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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 instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Potter, Miles B. and Eleanor, House

other names/site number Wild Rose Farm

2. Location

street & number 4095 Belmont Drive N/A not for publication

city or town Hood River vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Hood River code 041 zip code 97031

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James Hamrick 8/31/92
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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 of the Keeper Belore Byer Entered in the National Register Date of Action 10/8/92

Potter House
Name of Property

Hood River, Oregon
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Stick Style/Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls wood: weatherboards

roof asphalt: composition shingles

other _____

Narrative Description

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

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SUMMARY

The Potter House, a distinctive vernacular Stick Style residence, is located on Belmont Drive in Hood River County, Oregon. The house was constructed by Miles B. and Eleanor Potter ca. 1885 and is one of the oldest buildings in Hood River County. Buildings of this age and style are rare in the Hood River Valley. Although a vernacular adaptation of the Stick Style, the Potter House reflects the style in its: vertical emphasis, sunburst and stickwork patterns, decorative gable ornaments, steeply pitched cross-gable roof, balcony, tall one over one double-hung and bay windows, shiplap siding and wood-frame construction.

Eastlake elements, frequently used in combination with the Stick Style, displayed on the Potter House are found in the porch details which include rows of spindles and knobs, turned post posts, cut-out designs and jigsaw brackets. Distinctive detailing on the residence include the projecting molded windows and door cornices, and the hoods sheltering the front elevation windows. The hoods are finished with scalloped or sawtooth decoration. The king-posts that project above the apex of the gable heighten the verticality and delicacy of the building. Although portions of the house are in a deteriorated condition, the meticulousness of the construction is evident in the beautifully crafted bay window, porch details and gable ornamentation.

SETTING

The Miles B. and Eleanor Potter House is located on Belmont Drive near the intersection of Methodist Lane on Tax Lot 300, Section 3B, T2N, R10E, Willamette Meridian. The house is located on the south side of Belmont Drive on a flat parcel of land in rural residential setting. An open field, part of tax lot, is east of the property and is divided from the land surrounding the residence by a barbed wire fence. Residences are south and west of the house. Newer residences are north of the house across Belmont Drive. The nominated area measures approximately 320 feet (north-south) by 177 feet (east-west) and includes the house, a small barn, and a mobile home; the nominated area is a portion of Tax Lot 300.

A long gravel driveway extends along the western edge of the property which terminates at a gravel parking area on the west

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side of the house. A concrete driveway is located adjacent the gravel lot in front of the new garage addition. The parcel is sparsely planted with only few deciduous and fir trees scattered around the the lot. Fir and deciduous trees line the western boundary of the property. Mature apple trees and a willow tree are south of the house.

HOUSE-EXTERIOR (CONTRIBUTING BUILDING)

The vernacular Stick Style house is two and one-half stories with a daylight basement under the main volume of the house. Primarily L-shaped in plan, the building measures approximately 36'5" east-west and 57'0' north-south. The main portion of the building is intersected by a lower two-story ell on the south elevation. A new one story garage addition, supported by a concrete foundation, is attached to the south elevation of the rear extension. The addition is somewhat lower than the back ell. The majority of the house is supported on a field stone foundation.

The main building volume is covered with a steep intersecting gable roofs with slightly flared eaves; distinctive twin gables project from the rear of the house. The rear extensions are covered with gable roofs finished with flared eaves. Composition shingles clad the roof. Two corbelled chimneys cap the main portion of the house. The front facing gable is embellished with a jigsaw gable ornament designed in a circular pattern. The gable ornament's king posts on the east and west elevations extends above the apex culminating at a carved cross-shaped finial. The king post on the front facing gable also extends above the roof line but terminates with a point. The deep eaves, clad with beaded boarding, projects over the frieze board.

The exterior of the house is clad with shiplap siding finished with cornerboards. The top of the cornerboards are embellished with small jigsaw brackets. The majority of the windows are one over one double-hung windows with curved stops. Distinctive window hoods decorate the tops of the windows. The first story windows on the side elevations are surmounted by deep molded window cornices; the second story side elevation windows are capped with slightly projecting cornices. A small window hood with a scalloped hood, tops the gable end window on the west elevation. The paired front elevation windows on both the first and second stories are capped with beautifully detailed window

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hoods. The bottom edge of the hoods are finished with sawtooth or scalloped edges. More recent windows (1940s) were added to the gable ends on the south elevation; new one over one double-hung windows were installed on the east elevation of the rear extension.

Bay windows are located on the east and west elevations of the building. The two-story bay on the east elevation is surmounted with a gable roof. The gable roof has flared eaves and is embellished with a jigsaw gable ornament and diagonal stickwork. A projecting molding course caps the bays which are separated by recessed panels topped with a scalloped molding. Recessed panels also decorate the lower portion of the bays. A small single-story rectangular bay with a shed roof is located adjacent the west side entrance porch. Recess panels decorate the areas above and below the double-hung windows of the bay. Remnants of the original bay skirting which covered the foundation is on the north elevation. The vertical skirting is designed with cut-out patterns.

The central focus of the front elevation is the finely crafted porch and balcony, although in a deteriorated condition. The balcony is covered with a gable roof with slightly flared eaves; the balcony gable is nestled in the front facing gable in the north elevation. A sunburst ornament decorates the end of balcony gable and a jigsaw ornament decorates the apex. The ceiling of the first story porch is designed in a geometric pattern accomplished with diagonal boarding. The porch is supported with turned porch posts and jigsaw brackets. Cut-out designs embellish the friezes on both the lower and upper stories. The front porch balustrade is comprised of knobs and spindles.

The exterior doors are capped with projecting cornices. A single-light transom tops the east elevation entrance door. Multi-colored glass panes surround a larger central clear glass pane on the front entrance door. A transom with small colored glass panes caps the front door. The original door bell is intact. The upper porch door is comprised of two recessed panels below and two long single panes above with rounded heads. A transom tops the door.

