

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Eskelin, Ed, Ranch Complex
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number HC 61 not for publication
city, town Silver Lake vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Lake code 037 zip code 97638

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u> objects
			<u>3</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

James M. Smith December 31, 1990
Signature of certifying official 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.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Autumnella Lee 2/25/91
 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:) _____

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling, secondary
structureAgriculture: animal facility, storage,
agriculture outbuildingsIndustry: energy facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling, secondary
structureAgriculture: animal facility, storage,
agriculture outbuildings

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone: basalt fieldstone; concrete
walls wood: stud, board/batten, pole

roof metal: aluminum, tin

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Ethnic Heritage

Period of Significance

1935-1940
1935-1940

Significant Dates

1935

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Fields, Lester E.
Eskelin, Frederick
Eskelin, Edwin A.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

Fort Rock Valley Historical Society,
For Rock, Oregon

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.0 acres Schaub Lake, Oregon 1:24000

UTM References

A 10 669590 4790550
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The nominated area is located in SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 2, Township 27S, Range 15E, Willamette Meridian, in rural Lake County, Oregon. It is made up of Tax Lot 301 and the adjacent 30 feet of Tax Lot 300, immediately to the north, to include the barn. More particularly, the boundary is described as follows: Beginning at a point on the Section line 1,712 feet east of the southwest corner of Section 2, T27S, R15E, W.M., thence north 300 feet, then east 300 feet, thence south 300 feet, and west 300 feet to the point of beginning, containing in all two acres, See continuation sheet more or less.

Boundary Justification The boundary includes the main house, barn, and ancillary contributing and non-contributing buildings, structures and objects located within the two-acre domestic and industrial nucleus of the ranch. The area includes all historically associated built landscape features such as windrows and other plantings, irrigation ditches, and driveway approach. The boundary encompasses architectural and constructed landscape features only, and does not include cultivated or grazed lands outside of the historic Ed Eskelin Ranch Complex boundary. The nominated area includes five contributing buildings, three non-contributing buildings, one contributing structure, and one contributing object. See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jill A. Chappel, Staff Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Heritage Research Associates, Inc. date August 1, 1990

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city or town Eugene state Oregon zip code 97403

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The Edwin A. Eskelin Ranch, located in the Fort Rock Valley of south-central Oregon, is one of a dwindling number of early 20th century ranch complexes established as a result of the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909 and the Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916. The property is also the only remnant of what was once a small Finnish and Norwegian community located in the southeastern edge of the valley. The building assemblage, including structures, objects, and the immediate surrounding landscape, exemplifies early 20th century homestead settlement patterns, ethnic traditions, architectural adaptation, and building group evolution in the High Desert region of Central Oregon.

The Edwin A. Eskelin Ranch is located in northwestern Lake County, Oregon, Township 27 South, Range 15 East, Section 2 (SW 1/4 SE 1/4 SW 1/4), Willamette Meridian. The complex includes a group of eight buildings (five contributing, three non-contributing), one structure, one object, and several landscape features:

Contributing Historic Buildings:

House, 1913/1939	Privy, 1913
Barn, 1938/1947	Garage, circa 1912-15
Granary, circa 1910	

Contributing Historic Structures:

Well Derrick, 1935

Contributing Historic Objects:

Well Drilling Machine, 1935

Contributing Historic Landscape Features:

Vegetative Windbreak/Shade Trees including Chinese elms, Canadian poplars, quaking aspens, and willows, circa 1935
Irrigation ditches, circa 1935-40

Noncontributing Properties:

Pumphouse, 1975
Woodshed, circa 1910/1945 (historic)
Shop, circa 1910/1945 (historic)

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1. House

The house, roughly measuring 30 feet by 35 feet, is a one and one-half story building with a cross-gable roof. It was originally constructed as the Clover Leaf School during the summer of 1913 by a local homesteader, Lester E. Fields. The building first stood on the Harvey Buckner homestead (T27S, R15E, Sec. 2, NW 1/4 NW 1/4 NW 1/4) one mile north-northwest of the Eskelin Ranch (Beckham 1982). Lack of students led to the school's closure in November of 1918. It remained unused until January of 1936 when Ed Eskelin bought the schoolhouse and its outbuildings for \$50.50 (Eskelin 1978). The building was then moved by Ed Eskelin and his father in December 1938 to its current site. The Eskelins remodelled the interior during 1939 to accommodate the family's needs.

The overall plan is irregular due to later additions by Eskelin, however, the main core of the building, the Clover Leaf School, is T-shaped. The south (front) elevation is composed of four bays, three of which are enclosed within a porch addition. The rear of the house (north side) was originally the front entry to the Clover Leaf School. The recessed entryway is flanked on either side with anterooms that were used initially as the students' coat rooms, one for girls and one for boys. When Ed Eskelin remodelled the interior of the house, the west anteroom served as a pantry for the kitchen, and the other anteroom was converted into a toilet room. The kitchen was separated from the rest of the main space with a half wall. A partition wall with a five cross panel door was constructed in the east portion of the building for a bedroom. In 1950, the toilet was moved from the east anteroom to the bathroom off the north wall of the bedroom.

Most of the attic space was converted into three bedrooms and is accessible from a stairway off the east anteroom. Eskelin installed single-pane sliding windows in each room. He even installed a pickup truck door window in the north bedroom that can be "rolled" up and down.

Construction materials are typical for early twentieth century Fort Rock Valley buildings. Eskelin used concrete for the foundation, but the building originally stood on basalt footings. The house is balloon framed with walls constructed of 2x4 studs, 1x12 horizontal board sheathing, and horizontal fancy shiplap siding. The exterior was originally painted white. The shiplap is covered with asbestos shingles.

The roof is composed of 2x6 rafters, beaded tongue and groove sheathing, sawn wood shingles, and corrugated aluminum sheeting. The rafters are decoratively notched at the ends, and the fly rafters (end rafters) are more stylized at the ends than the common rafters. The two-foot protruding open eaves have decorative bungalow-style brackets at the gable ends. These brackets were commonly used for Fort Rock Valley school buildings.

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The windows in the main schoolhouse portion of the house are one-over-one double hung (weighted) sash with lamb's tongue detailing. Secondary windows are single-pane fixed and single-pane vertical sliders. Exterior doors are the three panel-and-light type, while all interior doors are the five cross panel type.

2. Barn

The Eskelin barn is oriented north-south with principal double Dutch doors on both gable ends. The roof is a combination of sawn wood shingles and corrugated tin. The barn has doubled in size since its first construction in 1938. The original portion consisted of a central haymow/drive and at least one lean-to shed with feeders. The enclosed shed on the west side houses a calving box stall on the south end. The stall opens into a larger milking stall with stanchions. There is an exterior door on the north side.

The Eskelins enlarged the barn in 1947, and the lean-to open shed on the east side was extended. An open shed with a feeder was constructed on the north end of the west lean-to as well.

The most remarkable aspect of the Eskelin barn is its framing. The hay mow/drive is surrounded by enormous juniper columns. Unpeeled ponderosa pine pole trusses support the roof with lateral support provided by an elaborate knee brace system. The 1947 barn addition has identical truss/knee brace detailing. This construction form may be a direct reflection of the Eskelins' Finnish background. It is not found in any other barn in the Fort Rock Valley.

3. Woodshed

The circa 1910 woodshed is a single wall frame (box frame) constructed, 13-foot by 18-foot abandoned homestead cabin. The exact date of construction is unknown. The single wall construction method, whereby vertical planks act as the main structural support for the building, was widely employed during the homestead period in the Fort Rock Valley. The cabin was moved onto the ranch by Ed Eskelin in 1945 from the no longer existing Gubser Ranch two miles south of the town of Fort Rock (Eskelin 1979). Eskelin gutted the interior to accommodate the storage of cord wood. The building sits 10 feet to the northeast of the house.

The building illustrates one type of homestead era housing once common throughout the Fort Rock Valley during the first two decades of the 20th century. The cabin is a one and one-half story rectangular building with a gable roof, a door on each of the non-gable sides, and two double-hung,

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unweighted, four-over-four windows flanking the east (formal front) door. A pantry projects from the west elevation. There is a four-pane vertical slider window on the north elevation with a gable loft door above the window. Exterior siding is board and batten--typical of domestic cabins built in the Fort Rock Valley during homesteading days.

4. Granary

This 12-foot by 16-foot, one and one-half story building was the abandoned homestead cabin of a neighboring Norwegian family. The Eskelins moved this building approximately 90 feet to the north of the house in 1937 to be used as a second granary (Eskelin 1979). It is a platform-framed cabin very soundly constructed of 2x4 studs and rafters and 2x6 floor and ceiling joists. The original exterior V-shiplap siding is covered by corrugated aluminum on three sides of the building. The original sawn wood roof shingles are still visible underneath modern corrugated aluminum sheeting.

The interior walls and ceiling are finished with 5-inch tongue and groove boards. A small, intact L-stair occupies the southeast corner leading to the loft. The original door opening on the east elevation is covered with plywood, and a newer door has been added on the south side of the building. Windows include one single-pane vertical slider on the lower floor, west elevation and a single-pane fixed window in the south gable of the upper story loft. An open shed has been added onto the length of the east elevation.

