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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 instruction 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 classifications, 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 Underwood, Edward and Isabelle, Farm / Five Oaks Farm
other names/site number Thun, Louis and Emily, Farm

2. Location

street & number 851 Orchard Lane not for publication
city or town Underwood vicinity
state Washington code WA county Skamania code 059 zip code 98651

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.

[Signature] 11-26-07
Signature of certifying official/Title - SHPO Date

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
Action

- entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

[Signature] 1-18-08
Signature of the Keeper Date of

Edson H. Beall

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many 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	
5	3	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
5	3	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single family
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single family
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Stone, Concrete, Hollow Clay Tile
walls: Wood

roof: Asphalt composition shingle

Other: _____

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

See continuation sheets.

Underwood/Five Oaks Farm
Name of Property

Skamania Co., WA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE
EXPLORATION/ SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1893-1958

Significant Dates

1893
1935

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

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Underwood, Edward
Thun, Louis

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Underwood, Edward (Builder)
Thun, Louis (Builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36CFR67) 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: Central Archives-Ellensburg
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Thun Daughters, Underwood family

Underwood/Five Oaks Farm
Name of Property

Skamania Co., WA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 5.0 acres

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

1	10	614248	5066576
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	10	614451	5066576

3	10	614451	5066490
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	10	614248	5066490

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 Sally Donovan and Bruce Howard

organization Donovan and Associates date August 15, 2007

street & number 1615 Taylor Avenue telephone 541-386-6461

city or town Hood River state OR zip code 97031

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

name Robert M. La Vigne and Lisa M. Vinciguerra

street & number 851 Orchard Lane telephone 503 706-0354

city or town Underwood state WA zip code 98651

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.460 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, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Setting and Landscape

The Edward & Isabella Underwood Farm, later known as Five Oaks Farm, is located in Underwood, Skamania County, Washington on a flat bench of land on the west side of the White Salmon River within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The farm is on the east side of Orchard Road, a horseshoe shaped road that loops around north from Cook-Underwood Road. Newer houses and older farmhouses on small acreages characterize the surrounding rural landscape. Five Oaks Farm is on a 19.65-acre parcel of land (5-acres in the nominated area). A long gravel driveway leads down to the farm complex. Pear orchards are on the north and south sides of the entrance drive, and a newer orchard has been planted northeast of the house. Open fields are east and south of the farmstead, and beyond the fields, the east portion of the acreage is heavily wooded. The land slopes gently down to the south. Larsen Road is along the east boundary of the parcel; the White Salmon River is east of Larsen Road (not included in the farm acreage).

The house and farm buildings are clustered at the bottom of the entrance driveway that leads to the center of the parcel of land (see site plan). A circular gravel driveway extends around the house. Parts of the inside edge of the driveway are lined with concrete curbing. The barns and chicken coop are on the south side of the farmstead on land that slopes down to the south. The garage and tool shed are east and north of the house.

Five mature oak trees are clustered around the house; hence the name Five Oaks Farm. Plantings around the house that most likely date from the historic period include rhododendrons, spire, roses, Oregon grape, and lilacs. Other historic plantings include elderberries, blackberries, and mock orange (south of the chicken coop) and a mature Golden poplar. A stand of locust trees is near the creek, as is a mature fir tree. Junipers and concord grapes line the area above the terrace south of the house. Other deciduous trees are scattered throughout the property. A row of arborvitae is west of the house, sheltering the property from the wind. Directly north of the arborvitae is a mature walnut tree. A fenced garden area is east of the garage/shop building; this area was originally an orchard. The pump house is at the east end of the garden.

House (ca. 1893 and 1935; Contributing)

Exterior

The one and one-half story house has side-facing, steeply pitched gable roofs (one slightly higher) covered with composition asphalt shingles, gable and shed dormers, a central chimney, narrow eaves, and wood shingle siding. A decorative band of wood shingles in a saw-tooth pattern extends around the perimeter of the house below the eaves. The single and paired, one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash replacement windows have simple wood trim with a slight drip cap. An original four-over-two, double-hung window is located on the rear (north) façade under the shed roof addition that was originally used as a rear woodshed. The house has a raised concrete foundation on the western section; the hopper basement windows (daylight basement) punctuate the foundation. The remainder of the house has a random rubble rock and mortar foundation.

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The two main entrance doors are located on the front (south) façade. The west entrance on this side has a newer storm door covering the multi-pane door, and the eastern door is protected with an entrance vestibule that projects from the main house volume. The vestibule has a front-facing gable roof with a French door on the south side, and multi-pane windows on the east, west, and south facades. Concrete steps lead up to both entrance doors; the west door on the south façade has a date of 1935 stamped in the front of the step and has an original water pump that was used as the main water source for the house. According to oral interviews, and historic research, the 1935 date corresponds to the date in which the house was remodeled and expanded. At that time, indoor plumbing and electricity were added to the farm buildings.

The rear façade (north) has an extension covered with a shed roof that projects from the center of the elevation, a gable (with newer sliding windows) and shed dormer, and a recessed entrance that leads into a mudroom. The interior of the woodshed is covered with the original wide drop tongue and groove siding; original four-over-four double-hung wood sash windows are near the back door in the mudroom immediately north of the back door. Two small “greenhouse” projecting bay windows have been installed in the west facade windows.

Interior

The house, measuring 24' x 45', is divided into two distinct sections; the original house on the east half and the newer 1935 addition on the west side. The living room, den, stairs, and pantry are on the lower floor, and bedrooms and bathroom are located in the original (east) portion of the house. The western portion of the house includes the dining room, kitchen, bathroom, stairs to the basement, and door to the mudroom and wood room with bedrooms above on the second floor.

First Floor

The entrance vestibule, on the south side of the living room, has multi-pane wood casement windows on three sides, a French door on the south side, and a built-in window seat along the east side. The original tongue and groove fir floors are intact. The vestibule opens up into the living room, which is a large room with doors to the stair hall, den, and dining room. The ceiling has been resurfaced; the lath and plaster walls are intact. A wood stove is on the west wall between the doors to the dining room and stair hall. The floors are fir tongue and groove boards painted white. The small den, in the northeast corner, has a board ceiling and a small closet along the west wall. The pantry is a small room on the north side of the staircase to the upstairs. The original multi-pane, double-hung window lights this room. Some of the walls are covered with unpainted tongue and groove beaded board; the ceiling is comprised of flush boards.

A door on the west end of the stair hall and an opening on the west end of the living room lead into what is now a dining room/kitchen. This large room originally contained a bedroom (SW corner), kitchen, pantry, and dining room. The room was opened-up during the 1980s/1990s remodel. The ceiling is made of beaded board and the fir floor have been covered with marmoleum (2007). The walls in the room are a mixture of flush boards, tongue and groove horizontal boards, and lath and plaster. Lines in the ceiling suggest the original room configurations. A small vertical cabinet near the chimney on the east wall of the dining room originally contained an ironing board; the door has a recessed central panel. The door to the mudroom and a window are

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on the north wall. A beam that extends north-south is supported by posts and separates the kitchen from the dining area.

The kitchen has new cabinets along the west wall, fir floors, a work island along the east side, and a door on the south side that leads to the outside concrete stoop that has the original water pump. Doors to the basement and a newer bathroom are on the north side of the room. Steep stairs lead down to the small basement that extends the width of the house but is only about 8' wide. The basement has concrete walls and floor. The furnace and water heater are in this area. A water storage tank for the outside pump is along the south wall of the basement.

Second Floor

Painted wood steps leads to the east end of a long central hallway that extends from the east end bedroom to the west end bedroom. The stair railing in the upper hallway is made of square balusters and newel posts. Original linoleum covers the eastern part of the hall floor; the design is reminiscent of 1930s design. A door at the east end of the hall leads into a bedroom that has walls made of a combination of coverings: diagonal board siding, sheetrock, and flush horizontal boards. One of the windows on the east wall has been enclosed with boards. Dormer windows are along the south and north side of the room. This room was originally two separate bedrooms. The wall between the two rooms was removed sometime in the early 1980s. An enclosed door on the west wall once led into a small room, and a door in the north wall of the westerly room lead to the hallway.

Continuing west along this south side of the hall is a door to a closet, then another door that leads to the southwest corner bedroom. This bedroom has a closet on the east wall, built-in drawers under the eave in the southeast corner, a south-facing dormer, and another window on the west wall. The bedroom at the west end of the hall in the northwest corner of the upstairs has windows on the west and north walls, and a closet and the entrance door on the east wall.

Continuing east along the north wall of the hall is a door to a laundry room; this room is the interior of the new windowed-dormer on the north side of the roof. The next door, just before the railing of the stairwell, opens to a bathroom; this room has flush board walls and a clawfoot bathtub, toilet, and sink.

