the Rock Creek Methodist Church building became the starting point for the Butteville (later Rock Creek) circuit. John Killin supervised fellow church laymen in the construction of the building.... In 1854, a group of pioneers who had recently immigrated to Oregon and had settled several miles south of Oregon City, gathered in a log schoolhouse near the spot where the Needy Post Office was established a year later. The Rock Creek Methodist Church developed from this meeting. The Rock Creek Methodist Church, like other Methodist churches in the region, could not afford a full-time pastor (had one been available). Therefore, out of necessity, they joined with other churches and established a circuit. C.O. Hosford served as the first circuit rider. Other stops on the circuit for Reverend Hosford were Butteville, Howell Prairie, Bald Hill, Union School House, Marquam School House, Grassy Point School House, Hubbard, Woodburn, and Glad Tidings. It is doubtful that all of these stops were on the circuit at one and the same time, but they were all constituent parts. The Rock Creek Methodist Church held services at the local schoolhouse until a wood frame structure was built. A building committee, organized in 1857, developed a building plan and raised the necessary funds. The land for the church and cemetery was donated by the church families. The E.G. Boynton family, early residents of Woodburn now buried in the church cemetery, donated the basic holdings of four and a half acres. John Killin, a layman of the Church, supervised the construction, which was complete in 1858. Samuel Redman Oglesby, another early circuit rider, presided over the first services in the new building. It was not until 1860 that the church had its first resident preacher. However, the Reverend J. Conner's ministry was short-lived. One day, shortly after his arrival, he traveled to Silverton and in the pursuing day's</p>			

events won a wager and drank the reward, a dram. The elders demanded retribution for this sinful act and Reverend Conner left the Rock Creek Church. Church activities continued in a less public fashion until 1920 when a regular services were discontinued as a result of financial instability and ebbing attendance. The edifice has since remained unused except for funerals, an occasional wedding, and an annual pioneer day picnic. The Rock Creek Cemetery Association maintains the cemetery and church building through funds given at the pioneer picnics and other occasions. In 1939 the Methodist Conference designated the Rock Creek Methodist Church a historic shrine. The following is extracted from the "National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form: Clusters of oak trees are interspersed through the cemetery which surrounds the church. The one-story building has a rectangular floor plan, approximately 20 by 24 feet. The gable roof is shingled and has a plain boxed cornice. The exterior walls are covered with drop siding. Fenestration is regular with double-hung sash, with nine lights-over-six. There are three windows on either side. The east and west ends are blind. Brick piers provide the foundation. The vestibule is a later addition. Two features differ from the original section. The rafters are exposed and the two windows are double-hung sash, four-lights-over-four. The vestibule has five-panel double-leaf doors. Repairs and restoration have been accomplished over the years by the Rock Creek Cemetery Association organization which provides a sinking fund for future maintenance. The Rock Creek Church and Cemetery are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The church and cemetery are significant for their association with the religious and architectural history of Clackamas County. The church is significant as a singular example of a Vernacular style church, dating from the Settlement, Statehood and Steampower period (1847-1865), listed on the Clackamas County Cultural Resource Inventory for the Yoder/Marquam South County study area. The church is additionally significant as one of seven churches listed on the inventory from the subject study area.

RESEARCH INFORMATION

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Title Records Sanborn Maps Obituaries City Directories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Census Records Biographical Sources ✓ Newspapers Building Permits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Property Tax Records SHPO Files State Archives State Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Local Histories Interviews Historic Photographs
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Local Library:

University Library:

Historical Society:

Other Respository:

Bibliography:

Clackamas County Cultural Resource Inventory, 1984. Clackamas County Tax Assessor records, Oregon City, OR. Hartwig, Paul, "National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form," August 1973. "Oregon Journal", 9 June 1923, p. 4. TICOR Title Company, Oregon City, OR.