5. Privy

The privy, constructed in 1913 by Lester E. Fields, is currently located directly behind the granary and is no longer in use. The building measures 4 feet by 6 feet and is one of the original outhouses from the Clover Leaf School. It was moved to the ranch along with the schoolhouse in 1939, and was initially situated between the shop and the two Scotch pine trees 100 feet north of the house. The outhouse matches the Clover Leaf schoolhouse in almost every detail from the fancy shiplap siding to the notched rafters and sawn shingle roof.

6. Garage

The 14-foot by 20-foot, gable-roofed, stud-wall Eskelin garage was moved about 1940 from the townsite of Connley 4 miles north-northeast of the Eskelin Ranch and was once an outbuilding for the Connley Store (Beckham 1982). Evidence of the building's original half hipped/half gable roof form can be seen inside the garage: jack rafters from the hipped portion are exposed in the west end, and

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a shingled gable is exposed in the east end. During the 1970s, the garage was slightly enlarged on the west side and was encased in corrugated aluminum. New double sliding doors were added to the east (front) entry at this time as well. It is located 60 feet to the west of the house.

7. Shop

In 1945, Ed Eskelin constructed this building using salvaged lumber from the circa 1910 Finley homestead cabin (Eskelin 1979). The cabin was located 5 miles south of the town of Fort Rock. Eskelin constructed the 14-foot by 20-foot, gable-roofed shop using single wall/box technology--the same construction method many homesteaders used during the 1910s. It is covered with corrugated aluminum sheeting and is oriented east-west. The principal opening is on the west gable end with a secondary door located on the opposite end of the building. The north and south elevations have two windows each. The shop is located 100 feet northeast of the house.

8. Well Derrick

The pine pole well derrick was built by Fred and Ed Eskelin around 1935. During the well-drilling process, the derrick acted as a boom then was later used to lower the irrigation pump into their 79-foot deep well (Eskelin 1979). A windmill, no longer existing, was fastened to the top of the derrick and was used to pump water during windy days. When there was no wind, a gasoline engine powered the pump.

There is a gable roof below the derrick that served as a shelter for the pump. The roof, once covered with wood shingles, is attached to the vertical poles of the derrick and is detailed to match the trusses in the barn. The derrick was moved a short distance from the pump and well to facilitate pump maintenance.

9. Well Drilling Machine

The well drilling machine was built by Fred Eskelin and sons, Ed and John, during the winter of 1934-35 on their La Center, Washington farm. It was transported to the Fort Rock farm the following spring. The machine is a hodgepodge of tractor wheels, a four cylinder motor and wood spoke wheels from a one ton 1924 Model A Ford truck, wheels from a Ford farm tractor, cables, and other materials (Beckham 1982).

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10. Landscape Features

Soon after 1935, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service furnished Fort Rock Valley ranchers with Canadian poplars and Chinese elms for windbreaks and shade (Parks 1989). The Eskelins planted as many as 40 of these trees, along with willows and quaking aspens. Rows of mature elm, poplar, and willow trees border the west side of the driveway, the north side of the county road fronting the property, and the southwest yard. A row of elms and Scotch pines borders the north side of the yard. These trees, as well as the irrigation ditches, are part of the character of the complex and are considered a contributing feature.

Irrigation ditches dug by the Eskelins can still be seen along the south and west sides of the yard. One of the ditches continues out into the pasture to the west of the building group area where it is no longer defined and appears to end. This westernmost irrigation ditch is bisected by the National Register boundary, but approximately 75% of the ditch complex falls within the defined area.

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The Ed Eskelin Ranch Complex, a rare, intact stock farm ensemble representing two successive phases of the homestead era in eastern Oregon, is located in the arid Basin and Range country of Lake County, where it is situated at the toe of a ridge known as the Connley Hills at the south end of Fort Rock Valley.

Settlement in the Fort Rock Valley was spurred by enactments such as the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909 and the Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916.

The nominated area of two acres encompasses the living and operational nucleus of a livestock ranch developed by members of the Eskelin clan, a family of Finnish immigrants who tentatively homesteaded in the area between Fort Rock and Christmas Valley beginning in 1909, but were forced to give up in 1918. During the Depression, Frederick Eskelin, the family head, returned to the Fort Rock Valley and became a pioneer in the drilling of irrigation wells. When his sons joined him in 1936, Fred and son Ed moved the old homestead cabin to the irrigation well site and began rebuilding the ranch. Ed took over the farming and ranching operations on his parents' deaths in the 1950s, and carried on until the homestead was sold in 1970. Ed remained on the ranch to the time of his death in 1981.

The complex includes one historic object, eight historic buildings and structures, one non-historic building -- a pumphouse of 1975, and a variety of developed landscape features including windrows, irrigation ditches, fences -- all of which are organized around a central drive which terminates in a loop at the center of the 300-foot square nominated area on the north side of the Fort Rock to Christmas Valley Road.

Collectively, the vernacular buildings and features of the complex illustrate the ultimate success achieved by homesteaders such as Fred and Ed Eskelin in the 1930s following the "bust" of dry land farming in Oregon's High Desert region in 1917. As such, they meet National Register Criteria A and C. The buildings show the resourcefulness required of homesteaders at a time of economic hardship. Buildings remaining from the initial homestead era were relocated and adapted to present needs, and new construction was from materials at hand or salvaged lumber. In addition, the farmstead is significant architecturally as an illustration of pole construction technology, and its layout in circular, enclosed courtyard fashion, reflects the Finnish cultural traditions of its

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builders. Six of the buildings and structures are counted as separately contributing features of the ranch. Contributing status for two historic buildings, the shop and woodshed, will be deferred until their period of use at the Eskelin Ranch reaches 50 years. The latter outbuildings were not added to the complex until 1945.

Each unit of the complex is documented in measured drawings prepared by Jill Chappel as part of her graduate level terminal project at the University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts. They are as follows:

- 1 and 2. Main ranch house consisting of the former Cloverleaf School House of 1913 and its outhouse, relocated to the Eskelin Ranch in 1938, and remodeled in 1939. Two contributing features.
3. Barn of peeled pine, juniper poles and pine lumber constructed in 1938. Enlarged in 1947. Contributing.
4. Granary of 1910 moved to the site from a Norwegian family homestead in Christmas Valley in 1937. It was originally clad with shiplap, now covered with corrugated sheet metal. Contributing.
5. Garage, a structure originally associated with the Connley Store, relocated to the ranch about 1940. Contributing.
6. Shop building of 1945 constructed by Ed Eskelin from lumber salvaged from the Finley homestead cabin of 1910. Historic. Non-contributing until period of use at this location reaches 50 years.
7. Woodshed erected c. 1910 as the Gubser Ranch House. Reconstructed at the Eskelin Ranch in 1945. Historic. Non-contributing until period of use at this location reaches 50 years.
- 8 and 9. Well derrick of peeled pine poles which, with an historic object, a homemade well-drilling machine, was the key to successful farming at this location. The well was drilled and operational in April of 1935. Two contributing features.
10. Pumphouse erected 1975. Non-historic, non-contributing.

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The buildings and structures that comprise the Edwin A. Eskelin Ranch are representative of the commencement of early 20th century homesteading in Lake County. The building group is tangible evidence of the perseverance of the Eskelin family as homesteaders and key figures in the development of the region. In addition, the built features on the ranch offer an architectural interpretation of frontier settlement and adaptation in Oregon's High Desert region.

The Eskelin Ranch clearly satisfies two of the four National Register criteria. Under Criterion A, the historic buildings and structures and their layout "are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history." The impetus for settling the Fort Rock Valley came, initially, from various land laws such as the Preemption Claim law of the 1840s, the Desert Land Act of 1877, and the Carey Act of 1894 (Gates 1968). None of these laws, however, created the amount of homesteading fervor as the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909 and the later Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916. It was during this time that the Fort Rock Valley and other areas of the arid West were flooded with homeseekers and would-be ranchers.

Lured by the dissemination of propaganda and advertisements of edenic land generated by the federal government and the Union Pacific Railroad, as well as the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition, homeseekers started arriving in droves during 1909 and 1910 (Buckles 1959). Testimony of record rainfall and excellent farming and ranching conditions existing between 1900 and 1906 also added an influential incentive for homesteading in the Fort Rock Valley.

Between 1908 and 1915 eight postal establishments were founded within the boundaries of the 208-square-mile valley. The lumber mill servicing the construction boom was operated by the Embury Lumber Company and was located approximately twelve miles west of the town of Fort Rock.

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The settlement boom did not last even ten years. Population in the Fort Rock Valley dramatically dropped from 1200 in 1910 to 300 in 1920, and by 1927, all but one post office had closed (Buckles 1959). Most homesteaders abandoned their claims within five years of their arrival to the valley. Attempts at dry farming failed miserably because of low annual precipitation, short growing seasons, and periodic drought. The ideal weather that had preceded the great homeseeker migration proved to be an aberration from the typical high desert climatic conditions. The promises of a railroad line running through the valley never materialized, and early irrigation efforts were unsuccessful.

