

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received SEP 27 1984

date entered OCT 25 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Stephens Community Historic District

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number ~~Intersection of Ft. McKay Road and~~
Scott Henry Roads, N/A not for publication

city, town Sutherlin vicinity of Fourth Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Douglas code 019

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Various, see continuation sheet

street & number N/A

city, town N/A N/A vicinity of state N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Douglas County Courthouse

street & number 1036 SE Douglas Avenue

city, town Roseburg state Oregon 97470

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Cultural and Historic Resource
for Douglas County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Douglas County Courthouse

city, town Roseburg state Oregon 97470

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u> N/A </u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Stephens Community Historic District comprises 20 acres adjacent to Calapooya Creek in Douglas County, Oregon. The elongated rectangular parcel is bisected by Fort McKay Road and contains a remnant of a military wagon road laid out by Colonel Joseph Hooker for the U. S. Army in 1854. Historic resources within the district are grouped into three clusters and are composed of farmhouses, outbuildings, a church and school building. All buildings are frame construction and their simple elevations reflect Classical and Gothic Revival influences. All seven buildings are listed as primary structures and reflect the period of significance which extends from 1870 to 1906 and corresponds to the period of building activity in the tiny agricultural community.

Located in Section 22 of Township 25 South, Range 6 West of the Willamette Meridian, Douglas County, Oregon, the property is situated in an agricultural setting four miles west of Sutherlin. The western boundary is Calapooya Creek, a good-sized stream which originates in the foothills of the Cascades and flows westerly, to enter the Umpqua River about 5 miles downstream from the community. Fort McKay Road, running in a general east-west direction, bisects the area and there is a bridge over the Calapooya at that point. The district covers part of a small, flat valley floor with sharply-rising hills to the east. Gently rolling hills rise near the southern end of the area. The land is very brushy and tree-covered near the creek with pastureland making up the rest. Mature native maple and oak trees are part of the natural landscape.

Following is the inventory of the seven properties located within the district.

1. David Hurst Farmhouse
2740 Fort McKay Road, Oakland, Oregon 97462
Account NO. 6026.01
Current owner: Betty Woodruff
Route 2, Box 200
Newberg, OR 97132

Significance: Primary

Date: c. 1870

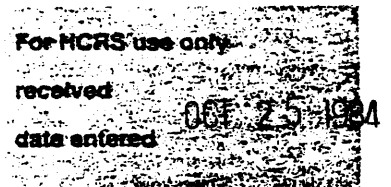
The David Hurst Farmhouse, built by Donation Land Claimant David Hurst, was built c. 1870, and is a good example of simple, vernacular construction popular in rural areas at that time. It is a one and one-half story building of balloon construction with clapboard siding. The main block of the house measures 26 x 36 feet with a one-story kitchen ell measuring 18 x 18 feet. The house features a gable roof with composition shingles, a wide frieze board, and boxed eaves. Windows are four-over-four double-hung sash with multi-paned door on the north elevation. There are non-historic, non-functional shutters. The foundation is the original sandstone laid without mortar, an unusual feature in this area. A garage and woodshed are attached to the house.

The interior of the house has been renovated over the years, the last set of improvements beginning in the 1940s; it was at this time that the lean-to housing the Stephens Post Office was removed.

Original board ceilings are covered with acoustical tile and walls are plaster board. The interior plan has been modified by the removal of 2 or 3 partitions to enlarge the size of the rooms. Most woodwork is original. In 1960 a small porch with cornice was added at the front (north) elevation.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet STEPHENS COMMUNITY
HISTORIC DISTRICT

Item number 4

Page 1

David Hurst Farmstead

Owner: Betty Woodruff
Route 2, Box 200
Newberg, OR 97132

George Stephens Farmstead

Owner: James R. and Nancy Charlene Nichols
141 Scott Henry Road
Oakland, OR 97462

Calapooia Church

Owner: Nancy Charlene Nichols
141 Scott Henry Road
Oakland, OR 97462

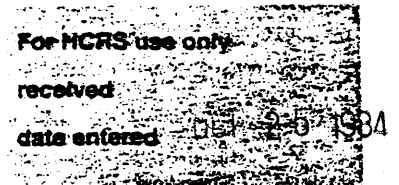
Betty Woodruff
Route 2, Box 200
Newberg, OR 97132

Calapooia School

Owner: Calapooia Ladies Club
Umpqua Star Route, Box 24A
Oakland, OR 97462

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



STEPHENS COMMUNITY

Continuation sheet HISTORIC DISTRICT

Item number 7

Page 2

The house is situated about 75 yards east of Calapooya Creek and 75 yards south of Fort McKay Road. It is on a very gentle slope to the creek with mature oak and maple trees on the north and west sides. A picket fence encloses a large yard with a few fruit trees. The setting of this farmstead is very appealing with the traditional-looking house in the foreground protected from the weather by trees on 2 sides, the creek to the west, the large barns and other out-buildings to the south, and in the distance a ridge of timber-covered hills. The present resident, Mrs. Frankie Moore, recalls a conversation with a very early settler who referred to the house as "David's mansion, the first painted house in the valley."