INTERIOR

The interior of the main volume of the Potter House is symmetrical in plan. The first floor of the house is divided into five rooms;

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the living room, dining room, two parlors and a bathroom. Four bedrooms are located upstairs in the main volume of the house. The back ell contained the kitchen and a room originally for the hired help and the upstairs was divided into two rooms used for the servant's quarters.

The front door leads to the entrance area containing the main staircase to the second floor. The parlor is on the east side of the staircase and the living room is on the west side. The staircase is constructed of oak and is comprised of turned balusters and newel post. The newel post has an octagonal base and a turned top.

The parlor is located east of the entrance stairs and has a large bay window on the east wall. Finely crafted wood panelled wainscotting lines the bottom one-third of the room. An opening on the south wall leads to the second parlor. An entrance door is located on the east elevation of the room. In the northwest corner of the parlor, a small hallway, containing doors to the basement and bathroom, leads to the dining room. Vertical board wainscotting lines the curved hallway to the dining room.

An exterior door is located on the south elevation of the dining room. A large opening on the south elevation leads to the back ell. The back ell contains the kitchen and servant's quarters. In the back of the ell, stairs ascend to the second story. The new garage is accessed via a door on the south elevation of the ell.

The majority of the hardware is intact. The doors retain the original lock boxes and porcelain knobs. The four panel doors are of mortise and tendon construction. All the door hinges are made of metal pressed with a decorative design. One of the hinges from the front screen door is stamped "Stearns, Syracuse, N.Y., December 25, 1888."

NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

Mobile Home

A mobile home is located directly east of the rear extensions. The mobile home functions as the residence of the current owners while the house is undergoing restoration/rehabilitation. The

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mobile home will be removed after the restoration process is complete.

Barn

The barn, constructed ca. 1976, is located directly south of the house and is covered with a low pitched gable roof. Large wood doors, on a sliding track, are on the north elevation. The barn is constructed of vertical boarding. Stock pens are east and west of the barn.

ALTERATIONS / REHABILITATION

Exterior alterations have been minimal. New windows were added to the south gable ends in the 1940s and new one over one double-hung wooden windows have been added to the east elevation (1991). Two one over one double-hung windows replaced deteriorated windows on the west elevation of the ell (1991). A window replaced a door opening on the south elevation of the west entrance porch (1991). A one story garage addition has been built on the south end of the rear extension. Great care has been taken to duplicate the flared eaves and shiplap siding used in the design of the original portion of the house. One over one double-hung wood sash windows have been installed in the new section which are compatible with the original window type. At one time an open carriage house was reportedly in the location of the the new garage.

Plans for the interior of the house include all new plumbing and wiring, and the installation of new ceiling and wallboard. The configuration of the internal rooms will be maintained in the rehabilitation process. Using historic photographs, the front porch will be restored to its original appearance. The owners plan to replicate the historic color scheme found in paint chips on the body of the house. They also intend to re-establish the original circular gravel driveway in front of the house.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Settlement

Social history

Period of Significance

c. 1885-1908

Significant Dates

c. 1885

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Miles B. and Eleanor Potter

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Miles B. Potter

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Potter House
Name of Property

Hood River, Oregon
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.3 acres Hood River, Oregon-Washington 1:24000

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

1	110	612360	51061071010
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sally Donovan

organization Donovan and Associates date February 28, 1992

street & number 111.5 Third Street telephone (503) 386-6755

city or town Hood River state Oregon 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

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Jeff and Barbara Cooper

street & number 4095 Belmont Drive telephone (503) 386-7406

city or town Hood River state Oregon zip code 97031

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Miles B. and Eleanor Potter House, constructed ca. 1885, is significant under Criterion c as a well-preserved example of a vernacular Stick Style residence. The Potter House is one of the oldest residences in the Hood River Valley and is associated with the early development of the Belmont District, southwest of Hood River proper. Miles B. Potter, a carpenter by trade, constructed the residence on his acreage known as the Wild Rose Farm. Potter's skill is evident in the finely crafted bay windows, gable ornaments, Eastlake porch details, window and door cornices and decorative stickwork. Although in a deteriorated condition, the building reflects salient elements of the Stick Style in its massing, details and decorative features.

The Potter House is also significant under Criterion b for its association with Miles and Eleanor Potter, early settlers in the Belmont District of Hood River. In 1875, the Potters arrived in Hood River as part of the Mansfield Pacific Colony, a religious based group from Pennsylvania and New York. They soon became leaders in the community, as the Belmont District developed around their family farm. The Potters were instrumental in the founding and construction of the Belmont Methodists Episcopal Church in 1886 and had one the largest farms in the area.

MILES B. AND ELEANOR POTTER HOUSE

The Potter House or the Wild Rose Farm is an excellent example of a vernacular Stick Style residence in Hood River County. The residence, one of the oldest in the county, was constructed by Miles B. and Eleanor Potter ca. 1885 and displays distinctive characteristics of the Stick Style. The Stick Style derived from the earlier Gothic Style inspired from publications such as Andrew Jackson Downing's, *The Architecture of the County House*. The style was considered one of the few truly American architectural styles. According to *Architecture Oregon Style*, the Stick Style "became popular in Oregon because its lack of historic precedent allowed creative interpretation by local carpenters and builders who knew little about historic architecture (Clark, 1983: 78)." Popular in the 1870s to the 1890s in Oregon, the style was known for its use of wood in the construction and decoration of the building.

Although a vernacular adaptation of the style, the Potter House reflects the style in its: vertical emphasis, sunburst and

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stickwork on the gable ends, decorative gable ornaments, steeply pitched cross-gable roof, balcony, tall one over one double-hung windows, bay windows, shiplap siding and wood-frame construction. Eastlake elements were frequently used in combination with the Stick Style. Eastlake elements displayed on the Potter House are found in the porch details which include rows of spindles and knobs, turned post posts, cut-out designs and jigsaw brackets. Distinctive detailing on the residence include the projecting molded windows and door cornices, and the hoods sheltering the front elevation windows. The hoods are finished with scalloped or sawtooth decoration. The king-posts that project above the apex of the gable heighten the verticality and delicacy of the building. Although portions of the house are in a deteriorated condition, the meticulousness of the construction is evident in the beautifully crafted bay windows, porch details and gable ornamentations. The house was constructed with square nails.