By the 1930s, much of the homesteading population had left the Fort Rock Valley for employment opportunities in other areas of the state. Many vowed to return to their homesteads, but few ever accomplished this goal. The Eskelin family was one of the few.

In 1887, Frederick Eskelinen migrated from near Iisalmi in Kuopio County, Finland to Calumet, Michigan, where a large population of Finns had settled to work in the mines along Lake Superior (Eskelin 1975). During 1904 he married Marie Elise Lievonon, and shortly afterward their two sons, Edwin and John, were born.

Word had spread of the agricultural homestead land in the West, and Marie persuaded Fred to homestead in Oregon after he had been injured a number of times in mining-related accidents. Fred's homestead search led him to Silver Lake, Oregon in February of 1909 where he commissioned the services of a homestead locator. Upon choosing 160 acres in the Fort Rock Valley, he began seeking employment. Jobs in the area were scarce so Fred began working for a neighboring homesteader. The rest of the Eskelin family arrived five months later, and construction of the homestead cabin commenced.

Fred often wandered outside of the Fort Rock Valley for employment as did most of the other homesteaders in the valley. While the men were away, the women and children tended to the fields and animals. Fred travelled to Klamath Falls each spring to work for the Pelican Bay Lumber Company and would return to the Fort Rock Valley ranch in time for harvest.

In 1918, influenza struck Marie, and the family moved away from the homestead, leaving most of their belongings behind with the intention of returning. They had heard of a Finnish settlement near Woodland, Washington, and Fred purchased land north of La Center. He returned to the homestead two years later, packed up what remained, headed back to Washington, yet still kept title to the Fort Rock homestead.

In the early 1930s Fred again returned to Fort Rock with his son, Ed, accompanying him. He saw the potential for irrigation and drilled an irrigation

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well a quarter mile west of the homestead. The two of them moved their original homestead cabin to the new site and sent word for the rest of the Eskelin clan to join them. With a makeshift well drilling machine the Eskelins began the business of drilling wells. They slowly purchased relinquished homesteads that surrounded their own holdings, irrigating the land and acquiring dairy and beef cattle and chickens.

The Eskelin family was one among a number of homesteading families who originally migrated from Finland and Norway to the United States and on to the Fort Rock Valley (Eskelin 1975). Families with names such as Jalo, Jaskari, Uksila, and Abendroth composed the Finnish and Norwegian community in the southeast corner of the Fort Rock Valley. None of them were successful in their homesteading ventures, however, and had all left the valley by the 1940s. The Eskelins purchased much of their Finnish and Norwegian neighbors' lands and eventually became the last Finnish family remaining in the valley.

From the 1940s until 1954, farm operations fluctuated with the national agricultural economy. The Eskelins expanded the farmstead with several buildings they moved in from area homesteads. Fred passed away in January of 1954, and Marie died the following year. Ed took over farming and ranching operations tending cattle and raising wheat, barley, and alfalfa on a nine-year crop rotation basis. In 1970 he sold the homestead to Harold and Lois Miles, but remained on the ranch until his death in 1981.

The Ed Eskelin Ranch Complex is a unique exception to the fate of most homestead era ranches in the Fort Rock Valley. Range fires and vandalism have been the most ruinous factors to befall on the valley's homestead structures. However, the steady continuity of land ownership and occupation since the homesteading period has greatly contributed to the integrity that these buildings and structures possess. Unlike the Riddle Ranch in Harney County (nominated to the National Register in 1989) where stock operations discontinued by the 1950s and the buildings were left abandoned, the Eskelin place remained in continuous family operation until 1970 and family occupation until 1981 (Beckham 1989). Furthermore, the Eskelin Ranch building group is still used in conjunction with ranching activities. Architectural improvements have occurred through time, but changes have been largely reversible and cosmetic in nature. All authentic finishes and materials still exist on each of the buildings and are protected from further weathering by a modern cladding of either asbestos shingles or corrugated aluminum.

Unlike the great ranches of eastern Lake County and Harney County, such as those owned by French, Devine, Brown, Miller, and Lutz, the Eskelin Ranch itself typifies the longevity of settlement of the modest-scale stock-farmer. The Eskelin building group is one of the last standing fragments of homesteading history that illustrates disastrous attempts at dry farming in an area of Oregon devoid of surface water.

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On the local level, Ed Eskelin was a prominent contributor to the development of the Fort Rock Valley. During the late 1930s, Ed and his father were respected throughout the area for their expertise in drilling wells. Both were considerably active in the Fort Rock Grange as early as 1935 (Stranahan 1969). As Grange Master in 1939 and 1940, Ed Eskelin was an instrumental figure in the purchasing, moving, and remodelling of three abandoned homestead era school-houses that were converted into a new grange hall. The hall, in its unchanged form since 1940, is still in use today. During 1941, Ed became Agriculture Committee Chairman for the grange and was again Grange Master from 1944 through 1947. He was Grange Secretary from 1948 through 1951 and in 1961 he became Grange Chaplain (Eskelin 1952).

During the 1950s Ed Eskelin was a prime motivator in the establishment of the Fort Rock Scales Association, a non-profit community-owned crop and livestock scales. Eskelin also helped install the scales and build the accompanying corrals. He held the position of Secretary-Treasurer for the association in 1969.

In 1952 Ed Eskelin was elected to assess the problems and repair the deteriorated farmer telephone system that had become virtually useless to Fort Rock Valley farmers and ranchers. In 1953 he was selected to be the supervisor of the newly organized Fort Rock-Silver Lake Soil Conservation District.

Eskelin began attending meetings of the Rural Electric Association in 1953. His experience and intelligence on irrigation matters led him to a liaison position between the Midstate Electric Cooperative organization and the farmers and ranchers of the Fort Rock Valley. Eskelin was the influence behind transmitting electric energy into the Fort Rock Valley. He sold a tract of land to Midstate Electric Coop for their substation, and by the fall of 1955 electricity was fully available to all in the valley.

The Edwin Eskelin Ranch Complex also meets the National Register's Criterion C in that the buildings and structures "embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction...or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction." Though the buildings do not represent high style architecture or the work of a master, as an interconnected building group they are notable for their illustration of architectural adaptation in a frontier environment and the everyday lifestyle of the stock-farming homestead family. The buildings particularly exemplify the construction knowledge and folk building traditions of the common rancher/farmer. The indigenous materials used in construction show the integration between building and landscape. The near absence of vertical architecture and the abundance of low, horizontal buildings is responsive to the landscape, as well as to climate. Siting and distinctive construction details show a concern for views and a candid reaction to weather conditions.

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Additionally, the layout of the Ed Eskelin Ranch building group is reminiscent of Old World Finnish farmsteads and has traces of ethnic elements in its organization. The Eskelins organized their buildings in a circular, enclosed courtyard fashion typical of farmsteads in their native Finland (Alanen and Tishler 1980). Although the family had been residing in the United States for several years, they undoubtedly were influenced by Finnish cultural traditions.

Typical early 20th century construction techniques are well represented on the Eskelin Ranch. These construction technologies include single-wall/box construction, stud wall construction, and pole construction. On the Eskelin Ranch, the method of construction employed is often reflective of building function. Pole construction, a very structurally substantial method of building, was used for the barn, both platform frame-stud wall and box construction were used for ranch utility buildings, and balloon frame-stud wall construction was used for the house. The simplicity of construction details illustrated in these historic buildings typifies the homestead-era building tradition once prevalent in the Fort Rock Valley during the early 20th century.

The architectural development of the Ed Eskelin Ranch also typifies the frugality and economic concerns of the high desert homesteading and ranching family during the first half of the 20th century. The building group expanded through the relocation and reuse of abandoned homestead cabins and other buildings. Moving buildings in the Fort Rock Valley began as early as the 1920s and indicates a scarcity of building materials as well as the difficulties encountered in the acquisition and distribution of those materials. Once a cabin and homestead had been abandoned or relinquished by its owner, a neighboring rancher would move it onto his or her ranch and reuse it for a chicken house, storage shed, or even an addition onto a house.

The activity of moving buildings in the Fort Rock Valley was accelerated with the passing of the Bankhead-Jones Act of 1936. Under this act the federal government bought land from property owners and reverted it back to the public domain for rangeland. Abandoned cabins that were still standing on those parcels were given to any rancher who was willing to move them. The recycling and reuse of deserted homestead cabins, whether it be by outright relocation or razing the buildings for construction materials, was undeniably key to the historical development of Fort Rock Valley ranches such as the Eskelin Ranch. The phenomenon of relocating and reusing homestead cabins as a method of architectural expansion is partially accountable for the historic integrity of the ranch. If it weren't for this phenomenon, it is doubtful that any architectural trace of the Fort Rock Valley's homesteading epoch would be surviving today.

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The physical condition of the buildings included in the Ed Eskelin Ranch Complex is fair to good. The present owners recognize the historical significance of the property and are interested in maintaining the integrity of the buildings. Since Ed Eskelin's death in 1981 the architectural components on the ranch have remained largely unaltered. The barn will require the greatest amount of maintenance attention in the near future, however, it is in no danger of collapsing and is still an essential shelter for farm machinery, hay, and livestock.