2. David Hurst Barn No. 1 (older of two)
2740 Fort McKay Road, Oakland, OR 97462
Account No. 6026.01
Current owner: Betty Woodruff
Route 2, Box 200
Newberg, OR 97132

Significance: Primary

Date: 1870, altered 1890

Largest of the outbuildings on the David Hurst Donation Land Claim is a barn measuring approximately 60 x 72 feet. This is an "end-opening" barn with the main wagon entrance on the north gable end. There are eight bents in all with hewn posts and beams using pegged mortise and tenon joinery. There is evidence that the roofline was changed making it of a steeper pitch than when originally built; the "new" rafters are sawn. One by six shiplap covers the north end of the barn which has 3 large double doors opening onto the wood-floored center portion of the barn. Siding on the south end is shiplap below with vertical boards going up to the gable. The very large roof space is covered with shakes. East and west sides are open except for a small portion of the east wall. There are 3 granary bins in the center of the barn and a hay mow above with hay hood on the north end. Hinges on the north doors appear to be hand-wrought. Interior piers are stone; there are cement replacements on the east and west sides. The barn is situated about 100 yards south of the Hurst House and 75 yards east of Calapooya Creek.

3. David Hurst Barn No. 2
2740 Fort McKay Road, Oakland, OR 97462
Account No: 6026.01
Current Owner: Betty Woodruff
Route 2, Box 200
Newberg, OR 97132

Significance: Primary

Date: 1890

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only	
received	001 25 1984
date entered	

Continuation sheet STEPHENS COMMUNITY
 HISTORIC DISTRICT Item number 7 Page 3

The second barn on the Hurst Donation Land Claim measures approximately 50 x 60 feet. It has sawn posts and beams with pegged mortise and tenon joinery. Shakes cover the gable roof with hay hood on the west end, and a lean-to forming a hip roof on the east end. Siding is 1 x 6 inch shiplap on the west elevation with vertical boards on all other sides. The barn is earth-floored with pens on one side, with a low hay mow and drive-throughs on the north and south sides. Piers are of stone. The barn is situated about 100 yards southeast of the house.

Other outbuildings include a storage shed, approximately 20 x 30 inches and a chicken house, 30 x 36 inches.

4. George Stephens Farmhouse
141 Scott Henry Road, Oakland, Oregon 97462
Account No. 6020.04
Current Owners: James R. and Nancy Charlene Nichols
141 Scott Henry Road
Oakland, OR 97462

Significance: Primary

Date: 1890

The George Stephens House was built by George Stephens, son of Donation Land Claimant Ebenezer Stephens, in 1890 in a vernacular adaptation of the Queen Anne style. The original one and one-half story house measures approximately 24 x 52 feet. With a one-story addition measuring 23 x 22 feet added in 1969, and the enclosure of the original woodshed measuring 24 x 20 feet, the house has changed shape somewhat, but through careful attention to detail and the use of lumber from another old house the early character and feeling of the house has been maintained. Other alterations include "taking in" two small porches, one on the north side prior to 1915 and one on the south side in 1964.

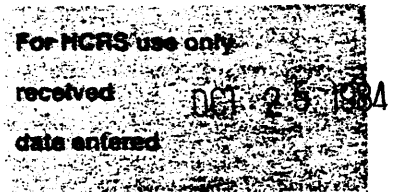
The Stephens House is of balloon frame construction with 1 x 6 inch shiplap siding, attached with square nails. It has a gable roof with composition shingles, a frieze board and boxed eaves. Imbricated shingles on the gable ends are the main decorative note on the front (west) facade. A small front porch has a decorative railing.

Windows in the original house are one-over-one double-hung sash with cornice moldings. Doors are four-panel, single-leaf; the front door has a transom. The original foundation has been replaced by cinder block.

The interior of the Stephens House is quite plain, with simple moldings for door and window trim. It has 11-inch ceilings and the outstanding feature of the original portion is the handsome wood-paneled fireplace made of cedar. The addition to the back of the house is constructed almost entirely of lumber from the Clarence Thompson house, built around 1890 near Umpqua and torn down within the last few years. (Coincidentally, Mrs. Clarence (Maude) Thompson was a granddaughter of Ebenezer Stephens). Siding from the Thompson house was used for the addition.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet STEPHENS COMMUNITY Item number 7 Page 4
HISTORIC DISTRICT

Inside a bay window has been incorporated, plus a staircase, stair railing, bookcase and paneling of Port Orford cedar. One by six inch tongue and groove boards cover the ceiling.