Doors and Hardware, and Utilities

All the five panel doors are original on the upper and lower floors. The doors either have metal or glass knobs with Art Deco-shaped plates. The house was rewired and a new heat pump installed in the 1980s.

Historic Alterations

Remodeled and expanded in 1935 by Louis Thun, the east half of the house was the original portion of the house (Underwood House); the Thuns added the western portion onto the house. At that time, the original drop wood siding (evident on the back of the house) was covered with wood shingles. It appears that the original portion of the house was built with plank (1"x12" full dimension lumber) construction with drop siding added to the exterior. The entrance vestibule was added to the south façade at this time. A new foundation and basement was added to the western portion.

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Non-Historic Alterations to the House

Dormer added to the rear elevation (2006-07)-this dormer connected two dormers that were originally on the rear (north) façade. Windows replaced (1980s-90s) with vinyl; with the exception of the entrance vestibule windows and the windows on the rear elevation in the wood shed addition. One window on the upper story of the east facade was removed and boarded over (1980s), and small green house windows were installed in the windows on the west side of the house. The interior has been modified by the removal of the original walls in the current dining room and east end bedroom.

Former Garage (ca. 1925-Contributing)

Located northeast of the house, the former garage (24'x24') is a one-story building with a front facing gable roof covered with asphalt composition shingles, multi-pane wood windows, wood shingle siding, a newer entrance door on the west façade, and a poured concrete foundation. Two newer metal windows are on the front façade (west) and one on the east elevation. A shed roof carport/shelter (10'x24') extends across the north façade of the building. In good condition, the garage was modified (garage door enclosed) for use as a shop in the early 1980s.

Chicken Coop (ca. 1925-Contributing)

Located southwest of the house, the asymmetrical chicken coop (36'x12') is a one-story building with a higher, central story gable roof section flanked by lower shed roof wings covered with composition asphalt shingles. The gable roof section is covered with wood shingles. The chicken coop has exposed rafters under the slightly projecting eaves, a five-panel door on the north façade sheltered with a small shed roof, wood shingle siding slightly flared at the base, and a clay tile foundation covered with stucco. The rear façade (south), built into the hillside, has a series of four-pane wooden windows on the upper level and two coop doors at the foundation level that open into the enclosed chicken yard. Horizontal boards cover most of the foundation.

The central portion of the coop (approx 9'x12'), currently used for equipment and feed storage, has a small storage loft above; a ladder to the loft is on the east wall. Doors on the east and west sides of the central room leads into side wings. The wings (east-9'x12' and west-18'x12') are laying and brooding rooms.

Yard Barn (ca. 1925-Contributing)

Located south of a rectangular lawn area, which is south of the house and driveway, the yard barn (16'x32') is built into a hillside and has two levels. The yard barn has an east-west gable roof covered with asphalt shingles, slightly projecting eaves with exposed rafter ends, wide horizontal board siding, small multi-pane windows on the north facade, a wide center door on the north elevation, and a hollow clay tile foundation covered with a stucco finish. Narrow horizontal fixed-pane windows flank a central five-panel door on the east façade; it appears that this door once led to a loading platform (removed).

The open beam interior of the yard barn is divided into two rooms; a plank wood wall separates the rooms. The larger room (16'x22') is on the west side a building and has a wood plank floor. A wide plank door on the east

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wall of the main room leads into the smaller east room (16'x10') that has feed troughs along the south and west walls, and a door on the east side.

The lower level of the barn is open on the south façade. This area is divided into stalls that are open to outside pens. Interior posts and beams support the floor above. A corrugated metal shed roof (12'x32') extends south from the lower level stalls and shades two feed troughs in the yard pens. A board fence with horizontal rails (1¾"x7¼") enclosed the yard pens. The building is in fair-good condition.

Dairy/Horse Barn (ca. 1925-Contributing)

Built into a hillside, the barn (18'x24') has an east-west gable roof with a shed extension on the south façade. The roof is covered with asphalt composition shingles. The barn has wide eave overhangs supported by exposed rafter ends and brackets, wood shingle siding, a series of small, hopper, multi-pane windows on the west facade, and a raised clay tile foundation. The roof has 1"x3" solid sheathing under the asphalt shingles and 1"x4" skip sheathing under the wood shingle siding. Concrete steps, on the north façade, lead up to a concrete stoop and an entrance door made of horizontal boards (the door slides on an iron track). An iron ring used for tying up animals is imbedded in the concrete stoop. Double loading doors, constructed of vertical boards, are on the west façade; these doors are elevated above the raised foundation.

The shed roof addition that extends across the rear (south) façade, shelters the horse stalls on the exposed lower level. The north wall of the horse stalls is constructed of hollow clay tile. A door, built of vertical boards, is in the center of the wall and leads into the lower level of the barn.

The interior of the upper floor of the barn is open in plan and was used for hay storage. The floor, built of 1¾"x5" and 7" planks, is used for hay storage and has trap doors that open directly above the horse stall feeding troughs and four smaller trap doors along the west wall that are directly above the basement troughs. The basement (18'x24'), accessed from the south façade, has a concrete floor, four milking stalls along the west wall, and a utility sink on the north wall. The building is in fair-good condition.

Shop, Former Tool and Woodshed (Historic, Non-Contributing, ca. 1925)

The shop (12'x24'), northwest of the house, is a one-story building with a shed roof covered with metal roofing, T-1-11 siding, aluminum slider windows, and a door on the east façade. A metal shed roof (14'x24'), attached to east side, is supported by square posts that shelter a concrete pad. Remodeled in 1979-80 and turned 90 degrees so the longitudinal axis extends north-south, this building was originally a wood/tool shed and had an interior two-hole outhouse.

Shed (Historic, Non-Contributing)

Located north of the tool shed/shop, the building has a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles, plywood siding, and a small door on the west side. The building is in good condition.

Underwood / Five Oaks Farm
Name of Property

NPS Form 10-900-a

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OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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Pump House (Historic, Non-Contributing)

The pump house is located east of the former garage at the east end of the fenced garden area. The small building has a gable roof, plywood siding and door, and metal roofing. Although the pump is intact and dates from the historic period, the building has been completely rebuilt.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Edward and Isabella Underwood Farm, later called Five Oaks Farm, is located in Underwood, Skamania County, Washington, and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and B for its association with Edward and Isabella Underwood, and Louis Thun who were both instrumental in the development of the Underwood community and Skamania County, and its agricultural history.

The nominated five acres was originally part of the land patent of Edward Underwood who, along with his brother Amos, platted the community of Underwood and developed timber-related businesses, commercial establishments, and orchards. Edward's wife, Isabella was the granddaughter of Chief Welawa (Chenoweth) who was a prominent member of the Native American tribes living in what is now Hood River, Oregon. Isabella Underwood along with her mother, aunts, and grandmother, are credited with maintaining a strong connection with their native heritage. The women carried on the traditional crafts, making beautiful woven baskets, beaded clothing, bags, and jewelry; many of these are now in the collection of Mary Hill Museum of Art near Maryhill, Washington in the Columbia River Gorge. For several years, the women displayed their craft at an "Indian Fair."

Louis Thun was one of the early promoters of Underwood's fruit industry. Thun purchased the Underwood home and the surrounding five acres in 1912 and developed a successful orchard on the acreage. Born in Austria, Thun graduated with a degree in horticulture from the College of Agriculture in Vienna. After settling in the United States, he later moved to the Underwood area to pursue a career in the orchard business. Thun helped organize the Oregon-Washington Pear Bureau and served as a trustee for the organization for twenty years. He was a road supervisor in Skamania County, helped build many of the roads in the county during his employment, and also served two terms as Skamania County Commissioner. The Underwood/Five Oaks Farm reflects the physical and cultural character of early Skamania County's landscape, and the backgrounds of the Underwood and Thun families that cultivated the land and helped developed the area.

The Underwood/Five Oaks Farm, which dates from the early settlement and development period of Skamania County, represents a pattern of agricultural development, which characterized the rural Skamania County landscape in the second half of the 19th century and early 20th century. The Farm, one of the few remaining farmsteads in the area that retains a number of outbuildings, maintains a strong interrelationship between the land, the buildings, and the owners. These historic farm complexes are disappearing in the rural landscape due to changes in farming practices and land development. The farmstead retains the surrounding orchards, plantings dating from historic period, and the relationship between the farm buildings and residence.

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The house, constructed ca. 1893 and remodeled in 1935, chicken coop, two barns, and garage represent the historic buildings in the complex. The outbuildings, most likely dating from the 1920s, show diversity in building types and use that exemplify the self-sustaining farm lifestyle. Although some of the orchard land has been sold over the years, the five-acres included in the nominated area maintains the historic nucleus and setting of the farmstead, including the surrounding fields, orchards, plantings, and five ‘namesake’ oak trees. Most of the plantings around the house and outbuildings date from Emily and Louis Thun’s ownership. The variety and placement of the plantings represent the strong horticultural skills and interests of Louis Thun. The complex retains integrity of design, setting, association, feeling, workmanship, and materials as documented in the nomination.

