National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 7 1986

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms* Type all entries—complete applicable sections

| 1. Nam | ie | | M.04 3 12 | |
|--|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| historic | Frazier, Willi | ams, Farmstead | Number of Contribut | ing features: 7 |
| and/or common | Frazier Farmst | ead Museum | Number of Non-contr | ibuting features: 0 |
| 2. Loca | | | | |
| street & number | 1403 Chestnut | Street | | ų∕Д not for publication |
| city, town | Milton-Freewat | er N/A vicinity of | Second Congressiona | l District |
| state | Oregon | code 41 count | y Umatilla | code 059 |
| 3. Clas | sification | | | |
| Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object | Ownership public private both Public Acquisition N/A in process N/A being considere | \underline{X} yes: restricted | entertainment government | _X_ museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other: |
| 4. Own | er of Prop | erty | | |
| name | Milton-Freewat | er Area Foundation | | |
| street & number | PO Box 50 | | | |
| city, town | Milton-Freewat | er $\frac{N/A}{A}$ vicinity of | state | Oregon 97862 |
| 5. Loca | ation of Le | gal Descript | ion | |
| courthouse, regi | stry of deeds, etc. | Umatilla County | Courthouse | |
| street & number | | 216 SE 4th | | |
| city, town | | Pendleton | state | Oregon 97801 |
| 6. Rep | resentatio | n in Existing | Surveys | |
| | de Inventory of Properties | has this p | roperty been determined el | igible? yes _ <u>X</u> no |
| date 1985 | | | federal _X_ sta | te local |
| depository for su | irvey records | State Historic Prese | rvation Office. 525 | Trade Street SE |
| city, town | | Salem | state | Oregon 97310 |

7. Description

| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
|---------------|--------------|------------|---|
| _X_ excellent | deteriorated | unaltered | original site |
| good | ruins | X_ altered | x moved date 300 feet eastward, on original |
| fair | unexposed | | Frazier farm holding, 1913 |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The William S. Frazier Farmstead includes seven functionally interdependent buildings and pastureland, encompassing approximately six acres near Milton-Freewater in Umatilla County, Oregon. The farmhouse, the most significant building within the ensemble, is a two-story, balloon-framed residence constructed in 1892 in the Italianate style. It was later re-sited and remodeled in the Arts and Crafts tradition in 1913. The other six structures relating to the farmstead's agricultural purpose are typically constructed in wood frame under weatherboard siding. Currently operated as a museum, the ensemble retains a high degree of integrity.

Located in the SEI/4 of Sec. 12, T. 5N, R. 35E, Willamette Meridian, the farmstead buildings are dispersed among mature willow and alder trees on an L-shaped parcel. The farmhouse is oriented to the west. The majority of the ancillary buildings are clustered at this end of the parcel. The site is level except at the eastern portion, where it slopes toward the pasture and the horse barn. At the southern edge of the city limits of Milton-Freewater, the ensemble is situated in a quiet, uncrowded residential neighborhood.

Basically a 37' x 50' rectangle, the farmhouse was constructed in 1892 and subsequently altered after 1896, and again in 1913. As originally constructed, the balloon-frame structure utilized 2" x 8" fir joists and 2" x 4" studs and rafters, all on 16" centers. Two stories in height, the exterior was sheathed in channel siding. The main entrance was centered on the front elevation between single, one-over-one, double-hung sash windows in simple frames with modest cornice moldings. A shallow porch, with turned posts and flat, jig-sawn balusters, embellished the entrance. A door led from the second story to the balcony above the porch. Paired brackets appeared at the cornice level.

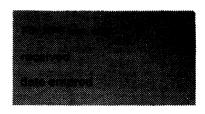
The first floor had four rooms with a central hall and staircase. The parlor and master bedroom were on the north side, with the kitchen and family sitting room on the south. Upstairs were four bedrooms. It is not possible to tell now if there was inside plumbing. However, the house had been built nearly back to back with the original cabin on the site (demolished) and it might be that outdoor plumbing facilities served both residences.

In order to understand the additions and embellishment added to the house after 1896, it is helpful to know something of the second generation of the family who acquired the property upon the death of W. S. Frazier.

Frances Beardsley Frazier was born and reared in New York state. On September 24, 1884, she was married to William Hardee Frazier, youngest of W. S. Frazier's six sons. It is almost certain that upon moving into the house in 1896, it was she who was responsible for the extensive upgrading done at that time. Samples of wall covering found in the back of a cabinet that was built over an existing wall in 1913 suggest her elegant taste. The Frazier Farmstead Museum has sent samples of this wallpaper to the New York firm of Brunswig & Fils, which described them as "quite wonderful" and indicated they are turn-of-the-century, classical, of French manufacture. Plans are underway to have this paper reproduced for use in the house.