The Ed Eskelin Ranch Complex has retained excellent integrity of site and evokes a true sense of historic time and place. The only non-contributing building, the 1975 pumphouse, is a very small and inconspicuous building that does not impose itself on the rest of the building group. Its vernacular construction and materials as well as its rectangular, gable-roofed form blends in with the other contributing properties.

**United States Department of the Interior
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Section number 9 Page 1

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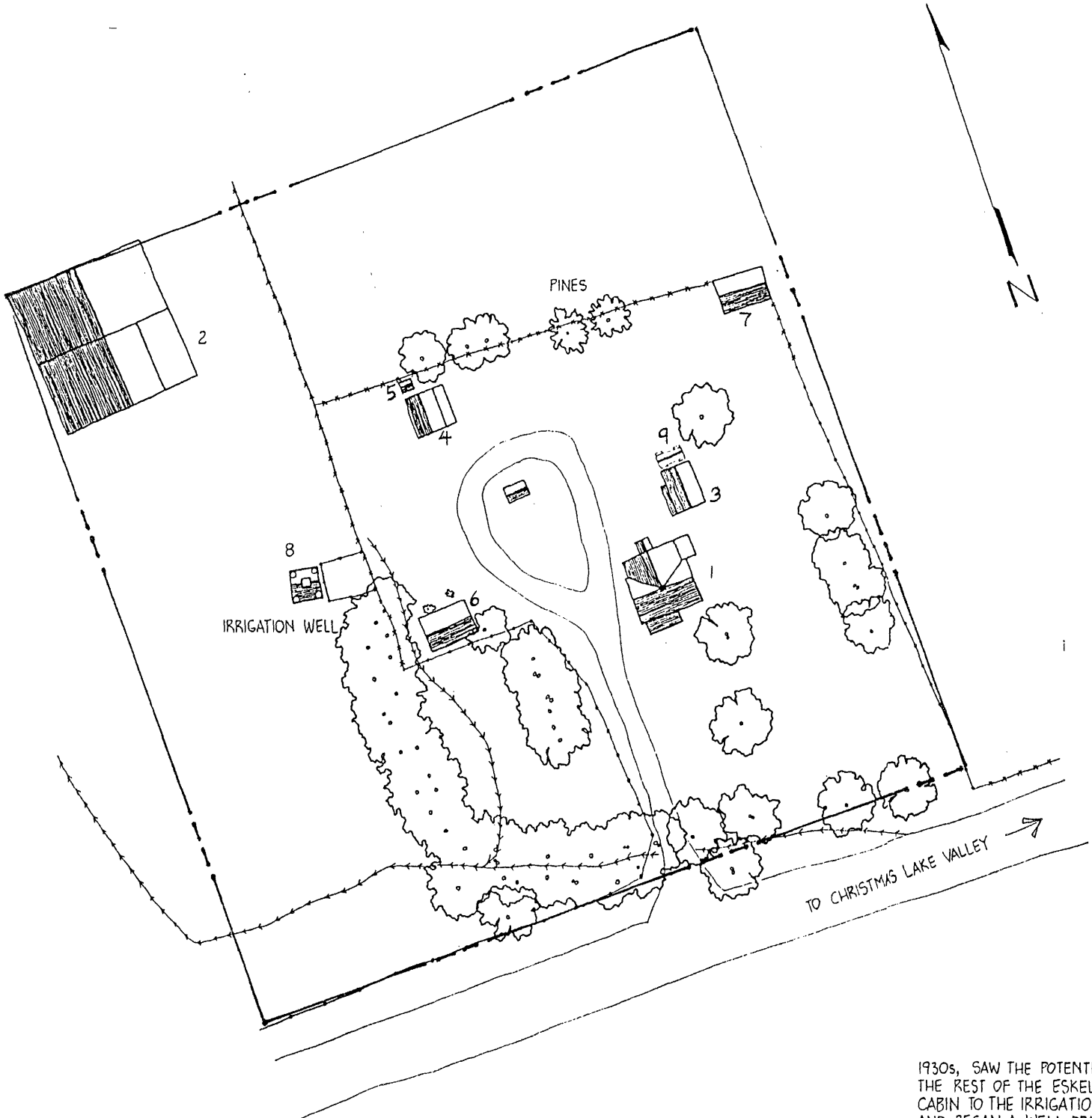
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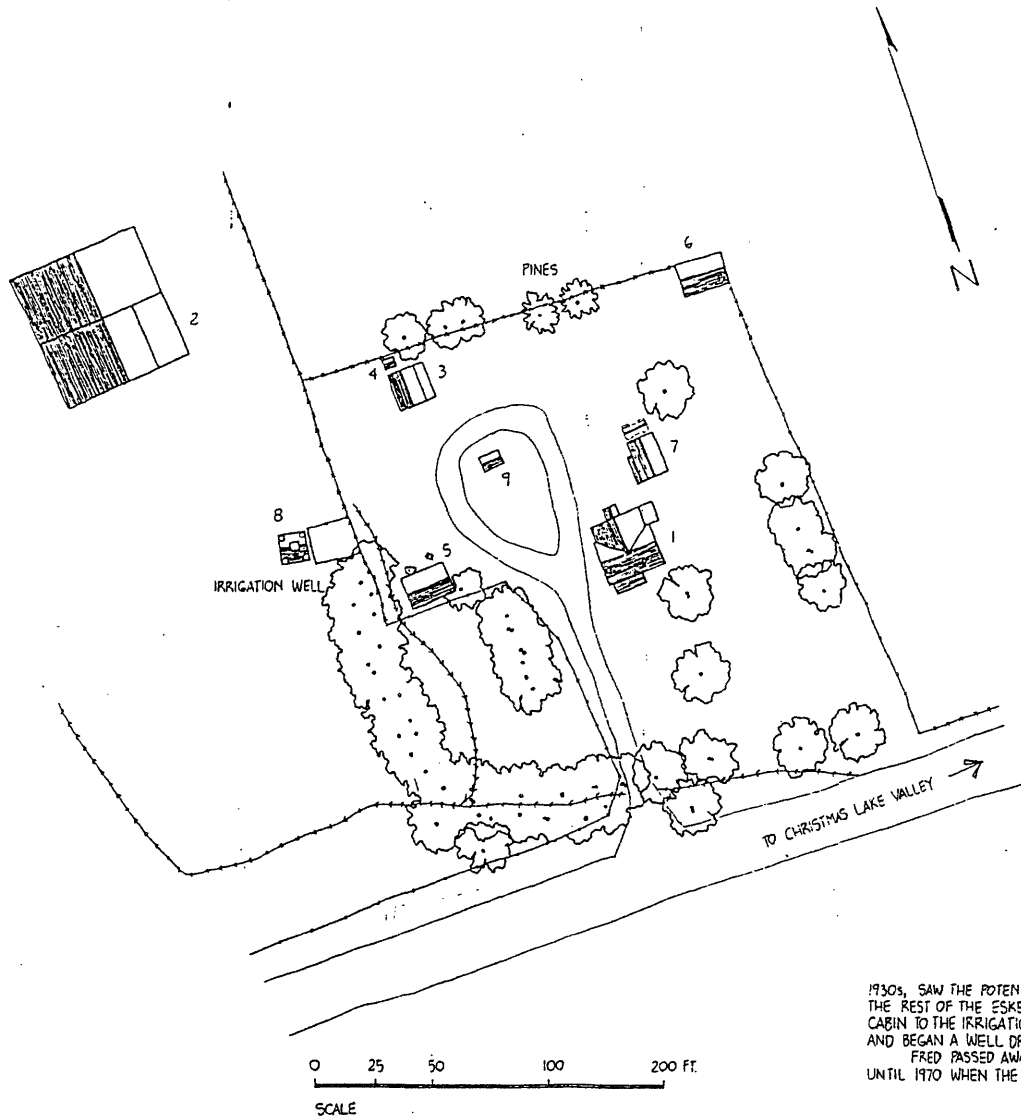
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1930s, SAW THE POTENTIAL FOR
 THE REST OF THE ESKELIN CL
 CABIN TO THE IRRIGATION WE
 AND BEGAN A WELL DRILLING
 FRED PASSED AWAY IN 19
 UNTIL 1970 WHEN THE HOMES

0 25 50 100 150 FT.
 SCALE



KEY TO BUILDINGS / STRUCTURES

- 1 MAIN HOUSE (CLOVER LEAF SCHOOL HOUSE)
- 2 BARN
- 3 GRANARY
- 4 OUTHOUSE
- 5 GARAGE
- 6 SHOP
- 7 WOODSHED
- 8 WELL DERRICK
- 9 PUMPHOUSE (C.1976)

KEY TO LANDSCAPE FEATURES

- POLE FENCE
- BARBED WIRE FENCE
- IRRIGATION DITCH
- TREE
- WELL DRILLING MACHINE

FREDERICK ESKELINEN MIGRATED FROM NEAR HIALMI IN KUOPIO COUNTY, FINLAND IN 1887 TO CALUMET MI. WHERE A LARGE POPULATION OF FINNS HAD SETTLED. WHILE WORKING IN THE CALUMET MINES HE MARRIED MARIE ELISE LIEVONEN, A NATIVE OF FINLAND FORMERLY FROM HAMMERFEST, NORWAY.

