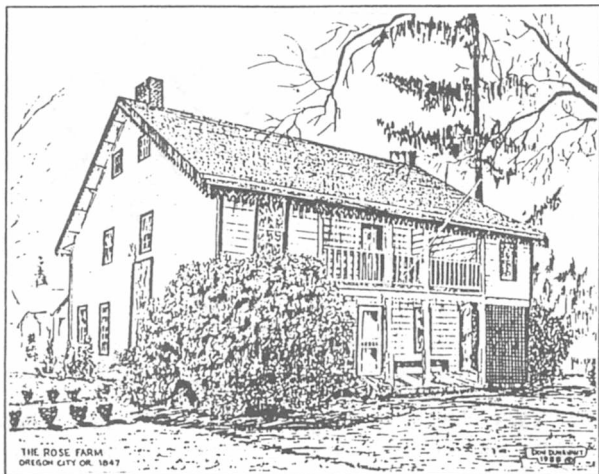


1847 ROSE FARM

oregon city, oregon



VISIT THE OLDEST AMERICAN HOUSE IN OREGON CITY

Holmes Lane at Rilance Lane

OPEN: April through October

Group tours of eight or more by appointment

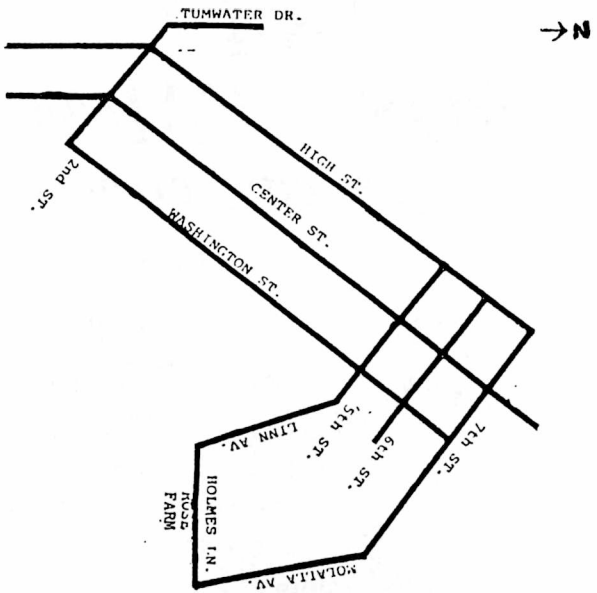
Nominal admission charge.

Available for weddings and meetings

PHONES: (503) 656-5146 or 245-0588

Mrs. Albert H. Powers (Ruth McBride) purchased the 1.9 acres in 1972, restored the home, furnished it with early Oregon furnishings as well as other fine examples of period antiques and presented it to the McLoughlin Memorial Association in 1985 when it was first opened to the public.

The property was named "ROSE FARM" by the neighbors and friends because of Louisa Holmes' love of roses. She grew early mission roses on the farm.



THE HOLMES FAMILY

In 1843 William and Louisa Holmes with three children came overland from Missouri, took a 640 acre land grant at this site, because of a good spring nearby and a lovely view of Mt. Hood in the distance.

The family resided in a hastily built cabin until the house was completed four years later after the arrival of windows and doors shipped around the horn from New England. The timbers used in the house were sawed and hand hewn from trees on the grounds. Seven children were raised in the house.

The house contains the Holmes' piano, which arrived on the second ship to bring pianos to Oregon in 1858.

EVENTS OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This building is presumed to be the only one where both the Provisional and Territorial Legislatures met.

Joseph Lane, Territorial Governor of Oregon, gave his first official address from the balcony to a crowd of approximately 300 people assembled on the lawn below in 1849.

The ballroom on the second floor became a social center of early pioneer hospitality. Dr. McLoughlin and the men from Fort Vancouver were entertained here.

At the first meeting of the Territorial Legislature in 1849, the Charter was granted for Pacific University, the debt of \$33,000 for Oregon's share of the cost of Indian War was discussed and the first divorce was granted.