The internal arrangement of the rooms was not changed to any extent at this time, however, evidence suggests that a bathroom was added in the rear off the kitchen.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet William Frazier Farmstead Item number 7

Page

The outside appearance was altered by the addition of single-story slanted bays on each side of the front door. Turned posts supported a small balcony off the second story front door, forming a portico extending out from the lower front door. The posts appear to be identical to those on the original porch, and were possibly re-used in the design. Brackets and fretwork were added at the top of the bays and the balcony. It is not possible to tell more about this remodeling as existing photographs show only partial views and no surviving family member can recall more than the basic room arrangement.

In 1913, the house was moved eastward to allow for a through street and to bring it in line with other residences. A concrete basement was poured and the house was placed on a sturdy foundation, some of which is faced with precut stone. This practical foundation has kept the house dry and free from ground rot since its installation.

At the time of the move, the exterior was altered to reflect stylistic conventions of the period. The slant bays were removed and improvements leading to the current Arts and Crafts configuration were affected. The entrance was moved to the right of center and is now located in approximately the same position as the former window. The imposing entrance pavilion is comprised of square, full size columns set on a rough cut ashlar pedestal in front of columns sized approximately 2/3 in height of the former. These four columns support a plain frieze and pedimented gable which is decorated with butt shingles. Truncated columns on pedestals, with heavy, thick balusters and rail complete the porch structure. In replacing the Italianate facade, a tripartite picture window was added in addition to the new door and a single leaded glass window was placed to the right of the entrance. This same type of window without the leaded glass replaced the former second-story centered door.

On the south elevation, a hipped roof square bay was added to correspond to the new stair landing on the interior. A hipped roof addition, probably dating to the first pre-1913 alterations, was changed to enclose the porch. The hipped roof, one-story kitchen wing was probably enlarged at this time to the full two-story height of the main mass. A sleeping porch, once a feature of this addition, has now been enclosed.

Most windows are still the original one-over-one, double-hung sash, with the exceptions as noted already. Roofing is composition shingle.

The interior of the first floor was altered during the 1913 remodeling project. The entrance, now at the southwest corner, leads to a generously proportioned entry hall whose distinctive feature is a quarter-round stair leading to the landing and built-in window seat, and then to the second floor. This room was created when the old entry hall was eliminated in favor of an expanded living room to the north.

The entry is screened from the living room by paired Doric-style painted columns resting on bases. The living room features a built-in wooden seat and beamed ceiling. The large front window is divided into three sections of unequal width, and the central sash features a beveled, diamond paned window similar to the one in the entry hall.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet William Frazier Farmstead

Item number

7

Page

3

Sliding pocket doors divide the living and dining room. The east wall of the dining room is formed by built-in china cabinets with leaded glass panels. Drawers for silverware and linen form the central portion and a plate rail extends around the perimeter of the room. A pair of pilasters extend from the top of the cabinet to the ceiling. A leaded glass light fixture with beaded ring installed in 1913 hangs over the dining table. A three paneled window on the north wall carries the same leaded glass design as the china cabinets on the central upper sash.

The woodwork in the entry hall, living room and dining room is fir with the original highly polished finish intact and virtually undamaged, except for the columns which have been painted white, as has the woodwork throughout the rest of the house.

The kitchen is connected to the basement pantry by a dumb-waiter, which is still in good working order. All bathroom fixtures appear to date from the 1913 remodeling and include claw-footed cast-iron tub, corner basin, and china toilet. Most hardware throughout the ground floor is highly ornate iron and copper.

The second story was not changed except for the addition of a sleeping porch in the rear. The change in the stairway location made possible the addition of a closet and linen cabinet. There are four bedrooms leading off a central hallway and the hardware in them is very apt to be in the original. There is no sign that the woodwork has ever been altered in any way. The patent dates of the hardware are 1886, 1887 and 1888. Transom windows are over all bedroom doors as they are also on most of the ground floor doors.

There is no evidence to suggest that the house has been altered structurally since 1913, with one exception. The sloping porch was walled in sometime during the past 20 years and the south end of it was utilized as a half-bath. The former sleeping porch now houses the museum office.

The house remains today in excellent structural condition inside and out.

Other buildings on the property include:

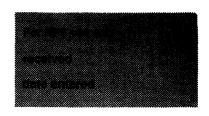
The Barn - 1910

The structure, in excellent condition, is a weatherboard sided, gambrel-roofed building, $46' \times 52'$ located to the southeast of the house. The building housed farm equipment and hay, and features a space-saving spiral staircase which leads to the hayloft.