Land Acquisitions

A mortgage deed, filed in 1877, indicates that the Potters lived on Phelps Creek (around the present-day 500 block of Country Club Road) prior to purchasing the land on Belmont Drive. The Potters purchased land and a dwelling on Phelps Creek from David Bowan for \$400 in gold coins. The mortgage agreement stipulated that Bowan would be paid in three installments; \$100 in 1877, \$100 in 1878 and the balance of \$200 in 1879. Bowan was listed in the mortgage agreement as being of the "same residence" as the Potters.

The deed in Mortgage Book A, pp. 34-35 shows that Miles and Eleanor Potter purchased a saw mill and "tenement" on Phelps Creek (probably named after C.W. Phelps, one of the original Mansfield Pacific colonists) on February 20, 1877. The mortgage agreement states, "All of a certain frame or structure designed for a Saw Mill situated on Phelps Creek in Hood River Precinct, County and State aforesaid together with the turbine wheel, tools and water preveleges belonging to the same. Also certain tenement situated in said formerly occupied by S.D. Frank and the said David Bowan as a Family Dwelling." The Potters most likely lived on Phelps Creek until they constructed their Belmont home.

The total value of their property on Phelps Creek in 1878 was \$1,200. The majority of the value was in the form of shares, notes and money (\$675). At that time, the Potters had three

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horses (value \$130), five cattle (\$35), implements (\$100) and household furniture (\$100).

Potter filed a claim with the Register Land Office in The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon on June 21, 1892 (Patent Book M, p. 448). The Potters claimed 160 acres in Section 3, Township 2 North, Range 10 East on the south side of Belmont Drive. Although exact records of Potter's land transactions are unclear, Miles and Eleanor sold three acres of their claim to their daughter, Ida M. McFarland, in 1886. This establishes that the Potters owned the land where the subject property was built by 1886. Most likely the Potters settled the land and then recorded the claim at a later date.

The Potter House was constructed by 1892 as indicated in the 1892-94 assessment records (assessment records were missing from the 1880s at the Wasco and Hood River county offices, and the Oregon State Archives). The 1892 and 1894 records showed the gross value of the Potter property at \$1,380 and \$1,415 respectively. The "value of improvements" to the property was assessed at \$1,200 for both years indicating a substantial dwelling on the property. The assessment of the property remained approximately the same until 1902.

Although the exact construction date of the house is unavailable, county records and historic research indicate that the house was built ca. 1885 by Miles B. Potter. Potter was a carpenter and cabinet maker by trade and is credited with the construction of the finely crafted residence. Potter was known throughout the valley for his skill as a furniture maker and carpenter. He was responsible for the construction of the Belmont Methodist Episcopal Church on the north side of Belmont Drive opposite the Potter house.

The Potter House or the Wild Rose Farm was often the scene of social gatherings of neighboring Belmont residents and church members. Eleanor Potter was well respected in the community and often hosted community events such as weddings, parties and church meetings. Edith Potter was married in her parents' home as stated in an August 20, 1898 edition of the Hood River *Glacier*:

Married in Hood River, August 18, 1898 Mr. Benjamin L. Davidson and Miss Edith Potter. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M.B. Potter, who are among the

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oldest families of Hood River. The groom is a worthy man who is a theological student in M.E. Church. The wedding took place at the home of the bride's parents, which was elaborately decorated. Many valuable presents were bestowed upon the happy couple. The Glacier extends congratulations.

The Potter residence was once surrounded by oak and fir trees and the land west of the house to Methodist Lane (once part of the original acreage) functioned as a community gathering place. The grounds were often used for religious revival meetings as well as the scene of social gatherings. Mrs. Potter gave a going-away party for Lottie Hodgson, a friend of Eleanor's daughter. The *Glacier* covered the event in which the grounds were described:

*The grounds surrounding the Potter mansion were illuminated, and the ladies, with their pretty summer dresses, presented a pleasing picture as they indulged in games on the lawn. An organ was placed under a beautiful spreading oak, and here the young people passed the time away singing until refreshments were served (*Glacier*, September 1, 1899).*

In 1898, the Potters held a Halloween Social at their home in which everyone from the surrounding area was invited. The morning after the party, the Potter home was the scene of a Halloween prank. The family cow was found harnessed to the dog cart and hitched to the parsonage gate (*Glacier*, November 4, 1898).

The Wild Rose farm served the Belmont community for many years and was known as one of the "very best to be found in this part of the country (*The History of Central Oregon: 1905, 272*)." The estate was valued at \$3,000 in 1905. The acreage was sold to the Potter's daughter, Ida McFarland, in 1908 and the Potters moved to Portland. The McFarlands owned the property until 1931 when it was sold to William A. Isenberg. The Isenbergs occupied the house until Conrad and Emma Cooper purchased the house in 1941. Emma Cooper, after the death of her husband, sold the house to Charles and Geraldine Cooper in 1975. The Coopers in turn sold the property to their son and daughter-in-law Jeff and Barbara Cooper. The Coopers are in process of restoring the "Wild Rose." The Potter House is listed as a Hood River County Landmark and was listed in the 1976 State of Oregon Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings.

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THE POTTER FAMILY AND BELMONT DISTRICT

Miles B. and Eleanor Potter settled in the Hood River Valley in 1875. The Potter family, originally from the East Coast, migrated to the area with a group known as the Mansfield Pacific Colony. Miles B. Potter was born on the East Coast near Troy, Pennsylvania in September 1841 to Elisha and Minerva Moore Potter. Both his mother and father were among the earliest settlers of Pennsylvania who came from England. Miles became a skilled cabinet maker, and in 1862, he married Eleanor Burgess (19 years old), also a native of Pennsylvania. Eleanor Potter was born in Bradford County, Pennsylvania on January 10, 1843 to William C. and Mariette Burgess. William was a native of Chenango County, New York and Mariette Burgess was a native of Bradford County, Pennsylvania, a descendant of the William Burgess family who came over on the Mayflower (*The History of Central Oregon*, 1905: 272)

On August 23, 1862, Miles B. Potter enlisted in Company C, Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry and served as a private in the Civil War until 1865 (Heverly, 1908: 266). At the Battle of Stone River, Potter's horse was shot. Miles was pinned under the animal for over two and one-half hours (*Glacier*, May 11, 1895). The fall injured Potter's back, causing his transfer to the Veteran Reserve Corps. The injury bothered him throughout his life, often making it difficult to pursue his trade.

