

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 98000205

Date Listed: 3/05/98

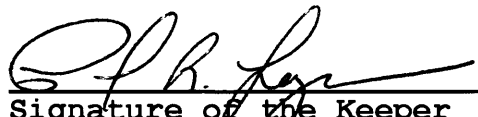
Wilson, William T. E. Homestead  
Property Name

Deschutes  
County

OR  
State

N/A  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

3/5/98  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

**Significant Person:**

The name *William T. E. Wilson* is deleted from the space for Significant Person on the cover form since the property is not being nominated under Criterion B.

**U. T. M. Coordinates:**

The UTM coordinates for points A and B are revised to read:

A 10 620260 4906780

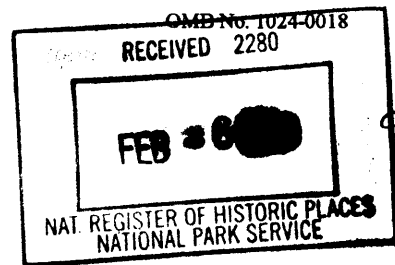
B 10 620270 4906380

This information was confirmed with E. Potter of the OR SHPO.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name WILSON, WILLIAM T.E., HOMESTEAD  
other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 70300 CAMP POLK ROAD not for publication N/A  
city or town SISTERS vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state OREGON code OR county DESCHUTES code 017  
zip code 97759

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] January 16, 1998  
Signature of certifying official Deputy SHPO Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the  
National Register  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] Signature of Keeper: 3/5/98 Date of Action:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number   3   Page   1  

---

**WILSON, WILLIAM T. E., HOMESTEAD (1903-1925)**

70300 Camp Polk Road

Sisters vicinity, Deschutes County, Oregon

**COMMENTS OF THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

The William T. E. Wilson Homestead meets National Register Criterion A as an intact historic livestock ranch established under the Homestead Act of 1862 and encompassing 160 acres in the valley of Squaw Creek, meandering tributary to the north-flowing Deschutes River in central Oregon. The setting is two and a half to three miles northeast of the trading community of Sisters, which was platted in 1901. Wilson established his claim in the same year as the town platting and developed the homestead from 1903 onward, chiefly, it is supposed, from lumber manufactured from his own mill. He had built a water-powered mill on Pole Creek, west of Sisters, about 1900, and beginning in 1904 was operating a steam-powered mill in the vicinity. In due course, he added a planer to his operations.

The property is significant also under Criterion C for the rare and nearly complete functional farm building ensemble illustrating early 20th century vernacular construction and lay-out on the margin of the high desert country on the east slope of the Cascade Mountains. It is one of the few such replete historic farm building groups in the county. Comparative data is based on the Deschutes County Historical Resource Inventory of more than 250 sites. Only two farmhouses of comparable type are included in the data base at present. A more focused reconnaissance of the Squaw Creek Valley showed no other homestead houses of any kind remaining in that sub area.

The house which the homesteader and mill operator built is an example of practical house building in an isolated setting. Not stylistically pretentious, it can be classified as a vernacular version of the American Foursquare type. The balloon frame house rises as a two-story volume, 28 feet square in plan, from a basalt pier foundation. It is enclosed with a steep hip roof with gabled peak, and it is encircled on three sides by a single-story, shed-roofed veranda supported by chamfered posts. The exterior is clad with six-inch horizontal drop siding. There is in the configuration a hint of folk architecture since, although it is two stories in height, it faintly resembles the double-pitched hip roofs and encircling galleries of traditional French buildings in the Mississippi River Valley. The house is oriented to the east, facing the road, with entrances on east and south elevations. Placement of openings is slightly eccentric, expressing an interior

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 3 Page 2

---

divided essentially into four compartments with a central circulation corridor. Certain ground story windows are paired. Windows are double-hung, with one over one lights. Interior finish work consists of fir flooring, beaded tongue and groove hallway wainscoting, simple, built-in cabinetry in the diningroom, plain door and window trim, and four-panels doors.

The vacant house is in a remarkable state of preservation, having never been modified even for plumbing installation. Recently, the foundation was repaired by the owners, and a new roof of cedar shingles was added. A feature revealing of the efficient lay-out of the house is the single-story gable-roofed cold storage attachment at the northwest corner, adjacent to the kitchen compartment. Its walls are insulated with sawdust.

The nominated property encompasses 12 contributing features in all, including nine buildings and a structural system of split rail fencing which demarcates most of the homestead boundary as well as the hay field on the east end and the grazing area along the Squaw Creek bottom land on the west. Completing the tally of contributing features are the two aforementioned agricultural fields. Making up the nucleus of development at the west end of the elongated parcel, near Squaw Creek, are the house and its associated machine shop, which is a small back building with gable roof, drop siding, and boxed cornice to match the finish work of the house. The wood shed which stood close by is no longer standing. Nearby to the southwest is a primitive shed-roofed rabbit shed. Offset from the house, to the northeast, are a privy and chicken coop. Aligned along the west-forking service road north of the house are a livestock barn of log pole construction, a shed-roofed storage shed, and a collapsed livestock shelter with an associated working corral. Completing the complement is the hay barn, which stands at a distance of about a quarter of a mile to the northeast. Though removed from the main cluster of developed features, the partially open barn is of interest both for its functional relationship to the adjacent hay field and as an example of mortise and tenon construction. The hay barn has vertical 1 x 8-inch board exterior cover, and the gable roof is presently covered with sheet metal.

This application points out that initial settlement of the juniper and pine country around Sisters came with the opening of the Willamette Valley and Cascade Mountain Road, which was projected as a direct route over the Cascade Range from Willamette Valley settlements to the gold regions of eastern Oregon and Idaho. A land grant had been given to the State of Oregon by the federal government for construction of a military wagon road, which was never built except for a section over the Cascades via the Santiam Pass which was in use as a toll road from the 1860s onward. Another impetus to initial settlement of the Sisters area had been the presence of the military during a time of general Indian unrest in eastern Oregon. In 1865, Captain Charles

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   3   Page   3  

---

La Follette was dispatched with a detachment of Company A volunteers from the Willamette Valley to establish a post in central Oregon. The site selected was about a mile north of the nominated property. While Camp Polk was garrisoned only a short time before it was abandoned, it had encouraged several families to settle on Squaw Creek.

Wilson made his homestead claim in 1901 as one of a second group of settlers attracted to the community that was coalescing at Sisters by the turn of the 20th century. William T. E. Wilson was a native of Linn County, Oregon, on the west slope of the Cascades. He arrived in Sisters in 1884, at the age of 27, married Bertha Jane Stevens in 1886, and under provisions of the Homestead Act of 1862, which qualified him for 160 acres of surveyed public domain, he filed his claim on Squaw Creek at the land office for registry of titles in The Dalles in 1901. He had engaged in lumber manufacture prior to filing his claim, and prospered as the fledgling town expanded. On the ranch, he and his wife raised a family of four children, all boys. The dry-land farm supported little cultivation except for hay, but Wilson ran cattle and raised small livestock, such as chickens and rabbits, for subsistence. In 1925, financial reverses brought foreclosure on the homestead, and the Wilsons moved into Sisters, where they lived the rest of their lives. William died in 1944 at the age of 87, and Bertha followed in 1945, at 76 years of age.