The Garage - date unknown

Constructed in balloon-frame under channel siding, the 14' x 18' garage may date to 1920. It is oriented to parallel the farmhouse and is distinctive for its gable roof on the long axis, exposed and sawn rafter ends, and decorative knee braces. It appears to have been extended at an unknown date.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet William Frazier Farmstead

Item number

7

Page

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The Woodshed - date unknown

This 10' x 17' structure is directly east and behind the house. Covered in channel siding with a gable roof, its most interesting feature is the door, which is identical to the original porch doors on the farm house, now replaced.

Carriage House - date unknown

This building, used as a tack room, milking barn and carriage house, is located on a diagonal from the house. It is a one and one-half story, channel-sided structure with truncated hipped roof and hipped roof vent, numerous window and door openings, and two shed additions which may be original. Like the other buildings, it's roof is covered in composition shingle.

Chicken House - date unknown

Like the woodshed, this 10-foot square building has a gable roof, channel siding, and an entry door taken from the house.

Horse Barn - date unknown

Located east of the house, the unpainted $30' \times 50'$ structure combining horizontal and vertical board siding, is the farthest removed building from the main group. It is roofed with metal sheets.

Alterations to the property since October, 1984

As the goal of the Frazier Farmstead Musem is to give an accurate interpretation of a prosperous turn-of-the-century farmstead, surface modernizations to the property are gradually being phased out as funds become available to do so.

Cyclone fencing, modern storm doors, and a fiberglass windbreak have been removed. A split-rail fence, in keeping with other fencing on the property, has been built at the rear of the backyard to separate the parking area and garden from the lawn.

Wallpaper appropriate to the era has been added in the ground-floor study. Wall-to-wall carpeting has been removed and floors refinished. In the downstairs bathrom, wallboard has been removed and the wainscoting, along with the painted woodwork, has been striped and restored to a natural wood finish.

The northwest upstairs bedroom floor has also been restored and the room repapered. Over 650 items have been catalogued from the Frazier Estate and many of these are displayed in the museum.

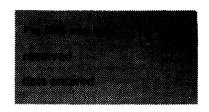
As the wood cookstove and oak ice box are displayed in the kitchen, all modern appliances have been moved to the basement, where work is currently in progress in a service area to be used by the museum staff for functions held at (and by) the museum. A replication of a summer kitchen area in the basement, that at one time was used by the harvest crews employed on the farm, is also in progress.

All restoration projects are undertaken only when careful, detailed research preceeds the work, as historical accuracy is the primary concern.

OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet William Frazier Farmstead

Item number

7

Page

5

Architect/Builder

The architect is unknown. M. V. Wormington was most probably the builder, as he was responsible for most of the early residences and business buildings in Milton. Cancelled checks made out to Frank A. Wormington, his son who followed him in the building business, indicate that he was responsible for the major remodeling of the house in 1913. It is doubtful that the son was old enough at the time the house was built, to have been the major builder, although he may have assisted his father.

8. Significance

| Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900– | | community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement | landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy politics/government | science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation |
|--|-----------|--|---|---|
| Specific dates | 1829-1930 | Builder/Architect M. V. | Wormington, contrac | ctor, 1913 |

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William S. Frazier farmstead is situated at the southeasterly edge of Milton-Freewater in Umatilla County, Oregon. The area proposed for nomination encompasses six acres adjacent to the Walla Walla River and includes the seven functionally interdependent buildings and pasture land which formed the nucleus of the historic farmstead. The focal point of the nominated area is the farmhouse, a two-story, hip-roofed, balloon-framed Italianate style building of 1892 which was re-sited and updated in the Arts and Crafts tradition in 1913. When it was constructed in 1892, the house fronted on Mill Street. In 1896, the house was remodeled modestly with formally-placed polygonal front window bay and a new front porch. These improvements were carried out by W. S. Frazier's youngest son William H. Frazier, and his daughter-in-law Frances, who moved into the house after the senior Frazier's death. In 1913, the house was moved eastward approximately 300 feet to allow for through construction of Chestnut Street. It was placed on a concrete basement, and the polygonal bays and Italianate front porch were removed and replaced by a Craftsman style veranda with square, tapered Tuscan columns. An offset, pedimented entrance bay marks the location of the entry stairhall at the southwest corner. High quality interior features and finish work, including beveled and leaded glass windows and cabinetry fronts and box-beamed ceilings, lend a distinctly Arts and Crafts character as a result of the remodeling in 1913.