Mature maple, oak and locust trees shade the house on the west side, and a picket fence marks the edge of the yard. The house is situated at the intersection of Fort McKay Road and Scott Henry Road approximately 75 yards west of Calapooya Creek.

5. George Stephens Barn
141 Scott Henry Road, Oakland, Oregon 97462
Account No: 6020.04
Current Owners: James R. and Nancy C. Nichols
141 Scott Henry Road
Oakland, OR 97462

Significance: Primary

Date: 1890

The Stephens Barn, also built by George Stephens, lies about 50 yards northeast of the house. Measuring 45 x 50 feet, it has a gable roof covered with tin and a hay hood on the west elevation. The barn rests on piers of stone and wood and has vertical siding. It features sawn posts and beams, mortise and tenon joinery, both pegged and nailed. A granary and tack room occupy the center of the barn; there is also a hay mow on the west end of the bar.

6. Calapooia Church
Scott Henry Road, Oakland, Oregon 97462
Account No. 6020.02
Current Owners: Nancy Charlene Nichols
141 Scott Henry Road
Oakland, OR 97462

Betty Woodruff
Route 2, Box 200
Newberg, OR 97132

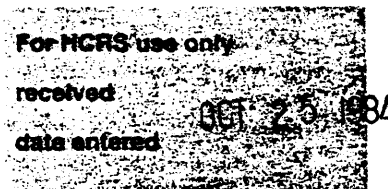
Significance: Primary

Date: 1906

Constructed in 1906, the Calapooia Church is in the Gothic Revival style with embellishments such as the round window with a distinctive design. It is of balloon frame construction, following an L-shaped plan. The main block measures 31 x 23 feet and houses the sanctuary; the smaller room measures 24 x 13 feet and houses what was originally a Sunday School classroom. There is also a 7 x 7 foot entryway.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



STEPHENS COMMUNITY
HISTORIC DISTRICT

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 5

The church has a gable roof, one by six inch shiplap siding, and four-over-four, double-hung sash windows with simple surrounds and pediments. There are three bays of windows on the north, three on the west, or front elevation, three on the south elevation and one on the east. Identical round windows on both west and south elevations are inspired by quatrefoil designs. There is a pointed-arched window over the double-door entry on the west elevation. Above the entry a flared bell tower with an open belfry rises, and is topped by a steeply-pitched roof with imbricated shingles and a finial. The cement block foundation is covered with diagonally-set shiplap.

The interior of the Calapooia Church has been restored to reflect its present utilization as a chapel for weddings, receptions, recitals, etc., and as an antique shop. The large sanctuary maintains the feeling of the old church with coved wooden ceiling of hemlock tongue and groove boards, naturally finished, starting at a height of 13 feet and rising to 18 feet in the center, plaster-like walls and naturally-finished woodwork. Most of the woodwork is original and all is fir. Windows have a 6 inch wide molding with bulls-eye corner pieces; there is a 32 inch high wainscoting in this room. All floors are composed of original fir tongue and groove boards. The original pews were stored under the church for many years; they are in good condition and have been reinstalled. A raised platform measuring 23 x 7 feet 4 inches occupies the east end of the sanctuary; dividing the space is a 2 foot high railing featuring the original turned posts.

A smaller room is joined to the sanctuary through a large, arched opening, 10 feet high and 13 feet long; this room houses most of the antiques. The original wood stove is installed here. Windows and woodwork are finished as in the main sanctuary. A wrought-iron stairway leads to a small upstairs room finished with imbricated shingles.

The small entryway consists mainly of doors and doorways. These are 8 feet in height with high transoms and are naturally finished. The outside double doors are original. The two doors into the sanctuary and Sunday School room are replacements in keeping with the style of the church. There are two small storage sheds to the north of the church.

The Calapooia Church is shaded by mature oak trees on the west side.

7. Calapooia School
Scott Henry Road, Oakland, Oregon 97462
Account No: 6020.03
Current Owner: Calapooia Ladies Club
Scott Henry Road
Oakland, OR 97462

Significance: Primary

Date: 1905

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

STEPHENS COMMUNITY
HISTORIC DISTRICT

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

6

For NCRS use only

received

data entered

The Calapooia School is the northern-most building in the proposed Stephens Historical District, and stands about 50 yards from the banks of Calapooya Creek. The building is a simple, rectangular structure of balloon frame construction measuring 46 x 22 feet with clapboard siding, and reflects Greek Revival stylistic characteristics. There are four bays of two-over-two windows on the east and west elevations. The front (south) elevation has a simple porch with four plain posts supporting a hip roof and a center doorway topped by a transom. The gable roof is covered with tin and a frieze board is present on the gables and under the eaves. On the west elevation, an addition was constructed in 1954. It is lower in height than the original building and is covered with asbestos shingle siding. The dimensions of the addition are 20 x 24 feet.