MARIE PERSUADED FRED TO HOMESTEAD IN THE WEST AFTER HE HAD BEEN INJURED A NUMBER OF TIMES IN MINING-RELATED ACCIDENTS. HE TRAVELLED TO OREGON WITH ANOTHER CALUMET FINN IN LATE FALL OF 1908 TO SEARCH FOR A HOMESTEAD. THE SEARCH ENDED IN SILVER LAKE WHERE A HOMESTEAD LOCATOR, CHARGING A FEE OF \$50.00 EACH TO FRED AND HIS PARTNER, TOURED THEM AROUND THE CHRISTMAS LAKE VALLEY. NOT SEEING ANYTHING TO HIS LIKING, FRED CHOSE A TRACT NEXT TO THE CONNILEY HILLS IN THE FORT ROCK VALLEY. THE REST OF THE ESKELIN FAMILY ARRIVED 5 MONTHS LATER.

WHILE FRED LEFT THE VALLEY FOR EMPLOYMENT, MARIE TOOK ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CLEARING THE LAND. IN 1910 THE FAMILY TEMPORARILY MOVED NEAR KLAMATH FALLS TO WORK FOR A FARMER AND GAIN THE FARMING EXPERIENCE THEY NEEDED TO BECOME SUCCESSFUL ON THEIR OWN HOMESTEAD. THEY RETURNED DURING THE WINTER OF 1911-12 AND BEGAN PLOWING.

MARIE CONTRACTED INFLUENZA IN 1918, AND THE FAMILY MOVED TO A FINNISH SETTLEMENT NEAR WOODLAND WA. FRED RETURNED TO FORT ROCK IN THE EARLY

1930s, SAW THE POTENTIAL FOR IRRIGATION, AND DRILLED AN IRRIGATION WELL 1/4 MILE WEST OF THE HOMESTEAD. THE REST OF THE ESKELIN CLAN MOVED BACK TO THE VALLEY IN 1936. FRED AND SON ED MOVED THE HOMESTEAD CABIN TO THE IRRIGATION WELL SITE AND BEGAN REBUILDING THE RANCH. THEY ACQUIRED A FEW HEAD OF CATTLE AND BEGAN A WELL DRILLING BUSINESS WITH A MAKESHIFT RIG FRED AND HIS SONS HAD BUILT.

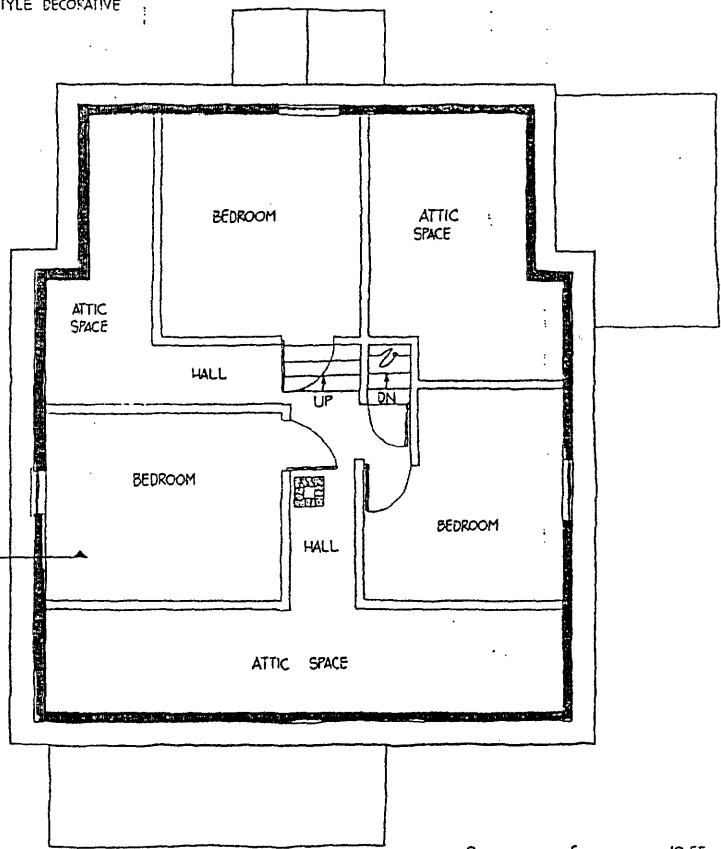
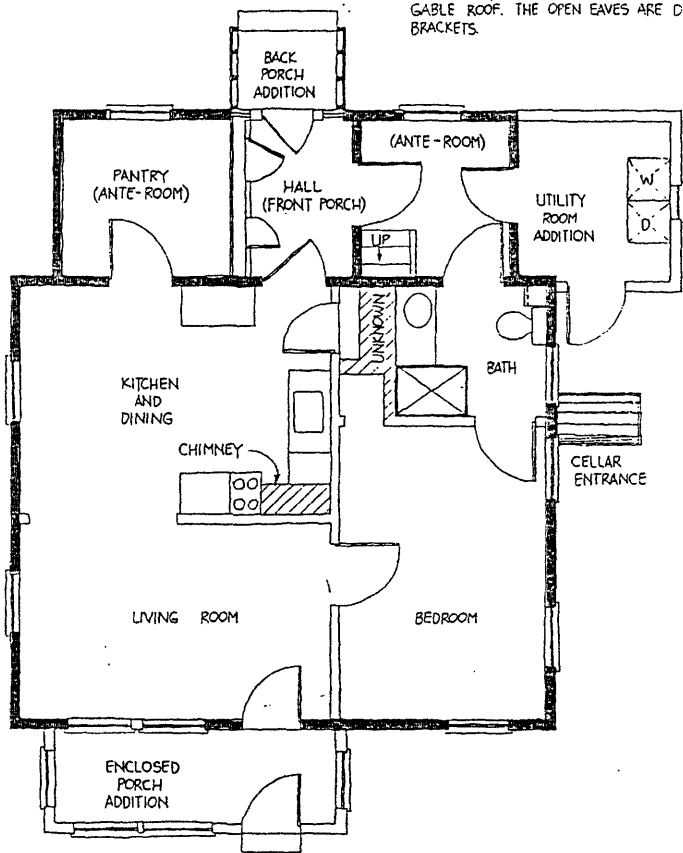
FRED PASSED AWAY IN 1954; MARIE DIED THE FOLLOWING YEAR. ED TOOK OVER FARMING AND RANCHING OPERATIONS UNTIL 1970 WHEN THE HOMESTEAD WAS SOLD. ED REMAINED ON THE RANCH UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1981.



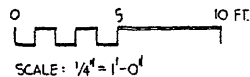
THE ESKELIN HOUSE, ONCE THE CLOVER LEAF SCHOOL, WAS CONSTRUCTED BY A LOCAL HOMESTEADER, LESTER E. FIELDS, ON THE HARVEY BUCKNER HOMESTEAD ONE MILE NORTH OF THE RANCH DURING THE SUMMER OF 1913. THE SCHOOL CLOSED NOVEMBER 1918 DUE TO LACK OF STUDENTS AND REMAINED ABANDONED UNTIL THE ESKELINS PURCHASED THE BUILDING FOR \$50.50 IN JANUARY OF 1936. THE BUILDING WAS MOVED TO THE ESKELIN RANCH IN DECEMBER OF 1938.