The property is locally significant under National Register criterion "a" as an historic farmstead which demonstrates the functional relationship of a residence and its associated outbuildings, barns and pasture in the period 1892-1930. It is also significant under criterion "b" for its association with William Samuel Frazier (1823-1896), Oregon Trail pioneer of 1867 and founder of the Milton townsite, and his heirs, especially the youngest of six sons, William Hardee Frazier, who occupied the house and ran the family farm from 1896 onward. Currently operated as the Frazier Farmstead Museum, the well-preserved agricultural ensemble, its furnishings, equipment and setting provide an exceptionally complete illustration of turn-of-the-century farm life in Umatilla County.

History of the Site

The first Euro-American settlers arrived in the upper Walla Walla River Valley in the 1850s. The subject property was acquired by Thomas Eldridge in 1864. He sold his claim in 1868 to William Samuel Frazier, who built a log cabin on the land. The subject farmhouse was constructed near the cabin in 1892. Upon Frazier's death in 1896, the house and property were acquired by his youngest son, William Hardee Frazier and his wife, Frances Breadsley Frazier. The property was then acquired by two of their three children, Earl and Lela, both of whom remained unmarried. Upon William and Frances' deaths in 1954 and 1953 respectively, brother and sister lived in the house until their deaths in 1978 (Earl) and 1983 (Lela). Their wills were identical as to the disposition of their property, which was left to the Milton-Freewater Area

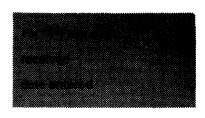
9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

GPO 911-399

| Acreage of noming Quadrangle nam UTM References | nated property e <u>Milton-Freew</u> | c. 6 vater, Oregon | . | Quac | Irangle scale 1:24000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| A 1 1 3 9 Zone Eastin | |) 816 21210 hing | BZon | e Easting | Northing |
| | | | D | | |
| c. 12, I. 5N ea of approx <u>vn founder W</u> | , R. 35E, W.M. imately six ac | , in Milton-F cres is the hi <u>cier and furt</u> h | reewater, Um istoric nucle <u>ier developed</u> | atilla County us of the far by his son, | rmstead is located in SE¼, Oregon. The nominated mstead established by Mil William H. Frazier. |
| tate | N/A | code | county | | code |
| state | N/A | code | county | | code |
| rganization treet & number | Historical 1403 Chestr | | | | 3) 938-4636 |
| treet & number | 1403 Chestr | nut Street | | telephone (50 | 3) 938-4636 |
| ity or town | Milton-Free | water | | state One | gon 97862 |
| 12. Sta | te Histo | ric Pres | ervation | | Certification |
| he evaluated sig | nificance of this p | roperty within the | state is: | | |
| | d State Historic Prominate this propert criteria and proced | | for the National Registre National Park | is ofic Preservati der and certify tha Service. | on Act of 1966 (Public Law 89- at it has been evaluated |
| tate historic Pre | | | / / //// | A DAGO M | A |
| Do | puty State His | storic Preserv | acion uttice | n da | ate April 23, 1986 |
| | | | | • | |
| For NPS use | rtify that this prope |) | | | . /- 5-1/ |
| For NPS use I hereby ce | rtify that this prope | And the | | | ate 6-5-16 |
| For NPS use I hereby ce | rtify that this prope | And the | | da | ate 6-5-56 |

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet William Frazier Farmstead Item number 8 Page

Foundation. They requested in their wills that a study be undertaken as to the feasibility of maintaining the house as a museum. This was done and since October 6, 1984, the Milton-Freewater Area Historical Society has maintained the property for museum purposes.

Historical Significance of the House and Property

William Samuel Frazier, for whom the house was built, was born in North Carolina on September 15, 1823. The family moved to Tennessee about 15 years later and it was there that William married Rachel Polina Williams on January 28, 1843. With four children, they moved to Arkansas in 1854 and on to Texas a year later. The family spent 11 years in Texas, where three more children were born. Frazier served briefly in the Confederate Army but was discharged because of ill health.

In the spring of 1867, the family started for Oregon. Their oldest daughter, Martha, her husband Martin Elam, and their baby daughter, joined the trek which took about six months. They arrived in the Walla Walla Valley that fall and spent the winter just south of the Oregon-Washington border. The next year W. S. bought the homstead of Thomas Eldridge, who was the first settler in what is now the City of Milton-Freewater. When W. S. built his log cabin, he commenced the chain of Frazier family occupancy of the property which continued unbroken until the death of Lela Frazier, his granddaughter, in 1983.