The interior of the Calapooia School maintains its original character with painted tongue and groove fir flooring covering the walls and 13 foot high ceiling of the main room. The addition houses a kitchen with minimal cupboards and a serving counter. Floors are the original fir tongue and groove flooring.

Mature oak and maple trees shade the west side of the school.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1870–1906 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Stephens Community Historic District is located on twenty acres of rural farm land four miles from the community of Sutherlin in Douglas County, Oregon. Essentially rectangular in shape, the district comprises all extant above-ground resources that once made up the Stephens township. The community was named for Donation Land Claimant Ebenezer Stephens, who settled the area in 1852. The district is significant to the county and has been placed on the Douglas County Register of Historic Places by the Douglas County Historic Review Commission (May, 1984). The district meets Criterion "c" as the first rural agricultural district on private land to be recommended for listing in the state. The district buildings, erected between 1870 and 1906 retain a high degree of integrity and with the exception of maturing trees and vegetation, convey a sense of time and place that is almost identical to the historic appearance.

The farmhouses and school are vernacular adaptations of the Greek Revival style of architecture. Cornice moldings on window and door frames, wide frieze boards and boxed eaves are evident in these buildings. The church building presents Gothic Revival elevations that are practically identical to other Methodist churches in Antelope, Elkton and Goshen and undoubtedly derive from a pattern or builder's handbook.

The community can be evaluated in a secondary sense under Criterion "b" for its associations with Ebenezer Stephens, its founder, who contributed much to the early development of agriculture and industry in that portion of Douglas County. In addition, he also served as Assessor, County Clerk and Deputy Sheriff of Douglas County.

HISTORIC PERSONS

Ebenezer Stephens, born in New York in 1822, and Rebecca Stormer Stephens, born in Tennessee in 1823, crossed the plains by ox team in 1852 with two daughters and a son. However, the son died en route at the age of five. The Stephens family settled near the Calapooya and took up a Donation Land Claim in 1852.

Ebenezer Stephens served one term as assessor of Umpqua County before it became part of Douglas County. Later he served for two terms as County Clerk of Douglas County and for two years as Deputy Sheriff under John R. Noble. Other children born to Ebenezer and Rebecca Stephens after they moved to Oregon were Robert, 1854; George, 1856; James Alfred, 1858; and Augustus Charles, 1861.

Besides farming his Donation Land Claim, Stephens built and operated the Rochester grist mill on Calapooya Creek just downstream from the present-day Rochester covered bridge west of Oakland about 3 miles. The Rochester grist mill was an imposing building measuring 35 x 40 feet with a foundation of hewn sandstone and rose 3 stories with 16 feet between floors and ceilings. The mill cleaned and ground wheat for flour under the brand "Charter Oak" and also cleaned grain for seed growers. The grist mill was operated by Ebenezer Stephens and his brother until it was purchased by John Herstine in 1889-90. Later the Sutherlin Land and Water Co. purchased the mill to get the water rights. In 1910 the mill was leased to George Eggleton who operated it with the help of his wife Alice and oldest son Louis until 1919. Shortly after the mill was closed it burned to the ground.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property twenty (20)

Quadrangle name Sutherlin, Oreg.

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A	1 0	4 6 8 3 0 0	4 8 0 3 6 2 5
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 0	4 6 8 5 0 0	4 8 0 2 9 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 0	4 6 8 2 5 0	4 8 0 2 9 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D	1 0	4 6 8 2 0 0	4 8 0 3 6 2 5
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
None			

state	code	county	code
None			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marianne Kadas

organization N/A date March 15, 1983

street & number 690 Laurel telephone (503) 459-2651

city or town Sutherlin state Oregon 97479

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

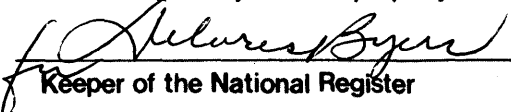
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date September 11, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register


Keeper of the National Register

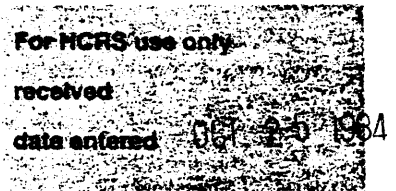
Entered in the
National Register

date 10-25-84

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



STEPHENS COMMUNITY
 HISTORIC DISTRICT

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

One other mill venture that Stephens was involved in was the construction of a sawmill in Cole's Valley, later moved to Millwood on Hubbard Creek near Umpqua. Stephens sold this mill to W. D. Clarke who with his descendants operated it for many years.

