

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 an 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 Rock Hill School

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Rock Hill Drive, 2.2 miles east of Sand Ridge Road N/A not for publication

city or town Lebanon vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Linn code 043 zip code 97355

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

John Harris April 25, 1992
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO Date
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper <u><i>Robert J. ...</i></u> Entered in the National Register	Date of Action <u>6/4/92</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Rock Hill School
Name of Property

Linn, Oregon
County and State

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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	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)

EDUCATION: School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT: Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls wood: weatherboard

roof wood: shingles

other

Narrative Description

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

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND SETTING

The Rock Hill School building is a rectangular, one-story, wood frame, one-room schoolhouse. The building rests on a concrete foundation, and is of balloon frame construction. Shiplap siding with corner boards and frieze boards finish the exterior. Four windows with four-over-four, double-hung wood frame sashes are located on the north and the south elevations. A recessed entry with bracketed cornice-like porch cap is centered in the middle of the east (front) elevation. The building is covered with a front facing gable roof with a 12 in 12 pitch, capped on the front by a small squared, bellcast, hip-roofed open bell tower that has a finial on the peak. Roof and bell tower are wood shingled. An interior corbelled cap chimney pierces the west peak of the roof. A one-story woodshed is attached to the west (rear) elevation. On the lintel above the entry is painted "ROCK HILL DIST. #31".

The Rock Hill School is located approximately four and one-half miles south of Lebanon, Oregon. The schoolhouse is in its original location to the north and west of a prominent curve on Rock Hill Drive. The structure is on a wide bench that is about 60 feet south of the base of a knoll. Large, native Oregon White Oak trees shade the knoll; about a half dozen of them are within the area proposed for nomination. The school site commands a wide view to the north and west that encompasses rolling farmland, scattered buttes, and the mountains of the Coast Range. Neighboring Peterson Butte dominates the view to the northwest. Its summit is about 1,000 feet above the schoolhouse site. The schoolhouse, surrounded by natural meadows beside a winding country road, is exceptionally picturesque. It is as if the builder had read Henry Barnard's School Architecture (1838), which suggests that a school "... should overlook a delightful country, present a choice of sunshine, shade, or trees and flowers, and be sheltered from the prevailing winds of winter by a hill-top."

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The schoolhouse building measures 30 by 40 feet. A continuous concrete perimeter foundation and concrete piers support 7½" by 7½" girders and 1 3/4" by 7½" floor joists. Diagonal 1" by 8" sheathing and 4" tongue

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and groove floor boards complete the floor structure. Under the building, but not in use, four field stones, probably from the foundation of an earlier, possibly smaller school building, are visible. These are evenly spaced and in a single line, 40 inches north of the present south wall of the building.

The building is clad with shiplap siding 5" wide with a $\frac{3}{4}$ " V-shaped bevel. Corner boards vary from $4\frac{1}{2}$ " to 6" wide. A 9"-wide waterboard is topped by a $1\frac{3}{4}$ " watertable with a sloped edge and 1" cove molding below. Round nails used to attach the waterboard to the sill suggest that the board may have been removed and then reattached at some time in the past. Square nails, however, were used throughout the original construction. (Although this suggests that the concrete foundation was added after the building was completed, residue concrete on the joists indicates that the joists were used as form boards for the foundation before being used in the structure. On the basis of this evidence, the concrete foundation appears to be original to this building.) The frieze boards are $7\frac{1}{2}$ " wide on the sides of the building and 9" wide on the gable ends. A crown molding is at the junction of frieze and eave. The boxed eaves overhang $18\frac{1}{2}$ " overall with a fascia composed of 2" of flat surface and a 4" crown molding against the roof edge. The four windows on each side are symmetrically placed about five feet apart and five feet above ground level. The window openings measure 3'1" by 6'6". They are framed by $5\frac{1}{2}$ " boards with a 3" crown molding on the top frame. The glass panes in the four-over-four, double-hung sash measure 16" by $17\frac{1}{2}$ ".

A recessed entry is centered on the front (east) gable end. It is four feet deep, eight feet wide and ten feet high, framed in plain 6" corner boards with sculpted bases. Above the entry lintel is a roofed cornice-like cap supported by three-layered, Italianate-style brackets which are placed on the entry frame. The brackets are $17\frac{1}{2}$ " tall and about a foot deep, with intricate curves and cut-out side pieces. The entry recess is clad with $3\frac{1}{4}$ " wainscoting material laid horizontally. A plain frame surrounds the 5'11" by 7'2" high double doorway and the 20" split transom. The doors are shown in a ca. 1925 photograph to have had five horizontal panels. (One of these doors was discovered in the woodshed in poor condition.) It is not known if these doors are original or simply replacements. There is a framed, 20" square vent in the gable end high above the entry. A hole in the siding for inserting a flagpole is located high above the front entry.

The bell tower straddles the roof at its east end, above the entry. It is about seven feet wide at the widest part of its flared and shingled base. The open portion is about four feet square, with $5\frac{1}{2}$ " square corner posts and flattened arches. There is a rounded drop detail adjacent to the posts. The boxed eaves of the bellcast roof extend about 18" beyond the posts. The bellfry roof is topped by a knobbed wooden spire-shaped finial.

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The woodshed, on the west elevation, has a hipped roof. Its walls rest on concrete blocks. The shed measures ten by twenty feet, has a dirt floor, unfinished interior (stud) walls, a door to access the school and a 3'10" wide door on the north to access the outside. A recent fire in the woodshed resulted in damage to the west wall. This exterior wall subsequently was covered over with plywood.

The low, uncovered wooden front porch and its steps are missing; however, most of the original rock piers are still in place, and indicate where it was. It appears to have measured 6'6" deep and 12'9" long. The well, its casing now visible above ground, is located sixty-three feet east of the front of the building near the present road. Depressions to the rear of the building mark the locations of the most recent outhouses. The girls' outhouse was located on the northwest side and the boys' outhouse on the southwest, both to the rear of the schoolhouse. One of the current owners, Norma Wilson Morgan, a student from about 1918 until she graduated in 1927, remembers that there was no shed to tie up and protect the horses, so the children left their horses at nearby neighbors' barns. At that time a wooden fence with a wide board on the top surrounded the one-acre parcel of land. According to Norma Morgan and her sister, Alta Wilson Ballew, children regularly got into trouble because they enjoyed walking along the top board to test their balance. There was no gate in the fence; instead a stile with a broad top provided access to the schoolyard.

The schoolhouse was originally painted white with black trim on the window sash. Now it is almost devoid of paint and the siding, especially on the south and west sides, is very weather-worn with deep ruts showing the wood grain.

In August 1991, when The Rock Hill School Foundation assumed responsibility for the school building, it was being used for hay storage. Boards securing the front entrance had been pried open. Shutters, constructed by the present owners to protect the windows, hung partially broken. Since August, The Foundation members have removed the hay, secured windows and doorways with plywood, reset loose siding nails, and completed a new wood shingle roof on the main volume and the bell tower. Much of the window sash has been destroyed or removed by vandals but enough remains to allow accurate reconstruction. The weight of the hay has caused some bowing in the floor structure and a pronounced "sag" toward the center of the floor, which will be gradually corrected by slow jacking and by rebracing of the two central longitudinal girders. The structure of the building is generally sound. However, there is some damage to the sill in the northwest corner. A few siding boards are missing (removed by vandals). The upper portion of the west gable end was covered by wood shingles, which are now removed. The siding that was under the shingles

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appears to be in good condition; however, the shingles may have been an attempt to solve a water leak on this "weather side", and it may be necessary to remove and replace the siding in order to waterproof the west gable end. In October 1991, a crown molding from the woodshed eave was used to replace a missing section of the front gable molding. A replacement must be found or made for the woodshed as the restoration proceeds.

The school bell, which disappeared many years ago under mysterious circumstances, has yet to be found although The Rock Hill School Foundation has followed several leads. An identical bell that was used in a nearby school has been offered to the Rock Hill School, and will be placed in the bell tower this spring if the original bell is not found and in good condition.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the building is almost as it was originally built, but in a somewhat deteriorated condition. The walls are covered with 3'6"-tall wood wainscotting of 3¼" boards with a ¼" bevel. The chair railing is composed of a full 1" bullnose over a 1" cove molding. There is a ¾" bullnose base-shoe, but no baseboard. Lath-and-plaster extends from the wainscotting and covers the twelve-foot high ceiling as well. Four light fixtures are evenly spaced on the ceiling about six feet four inches in from the south and north walls, and nine feet in from the front and rear. A hanging chimney is centered on the west wall. It extends down from the ceiling about six feet with the bottom two feet angling toward the wall. Hooks and wires in the ceiling that supported the stove pipe indicate that the stove was placed centrally in the room. The wainscotting on the west end is three feet high; above it, a 3'4" chalkboard ran across the entire wall. In the spring of 1991, most of it was pulled off by vandals.

At the east end, on either side of the recessed entry, are coatroom area alcoves. A row of wire coathooks on a 2"-wide board is about four feet from the floor. A few inches above this is a 9" shelf, and a foot above that another row of coathooks. An additional, braced shelf rests on the chair rail of the alcove/vestibule wall.

The chair rail forms the window sill on the interior. The windows have 5½" side frames, and a 9" top frame composed of a ½" bullnose base, a 7½" flat portion, and a 2" flared crown. The wainscotting and wood trim are painted a pale green. The plaster is white.

The interior appears to be essentially intact. As previously mentioned, part of the chalkboard is detached. There is water damage and loss of plaster on the ceiling on the south side, the northwest corner, and the

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northwest corner walls. There are cracks in the plaster in other locations. The floor is sound and in excellent condition, except for a small water-damaged area in the northwest corner.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

The date of construction of the present Rock Hill Schoolhouse is not known. Hundreds of issues of the Lebanon newspaper for the period 1887-1907 have been scanned for information about the building, its date and builder. Since not all of the issues have been read, the search will continue. Efforts are ongoing to locate an individual who has either a relevant photograph, personal knowledge, or written information about the construction of the schoolhouse.

Architectural and other evidence suggest that the Rock Hill Schoolhouse was built sometime between the years 1885 and 1910. Because the current schoolhouse is vernacular and has architectural elements that were used over many decades, for example shiplap siding and large four-over-four, double-hung sash windows, the timeless nature of the building makes it difficult to date. The use of square nails in the original construction and the use of Italianate-style brackets are more indicative of a late 19th Century date. The damaged front door definitely is of 20th Century construction, but it may have replaced an earlier door. The concrete foundation is, perhaps, the most significant element for placing the building in the early part of the 20th Century. Several individuals who are familiar with construction techniques are certain that the foundation is contemporaneous with the building. Some of the floor joists that are visible in the crawl space have a coating of concrete, suggesting that they first were used as forms for the foundation, then were reused as joists when the building was raised. Concrete foundations do occur in some late 19th Century buildings in the Willamette Valley, but none are known to exist locally. An article in the Lebanon Express-Advance, issue of May 6, 1904, announced: "The cement sidewalk already down at the bank and in front of Bach and Buhl's will be partially taken up and made over in first-class style." This notice is proof that concrete work was not unknown in the local area near the turn of the century. Evidence currently available suggests that the Rock Hill Schoolhouse was built ca. 1905, most likely between 1900 and 1910.