The Frazier property was situated near the foot of the hill leading into the Walla Walla Valley from Pendleton, and soon travelers were stopping to look for accommodations. Mrs. Frazier urged her husband to let someone start a hotel to care for these travelers, and he soon did so. In 1872, Frazier dedicated land and platted a townsite which was named Milton, according to traditions, in honor of the proprietor's favorite poet.

W. S. Frazier was credited with establishing the first school in Milton, a one-room structure opened in 1872. He was active in establishing the local Methodist Church and donated sufficient land for the first post office. In 1873, he sold for \$125, a 15-acre tract of land with water rights to John Miller to build a grist mill. The mill was the old three stone burr type, powered by a water wheel. The burrs were shipped around Cape Horn and up the Columbia River.

In 1874 the Talbert & Brown Chop Mill was built on the present site of Rogers Canning Company. To provide power for the mill's water wheel, Daniel Frank Brown constructed the first electrical generator in the growing city. W. S. Frazier's home was the first in Milton to be provided electric lighting. A lengthy drop cord with a globe on the end, it was carried from room to room. The City of Milton (now Milton-Freewater) is considered to have the oldest municipal electrical system still in operation in the Pacific Northwest.

When W. S. Frazier died on July 29, 1896, the $\underline{\text{Milton Eagle}}$ referred to the town founder as "Father Frazier."

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet William Frazier Farsmtead

Item number

8

Page

3

All the Frazier family settled in the environs of Milton and influenced almost every facet of community life. W. S. Frazier's sons, Henry and James, along with his sons-in-law, A. M. Elam (married Martha Frazier) and Samuel K. Coe (married Susan Frazier), were incorporators of the growing city's first bank, which had an opera house on the second floor. Henry Frazier served as president for 30 years, while A. M. Elam and James Frazier were active as directors for many years. Henry Frazier served as a councilman and was mayor of Milton for several terms and also served as county commissioner for four years. W. S. Frazier's son James as an active supporter of Columbia College and of the Methodist Church. A. M. Elam was probably one of the most active family members in shaping Milton's early years. Elam built and owned one-half interest in Peacock Mills and was one of the owners of the Eagle Mill. He owned 1,000 acres of land adjoining Milton and much land within the city. He was the first mayor of Milton and was a councilman for many terms. In the early 1900s he built the Elam Block; a group of brick buildings that remain today a major portion of the south business district of Milton-Freewater.

W. S. Frazier's youngest son, William Hardee, spent most of his time overseeing the family's extensive farm holdings which included at one time, about 5,000 acres of wheatland and fruit orchards, and approximately 300 head of cattle. Wheat and fruit are major crops in the Milton-Freewater area today.

Walter M. Pierce, a furture governor of Oregon and U. S. Congressman, was one of the many ranch hands employed by W. S. Fraizer and his sons. Among the thousands of items left in the Frazier Estate is an invitation to future Governor's Pierce's first wedding.

William S. Frazier's youthful dream of owning a farm, a dream which led him to Oregon originally, was indeed realized by himself and his descendants.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet William Frazier Farmstead Item number 9 Page 1

An Illustrated History of Umatilia County and of Morrow County, Colonel William Parsons and W. S. Shiach, W. H. Lever, Publisher, 1902.

Historic Sketches of Walla Walla, Whitman, Columbia, and Garfield Counties, Washington Territory and Umatilla County. Frank T. Gilbert, Portland, Oregon, 1882.

Early History of Milton-Freewater Area. The Valley Herald, Inc., Milton-Freewater, Oregon, 1962.

Milton Eagle - July 31, 1896, June 6, 1939, May 22, 1924 and April 28, 1932.

The Oregon Journal - August 3, 1926. Lockley, Fred, "Impressions and Observations of the Journal Man." Also July 11, 1929.

Walla Walla Union-Bulletin - July 11, 1948.

The Valley Herald - August 24, 1968, Septemer 31, 1970 and March 16, 1972.

Frazier Family History

Records, Assessor's Office, Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton, Oregon.

Records, City of Milton-Freewater, Oregon.

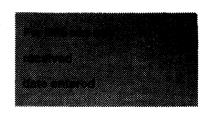
Elwood & Myrtle Piper, Milton-Freewater, Oregon (personal communication, Jan., 1985).

Bernice Coe, Milton-Freewater, Oregon (personal communication, January, 1985).

Mary Coe Harris, Pendleton, Oregon (personal communication, February, 1985).

Grace Beard, Milton-Freewater, Oregon (personal communication, August, 1985).