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
9		buildings
2		sites
1		structures
		objects
12	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Cat:  DOMESTIC
- Sub:  SINGLE DWELLING
- (HOMESTEAD)
- AGRICULTURAL OUTBUILDINGS
- ANIMAL FACILITIES
- FENCE SYSTEM
- AGRICULTURAL FIELDS

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Cat:  DOMESTIC
- Sub:  SINGLE DWELLING
- AGRICULTURE\SUBSISTENCE
- WORK IN PROGRESS

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: AMERICAN FOURSQUARE

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation  STONE

roof  CEDAR SHINGLE

walls  WEATHERBOARD

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE \_\_\_\_\_
- AGRICULTURE \_\_\_\_\_
- SETTLEMENT \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1903-1925 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_ 1903 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

WILLIAM T.E. WILSON \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Name of repository:**

- Deschutes County Historical Society
- A.M. Bowman Museum: Prineville, OR

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** One Hundred and Sixty Acres Sisters, Oregon 1:24000  
Henkle Butte, OR 1:24000

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

(A) 1 10 619260 4906780  
Zone Easting Northing

(B) 2 10 619270 4906380  
Zone Easting Northing

(C) 3 10 618670 4906320  
Zone Easting Northing

(D) 4 10 618660 4906720  
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet.**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**name/title MICHAEL HOUSER: Associate Planner, Historic and Cultural Resourcesorganization Deschutes County Community Development Department date JULY 20, 1997street & number 1130 NW Harriman telephone (541) 388-7927city or town Bend state OR zip code 97701



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7**

**Page 1**

**WILLIAM T.E. WILSON HOMESTEAD  
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON**

---

**Narrative Description:**

The William T.E. Wilson Homestead is a two-story, single-family residence of an American Foursquare design. The home faces due east, on the north end of Bradley Road, approximately three miles northeast of Sisters, Oregon. Note that the actual County address for the property is Camp Polk Road, however access to the property via this road is no longer possible. Nestled in the Squaw Creek Valley, arrangement of the home and surrounding outbuildings has been dictated by the geography of the area. To the west is the slow moving Squaw Creek, a tributary of the Deschutes River. Beyond the creek to the west is a sharp tree covered ridge. To the east is a gradual hill, covered with large boulders which gives way to an flat open hay field. In the valley between sits the farmstead and accompanying outbuildings. This lower valley floor was used for cattle grazing. Built circa 1903, the Wilson Homestead complex consists of one dwelling and eight outbuildings, seven of which are found on the lower valley floor.

The William T.E. Wilson House was constructed using standard balloon-frame construction and is clad with six-inch, horizontal, tongue-and-groove, drop siding. As evidenced by an early photograph circa 1910, the house remains today much as it did in the early part of the 20th century. The gable-on-hip cedar shingle roof, supports a brick chimney with corbeled cap found at the slope of the western face. The eaves and underside of the veranda have been enclosed, or boxed-in. Resembling a cube, the Foursquare's 28' 4" square plan sits on 10" x 10" beams resting on basalt stones, placed strategically at each corner. The design of the house is emphasized by a three-sided wrap-around veranda, with a shed roof supported by twelve simple square columns with chamfered edges.

Windows of the Wilson House are double-hung, 1-over-1 with lambs tongue detailed sashes. A rectangular, four-pane fixed window is found on the north end of the cold storage room. A second four-pane fixed window located on the west wall of the living room is a probable later addition. The first floor windows are grouped in pairs, while the second floor windows are singular. All windows and doors have simple 1" x 4" molding surrounds. Set slightly off-center, the main entrance door is a half-light design, divided into four panes in the upper portion. Secondary side entrance doors on the north and south facades are four-panel design. Attached to the northwest corner is a one-story, gable roof addition covering a cold storage room that is accessed via the kitchen. The 12" thick walls, filled with sawdust, keep the room at least 15 to 20 degrees cooler than the rest of the house.

The interior of the Wilson house is arranged functionally with the public spaces on the first floor and the private spaces on the second floor. The square plan is divided by a long narrow hallway that leads to an enclosed stairwell and the upstairs bedrooms. Accessed directly from the front entrance door, this hallway is adorned with four foot high beaded wainscoting and decorative wallpaper. Dividing the dining and kitchen areas is a simple pass-through china hutch. All interior doors are four-panel design with standard rim locks complete with black porcelain knobs.

The kitchen is accessed by two interior doors, one next to the pass-through china hutch which leads to the dining room and another that leads to the living room. Beaded wainscoting covers the kitchen walls. The high 9' ceilings in the downstairs are accentuated in the parlor by picture moldings at the top of the windows, which were used to hang family photos. Most of the upstairs space has been left unfinished, where 1" x 12" Douglas fir boards

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7,8

Page 2

WILLIAM T.E. WILSON HOMESTEAD  
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

---

**Narrative Description:** Cont'd

cover the walls ceilings. Bedroom 2 has wallpaper, most likely added after 1928 as evidenced by the newspaper and the *Saturday Evening Posts* that act as the backing for the wallpaper. All floors in the Wilson Home are 2" fir decking.

Eight outbuildings make up the Wilson Homestead complex. The exact construction dates of the outbuildings are not known. The largest of these structures is the hay barn at 36' x 45'. It is located away from the house on top of the ridge to the east. This simple mortise and tendon structure is covered with a metal gable roof and is clad with vertical 1" x 8" boards. As the secondary barn, this structure only acts to protect the newly bushed hay from the elements. Also covered with vertical boards is the small sheep/cattle barn. At 32' x 13', this small barn originally held sheep pens and two areas for milking cows. This primitive structure was constructed using log poles for the roof and dimensional lumber for the walls. Today the roof is covered with corrugated metal. The storage shed is a simple structure. Constructed of various sizes of dimensional lumber this 16' x 6' building is clad with horizontal planks and covered with a shed roof that slopes down from east to west.

At the far north end of the Wilson farm ensemble is the corral and livestock shelter. Built of cut lumber this 3'6" x 30' shelter has now fallen over. The shelter has six cribs to feed horses or cattle. To the south is the two-hole privy. The privy is capped with an open end gable roof and clad with 8" tongue-and-groove siding. The chicken coop is a 20' square structure capped with a low pitch gable roof. Covered with horizontal planks, the addition of a small shed room to the west allowed for additional storage space. The machine shed, located just north of the house, is a small 8' x 10' structure clad with horizontal tongue-and-groove siding. The gabled building has only one window on the west facade. To the rear of the house is a 12' x 6' rabbit shed. This shed roof structure is clad with board-and-batten vertical siding. All eight outbuildings are in some form of disrepair, however they are integral in telling the story of the Wilson Homestead.

