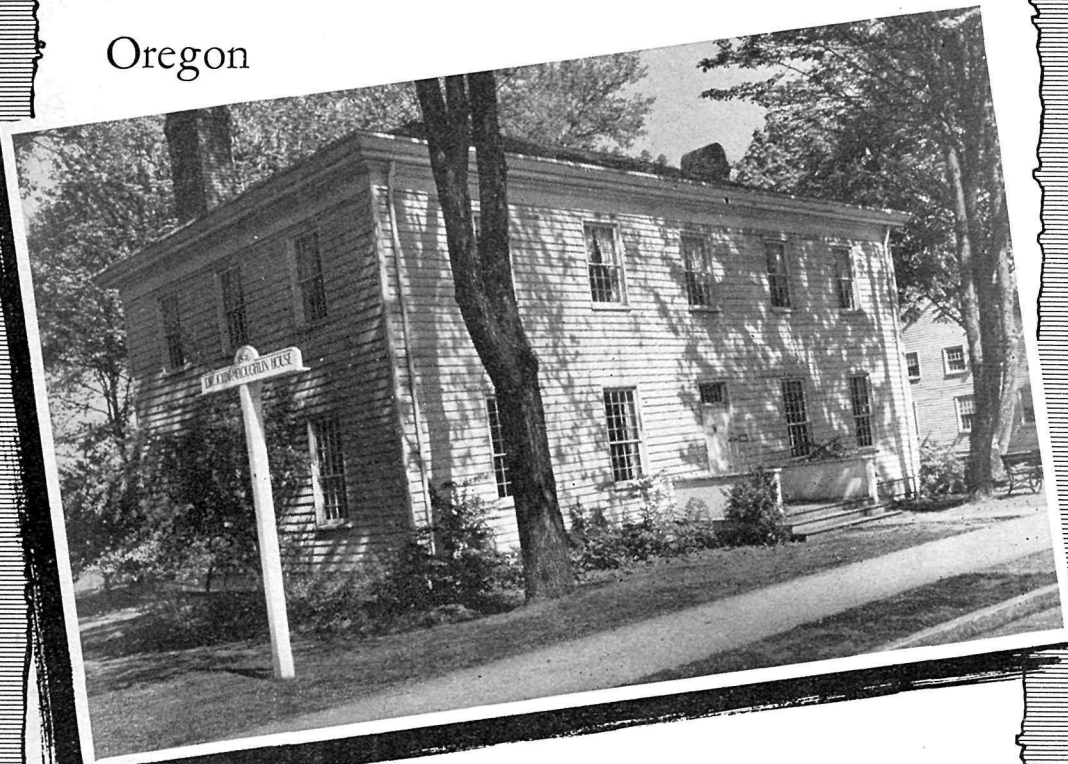


# McLoughlin House

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Oregon



*National Park Service  
cooperating with the  
McLoughlin Memorial Association  
and the Municipality  
of Oregon City*



# McLoughlin House



## NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

J. A. KRUG, *Secretary*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, Newton B. Drury, *Director*

COOPERATING WITH THE McLOUGHLIN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION AND THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF OREGON CITY

*Here lived Dr. John McLoughlin, chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, whose aid to American settlers in the Oregon Country won him enduring fame.*

THE McLoughlin House is one of the few remaining pioneer dwellings in the region once known as the Oregon Country and which today consists of the States of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and parts of Montana and Wyoming. The house was built in 1845-46 by Dr. John McLoughlin, chief factor and superintendent of the Columbia department of the Hudson's Bay Company. To the Oregonian this house represents the romantic epoch of the State's history when the transition from the fur-trading era to that of settlement was being effected. Nationally, as well as locally, it is a memorial to a man who generously aided the American settlers in establishing their homes in the Oregon Country, and thus, indirectly, contributed to the final settlement of the Oregon question.

The McLoughlin House was probably designed by Dr. McLoughlin himself. It is a frame building, and its architecture might best be described as a colonial style adapted

to pioneer building conditions. With the possible exception of some of the window sash and ceilings, the materials used were most likely produced at Dr. McLoughlin's own mill at Oregon City.