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.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____
 Education _____
 Social History _____

Period of Significance

1900-1910 _____
 c. 1905-1935 _____

Significant Dates

c. 1905 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Unknown _____

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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:

Linn County Planning Department
 Albany, Oregon

Rock Hill School
Name of Property

Linn, Oregon
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property c. 1.0 acres Brownsville, Oregon 1:62500

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	110	504200	4925325
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joni Nelson with assistance of Rosalind Keeney, Mary Gallagher, May Dasch

organization The Rock Hill School Foundation date December 6, 1991

street & number PO Box 118 (232 Spaulding) telephone (503) 466-3084

city or town Brownsville state Oregon zip code 97327

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Gilbert Morgan
Norma N. Morgan

street & number 39789 Lacombe Drive
35935 Rock Hill Drive telephone _____

city or town Lebanon state Oregon zip code 97355

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Rock Hill School Linn County OREGON 92000661

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED

Greg M. Lapsley 9/29/95

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ROCK HILL SCHOOL (1910)

Rock Hill Drive
Lebanon vicinity
Linn County, Oregon

NRIS #92000661

Listing date: 6-4-92

Period of Significance

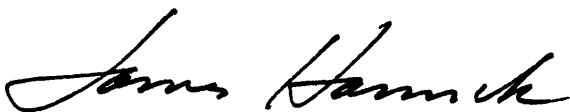
The purpose of this continuation sheet is to provide evidence of the date of construction of Rock Hill School that was discovered subsequent to the nomination process and to revise the period of significance and significant date accordingly.

Largely on the basis of physical evidence, the school was believed to have been built between 1885, or more likely 1900, and 1910 at the time of its nomination to the National Register.

A search of period newspapers was not fruitful until 1992, when a reference to plans of the rural Rock Hill community to build a new schoolhouse was found in a 1909 Brownsville paper. This led to a thorough search of 1909 issues of the *Lebanon Express*, which chronicled a failed bidding process and revealed that no construction was underway in 1909. Copies of the *Lebanon Express* for the years 1910 and 1911 were not preserved on microfilm and, therefore, were not available.

More than a year later, an article in a 1915 issue of *The Lebanon Criterion* was found which referred to the "present neat and commodious" Rock Hill School as having replaced its predecessor in 1910. An account of the research pursuit accompanies this as supplementary information.

The period of significance is corrected to read 1910-1935, and the significant date is corrected to read 1910, as opposed to 1905.



Deputy Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 9/5/95

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SUMMARY

The one-room school building completed and opened for use as Rock Hill School in rural Linn County, Oregon about 1905 stands in the Butte Creek drainage on the edge of foothills rising to the Cascades, where it served the agricultural district lying between the platted townsites of Brownsville and Lebanon until its abandonment in 1935.

The brisk, gable-roofed rectangular volume measures 30 x 40 feet in plan and is oriented with its long axis east to west, at an acute angle to Rock Hill Drive, a more recent branch of the system of market roads connecting the two trading communities separated by a distance of 15 miles. The original Territorial Road alignment at this place was parallel with the building's long axis.

The abandoned school property had reverted to neighboring farm owners and was not maintained except for storage purposes after it ceased being used as a community meeting place during the 1940s and '50s. It was in 1952 that Linn County rural school district No. 31 was formally consolidated with Plainview School District.

The school is nominated with its immediate setting of one square acre, precisely the historic parcel dedicated to educational purposes in the last century. On this site stood two predecessor school houses, and two earlier Rock Hill schools stood in the vicinity to the south. The nominated area is characterized as sloping, oak-studded meadow overlooking cultivated bottom lands. It includes a well in front of the building on the east and the sites of outhouses behind the school near the west boundary.

Although considerably deteriorated after years of being subject to vandalism and open to the weather, the school nonetheless conveys well the architectural character of its hey day. It is little altered since its construction, believed on the basis of documentary and physical evidence to date between 1900 and 1910. Traditional in form and resting on a concrete foundation, the school has a gable end entrance on the east, where a wide recessed porch, or vestibule is modestly sheltered by a bracketed, shelf-like cornice. Straddling the roof ridge at the gable peak is a square belfry with battered, shingle-clad base walls and a bell-cast pyramidal roof with pinnacle. The bell is no longer in place.

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At the west end of the gable roof is the corbel-capped brick flue of a hanging chimney. The roof has a boxed cornice, and the exterior, clad with shiplap siding, is trimmed with plain corner and frieze boards. Window openings with architrave framements are regularly spaced, four bays on either side elevation. These windows were fitted with tall, double-hung sash having four lights over four. The rear, or west end elevation is blind. Its gable is clad with shingles, and a hip-roofed woodshed addition is centered on this elevation.

The schoolhouse interior, until recently used for hay storage, contains its original plaster ceiling and wall cover, fir flooring and encompassing vertical tongue and groove wainscot topped by a chair railing. At the entrance end, wall-mounted cloak racks are disposed on either side of the vestibule. The entry has a single transom or toplight. Double-leaf front doors are missing, as are original window sash on the south elevation. On the interior, window bases abut a sill line formed by the wainscot chair rail. The west end of the room is distinguished by its hanging stove chimney at the center and the chalk board extending the full width of the room above the wainscot. In the northwest corner is a doorway giving access to the woodshed.

The Rock Hill School meets National Register Criterion C as a rare, unaltered example of traditional one-room schoolhouse architecture dating from the turn of the century in Linn County. It also is significant under Criterion A in the context of rural elementary education locally. Proponents of the nomination are the Rock Hill School Foundation, organized in 1991 for the purpose of preserving the building. It is understood that title to the property will be transferred to the foundation once the building is duly entered in the National Register of Historic Places. In the following contextual information, this group has related the school's construction and operation to broad currents of denominational settlement patterns in western Oregon and to educational practices before widespread consolidation of rural school districts and improvement of the road system.

The 1983 Linn County Historic Resources Inventory identified 21 standing rural schools built between 1870 and 1939. The present Rock Hill School is one of only nine intact schoolhouses remaining on their original sites. Rock Hill School also is seen as the exemplar of the ultimate generation of schoolhouses on a given

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site. Typically the last school, more sizeable and having some stylistic pretensions, replaced an initial log structure or, perhaps a small intermediate building of frame construction.

Rock Hill School District No. 31 was among the first school districts to be organized in Linn County in 1854. Although a public school, Rock Hill School, historically, had a close association with the congregation of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, an offshoot of the Protestant German Reformed Church. The present and four antecedent school sited near the ridge at Rock Hill served also in the capacity of church meeting hall and Sunday school. The United Brethren in Christ retained half interest in the school district property even after its religious activities were shifted to the community of Plainview in 1891.

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The Rock Hill Schoolhouse is significant under Criteria A for its association with public education in rural western Oregon. The Rock Hill School symbolizes a way of life in the Willamette Valley in the 19th and 20th Centuries. Pioneers began to arrive in the Rock Hill area in 1846. Because they deemed the education of children of prime importance, they soon began to build schools. Schooling was highly valued and seen as the path to the future. The schoolhouse was perhaps the most significant building in an area because it served not only as the fountain of knowledge, but also as the religious and community center.

The pattern of a schoolhouse every few miles has disappeared during the past fifty years as improved roads and methods of transportation have made the consolidation of school districts appear beneficial from an administrative, economic, and possibly educational and political standpoint. Because its setting and form have not been altered, the Rock Hill Schoolhouse still conveys the feeling of a simpler time, when children walked or rode their horses to school to learn to read, write, and do arithmetic. Passers-by experience a real sense of nostalgia as they encounter this building when driving on the winding county road between the towns of Lebanon and Brownsville.

The Rock Hill School also is significant under Criteria C as an exceptionally intact one-room, turn-of-the-century school building. Its vernacular schoolhouse style is a traditional building form used in rural settings across the United States from the 18th Century until about World War II.

According to the 1983 Linn County Historic Resources Inventory, of the rural schools built between 1870 and 1939 to serve Linn County's numerous school districts, only twenty-one survive. Eight, including the Rock Hill Schoolhouse, are of vernacular design, ten are of the Craftsman

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style, and three are listed as Classical. Nine of the surviving schoolhouses remain on their original sites and are intact to their original design. The Rock Hill School may be the oldest of these. The one other intact vernacular schoolhouse, Richardson's Gap School (ca. 1910) near Scio, lacks the distinctive bell tower. The only intact schoolhouse with bell tower, besides the Rock Hill School, is the Craftsman-style Reed School (ca. 1922). Based on integrity, age, and setting, the Rock Hill Schoolhouse is the best example of an on-site, rural school building in Linn County. Statewide comparisons are difficult to make, because cultural resource information on early schoolhouses is incomplete at this time. The only one-room Oregon schoolhouse on the National Register, the Soap Creek School in nearby Benton County, dates from ca. 1929. It is a smaller, vernacular style building with a bell tower.

Although the builder (perhaps there was more than one builder) of the Rock Hill School is unknown, it is evident, by the attention to detail, that he was a good carpenter with skill and experience. The building retains its original interior and exterior features. It is exceptionally intact and possesses integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, and location. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of an American one-room schoolhouse, a folk design common from the beginning of the 18th Century through the middle of the 20th Century. With the aid of schoolhouse plan books, such as Henry Barnard's School Architecture published in 1838, and the cultural template in the minds of the pioneer builders, these traditional school buildings were transported to the west coast by the 1850's. The common features of the folk-inspired and plan book-inspired buildings include rectangular shape, large windows, open interior space, bell tower (when it could be afforded), rural setting, and since wood was the most available building material in the Willamette Valley, frame construction.

The Rock Hill Schoolhouse also exemplifies the characteristics of a third generation schoolhouse, which typically began with the pioneers' crude log school building, followed by a small frame schoolhouse, followed by a larger, stylized schoolhouse.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The first official school districts in Linn County, Oregon, were organized in 1854. The Rock Hill School District, designated as School District No. 31, was one of them.

The present Rock Hill Schoolhouse appears to be the last of a series of five buildings known as the Rock Hill School. The school was in operation from the early(?) 1850's to 1935. All of the schoolhouses were located on, or possibly near, the base of a low, half-mile long ridge that trends

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in a northeasterly direction. The two earliest structures apparently were situated near the southern end of the ridge. The three later structures, including the existing schoolhouse, appear to have been built on the same site at the extreme northern end of the ridge. All of the schoolhouses were constructed on Donation Land Claims settled by members of the pioneer Gallaher family.

Throughout the years, the Rock Hill Schoolhouse served as a place to educate the children of the Rock Hill community, a rural area encompassing a number of farms. For nearly one hundred years, the Rock Hill Schoolhouse also served as a community center. As a gathering place, the schoolhouse was used for a social hall, a meeting hall, and a church. Indeed, one senses that at times the line between Church and State may have been somewhat blurred. The Rock Hill School had a very close association with one church in particular, the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. That relationship began in the 1850's and continued for nearly forty years. [The Church of the United Brethren in Christ should not be confused with The Church of the Brethren, commonly called Dunkards, a sect derived from a German Baptist group. In 1856, the Dunkards organized their first church west of the Rocky Mountains in Linn County, east of Albany.]