Alterations to the William T.E. Homestead are minimal. As recently as February, 1997 a new cedar shingle roof was installed on the house and a new foundation was poured. New electrical and plumbing systems brought the home up to 1997 code requirements. Other updates include sheet rocking over the existing plank boards in the upstairs rooms and bedroom 1 being converted into a bathroom. Heavy snow fall in January of 1997 resulted in the collapse of the wood storage shed. The picket fence found in the historical photo no longer remains. It is unclear when the main barn was demolished/destroyed, but is most likely to have occurred within the last ten years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance:**

The William T.E. Wilson Homestead is historically significant under criterion "A" for its associations and contributions to the homesteading of the Squaw Creek Valley. The home is also historically significant for its high artistic value and distinctive characteristics as classified under criterion "C", and as the last remaining example of its type in the Squaw Creek Valley.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 3

WILLIAM T.E. WILSON HOMESTEAD  
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance: Cont'd**

**CRITERION "A"**

Under criterion "A" the William T.E. Wilson Homestead is significant as one of the few intact farmsteads associated with the homesteading and development of the Squaw Creek Valley northeast of Sisters, Oregon. Homesteaded in 1901, the Wilson Homestead complex represents a second wave of homesteaders to the Squaw Creek Valley.

The first wave of settlers to the Squaw Creek Valley was brought about by the opening of the Willamette Valley & Cascade Mountain Road (W.V. & C.M. Road) in 1865 (Clark 23). The need for this direct route of travel over the mountains was apparent. Settlers wanted to fatten their cattle on east-side grass, and merchants and freighters wanted to get supplies to the newly discovered gold mines in eastern Oregon and Idaho. Established by financiers in Albany and Lebanon, the W.V. & C.M. Road was surveyed and built with the help of Captain Charles LaFollette. LaFollette had been ordered to establish a military post in Central Oregon when he caught up with the construction crew and helped them build the road to a location not far from the summit of Santiam Pass. LaFollette then continued east and established Camp Polk near the present site of Sisters, just a mile north of the Wilson Homestead on Squaw Creek.

With the construction of the road, settlers began to move into the Central Oregon region from the Willamette Valley. By the close of 1871 more than 160 adults had crossed over the mountain on the W.V. & C.M. Road according to author Cleon Clark in his book *History of the Willamette Valley and Cascade Mountain Wagon Road*. Clark further states that at least two of those adults actually settled on Squaw Creek. A map from the Squaw Creek Irrigation Company lists some of the early settlers with water rights. The following is a list of those settlers with homesteading dates in parentheses: Samuel Hindman (1871), E.A. Graham (1880), the Buchanan family (1883), J.D. Fryrear (1884), the Smith family (1885), and the Claypool Brothers (1886), who reportedly took out first water rights on Squaw Creek. Interestingly, the actual route of the wagon road followed part of Squaw Creek, just to the north of the Wilson Homestead, on its way to Burns in the heart of Eastern Oregon. The road, known in later years as the Old Santiam Wagon Road, acted officially as a toll road until 1914 (Nielson 74).

With these six families homesteading on Squaw Creek, the first step toward the development of the valley began. By the early 1900s Sisters had become a bustling little community. In July 1901, the same year that Wilson homesteaded, Alex and Robert Smith platted the town of Sisters. It wouldn't take long for the little town to grow into a thriving community. F.C. Welch wrote in *The Prineville Herald*, November 1904, "There are two stores, a hotel, a blacksmith shop, saloon, real estate office, livery barn and a splendid schoolhouse costing \$1,800. A short distance from the town is a fine lumber mill. The larger store in town is owned by Smith and Wilt...the company carries a \$5000 stock of groceries, hardware, harness, stationary, and a small drug department, etc. The townsite belongs to this firm. The only other store in town is owned by Alex Smith. A large stock of some \$4,000 of gents' furnishings, boots, and shoes, and dry goods is carried. The years business aggregates to about \$12,000. Real estate has been changing hands so frequently of late that an office has been opened..." (*A History of...* 733). After the platting of Sisters, a second wave of homesteaders flooded into the region, including William T.E. Wilson (1901), the Bloss Family (1903), G.A. Claypool (1906), the Oliver Family (1905), the Quiberg family (1906) and the Palmer family (1908).

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8**

**Page 4**

**WILLIAM T.E. WILSON HOMESTEAD  
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON**

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance: Cont'd**

Born in 1857 in Waterloo, Oregon, William T.E. Wilson had come to Sisters as early as 1884, at the age 27 ("W.T.E. Wilson." 2). Here he met and married Bertha Jane Stevens in 1886 in Prineville. Bertha was only 17 at the time. Born in Lane County near Eugene in 1869, Bertha came to Sisters as a little girl. Her family homestead was at Stevens Canyon, west of Sisters.

Pursuant to the Homestead Act of 1862, William T.E. Wilson filed his official claim for land in the Squaw Creek Valley at The Dalles on October 22, 1901. Application #5383 officially granted Wilson and his wife one hundred and fifty-nine acres and sixty one hundredths of an acre. As a way to make a living William, became engaged in the lumber business. He owned and operated the first water powered lumber mill on Pole Creek, located four mile west of Sisters, which was built in 1900 ("Sisters Pioneer.." 2). Here, he most likely milled the lumber to construct his house on Squaw Creek some three years later. The mill ran on a mere 20 horsepower generated by Pole Creek, a small but steady creek, which drains the Three Sisters Mountains. The mill reportedly had a capacity of 5000 board feet of lumber a day (Hatton 31). In 1904 Wilson bought a steam outfit which was carried from Shaniko by horse-drawn freight wagon (Wilson 37). Wilson installed this steam outfit on what is known as the Hammond Ranch just south of Sisters (Wilson 37). About 1908, he moved the steam mill to just east of the Lazy Z ranch buildings and added a planer mill to the operation (Wilson 37). Wilsons lumber mill was integral in supplying milled, dimensional lumber for the growing town of Sisters.

Living in the Squaw Creek Valley William, with the help of his wife and four children would prosper until 1925. Unfortunate circumstances brought about the loss of their homestead and accompanying 160 acres in 1925 to a foreclosure for failure to pay off their mortgage to The Oregon-Washington Joint Stock Land Bank of Portland. After foreclosure the Wilsons moved into the town of Sisters where they stayed until their death. William T.E. Wilson died December 15, 1944 at the age of 87 ("W.T.E. Wilson." 2). Bertha Jane Stevens, Wilson's wife, died on July 4, 1945 at the age of 76 ("Sisters Pioneer.." 3). Along with his wife, William is buried in the Squaw Creek Valley at the Camp Polk Cemetery. The Wilsons had four boys: George (1892-1960), Lynn (1894-1943), Vern (1900-?) and John (1906 -?).