### *Dr. John McLoughlin*

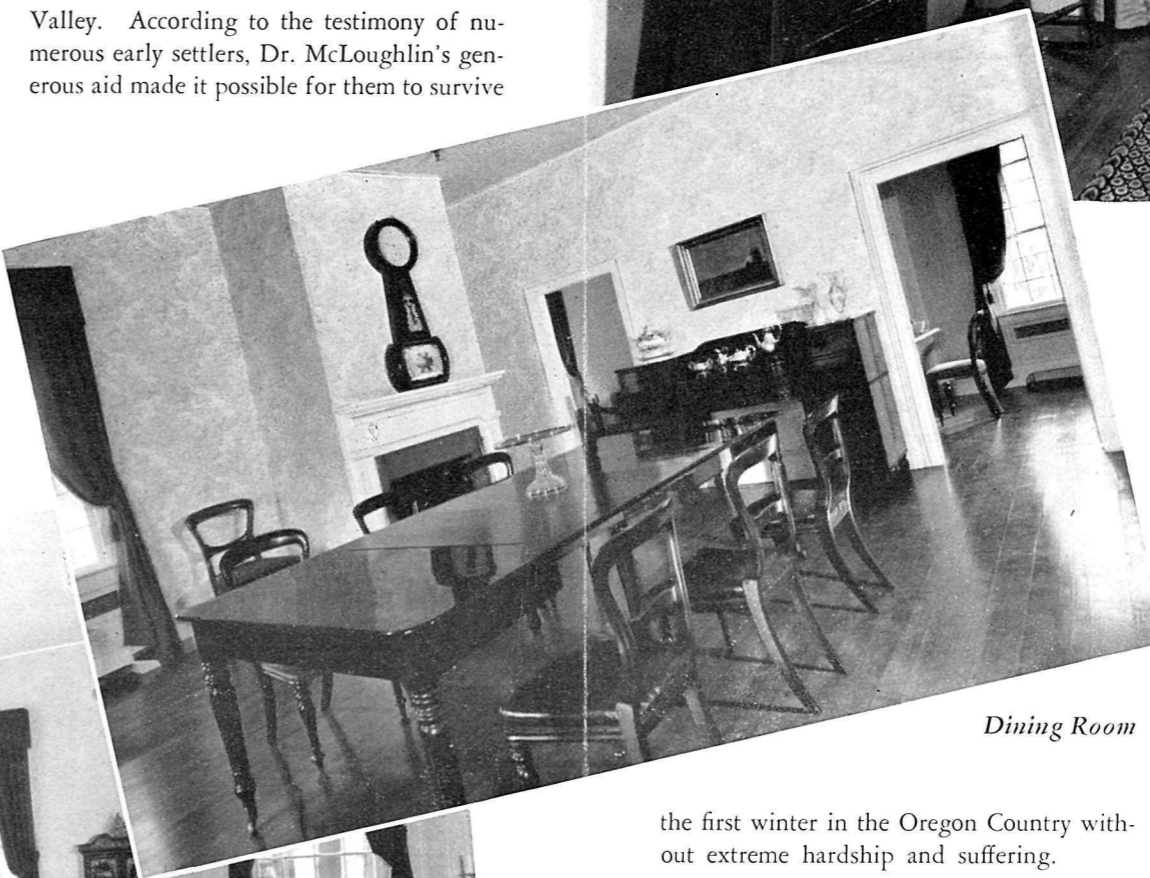
Dr. McLoughlin was born of Scotch-Irish ancestry, in the parish of La Riviere du Loup, near Quebec, Canada, on October 19, 1784. After a brief and informal education in medicine, he entered the employment of the Northwest Company as a physician. He became a wintering partner, or partner-in-the-field, and was one of the commission sent to England to arrange the union of the Northwest and Hudson's Bay Companies in 1821. After the reorganization, he was placed in charge of the Columbia, or western department, with headquarters at Fort George and later at Fort Vancouver, which he established

in 1825. As chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, Dr. McLoughlin exerted authority second only to that of Gov. George Simpson, the direct representative of the London Governor and Committee of the Hudson's Bay Company; and he literally ruled an empire stretching from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean and from Alaska to California.