There is conflicting information about the arrival in Oregon of David Hurst, the other original Donation Land Claimant in the district. However, Donation Land Claim records show he was born in Maryland in 1826, arrived in Oregon and settled his claim in 1850. According to his grandson, David Lynn Hurst, born in Myrtle Creek in 1903, David Hurst left Baltimore, Maryland on a sailing ship when he was about 16 years old. The ship sailed around the Horn, stopping in San Francisco where Hurst and a friend left the ship and had a taste of the gold fields. They returned to San Francisco where they boarded a ship going up the coast. Hurst and his friend left the ship at Reedsport and walked inland stopping near the Calapooya, and settled there.

David Hurst was married to Margaret Whistler, a native of Ohio; they had six children, however, only 2 of them lived to maturity. Mr. Hurst is reported to have owned the first threshing machine in the valley. In 1876 the Hursts moved to McMinnville so their children could attend college there, and David Hurst was an early trustee of McMinnville College. Mr. Hurst died in Salem in the 1880s, and Mrs. Hurst returned to Myrtle Creek where she lived until her death.

James and Mary Richards purchased the Hurst farm (deed recorded in 1881) and members of the Richards family lived there until it was purchased by Scott Henry from Ed Richards (deed recorded in 1929). The house sat empty for several years until the present resident, Frankie Moore, daughter of Scott Henry, moved there with her family in 1940.

George Stephens, son of Ebenezer Stephens, was a carpenter and builder who lived and worked in the Oakland area around the turn of the century. He built a house for himself and his wife, the former Belle Farnsworth, in 1890 on the Stephens Donation Land Claim near the Calapooya. In 1903 S. F. Hamilton bought the property and in 1915 it changed hands again when C. S. Henry purchased it. Descendants of the Henry family reside there today.

ARCHITECTURE

The Calapooia Church was built in 1906 by and for a Methodist Episcopal South congregation living in the Stephens-Umpqua area around the turn of the century. In 1872 the railroad was completed from Portland to Roseburg and many area settlers came via train from the South; these included the Winniford, Gross, Henry, Bacon, Ottinger, and Gorrell families, all members of the early church. Serving as early ministers were Pastors Allen, P. Richardson and Andrew Starmer. Levi White was the last emergency minister, coming from Roseburg. As the Methodist Episcopal South congregation dwindled, the local Free Methodist congregation was growing and by 1921 they were using the church for services; in 1932 the Free Methodists bought the church for \$100. They continued to use it until 1965 when they moved to a new building some distance away. The church sat empty until the Woodruff and Nichols sisters purchased it in 1971 and began restoration.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

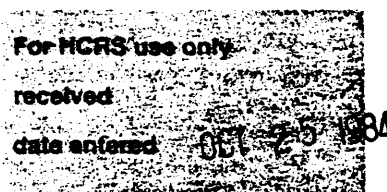
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

STEPHENS COMMUNITY
HISTORIC DISTRICT

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3



School District #2, in the proposed Stephens Historical District, was established in 1854, however, the first entry in the school record book is dated 1858. At that time the school house was a log structure located on the opposite (north) bank of the Calapooya. An early list of taxpayers, 1858, shows 25 taxable residents in the district. New directors were elected in 1859 with Ebenezer Stephens elected clerk. In 1867 the district was divided with the Day School District #62 located down the valley from the Calapooya School.

According to George Wilcox the present school house was built in 1905 just before the church was built, since some of the children attending school remember standing on the porch watching the construction of the church. Austin Mires states in a 1925 letter to Binger Herman, "The old school house where I attended school was located right on the north bank of Calapooya Creek, a few yards from the bridge below the old Eb Stephens' place. They afterward built a new frame school house just across on the south side of the creek. The carpenter who built the new (school) house was named Hartly. He always rode a mule."

In 1937 the school district consolidated with Oakland and the old school house was turned over to the Calapooya Ladies Club.

The Stephens area has had two Post Offices, the first of which was operated in Territorial days from 1857 to 1859. The exact location of the first post office is not known.

The second Stephens post office was established January 6, 1890, with Mrs. Eliza Ottinger appointed the first postmaster. The post office was located in Mrs. Ottinger's home, directly across the creek from the Calapooya Church. Other postmasters and appointment dates were as follows: James Richards, July 11, 1891; George W. Stephens, October 29, 1891; C. D. Smith, August 6, 1898; and Edward I. Richards, September 10, 1898. The post office was moved to the Richards home (formerly the David Hurst home) in 1891 when James Richards became postmaster, and was housed in a lean-to on the north side of the house. The post office continued to be in that location until it was discontinued in 1912, at which time the papers were sent to Oakland (Postal Historian).

Many of Ebenezer Stephens' descendants still live in the general vicinity. However, in later years the immediate Stephens area has been more closely associated with the Henry family. Scott Henry purchased the George Stephens farm in 1915; in the 1920s he bought the David Hurst farm. Frankie Moore, resident of the David Hurst farm, is his daughter, and Betty Woodruff and Charlene Nichols are his granddaughters.

HOOKER WAGON ROAD

Transportation and communications were two early problems in territorial Umpqua County. Annie Applegate Kruse writes in "Home of the Eagles" that in 1851, area residents petitioned for improved roads. A survey, beginning in Scottsburg, was undertaken in 1854 by Col. Joseph Hooker. Quoting from Floyd C. Frear, County Road Master of Douglas County for many years, "Gen. Joe Hooker was a graduate of West Point. He was sent to Oregon by the Government to assist in getting the Indians under control and also, having

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only

received

data entered

087-2-5-13A

Continuation sheet STEPHENS COMMUNITY Item number 8 Page 4
HISTORIC DISTRICT

served in the U. S. Engineering Corps, to take charge of the building of this military road. He supervised the location, construction and maintenance of the Scottsburg, Roseburg, Jacksonville and Yreka, California Military Highway. The road began at the town of Scottsburg, Oregon, the same as it does today. . . again followed #225 Highway (now #138) through Dodge Canyon at the mouth of which canyon at the Charles Hamilton place it left the #225 Highway and followed approximately the present County Road through Stephens Church, where it crossed the Calapooya, then it followed the present County Road in a southeasterly direction to the top of Hardin-David Hill, thence the present County Road to Wilbur where it joined the U. S. Highway #99." This military road was finished about 1857 according to John Hedden, Scottsburg, Oregon. Col. Hooker was an honored guest at a 4th of July celebration in Roseburg in 1859. He later achieved prominence during the Civil War when he was known as General "Fighting Joe" Hooker.

Another excerpt from Austin Mires' letter recalls: "The old Scottsburg Road ran right near the old school house, and in the late summer and fall of the year there was an unceasing stream of freight teams passing along it, carrying freight from Scottsburg to Roseburg, Myrtle Creek, Canyonville and beyond to the mining camps and Jacksonville.

There were ox teams, horse teams and mule teams, as high as three and four yoke of oxen and two or three span of horses and mules in a team. The horse and mule teams usually had bells attached to the leaders so as to give warning to meeting teams at narrow places in the road. Many of the wagons carried tar buckets swinging to the rear axle, with which the wooden axles of their wagons were lubricated."

Around 1900, a Smith truss covered bridge 130 feet long and 14 feet wide was built across the Calapooya directly west of the church, about 150 yards upstream from the present bridge. The covered bridge burned on July 3, 1940, and was replaced by a concrete span of 298 feet. The new bridge was situated to straighten a curve in the road somewhat, and by chance moved traffic away from the portion of the Hooker Road (now Scott Henry Road) that passes through the proposed Stephens Historical District. That section is about one-half mile long tracing the original track on the west side of the Calapooya.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only

received

date entered

001-2-5-84

Continuation sheet STEPHENS COMMUNITY
HISTORIC DISTRICT

Item number 9

Page 1

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings, Douglas County. Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Transportation. 1976.

Cultural and Historic Resources Inventory for Douglas County, September 1982. Vol. 1.

Umpqua Trapper, Douglas County Historical Society, 1972, Vol. VIII, No. 2, pp. 30-35.

Austin Mires letter to Binger Herman, February 15, 1925. Mires Collection. Washington State University, Pullman, Washington.

Reminiscences of Southern Oregon Pioneers, A personal interview with Floyd Capwell Frear, Roseburg, Oregon, August 11, 1938.

Postal Historian, 1969, p. 34. Douglas County Museum.

Centennial History of Oregon, Gaston, Vol. IV, Chicago. S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1912, pp. 60-63.

Douglas County Historical Society. Taylor Publishing Co., Dallas, Texas, 1982. p. 176 and 282.

Interviews:

Frankie Moore, long-time area resident, 9-23-83.

George Wilcox, long-time area resident, 10-06-83.

Mildred and Jack Culver, Stephens' family descendant, 11-08-83.

Charlene Nichols, area resident, 11-20-83.