The house construction, constructed in phases, shows the changes in building methods, materials, and techniques. The original portion of the house, built by the Underwoods, is an example of box or plank construction. This technique was commonly used in pre-1900 houses. This technique required one-third less material than other building systems (built based on economy). The west end addition to the house is wood frame construction, common to buildings in the 20th century.

The period of significance dates from 1893 to 1958. The 1893 date coincides with the estimated construction date of the original section of the house built by Edward and Isabelle Underwood. The end date of 1958 coincides with the retirement of Louis and Emily Thun and their active involvement in developing orchards land and the building the Thun farmstead. The historic themes of Agriculture and Settlement are represented.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Underwood, Washington

The community of Underwood is located on the north side of the Columbia River Gorge and west of the White Salmon River in Skamania County, Washington.¹ The area was named for Andoniram (Amos) Judson Underwood, an early settler who came west on the Oregon Trail in 1852, and his brother Edward Underwood. Amos Underwood, the first of the brothers to settle in the area, moved to Cascade Locks and then to present-day Hood River, Oregon before claiming land on the north side of the Columbia River.

The two Underwood brothers began purchasing land in the area; Amos purchased 160 acres and Edward purchased another 160 acres (both brothers later purchased more acreage). The two men owned land at the confluence of the Columbia and White Salmon rivers, and fertile bluffs above the river. Early residents, like the Underwoods, made their living cutting timber and providing cordwood to the steamers on the river. The Underwood community’s economy was based in the rich timberlands, and later, the orchard industry. Several lumber companies established flumes in the area to transport the raw timber to the mills in the region. The Underwood brothers also built a saloon and store that became the center of the small river community.

In 1884, the Oregon Railway & Navigation Co. Railroad completed the railroad along the south side of the

¹ Skamania County, Washington was formed in 1854.

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Columbia River. Shortly thereafter, the Underwood family started a regular ferry and mail service across the Columbia to Hood River, Oregon and operated a cargo boat that went from Cascade Locks to The Dalles, Oregon. The Underwood post office was opened in 1900; Edward and Isabella's daughter Grace (Dark) became the postmistress. In anticipation of the completion of the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railroad on the north side of the Columbia River, Edward and Amos platted the town of Underwood in 1904. In 1905, after construction was assured, Amos Underwood erected the Underwood Hotel. Quickly, the hotel became the center of the small Underwood business district, especially when the workers began arriving during construction of the railroad. The railroad was completed in 1908.

Although homesteaders planted orchards mostly for their own use, two Portland men, P.I. Packard and George Cooper, started the first commercial orchards in the Underwood hills in 1907. Louis Thun (the third owner of the subject property) started in the orchard business during this boom time. After hearing of the area's potential, many well-to-do Easterners and Portlanders established orchards and strawberry fields; this was the beginning of the orchard industry in earnest. After the Underwood Fruit and Warehouse Company was founded, the owners built a large warehouse that included cold storage and packing areas. The 1919 freeze caused a shift from apple growing to pear production. The fruit industry continued to prosper as more orchards were established and more timberlands cleared. Markets improved when access to the area was improved with the construction of the Cook-Underwood Road and later the Evergreen Highway (Highway 14).

In 1948, the Underwood Hotel, operated by Amos and Ellen's daughter Martha, and the remainder of the town was destroyed by fire; only a cabin, warehouse, and barn survived the fire. The town was never rebuilt but the community on Underwood Mountain still bears the name of its founders, Amos and Edward Underwood.

Amos and Taswatha (Ellen) Underwood

Amos Judson Underwood was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on December 10, 1834 to John H. and Lovica Underwood. Amos came to Oregon in 1852 on the Oregon Trail and traveled to what is now Hood River and Cascade Locks. He later fought in Company B, Oregon Mounted Volunteers during what became known as the 1855-56 Yakima Indian War. The Native Americans in Washington Territory went to war with emigrants over treaties that removed the tribes to reservations. In March 1856, members of the Yakima, Klickitat, and Cascades tribes attacked settlers at the Cascades of the Columbia, killing many civilians and three soldiers (referred to as the *Cascades Massacre*).

In March 1856, the chief of the Yakima nation planned to drive settlers out of the area around what is now Cascade Locks; the Cascades were important salmon fishing grounds for the native people. The Yakimas attacked on March 26th, with assaults on the Upper, Middle, and Lower Cascades. By late in the day, men, women, and children were huddled in a store, as the sawmill and lumberyard were destroyed.

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On March 27, a reinforcement of the U.S. Calvary arrived from Fort Vancouver under Lieutenant Phil Sheridan's lead. Sheridan attempted to stop the Native Americans but the Yakima natives fled, leaving the Cascades Indians behind. The Cascade surrendered without a fight; many of the Native Americans were charged with treason. A military commission found nine Cascade (Wascos) natives, including Chief Welawa (Chenoweth) guilty.² All were executed. Chief Welawa's wife Mumshumsie (Mary Virginia) was left alone to raise her son, young Chenoweth and two daughters, Taswatha (Ellen) and Codina (Margaret).³

After the Yakima Wars, Amos Underwood was discharged from service in the Oregon Mounted Volunteer. He traveled through present-day Hood River, and in the 1850s, established a donation land claim on what is now known as Ruthton Point. While living in Hood River, Amos Underwood met and married Chief Welawa's daughter, Taswatha- renamed Ellen by the missionaries. She had previously been married to a Lieutenant William K. Lear, a soldier that was brought into the territory during the Yakima Wars under Lieutenant Phil Sheridan's command. Lear met Taswatha and asked for her hand in marriage. According to family histories, Tawatha's mother objected because soldiers had killed her husband but other tribe members thought the marriage would help protect the native people.⁴

Lear married Taswatha in exchange for gold coins.⁵ On May 21, 1857 in Hood River, William Lear and Ellen had a baby girl, and named her Isabella after Lear's mother in Virginia. Shortly after she was born, Lear was transferred to Fort Dalles from Hood River. Ellen refused to go with her husband, and returned to live with her mother. Lear later was transferred out of the area and only saw his daughter, Isabella, once again after she was married to Edward Underwood and living in Underwood, WA.

On June 1, 1861, Ellen married Amos Underwood who adopted her daughter Isabella Lear. Around 1864, Underwood moved his family to the north side of the Columbia River after claiming 160-acres at the mouth of the White Salmon River in what is now known as Underwood. He later added another 160-acres to his holdings. Amos built a dock and cut cordwood for a living, selling the wood to steamers on Columbia River. He also established a ferry that went to points across the Columbia River and back again. Ellen and Amos had three other children; Jefferson, Mary, and John.⁶

Amos built a large log cabin measuring 30 ft. by 60 ft. that was big enough for his family and other family members. The house had a wrap-around porch that faced south. Edward often chided his brother that the house was too big. His mother-in-law Mary Virginia and his brother, Edward Underwood (12 years younger than Amos) joined the family in the Washington Territory in the mid-1860s; all living in the large log home. Amos continued to develop the area, and built a saloon that became the center of the Underwood community. He also

² There are several spellings of Chenoweth including Chenowuth, Chenewuth, and Chenowith.

³ Mary Hill Museum of Art. Biographical files of the Underwood family. Genealogical family tree, compilation of family obituaries and descendents. The Chenoweth family was a prominent Native American family and received a metal from Lewis and Clark on their journey in 1805 for supplying the explorers with deer meat and bread. This metal was passed down from generation to generation and is presently in the Mary Hill Museum of Art Collection near Goldendale, WA.

⁴ Esther Warren. *The Columbia Gorge Story*. (The Dalles, Oregon, 1977), p. 63.

⁵ *Ibid*, p. 63.

⁶ Jefferson Underwood, Amos and Ellen's oldest son died in 1881. John Underwood, Amos and Ellen's second son, died at the age of 16 in 1883 due to a gunshot wound inflicted during an argument about politics.

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loved to gamble (his favorite sport being horseracing), tried his hand at mining, ran freight lines on the Columbia, and was active in politics. Amos Underwood was the businessperson in the family, while his younger brother, Edward, stayed home and operated the farm and the cord wood business. Together the two brothers owned the important land at the confluence of the White Salmon and Columbia rivers; they controlled the water access, railroad access, rock pits, timberlands, and the valuable agricultural lands on the flats in Underwood Heights.

