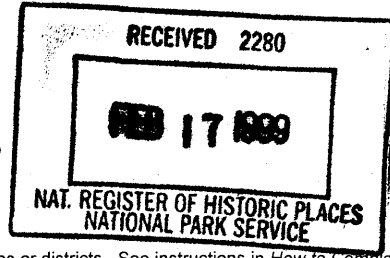


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places 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 **Harritt, Jesse and Julia, House**

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number **2280 Wallace Road NW**

N/A not for publication

city or town **Salem Vicinity**

N/A vicinity

state **Oregon**

code **OR**

county

**Polk**

code

**053**

zip code

**97304**

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 CAR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide X locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Jessie M. Hamrick*

Deputy SHPO

February 10, 1999

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

X Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

X entered in the National Register.  
   See continuation sheet.

*Paul B. Frazier* 4/12/99

   determined eligible for the National Register.  
   See continuation sheet.

   determined not eligible for the National Register.

   removed from the National Register.

   other, (explain:)



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 1

Harritt, Jesse and Julia, House, Salem Vicinity, Polk County, OR

### Narrative Description

The Jesse and Julia Harritt house, built c.1858, is one of the oldest houses in the Salem vicinity. This two-story is located on a large lot (2.33 acres) which is fully landscaped with lawn, shrubs, and mature trees (some believed to have been planted near the time the house was built). The house sits on a hill and back from the road in an area which is being developed with new subdivisions and commercial development. The Harritt house property provides a historic quality to this changing neighborhood located just outside the Salem city limits.

This Classical Revival style house is of frame construction with horizontal siding. The house exhibits many characteristics of this style that include its rectangular form with bilateral symmetry, the low-pitched roof with pedimented gables, six-over-six double hung sash windows with Classical surrounds, sidelights at the entrance, a simply detailed cornice with a wide frieze, corner boards, and a portico crowned with a simple balustrade. Changes to the portico or porch include balusters that are spaced farther apart than they were historically, however, the corner posts appear to be the same. Also, the frieze band was removed and the round, fluted, columns were replaced with more simply detailed square columns. Overall, the porch retains its historic appearance and the changes do not significantly impact the integrity of the house. Sidelights consisting of three fixed panes over wood panels flank the wood paneled entrance door. The second level door has been modified and contains a three-over-three double hung window. Paired six-over-six double hung wood windows with very simply detailed Classical surrounds are symmetrically placed on either side of the entrance. The shutters are not original.

Several one-story additions have been built onto the original c.1858 house. A kitchen was added to the rear at an unknown date, as was a master bedroom and bathroom to the rear and south of the house. In 1961 an addition of a one-story family room on the north side and a garage at the rear also occurred. The square footage of the additions is relatively large compared to the original floor plan, however, the outward appearance of the additions is subordinate to the size of the house, allowing it to retain its historic integrity. Because these additions are all one story and are set back from the c.1858 house, the original form shows through. The additions are of the same material and the detailing is simple and similar to the original construction, complimenting the historic structure. The Harritt house retains its overall integrity and contributes to the historic qualities of this area.

INTERIOR: Although numerous changes have been made to the interior of the Harritt house, much of its historic fabric remains. There have been considerable modifications to the first floor of the Harritt house. Under the ownership of the Carlsons, two interior walls were removed to make one large room. The original steep, narrow stairway was relocated. The original plan probably had a central stairway with rooms on either side. Narrow double doors which appear to date from the construction period, evidenced by the craftsmanship and hardware, are located at the bottom of the stairway at its current location.

The second floor of the building has retained most of its original fabric. The walls, doors, hardware, and original glass in the windows remain, as does the plan. The lower ceiling height, the original doors

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# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section No. 7 Page 2

Harritt, Jesse and Julia, House, Salem Vicinity, Polk County, OR

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with forged metal hardware, and the smaller spaces, portray the historic quality and association of the mid-19th century.

The foundation of the house consists of stacked rocks. The floor joists are spaced 24" on center, and the original pine flooring remains (with plans to be restored). There are also plan to reroof and return the porch columns to the original simple design.

**BARN:** A contributing c.1900 two-story sidehill barn, so named because the lower area is cut into the side of the hill, is on a concrete foundation. The second story has plank flooring. There are two small windows on the east side of the building.

**GARAGE:** A contributing small one-car garage, construction date unknown although it appears to date from the 1920s, is located to the northeast of the house. It has been converted to living quarters.