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet William Frazier Farmstead

Item number

10

Page

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The William S. Frazier Farmstead is located in SE1/4 Sec. 12, T. 5N, R. 35E, Willamette Meridian, in Milton-Freewater, Umatilla County, Oregon. The nominated area of approximately six acres is the historic nucleus of the farmstead established by Milton town founder William S. Frazier and further developed by his son, William H. Frazier. Parcel A contains plantings of willow and alder and six of the contributing features, namely the farmhouse and five functionally interdependent subsidiary buildings. The adjoining parcel B extends easterly to the toe of the Walla Walla River levee to encompass a segment of the mill race which contributed to the community's pioneer industrial enterprises, historic pastureland and a horse barn. The nominated area is more particularly described as follows:

Parcel A (Tax Lot 7400, Umatilla County Assessor's Map #5N-35-12-DB)

Block 23, Riverside Addition to the Town, now City of Milton-Freewater, Umatilla County, Oregon;

ALSO, all that portion of Vacated Frazier Avenue and Vacated Walnut Street adjacent to said Block $12.\,$

SUBJECT HOWEVER, to the rights of the public in and to any portion of said Vacated Frazier Avenue and Vacated Walnut Street.

EXCEPTING THEREFROM that portion included within Brookside Addition according to the duly recorded plat thereof, filed for record April 1, 1976, Book 10, page 25, Plat Records.

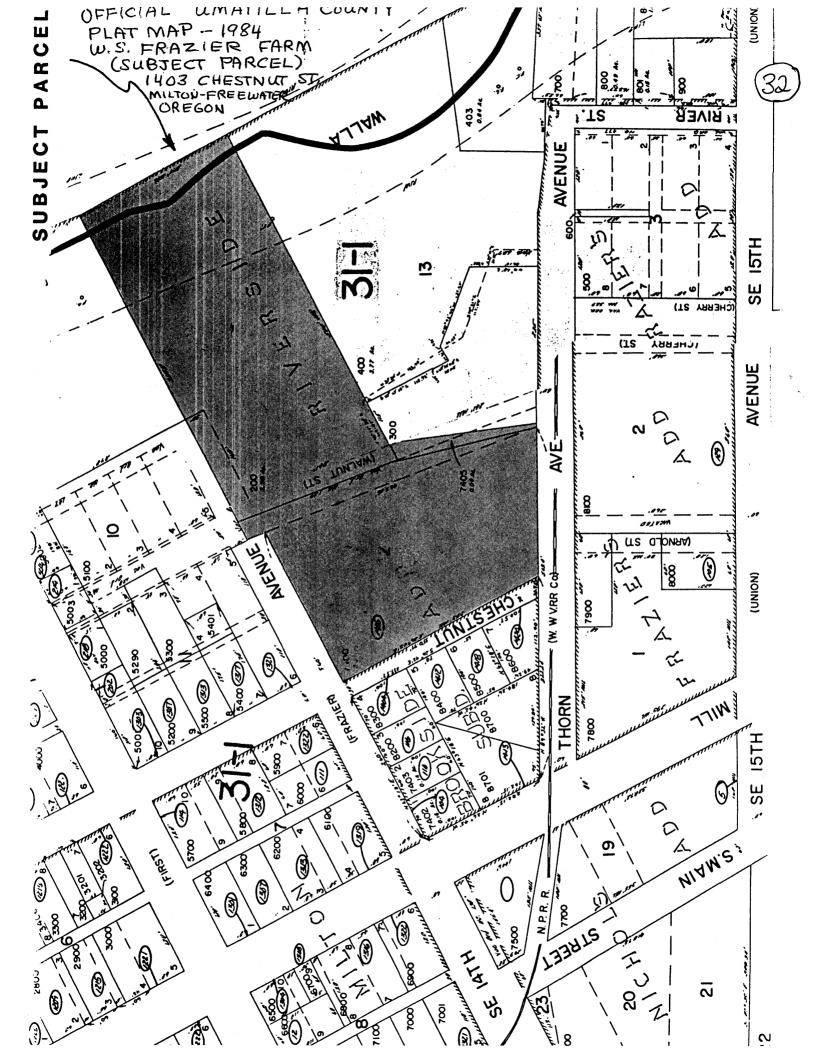
Parcel B (Tax Lot 200, Umatilla County Assessor's Map #5N-35-12-DA)