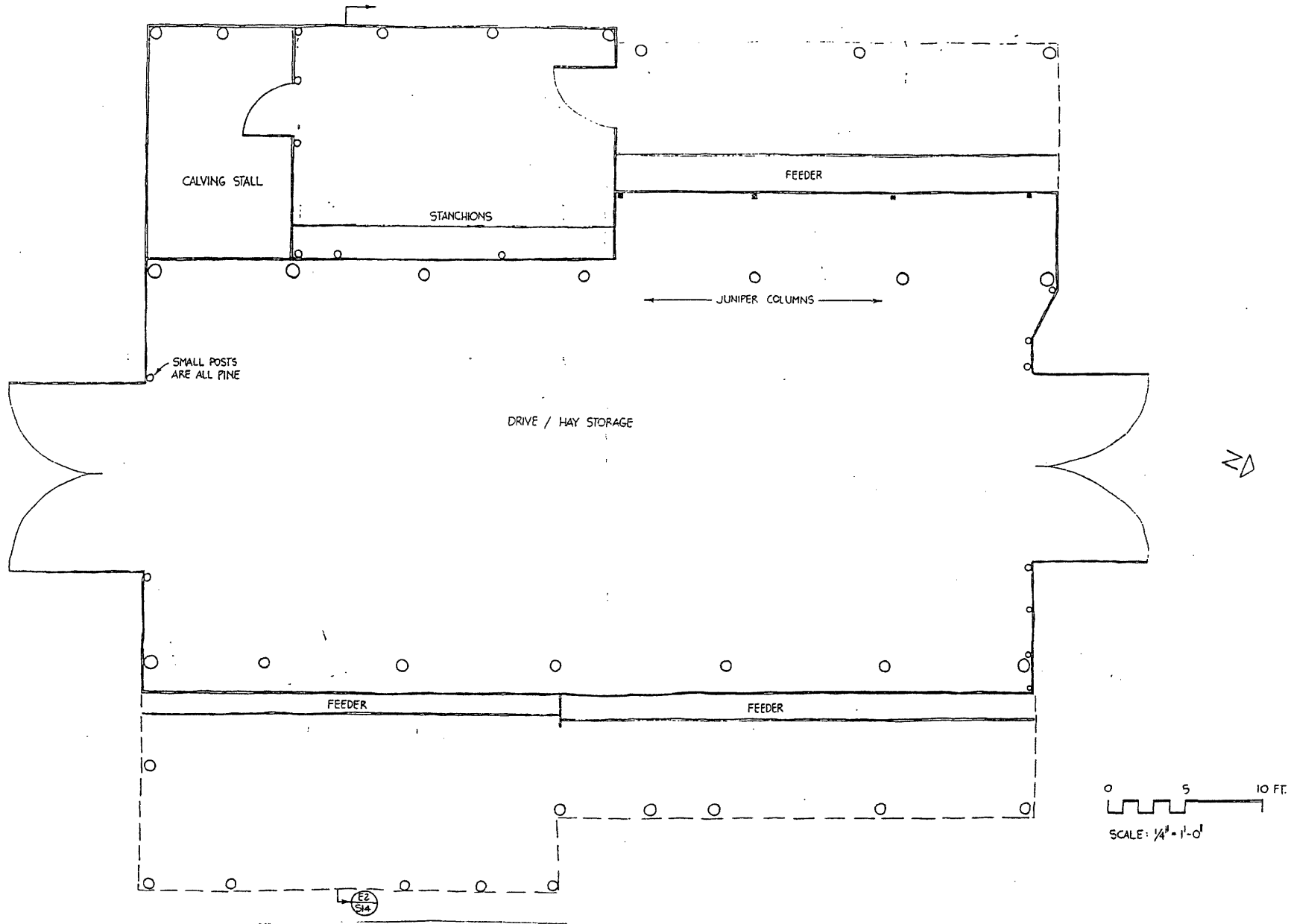
FIELDS BUILT AT LEAST ONE OTHER FORT ROCK VALLEY SCHOOLHOUSES IDENTICAL TO THE CLOVER LEAF SCHOOL. THE VALLEY VIEW, WHICH CURRENTLY SERVES AS THE FORT ROCK SCHOOL'S KINDERGARTEN, WAS BUILT IN 1911. BOTH OF THESE SCHOOLS HAD A RECESSED ENTRYWAY FLANKED ON EITHER SIDE WITH ANTEROOMS USED AS COAT ROOMS. THE MAIN SPACE WAS A SINGLE CLASSROOM WITH A CENTRALLY LOCATED WOODSTOVE.

THE HOUSE, ROUGHLY MEASURING 30x35 FT., IS A 1/2 STORY BUILDING WITH A CROSS GABLE ROOF. THE OPEN EAVES ARE DETAILED WITH "BUNGALOW" STYLE DECORATIVE BRACKETS.



SHADED AREA IS ORIGINAL SCHOOLHOUSE



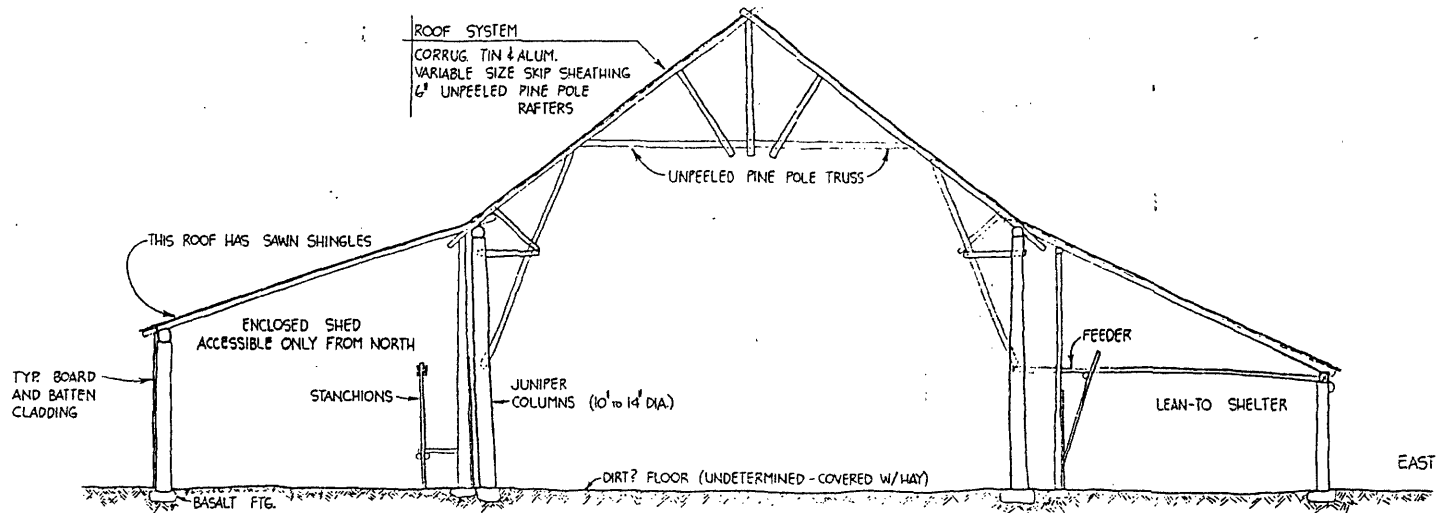


JILL A. CHAPPEL
 TERMINAL PROJECT-HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON 1990

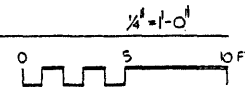
ESKELIN RANCH
 FORT ROCK VALLEY, LAKE COUNTY, OREGON

BARN

SHEET
13



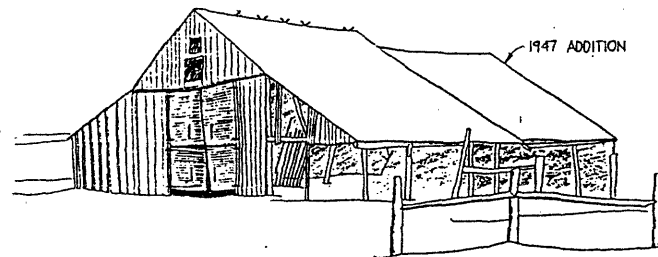
E2 EAST-WEST SECTION
S14 BARN



FRED AND ED ESKELIN CONSTRUCTED THIS BARN IN 1937. THE ORIGINAL PORTION CONSISTED OF A CENTRAL HAY MOW/DRIVE AND AT LEAST ONE LEAN-TO SHED (ON THE EAST SIDE) WITH FEEDERS. THE ENCLOSED SHED ON THE WEST SIDE, HOUSES A CALVING STALL ON THE SOUTH END WHICH OPENS INTO A LARGER STALL SPACE WITH STANCHIONS.

THE BARN WAS DOUBLED IN SIZE DURING 1947, AND THE LEAN-TO OPEN SHED ON THE EAST SIDE WAS EXTENDED. AN OPEN SHED WITH A FEEDER WAS CONSTRUCTED ON THE NORTH END OF THE WEST LEAN-TO AS WELL. A SET OF CORRALS WAS CONSTRUCTED AROUND THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE BARN BUT WAS REMOVED IN THE 1970s.

THE MOST REMARKABLE ASPECT OF THE ESKELIN BARN IS ITS FRAMING. THE HAY MOW/DRIVE IS SURROUNDED BY JUNIPER COLUMNS. UNPEELED PONDEROSA PINE POLE TRUSSES SUPPORT THE ROOF WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY AN ELABORATE KNEE BRACE SYSTEM. THIS SAME DETAILING IS FOUND ON THE GABLE-ROOFED PUMP SHELTER UNDERNEATH THE WELL DERRICK. THE 1947 BARN ADDITION HAS THE IDENTICAL TRUSS/KNEE BRACE SYSTEM. PERHAPS THIS CONSTRUCTION IS REFLECTIVE OF THE ESKELINS' FINNISH BACKGROUND. IT IS NOT FOUND ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE FORT ROCK VALLEY.