Church of the United Brethren in Christ

The Church of the United Brethren in Christ, commonly referred to as the United Brethren, had its origins in the German Reformed Church. In 1683, the first members of the German Reformed Church to come to America settled at Germantown, Pennsylvania. They came at the invitation of William Penn and, by the end of the American Revolution, numbered about 200,000 members in the eastern United States. In about 1748, Philip William Otterbein, a young German minister, was persuaded to leave Europe and work for the German Reformed Church in Pennsylvania. In time, the churches under his supervision separated from the old German Reformed Church. By the late 1780's, his followers frequently were referred to as "Dutch Methodists" or "New Brethren". Eventually, they assumed the name, "United Brethren in Christ". In 1800, they held, in Maryland, the first regular Annual Conference of the United Brethren Church. By then, "...there was little difference in either organization or belief between the United Brethren and the American Methodists." (Springer, 1929, p. 2)

About a half century later, the United Brethren Church took root in western Oregon. George W. Bethers, who lived on a Donation Land Claim southwest of Marysville (renamed Corvallis), sent a letter in 1849 to the official publication of the United Brethren Church, asking for a minister for the pioneer settlements located along the Marys River in Benton County. His call was answered. The Church selected two missionaries,

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Thomas Jefferson Connor and Jeremiah Kenoyer, to work in the Oregon Territory. In 1853, Reverend Connor, regarded as the founder of the United Brethren Church in Oregon, headed west as the leader of a wagon train made up of ninety-six pioneers in sixteen covered wagons. Thus began the chapter that soon brought some of the United Brethren to Linn County and the Rock Hill Schoolhouse.

Early(?) 1850's to Mid-1880's

In 1845, William Crawford Gallaher, his wife, Amy Kees Gallaher, and their large family emigrated to the Oregon Country. William, a native of Pennsylvania, and Amy had spent their early married life there. Subsequently, they had moved to Illinois and then to Iowa. The family appears to have arrived in the Rock Hill area of Linn County in 1846. In 1850, three of the Gallahers officially settled Donation Land Claims. (On September 27th of that same year, the Oregon Donation Land Law was approved by the U.S. Government.) William and Amy Gallaher settled their 640-acre claim (DLC #1348) on July 8, 1850. Elmore K. Gallaher, their eldest son, settled on an adjacent 321-acre claim (DLC #5038) to the south and east on November 30, 1850. On the same day, Oliver C. Gallaher, the unmarried second child of William and Amy, settled on a 320-acre claim (DLC #4038) located along the southern boundary of his parents' claim.

First Schoolhouse (southern site)

The first Rock Hill Schoolhouse apparently was constructed on Elmore Gallaher's Donation Land Claim. Dorissa Jane Zoosman Miller, born in 1854 on her father's Donation Land Claim, attended that early school which she years later described as located on the Blackburn farm. (By 1878, A.P. Blackburn owned the west half of the Elmore Gallaher Donation Land Claim.) In March 1853, U. S. Government surveyors working in the area mapped and described in their field notes the locations of the houses of William Gallaher and Elmore Gallaher. They also described the locations of a nearby mill race and sawmill. However, they neither mapped nor described in their field notes a schoolhouse, suggesting that the first Rock Hill School had not yet been built. On the other hand, the structure may have been present, but the surveyors may not have seen it or simply may have neglected to record its existence.

The first schoolhouse was a log structure. Dorissa Miller described the building as follows: "My first school was in a log cabin and we sat on slab benches which were without backs. Each bench was about ten feet long and there were no desks." Two facts suggest that the first log school might have been built before 1853: the Gallahers and other pioneer families who had been living in the area for seven years would have had an earlier need for a school; and planed lumber would have been available

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for a school building, at least by 1853, since a sawmill was present. Solid proof that the earliest known Rock Hill Schoolhouse was standing by the summer of 1856 rests with the history of the United Brethren Church in western Oregon.

In January 1854, the United Brethren Church organized their first class in the Oregon Territory at the Mt. Union Schoolhouse, which was located east of present-day Philomath in Benton County. On August 30, 1855, the first Annual Conference of the United Brethren Church in Oregon was held at Santiam (in Linn County, according to Springer, 1929). Thomas J. Connor, described as a scholarly man, presided as Bishop at that gathering.

A year later, the Rock Hill Schoolhouse became the site of an extremely important meeting. Claire G. Springer, previously referenced, described that event in his 1929 master's thesis, A History of Philomath College (p. 3-4): "The second annual conference [of the United Brethren Church in the Oregon Territory] met at Rockhill school house, Linn County, August 16, 1856. At this meeting a report favoring the founding of a school at Sublimity, Marion County, Oregon, was adopted. A board of fifteen trustees was appointed with instructions to hold their first meeting at Sublimity on September 30, 1856. The school at Sublimity opened for work in the fall of 1857 with the Rev. Milton Wright as principal and teacher." Reverend Wright, as well as Reverend Thomas Connor, very likely attended the momentous gathering at Rock Hill. Wright, later a Bishop of the United Brethren Church, was the father of Wilbur and Orville Wright, aviation pioneers.

By 1856, the Rock Hill Schoolhouse already may have seen use as a church. The fact that this important Annual Conference was held in an apparently obscure schoolhouse in rural Linn County suggests that United Brethren followers may have been living in the area. Several of the men who served as Trustees of the United Brethren Church at Rock Hill in the 1860's had settled earlier on Donation Land Claims in the western part of Linn County (David Claypool in 1848, and Alfred Whealdon and William G. Scott in 1853).

[Note: From its earliest days, the United Brethren Church had developed a policy of strong support for education, declaring for example: "Universal education is necessary in a democracy. If all the people rule, all the people must be educated to the end that impulse and passion may be subjected to deliberation and reason." (Springer, 1929, p. 8) In 1846, the Church initiated a twenty-year period of school construction. Of the eight schools that were built, Otterbein University in Ohio was the first and Philomath College in western Oregon was the last. On February 14, 1865, "... a number of citizens of Benton County, Oregon, met at 'Maple Grove' school house [the school was located at a site in

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what became the town of Philomath]... to take into consideration the propriety of trying to build up a high school or an institution of learning of some kind in their midst." (Springer, 1929, p. 5) Less than three years later, in October 1867, Philomath College opened its doors to about 100 students. (Philomath College closed in 1929. Today, the historic main building is owned and operated as a museum by the Benton County Historical Society.) The school at Sublimity, which had prospered for about a decade, declined rapidly after the opening of Philomath College and ceased operations in about 1870.]

Second Schoolhouse (southern site)

The first Rock Hill Schoolhouse was destroyed by fire, probably in the late 1860's. Elmore Gallaher, owner of the site where that log structure apparently stood, had died earlier, in 1855. (Elmore Gallaher had been married to Harriet Snyder, who came to Oregon as an orphan. Following Elmore's death, Harriet remarried twice. She and her third husband, James Balch, had a son, Frederick Homer Balch, who became a well-known Oregon author.)

Dorissa Miller recalled in later years that after the first Rock Hill Schoolhouse burned "... we went to school in a camp house where camp-meetings had been held. That was only for a short time and the building was a temporary affair. That old camp shed was just across the creek from the present old Blackburn house which is now occupied by Dell Wilson." The exact location of the "camp house", a structure presumably used for religious revival meetings, has not been determined. The relative positions of the Blackburn house and a nearby creek, as shown on a map in the Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Marion and Linn Counties, Oregon (1878), suggest that the "camp house" could have been situated either on the Elmore Gallaher Donation Land Claim or slightly to the west on the adjacent Oliver Gallaher Donation Land Claim.

Third Schoolhouse (northern site)

In the 1860's, the United Brethren decided to build a church in the Rock Hill area. The site chosen by the Church was that of the present Rock Hill Schoolhouse. The property, located in the southeast corner of the William and Amy Gallaher Donation Land Claim, still was owned by William, who by then had remarried. Gallaher's first wife, Amy, had died on April 21, 1856. On November 4, 1856, William had married Lydia McCoy McFarland, a native of Virginia. Lydia, the former wife of William McFarland, had been widowed in Illinois in 1840. Lydia emigrated to Oregon in 1852 and, as a single woman, settled on a Donation Land Claim in Linn County on November 9, 1855.

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On December 27 (or 26), 1866, William and Lydia Gallaher sold about an acre of land to the "Trustees of the United Brethren in Chirst Church at Rock Hill in Linn County" for \$50.00. Construction of a frame church building began, according to Dorissa Miller, but was halted when the Church ran out of funds. Desirous of completing the structure, the "Trustees of the Rock Hill Church" joined forces with the Rock Hill School District. On May 8, 1869, the Church sold to Linn County School District No. 31 an equal and undivided half of the acre, including the unfinished structure, for \$250.00. The Church placed a stipulation in the deed that read: "So long as the said School District shall use the said premises for school purposes the Church shall have the preference of using said premises for religious purposes." The School District, in need of a permanent schoolhouse to replace the one that had burned, apparently completed the church/school building soon thereafter.

On June 5, 1931, W.T. Fogle, a former student, chronicled the early history of the Rock Hill School in an article published by Greater Oregon, an Albany newspaper. An entry in the 1880 U.S. Census Records for Linn County suggests that "W.T. Fogle" may have been William T. Fogle. William T. Fogle, who was born in Linn County in about 1862, appears to have been the eldest child of George and Minerva Fogle. By 1902, W.T. Fogle had left the Rock Hill area and had become the editor of a central Oregon newspaper, the Crook County Journal. Concerning the church/school, the first structure built on the current site, Fogle wrote in 1931: "I do not know the date that this building was put up, but the first school that I attended was in this building... This would have been about the year 1869."

Fourth Schoolhouse (northern site)

Fogle's recollections indicate that a second schoolhouse was constructed on the northern site before the current structure was built. Wrote Fogle: "With natural increase in population and a considerable influx of immigration, the schoolhouse became too small to take care of the pupils that sought entry, so a new one was built. This was some time in the 70's as near as my memory goes. As I remember the building it was about 30-40 feet [current building has similar measurements] and during the winters there were around 50 'kids' attending; one winter there were 70 in attendance, all the way from what is now called kindergarten to fifth reader."

Fogle, who penned his reminiscences about a half century after attending the Rock Hill School, did not write about the school's history from 1880 forward. If, indeed, the second schoolhouse on the northern site was built in the 1870's, as Fogle recollected, or even in the early 1880's, it must have been torn down to make way for the current structure. The

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architecture of today's schoolhouse suggests a construction date no earlier than the mid-1880's.

The boundaries of Rock Hill School District No. 31 appear to have been altered three times in the early years, first on February 17, 1874, and later on March 16 and May 11 in 1882. As a result of at least two of these boundary changes, School District No. 31 was enlarged.

The Territorial Road

All of the Rock Hill Schoolhouses were located along segments of the Territorial Road. This early road, a major north-south thoroughfare along the eastern side of the Willamette Valley, changed course as local needs required. In the late 1840's, the route of the Territorial Road in the Lebanon-Brownsville area was as follows: The road headed east from Knox Butte to the Santiam River, and thence south to Lebanon. From Lebanon, it trended in a straight southwesterly line through Rock Hill Gap, which is located southeast of Peterson Butte, thence along the northern tip and along the western side of the low ridge where the northern and southern sites of the Rock Hill Schoolhouses are located. The Territorial Road continued south along the base of the foothills, passed by the west side of Lone Tree Butte, then through the gap at Washburn Butte, and on into Brownsville.

