




Giant Sequoias of Oatfield Ridge Community Nomination

Clackamas County Heritage Tree

Sequoia giganteum / Sierra redwood
(Sequoiadendron giganteum)

-  **Dedication Ceremony:** May 1, 2008
-  **Significance:** *Collection* - Trees in a notable grove, avenue or other planting; *Specimen* - Trees of exceptional size; and *Historic Association* - Trees recognized by virtue of age, or association with or contribution to a historic structure or district or with a noted person or historic event.
-  **Additional Information:** The 38 “Giant Sequoias of Oatfield Ridge” nominated as Heritage Trees in 2008 live along a 2.8 mile stretch of Oatfield Road. This ‘community nomination’ includes many of the most notable Giant sequoias or “redwoods” along Oatfield Ridge. The planting of these giant ‘redwood’ trees by community residents over a period of 80 years beginning in 1890, reflects both the pattern of settlement in that area and the residents’ cultural and aesthetic values.

In earliest of times, Oatfield Road was a Native American trail. It then became an early territorial road in the mid and late 1800’s. By the early 1900’s, half of the road leading to Portland was paved with concrete and became a market road. It was used by farmers to transport their produce to Portland and beyond. Many of the notable stands of “redwoods” are located at historic crossroads intersecting with Oatfield Road (Courtney, Concord, Thiessen, Roethe and Jennings).

The oldest Giant sequoias were planted by John F. Broetje, the horticulturist, where he set up his family’s base of business near Courtney and Oatfield Road. He introduced this tree species to Oatfield Ridge and was responsible for ‘setting

the stage' for many of his contemporary neighbors and future generations to plant these trees along Oatfield Ridge. Other 'redwoods' dating to the late 1800's and

early 1900's were planted where the family of Michael Oatfield first began farming in the mid 1860's, between Concord and Thiessen Roads. The Oatfield and Broetje families lived as neighbors for decades.

During the period between the 1920's until World War II, land was subdivided and homes were built, primarily in the English Cottage, Colonial and Bungalow style. Home owners along Oatfield Road probably planted small 'redwood' trees from cones or seeds from the original Broetje redwoods, propagated in their family nursery. The next generation of trees date to the mid - 1900's and subsequent generations of trees were planted as late as 1970.

As a whole, these generations of 'redwoods' represent an important collection of trees that help define the Oatfield Ridge area along Oatfield Road. They represent a massive natural physical presence in the area that embodies both linear and vertical space, defining a corridor of beauty which represents a cohesive community spirit.

Master arborist Terrence Flanagan wrote of the Broetje 'redwoods' in March 2007: "The age of some of these trees are over 100 years. They cannot be replaced in our lifetime or our children's life time. The life span of giant sequoias in nature is well over 2,000 years in its natural range, some aged over 3,200 years. Potential life span for these giant sequoias is well over 1,000 years in the urban environment if properly cared for. The climate of Portland is very similar to the climate in the natural range of the giant sequoia."

This nomination of 38 Giant sequoia trees is the result of the vision and efforts of community members Pat Culley Kennedy and Michael G. Schmeer to recognize and share the history of these magnificent trees. In their words:

"The giant trees are distinctive markers of Oak Grove, particularly on the upland ridge that runs between Milwaukie and Oregon City along Oatfield Road. There, and in adjoining neighborhoods, well over 100 of these 'redwoods' grow within less than 3 miles of each other. Whether young or old, the trees have become what Broetje and his neighbors envisioned. They are the gifts of neighbors to neighbors across time, now fixed in the fabric of our community."


February 20, 2008.



 **Location:** 14005 SE Oatfield Road, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR



Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): **20' 10", 22' 1"**
Age: **110 + years**

 **Additional Information:** These trees stand on the former property of John F. and Julius Broetje. The land has been subdivided into many lots.