SOUTHEAST PERSPECTIVE

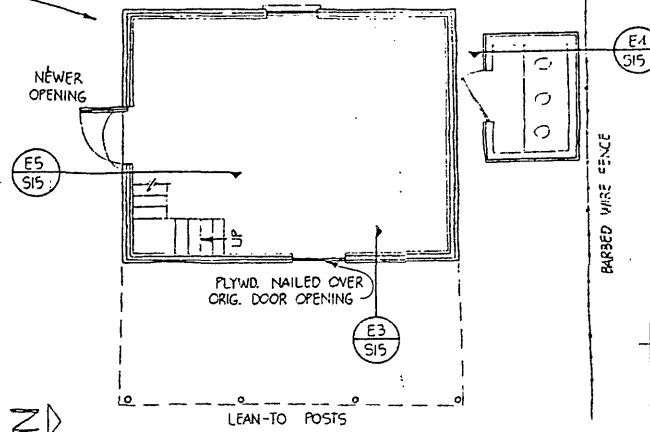
<p>JILL A. CHAPPEL TERMINAL PROJECT-HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNIVERSITY OF OREGON 1990</p>	<p>ESKELIN RANCH FORT ROCK VALLEY, LAKE COUNTY, OREGON</p>	<p>BARN SECTION</p>	<p>SHEET 14</p>
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GRANARY

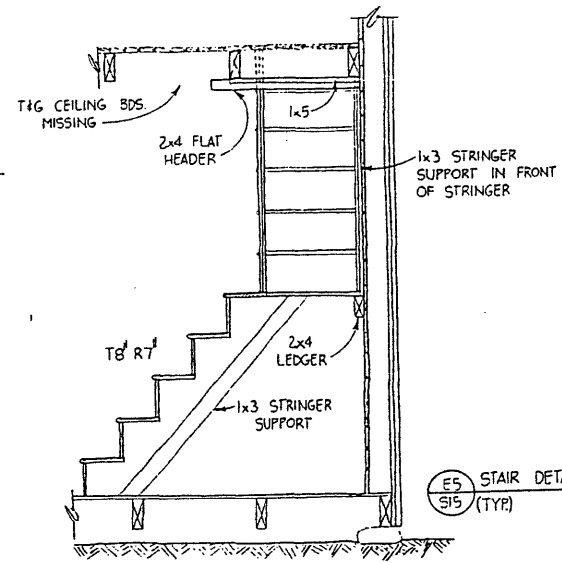
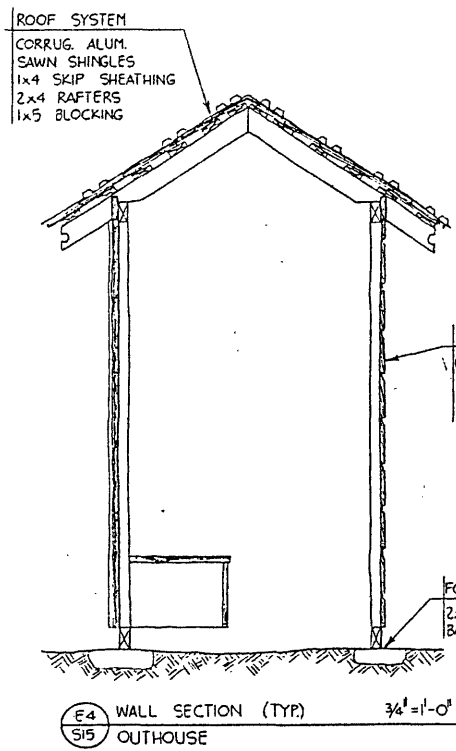
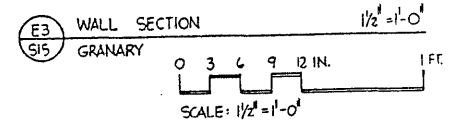
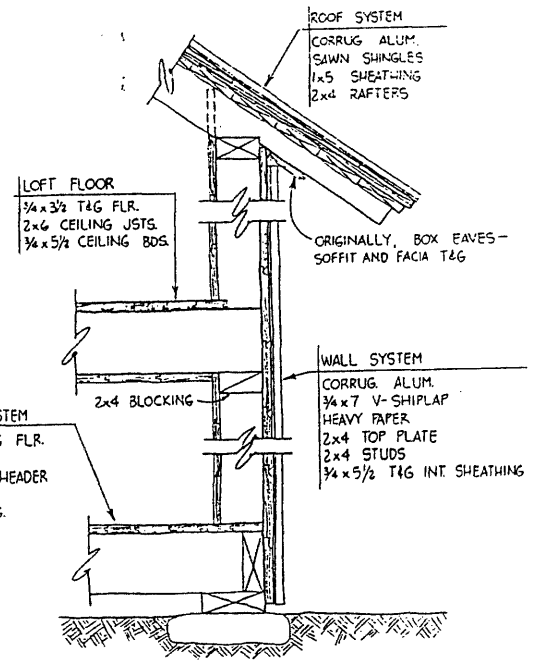
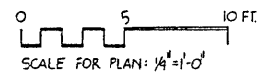
IN 1943 ED ESKELIN MOVED A "NORWEGIAN'S HOMESTEAD CABIN" ONTO THE RANCH TO BE USED AS AN ADDITIONAL GRANARY. THE FIRST GRANARY, THE KINNEAR O. BUICK HOMESTEAD CABIN, HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE HAROLD MILES RANCH 1/4 MILE TO THE EAST AND ATTACHED TO THE MILES' HOUSE.

THE BUILDING HAS UNDERGONE FEW MODIFICATIONS SINCE THE ESKELINS ACQUIRED IT. THE ORIGINAL DOOR OPENING ON THE EAST SIDE HAS BEEN COVERED WITH PLYWOOD, AND A NEW DOOR HAS BEEN CUT ON THE SOUTH GABLE END. ALL ORIGINAL INTERIOR WOOD FINISHES ARE INTACT, AND THE V-SHIPLAP SIDING HAS BEEN COVERED WITH CORRUGATED ALUMINUM. A LEAN-TO SHED WAS BUILT TO THE EAST.

DIMENSIONS ARE 12'-3" E-W BY 16'-6" N-S.

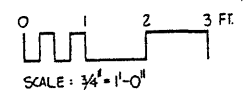


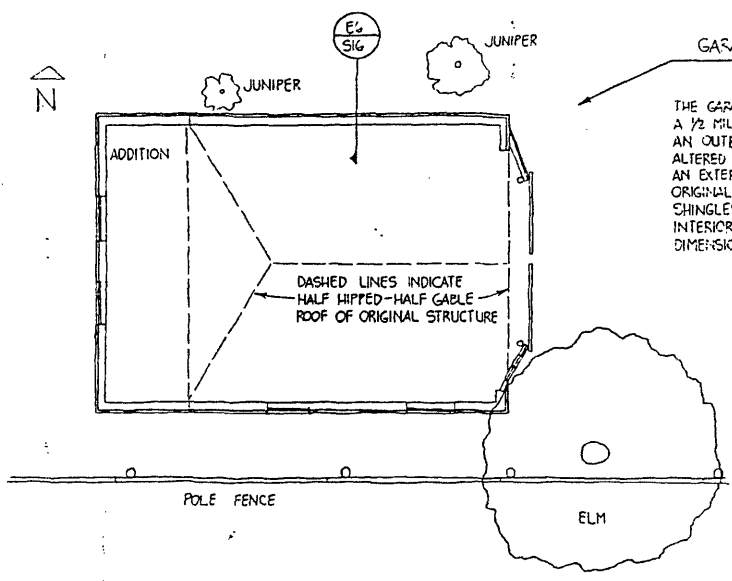
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OUTHOUSE (FAR LEFT)

THIS OUTBUILDING IS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL PRIVIES FROM THE CLOVER LEAF SCHOOL. IT WAS MOVED TO THE RANCH ALONG WITH THE SCHOOLHOUSE IN 1939 AND WAS INITIALLY PLACED BETWEEN THE SHOP AND THE DOUBLE PINE TREES NORTH OF THE HOUSE. THE OUTHOUSE MATCHES THE SCHOOLHOUSE IN EVERY DETAIL FROM THE FANCY SHIPLAP SIDING TO THE NOTCHED RAFTERS. IT MEASURES 4'-6" N-S BY 6'-3" E-W.



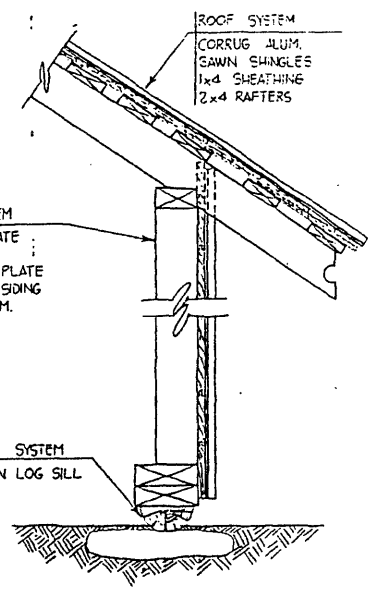
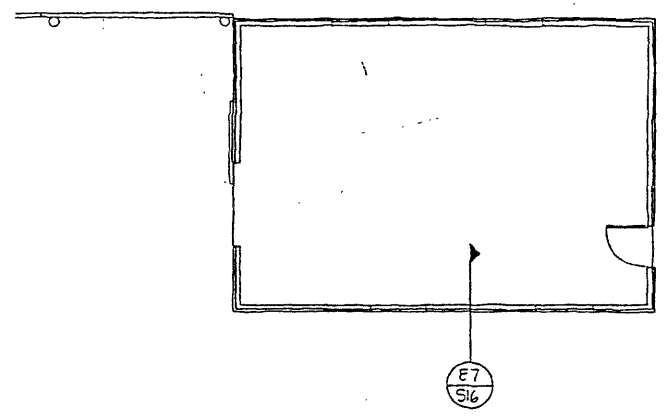
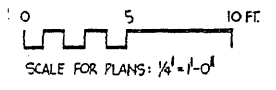


GARAGE

THE GARAGE WAS MOVED FROM THE 'TWIN SITE OF CONNLEY A 1/2 MILE NORTH OF THE RANCH. THE STRUCTURE WAS ONCE AN OUTBUILDING FOR THE CONNLEY STORE AND HAS BEEN ALTERED WITH A REAR ADDITION, A NEW FRONT ENTRY, AND AN EXTERIOR COVERING OF CORRUGATED ALUMINUM. THE ORIGINAL SAWN SHINGLE ROOF WAS HALF HIPPED, HALF GABLE. SHINGLES AND JACK RAFTERS CAN STILL BE SEEN ON THE INTERIOR. THE GARAGE IS CURRENTLY USED FOR STORAGE. DIMENSIONS ARE ROUGHLY 14x20 FEET.

