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AUG 11 2005

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instruction in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 15A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classifications, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Caples, Dr. Charles G. and Lucinda McBride, Farmstead

other names/site number Caples House DAR Museum

2. Location

street & number 1925 First Street not for publication

city or town: Columbia City vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Columbia code 0009 zip code 97018

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant locally nationally statewide.

James Hamrick

5 August 2005

Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO

Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
Action

entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of

Edson M. Beall 9/21/05

Caples, Dr. Charles G. & Lucinda McBride, Farmstead
Name of Property

Columbia County, Oregon
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many as apply)

- private
- public - local
- public - state
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	5	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	5	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure/washhouse
- HEALTH CARE/doctor's office
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/outbuildings
- _____
- _____
- _____

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- RECREATION-CULTURE/museum
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Mid-19th Century: Classical Revival
- _____
- _____
- _____

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation: post and pier
- walls: WOOD: weatherboard
- _____
- roof: wood shingle
- Other: _____
- _____

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

See continuation sheets.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

The Dr. Charles and Lucinda McBride Caples Farmstead, located at 1925 First Street in Columbia City, dates to 1870. It is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the broad pattern of development of the community of Columbia City during the late 19th century and for its direct association with the development of health care in the community. It is also being nominated under Criterion B for its association with the town's first physician, Dr. Charles Caples. The property includes three contributing resources – the house, the toolshed/washhouse, and the orchard. The historic barn, the storage shed, gift shop, garage and Knapp Social Center are considered non-contributing features.

Site:

The farmstead is bounded on the north by a school, on the west by 2nd Street, on the east by 1st Street and on the south by I Street. It is on part of the original donation land claim of Dr. Charles Caples, in what is now Columbia City. The house is now known as the Caples House Museum and is located on the corner of I Street and 1st Street on Lot 6 Block 19. The property is on a prominent site overlooking the Columbia River and Mount St. Helens to the north. Part of an early orchard (17 of the original 47 trees), including apple and pear trees that were planted by Dr. Caples, is on lots 7, 8 and 9. The orchard is maintained as an important component of the history of the site and is considered a contributing feature. There are also medicinal herbs, which were planted by the Caples on the property. Other buildings on the property are a small building used as a doll museum, a garage, a storage shed, a gift shop and the Knapp Center, which is a meeting hall and living quarters for the caretakers.

Exterior of house:

The house is a two story Classical Revival front gabled house with a front porch. The house was built on posts, which have been reinforced with concrete pads and blocks. The foundation is covered with vertical 8" board skirting. The building is balloon construction. The exterior walls are finished with 5" cedar drop siding. The roof is covered with cedar shingles. Windows are six-over-six double hung wood sash and are adorned with a pronounced decorative cap above the top of the frame. Over 75% of the glass is original. The main entrance is a four panel wood door flanked by sidelights on the south end of the porch and features the same decorative cap element. Wooden stairs at the front of the house lead up to the full-width front porch, which has decorative corner brackets on the supporting posts. Additional decoration consists of a frieze beneath the gables and corner boards.

The front section of the farmhouse is two stories and is 537 square feet. A one-and-a-half story section on the back section is 272 square feet. A small shed-roofed addition has been added on the back, which is 55 square feet. A 268-square foot toolshed/washhouse is attached to the house by way of a gabled-roof breezeway. The walls of the toolshed/washhouse is covered with drop siding and the roof has cedar shingles.

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Interior of house:

FLOORS/WALLS/CEILINGS

The floors throughout the house are fir, some of which has been hand-grained (some carpeting currently provides protection of floors for visitors to the museum). The original plaster walls have been covered with a fiberboard, over which reproduction walls papers have been hung. The ceilings are flush mounted boards, at a height of 9'4" on the first floor and 8'4" on the second floor.

HARDWARE AND WOODWORK

Most of the original door and window hardware is intact. The doorplates and knobs are pressed metal plates with black and white porcelain knobs. The original baseboards are intact. The original window and door trim is simple 5" painted boards.