Edward and Isabella Underwood

Edward Underwood was born in Indiana on March 29, 1846 and came to the Washington Territory to join his older brother Amos circa 1865. The 1870 U.S. Census shows Edward living with his brother and family in Underwood, Washington. Edward filed two land claims; one claim north of the Columbia River in Section 22, T3N R10E (first claim) and another claim (filed in 1892) on the flats above Underwood (the subject property in Section 15). In 1871, Edward Underwood married Isabella Lear (his niece) who had recently returned from a Catholic boarding school (Sisters of Providence) in Vancouver, Washington. At the time of her marriage, Isabelle was only 16-years old. Edward and Isabella were married in a double ceremony that was officiated by Reverend Joseph Condon. Isabella's mother, Ellen, and Amos Underwood had been married in a native ceremony, so the couple decided to get married by a minister at the same time as their daughter Isabella married Edward Underwood. The couples had a quiet, double ceremony at the Underwood farm due to the recent loss of Amos and Ellen's infant son, Marshall (died in 1871).

Isabella and Edward lived with Amos and Ellen in the big log home before constructing a home on their original 160-acre claim (see supplemental map).⁷ The couple had eleven children: Lovica Jennie (1872-1943); Grace (1875-1949); Margaret (1878-1961); Cornelia Nellie (1880-1971); William (1882-1948); Lafayette (1886-1904-invalid at birth); Elsie (1888-1905); Sharlotte Lottie (1890-1915); Catherine Kate (1893-1940); James Corbett (1896-1951); and Isabelle (1905-1979).

Edward continued to operate a wood cutting business and Isabella cooked for all the workers from the time of her marriage. Edward cut the wood on his property, slid the timber down the bank to the docks in Underwood, and loaded it on scows for sale in The Dalles. Other timbers were rafted down the White Salmon River and sent to local sawmills. Edward Underwood was the quieter of the two brothers and worked hard on the land while Amos spent much of his time away from home pursuing business deals.

Besides cutting timber, the Underwoods sold produce to nearby markets, ran a hundred head of cattle on the property, and started an orchard. In the late 1800s, the Underwoods held an "Indian Fair" for neighbors and friends. The two brothers were very proud of their wives' artistic talents, making beautiful woven baskets and clothes decorated with intricate beadwork. The fair took place at the Underwood log house. Amos and Ed made racks to display the crafts; Isabella and Ellen brought out their finest work. Baskets, beaded purses, dresses, necklaces, and other jewelry were all displayed for friends to see. Fine basketry and beadwork made by Ellen's mother, Martha, were also part of the display. People from the surrounding areas including Hood

⁷ The 1875 GLO Survey map shows two houses in Section 22, T3N R10E; one says A. Underwood and the other says Edward Underwood.

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River and Cascade Locks, Oregon came to the fair. The exhibit was accompanied by a picnic lunch prepared by the Underwood women. The Indian Fair became a tradition held every year into the early 1900s. Ellen Underwood died in 1906 and her husband Amos died in 1917.⁸

The New Frame Farmhouse

In 1892, Edward Underwood was granted a land patent for an additional 160-acre of land around present-day Orchard Lane (the subject property).⁹ Under the Sale-Cash Entry System, public land could be purchased for a set price on a cash basis. Underwood claimed the acreage under this system. It is likely that Edward built the subject house (the original portion) circa 1893 after he received the land patent. Oral interviews indicate that Edward Underwood built a frame house on the flats above Underwood.¹⁰ Underwood most likely built the home for his growing family; eventually a family of eleven.

The house was built in a grove of oak trees (hence the name Five Oaks). Underwood sited the house on a flat bench above the sloping fields to the south and east. Both Mt. Adams and Mt. Hood could be seen from the Underwood home. Edward continued to improve this land by planting orchards around his farm on previously logged land. He also helped his brother operate the saloon and with his other business ventures. Isabella Underwood cared for her family, and pursued her beading and basketry work throughout her life.¹¹ She also practiced her faith as part of the Shaker Church, often using bells and candles in ceremonies before and after prayers at meals and bedtime. Edward and Isabella's farm became a gathering and trading place for many Native Americans in the area, especially in the fall during the salmon fishing season. Edward Underwood died in 1908 at the age of 62 leaving Isabella and her nine surviving children.

After Edward died, Isabella was appointed the administrator of her husband's estate on January 2, 1909. Since Edward died without a will, a notice was published in the paper for five weeks in an effort to clear the estate of any debts. Isabella sold the farm, valued at \$3,000, to Lizzie G. and P.I. Packard on October 1909 who established an orchard on part the property. A lawsuit followed between the Packards, who bought the property, and the children of the Underwoods; the family questioned the legality of the sale. The Superior Court of the State of Washington for the County of Skamania determined that the Packards were in fact legal owners of the Underwood property. The Packards, in turn, sold the property to Louis Thun on November 11, 1912 (filed on December 28, 1912).¹²

Despite the death of her husband, Isabella continued her active role in the community. She moved to a small house near the Underwood Hotel to be with her daughter Mary who operated the hotel. In 1936, she was

⁸ In the 1910 US Census, Amos was making his living as a bookkeeper and bartender at the saloon built by the Underwood brothers. He also helped his daughter, Mary, run the hotel and restaurant.

⁹ The Underwood land patent was issued on October 26, 1892 (document no. 4547) for the S1/2 of the SE quarter of Section 15, SE of the NE quarter of Section 15, and NE of the SE quarter of Section 15. The land patent was filed on June 24, 1893.

¹⁰ Louis Thun. Interview published in Skamania County Heritage, Volume 17, No. 3. January 1959.

¹¹ Mary Hill Museum of Art in Klickitat County, WA. has an extensive collection of the Underwood women's art work including woven baskets, buckskin dresses, and beautiful beaded purses, hats and dresses. Mary Underwood, the daughter of Amos and Ellen Underwood, donated the collection to the museum in 1940. The collection would have been destroyed when the Underwood Hotel burned in 1948; this was where most of the collection had been stored.

¹² Despite the lawsuit establishing Packard as the legal owner, the Packards had to again prove their ownership in 1918, and subsequently the Thuns also again recorded the deed to the farm.

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invited as a special guest to witness the reburial of Native Americans remains displaced when Bonneville Dam was being constructed. Because she was the granddaughter of Chief Welawa (Chenoweth), Isabella was asked to unveil the stone monument dedicated to the native people of the area. The granite monument was inscribed with "Ankuty Tillikum Museum—Here Sleep the Ancient People." The ceremony took place in May 1936; Isabella Underwood died on 20 November 1936. Her obituary in the 27 November 1936, *White Salmon Enterprise* newspaper states:

Her memory will survive like the green grass above her grave not as that of the pioneer, but as a native born, daughter of aborigines, who were here centuries before the white man came with his covered wagons, railroads, automobiles and airplanes. We take off our hats and stand aside as she passes on to the great realm of the Great Spirit from which no traveler ever returns.

Isabella, Edward, and their children, who preceded them in death, are buried in the Christ-Zada Cemetery near the Underwood farm on land that was given to the community by the Underwood family.

The Thun Family and Five Oaks Farm

Louis Thun purchased the Underwood home and the surrounding five acres from Lizzie and Ivan Packard in 1912 and developed a successful orchard on the acreage. Born in January 20, 1884 in Tatenitz, Austria, Thun graduated with a degree in horticulture from the College of Agriculture in Vienna, and knew five languages. He came to the United States in 1903, settling first in Ohio and then moving west to Tacoma, Washington. He later secured a job in Portland as a landscape contractor. When construction began in the Underwood area on the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railroad in 1905, Thun was hired to set track. When the job ended in 1907, Thun decided to stay and found work with P.I. Packard who owned one of the largest commercial orchards in Underwood. It was during this period that the orchard industry began to flourish as people moved west from the East Coast in hopes of establishing successful orchards.

Circa 1908-09, Thun decided to buy an orchard. He purchased a property on the hill above Underwood and held the property for a short time before selling the property to an "Easterner." In 1909, Louis married Emily Janisch in Tacoma, WA. Emily was a native of Czechoslovakia; and prior to marrying Louis Thun, she lived in Ohio where she worked as a cook. In 1912, the Thuns purchased five-acres, including the home of Edward and Isabella Underwood, from P.I. and Lizzie Packard. The couple began a successful pear and apple orchard, and became well-respected businesses people in the Underwood area. Thun added a little over 50 more acres to his holdings between 1918 and 1920.

Louis, with his degree and skill as a horticulturist, planted the variety of trees and shrubs that are still evident around the farmstead today. The family named the farm "Five Oaks" after the large oak trees surrounding the house. He landscaped the property, designing the rock walls, drives, and pathways, and loved to work in the garden. Thun also planted extensive flower gardens around the house, which were immaculately kept. The family always had cut flowers in the house from Thun's flower gardens.¹³

¹³ Phone interview with Dorothy Nixon, Federal Way, WA. August 2007

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Louis planted a Golden poplar (still standing by the yard barn), three types of grapes, and pears, apples, plums, cherries and peach trees in an orchard east of the garage. Berry bushes of all kinds (blackberry, loganberry, blueberry and raspberry) were planted south of the chicken coop, and strawberries were in a garden area south of the garage. Thun even designed an overhead sprinkling system used to water the vegetable garden on the lower terrace south of the house near the creek. They also raised chickens, pigs, rabbits, and cattle. The family's Jersey cow provided the needed milk and cream for the family.