Illustrative of Dr. McLoughlin's executive genius and strong control over the region is the fact that during the period of his administration from 1824 to 1846, there were few Indian outbreaks, but after his retirement the Oregon Country was subjected to a series of such wars. Dr. McLoughlin not only carried on the activities associated with the fur-trading industry, but he also developed agriculture and husbandry and opened up markets for the exportation of lumber, salmon, and flour at a time when the region was still looked upon as merely a great trapping ground.

Although primarily a fur trader and a faithful servant of the Hudson's Bay Com-

### *Living Room*



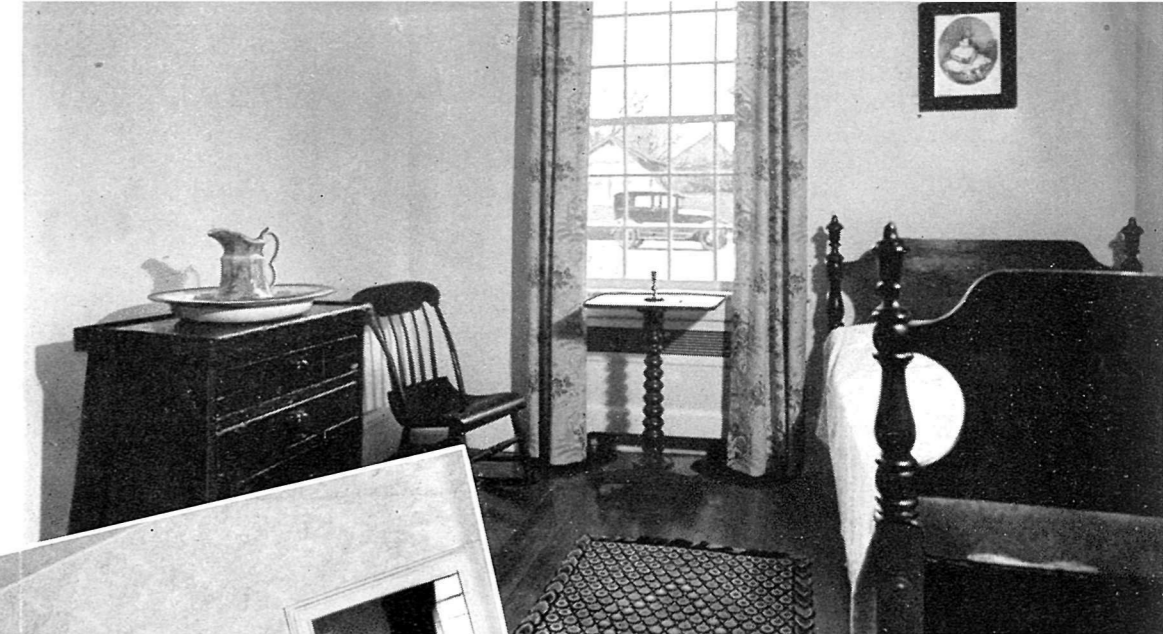
### *Dining Room*

the first winter in the Oregon Country without extreme hardship and suffering.

### *Dr. McLoughlin at Oregon City*

In 1828, Dr. McLoughlin and Governor Simpson chose the site at the falls of the Willamette River for the construction of a sawmill for the purpose of producing timber to trade with the Hawaiian Islands and Span-

pany, Dr. John McLoughlin's kindly nature made it impossible for him to ignore the needs of American settlers who, beginning with the missionaries in 1834, came in increasing numbers to locate in the Oregon Country. He sent supplies to immigrants starving at The Dalles of the Columbia, provided passage for them in company boats, and protected them from hostile natives. He entertained the newcomers at Fort Vancouver, lent them seed grains and provisions, and directed them to the fertile Willamette Valley. According to the testimony of numerous early settlers, Dr. McLoughlin's generous aid made it possible for them to survive



### *Bedroom*

ish America. According to Dr. McLoughlin's own account, he built several houses at the spot, blasted out a millrace, and in the early thirties had a garden growing there. In 1842, the town was surveyed and named Oregon City. With the capital of the provisional government located there, it became the chief town of the Oregon Country.

