

**Historic Resources Survey
City of McMinnville
Yamhill County, Oregon**

Site Information

Site Address

501 NW Birch St.

Owner at Time of Survey

Clarence Caughran

Map/Tax Lot

R4420AD05200

Current Zoning

R-2 FP

Special Tax Assessment

No

Downtown Historic District

No

Subdivision Name

Block

Lot

Lot Size

Quadrant

10,490 sq.ft.

NW

Site Number

7.22a

Aerial Number

J-10

Resource Classification

A

Resource Number

285

Historic Significance

Primary Resource #49

Historic Information

Date of Construction

ca. 1875

Early Additions/ Remodels

Builder/Architect

Unknown

Historic Name

Andrew Jefferson
Nelson House

Original Use

Residence

Common Name

Present Use

Two Apartment

Condition of Structure

Good

Comments (at time of Survey)

Small cracks in walls, chimney; In need of paint
(Asbestos siding shingles slightly warped, peeling away)

Building Type

Residential

Outbuildings

One Garage

Building Style

Italianate

Stories

2

Porch

Basement

Roof Style

Low Hip

Roof Type

Moved

Demolished

Year/Date

Permit Number(s)

Additions/ Alterations

Resource Information

Recorded By

Samuel C. Lowry

Date

6-11-1980

Sources

Bernie R. Nelson

Historic Resource Survey
City of McMinnville
Yamhill County, Oregon

Statement of historical significance and description of property:

A285

This diminutive version of other more grand Italianate residences was built in about 1875 according to its present occupant. The two-story structure faces eastward, and sits at the corner of a large park-like lot adjacent to the lower City Park. Its façade is characteristically symmetrical, with a straight roofline and small one-story hexagonal bays on each side elevation. The roof is a low-pitched hip. Ornamentation is very sparse, with only a bracketed cornice, and window mouldings entirely plain and flush with the wall. The home is quite well preserved, though it has seen certain alterations, including conversion of a large enclosed rear porch to living space, segregation of a small apartment in one-half of the lower floor, and the addition of exterior asbestos siding panels.

Bernie R. Nelson, grandson of A. J. Nelson, supplied the following historical data regarding this house: “Andrew Jefferson Nelson came to Yamhill County, Oregon in 1850 and located on a Donation Land Claim west of McMinnville in 1852. He was married in 1854 to Miss Lucretia E. Burnett. In 1875, after the birth of seven children, Andrew Jefferson Nelson built a home on a lot in McMinnville, the address of which is now 501 Birch St., McMinnville, where he lived with his family until his death December 17, 1898.

Historic Resource No. A285



Photo August 2001



Original 1983 Survey Photo