The Wilsons' homestead and accompanying water rights were eventually purchased by David L. and Nellie M. Miller for \$3,748.65 in 1927. The next year the Millers sold the property to Claude C. and Dorothy Woods, who kept the property for 20 years. Dorothy Brink, widow of Claude Woods, sold the property and house to Robert R. and L. Opal Thompson for \$4,000 in 1941. The Thompsons eventually added another 160 acres (see attached map: lots 7 through 10 in section two) to the original homestead property. Opal lived in the home with no running water until her death in 1992 when it was sold to its current owners Frank and Kathy Deggendorfer.

**CRITERION "C"**

The William T.E. Wilson Homestead is locally significant under Criterion "C" as a rare, intact example of an early dry-farming operation in Deschutes County, specifically in the Squaw Creek Valley. Associated with subsistence farming activity, the Wilson Homestead represents the finest example of an early farm complex within the Squaw Creek Valley. In addition to the main dwelling, believed to have been constructed in approximately

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8**

**Page 5**

**WILLIAM T.E. WILSON HOMESTEAD  
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON**

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance: Cont'd**

1903, the ensemble includes eight outbuildings; a chicken coop, a privy, a rabbit shed, a machine shed, a storage shed, a livestock shelter, a sheep/cattle barn and a hay barn. An associated "main" barn for the homestead was unfortunately demolished a few years ago and the wood storage shed collapsed in January of 1997. Although the exact date of construction has not been determined for any of the buildings, architectural and historical clues suggest that the main dwelling was constructed circa 1903. Due to the filing of homestead papers by William T.E. Wilson in October of 1901, it is logical to assume that a home of this caliber was constructed as a second dwelling to an initial homestead cabin. A built date for the various outbuildings can not be determined, however all are assumed to have been constructed prior 1925 as evidenced by historical accounts.

The American Foursquare design of the Wilson House, often referred to as a classic "box" house, is the most common house built after the turn-of-the-century in the United States. Yet, few exist in Deschutes County today. The Historical Resource data base for Deschutes County, containing over 450 sites, has only two other standing American Foursquares inventoried: the Long Hollow Ranch (c.1906) and the Shevlin-Hixon Executive House (1920). The apparent plainness of the house belies the richness of the philosophy and history behind the design. The American Foursquare possesses the simplicity and honesty that epitomizes turn-of-the-century homes, striving to be "the comfortable house".

The American Foursquare design appeared during the first decade of the 20th century, and its popularity lasted well into the 1920s (Kahn 17). As an inexpensive way to provide large amounts of comfortable living space, the Wilson Home was more than ample for William, Bertha and their four children. The 28'4" square house easily contained four bedrooms, a living room, a parlor, a kitchen and a dining room. The American Foursquare design can be embellished with many stylistic features including: Craftsman, Colonial, Oriental and Victorian styling. The Wilson Home however, is devoid of any period ornamentation. Instead it is a simple dwelling where form purely follows function.

Currently, Deschutes County has only one farmstead listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Charles Boyd Homestead Group (1905). The Wilson Homestead falls under the category of a multi-farm unit as defined in the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office Agricultural Context Statement. Note that a multi-unit farm is distinctive from a "basic farm" in that it consists of at least two or more outbuildings in addition to the primary dwelling. The Wilson Homestead contains a total of eight outbuildings and one house. Although Deschutes County has never been systematically inventoried, a reconnaissance survey conducted of the Squaw Creek Valley showed that no intact farmsteads remain in the valley, except for the Wilson Homestead.

The homestead house and seven of the eight outbuildings are located directly in the Squaw Creek Valley. One building, the hay barn, is located at the top of the valley floor. Within the valley the slow moving Squaw Creek provided water to the homestead on a year round basis. Here drinking, bath and laundry water for the family was carried only 200 feet from the shores of the creek to the house. The steep geography of the valley sides and the flat valley bottom floor created an ideal location to graze cattle and is still used today for that purpose. Also on the valley floor is the farmstead and seven accompanying outbuildings. This location protected the buildings from the harsh winter weather in a small micro climate. Beyond the creek to the west is a sharp tree covered ridge. At the top of the ridge the property ends. To the east of the valley floor is a gradual hill, covered with large boulders

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8, 9

Page 6

WILLIAM T.E. WILSON HOMESTEAD  
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance: Cont'd**

which gives way to an flat open hay field. Just above the livestock shelter is a tin can dump were hundreds of jars and cans remain scattered about the sagebrush. At the far east of the original 160 acres, the rich topsoil has been cultivated over the years for the production of hay, alfalfa and potatoes. In the center of the field lies a large pile of field stones. Each spring as cultivation of the soil occurs the rocks float to the surface. Over the past 94 years hundreds of rock have been piled up.

The period of significance for the property lies from 1903 to 1925, the period when the property was associated the Wilson family. As per historical accounts from men and woman who worked for the Wilsons, the homestead remains intact to that period providing historians an intact example of an early day subsidence farming operation.

**Bibliography:**

A History of the Deschutes Country in Oregon. Redmond, OR: Midstate Printing, 1985.

An Illustrated History of Central Oregon. Spokane, WA: Western Historical Publishing Co., 1905.

Clark, Cleon L. History of the Willamette Valley and Cascade Mountain Wagon Road. Bend, OR: Deschutes County Historical Society, 1987.

"Early 1880's Saw Settling of Sisters." Crook County Chronicle. No Date.

Grant, Ila S. "Tillie Wilson ending long teaching career at Sisters." The Bend Bulletin. 1 June 1961:1

"George Wilson dies at age 68." The Bend Bulletin. 10 May 1960:3

Hatton, Raymond R. Oregon Sisters Country. Bend, OR: Maverick Publications, 1996.

Kahn, Renee. "The American Foursquare." The Old House Journal. February 1982: 15-17.

"Maud E. Woods Dies at Age 80." The Bend Bulletin. 7 April 1956:3.

Metsker Map. Map. Seattle, WA, 1972.

Nielson, Lawrence E., Doug Newman and George McCart. Pioneer Roads in Central Oregon. Bend, OR: Maverick Publications, 1985.

Plat Map. Map. No Date.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9, 10

Page 7

WILLIAM T.E. WILSON HOMESTEAD  
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

---

**Bibliography:** Cont'd

"People and Places of Pioneer Central Oregon." Crook County Chronicle. 1932.

"Sisters Pioneer, Mrs. Wilson, Dead." The Bend Bulletin. 5 July 1945:4.

"Sisters." The Bend Bulletin. 9 March 1944:3.