In 1875, the Potters joined the Pacific Mansfield Colony, followers of Methodism, which banded together to migrate to the Hood River Valley in Oregon. The colony was lead by Reverend H.S. Parkhurst who had made the trip to the area in past years. Parkhurst had been encouraged by Dr. Percy Barrett, an early pioneer in the Hood River Valley who settled in the area in 1871. A letter sent to members of the colony by a co-leader of the group, Reverend J.S. Palmer of Mansfield, PA, outlined the expenses for the trip. The letter dated October 1, 1875 states

The time for gathering the first detachment to start for Hood River is Monday, October 25, at Elmira N.Y. We will leave Elmira Monday evening or early Tuesday morning. The whole expense of R.R., steamboat, hotel fare and incidental expenses to Hood River, will be about \$100.00 for adults and \$50.00 for children between

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five and twelve years of age. Each whole ticket is entitled to 100 pounds of baggage and half tickets to 50 pounds. All checked baggage over this amount is charged 15 cents a pound. Valises and lunch baskets 10 cents a pound.

We are too scattered to secure special rates for freight. Consign to nearest R.R. Co. as directed in Circular No. 1. The office for correspondence will be kept open at Mansfield for one year. The books will be kept at Hood River, so that after the departure of our company the 25th, fees must be sent there for records instead of to Mansfield.

Greenbacks are better than drafts to send there but be sure and register the letter. Send fees therefore hereafter to Rev. H.S. Parkhurst, Hood River, Oregon. For papers and information, address, always inclosing something to prepay postage, Rev. J.S. Palmer, Mansfield, Tioga Co, Pa. Those living on the line of the railroads can join the colony in Chicago or Omaha one or two days from the time they leave (Smith, letter: 1875).

On October 25, 1875, the first members of the colony left Corning and Elmira, N.Y., on the Number One train bound for Oregon. A New York newspaper upon the members' departure states that there were:

forty-seven adults in the party from this city besides a number of children as the colony is made-up of families entirely. At Corning, they were joined by twenty-one more grown people in families with their children. They were all nice looking folks and started off in the best of spirit. Most of them came for this vicinity, the majority from the neighborhood of Mansfield, Pa. About twenty came from Canton and thereabouts and some from Philadelphia.

They were provided with two special, first class cars and furnished with all the comforts that belong to this method of travel (Elmira Daily Advertiser).

The colony travelled to Buffalo, New York, by rail where their accommodations changed to the Great Western and Michigan Central

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Railroads. Upon their arrival in Chicago, the group again changed railroad companies several times before reaching their destination of Omaha, Nebraska. From Omaha, the colony journeyed to San Francisco. The leader of the group, Reverend Parkhurst died November 13, 1875, in Ogden, Utah. The group, however, continued their journey west, leaving San Francisco for Portland via steamship as cited in the November 11, 1875, *Oregonian*:

Rev. Mr. Parkhurst, the leader of the colony from the Atlantic States, which arrived here on the Steamer Ajax Tuesday evening, while crossing the continent fell sick at Ogden with a malignant attack of typhoid fever and was compelled to be left behind. The colony consists of about 97 persons. Most of the members of the colony came from the old Keystone State, but some hail from New York and Wisconsin. They reached here safely and started up the Columbia yesterday morning, bound for Hood River where they expect to permanently settle. We understand that about 200 persons propose settling up the entire valley of Hood River. Success attends them. Oregon needs just such acquisitions to her population.

The Mansfield Pacific Colony arrived in the present-day town of Hood River on November 10, 1875 numbering about 58. The colony was first housed in long two-story barracks erected for them by local settlers near the present day 13th and Oak streets on part of Henry Coes Donation Land Claim. At that time, the townsite of Hood River had not been platted. The Hood River area had first been settled by the Laughlins and Farnsworth families in 1852. Due to the harshness of the winter of 1852-53, the two pioneer families left the Hood River Valley. Nathaniel and Mary Coe were the next pioneers to settle in the area. The Coes arrived in 1853 and staked a claim in "Dog River," the original name for Hood River. By the fall of 1854, two other families had joined the Coe family and by 1860 the population of the Hood River Valley numbered seventy.

The arrival of the Mansfield Pacific Colony in 1875 substantially boosted the population of the region, nearly doubling its size. Many of the original colony members left the Hood River area due to the harshness of the environment and returned to the East Coast or Portland, a more "civilized town". Many of the colony members who stayed in Hood River organized the Methodist Episcopal Church.

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Although a religious based colony, the group members apparently did not segregate themselves from the rest of the small community of Hood River but keep close contact with one another through church activities.

The Hood River area continued to grow after the arrival of the colony and in 1881, the townsite of Hood River was platted in anticipation with the coming of the Oregon Water Railway and Navigation Railway Company (O.W.R. & N.). Four blocks were platted along with the site for the railroad depot. The O.W.R. & N. Railroad connected Hood River with Portland in 1882, marking the end to the isolation of the region.

As the small townsite of Hood River grew at a steady rate, many pioneers settled in the outlying areas drawn by the desire for free land. The Belmont District soon became known for its beautiful vistas of both Mount Hood and Mount Adams as well as for its agricultural potential. A September 6, 1895 Hood River *Glacier* news item states:

Belmont has become one of the most popular summer resorts in the valley, nearly half of the families having summer boarders from Portland and other valley places. The tourists all praise and admire our beautiful scenery. Their admiration being especially aroused by the grand panorama made the tall peaks of Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams.

The Belmont District boasted of its own band, winning baseball team, comedy club, ice-cream socials and the "most harmonious neighborhood that one can find, and the young people are a credit to any community (*Glacier*, August 18, 1894)."

The Potters filed a claim in the Belmont District on a 160 acre tract of land and constructed the Wild Rose Farm ca. 1885. Miles and Eleanor Potter built the eighteen room residence for their family which included four children Ida, Frank, William B. and Happy D.

Miles B. Potter is listed in the 1890 and 1900 Wasco County census as a farmer. In 1905, the Potters had ten acres planted to strawberries, six acres to orchards and the remainder to basic crops. Potter was a skilled woodworker by trade and was responsible for the construction of the first church building in

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the Hood River Valley, the Belmont Methodist Episcopal Church, which stood directly north of the Potter House across Belmont Drive. A March 3, 1899, and an April 6, 1900, news item in the Hood River *Glacier* speaks of Potter's skill in his trade:

M.B. Potter has lately finished a handsome secretary, or escritoire, that shows the skill of the master workman he is. Though badly crippled and prematurely aged from injuries received in the Civil War, the old veteran is not so slow in executing fine work at his trade (1899).

M.B. Potter has finished his office desk, on which he had labored at odd times for a year or more, and it is now ready for the painter's art. It is a fine piece of workmanship, of which he may well feel proud. Fifteen kinds of woods were used in its construction, and the manner in which they are inlaid gives a very pleasing effect. The carvings are very neatly executed, showing wonderful skill and patience. When we hold our next Hood River fair it is hoped Mr. Potter may be induced to place the desk on exhibition (1900).

Miles Potter was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) and was active in the Belmont Episcopal Church. He was a well respected farmer and craftsperson in the community. Miles B. Potter died January 7, 1916 in Portland, his place of residence since 1908. He was buried in Hood River.

Eleanor Potter was known throughout the Hood River Valley for her devotion to the Belmont Methodist Church which she helped organize. She is described in *The History of Central Oregon, 1905*, as a "prominent and influential lady of the Hood River Valley" and "known as a church worker and a zealous laborer for all enterprises that tend to benefit and upbuild the community." Eleanor Potter died in Portland at 564 East 6th Street on February 29, 1924, five days after her daughter, Ida, died.

Only two of the Potter children reached a mature age. Happy Potter died in Los Angeles at the age of 25 in 1897, leaving a son, Miles subsequently resided with the Potter family. Edith Potter died at the age of 21 in Hood River on March 21, 1900. She left her husband, Benjamin Davidson, and a daughter, Happy. Ida McFarland died in Portland in March, 1924, leaving the Potter house to her children. One son survived his parents, William B. Potter.

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THE BELMONT METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Potter family was instrumental in the founding and construction of the Belmont Methodist Episcopal Church. Methodism originated in the newly independent American colonies in the late 1700s. At this time, a separate Methodist church was established in the colonies as proclaimed by an early advocate. John Wiley stated that the colonial Methodists should be "totally disentangled from both the state and the English hierarchy" (Schick, no date: 2). In 1874, the American Methodist Episcopal Church was established.

The establishment of Methodism in Oregon was a great influence in the early settlement of the Oregon Country. Jason Lee, a missionary practicing on the East Coast, was commissioned by the Methodist Church in 1833 to establish a mission in the Oregon Territory. Lee left Independence, Missouri on April 28, 1834, and after almost a five month journey arrived in the present-day city of Vancouver, Washington. After a two week stay with the Hudson Bay Company, Lee settled in the Willamette Valley where he established a mission. Three year later, a branch mission was established by Lee in 1837 at Wascopam, now The Dalles. Although the Wascopam mission only operated for about a ten year period, Methodism gained an early foothold in the Columbia Gorge region. Methodism was first introduced into the Hood River Valley in 1871 when Reverend Nehemiah Doane, a pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church in The Dalles, organized an outpost congregation in the Hood River Valley. For the next fifteen years, a small but devoted group of Methodists assembled in the Hood River area to practice and share their beliefs. Several members of the Mansfield Pacific Colony, who arrived in Hood River in 1875, were Methodist and helped further the religion in the valley.

The Belmont Methodist Episcopal Church was the first formally organized Methodist church in the Hood River Valley. The church was organized on May 16, 1886, and was an outgrowth of the regular scheduled Union Sunday school. Reverend Gray, a pastor from The Dalles, organized the first meetings held at the Frankton School. Among the six charter members was Eleanor Potter. Funds were quickly donated for construction of a church building for the newly organized congregation; Miles and Eleanor Potter were major contributors to the project.

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Later in 1886, the congregation constructed the church at the intersection of Belmont Drive and Methodist Lane in the Belmont District southwest of downtown Hood River. The Belmont Methodist Episcopal Church was the first church building in the Hood River Valley. Miles B. Potter along with Frank Sherrieb were responsible for the construction of the building. Potter, a skilled woodworker, constructed the church and Sherrieb supplied and hauled the wood for the project. The church was constructed opposite the Potter's Wild Rose Farm, across Belmont Drive. The church was built for a cost of \$1,300 and dedicated in August, 1887.

Eleanor Potter was a prime organizer for the Belmont Methodist Episcopal Church. She initiated many new activities associated with the church such as the Ladies Aid Society, socials to raise money for the church, regular revival meetings, and the Juvenile Temple Society. The Templars of the Juvenile Temple Society was an organization of young people "pledged against intoxicating drink, tobacco, bad words and quarreling (*Glacier*, Aug. 11, 1894)." Eleanor Potter was superintendent of the organization at their regular Monday night meetings. Eleanor was also the Sunday school teacher at the church. After church events, Eleanor and Miles often hosted social gatherings of church members at the Wild Rose Farm and their acreage west of the residence.

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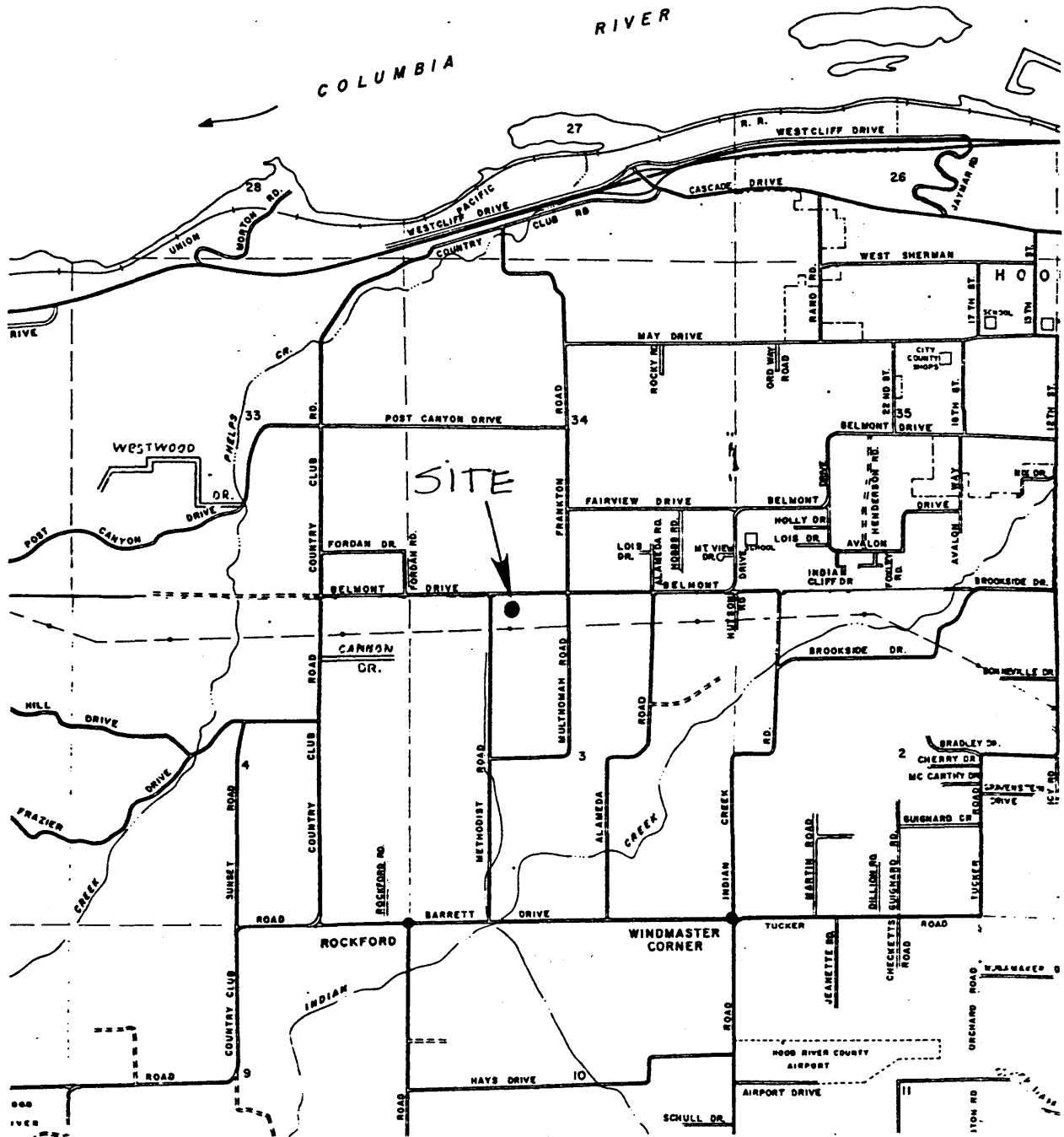
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

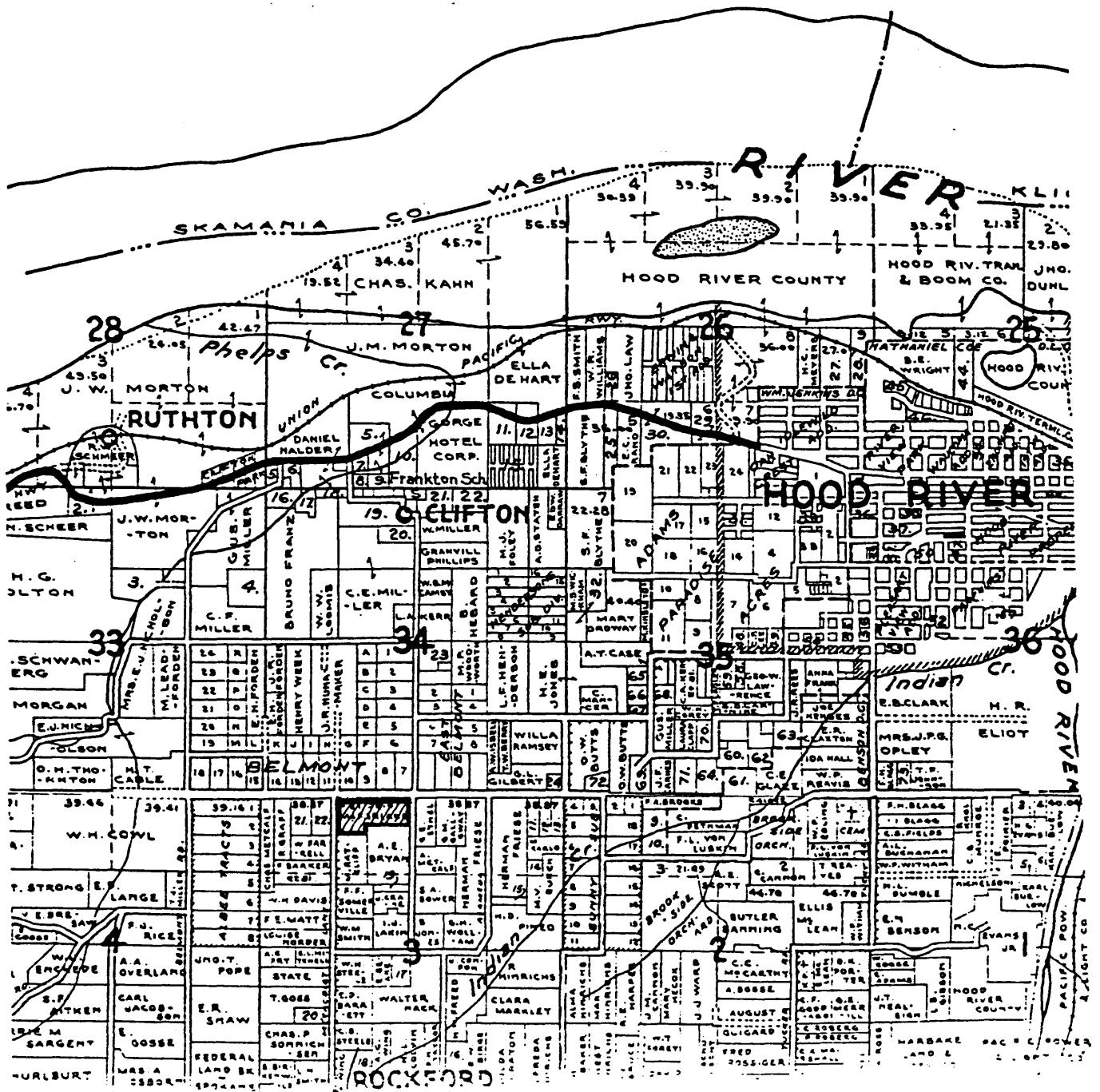
The nominated area of approximately 1.3 acres is comprised of a portion of Tax Lot 300, Section 3B, T2N, R10E, Willamette Meridian. The parcel begins at the NW corner of Tax Lot 300 thence south 320 feet, thence east 177 feet to the fence line, thence north 320 feet along the fence line, thence west 177 feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated area encompasses approximately 1.3 acres and is a portion of Miles B. and Eleanor Potter's original 160 acre land claim. The nominated area includes the land immediately surrounding the house.