\_\_ See continuation sheet

Harritt, Jesse and Julia, House  
Name of Property

Salem Vicinity, Polk County, Oregon  
City, County, and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all 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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE
- SOCIAL HISTORY
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

**Period of Significance**

c.1858-1912

**Significant Dates**

c.1858

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

Name of repository:

Polk County

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 3

Harritt, Jesse and Julia, House, Salem Vicinity, Polk County, OR

### Narrative Statement of Significance

The Jesse and Julia Harritt House is significant as one of a diminishing number of structures dating from Oregon's pioneer and territorial days. It is a good example of the carpenterly Classical Revival house that pioneer families built in the 1850s after they had established themselves. The Harritt house is a local landmark that continues to reflect the earliest development of the Willamette Valley. There are two other known residences of similar stature built during the 1850s that remain in the Salem vicinity, and only one with Classical Revival detailing. The Harritt house is historically significant for its association with one of Oregon's early pioneer families who received land through the Land Donation Act, farmed the land, and were active in civic and religious organizations in Polk County.

In the 1850s, several donation land claims had been made just outside what would become the boundaries of West Salem. The Jesse Harritt, W. Thompson, Edwin and C.O. Hosford, Hugh Thompson, Robert Hamilton, and Lewis Parkhurst established the early farms in this area producing primarily wheat, as well as hops, orchards, and dairying.

Jesse Harritt and his future wife, Julia McNary, arrived in Oregon in 1845 after crossing the plains in the famous Stephen Meek's Cutoff party. Jesse and Julia were among those persuaded by Meek to try an alternative route across the high desert country of eastern Oregon, becoming a part of what is now known as the "lost" wagon train. This ill-fated party spent much time astray and in search of water, suffering great hardship and many died. While exhausted, starving, dehydrated, and disoriented, one of the greatest challenges would be crossing the raging Deschutes river. This infamous group of pioneers also discovered gold somewhere on their route, leading to the search for the legendary "Lost Blue Bucket Mine" which continues to this day.

Jesse Harritt was one of the principal diarists for that epic trip (his original diaries are at the Oregon Historical Society). He and Julia were married in 1846. Jesse was a ordained Brethren minister, performing many marriages in this house, with Julia acting as the witness. Jesse was also active in the creation of Sublimity College in Marion County and served on the board of directors. The Harritt's established a 640-acre donation land claim in Polk County and built this house c.1858. According to oral histories, it is believed that the architecture in Julia's home state, Kentucky, was an influence in the Harritt's design of this house. Jesse and Julia had four children. Early settlement patterns in this area of the Willamette Valley are portrayed in this house, which remained in the Harritt family until 1912. Harritt Street in West Salem is named for the family.

During 1912-43, the farm house and acreage was owned by M.C. and Addie M. Petteys, orchardists in West Salem. Kenneth and Ruth Carlson purchased the house in 1956. Ruth Carlson is the current owner (1999). Edward and Kathleen Sheehan are negotiating to purchase the property and plan to operate business "Every Blooming Thing" on this site.

X See continuation sheet

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 4

Harritt, Jesse and Julia, House, Salem Vicinity, Polk County, OR

### ARCHITECTURE:

The Classical Revival style of architecture was developed when the American public consciously desired to dissolve their cultural dependence on England. Following the Revolutionary War, art, and literature, were important American developments. Architecture also became an object of artistic expression and those well-schooled in the classics and influenced by the aesthetic and democratic spirit of the Greeks and Romans dictated the tastes of the day. Nationally, the Classic Revival style was popular during 1800-60. In Oregon, however, buildings did not appear in this style until the mid-1840s. Builder's guides such as Asher Benjamin's *The Practical House Carpenter* (1830) and *The Practice of Architecture* (1833) enabled Oregon builders to handle the structural details of the Classical orders. They superimposed Classical elements such as columns, pedimented gables, and cornice returns on conventional forms. These handbooks enabled the builder to produce the fine quality of craftsmanship seen in many homes of this era and style.<sup>1</sup> Although a comprehensive survey has not been completed, the Harritt house is one of only three known substantial 1850s-60s houses remaining in the Salem vicinity. It is architecturally significant as an excellent example of this style, reflecting the American trends of the period.

### COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES:

The John and Elizabeth Phillips house, located seven miles northwest of Salem, constructed in 1853, is listed in the National Register also significant as a rare example of the earliest homes built in the Willamette Valley. This house is smaller in plan than the Harritt house, measuring about 24' x 32', and is one-and-one-half stories high. It is somewhat more severe in line than most of the Classical cottages which sprang up around this area, with smaller proportions. The detailing of the columns and architraves is more meticulous than usual. The visual qualities of this house are distinctive from the Harritt house and provide another good example of the Classical Revival style built during the settlement phase of the Willamette Valley. This house was listed in the National Register in 1976.<sup>2</sup>

The Brunk house is also located in the Salem vicinity in Polk County. It was constructed in 1860-61 by Thomas Pearce, a local carpenter, for Harrison Brunk. The original detailing of this house is very simple with the central hallway being a primary feature. Victorian stylistic influences were added to the porch, probably during the 1890s. Many of the windows have been replaced in this house. The original porch also had some modifications. The house is significant as one of the oldest two-story farmhouses in Polk County. It is also significant as the residence of one of the earliest settlers in the area, Harrison Brunk, who was important as a farmer and politician. His son, Thomas, was also a well-known farmer and stockman. This house was listed in the National Register in 1975.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Clark, Rosalind. *Architecture Oregon Style*. Edited by Pamela S. Meidell. Portland, Oregon: Professional Book Center, Inc. Copyright 1983 by the City of Albany, Oregon.

<sup>2</sup>Phillips House, National Register nomination, on file at Oregon SHPO, 1976.

<sup>3</sup>Brunk House, National Register nomination, on file at Oregon SHPO, 1975.

Harritt, Jesse and Julia, House  
Name of Property

Salem Vicinity, Polk County, Oregon  
City, County, and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.84 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/0 4/9/5/5/1/0 4/9/7/9/0/8/0 B 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1/1  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1/1 D 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1/1

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at an iron pipe 411.18 feet South 24 degrees 15' East and 1542.23 feet South 89 degrees 39' West from the Northeast corner of the Jesse Harritt Donation Land Claim No. 67 in Township 7 South, Range 3 West of the Willamette Meridian in Polk County, Oregon; and running thence South 6 degrees 52' East a distance of 174.45 feet to an iron pipe; thence South 66 degrees 46' West a distance 451.35 feet to a point in the center of the County Road from which a 3/4" Bolt bears North 66 degrees 46' East 32.35 feet; thence North 9 degrees 50' West a distance of 132.92 feet to a point in said road; thence North 39 degrees 30' West a distance of 52.02 feet to a point in said road; thence North 52 degrees 10' East a distance of 97.68 feet to an iron pipe; thence North 89 degrees 39' East a distance of 448.53 feet to the place of beginning.

     See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are those that were historically and continue to be associated with the buildings.

     See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edward Sheehan/Oregon SHPO Staff

organization \_\_\_\_\_

date October 1998

street & number 665 Wallace Rd NW

telephone 503-378-1821

city or town Salem

state OR zip code 97304

## 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/or 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 Ruth Tutt Carlson