Speulda, Lou Ann. Oregon's Agricultural Development: A Historic Context 1811-1940. Salem, OR State Historic Preservation Office, 1989.

Squaw Creek District, Crook County Oregon. Map. Prineville, OR, No Date.

U.S. Census Bureau. Crook County Census. 1900: 2, Line 12.

U.S. Census Bureau. Crook County Census. 1910: 3, Line 46.

Wakefield, Virginia. Personal Interview with Granddaughter of William T.E. Wilson. 4 February 1997.

Wilson, Tillie, and Alice Scott. That Was Yesterday. Redmond, OR: Midstate Printing Inc., 1974.

"W.T.E. Wilson, Pioneer, Is Dead." The Bend Bulletin. 15 December 1944:3.

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Lots One (1), Two (2), Three (3), and Four (4) of Section Two (2) in Township Fifteen (15) South, Range Ten (10) East of the Willamette Meridian, in rural Deschutes County approximately three miles northeast of the town of Sisters, Oregon. The property is otherwise identified as Tax Lot 00100 at said location.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the William T.E. Wilson homestead which includes approximately 160 original homesteaded acres encompassing nine buildings spread throughout the property, an extensive system of fences, and west and east agricultural fields for grazing and hay cultivation, respectively.

---

**Additional Documentation**

---

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

---

**Property Owner**

---

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_ KATHY AND FRANK DEGGENDORFER \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ 67809 CLOVERDALE ROAD \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_ (541) 923-2962 \_\_\_\_\_

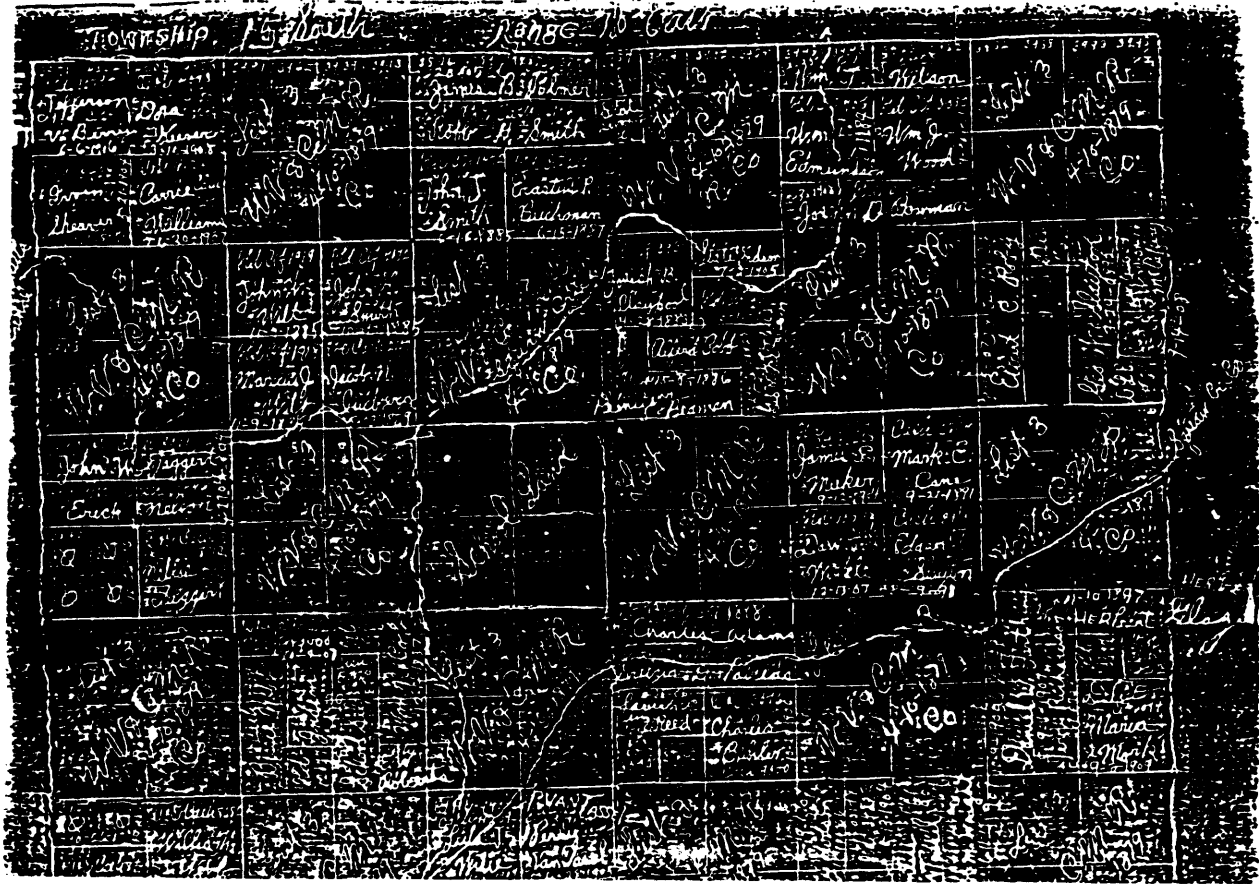
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ SISTERS \_\_\_\_\_ state OR zip code 97759 \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.