 **Location:** 14726 SE Oatfield Rd, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR



*Historic photo Philip T. Oatfield
Second Residence c. 1922*


Height: **140'**
Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): **26' 7", 22' 5", 21' 8"**
Crown Spread: **60'**
Age: **86 years**

 **Location:** 14928 SE Oatfield Road, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR

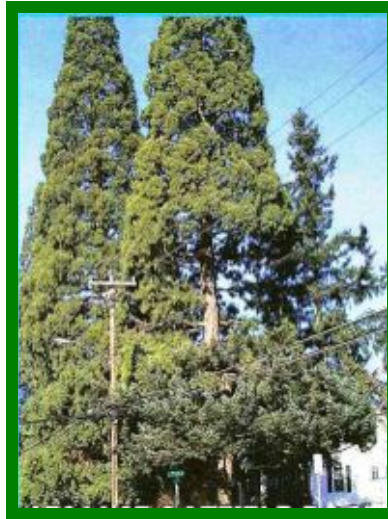



*Historic photographs of Philip Oatfield House,
Clackamas County Historic Landmark*

Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): 14' 11", 16 2", 18' 7", 18'
Age: 100 + years

 **Additional Information:** These trees front the Clackamas County Historic Landmark home of Philip Thessing Oatfield (son of Michael Oatfield). The elder Oatfield may have lived in this house as well.

 **Location:** 15016 SE Oatfield Road, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR



 **Significance:** *Collection:* Trees in a notable grove, avenue or other planting, *Specimen:* trees of exceptional size and *Historic Association*

Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): 15' 5", 22' 2"


Age: 84 years

 **Location:** 15315 SE Francis Street, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR



Height: topped

Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): 13' 11"

 **Additional Information:** This tree was at on time on the same lot as John R. Oatfield's house (c. 1920's), the son of Michael Oatfield. The elder Oatfield's house and barn were also sited in the immediate area.

🌲 **Location:** 15379 SE Francis Street, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR



Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): **21' 10"**
Age: **~90 years**

🌲 **Additional Information:** Formerly part of John Oatfield property.

🌲 **Location:** 15412 SE Oatfield Road, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR




Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): **17' 4"**
Age: **90+ years**

🌲 **Additional Information:** This tree was at one time on the same lot as the John. R. Oatfield House, son of Michael Oatfield – the property on which the elder Oatfield's original house and barn were sited.

 **Location:** 15904 SE Oatfield Road, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR



Height: topped
Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): 19' 7"
Age: 90 + years

 **Additional Information:** This tree may have been a marker of the turn-off from the "Market Road" (Oatfield) to Thiessen large farm just over the hill to the east.

 **Location:** 16600 SE Thomas Smith Road, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR



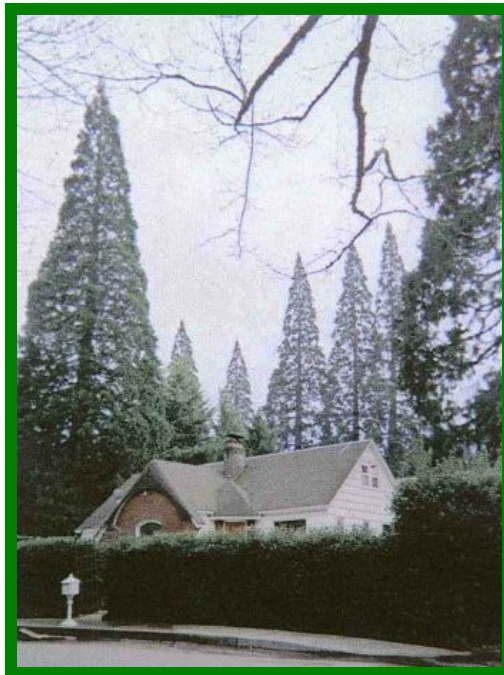
Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): 18' 9", 17' 6", 18' 11", 19' 5"
Crown Spread:
Age: 100 + years