By consenting to abide by the new provisional government, Dr. McLoughlin's attitude was questioned by the Hudson's Bay Company. With relations between Governor Simpson and Dr. McLoughlin strained to the breaking point, the latter sent in his resignation in 1845. The same year he started the construction of his home at Oregon City. Here he moved with his family in 1846 and occupied the house until his death on September 3, 1857.

Although he remained the great man of the community, revered and respected by most, a small but vociferous element saddened his last days by legal battles which took from him the greater portion of his original Oregon City land claim. Increasingly aware



*Hudson's Bay Company Desk in the Living Room*

of Dr. McLoughlin's role in the history of the region, the public has attempted to remedy past injustices. In 1921, Dr. McLoughlin was named one of Oregon's two candidates for the national Hall of Fame.

### *Preservation of the McLoughlin House*

After Dr. McLoughlin's death, the house was occupied for 3 years by his widow and until 1880 by his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Harvey. In the years following, it was used for various purposes. In 1907, when efforts for its preservation were begun, it was in a dilapidated condition, and shortly thereafter proposed industrial development threatened its existence. The McLoughlin House was saved from destruction by persons who organized the

McLoughlin Memorial Association, and, in 1909, with the aid of the municipality, it was moved from its original site at Third and Main Streets to its present site in McLoughlin Park, dedicated to Oregon City by Dr. McLoughlin in 1850.

Since 1935 the house has been restored as nearly as possible to its original condition. Federal, State, and private funds have been provided for this purpose. Various patriotic and social organizations have successfully undertaken to refurnish the house with McLoughlin articles or suitable period furniture, including a hand-carved four-poster bed, tables, desk, dishes, chest, and melodeon.

### *How to Reach the Site*

The McLoughlin House is located in McLoughlin Park, between Seventh and Eighth Streets, less than 4 blocks east of Pacific

Highway No. 99, Oregon City, Oreg. Rail and motorbus service is available from Portland, 13 miles away.

### *Visitor Service and Facilities*

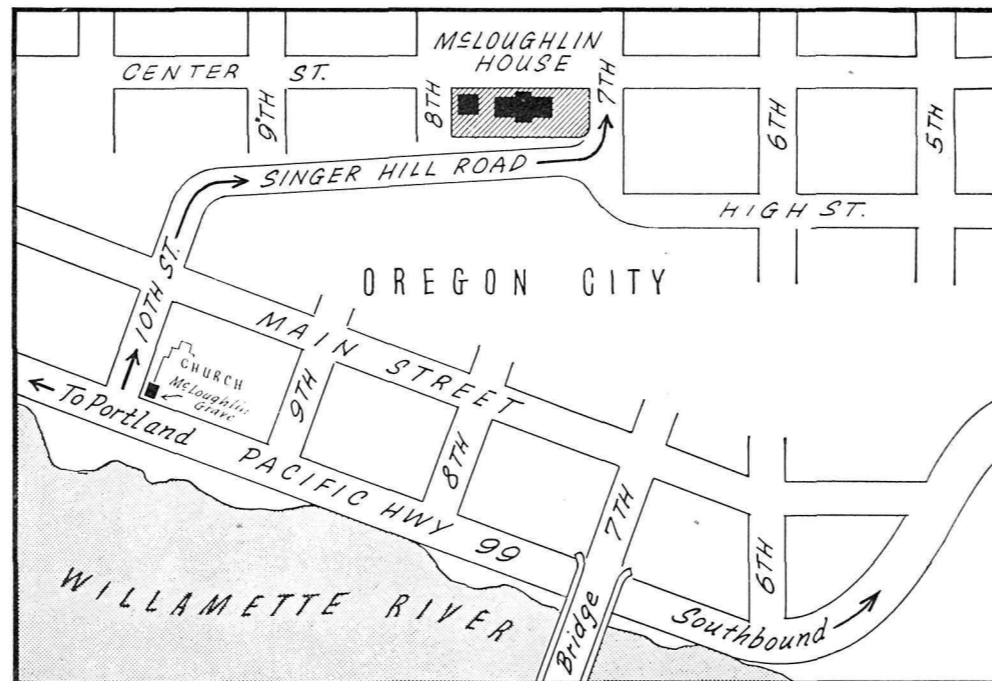
Visiting hours are from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. daily during the summer months, and from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. during the winter. There is an admission fee of 25 cents per person. Children under the age of 18 are admitted for 10 cents. Adjacent to the McLoughlin House is the Barclay House, also a historic building, where meals are served.