MaudeCole, long-time area resident, 1-08-84.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only

received

data entered

Continuation sheet STEPHENS COMMUNITY
 HISTORIC DISTRICT

Item number 10

Page 1

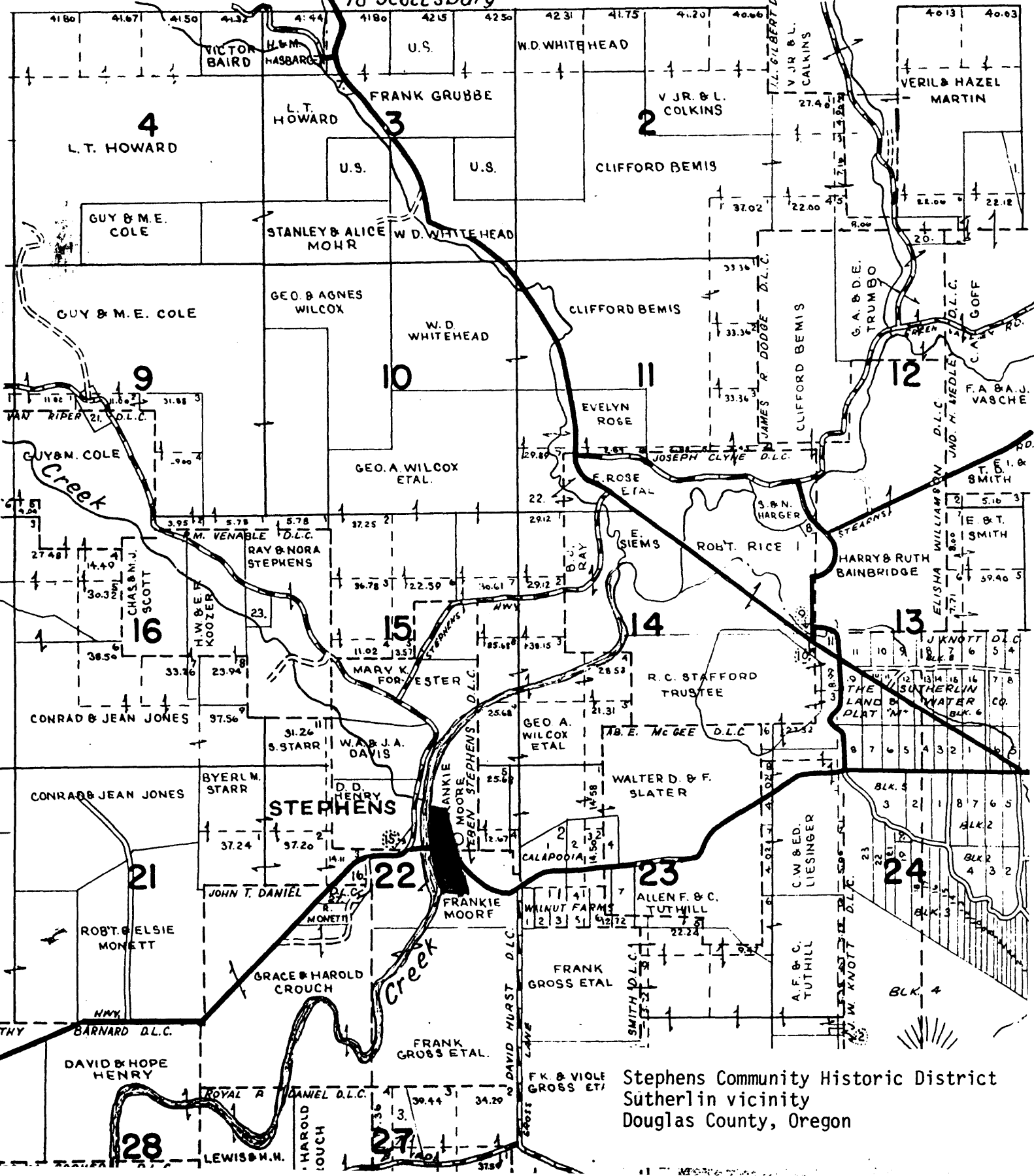
Verbal boundary description and justification: Beginning at the northeastern corner of the concrete bridge across the Calapooya at the intersection of Fort McKay Road and Scott Henry Road, thence north along the west side of the Calapooya 375 yards, thence west 125 yards, thence southeasterly 800 yards to a point 235 yards west of the Calapooya, thence west to the Calapooya and north along the Calapooya 400 yards to the southeast corner of aforementioned bridge across the Calapooya.