Early emigrants used this section of the Territorial Road, as did gold miners heading south in the late 1840's. The road was so well travelled in those early days that Gamaliel Parrish, who had settled on a Donation Land Claim in the Rock Hill area in 1847, catered to the traffic. His house, reportedly built about 1852, was located on the west side of the Territorial Road, a little over a mile southwest of the first Rock Hill Schoolhouse. Parrish provided his dwelling as a stagecoach stop for both mail and passenger service. From 1853 to 1856, the Thurston Post Office was located on Parrish's Donation Land Claim and he was appointed as Postmaster. (This designation should not be confused with Harrisburg, which also went by the name of "Thurston" in early years.) Gamaliel Parrish also operated a small store out of a room of his house. The store was constructed with a false front to give it a more imposing appearance.

As emigrants began to settle the McKenzie River Valley and points south, they bypassed the Lebanon area and took a shortcut from Knox Butte to Sand Ridge, a western spur of Peterson Butte, and on to the south. The road through Rock Hill Gap, which passed by the site of the northern Rock Hill Schoolhouses, was extended to the west, in 1858, where it joined the new north-south route. The section of the Territorial Road that paralleled the west side of the low ridge and passed by the first

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two Rock Hill Schoolhouses at the southern end of that ridge was vacated officially in 1876.

In 1853, federal surveyors mapped the locations of the houses belonging to William Gallaher and his son, Elmore Gallaher. The structures were located next to the Territorial Road and very close to the northern site of the later Rock Hill Schoolhouses. William Gallaher's house was shown northeast of the school site on the opposite side of a small creek. Elmore Gallaher's house was plotted east of the school site, just across the Territorial Road. In 1878 (Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Marion and Linn Counties, Oregon), a house still stood on the site of the William Gallaher house (the property by then was owned by John Nichols), but the Elmore Gallaher house was gone. John Nichols bought most of the William and Amy Gallaher Donation Land Claim from William Gallaher and his family on October 23, 1873. By then, William, his wife Lydia, and most of William's children, including Oliver, had moved to Walla Walla, in the Washington Territory, or to Umatilla County, in eastern Oregon.

Teaching and Preaching at the Early Rock Hill Schools

The early Rock Hill Schools were called "subscription schools". Because public school funds were not available, the local settlers sponsored the education of their children. The parents of a family with school-aged children commonly signed a contract with the teacher, agreeing to pay that person a certain amount for each pupil taught. When funding shifted in the Rock Hill School District from family purses to public tax dollars is not known.

Teachers at the early one-room Rock Hill Schools, like teachers throughout rural Oregon, had to contend with a variety of difficult circumstances. The Rock Hill teacher, who sometimes had little formal training, taught all eight grades in a single room. Ages of the students often ranged from four to twenty. The equipment provided for teaching the basics of reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography was limited. Fogle, in writing about the Rock Hill School in the 1870's, recalled that: "The principal text book-- in fact the entire curriculum of the younger children-- consisted of the long since discarded blue-backed Webster's Elementary Spelling Book, a collection of widely divergent spelling and reading lessons.

In the early days, the school year was very short, sometimes lasting for only three months or less. Older students, especially, were needed at home to sew, card wool, churn butter, milk cows, and help with the planting and harvesting. The existing roads often were flooded or deep in mud during the rainy season. Teachers who lived at a distance commonly boarded with the families of local farmers.

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Most of the early Rock Hill School teachers were men. The names of only a few of them have been recorded from the early years. Several of them later became rather well known at the local, even the state level. Rock Hill School teacher "Old Man" Gallaher, as he was usually called according to Fogle, "... to distinguish him from the other numerous members of the family...", probably was early pioneer William C. Gallaher. Gallaher apparently valued a good education, for on January 18, 1854, the Legislature of the Oregon Territory passed an act appointing him as one of thirteen Trustees of the newly established Santiam Academy in Lebanon. One of William Gallaher's younger sons, James Jackson Gallaher, whose house was located just north of the first Rock Hill Schoolhouse, was another early teacher, probably around 1860. Students remembered him as the one-armed school teacher, for Jackson or "Jack", as he was called, earlier had lost a limb in a threshing machine accident.

W.R. Bishop, described as a successful teacher, preacher, musician, accountant, businessman, and farmer, taught at the Rock Hill School and at two other Linn County one-room schools during the period 1856-1861. Bishop later moved to Brownsville where he founded Bishop's Academy. He also founded the Harrisburg Academy in 1861, in Harrisburg. 'Nimrod Price Payne', described by Fogle as "... one of the outstanding pioneer developers of Linn County...", likewise was a teacher at the Rock Hill School, probably in the late 1860's. [Fogle probably was referring to Nimrod Price, an early pioneer, who, according to the Albany Daily Democrat (January 6, 1916), "... was a staunch friend of religion, education and whatever made for the uplift of the community, serving for years upon school boards with marked ability."]

Perhaps one of the most illustrious individuals to teach at the Rock Hill School during the early years was James Knox Polk Weatherford, called "Jim" by his friends. Weatherford, who went on to study law, was elected as Linn County School Superintendent in 1874, and was admitted to the bar in 1875. In 1876, he was elected to the State Legislature and became Speaker of the House; in 1884, he was elected as a State Senator, representing Linn County.

A single student from the early days, Milton A. Miller, appears to stand out from his peers. As a prominent figure in Oregon political life, Miller was referred to by his schoolmates as "The Sage of the Santiam" and "The William Jennings Bryan of Oregon". Fogle, in reminiscing about the successes of his fellow students, recalled that one served as the Register of the U.S. Land Office at La Grande and later became a prominent Texas dentist, another served as a county judge, and yet another held the editorial chair at the Albany daily newspaper.

The Rock Hill area never had a true church building, a structure that was used primarily for church services and related religious activities.

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From the earliest days, however, preachers apparently representing several different denominations conducted services for the local farmers and their families.

In The Fir-Wood Churches of Linn County, Haskin (1938) has written, "The first churches were the rough cabin homes of the settlers, often, at the beginning, with dirt floors and small unglazed windows." Early settlers in the Rock Hill area, such as the Gallahers, very possibly offered their log cabins for worship and for schooling. Haskin continues, "The second step in the course of church development in this region was the meetings held in little log schoolhouses, built on the same general lines as the cabin homes, but being community enterprises, larger in size and provided with split log benches... puncheon floors and glazed windows... It is not known that any log church, built exclusively for religious worship was ever erected in this [Linn] county." Certainly Dorissa Miller's memories of the first Rock Hill Schoolhouse fit this description.

During most of the last half of the 19th Century, the Church of the United Brethren in Christ had the most consistent presence in the Rock Hill area, especially after the church/school building (the third schoolhouse) was completed. As hypothesized earlier, the recently arrived leaders of the United Brethren Church may have held their second Annual Conference in Rock Hill's log schoolhouse because they had some sort of membership in the area prior to that important meeting. Dorissa Miller recalled years later, "The members of that sect [United Brethren] held services in the Rock Hill District at an early date." Anna Ward Bonar, born to a pioneer family in 1872, stated: "Religious activities in this region have centered principally about a pioneer United Brethren Church. This was first organized at Rock Hill in the very earliest pioneer days." Religious services held in the early schoolhouses at Rock Hill were conducted not only by the United Brethren, but also by the Baptists, Methodists, and possibly by the Presbyterians. Even though the third Rock Hill Schoolhouse, the church/school structure, was started by the United Brethren and completed by School District No. 31, it was used for church services by the Baptists, and probably by other denominations as well.

Undoubtedly, a number of different individuals preached at the early Rock Hill Schoolhouses, some better known than others. United Brethren ministers, Reverend Thomas Connor (Philomath) and Reverend Milton Wright (Sublimity), are known to have officiated at marriages in Linn County in 1857. Since the Rock Hill School apparently served as a center for the United Brethren in the early days, it is possible that both of these men occasionally held religious services there when they visited the county.

Reverend Alexander Bennett, a United Brethren minister who lived in Philomath, was a popular preacher at Rock Hill. He came to the Oregon

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Territory with Connor in 1853. Both Bennett and Connor were in the first group of individuals appointed to serve as Trustees of Philomath College. Reverend Bennett probably conducted services in several of the buildings that served as the Rock Hill School. He apparently preached in the area over a period of many years, from the early days up to at least the late 1880's.

James Jackson Gallaher, the one-armed schoolteacher, studied for the ministry and eventually became a United Brethren preacher. By 1869, he was living in Benton County. There, he held a responsible position as Assistant (presumably second-in-command) at Philomath College, at a time when James Chambers was the College President.

The Baptists held services in the church/school building at the northern site, probably in the earlier structures as well. The legendary circuit-rider, Elder Joab Powell, was an extremely popular Baptist preacher at the Rock Hill School. In 1853, he had organized Providence Church in northern Linn County. Dorissa Miller remembered that Powell "... was just as funny as they tell... He had a great strong voice and loved to sing." Powell's magnetism drew the faithful from far and wide when he visited rural neighborhoods such as Rock Hill.

Reverend Reuben Claypool, the captain of an early wagon train, settled on a Donation Land Claim in 1848, just south of the Gallaher Donation Land Claims. (His brother, David Claypool, was a Trustee of the United Brethren Church at Rock Hill in the 1860's.) Reuben Claypool has been described as a "prominent... preacher in that [Rock Hill] district". As a Methodist minister, he probably conducted services at the first Rock Hill Schoolhouse, but not at the later ones for he died in 1863. Methodist circuit riders also frequented the Rock Hill area. When the Calapooia Circuit was expanded to cover more sites, the Circuit included the Rock Hill Schoolhouse.

Reverend W.R. Bishop, a teacher at the first Rock Hill School, also was a Cumberland Presbyterian minister. In addition to teaching, he may have conducted religious services at the schoolhouse as well.

Mid-1880's to ca. 1910Fifth Schoolhouse (northern site)

Sometime between the mid-1880's and about 1910, today's Rock Hill Schoolhouse was built. Research, to date, has failed to uncover either the construction date or the name of the builder (or builders). Evidence suggests a date of ca. 1900, most likely between 1895 and 1905.

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The present schoolhouse probably was built on the same site and with the same orientation as the two structures that preceded it at the northern end of the low ridge. The historic, one-acre parcel has only one especially good location for a building. This flat area is bounded on the south by the road, on the east by the road and a creek, on the north by several oak trees and the side of a knoll, and on the west by two oak trees and a slope to the field below.

The existing Rock Hill Schoolhouse was constructed with the main entry facing east so that it would be protected from winter storms. For that very reason, the two schoolhouses that were built earlier on the northern site undoubtedly had a similar orientation. Four aligned field stones are visible in the crawl space under the present building. The rocks, which appear to be foundation stones for an earlier structure, support the idea that an earlier building or buildings stood in the same place. The most recent pair of outhouses, the south for the boys and the north for the girls, are gone. They were placed to the rear of the schoolhouse, near the west property line. Earlier outhouses probably were built in the same flat area, so that they would be at a distance from the school's well, which is located sixty-three feet east of the front entry.