**TOWNSHIP 15 S., RANGE 10 E.W. M.**  
**DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON**

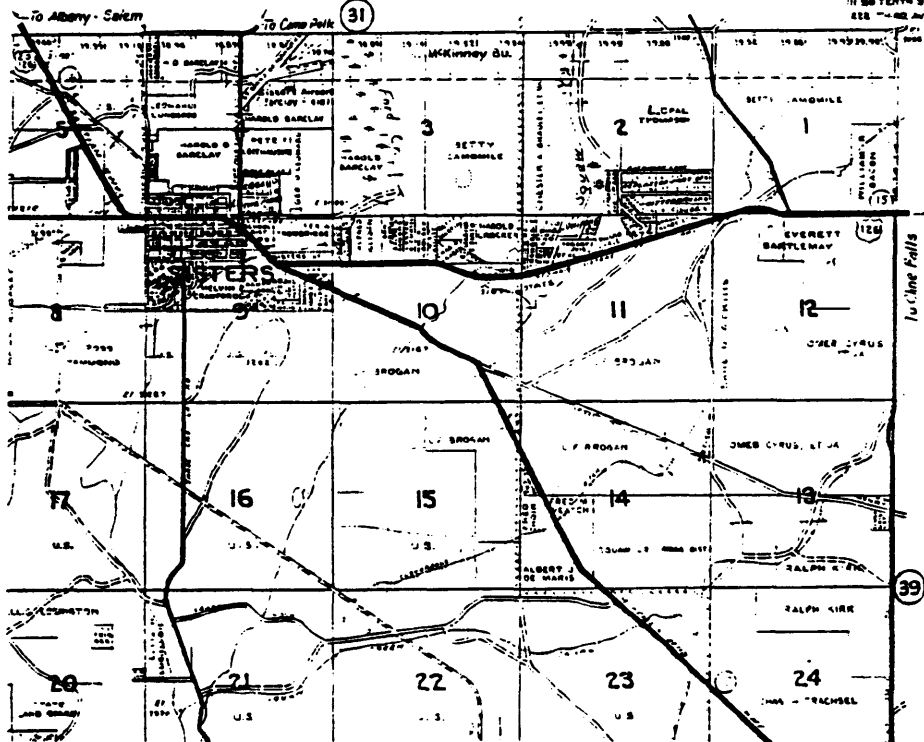
1/4 IN. = 1 MILE  
 10 FEB. 1972

FOR SALE BY  
**METSKER MAPS**

1100 TENTH STREET, TACOMA, WASHINGTON  
 SEE "METS" AND "SEAT" IN WASHINGTON

**PLAT LIST**

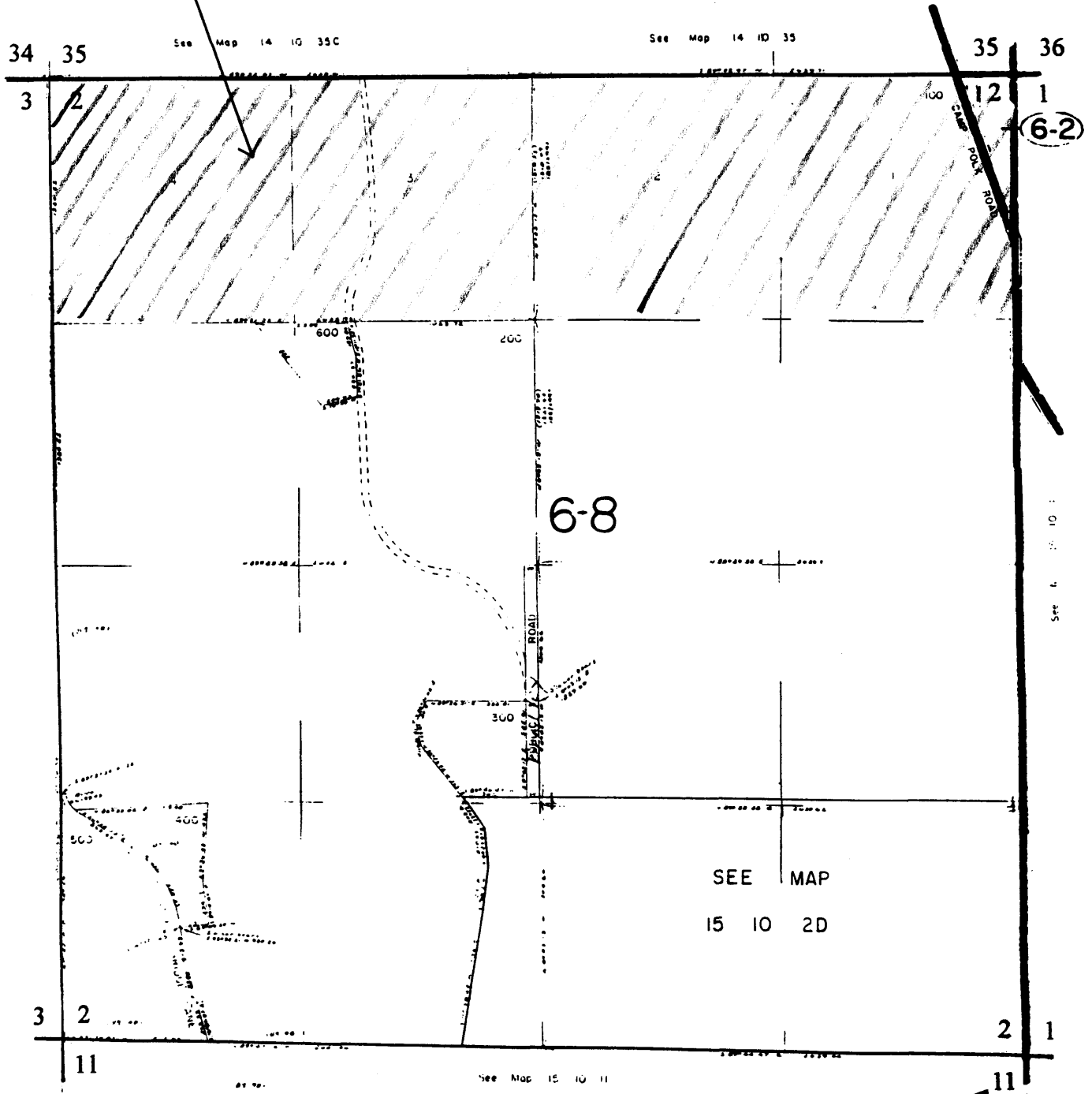
- SEC. 4
  - BUCKEY TRACTS (RECORDED)
  - SEC. 3
  - THE BROOKS TOWN & COUNTRY SUBD.
- SMALL TRACTS**
- SEC. 1
  - LARRY L. BASSINGER ET AL