TOWNSHIP 25 S., RANGE 6 W.W.M. MI

DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON

63

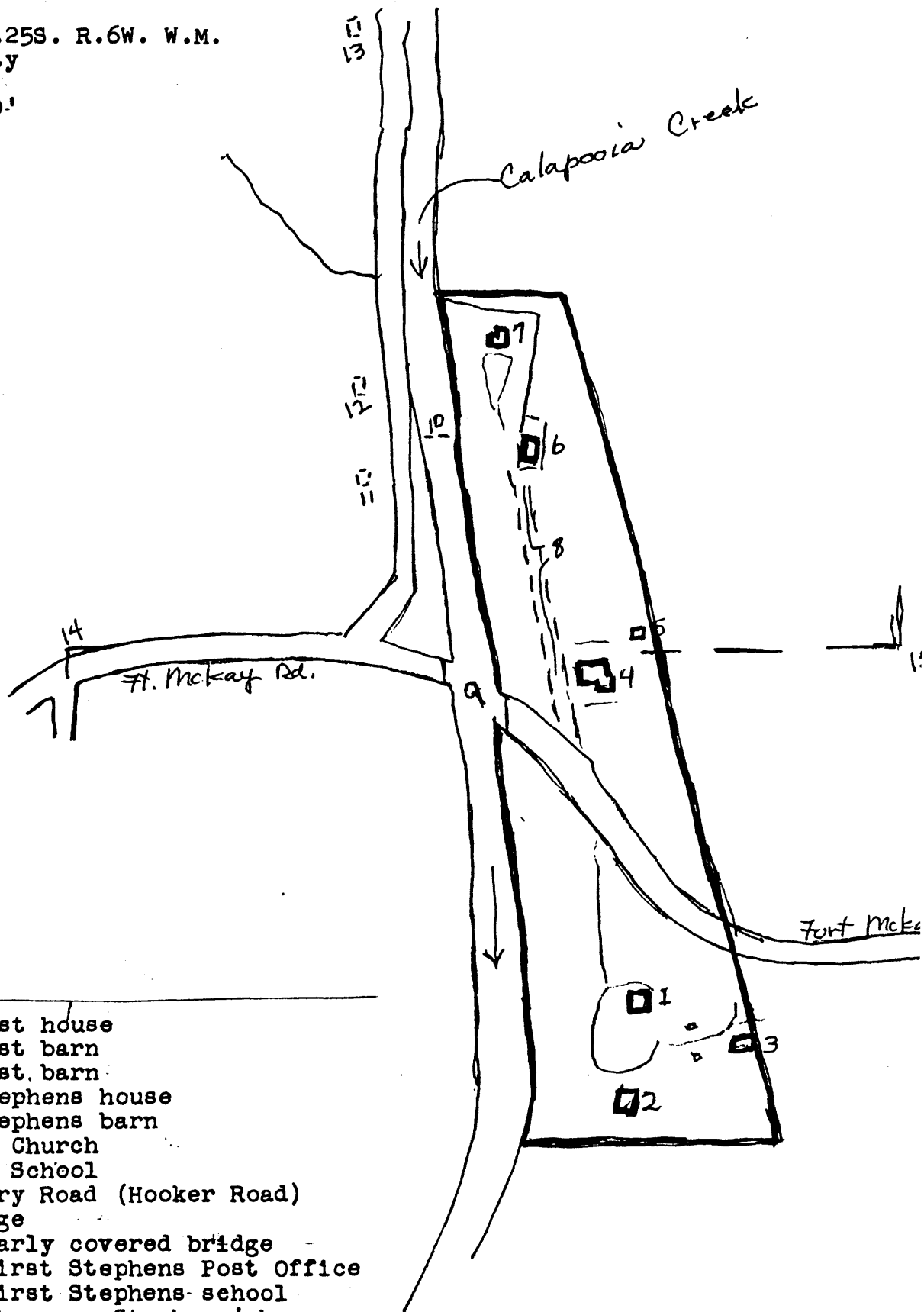
To Scottsburg



Stephens Community Historic District
Sutherland vicinity
Douglas County, Oregon

Section 22 T.25S. R.6W. W.M.
Douglas County

1"=equals 400'



1. David Hurst house
2. David Hurst barn
3. David Hurst barn
4. George Stephens house
5. George Stephens barn
6. Galapooia Church
7. Calapooia School
8. Scott Henry Road (Hooker Road)
9. 1940 bridge
10. Site of early covered bridge
11. Site of first Stephens Post Office
12. Site of first Stephens school
13. Site of Ebenezer Stephens' home
14. NW corner David Hurst DLC
15. SE corner Ebenezer Stephens DLC

Stephens Community Historic District
Sutherlin vicinity
Douglas County, Oregon