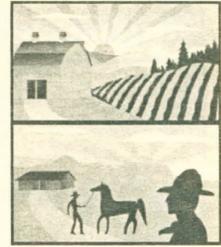


CFR 1065

Gerald and Janice Schmidt



# Century Farm & Ranch Program Application

Date April 5, 2003

Type of designation (please check)  Century Farm  Century Ranch

Legal owner's name Gerald + Janice Schmidt  
(Please attach contact information if other than legal owner)

Mailing address Redacted for Privacy

Telephone Redacted for Privacy E-mail address Redacted for Privacy

County Washington Location of farm or ranch (distance from nearest town) 6 miles south of Hillsboro

Township 2S Range 3W Section 12

Original family owner(s) or founder(s) Fred Schmidt

Date (year) this farm or ranch was acquired by founder(s) 1902  
(Attach verifying documentation, see qualification #7)

Founder(s) came to Oregon from Switzerland

Who farms or ranches the land today? Gerald Schmiot

Relationship to original owner (See qualification #5, please explain lineage) GRANDSON

Are any of the original buildings still in use?  Yes  No Listed on National Register?  Yes  No

If yes, please describe The Farmhouse AND the barn are still in use.

History of crops or livestock raised on farm or ranch In the early 1900's the farm's main crop was hops. In later switched to a dairy + grain operation.

What is raised on the farm or ranch today? The farm has a variety of crops including wheat, oats, clover seed, grass seed + alfalfa.

How many generations live on the farm or ranch today? 1

Please list names and birth years Gerald Schmidt - July 10, 1945

Please submit two or three pages of family history narrative, including, but not limited to generational transfers of the farm or ranch. You are also encouraged to submit photos of the property.

(Please continue application on the back of this form.)

# Statement of Affirmation

I, Gerald C Schmidt  
hereby affirm and declare that the farm or ranch which I own at Laurel, OR (T2S3W3E012)  
in the County of Washington  
shall have been owned by my family for at least 100 continuous years, as specified in the qualifications for the Century Farm & Ranch Program, on or before December 31 of the current calendar year. Further, I hereby affirm that this property meets all other requirements for Century Farm or Century Ranch honors, including that the farm or ranch has a gross income from farming or ranching activities of not less than \$1,000 per year for three out of the five years immediately preceding making this statement. I understand that the application materials will become property of the Oregon Historical Society Library and be made available for public use.

Gerald Schmidt June 25, 2003  
Signature of Owner Date

## Certification by Notary Public

State of Oregon  
County of Manon

Be it remembered, that on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2003, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, personally appeared the within named Gerald C. Schmidt, known to me to be the identical individual described in and who executed the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same freely and voluntarily.

In Testimony Whereof, I have set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year last above written.



Pikake K Unger

Notary Public for Oregon

My Commission Expires March 19, 2004

### Fees

Application Fee  
(includes one certificate) \$ 50.00  
Additional Certificates (\$15 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to  
Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation or OAEF

### For office use only

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

Approved?  Yes  No

Authorization \_\_\_\_\_

Century Farm and Ranch Project Coordinator

### OHS Library

MSS 1604 Program ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

## Schmidt Farms

John and Marie Rytor Schmidt and their nine children were natives of Switzerland. The family was from Frutigen, which was an alpine hamlet, high in the Swiss Alps. John was born in 1841 and Marie was born in 1848, and they had nine children (John Jr., Samuel, Fred, Rosie, Sophia, Jacob, Adolph, Marie and Albert). Since there were few jobs available in the 1890's in Frutigen three of the children (while in their late teens) left for the United States with the intent of sending for their siblings and their parents after getting settled in their new country.