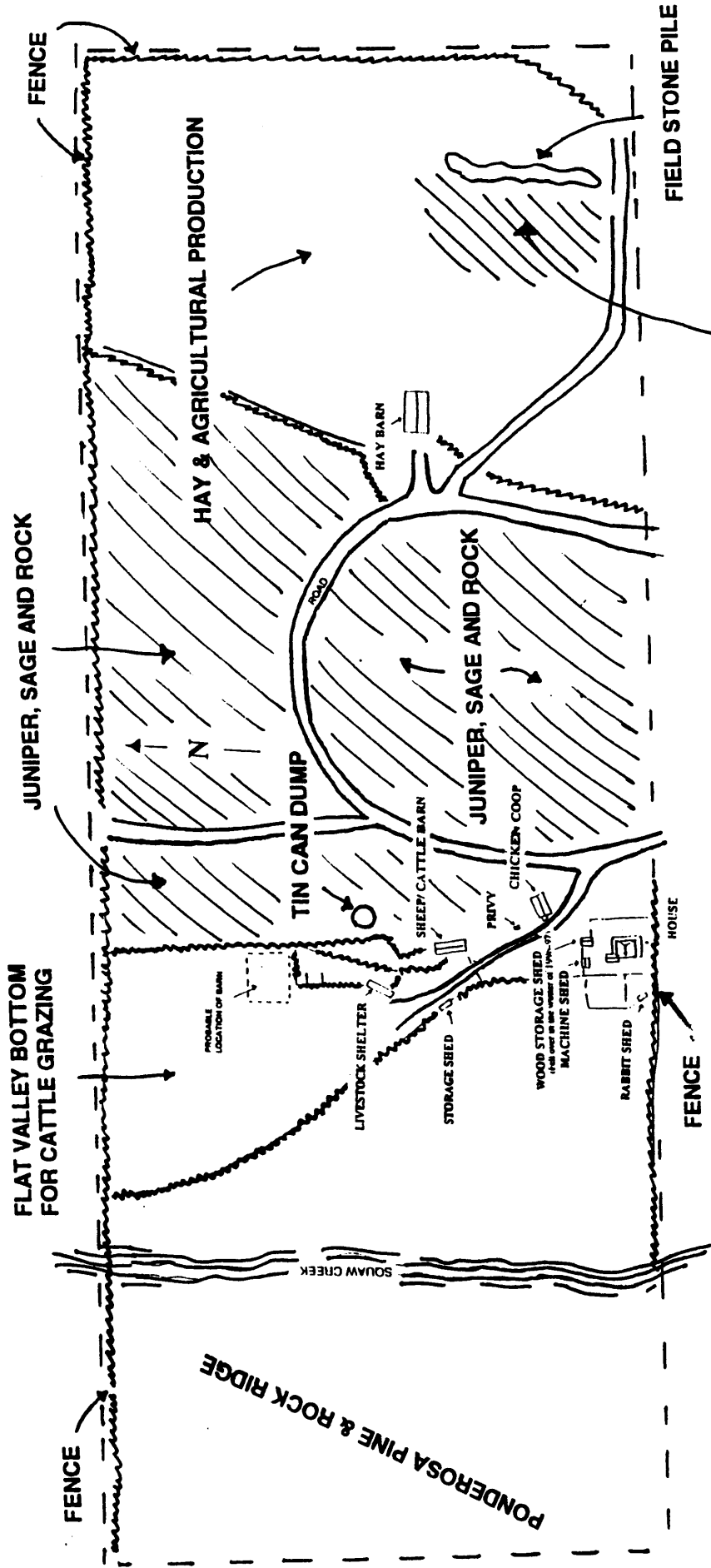
**W.T.E. WILSON HOMESTEAD**  
T:15 R: 10 SEC: 02 Tax Lot: 00100

SECTION 2 T.15S. R.10E.W.M.  
DESCHUTES COUNTY  
1"=400'