The well near the house was uphill from the barns, allowing for a gravity fed system to be used for watering the extensive gardens and stock (according to Ted Lehman Jr., his grandmother Emily witched all the wells on the property). The Thuns were totally self sufficient, living off the land and selling excess produce. Dorothy, the youngest of the Thun children, remembers picking gunny sacks full of walnuts in the late 1930s and early 1940s, and selling the walnuts for 50 cents a bag to local farmers for pig food.¹⁴ Emily Thun loved to cook and was good at supervising the orchard workers. The family canned all their food, even steelhead and salmon from the river.

The Thuns built the extant outbuildings at Five Oak Farms in the 1920s-1930s, and in 1935, the couple remodeled the house to its current configuration and style, adding an addition to the west side of the house. They also added indoor plumbing and electricity to the house and outbuildings (prior to that the family used oil lamps). Always painted off-white with red or green trim, the house was touted as one of the nicest farms in the county. The Thuns raised four daughters on the property; Helen, Martha, Dorothy, and Lucille. In 1937-38, the Thuns purchased 60 acreage of land from the Morrow and Packard orchards, expanding his orchards to the north, east, and south. A large apple warehouse, north of the house, burned in the early 1980s. The Thuns also owned the house north of the Thun property and used it for a rental. This house was part of the Morrow-Packard Orchard at one time.

Besides his orchard business, Thun worked in other jobs. He was a road supervisor in Skamania County, and helped build many of the roads in the county during his employment. Prior to that, the Skamania road systems were primitive and were not always open year-round. Thun also served two terms as Skamania County Commissioner (1921-1924), and in 1930, he returned to politics for two more terms as County Commissioner (1931 to 1936). In 1931, Thun helped organize the Oregon-Washington Pear Bureau whose purpose was to advertise and pre-ripen winter pears to bring out the sweetness, and tell the public about the nutritional value of pears. Thun was a trustee for the organization for twenty years. Also active in the community, he was a member of the Goodwill Odd Fellows Lodge No. 188 and, at one time, Chief Patriarch of the Encampment of IOOF.

In 1958, the Thuns retired from the orchard business and turned over most of the business to their daughter Martha, and her husband Ted Lehman. The Lehmans ran the orchard, operated a logging company and had a car repair business along with raising three sons on the property; Ted, Richard, and Robert. Louis and Emily

¹⁴ Ibid..

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Thuns however, continued to live in the family house on the property until their deaths. Louis Thun died in 1960 and is remembered as "*one of the most beloved and respected men in this area. His memory is cherished by members of Mt. Adams Elk Lodge and Mt. View Grange of White Salmon, and by hosts of friends throughout the northwest.*"¹⁵ Emily Thun died seven years later on 17 September 1967.

Subsequent Owners

After the death of the Thuns, the family deeded the land (daughter Helen Hartness was grantor) to Martha Lehman's son Ted Jr. In 2003, Ted Lehman sold Five Oaks to Tom Anderson who sold the property (now 19.65 acres) to Robert La Vigne and Lisa Vinciguerra in 2007. The new owners, who live in the house, plan on restoring the grounds, house, and outbuildings, and would like to have living history farm classes on the property, teaching children traditional farming practices, and possibly hold outdoor weddings at the farm.

Previous Surveys and Determination of Eligibility

In 2005, the Columbia River Gorge Commission conducted an informal preliminary reconnaissance-level survey entitled *Columbia River Gorge Commission, National Scenic Area Historic Building Survey* in an effort to identify significant historic properties in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The historic survey project was part of a larger planning effort to assess how well the allowable uses in the *Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area* support the preservation and rehabilitation of historic resources. The Underwood/Five Oaks Farm was one of the properties identified through the survey process as being *potentially* eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The farm complexes represented one of the few remaining farmsteads in the county that retained integrity of setting, location, materials, feeling, and association.

¹⁵ *The Skamania County Pioneer*. Stevenson, WA. July 29, 1960, p. 8.

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- Skamania County Clerks Office. Deeds and records. Skamania County Courthouse, Stevenson, WA.
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27 November 1936, p. 1. "Mrs. Underwood in Skamania County Since 1867 Dies."
- Territory of Washington Census. Underwood, Skamania County, Washington, 1885 and 1887.

Underwood / Five Oaks Farm
Name of Property

NPS Form 10-900-a

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National Park Service

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County and State

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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Underwood / Five Oaks Farm
Name of Property

Skamania Co., Washington
County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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Verbal Boundary Description

The Underwood/Five Oaks Farm is located on a 19.65-acre parcel, Tax Lot 1300 in Section 15, Township 3 North, Range 10 East of the Willamette Meridian in Underwood, Washington. The nominated area includes approximately 5.0 acres of the 19.65-acre parcel-the western portion of the tax lot.

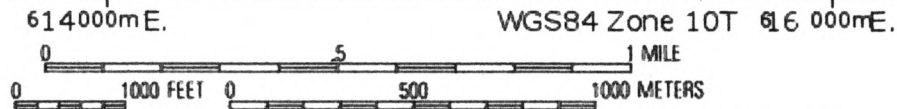
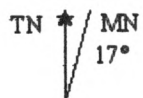
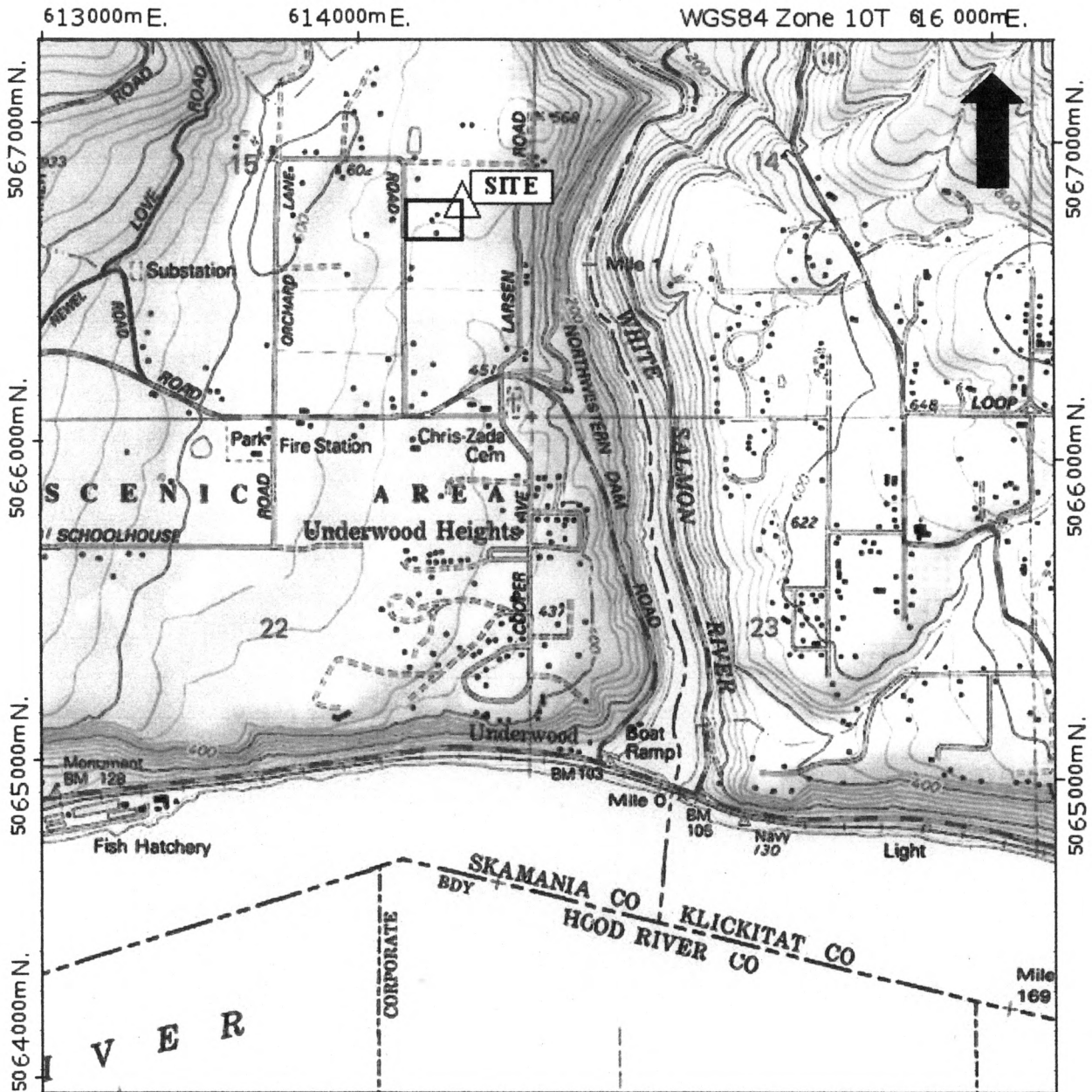
Boundary Justification

The nominated area includes approximately 5.0-acres of the 19.65-parcel that includes the nucleus of the farmstead. The house, barns, chicken coop, garage, orchards, sheds, plantings, and fields are included in the nominated area. This is the approximate boundary of the 5.0-acres deeded to Louis Thun in 1912 from the Packards who purchased the property from the Underwoods.