SHOP

ED ESKELIN BUILT THE SHOP IN 1745 OUT OF LUMBER HE SALVAGED FROM THE FINLEY HOMESTEAD CABIN ONCE LOCATED 5 MILES SOUTH OF FORT ROCK. ESKELIN USED SINGLE WALL CONSTRUCTION -- THE SAME BUILDING TECHNIQUE MANY HOMESTEADERS USED DURING THE 1800s. IT MEASURES 14x20 FEET AS WELL.

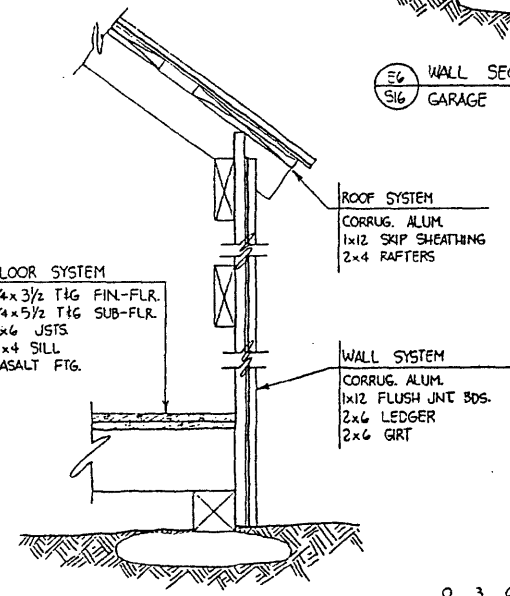


ROOF SYSTEM
CORRUG. ALUM.
SAWN SHINGLES
1x4 SHEATHING
2x4 RAFTERS

WALL SYSTEM
2x4 TOP PLATE
2x4 STUDS
2-2x6 SILL PLATE
3/4x3 1/2 TAG SIDING
CORRUG. ALUM.

FOUNDATION SYSTEM
5' TOP-HEWN LOG SILL
BASALT FTG.

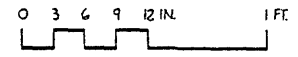
E6 SIG WALL SECTION 1/2" = 1'-0"

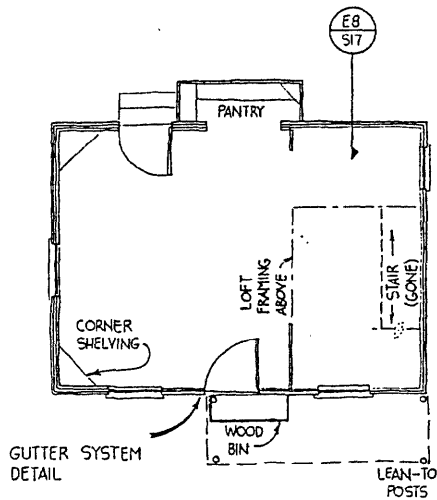


FLOOR SYSTEM
3/4x3 1/2 T&G FIN-FLR.
3/4x5 1/2 T&G SUB-FLR.
2x6 JSTS
4x4 SILL
BASALT FTG.

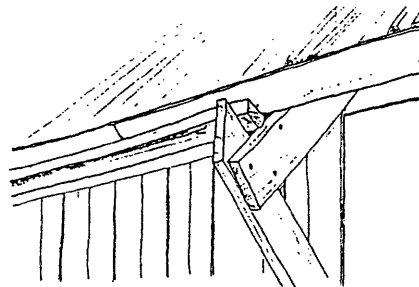
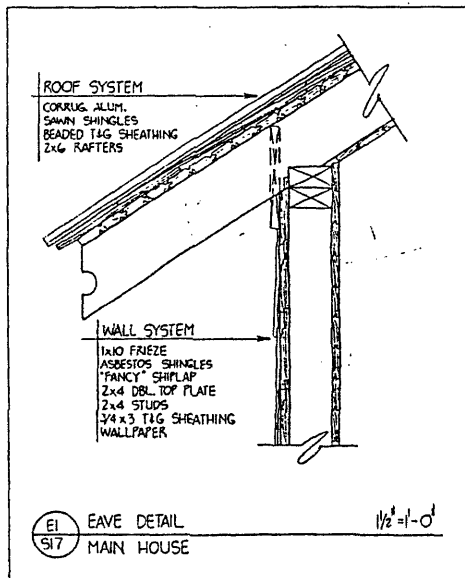
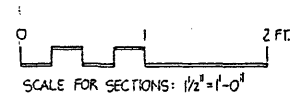
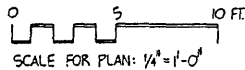
WALL SYSTEM
CORRUG. ALUM.
1x12 FLUSH JNT BDS.
2x6 LEDGER
2x6 GRT

E7 SIG WALL SECTION 1/2" = 1'-0"

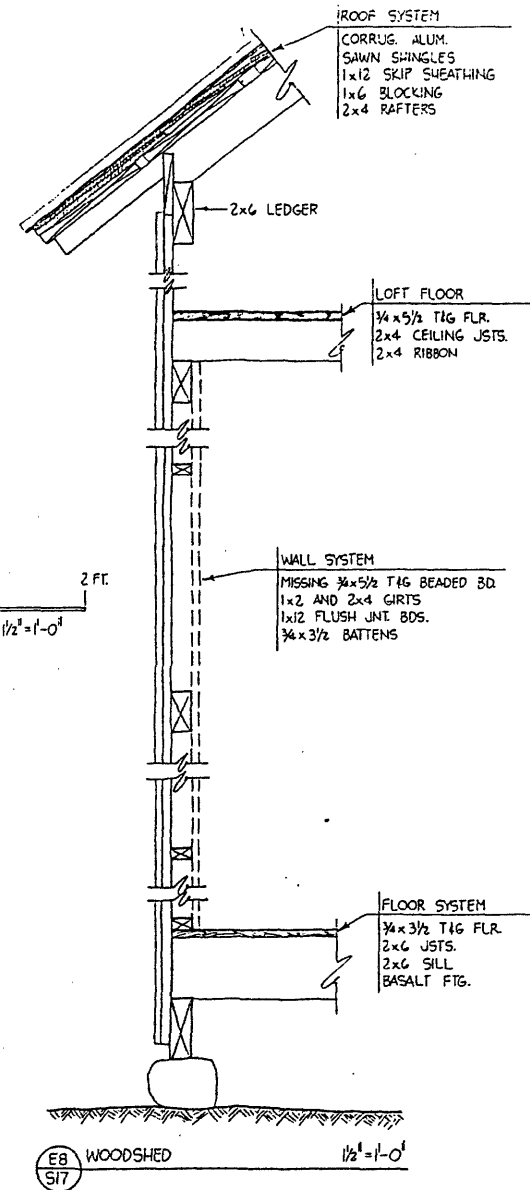




THIS WOODSHED IS ACTUALLY THE GUBSER HOMESTEAD CABIN MOVED IN 1945 BY ED ESKELIN FROM ITS ORIGINAL SITE 2 MILES SOUTH OF FORT ROCK. IT IS A FINELY FINISHED CABIN PARTICULARLY IN THE INTERIOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND DETAILING: THE BEADED T&G PANELING, THE RECESSED KITCHEN PANTRY, THE CORNER SHELVING, STILE & RAIL DOORS, 4/4 DOUBLE-HUNG WINDOWS, AND THE EXTERIOR WOOD GUTTER SYSTEM. ORIGINALLY THE CABIN HAD 3 ROOMS ON THE GROUND FLOOR WITH A SMALL STAIR LEADING TO A LOFT. THE INTERIOR HAS BEEN ALTERED TO ACCOMMODATE WOOD SUPPLY.



DETAIL OF GUTTER SYSTEM (w/ MODERN GALV. GUTTER)



WOODSHED 1/2" = 1'-0"

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Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000062 Date Listed: 2/25/91

Ed Eskelin Ranch Complex Lake OR
Property Name County 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.

for Austinnette J. Lee
Signature of the Keeper

2/25/91
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Classification: Because the landscape is cited as a significant element in this property, the number of contributing resources should include one site.

Statement of Significance: The property includes several moved resources; therefore, Criteria Consideration B should be checked.

The property is significant under Criterion C; therefore, Architecture should be added to the Areas of Significance.

This information was confirmed with Susie Haylock of the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)