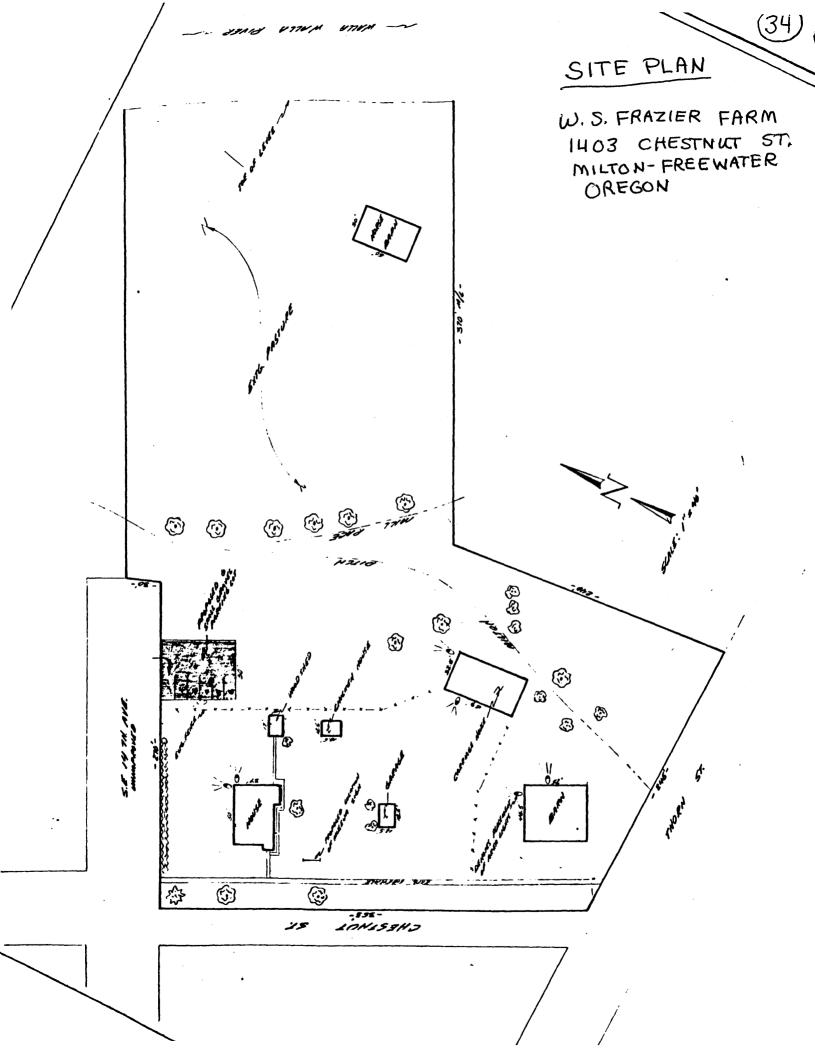
A portion of Block 13, Riverside Addition to the Town, now City of Milton-Freewater, Umatilla County, Oregon, and being described as follows, to-wit:

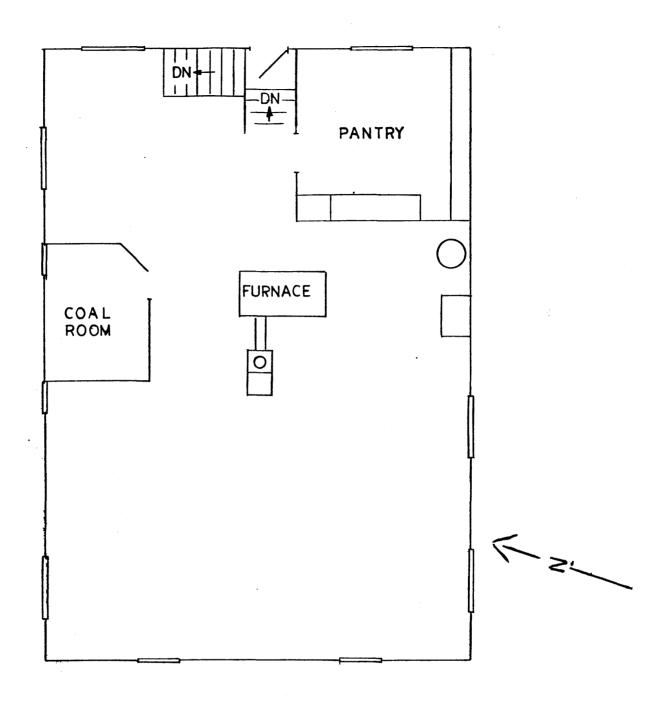
Commencing at the Northeast corner of said Block 13; thence Westerly along the North line of said Block 13, 335-90/100 feet to River Street; thence Southerly along River Street 30 feet; thence Westerly along the line of said Block 13, 160 feet to the Northwest corner thereof; thence Southerly along the West line of said Block 13, 241 feet; thence Easterly, parallel with the North line of said Block 13, 500 feet, more or less, to the East line thereof; thence Northerly along the East line of said Block 13, 271 feet, more or less, to the place of beginning;