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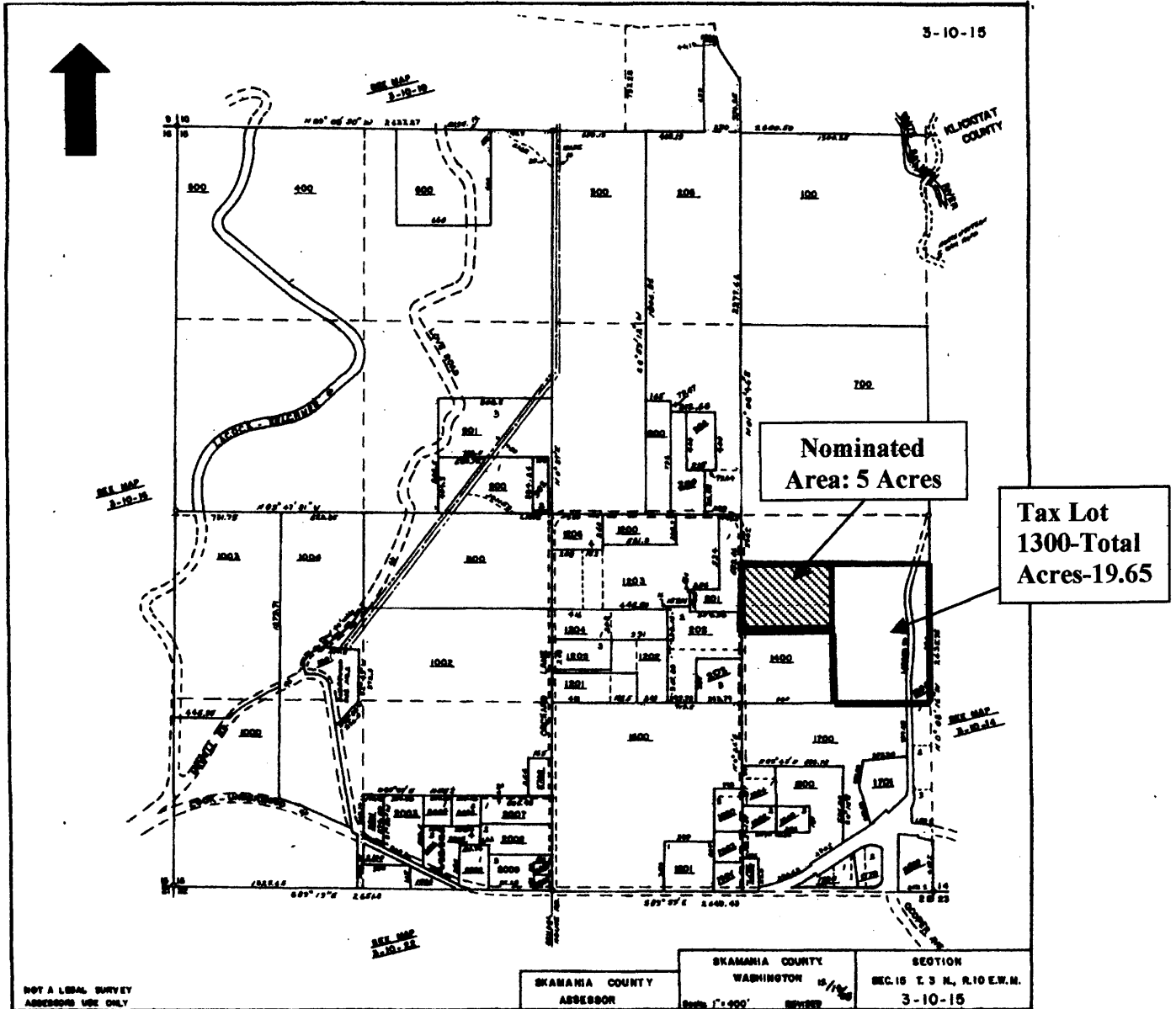
Section number Supplemental Graphics Page 1

TOPO! map printed on 08/14/07 from "Untitled.tpo"



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Section number Supplemental Graphics Page 2



T3N R10E Section 15
Assessor Map

Underwood / Five Oaks Farm

Name of Property

NPS Form 10-900-a

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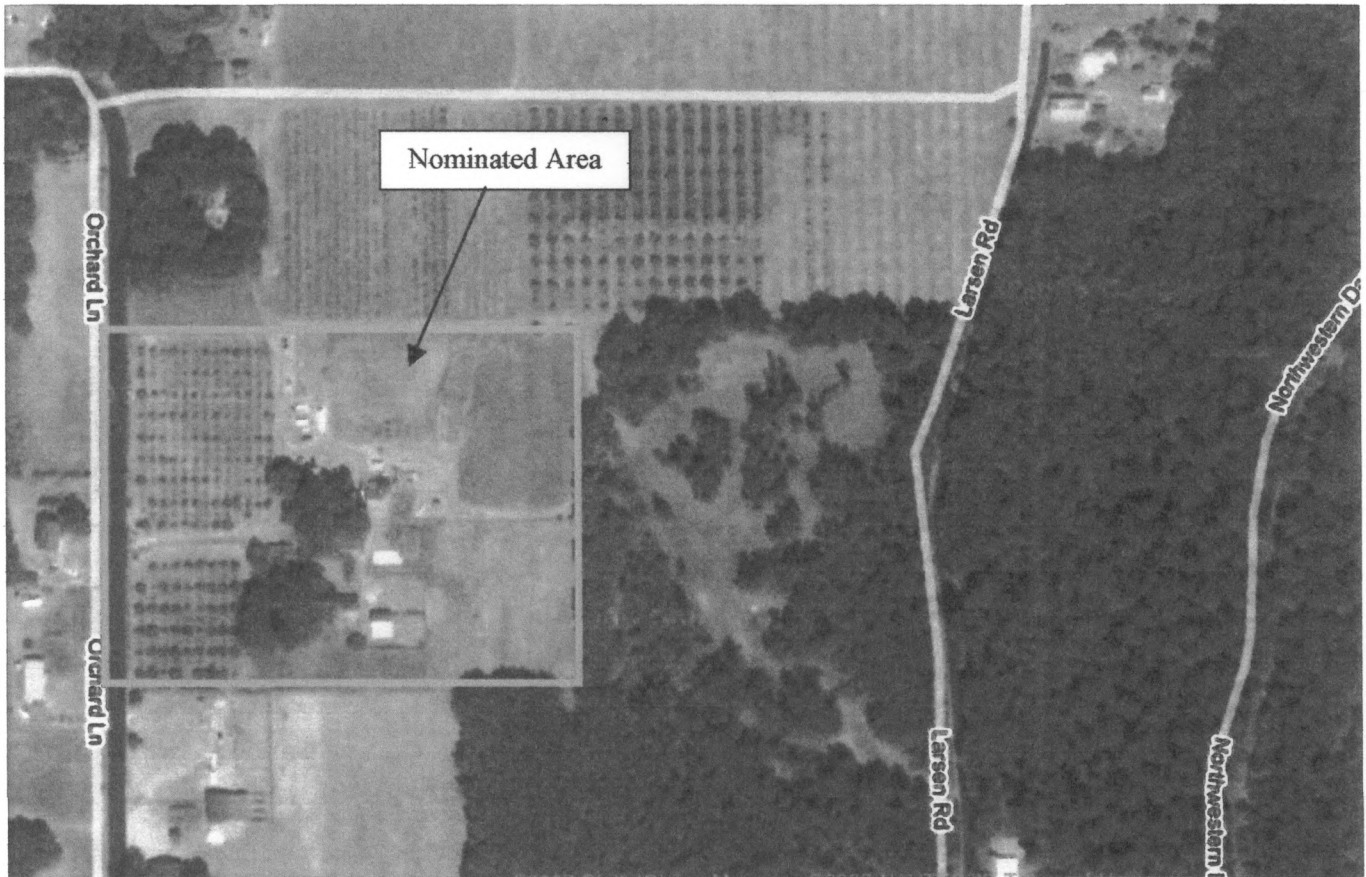
**National Register of Historic Places
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Section number Supplemental Graphics Page 3