Hood River Vicinity Map

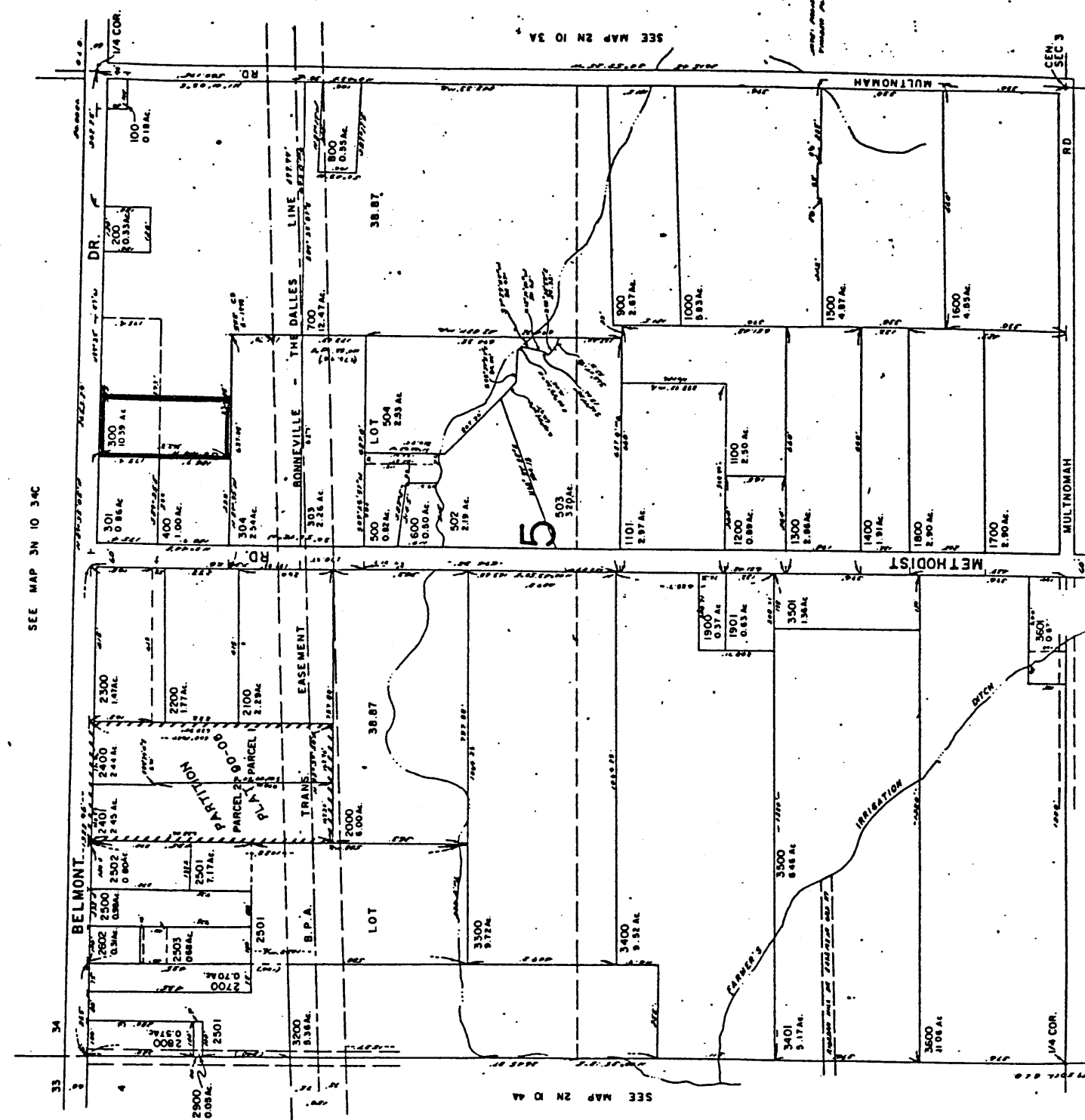


Metzker Map, Hood River County, 1938

1911/7 SEC. 3 1/4 N. T. 12 E. W.M.
 HOOP /ER COUNTY

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 2N 3B

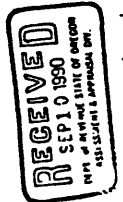
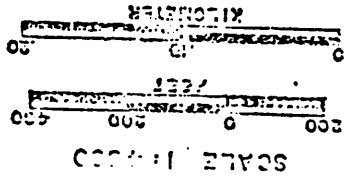
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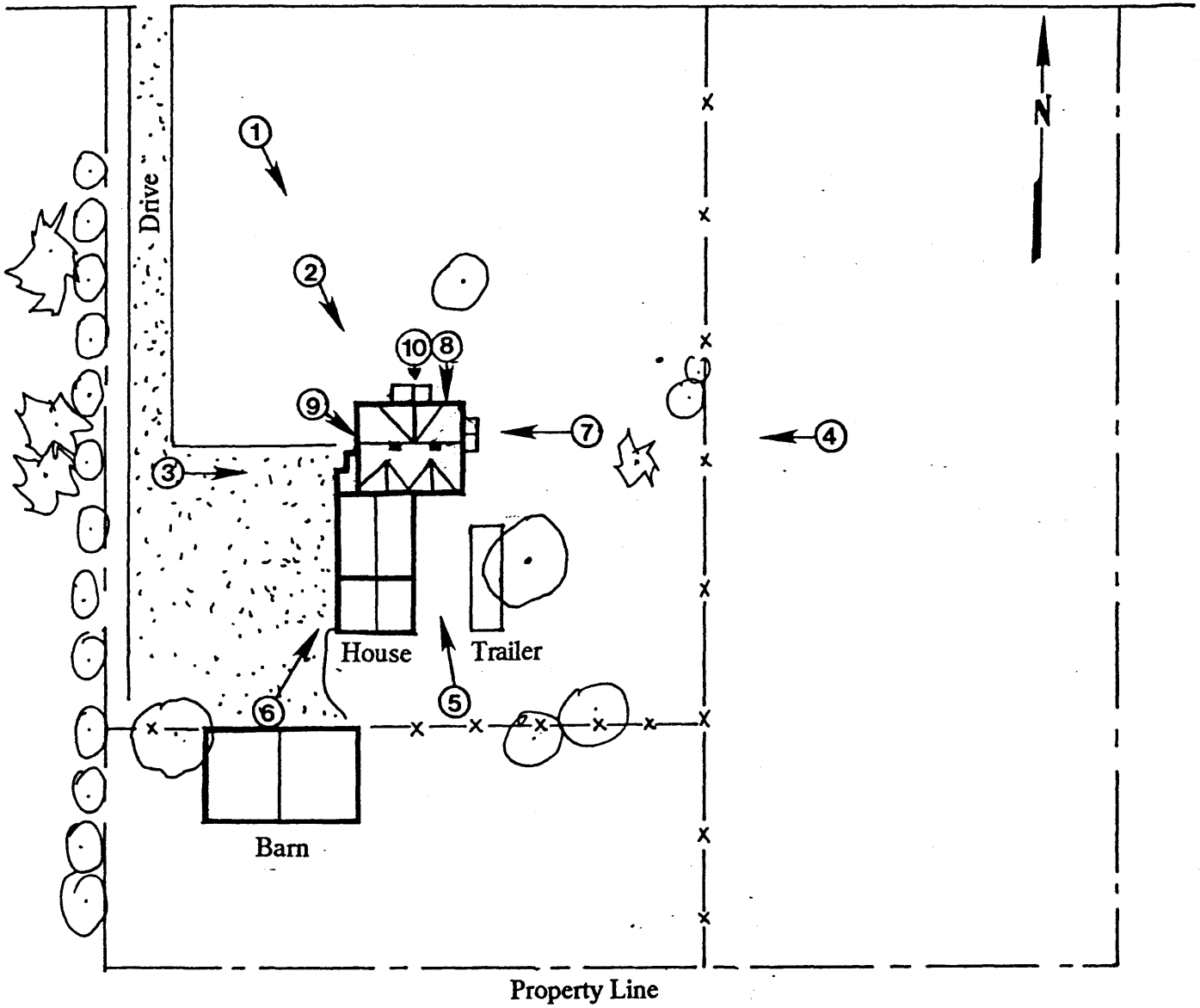
SEE MAP 3N 10 34C

SEE MAP 2N 10 4A

SEE MAP 2N 10 3A



Belmont Drive



Site Plan

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, 97310

County Hood River

Theme _____

Name Cooper (Emma) House
(Common) _____

(Historic) Potter (Miles) House

Address Rt. 3, Belmont Road

Hood River, Oregon

Present Owner Mrs. Emma Cooper

(Address) Belmont Road, Hood River, Ore.

Original Use residence

Date of Construction 1875



JUL 76

f historical significance:

The Miles Potter 18-room house is a 2½ story wood frame structure with a bellcast gable roof. The windows are one-over-one double hung sash with small entablatures. The house is set on a foundation of field stones. The eaves are enclosed by milled boards. On the north (front) elevation is a fragile 2 story front porch. The gable ends of the house have scroll work decorations and the front porch is decorated by spools, turned posts, and a sunburst design on the gable end. The windows on the front elevation have hoods supported by brackets; the hoods are covered with shingles. The front door and the transom have small panes of colored glass. The house has two large brick chimneys with corbelled tops. A projecting 2 story window bay is located on the east elevation. The condition of the house is poor.

Miles Potter was born in September, 1841, near Troy, Pennsylvania, a son of Elisah Potter. He married Eleanor Burgess who was born January 10, 1843, in Bradford County, Pennsylvania. Potter, a cabinet maker, joined the Union Army and served in the Civil War. Broken in health by the war, he emigrated to Hood River in 1875 as a member of the Pacific colony. The Potters purchased 150 acres and erected this eighteen room house. The Potters had four children. They were active Methodists and helped build the Belmont Methodist Episcopal Church near their house.

Continue back if necessary

d By Stephen Dow Beckham Date 6 July 1976 Sources Consulted:

State Historic Preservation Office

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enclose map Township 2 S Range 10 W Section 4