

Clackamas County Heritage Tree

JOSIAH & LUCY FOSTER BURNETT COLLECTION OF HERITAGE TREES

Stand of two Sugar maples, White Lilac

 **Location:** 29931 SE Hwy 211, Eaglecreek



Stand of two Sugar maples, (*Acer saccharum*)

Sugar maple #1

Sugar maple #2

Approximate Age: +/- 140 years



White Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*)

Measurements (approximate):

Height: 30'

Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): 8'

Age: +/- 140 years

 **Significance:** *Specimen:* trees of exceptional size and age, *Historic* association with Philip Foster Farm and the Josiah and Lucy Burnett House is a Clackamas County Historic Landmark

 **Dedication Ceremony:** May 1, 2008

Additional Information: The Josiah and Lucy Foster Burnett or “Lucy House”. House was built November 1860 across from the across the road from her parents original house, Philip and Mary C. (Pettygrove) Foster in Eagle Creek. (The Philip Foster Farm House located on the site today was built in 1884.)

The Fosters were from Maine (1842) and brought lilacs, pear, apple and probably sugar maples too. The “Lucy House” is one of the few original houses still existing on the old Barlow Road. Philip Foster's oldest daughter, Lucy, and her husband, Josiah Burnett, lived in southern Oregon where Josiah was a surveyor. Philip Foster wrote them that he would give them a "goodly portion of land" to build a house if they would come "home" to the Foster farm site. Lucy and Josiah agreed. They built their home (for \$199) and lived there until Lucy's death in 1878. The couple had five children and descendants of Lucy and Josiah still live in the Eagle Creek and Estacada area today. The property is now under the ownership of the Jackknife Horse Heaven Historical Society. Located across the street from the Philip Foster National Historic Site, the Lucy House has been in continuous use as a private residence for over 140 years.

It is believed that Philip Foster planted the sugar maples in 1860 and sold them for \$1.00 a piece. The purple lilac located across the street on the Philip Foster Farm, National Register and Clackamas County Landmark property, was listed

as an Oregon State Heritage Tree on April 6, 1998. The original white lilac is no longer on the Philip Foster Farm property, but was recently discovered on the overgrown property of Josiah and Lucy Burnett. It is believed that this lilac is from the original white lilac that accompanied the purple lilac on the Foster Farm, brought from Maine in 1842.

Only two Sugar maples, a White Lilac and remnant stumps and sprouts or second growth remain of the original Black walnuts.

History of trees no longer on this property: from the Estacada Garden Club, documented during the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs Bicentennial Project, 1974-76 - "There were three sugar maples on the Josiah Burnett property in pioneer days. Philip Foster planted the sugar maples in 1860 and sold them for \$1.00 a piece. The three trees are on the fence row of the Josiah Burnett place."

"Three Black Walnut trees planted from seed by Philip Foster. Mr. Foster started a nursery and charged \$1.00 for each tree. The seed and stock came around the Horn in 1860"

These were very large trees that bared nuts each year. When the property was purchased by the Jackknife Horse Heaven Historical Society, there was a large two foot stump in the same area where a tree had fallen. Trees would have been planted by the Burnett's or possibly Wilburn who bought the property in 1879-80. Black walnuts are associated with Foster's partner Samuel Barlow's son William Barlow.