ENTRANCE HALL AND STAIRWAY

The door on the east side of the building off the porch leads into a small entrance hall, which contains the staircase to the upper floor. The staircase has simply decorated balusters and a newel post. An opening on the north side of the hall leads to the front parlor and an opening on the west end of the hall leads to the Doctor's office.

FRONT PARLOR

The front parlor is an open room with two six-over-six double hung windows on the east side. The original brick fireplace is on the west wall; it has wood surrounds and mantle piece. A large opening on the west wall goes into the Doctor's office.

DOCTOR'S OFFICE

The Doctor's office is a large open room with windows on the north and south sides. Openings lead to the parlor, front hall and the kitchen, which is located to the west. A small closet, which is under the staircase, is entered from this room at the southeast corner. Four cases, made by Dr. Caples, are in the room.

KITCHEN/PANTRY

There is a window on the south side. The entrance into the small addition and an exterior door leading to the back porch is on the west. The original wood stove is in place, as is the chimney on the west wall. A pantry is on the north side of the room. This room has a window and there is shelving along the north and east wall.

BIRTHING ROOM

This room is located in the shed-roof addition. It was used as a birthing room when the Doctor lived in the house. It was close to the wood stove and convenient to the kitchen. There is a window on the south side.

HALLWAY

A hallway on the second floor leads to three bedrooms. There is a window on the east wall.

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MASTER BEDROOM

This room has a lovely view of the Columbia River from the east-facing windows. A door on the east leads to a balcony/platform (there is no evidence of a railing ever been there) over the front porch.

OTHER TWO BEDROOMS

The room on the southwest has a window looking to the south and the room on the northwest has a window looking to the north. A door leads into the attic from the southwest bedroom.

ATTIC/ STORAGE

Over the kitchen is an unfinished attic/storage area.

TOOLSHED/WASH HOUSE

This building is attached to the main house with a gable roof. The toolshed/washhouse has a wood floor made of 9 1/2' x 2' fir boards which covers half the building. The other half has a dirt floor. The unfinished 2"X12" boards on the interior show that they were hand sawed. There is a note on the door written in pencil under the lock plate, to Dr Caples from his son stating "H M took this off --- out key June 12, 1908". There is only the one entrance door and one window in the building.

ALTERATIONS

The Caples house is well preserved on the exterior as well as the interior. In 1959, when the house was given to The Oregon State Daughters of the American Revolution, some restoration was done. Fiberboard was put on the interior outside walls as a means of insulating. New reproduction wallpaper was applied to all the rooms. A partition that had been put up in the kitchen was removed. The house was wired for electric baseboard heating and lights. A new cedar shingle roof was applied and the exterior was painted. Wood storm windows have been added to protect the original windows.

OTHER BUILDINGS

There are five other buildings on the property. All are considered non-contributing resources.

THE BARN

This building was built by the Caples and was originally used as a barn, later as a garage by the Caples sons. It has been remodeled and is now an exhibit area for a doll collection.

THE STORAGE SHED, GIFT SHOP, GARAGE, AND THE KNAPP SOCIAL CENTER

The Oregon Society DAR constructed these buildings after they acquired the property in 1959. The Knapp Social Center is rented for weddings, reunions, etc and houses the caretaker's quarters.

Caples, Dr. Charles G. & Lucinda McBride, Farmstead
Name of Property

Columbia County, Oregon
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing).

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH/MEDICINE
SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1870-1916

Significant Dates

1870

1906

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B** removed from its original location
- C** a birthplace or grave
- D** a cemetery
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Dr. Charles G. Caples

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite books, articles, and other sources used in preparing the form on one or more continuation sheets) See continuation sheets

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36CFR67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other : Caples Historic Museum

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dr. Charles and Lucinda McBride Caples Farmstead is being nominated under Criterion A for its association with the broad pattern of development of the community of Columbia City during the late 19th century and for its direct association with the development of health care in the community. It is also being nominated under Criterion B for its association with Dr. Charles Caples, the first and only physician with medical training to practice in the county for many years. His wife, Lucinda McBride Caples, reportedly assisted him in his medical practice by serving as the midwife for the growing community.

Dr. Charles Green Caples was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio on May 22, 1832, a son of Joseph and Mary Laffer Caples. In 1844, the Caples family (including Charles, his brother Hezekiah, and his sister, Johanna) left Missouri for Oregon with ox teams and covered wagons. They arrived in Oregon country on December 1, 1844. They spent the first winter in Salem, moving to Portland in the spring of 1845. The family went down the river in 1846 and Joseph Caples claimed a parcel of land where Columbia City is now situated. They built a log cabin on the riverbank, and Joseph and his sons began cutting wood, which they sold to the riverboats.

When Charles was 17 years old, in 1848, he went to the California gold mines for one year and returned with enough money to pay expenses for his sister and himself to attend Tualatin Academy, now Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. Upon graduation, he returned to Columbia City, where in October 1850 he took a land claim of 640 acres adjacent his uncle Jacob's land (recorded on October 12, 1850 in the Records of Land Claims, No. 1, page 59 by William Geiger, Clerk and Recorder). Half of the land was rich river bottom land, half was heavily timbered. He and his brother cleared the land and established a farm. The town of Columbia City was founded in 1852 by Charles's father and uncle.

In 1855 Charles married Lucinda McBride of Yamhill County. Lucinda was the daughter of Dr. James McBride and Mahala (Miller) McBride. Lucinda was born in Missouri and came to the Oregon territory in 1846 with her parents and eight siblings; another five siblings were born after arriving in Oregon. Lucinda's father was a prominent doctor in Yamhill County and he rode a preaching circuit in Yamhill and Polk counties. Having served as the Superintendent of Public Instruction for Yamhill County, he was appointed as the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Oregon Territory in 1849, a post he held for two years. In 1850, Dr. McBride was elected a member of the Territorial Council and became a founding father of the Republican Party in Oregon. He was appointed as Minister to the Sandwich Islands (now known as the Hawaiian Islands) by President Lincoln. He retired from public service in 1867 after which he and his wife moved to St. Helens, Oregon, where a number of their children (including Lucinda in nearby Columbia City) were living. Most of Lucinda's siblings (except for Ellen, who died at age 16) were either successful public servants or married men of accomplishment. Her brother, John, served as a U.S. Representative; brother George served as the Secretary of State for Oregon and as a U.S. Senator; and brother Thomas became the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court. Her brother, James, also a doctor, founded a hospital. Lucinda's sister Martha married Sebastian

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Adams, the founder of McMinnville College; sister Nancy married William B. Morse, a warden of the State Penitentiary; and sister Louisa married George L. Woods, the third Governor of Oregon.

After his marriage in 1855, Charles took up the study of medicine in Portland under the direction of Dr. Giltner. During this period of western settlement, some physicians served as preceptors to young men who desired to study medicine and the arrangement between Giltner and Caples was the earliest recorded in the state of Oregon. The nearest medical schools were located in San Francisco until 1867 when Willamette University established a medical department. Caples passed the examination before the Board of Physicians and was granted his degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1857. After getting his degree, returned to Columbia City to set up his medical practice.

In 1860, the Caples brothers, along with others, attempted to build a Columbia River and Hillsboro railroad. The project failed due to lack of finances. Dr. Caples interest in railroads continued, however, and in 1883, he was involved in getting the Northern Pacific to lay tracks through Columbia City.

In 1866, Dr. Caples obtained an additional 340 acres of land as a Donation Land Claim (Certificate No. 1560, Recorded in Vol. 3, page 407 and signed by President Andrew Johnson on March 22, 1866).

In 1868, Charles was appointed state medical examiner for the insane at the asylum at Monticello (now Longview, Washington), across the Columbia River from Columbia City. He built the Caples House in 1870 and in 1871 returned to his farm and local medical practice, where he practiced for many years. There were only around 100 professional and licensed doctors west of the Cascades at the time. Dr. Charles Caples was the first and only doctor in the entire county of Columbia County for many years. He dealt with the difficult conditions of a pioneer community of scattered settlers and made hard trips by day and night over rugged terrain in inclement weather to reach those who needed his services. His wife Lucinda worked with him in caring for the patients. A birthing room was added off the kitchen and Lucinda served as mid-wife for the women of the community.

In 1872 Dr. Caples and his sister, Johanna Caples Maxwell, established and built the Columbia City Academy, the first school in Columbia City and the first secondary school in Columbia County. To finance the school, the Caples and the Maxwells platted and sold a number of city lots designated for the construction of houses. The school attracted students from a wide region, some crossing the river in rowboats from the vicinity of Woodland, Washington. The school's first instructor was Major E.G. Adams from Yale. S.L. Lovell of West Point replaced Adams in 1874 and the next professor was C.H. Hodes from Bethany College, West Virginia. Lower grades were taught as well as higher branches. The young men were given military training. The other subjects taught were Algebra, Geometry, Surveying, Geology, Botany, Zoology, English Composition, Greek, Latin Grammar and Readers. The Academy had two rooms and a hall on the first floor. The second floor was one large room that was used for preaching and lodging. The teacher usually boarded with Dr. Caples and his family. In 1885 the Academy was discontinued and remained unused until 1935 when it was torn down.

Caples, Dr. Charles & Lucinda McBride, Farmstead
Name of Property

Columbia County, Oregon
County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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Charles and Lucinda Caples had five children: Margaret, Willie, Dell, Fredrick, and Byron. Dr. Caples lived until 1906 and Lucinda lived until 1916. Their daughter, Dell Caples Houghton, lived in the house until 1959.

In 1959 Dell Caples Houghton presented the property to the Oregon State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Today it is owned and operated as the Charles G. Caples House Museum. The museum, furnished with many pieces original to the house, illustrates the early lifestyle of the Caples family and the medical practice of Dr. Caples. Four case pieces of furniture, handcrafted by Dr. Caples, are used to display his books and medical instruments.

The Dr. Charles and Lucinda McBride Caples Farmstead stands as a testament to the early settlement of Columbia City and the development of early medical practices in rural Oregon communities. Dr. Caples made significant contributions to the community as the first, and for many years only, physician in the county, while making contributions to the founding and development of the town of Columbia City. The farmstead should be considered significant on a local level under National Register Criteria A and B.

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SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Becker, Pearl. Columbia County History, page 14, Columbia County Historical Society.

Jennings, Ann and Ouillette, Shari. "Columbia City Days." August 1, 2003.

Larsell, O. "The Doctor in Oregon." Oregon Historical Society. Portland, OR. 1947.

Lockley, Fred. "History of the Columbia River Valley from the Dalles to the Sea." Vol. II. Page 826. Chicago: The S J Clark Publishing Company, 1928

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. "A Field Guide to American Houses." Page 309

Assessors Map with Donation Land Claim # 42 to Charles G. Caples, Columbia County, Oregon

Assessors Map current, Columbia City, Columbia County, Oregon

Original certificate # 15060 for the Donation Land Claim dated March 22, 1866

Oregon State Society Yearbook 1959-1960 page 119-120

Sentinal Mist. Volume LXXVII, Number 96, front page, St. Helens, Oregon. November 30, 1959

Warranty Deed from Dell M. Houghton to the Oregon State Society Daughters of the American Revolution dated February 19, 1959

Copies, Dr. Charles G. & Lucinda McBride, Farmstead
Name of Property

Columbia County, Oregon
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 10 514950 5081686
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Helen Gaston

organization Oregon State Society of DAR date June 16, 2003

street & number 921 S. Prom telephone 503-738-8320

city or town Seaside state Oregon zip code 97138

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation sheets

Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name Oregon State Society Daughters of the American Revolution [Yvonne Earnest, State Regent]

street & number 3189 Chandler Egan Dr. telephone 541-773-3539

city or town Medford state OR zip code 97504

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.