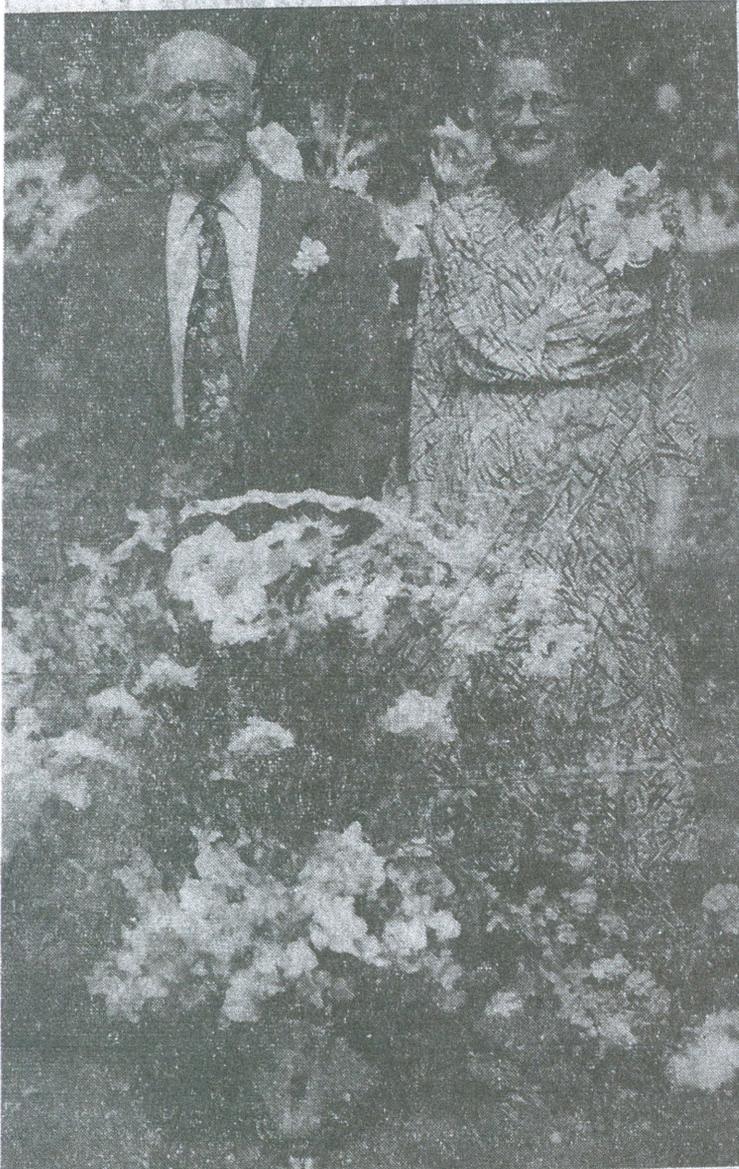
John Jr., Samuel and Fred were the first to arrive. John Jr. must have come directly to the community of Laurel in rural Washington County and records show that he purchased property in the Laurel area in 1891. Samuel stopped in Michigan and worked in an iron factory and Fred worked in Ohio before coming west to Laurel. All of the John Schmidt family was in Oregon by 1892. John and Marie and some of the children lived in the Portland area for about a year before moving with the rest of family to the Laurel area.

Fred Schmidt had at the age of 20 immigrated to the United States. After working for two years in Ohio he had joined the rest of the family in Oregon where he met his future bride, Henrietta Schneider. At the age of 23 Fred Schmidt married Henrietta Schneider on July 20, 1894 in the old Commercial hotel in Hillsboro. The couple immediately moved to the Laurel area about 6 miles south of Hillsboro. They bought property south of Campbell Bridge and lived there until 1902, when they bought the present farm located just west of Laurel store. Fred and Henrietta had four children, (Lillie, Charles, Cecil and George) and they grew up in the present home and farm located on S.W. Laurel Road. Other members of the Schmidt family were living throughout the Laurel area and the parents (John and Marie) had property on Holly Hill road just south and west of the Fred Schmidt farm. A letter from one of John and Marie's grandchildren recalled memories of growing up in Laurel: "My grandparents lived further down the mountain in a log cabin before they built a larger home... They had a large pond and the young people used to come there to swim. They raised hops and different kinds of fruit.... We liked going to Grandpa's house to stay all night. We could see the lights of Council Crest (Portland) from the upstairs windows... I remember surrey with the fringe on top and some of the risky young horses." John and Marie stayed on their property until his death in 1917. At that time Marie came to live on her son's (Fred Schmidt) farm and remained there until her death in 1923.

The Fred Schmidt farm was wooded and much of the area had to be cleared in order to farm. Much of the early part of the century involved the raising of grains and hops. George related stories of riding into Portland with his dad, Fred Schmidt, with a wagon and a team of horses for supplies that were needed during harvest time. The route they took followed the old canyon road and highway 26. Fred and Henrietta lived on the farm on Laurel Road until their deaths at age ninety-three and ninety-two. Two of the sons Cecil and Charles never married and remained on the farm until their deaths in 1968 and 1976. The farm evolved into a full time dairy operation, which ceased operation in the 1960's. The youngest son George left the farm and went to Pacific University and had a career in education and business. He married Gretchen Granstrom and they had two children, Gerald and Gilbert.

Gerald and Gilbert were born and raised in Portland but spent many of their summers on the farm. In the late 60's Gerald took over the operation of the farm and has remained on the farm since that time. In 1973 he married Janice Whitcomb of Portland and they immediately upgraded the inside of the original farmhouse. They have continued to live in the same farmhouse that was built by Fred Schmidt and was the boyhood home of his father George Schmidt. George and Gretchen Schmidt both passed away in 2002 but continued to visit the farm on a regular basis throughout their married life. Gerald and Janice have one son, Brian, who was born in 1978 and represents the fifth generation that has lived on the family farm.