street & number 310 West Ellendale Avenue #135

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Dallas

state OR zip code 97338

**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.



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section No. 9 Page 5

Harritt, Jesse and Julia, House, Polk County, OR

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**Bibliography**

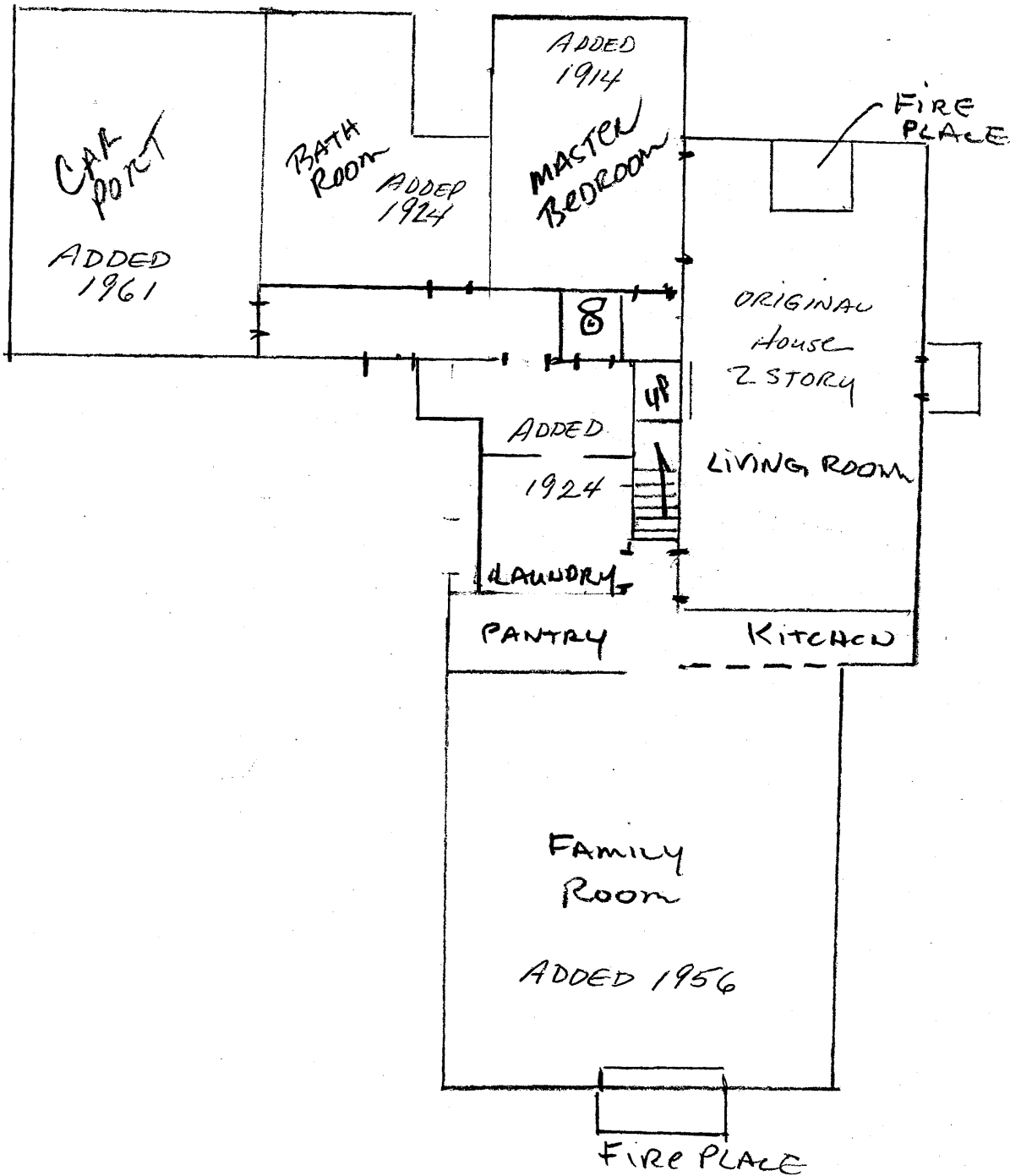
Clark, Rosalind. Architecture Oregon Style. Edited by Pamela S. Meidell. Portland, Oregon: Professional Book Center, Inc. Copyright 1983 by the City of Albany, Oregon.

Interview: Ed and Kathleen Sheehan with Ruth Tutt Carlson, March 1998, July 1998.

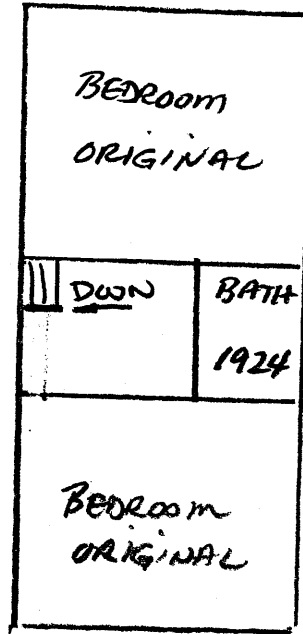
Polk County Historic Inventory Survey Form

Smith, Dwight. "Cultural Resources Research Report", Environmental Section, Oregon State Highway Division, Oregon Department of Transportation, July 1990.

National Register files, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office



**HARRITT, JESSE AND JULIA, HOUSE  
 2280 WALLACE ROAD NW  
 SALEM VICINITY, POLK COUNTY**



2ND STORY  
HARRIT HOUSE

HARRITT, JESSE AND JULIA, HOUSE  
2280 WALLACE ROAD NW  
SALEM VICINITY, POLK COUNTY

United States Department of the Interior  
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. PHOTOS Page 6

Harritt, Jesse and Julia, House, Polk County, OR

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**Common Label Information:**

1. Harritt, Jesse and Julia, House
2. Polk County, Oregon
3. Photographer: Ed Sheehan
4. Date: July 1998
5. Negative on file with Ed Sheehan.

**Photo No. 1:**

6. Northwest elevation of building. Camera facing southeast.

**Photo No. 2:**

6. South elevation of building. Camera facing north.

**Photo No. 3:**

6. South elevation of building. Camera facing north.

**Photo No. 4:**

6. East elevation of building. Camera facing west.

**Photo No. 5:**

6. East elevation of building. Camera facing west.

**Photo No. 6:**

6. Northeast elevation of building. Camera facing southwest.

**Photo No. 7:**

6. Southeast elevation of barn. Camera facing northwest.

**Photo No. 8:**

6. Northwest elevation of garage. Camera facing southeast.