Many issues of the Lebanon newspaper, particularly those published during the period 1887-1907, have been scanned for data about the Rock Hill Schoolhouse, its construction date and its role as the only public meeting place in the local farming community. The amount of news apparently varied with the availability of a local correspondent. In some years, Rock Hill was barely mentioned; in other years, a sizeable column was devoted, now and then, to happenings in that area. On December 9, 1887, a paragraph in the Lebanon Express expressed optimism for future growth at Rock Hill: "This place which promises to become a fair village, is situated on the Brownsville road, four miles south of Lebanon; has a good school, numbering about twenty-five scholars, with Mr. J.E. Eastman, teacher. Mr. J. Nickels is proprietor of the blacksmith shop, and does a good business." The anticipated "village" never did materialize.

School news included an announcement on February 3, 1888, that the Rock Hill School would close within a few weeks and that the pupils of the district would have a long vacation, since the school would not reopen until the fall. The paragraph ended with the statement: "Roads are in a horrible condition since the rains." Events reported at the Rock Hill Schoolhouse in the late 1880's included speeches, recitations, and "declamations", as well as an undescribed show and an exhibition. The fact that an upcoming temperance meeting was reported by the newspaper on one occasion suggests that the Rock Hill Schoolhouse now and then may have been the site of other temperance gatherings. Annual Sunday School picnics were held in June in the late 1880's, probably on the schoolhouse

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grounds. These well-attended events featured a guest speaker or speakers.

As co-owner of the property, the United Brethren Church continued to use the schoolhouse for religious activities. On August 12, 1887, the Lebanon Express reported that the Quarterly Conference of the United Brethren Church in Oregon had been held at Rock Hill on the preceding weekend and that the turnout had been large. The conference was conducted by Reverend Pulley, Presiding Elder, Professor Walker, former President of Philomath College, and Reverend Bennett of Philomath.

Departure of the United Brethren Church

In 1891, the congregation of the United Brethren Church moved from the Rock Hill Schoolhouse to the town of Plainview, which was located about three miles to the west. There, they erected and dedicated a church building of their own. (No deed record has been located showing that the Church subsequently transferred its one-half interest in the school property to School District No. 31.) Services were held at the United Brethren Church until about 1935. According to one account, the town of Plainview eventually lapsed and then the Church lapsed. Since most of the original members had died and had been buried in the nearby Sand Ridge Cemetery, those who were left decided to use the money from the sale of the church building for a memorial. At the entrance to the cemetery, they installed a commemorative gate and a plaque "To the memory of the founders and builders of the Plainview Church and to their successors..." The dedication ceremony on May 30, 1936 was, in a way, the finale to the historical presence of the United Brethren Church in the Rock Hill area, and to the historical association of the Church and the Rock Hill School.

Despite the departure of the United Brethren Church, the school continued to serve the Rock Hill area not only as an educational center, but also as a religious gathering place for other denominations. Examples of occasional news items give a glimpse of the ongoing religious activities. In January 1899, for example, Reverend I.M. Boyles of Sodaville conducted a revival meeting at Rock Hill. In 1903, Mr. G. W. Simons was said to be preaching at Rock Hill once a month. (To this day, several persons who attended the Rock Hill School in the 1920's remember Mr. Simons as a circuit rider who conducted services at the schoolhouse over a period of many years.) On June 5, 1904, Children's Day was observed at the Rock Hill Sunday School.

In 1905, the Lebanon Express-Advance reported a flurry of religious activity at the Rock Hill Schoolhouse. In May, Reverend L. Green preached on a Sunday and then conducted several evening meetings during the following week. Soon thereafter, Reverend I.G. Knotts, Presbyterian Sunday School missionary, and Reverend T. B. Griswold, Pastor of the Presbyterian church

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in Albany, also preached and held a number of evening meetings at the schoolhouse. Then, on July 7, 1905, the newspaper reported: "Rev. I.G. Knotts will on Sunday morning organize a new Presbyterian church at Rock Hill, where he has been at work for some weeks. The new church will start with about 25 or 30 members and with good prospects for success." The outcome of this Presbyterian venture is not known.

The Lebanon newspaper also continued its infrequent reporting of non-religious activities at the school. In 1902, for example, the paper announced that a drama, "The Spy of Gettysburg", was to be "rendered" at the Rock Hill Schoolhouse. Proceeds from a basket social to be held that same evening were to be added to the school library fund. Several years later, the paper noted that "Ball games are the attraction at school nowadays." On one occasion, Rock Hill "badly defeated" the Rambler Baseball Club, 16 to 0. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.) continued to be active in the Rock Hill neighborhood, for on an April evening in 1905, the organization gave a basket social at the schoolhouse.

Linn County One-Room Schools, ca. 1900

Around the turn-of-the-century, the State began to require that County School Superintendents submit annual reports. The Superintendents based their reports, in part, on written Teacher's Reports that were sent in by each school. Early reports completed by the Linn County School Superintendent, as well as two Teacher's Reports completed for the Rock Hill School, provide some interesting facts about the County's educational system. Statistics averaged for Linn County for the five consecutive school years ending 1899 through 1903 show that: the County had about 120 organized school districts; the County had about 122 schoolhouses, nearly all of them frame structures, although three log schoolhouses still were in use in 1900; the County built about three new schoolhouses each year; the County employed about 260 teachers, but not all of them taught for the full school year; the County paid about \$47,500 in teachers' wages; and the County paid male teachers about \$40.00 a month and female teachers about \$32.00 a month. Pupils ranged in age from four to twenty years. Linn County schools were open for about seven months a year (probably for a shorter time at a rural school such as the Rock Hill School). The cost of building a rural one-room schoolhouse around the turn-of-the-century was reasonable, for the structure usually had neither indoor plumbing nor electricity. For example, in the spring of 1903, according to the Lebanon Express-Advance, the families in Linn County School District No. 66, located southeast of Lebanon, near the town of Waterloo, voted "... to empower the district board to build a new school house at a cost not exceeding \$500."

Lydia O. Frum, teacher at the Rock Hill School during the year 1898-1899, and Olivia Sorenson, teacher during the year 1901-1902, submitted reports

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to the Linn County School Superintendent that fortunately have been preserved. Lydia taught for about four months (school ended in February) and had a maximum of 36 students enrolled at one time. Olivia appears to have taught at Rock Hill for about five and one-half months. She had a total of 41 students enrolled during that period; her average daily attendance, however, was 23 students. Lydia's reporting form required that she list the students by name. Details entered for each pupil included: age; number of days attended; "number of times tardy"; "department" (behaviour) grade; and parents' names. School visitors listed by the women included parents, members of the Rock Hill School District Board of Directors, and the Linn County School Superintendent. Both teachers enumerated the subjects taught. Both teachers, in commenting on the physical conditions of the building and grounds, mentioned the poor condition of the "water closets". Lydia added that: the schoolhouse grounds were not suitably improved; the supply of good water was not "ample"; the woodshed was in poor condition; and the ventilation was not very good. Olivia mentioned that the school grounds lacked fencing.

Now and then, in the late 1890's and during the first decade of the 20th Century, an issue of the Lebanon newspaper would mention the name of the teacher currently employed at the Rock Hill School. By then, the County required that a prospective teacher must pass an examination before receiving the required teaching certificate. (The newspaper often listed the names of persons who were taking or who had passed this test.) Teachers at the Rock Hill School during this period commonly were single women. While school was in session, the schoolmistress often boarded with a local farm family. Over the years, for example, the Nichols family, who lived in a house northeast of the school, now and then provided a convenient home for the Rock Hill teacher. This family apparently was very supportive of the local school, for two descendants of settler John Nichols were listed as members of the three-man Rock Hill School District Board of Directors in separate annual reports (for the school years ending 1899-1903) of the Linn County School Superintendent.

1910-1935

Issues of the Lebanon newspaper for the period 1910-1935 have not yet been reviewed for information about the Rock Hill School. However, the Wilson sisters, Norma Wilson Morgan, who graduated from the Rock Hill School in 1927, and Alta Wilson Ballew, who graduated in 1931, have shared some of their memories about activities that took place at the schoolhouse. (Rock Hill School graduates attended high school outside of the Rock Hill School District.) The sisters grew up on a farm that was located just west of the school. Their father, Orvis B. Wilson, who was a pupil at the Rock Hill School in the 1880's, later served, for many years, as School District Clerk.

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In addition to special school activities, the Wilson sisters recall that the schoolhouse often was used for a community Halloween party, for a Thanksgiving celebration, and for evening debates. Lebanon merchants sometimes came to the school on Friday evenings to help with basket socials and entertainment. Norma Morgan remembers that Milton A. Miller, the famous 19th Century graduate of the Rock Hill School, now and then came from Portland to give a talk on the last day of the school year. Sunday School and church services, generally non-denominational, continued to be held at the Rock Hill Schoolhouse. Services usually were conducted by a local preacher, sometimes self-appointed, or by a circuit rider, such as George Simons.

Late in the spring of 1935, the doors of the educational institution known as the Rock Hill School closed for the last time. By then, the school had been the local center of learning for at least eighty years. Closure apparently was due to low enrollment. Robert E. Wells and his two brothers were students at the Rock Hill School. Robert recalls that he graduated from Rock Hill in 1935, just before Lebanon's Annual Strawberry Festival, and that the school never reopened. (Notice of the closure has not been found in the Lebanon newspaper.) Beginning in the fall of 1935, students in the Rock Hill School District were bussed several miles west to a school at Shedd.

1936-1960

Despite its closure as an educational building, the Rock Hill Schoolhouse continued to serve the community as a meeting place during the 1940's and 1950's. Terri Ellibee, a descendant of the pioneer Nichols family, recalls that when the old schoolhouse was used for community potlucks, the men in attendance would sit around the potbellied stove and swap stories. The building also was used for meetings of the Board of Directors of the Rock Hill School District, which continued as a political entity even though all of the students within its boundaries travelled outside of the district for their schooling.

Orvis Wilson served as Rock Hill School District Clerk until his death in 1938. Then his daughter, Norma Wilson Morgan, former student and current property owner, took over as District Clerk. She remained in that position until 1952 when the Rock Hill School District ceased to exist. On July 14, 1952, nearly 100 years after it was organized, Rock Hill School District No. 31 was consolidated with the Plainview School District (District No. 133; organized in 1911). On June 30, 1965, the Plainview School District was consolidated with the Sand Ridge School District (District No. 30; organized in 1854). Norma Morgan today is the Sand Ridge School District Clerk.

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On November 29, 1960, Linn County School District No. 133 (Plainview) sold the historic acre, including the Rock Hill Schoolhouse, to Norma Wilson Morgan and her husband, Gilbert S. Morgan, for \$206.00. The Morgans, who feared that the building would deteriorate, purchased the schoolhouse to save it for future generations. Thanks to their foresight, the historic structure still stands today. Currently, it is located within and near the southern boundary of a 98.59-acre parcel (part of the William Gallaher Donation Land Claim) that has been owned by the Morgans for many years.