 **Location:** 17305 SE Oatfield Road, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR



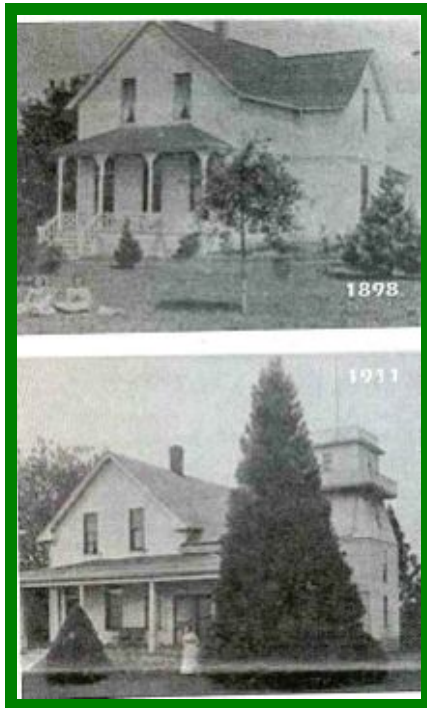
Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): 14' 11", 13' 11", 12' 5"
Age: 35 years

 **Location:** 3100 SE Courtney, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR

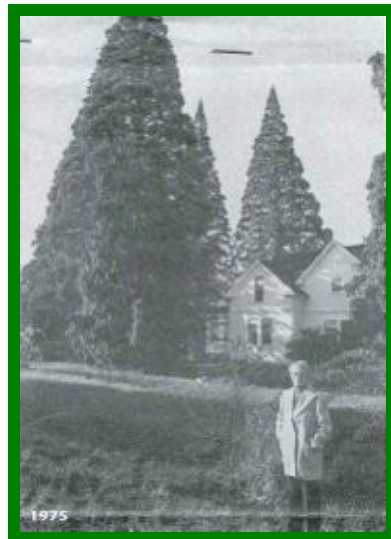


Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): 10' 3", 18' 2"
Age: ~ 90 years

 **Location:** 3101 SE Courtney, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR



Historic photos John F. Broetje House



Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): 19' 11", 20' 8", 19'8", 21'5"
Age: 116 years, planted 1892 by John F. Broetje



 **Location:** 3816 SE Concord Road, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR



Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): 17' 6"
Age: 90 years



 **Location:** 4285 SE Raymond Street, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR



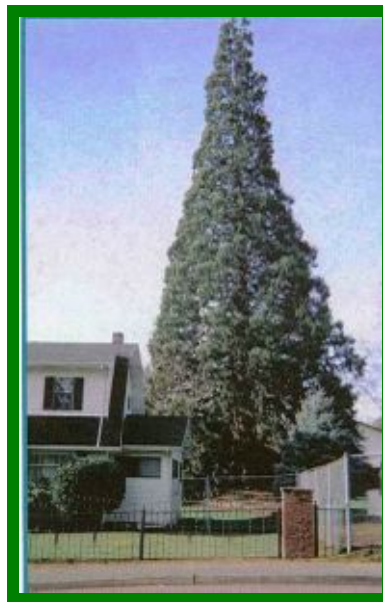
Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): 20 7", 16' 11"
Age: 100 years

 **Location:** 4908 SE Roethe Rd, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR



Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): **22' 4"**
Age: **100 + years**

 **Location:** 4909 SE Roethe Rd, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR



Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): **23' 7"**
Age: **100 + years**

 **Location:** 5000 SE Roethe Rd, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR



Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): **12' 11"**
Age: **35 years**

 **Location:** 5011 SE Thomas Smith Road, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR




Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): **24' 2"**
Age: **100 + years**

 **Location:** 14104 SE Oatfield Road, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR



Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): **21' 7", 19' 6"**
Age: **100 years**

 **Additional Information:** With four sequoias across the street, these two form a straight east/west line of trees distinctive and visible from a distance.

 **Location:** 15705 SE Oatfield Road, Oakgrove / Milwaukie, OR



Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): **15' 10"**
Age: **planted pre 1955**