ALSO all that portion of Vacated Frazier Avenue and Vacated Walnut Street adjacent thereto;

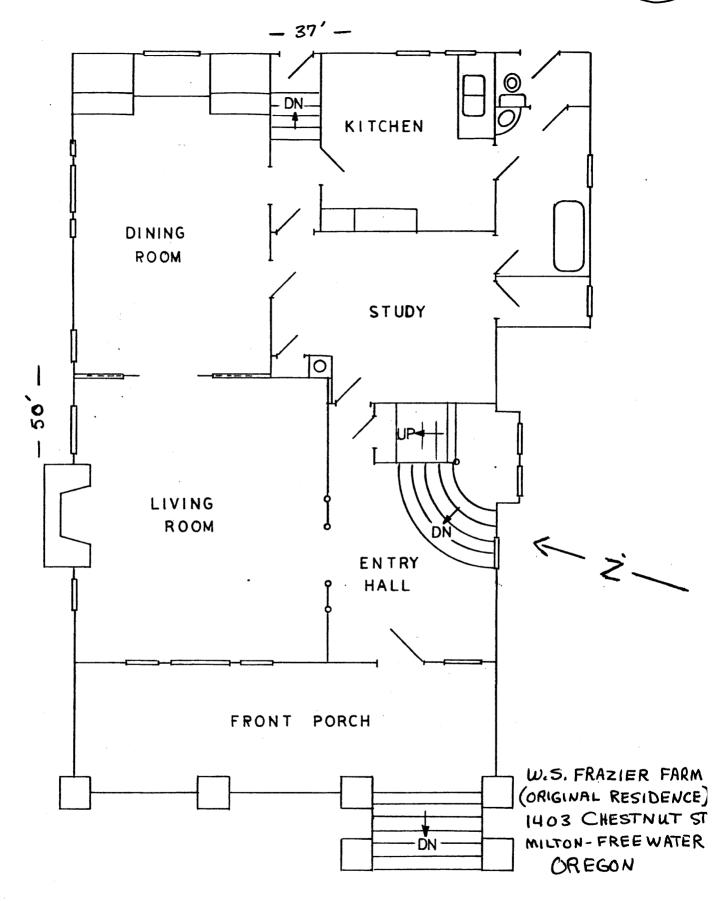
SUBJECT HOWEVER to the rights of the public in and to any portion of said Vacated Frazier Avenue and Walnut Street.



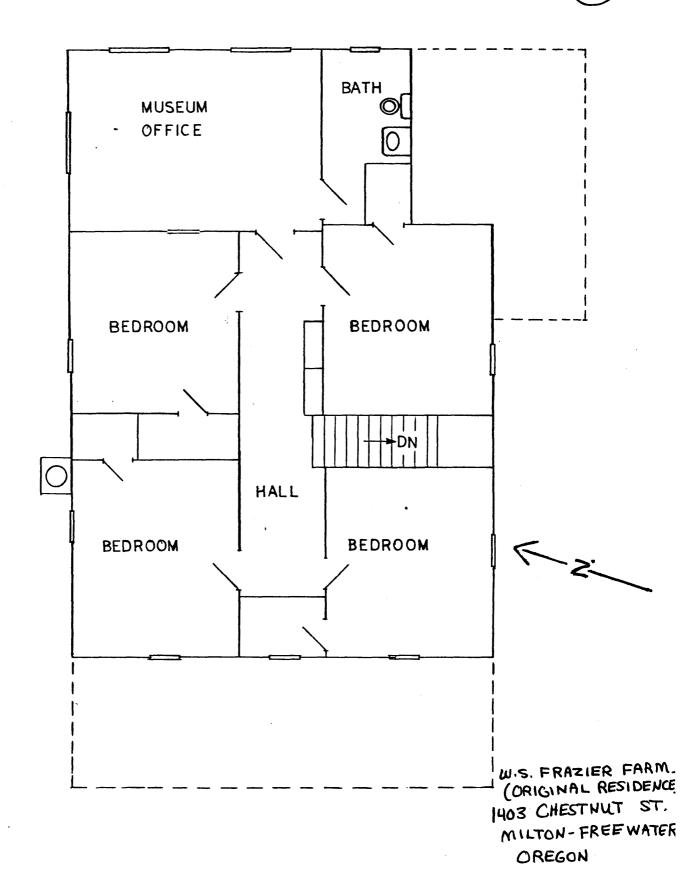




W.S. FRAZIER FARM
(ORIGINAL RESIDENCE)
1403 CHESTNUT ST.
MILTON-FREEWATER
OREGON



MAIN FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR