

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

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

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



1. Name

historic Porter-Brasfield House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 31838 Fayetteville Dr. not for publication

city, town Shedd vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Oregon code 41 county Linn code 043

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name T. Matthew and Gail I. Grill

street & number 31838 Fayetteville Dr.

city, town Shedd vicinity of state Oregon 97377

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Linn County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Albany state Oregon 97321

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The unusually well-preserved Gothic farmhouse completed for David P. Porter at Shedd in 1874 occupies a 1.5-acre site which is all of Porter's once-extensive holdings presently linked with the house. It is situated on the east edge of the tiny rail-station settlement in the midst of fine, level farmland which is a center of grain and sheep growing in the Willamette Valley. The house is oriented to the east and the Southern Pacific Railroad which borders the town's eastern edge. The site is near the southwest corner of the intersection of US 99E, which runs north and south, and the east-west running Peoria-Boston Mill Road.

The 2½-story, gable-roofed house is T-shaped in plan and has a 1½-story wood shed on the west side. The south wing, being the head of the T, is 22x29' and the north wing, being the stem, is 22x32'. The main building is balloon framed with ½x5½" horizontal weather board siding. The wood shed is box construction, with 1¼x12" vertical boards and ¾x1½" rectangular battens.

The south wing contains a more formal interior than the north wing. The south wing has lath and plaster walls with 1x4" board floors. The north wing interior walls are of 1x4" boards. Similar boards are on the ceiling and floor. The baseboard is 1x9" with a quarter-round moulding on the top edge. The trim around the doors and windows consists of two pieces of wood. The piece closest to the opening is a flush rectangular ¾x2½", and the edge is a ¾x2¼" curved piece. The outer piece is ¾" out beyond the interior piece. All main floor doors have transoms. All the doors are original and in excellent condition.

Window openings are fitted with double-hung sash with four over four lights. The window size on the main floor is 29x78", and the second floor size is 29x66". Frame-ments for all openings have classically-inspired molded architraves. The main entry is especially important, due to the early use of colored glass for top and side lights. The original colored glass is in place.

There are five porches on the house, the largest of which are on the front elevation. The main entry is offset to the north side of the east gable end of the head of the T. It is sheltered by a porch with four wooden steps and deck which extends the full width of the end of this volume. Its four porch posts and two shadow pilasters at the outside corners are chamfered and have simple bases and capitals. The deck balustrade is made up of deep molded handrail and scroll-sawn balusters in a stylized foliate, or tulip motif. A two-story recessed piazza with similar detail shelters the center three bays of the east face of the stem of the T. On the north side are the pump porch, recessed in the center of the kitchen (pantry) woodshed wing and a small cantilevered second-floor balcony on the end wall of the T stem. The fifth porch, on the west elevation of the stem of the T was for use of the farmhands and is close to the back stairs.

At the gable ends, raking frieze boards are clear 1x21" boards, one piece for each span, the longest being 30'. Eaves are boxed, and exterior walls are trimmed with pilaster corner boards. The roofing is a recent composition material and is in good condition. The eave exposed to the weather is in need of some repair.

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Porter-Brasfield Farmhouse

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The chimneys follow typical early vernacular forms with a base, shaft and cap, each centered at the ridge. The north wing has a fireplace centered in the parlor. In the attic the stack is corbelled to the ridge center line. The same is true with the south wing's flue stack in the southeast parlor.

The site was a Donation Land Claim (DLC) filed by Porter in 1853-1854. By 1878, Porter had acquired other land and built his farm up to 1,400 acres. The large farm had many outbuildings. As late as 1962 there was an intact mortise and tennon barn to the south of the house. This barn was destroyed by the Willamette Sheep Company in recent years. The farm's layout was documented graphically in the lithographed Historical Atlas Map of Marion and Linn Counties, published by Edgar Williams & Company in San Francisco in 1878. Near the house on the north side is a small shiplapped domestic dairy or milk house built in the early 1930s. The house has not been altered in any major sense since its construction in 1874.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1874 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The T-shaped 2½-story balloon frame farmhouse at Shedd Station completed for farmer, teacher and life-long temperance champion David P. Porter in 1874 is significant to Linn County and the state as an outstanding example of restrained Rural Gothic architecture. Lumber for its construction was manufactured in mills at Albany, 12 miles to the north. Classic in detail and Gothic in proportion, the farmhouse is one of the largest and best preserved examples of its period and type in the Willamette Valley.

David Putman Porter (1827-1889) was a native of Washington County, Ohio. At the age of 24, after having taught school in Iowa for a year, he headed for Oregon. He arrived in Oregon in 1852 and went to Salem where he supported himself by teaching school. In 1853-1854 he obtained a Donation Land Claim four miles east of Peoria, near Shedd, and took up bachelor's quarters there. He married Parthena J. Haley in 1857.

Around 1870, following arrival of several children, and with arrival of the Oregon and California Railroad impending, Porter commenced to build his sizable house. By 1878 the family had grown to eight children (a ninth child died), and the homestead was up to 1,488 acres. Porter's farm was the largest at Shedd Station. At the time, his house was acknowledged as one of the finest in Linn County.

For a time, Porter continued the career which he depended upon his first winter in Oregon, and was one of the early teachers in the Shedd precinct. He is said to have taught school in the parlor in the north wing of the house. A member of the Temperance Society from the age of 15, he headed his local chapter for many years. Porter also served as Auditor for Linn County.

Following Porter's demise in 1889, his widow, Parthena, lived on in the house until her death in 1917. It is said that the house was left empty for two years. In 1919 Ida Porter Brasfield, D.P. Porter's eldest child, and her husband, Thomas Brasfield, moved into the house. Thomas Brasfield lived in the house until his accidental death in 1939. Ida stayed in the house until her death in 1953.

After Ida's death, the house changed hands several times with the existing 1400 acres. In 1962 the Willamette Sheep Company bought the homestead to use the land for stock feeding. The owners, Jack and Karen Lafranchise, lived in the house until the mid-1970s. At that time, the house was rented until its sale to Glen Long in 1973. This time only the house plus 1½ acres was sold. Long, an interior designer, did the most changes to the original house. He remodeled the pantry, modernized the kitchen, and changed moulding at the ceilings and in other rooms.

In 1978 Matthew and Gail Grill bought the house from Long. They are aware of the house's significance and intend to restore the house to its original condition.

The D.P. Porter House retains its original character 107 years after its construction. The two-story house is one of the most intact houses of this kind remaining in the Willamette Valley.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Marion and Linn Counties, Oregon. San Francisco: Edgar Williams & Co., 1878. pp. 58 $\frac{1}{2}$ -58 $\frac{3}{4}$, 26 $\frac{3}{4}$.
 Statewide Inventory form, David P. Porter House, Stephen Dow Beckham, 1976.
 Oregon Geographic Names. Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1974, p. 659.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.5 acres

Quadrangle name Halsey, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	0	4	9	1	2	5	0	4	9	2	2	9	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing					

C

Zone		Easting				Northing					

D

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
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

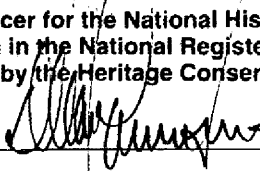
name/title Mark P. Costello, student
School of Architecture
 organization University of Oregon date March 28, 1980
 street & number 1034 N. "A" St. telephone 503/726-2950
 city or town Springfield state Oregon 97477



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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature  title Deputy SHPO date August 5, 1980

For HCERS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 date 11/25/80
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest:  date 11-5-80
 Chief of Registration

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The following is to amplify the opening paragraph of the statement of significance pertaining to the Porter-Brasfield House (1874) in Shedd, Linn County, Oregon.

Because of its T-shaped plan, the attenuated proportion of its two-story massing, the sharply-pitched gable roofs, the quality and complexity of some of the moldings, the use of colored lights in the front doorway surround, and the use of scroll-sawn porch and deck balustrades, the Porter-Brasfield House is appropriately characterized as a vernacular farmhouse in the Rural Gothic tradition. While it is true that certain finish details, such as the wide frieze boards and architraves of doorway and window surrounds, are derived from the Classic Revival, the dominant feeling of the house is more Gothic than Classic. One after another of the substantial new farmhouses pictured in lithographed perspective views in the Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Marion and Linn Counties brought out by Edgar Williams and Co. in 1878 are similarly simplified--perhaps even hybridized in some cases--examples of Rural Gothic architecture. Not many of the farmhouses pictured in the Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Marion and Linn Counties have survived to the present day. The Porter-Brasfield House is unquestionably one of the largest and best-preserved of those surviving, and one of the largest and best-preserved examples of its period and type anywhere in the Willamette Valley. The house, significant locally for its association with Linn County pioneer David P. Porter, is the most prominent historic building--by dint of both scale and site--in the small railroad community of Shedd.

The scroll-sawn porch and deck balustrades are without question original. Lithographed views in the Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Marion and Linn Counties show that scroll-sawn balustrades, as opposed to lathe-turned balustrades, were original treatment on D. P. Porter's house and many other Linn County farmhouses as well. There are a number of documented examples of the use of scroll-sawn balustrades on Lane County farmhouses of the 1870s also, including the Obadiah Bean House (1870) on River Road near Junction City, and the Jackson Harlow House (1872) on Coburg Road on the northern outskirts of Eugene.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Porter-Brasfield House

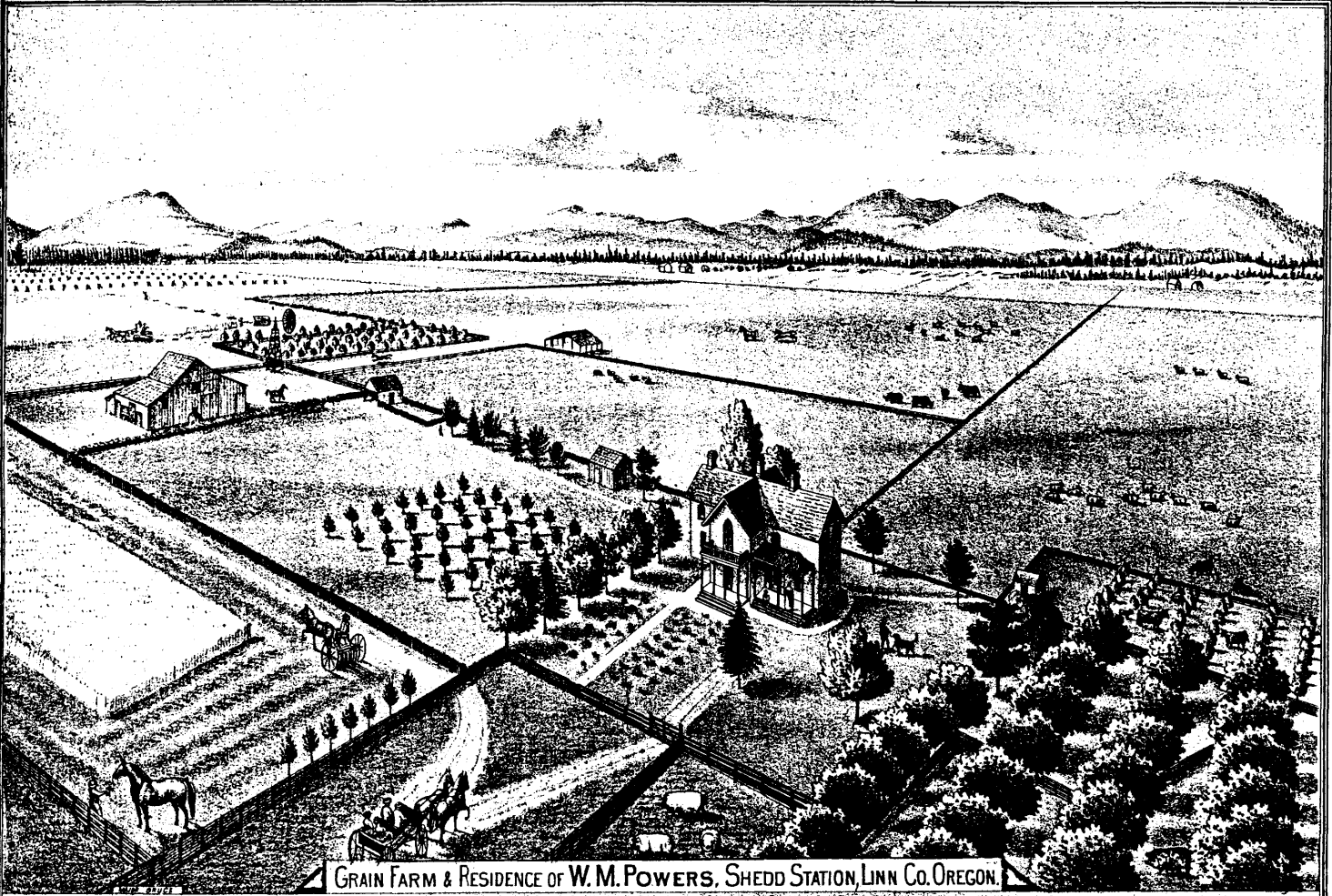
FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 10 1980
DATE ENTERED	NOV 25 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

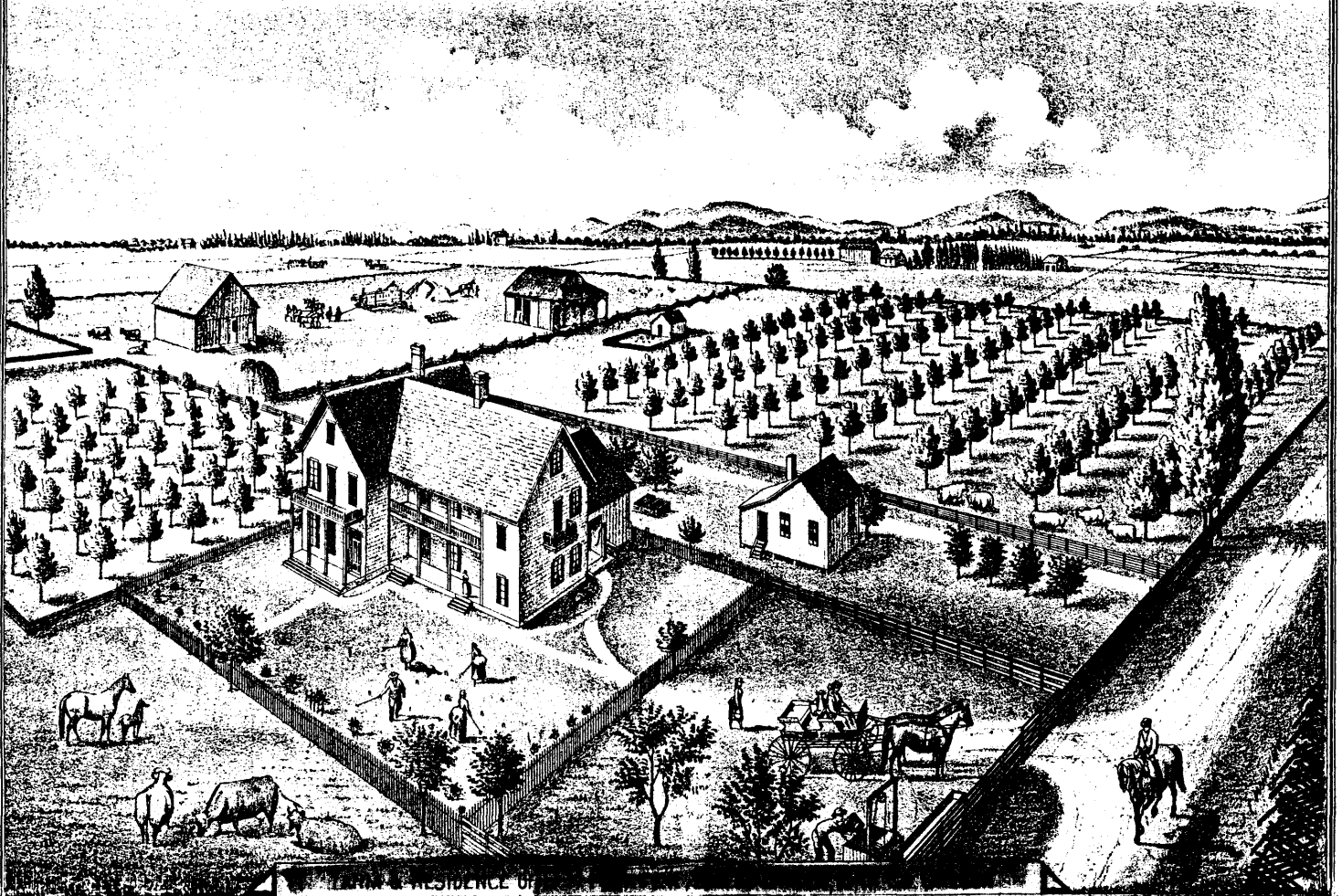
ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Beginning at a point on the north line of and north 89°28' East 1949.70 feet from the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of Section 12, Township 13 South, Range 4 West of the Willamette Meridian, in Linn County, Oregon; thence south 0°04' west parallel to the west line of Third Street in Brasfield Addition to Shedd, 30.0 feet to a half-inch iron pipe; thence continuing south 0°04' west 248.0' to a half-inch iron pipe; thence 89°28' east, parallel to the north line of Section 12 at a distance of 215.0' to a half-inch iron pipe; thence north 0°04' east 248.0' to a 5/8" iron rod, which iron rod lies south 89°28' west 130.0' from a 2¼" iron pipe marking the initial part of Brasfield Addition; thence continuing north 0°04' east 30.0' to the north line of Section 12; thence south 89°28' west along the north line of Section 12, at a distance of 215.0' to the point of beginning, SAVE AND EXCEPT, that portion of the above-described tract of land lying within the boundaries of public roads and highways.

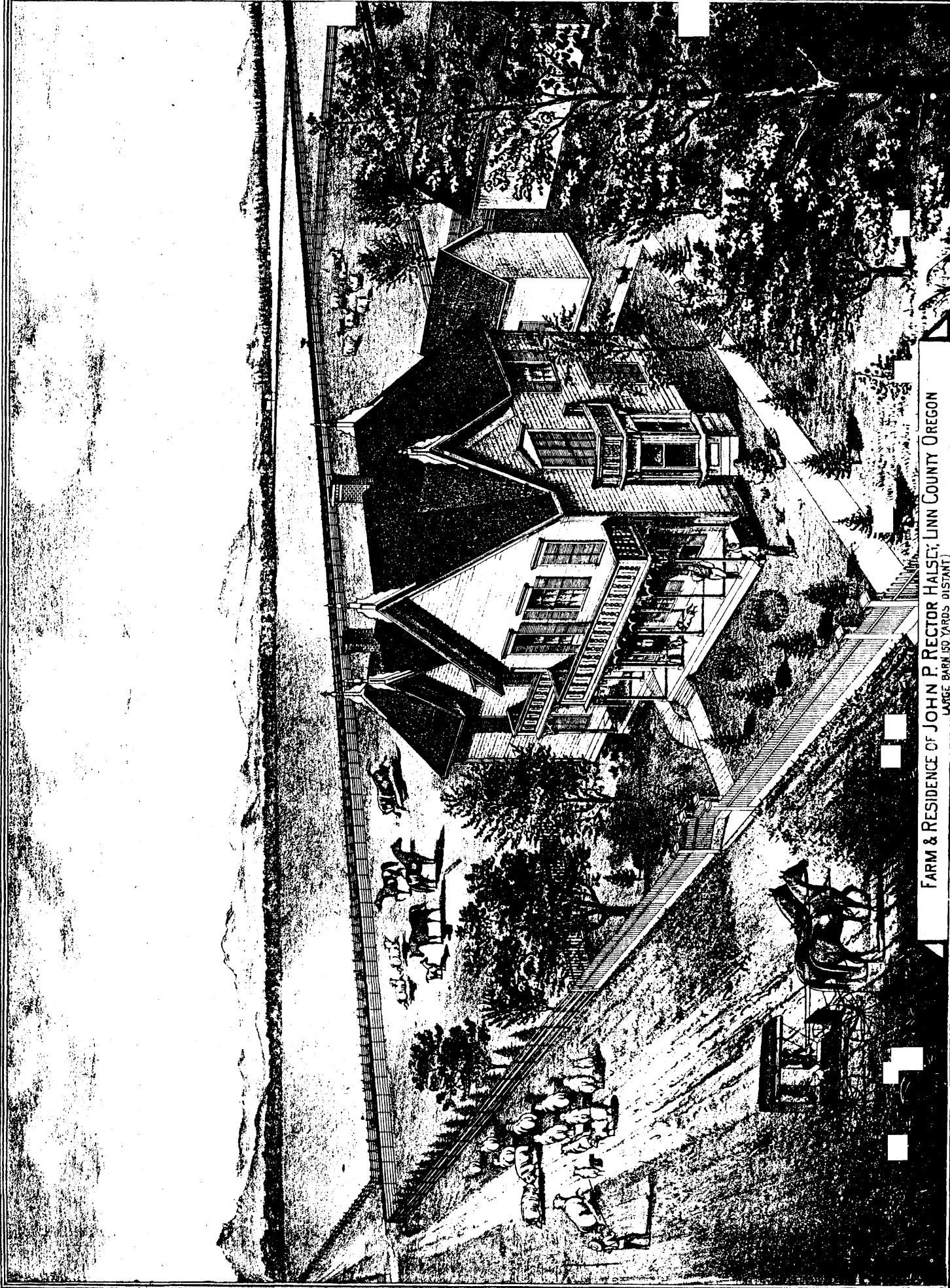
* NOTE: The south 30' of the above-described parcel proposed for nomination is presently in dispute owing to a surveyor's error. A 30' strip on the south side of the parcel could be awarded to a neighboring owner as a result. 8-11-80



GRAIN FARM & RESIDENCE OF W. M. POWERS, SHEDD STATION, LINN CO. OREGON.



FARM & RESIDENCE OF



FARM & RESIDENCE OF JOHN P. RECTOR HALSEY, LINN COUNTY, OREGON
 LARGE BARN 150 YARDS DISTANT

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.—CONCLUDED.

Susanna Earl, who was the daughter of John Earl, an old resident of Pennsylvania. After marriage, Mr. Randall set to work to make a home and accumulate some property. In 1835 he purchased a city property in Smithport; this he kept for about a year, and sold out. He then emigrated to Illinois, where he followed his occupation of carpentering.

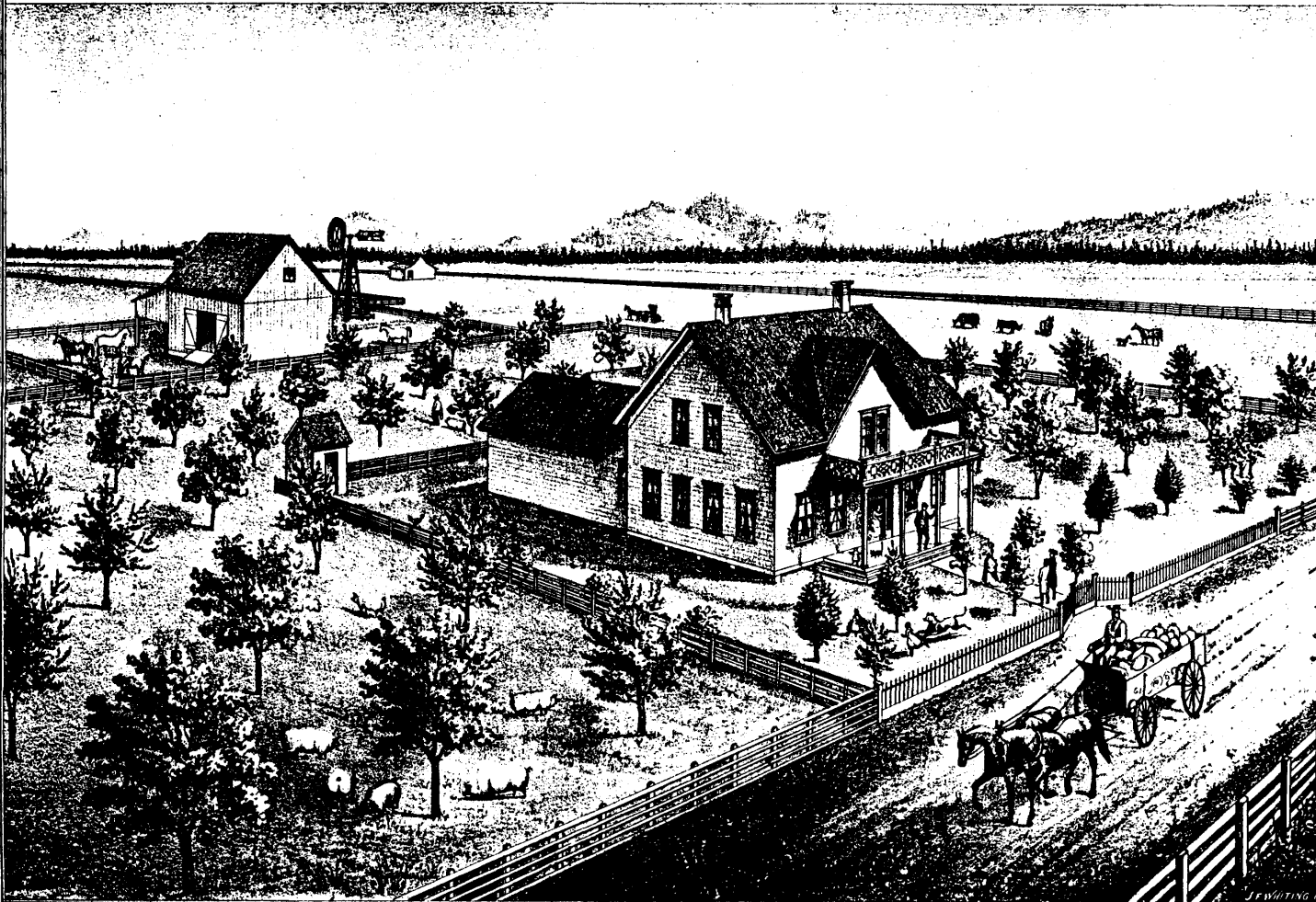
In 1847, he started for Oregon overland with an ox team, taking with him his wife and four children. The journey was a long one, grass and water being scarce, and the Indians somewhat troublesome.

In the Fall of the same year, he arrived at Oregon City, having been about seven months on the road. At Oregon City he remained eight months, working at his trade, when he went to Polk County and took up a claim. He remained on this farm two years, improving and fencing it. He then sold out and removed to Salem, where he bought property and worked at his trade. At Salem he succeeded well, earning eight dollars per

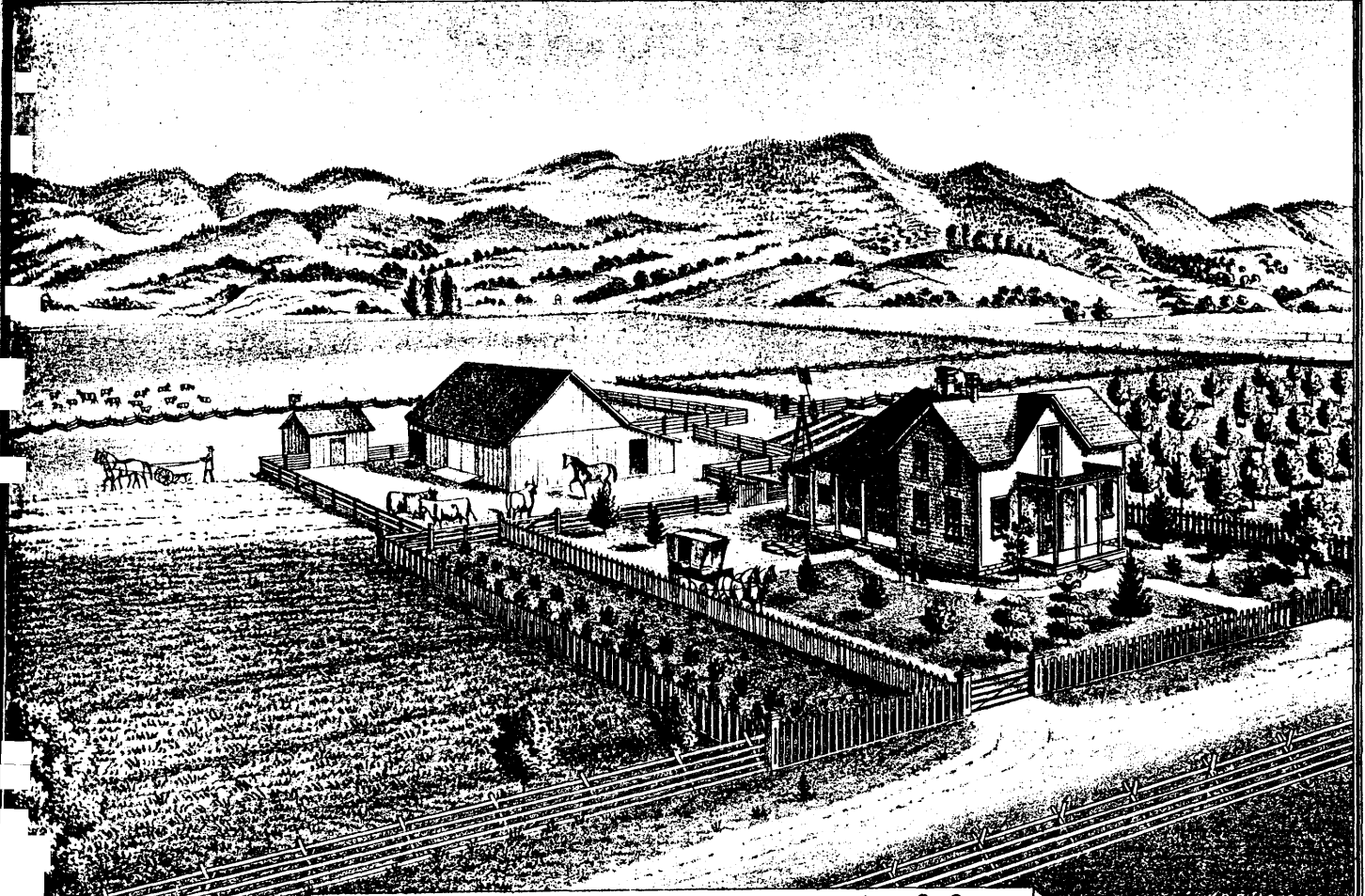
day for his services. He staid at Salem four months, and then removed to the forks of the Santiam, and bought the farm that he now owns. It was but little improved, and its present good condition is almost entirely due to the industry of Mr. Randall. This farm lies about one mile south of Scio, on the Scio & Lebanon Wagon Road. At the present time it is one of the best farms in the precinct. At one time it comprised about 600 acres of fine farming land. He has had nine children, four of whom are still living. Darius, the oldest, born in Pennsylvania, in 1837, who fell in battle against the Indians, July 5, 1877. He was captain of a company of volunteers. He was a good citizen and gallant soldier, and perished while defending the frontier from the ruthless savage. The occurrence was as follows: Hearing of a battle having been fought at Cottonwood with the Indians, he hastily formed a company of seventeen young men, and on account of his known courage and many qualities, he was elected captain unanimously. On their

way to the scene of conflict they were intercepted by about 130 savages. The brave little band cut their way out, but their captain fell fighting bravely. His death filled many hearts with sorrow, as he was universally beloved. Chester E. was born in Pennsylvania, in 1840, and now lives in Lake County, Oregon; Elisha S., born in Pennsylvania, in 1842, died in 1860; Mary S., born in 1844, is married and lives within a mile of her parents; Catherine L., born in 1849, in Oregon; she died in 1868; she was married at the time; Julia A., born in Oregon, in 1851, and died in 1872; Sarah J., born in 1854, in Oregon; is married and lives at Scio; John Gilbert, born in 1856, in Oregon, died in 1868; Albert E., born in Oregon, in 1859, now lives at home.

The children are all grown, and are honorable members of society. Mr. Randall is a man who is fond of domestic and home enjoyments, and takes little active interest in politics. He is one possessing the confidence and esteem of all.

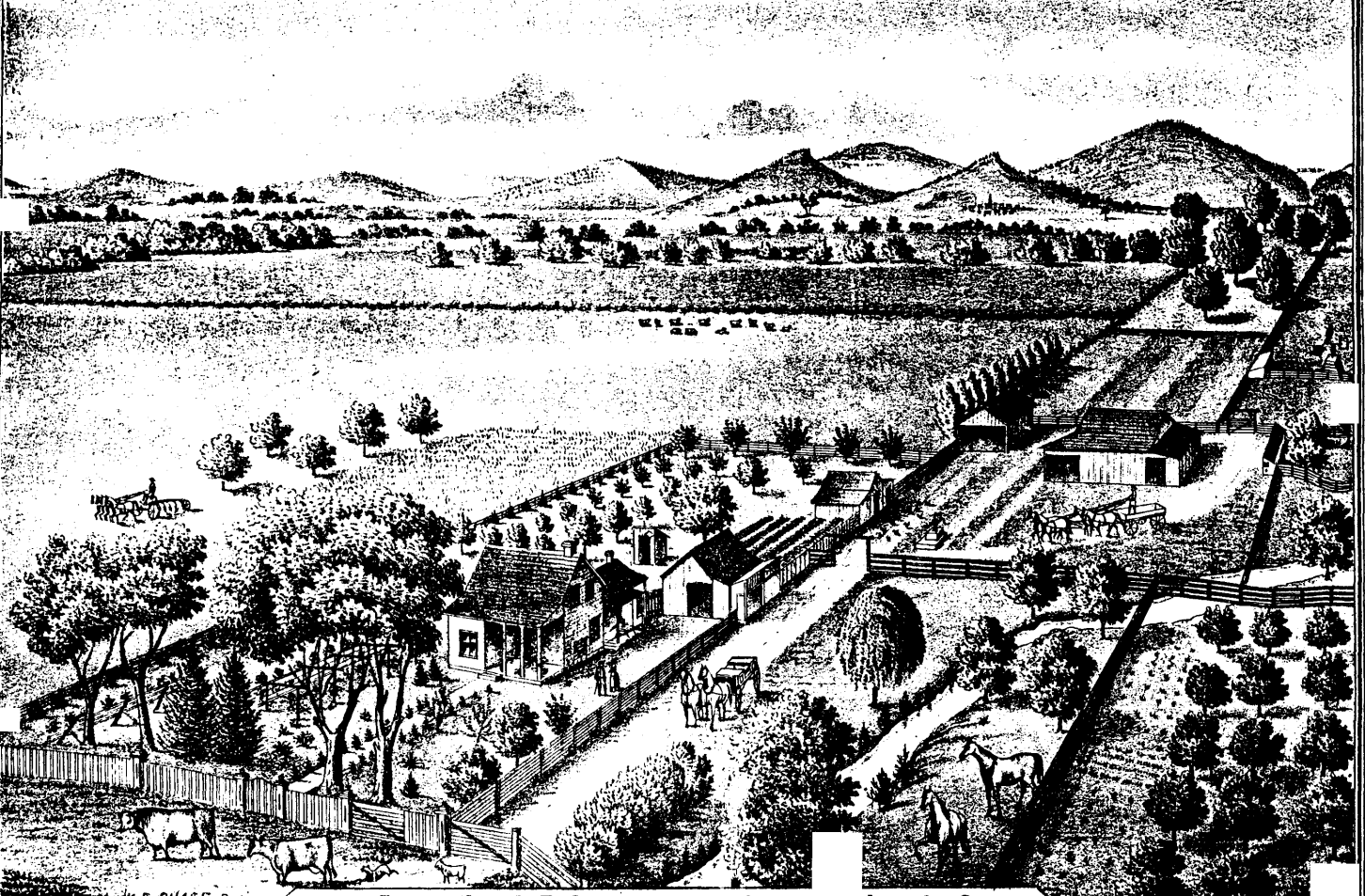


FARM RESIDENCE JAMES R. TEMPLETON, 2 MILES EAST HALSEY, LINN COUNTY, OREGON.



FARM & RES OF CHAS. M. GRIMES NEAR HARRISBURG LINN CO. OREGON

W.B. CHASE Del.

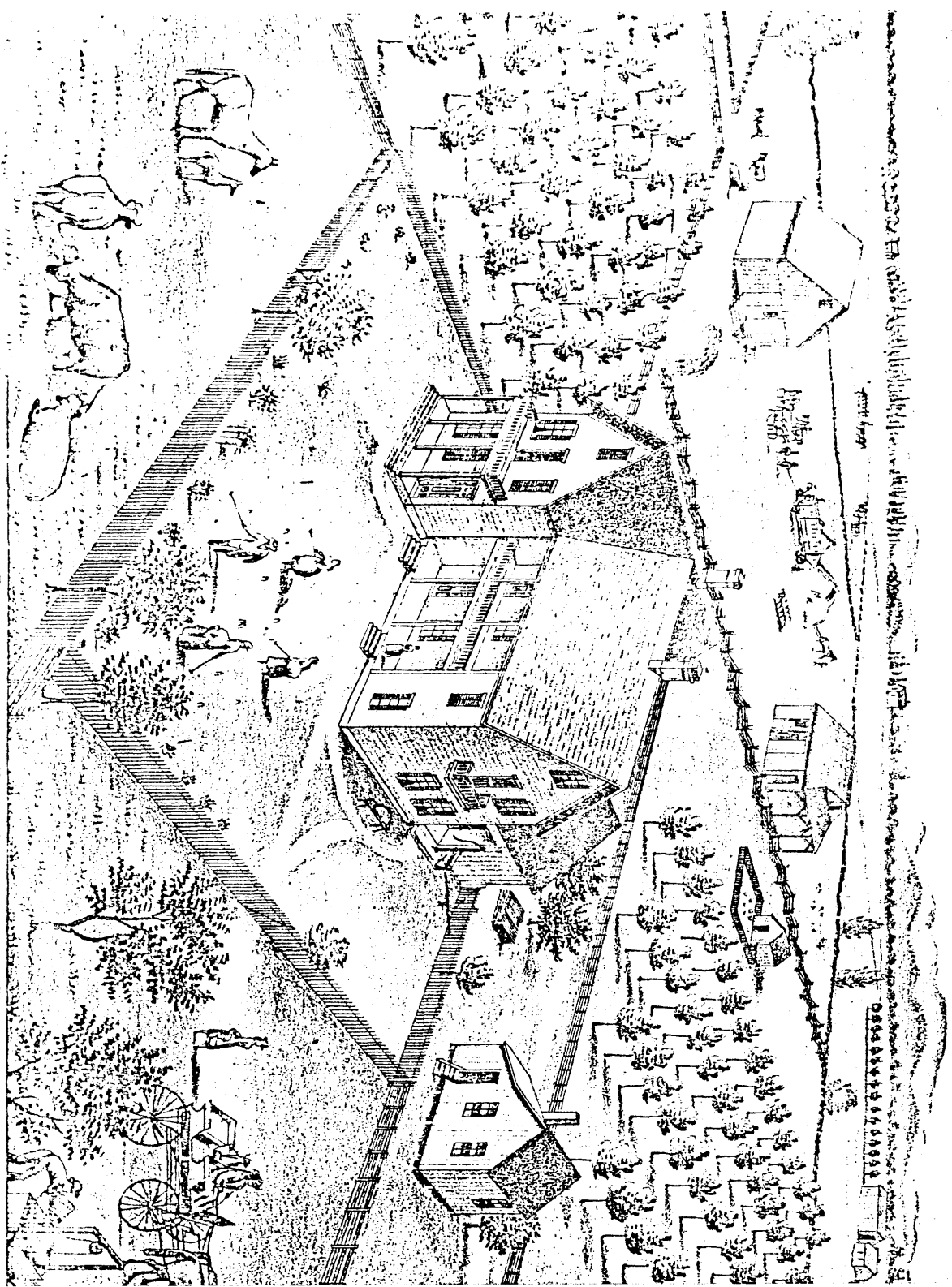


FARM & RES. OF HON. B. R. GRIMES, NEAR HARRISBURG, LINN CO., OREGON.

W. B. CHASE Del.

NOV 21 1980

PORTER (DAVID P.) HOUSE (PORTER-BRASFIELD HOUSE), SHEDD, LINN COUNTY, OREGON
Lithographed view, looking southwest, from Edgar Williams & Co.'s 1878
ILLUSTRATED HISTORICAL ATLAS MAP OF MARION AND LINN COUNTIES



FARM & RESIDENCE OF D. P. PORTER, SHEDD STATION, LINN CO

SEP 10 1980