### *Administration*

The McLoughlin House was established as a national historic site in 1941 by cooperative agreement among the McLoughlin Memorial Association, the Municipality of Oregon City, and the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. McLoughlin House National Historic Site is administered by the McLoughlin Memorial Association and the Municipality of Oregon City. Inquiries should be addressed to the Curator, McLoughlin House National Historic Site, Oregon City, Oreg.

*Location of the McLoughlin House*



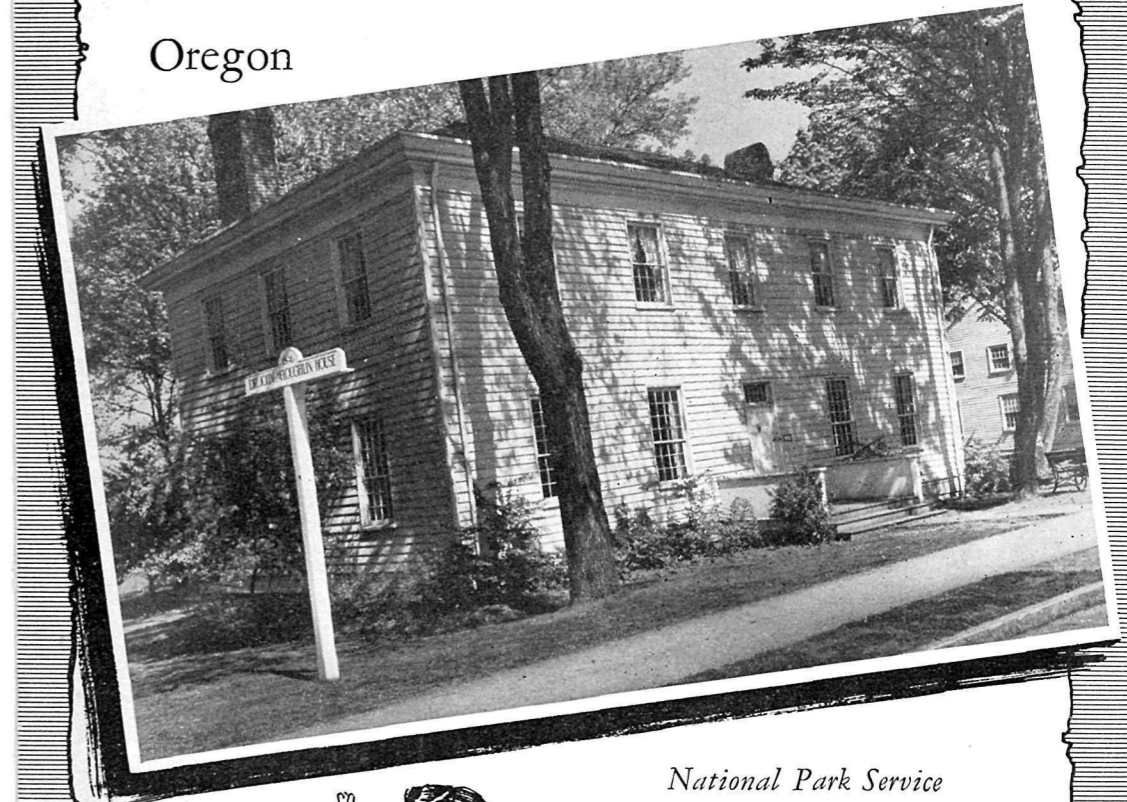
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