# Married Sixty Years



MR. AND MRS. FRED SCHMIDT, who celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary Sunday with open house at their home at Laurel

# Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schmidt Celebrate Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary Sunday

LAUREL—About 150 friends and relatives attended open house Sunday in celebration of the 60th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schmidt at the family home at Laurel.

Baskets of gladioli and bouquets of mixed flowers decorated the rooms. Sweet peas and candles centered the serving table. Mrs. John Will served the cake. Mrs. George Schmidt presided at the punch bowl, Mrs. Emma Stout poured coffee and Miss Alma Schmidt passed the guest book. Miss Anna Lee Schneider, Mrs. R. E. Meyers and Mrs. Walter Schmidt assisted about the rooms.

Fred Schmidt came to America from Switzerland in 1890 and to

Laurel in 1892. Mrs. Schmidt came from Nebraska to Laurel when three years of age. They were married in the old Commercial hotel in Hillsboro and have resided on the farm at Laurel the past 52 years. They have four children, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

A large plate glass mirror was presented to them by their neighbors, and many other gifts were received as well as numerous cards.

Guests were present from Montecano, Wash., Newport, Salem, Portland, Tillamook, Hillsboro and many parts of the county.

Patronize Local Merchants

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4M

THE OREGONIAN, W.

# 65 Years of Marriage All Spent on Same Farm

A Washington County husband and wife Sunday observed the 65th anniversary of their marriage on the farm at Laurel, six miles south of Hillsboro, where they have lived since their wedding on July 20, 1894.

Present for the celebration were the remaining three sons and one daughter of the couple. Fred and Henrietta Schmidt, all their seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Approximately 100 friends and neighbors also joined in the anniversary celebration.

Fred Schmidt, a native of Switzerland, emigrated to the United States as a young man and lived two years in Ohio before coming to Oregon. The week also brought him a second anniversary. He observed his 88th birthday Tuesday. Mrs. Schmidt, who was born at Omaha, Neb., is 85.

They recalled that they have been readers of The Oregonian since 1902.



MR. AND MRS. FRED SCHMIDT Lived 65 years on same farm

mail to  
Fred Schmidt  
Laurel Ore

STATE OF OREGON, }  
Washington County. } SS.

I, E. L. Murath Recorder of  
Conveyances in and for said County, do  
hereby certify that the foregoing instrument  
of writing was received for record on the  
.....3<sup>rd</sup> day of.....Dec....., 1902, at.....2:<sup>10</sup>  
o'clock.....P.M., and recorded on page.....327  
in Book.....62.....of Records of  
.....Dec.....of said County.

WITNESS my hand hereunto set and seal  
of office affixed this.....3<sup>rd</sup> day of.....Dec  
A. D., 190.....2

E. L. Murath  
Recorder of Conveyances.

By.....125  
Deputy,

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS,

That we, Marion W. Skeels and Martha Skeels, his wife, of Clarke County, State of Washington, in consideration of Fifteen Hundred and Fifty Dollars to us paid by Fred Schmidt, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have bargained and sold and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, and convey unto said Fred Schmidt his heirs and assigns all the following bounded and described real property situated in the County of Washington and State of Oregon, to-wit:-

The West One-half ( $1/2$ ) of the North East Quarter ( $1/4$ ) of Section 12, Twp. 2 South of Range Three (3) West of Williamette Meridian, containing 80 acres more or less together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining, and also all our estate, right, title, and interest in and to the same including dower and claim of dower.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, The above described and granted premises unto the said Fred Schmidt, his heirs and assigns forever. And we Marion W. Skeels and Martha Skeels, his wife, grantors above named do covenant to and with Fred Schmidt, the above named grantee, his heirs and assigns that we are the owners in fee simple of the above granted premises, that they are free from all incumbrances and that we will and our heirs, executors, and administrators shall warrant and forever defend the above granted premises and every part and parcel thereof against the lawful claims and demands of all persons whomsoever.

In Witness Whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, A.D. 1902.

Signed, sealed and delivered

in the presence of us as witnesses.

Milton Evans

Marion W. Skeels (Seal)

W.W.M. Bredie

Martha Skeels (Seal)

State of Washington, :  
  ::SS.  
County of Clarke. :

This certifies, That on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of Nov.

A.D. 1902, before me the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the State of Washington, residing at Vancouver therein, personally appeared the within named Marion W. Skeels and Martha Skeels, his wife, known to me to be the identical persons described in and who executed the within instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal the date and year last above written.