Recent History

Today, the paved road that is east of the front entry of the Rock Hill Schoolhouse appears to be in the same position as that section of the early Territorial Road. In the area south and southeast of the schoolhouse, however, the road has had four different positions: 1) First, until it was vacated in 1876, the section of the Territorial Road curved to the southwest and then to the south. 2) Next, an east-west road was established that left the Territorial Road (probably at a point southwest of today's schoolhouse) and trended due west to the Sand Ridge area, where it joined a major north-south route in the Willamette Valley. The County dedicated that east-west road in 1858. 3) In 1876, the section of the road south of the historic acre (the acre was owned at that time by School District No. 31 and the United Brethren Church) was realigned to the north. This new section, which trended northeast, was angular. In one place, it paralleled, but did not cross the southern boundary of the square that outlines the historic acre. 4) In 1972, the County once again changed the road. The angles of the 1876 road were replaced by a curve. This new curve (including the right-of-way) cut across the southeast part of the historic acre, a part of the schoolyard. Previously, this short stretch of the angular road had paralleled the south side of the school building. The installation of the curve in the 1970's, however, eliminated the historic parallel alignment of the schoolhouse and the road. (Today, this road is called Rock Hill Drive.) Since the road was repositioned, the line representing the south side of the building and the line representing the north side of the right-of-way nearly meet to form an acute angle.

In recent years, the Rock Hill Schoolhouse has been subjected to vandalism. At one time, the Morgans tried to prevent further destruction by placing shutters over the schoolhouse windows. The shutters, however, eventually were torn off and the original glass lights were shattered. As concerned owners, the Morgans for some years have searched for a way to have the schoolhouse restored and preserved as an historic building. Formal recognition of the historic importance of the Rock Hill School

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began on March 12, 1986, when the Linn County Historic Resource Commission placed the structure on the Linn County Historic Register.

On April 2, 1991, the Linn County Commissioners, members of the Linn County Planning Department and the Linn County Historic Resource Commission, property owner Norma Morgan, and other persons concerned about the future of the Rock Hill Schoolhouse met to discuss possible ways to protect the building. Soon thereafter, on April 30, 1991, thirteen individuals, many of them from the Lebanon and Brownsville area, met to develop plans for preserving and restoring the structure. Subsequently, the group developed bylaws and elected a Board of Directors for an organization to be called The Rock Hill School Foundation. The Foundation then filed with the State as a nonprofit corporation.

In the fall of 1991, Gilbert and Norman Morgan and the officers of The Rock Hill School Foundation signed a cooperative agreement. According to the terms of the document, the Morgans will transfer the title to the Rock Hill Schoolhouse to The Foundation, once certain conditions have been met by The Foundation, including the submission of a registration form for placement of the Rock Hill School on the National Register of Historic Places.

The mission of The Rock Hill School Foundation is to preserve, restore, and maintain the Rock Hill Schoolhouse as an historic site. Efforts to carry out these objectives are well underway. During the last half year, numerous individuals have volunteered generously both their time and their money to ensure the future of this familiar and favorite historic landmark.

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ROCK HILL SCHOOL

All photographs are of the Rock Hill School, located on Rock Hill Drive, in Linn County, Oregon.

The negatives of all of the photographs, including the historic view (#20) are located at 925 S.W. 5th Avenue, Albany, Oregon 97321 (this address is the residence of Rosalind Keeney).

Photographs numbered 1 through 10, and 18:
Photographer = Rosalind Keeney
Date taken = May 1991

Photographs numbered 11 through 17, and 19:
Photographer = Linda Jones
Date taken = September 1991

Photograph numbered 20 (historic view):
Photographer = not known
Date taken = not known

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1. East (front) and south facades
2. East (front) facade
3. North facade
4. South facade (side facing Rock Hill Drive)
5. West (rear) facade
6. East (front) facade; close-up of bracket and sign above front door
7. East (front) facade; close-up of bell tower
8. Northeast corner; close up of frieze and corner boards
9. South facade; close-up of vandalized window
10. East (front) facade; close-up of siding near entrance
11. Interior, south side; three of the four windows
12. Interior, northwest corner; door to woodshed and chalkboards
13. Interior, northwest corner; door to woodshed and open exterior woodshed door
14. Interior, east (front) end; entrance door opening, woodstovegrate on floor, part of coat-hanging area, and attic access opening

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Rock Hill School, continued:

15. Interior, east (front) side; coat-hanging area and
Interior, north side; partial view
16. Interior; coat-hanging area, close-up
17. Interior, west (rear) end; chimney with chimney pipe wire,
chalkboard area, and wainscotting
18. Interior, east (front) end; straw stored in building before
September cleanup
19. South facade; protective window covers painted to look like
historic characters looking out
20. Historic view, ca. 1924

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

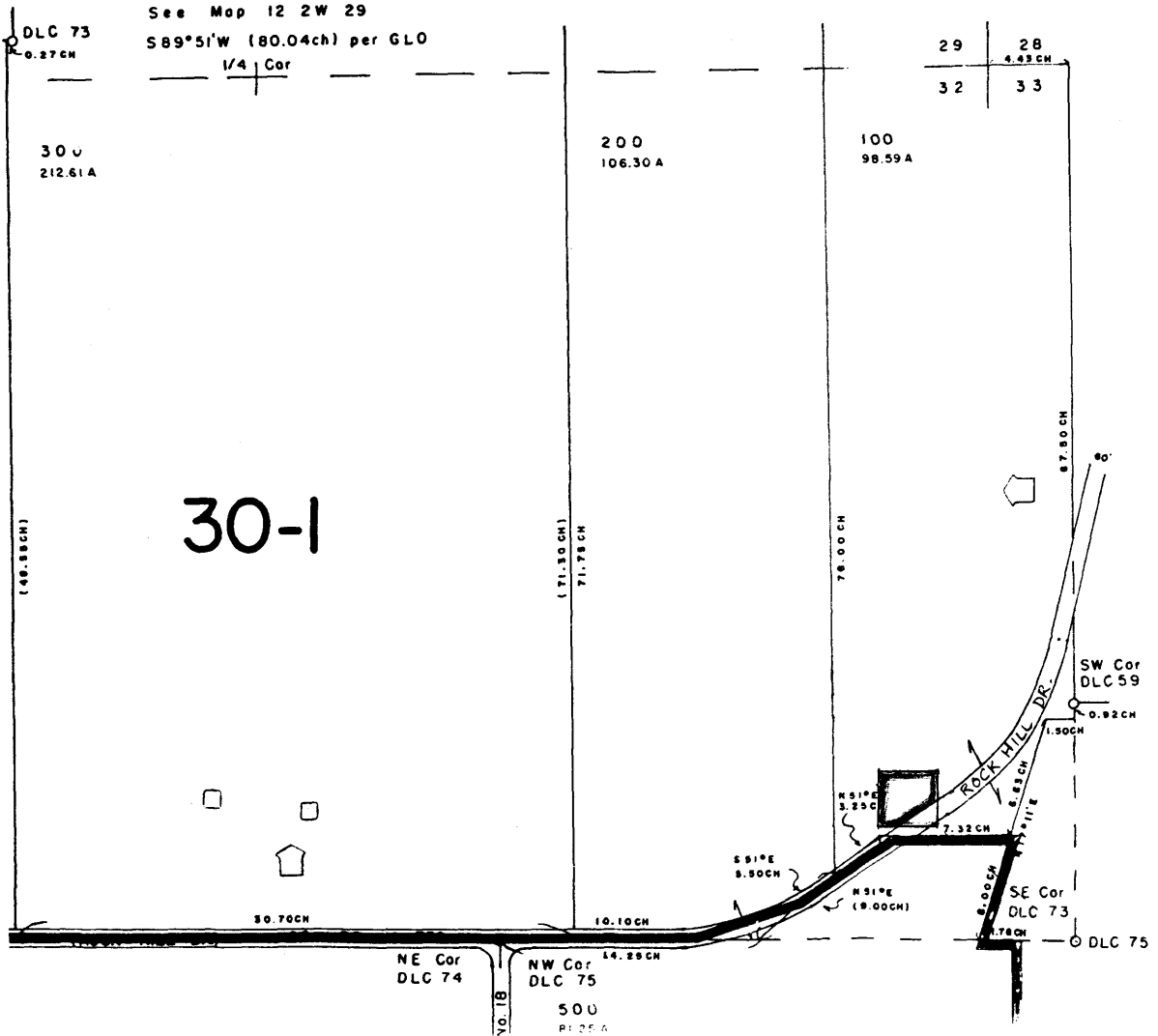
Beginning at a stake from which the Southeast corner of the D.L.C. of W. C. Gallaher and wife, Not. #2322, Claim #73, in Township 12 South, Range 2 West of Willamette Meridian, in Linn County, Oregon, bears South 50 1/2° East 9.89 chains and [sic] an oak 20 inches in diameter North 25° West 165 links, and running thence North 3.16 chains, thence West 3.16 chains, thence South 3.16 chains, thence East 3.16 chains to the place of beginning, containing one acre [except for that portion currently owned by Linn County for the Rock Hill Drive right-of-way].

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries given are those of the acre of land sold to Linn County School District No. 31 in 1869 by the Trustees of the Rock Hill Church.

Sec. 32 T. 12 S. R. 2 W. W. M.

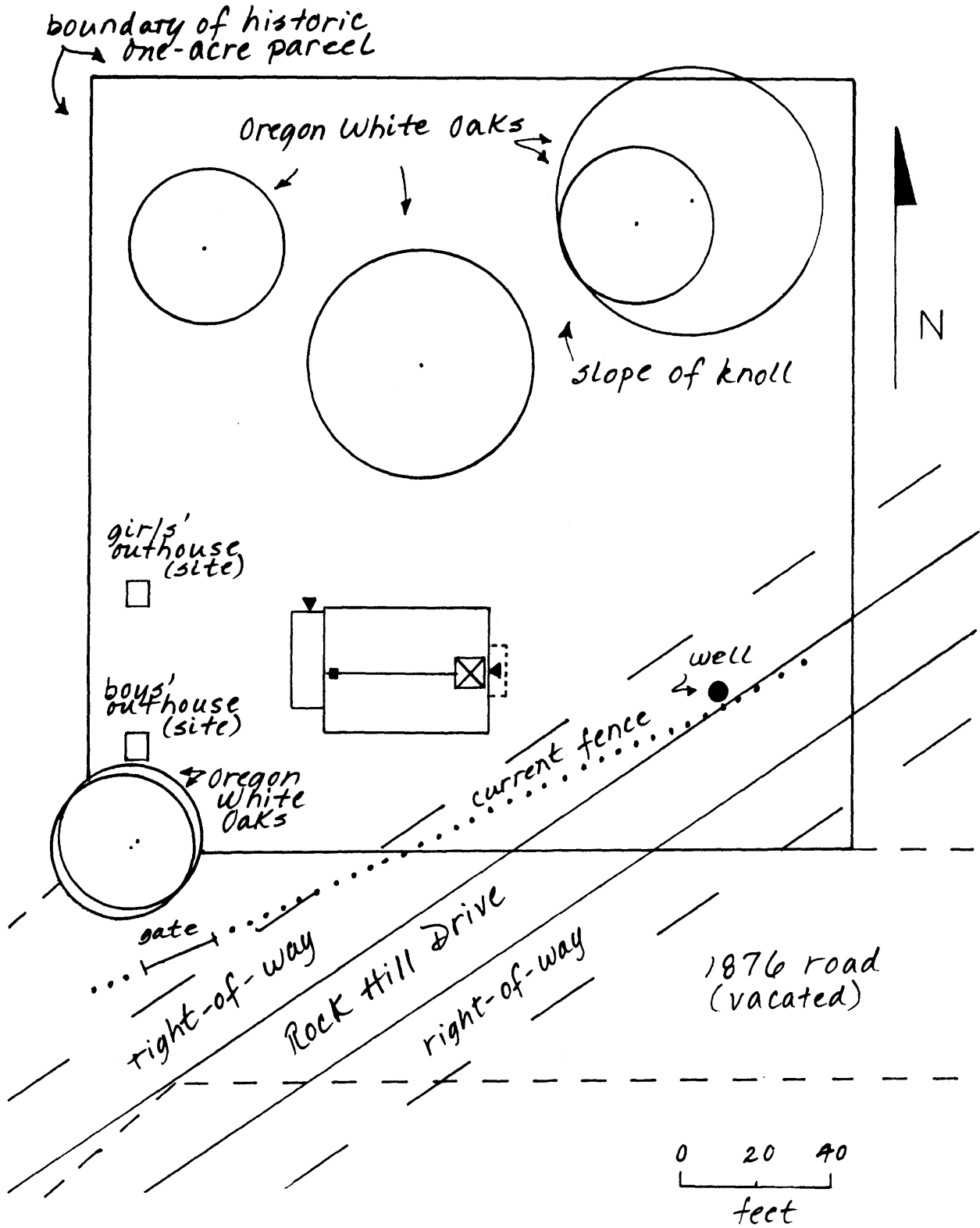
1" = 400'