Skamania Co. Washington

County and State

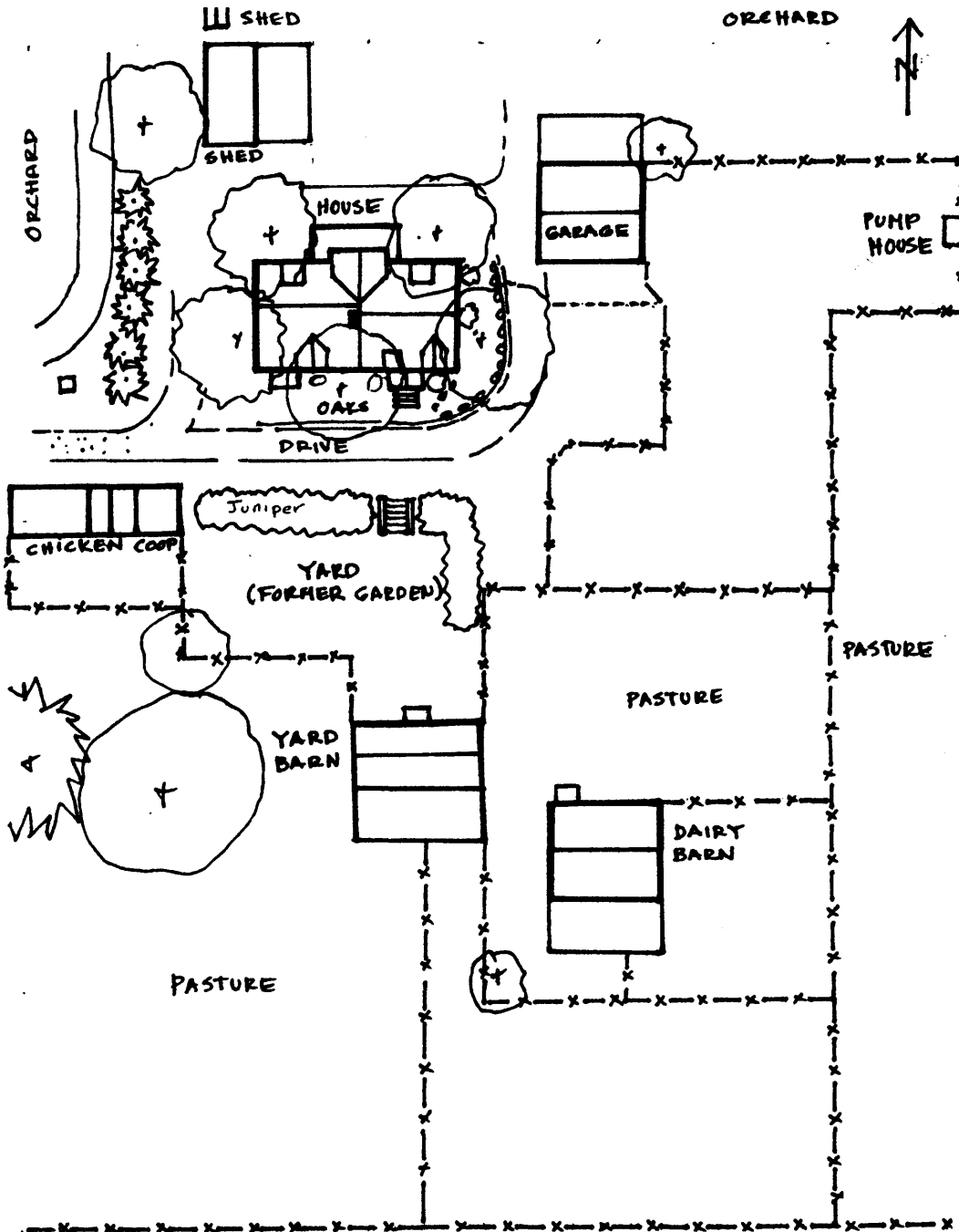
OMB Approval No. 1024-0018



Aerial Photograph showing Underwood/Five Oaks Farm

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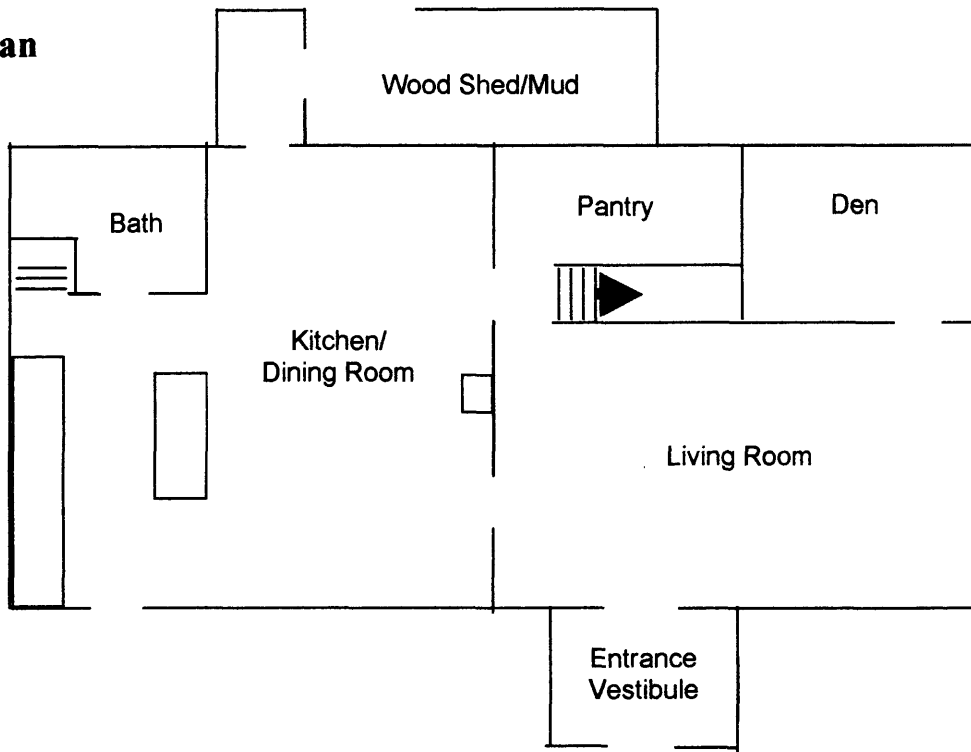
Site Plan

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

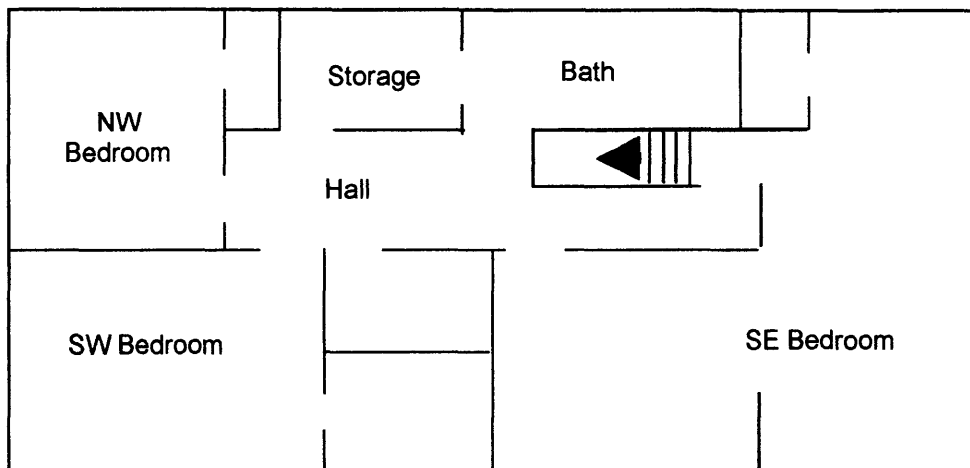
Section number Supplemental Graphics Page 5

House Floor Plan

First Floor



Second Floor



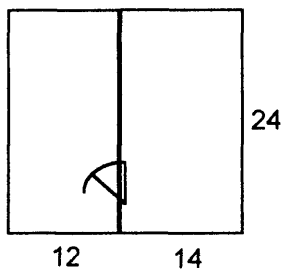
ATTIC: Braced, full-dimensional 2"x6" rafters, 1x12 skip roof sheathing; east gable end constructed of plank construction (full dimensional 1"x12" planks)

BASEMENT: Partial concrete utility/basement under the kitchen-approximately the west eight feet of the house.