W.W.M. Bredie

Notary Public for the State of Wash.  
residing at Vancouver therein.





Oxen logging on McCormick place, south of Laurel on Chehalem Mt. l to r Eth McMaugh, Vine Ornduff, Pete Ornduff, Lina and Wally Whitmore.



**Fred Schmidt Hop Yard and Crew 1911**

- |                    |                  |                   |                     |                    |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Bill Will        | 8 Helen Carow    | 15 Mary Cline     | 22 Nellie Brown     | 29 Charlie Schmidt |
| 2 John Will        | 9 Ret Brown      | 16 George Schmidt | 23 Lester McClarkin | 30 ?               |
| 3 Herb Davis       | 10 Rose Carow    | 17 Christie Brown | 24 ?                | 31 Fred Schmidt    |
| 4 Letha Messinger  | 11 Susie Schmidt | 18 Anna Heineck   | 25 Belle Matthes    | 32 ?               |
| 5 Lula Messinger   | 12 ?             | 19 Ethel Matthes  | 26 ?                | 33 Urban Heineck   |
| 6 Buelah Messinger | 13 ?             | 20 Lillie Schmidt | 27 Benjamin Brown   |                    |
| 7 Emelia Carow     | 14 Jean Mainland | 21 Olive Campbell | 28 Cecil Schmidt    |                    |



2003

Gerald & Janice Schmidt

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2003

Gerald & Janice Schmidt

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WASHINGTON COUNTY CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

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RESOURCE NO.: 122/586

PRESENT OWNER: Gerald & Janice Schmidt

T2S R3W SEC12 NE

PRESENT OWNER'S ADDRESS: Rt. 2 Box 358, Laurel Rd W., West Hills

ORIGINAL OWNER: Fred Schmidt

TAX LOT #: 2000

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

CONDITION: Good

LOCATION: Redacted for Privacy

DATE: c. 1900

COMMON/HISTORIC NAME: Schmidt House

USE: PRESENT: Residence and Farm

THEME: Arch: 19th Cent.

ORIGINAL: Residence and Farm

Agricultural: Farming

TYPE: Building

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Square in plan and horizontal in massing, the Schmidt house was built in the Craftsman style, popular in Washington County during the late 19th century. The medium-pitch hip roof has boxed eaves, a continuous plain frieze and is covered with shingles. The central interior chimney has been removed from the flat roof ridge. A new interior metal chimney projects from the south (rear) roof hip. The exterior of the building has beveled siding and cornerboards with caps. Window bays are one-over-one double hung sash with flush cornices. The wrap around porch on the north and west elevations remains in excellent condition. It is supported by eight columns, excepting the enclosed portion on the west side. An enclosed porch attachment appears on the south elevation as well. The main entry door of three panels and a single etched light is original. The house rests on a concrete foundation. A garage with beveled siding is sited east of the residence. Other outbuildings include: a brick-based fruit shed, a board and batten barn, a storage shed, and a gable roof shop. A three foot picket fence encloses the property from street traffic.

CONTEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

The Schmidt property is sited south off of Laurel Road West, a quarter mile west of the Laurel junction. Open agricultural land surrounds the house; several nearby residences can be viewed from the property. Several large chestnut trees, grasses and shrubs landscape the yard.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

According to the Laurel community history, Fred and Henrietta Schmidt purchased this residence and acreage in 1902. It is unclear as to

who actually built this house. Fred Schmidt, born in 1871, immigrated to America along with his two brothers, John, Jr. and Samuel. Fred worked in Ohio before settling in Laurel, Oregon. By 1892 his parents, John and Marie, and his six other siblings were also living in Laurel. Prior to 1902, Fred owned property south of Campbell Bridge. Fred operated a hop yard on part of his 80 acres, employing many local residents. His children; Charles, Cecil, Lillie, and George participated in hop farm operations. Fred and Henrietta lived in this house until their deaths in 1964. Bachelor sons Charles and Cecil remained on the farm until their deaths. George married Gretchen Granstrom, and their son Gerald is the owner of the house and 75 acres. Gerald and his family are the third generation of Schmidt's to own the residence and operate the farm. The resource is significant as one of the few remaining family owned farms in the Laurel community. In addition, the complex is well-preserved, with the Craftsman style home as the focus.

#### SOURCES CONSULTED

- \*Laurel. Laurel, Oregon: Laurel Ladies Social Club, 1977. pp. 69-70.
- \*Wilkes Bros. Abstract Maps, 1909. Map #171.
- \*Washington County Tax Assessor Records.

# WASHINGTON COUNTY CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

COMMON/HISTORIC NAME: Schmidt House T 2S R 3W Sec. 12 1/4