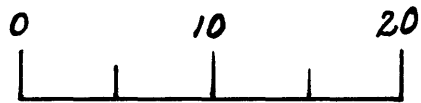
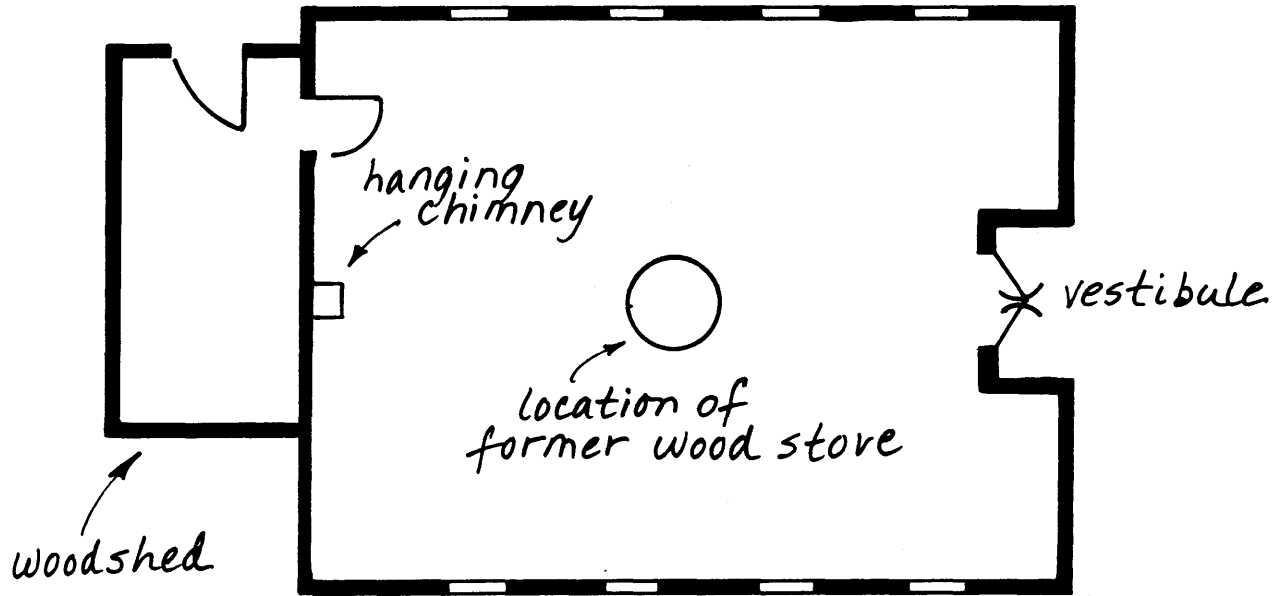
ROCK HILL SCHOOL

LINN COUNTY ASSESSOR'S MAP
(nominated area outlined in red)

Note: The historic acre was a square that measured 3.16 chains, or 208.56 feet on each side.

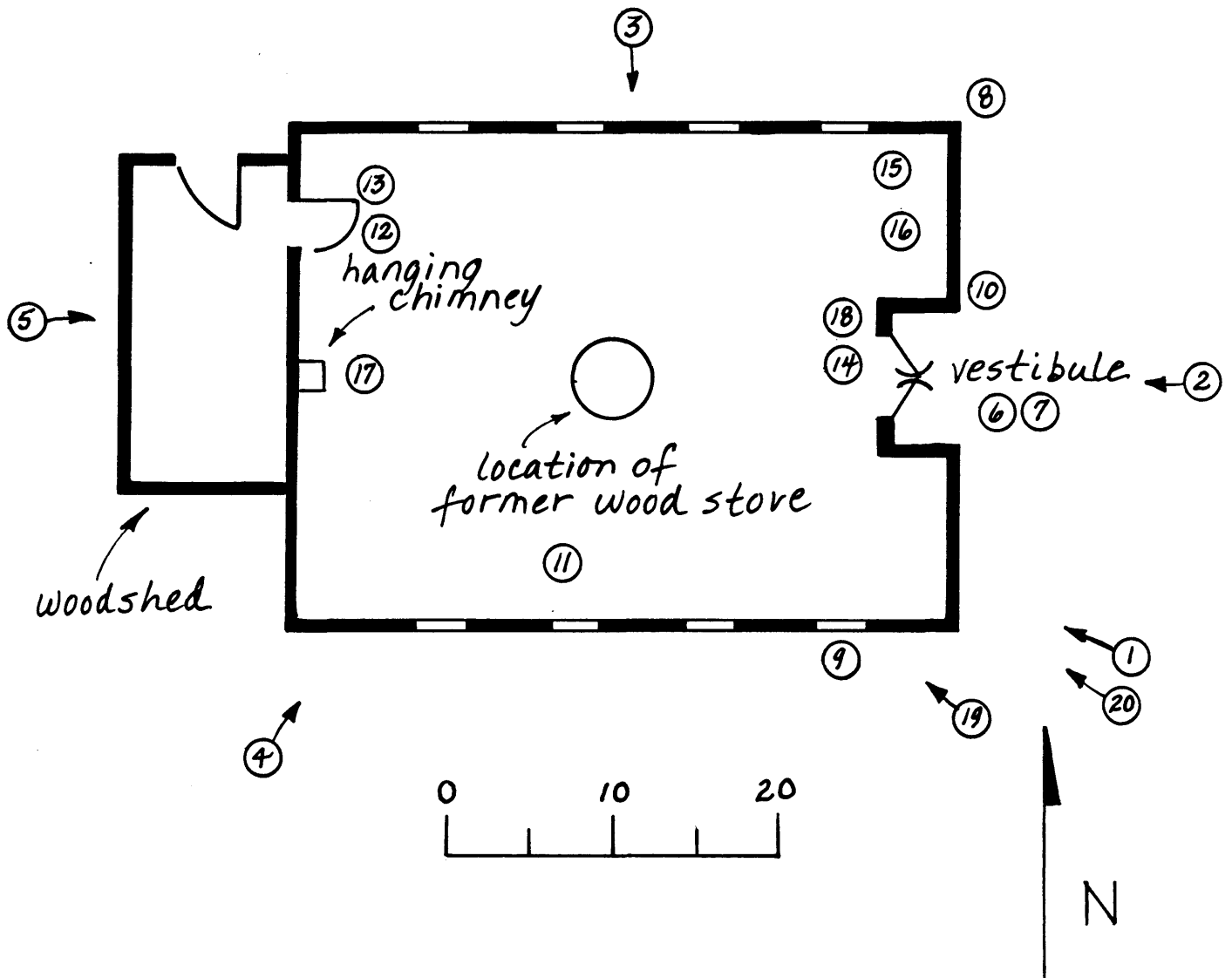


ROCK HILL SCHOOL
SITE PLAN



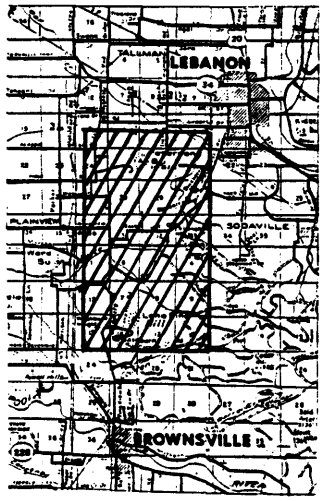
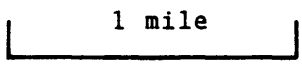
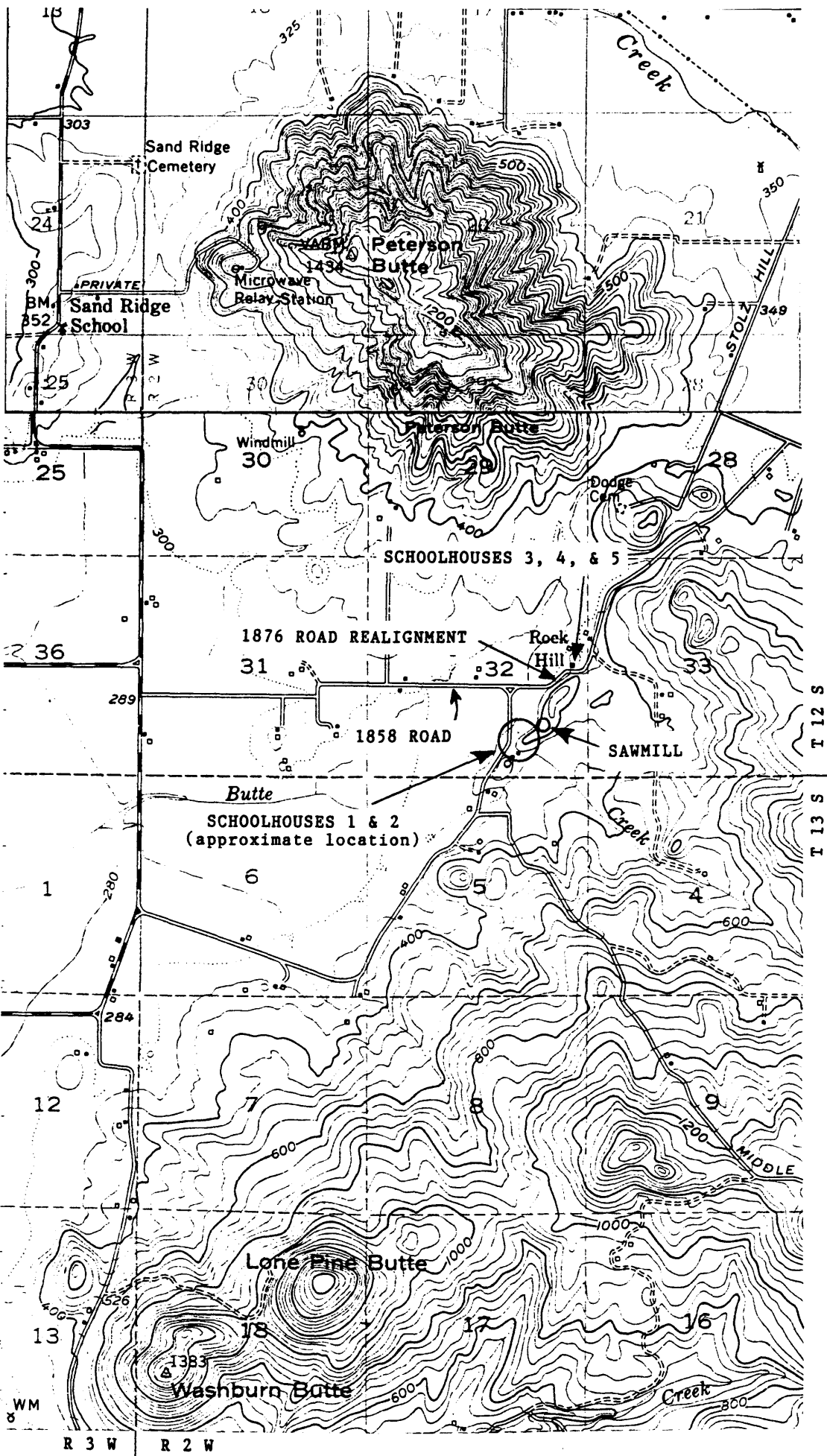
ROCK HILL SCHOOL