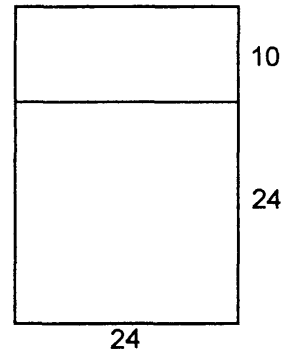
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Supplemental Graphics Page 6

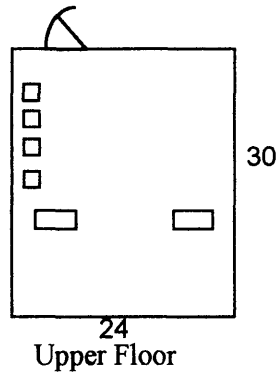
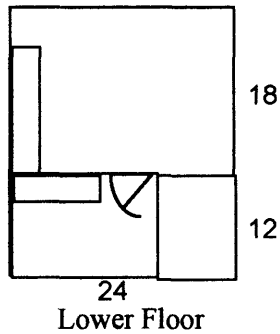
Work Shed



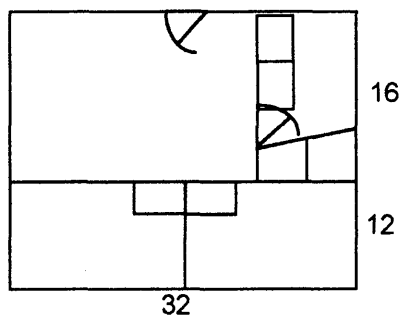
Garage/Shop



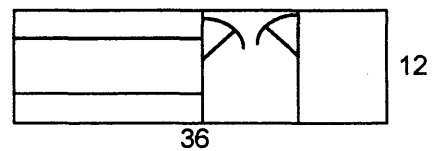
Dairy Barn



Yard Barn

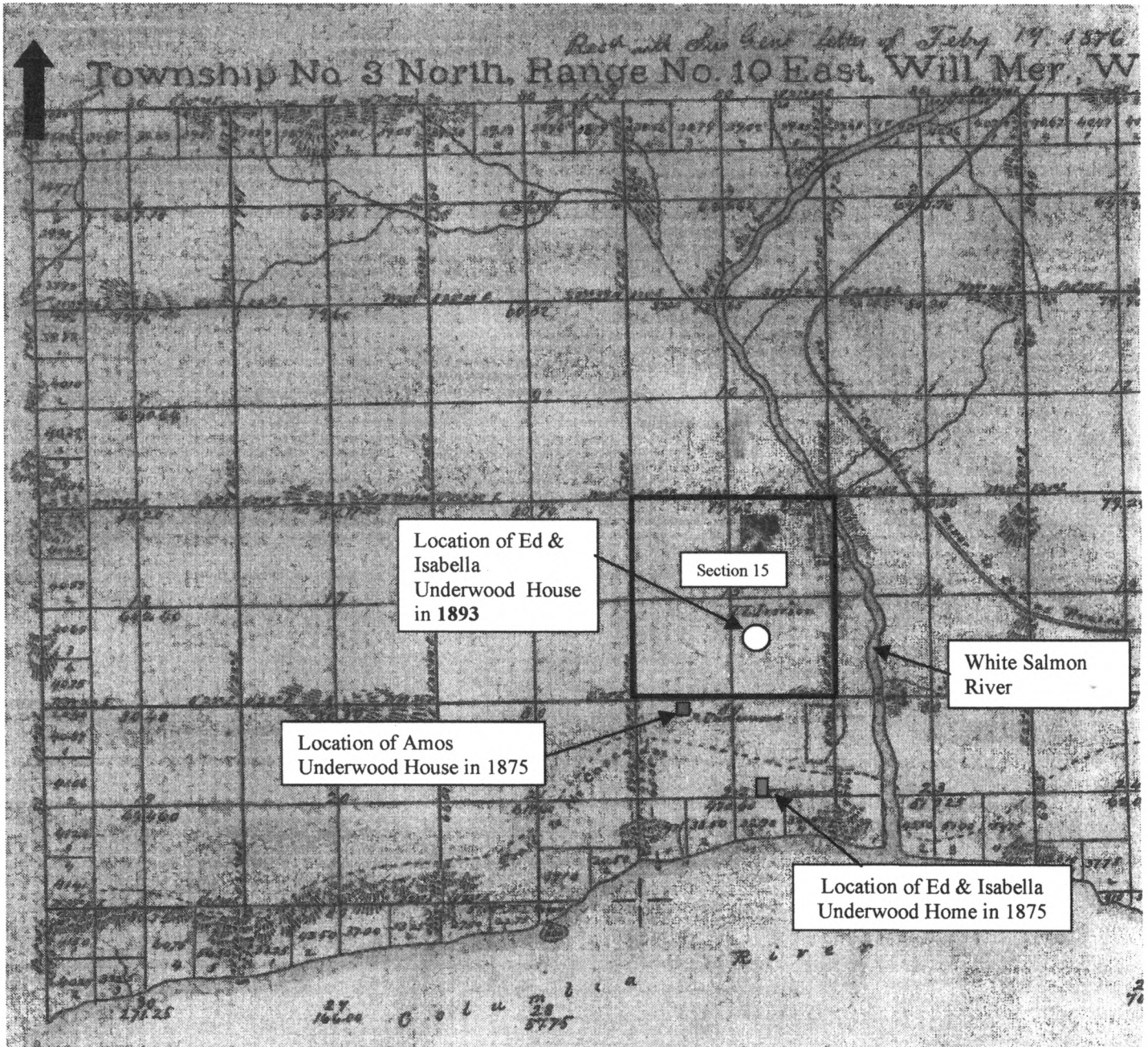


Chicken Coop



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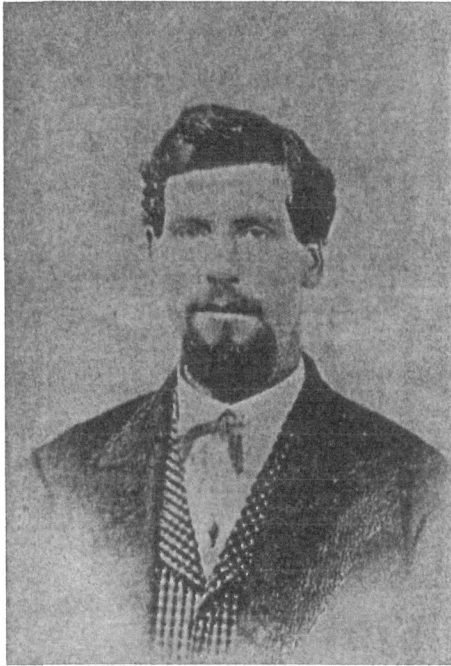


Map of 1875 General Land Surveyor's Map: T3N R10E
Location of the Underwood Houses

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Edward Underwood



Isabella

"Nellie"
Underwood

Ellen



One of the Underwood Homes. "Acorn Lodge." Oak trees around the home & board and batten siding suggests this may be Ed & Isabella's Home (Five Oaks Farm)

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Section number Photographs Page 1 of 2

PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG CONTINUATION SHEET

Printed on an Epson Stylus Photo 2200

Ink Type: Epson Ultra Chrome Pigmented Inks

Paper Type: Epson Premium Glossy Photo Paper

Location: Underwood/Five Oaks Farm
851 Orchard Lane
Underwood, WA.

Photographer: Sally Donovan, Donovan and Associates, Hood River, OR

Date of Photographs: July 2007

- 1 of 20 Looking east at entry drive and site from Orchard Lane.
- 2 of 20 Looking west at entry drive and Orchard Lane from driveway corner near garden.
- 3 of 20 Looking north at south façade front entrance of farmhouse from yard barn.
- 4 of 20 Looking northeast at west and south facades of farmhouse.
- 5 of 20 Looking northwest at south and east facades of farmhouse.
- 6 of 20 Looking southwest at east and north facades of farmhouse.
- 7 of 20 Looking east at west facades of farmhouse.
- 8 of 20 Looking southeast at detail of exterior walls under north porch shed roof.
- 9 of 20 Looking northwest at interior of kitchen and dining room.
- 10 of 20 Looking northeast at interior of upstairs bathroom.
- 11 of 20 Looking northeast at west and south facades of the garage/shop.
- 12 of 20 Looking southwest at east and north facades of chicken coop.
- 13 of 20 Looking south at north façade of yard barn, background left - dairy barn.
- 14 of 20 Looking northwest at wood fenced pen, south and east facades of yard barn.
- 15 of 20 Looking southeast at north and west facades of dairy barn.

Underwood / Five Oaks Farm

Name of Property

Skamania Co. Washington

County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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- 16 of 20 Looking northeast at west and south facades of dairy barn.
- 17 of 20 Looking northwest at interior of milking room of dairy barn.
- 18 of 20 Looking southwest at covered patio and east and north facades of work shed.
- 19 of 20 Looking southwest at east and north facades of small shed.
- 20 of 20 Looking north at well pump located south of the southwest corner of the farmhouse.