15 10 2

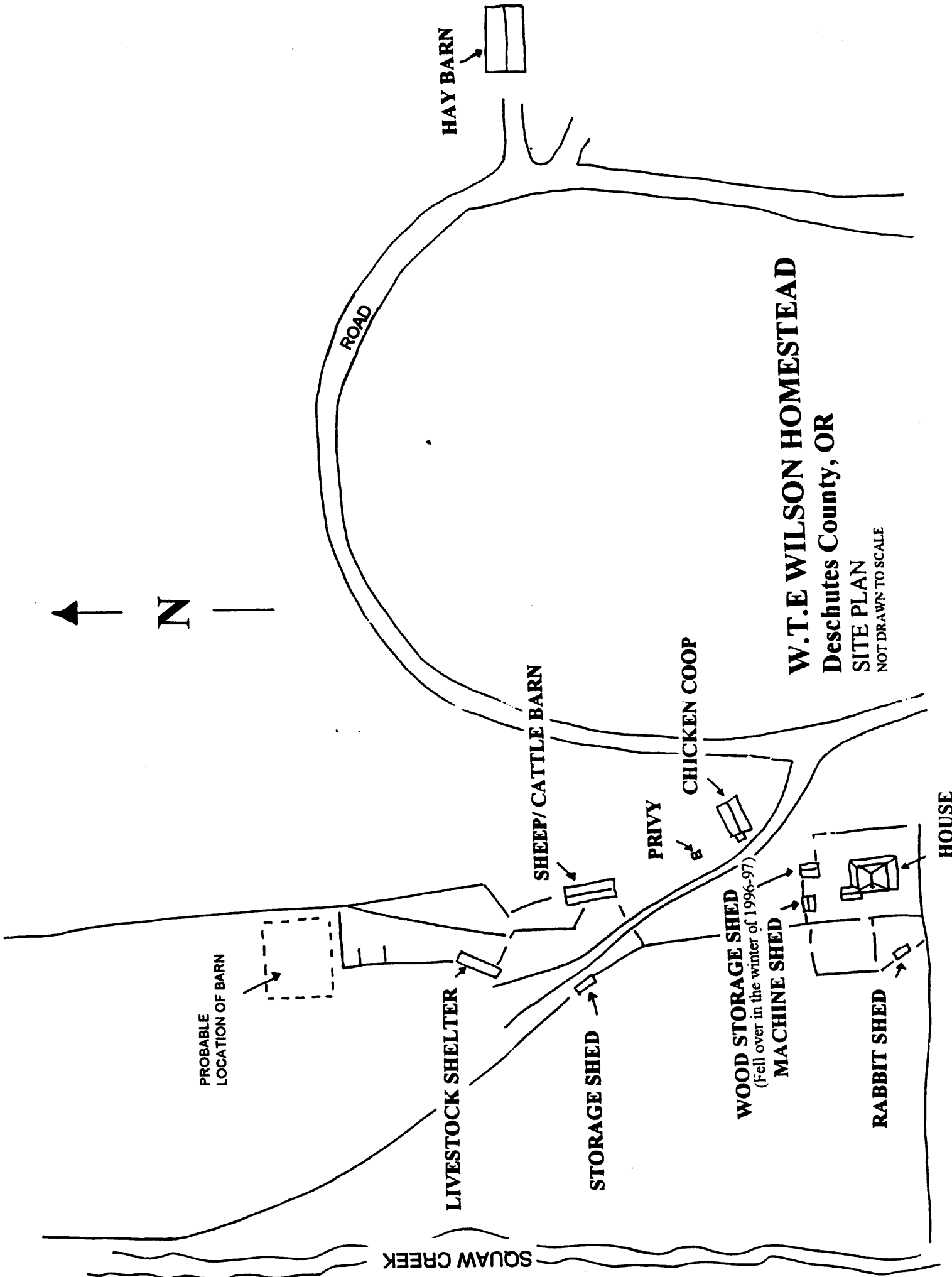


See Map 15 10 1

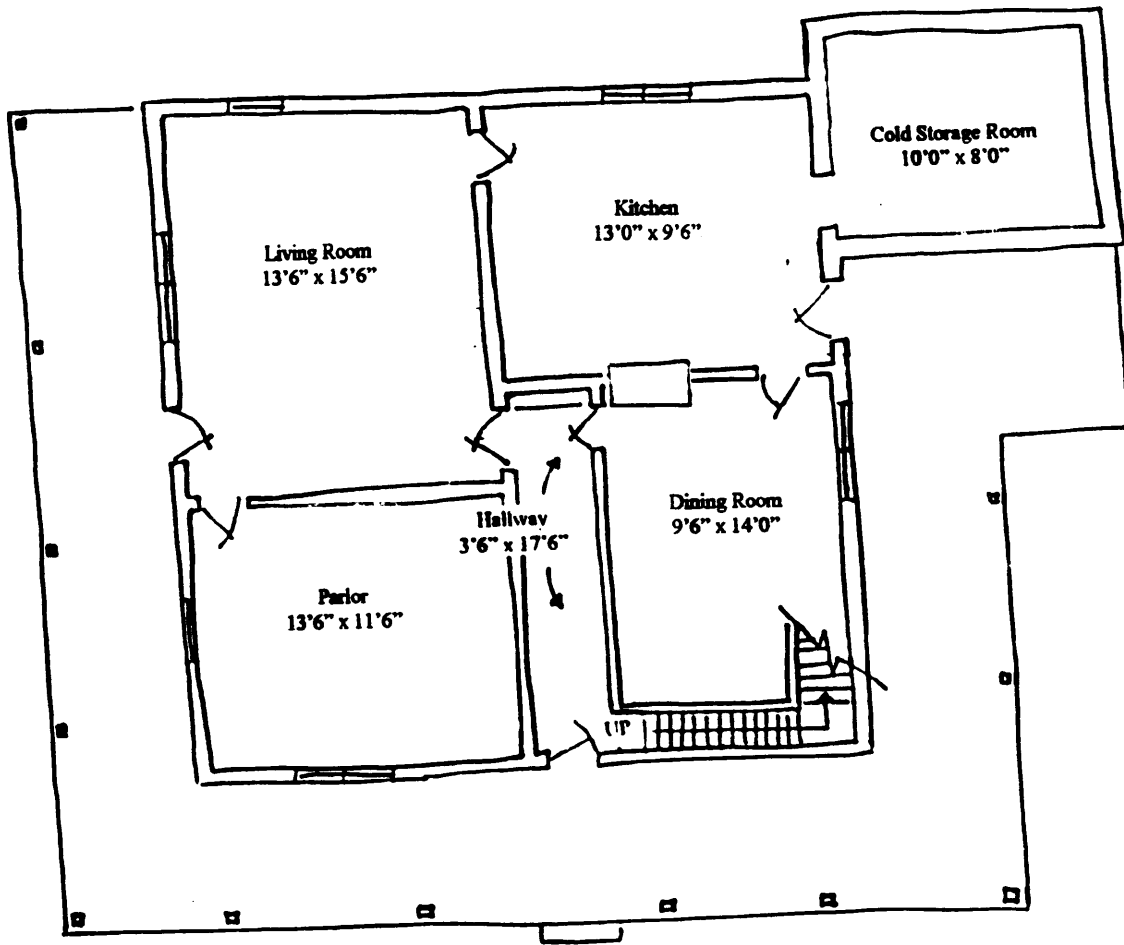


JUNIPER, SAGE AND ROCK

**W.T.E. WILSON HOMESTEAD**  
**Deschutes County, OR**  
**SITE PLAN**  
 NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

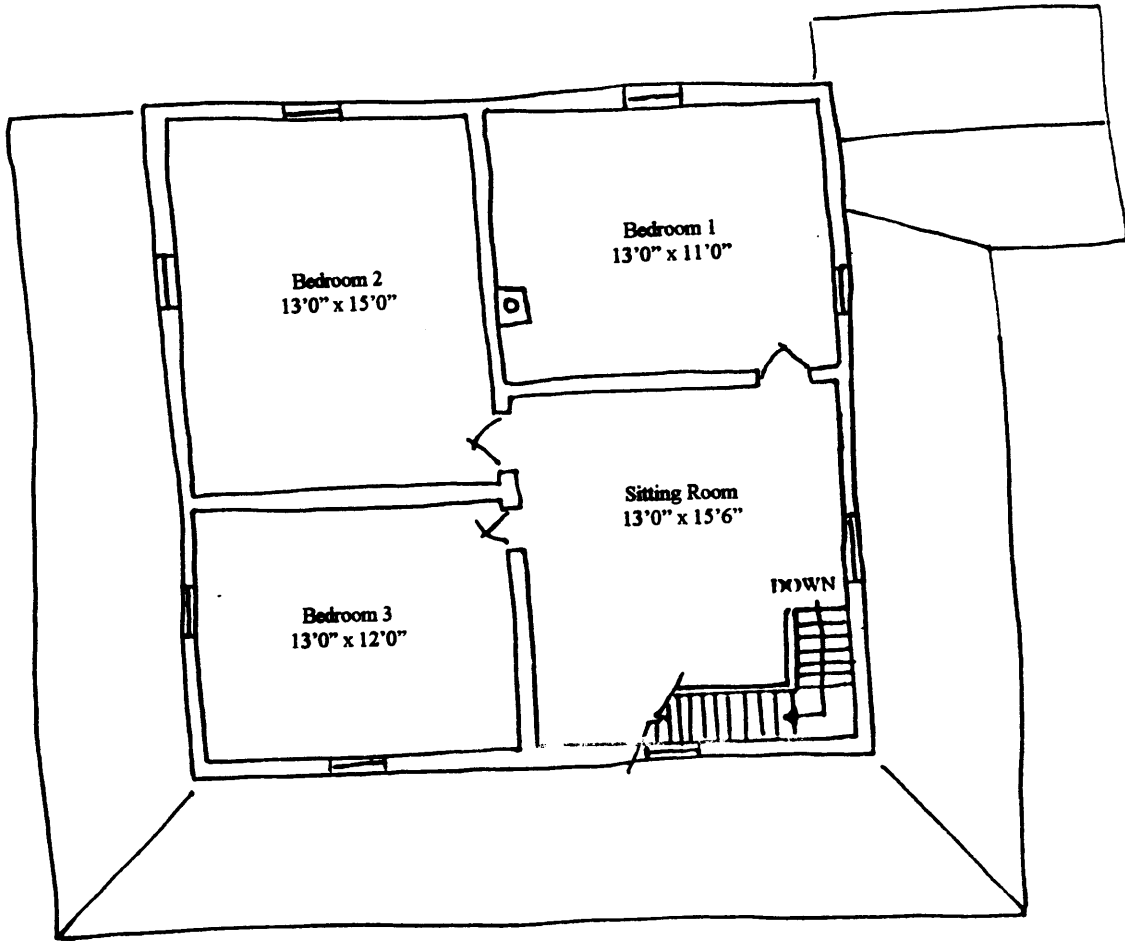


**W.T.E WILSON HOMESTEAD**  
**Deschutes County, OR**  
**SITE PLAN**  
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE



**W.T.E WILSON HOMESTEAD**  
**Deschutes County, OR**  
**1ST FLOOR**  
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE





**W.T.E. WILSON HOMESTEAD**  
**Deschutes County, OR**  
**2ND FLOOR**  
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