FLOOR PLAN

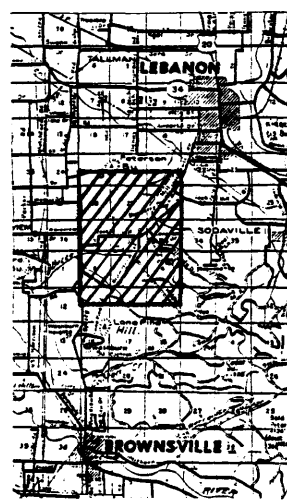
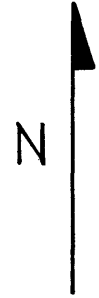
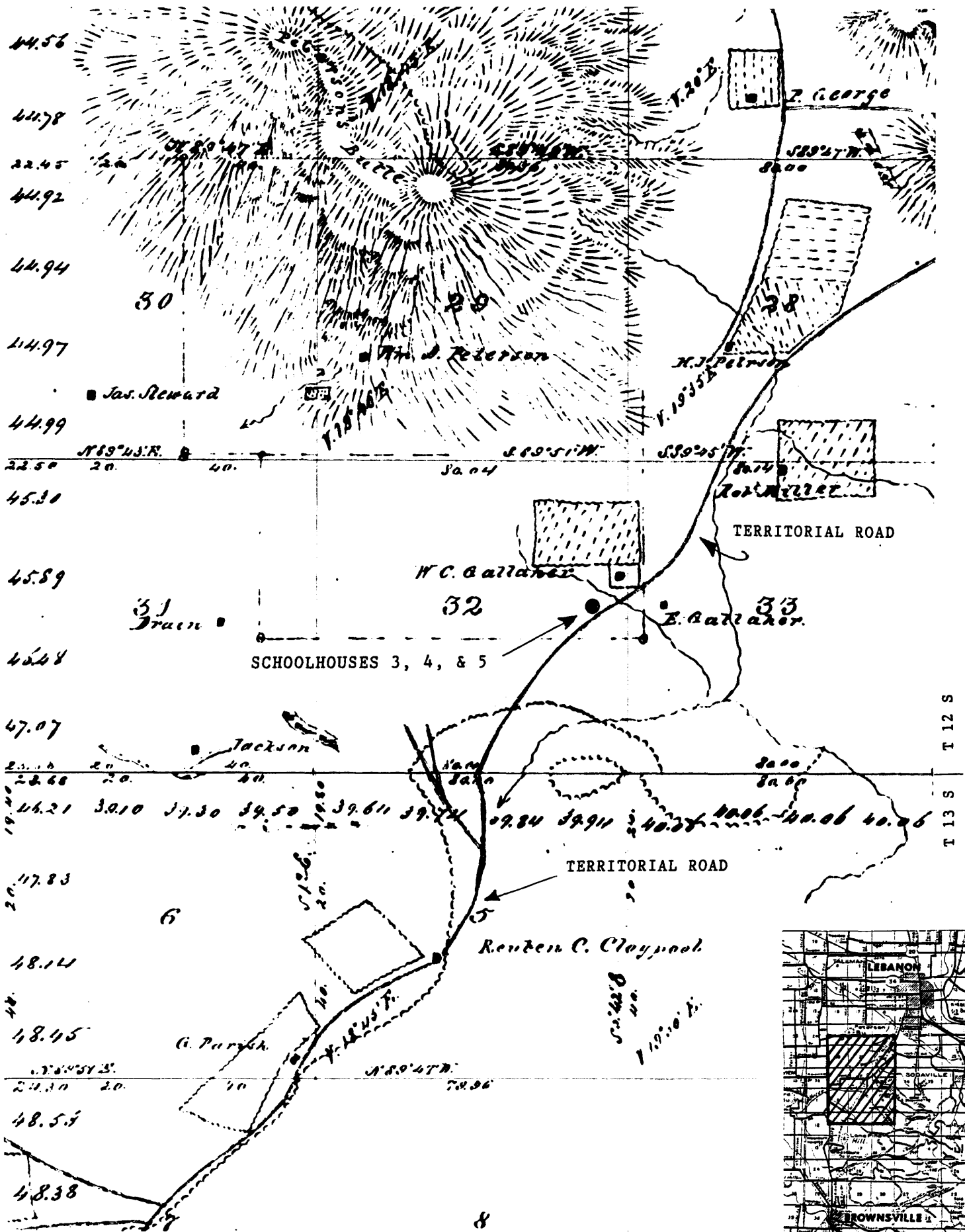


ROCK HILL SCHOOL
FLOOR PLAN

Note: Circled numbers refer to photographs.



U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
(1950, 1957)



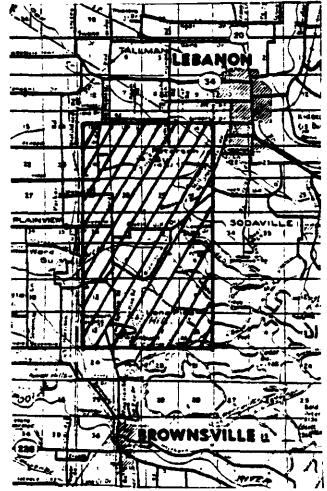
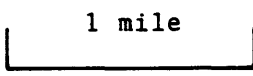
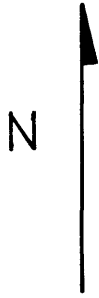
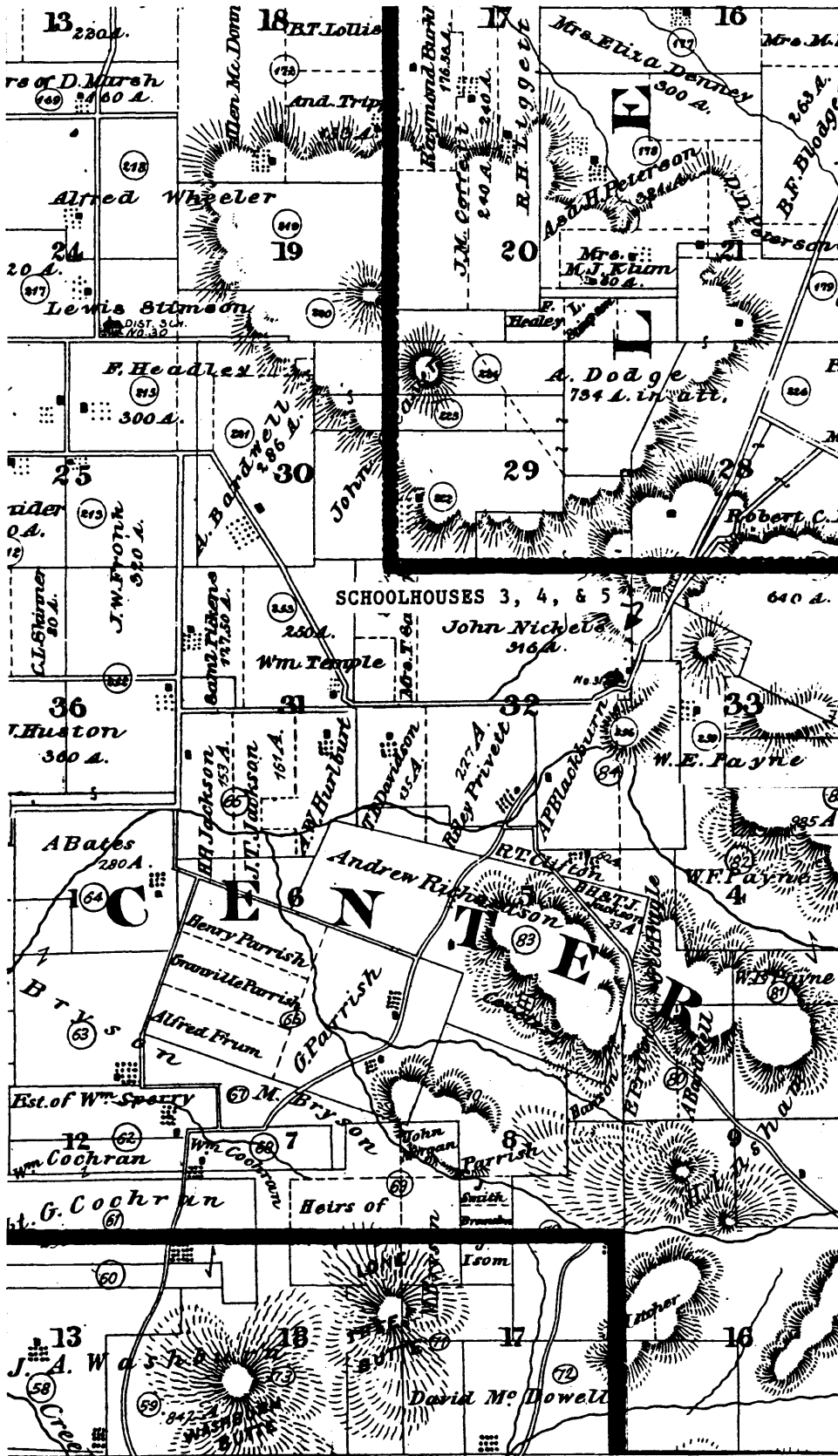
U.S. GENERAL LAND OFFICE, TOWNSHIP SURVEY

(Mapped 1852-1853)

(Showing Houses and Fields Belonging to William C. Gallaher, Elmore Gallaher, Reuben Claypool, and Gamaliel Parrish)

R 2 W

1 mile



"ILLUSTRATED HISTORICAL ATLAS MAP OF MARION AND LINN COUNTIES, OREGON"
(1878)