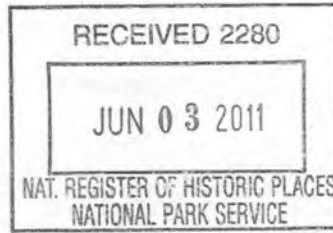


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name FOREST HOUSE

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 4204 HIGHWAY 3

not for publication
 xxx vicinity

city or town YREKA

state CALIFORNIA code CA county SISKIYOU code 093 zip code 96097

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 25 MAY 2011

State Historic Preservation Officer California State Office of Historic Preservation

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain: _____)

Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 7-14-11

FOREST HOUSE

Name of Property

SISKIYOU, CALIFORNIA

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	
6	3	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
6	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Inn

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant: Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Mid-19th Century: Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: **Stone: Sandstone, Wood: Log**

walls: **Wood: Weatherboard**

roof: **Metal; Aluminum (non-original)**

other:

FOREST HOUSE

Name of Property

SISKIYOU, CALIFORNIA

County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The building complex located at the heart of the Forest House Ranch is a cluster of 19th century barns and outbuildings related to the early history of Siskiyou County, California, all centered upon the Forest House itself, a two-story, wood-frame, building built circa 1852 on the Yreka-Fort Jones Road, southwest of Yreka. The Forest House itself is of modest vernacular design with a full-width front porch, central hall/parlor plan and a projecting kitchen wing to the rear. Essentially owned by just two family groups for the past century and a half, the Forest House retains an incredibly high degree of integrity, with original siding, windows, trim and interior finishes existing in virtually all locations. Surrounding barns and outbuildings accurately relate the agricultural and industrial uses of the property. The setting and associated resources add substantially to the Forest House's ability to convey its significance as a large 19th century agricultural and tourism-related operation during the earliest settlement period of Siskiyou County, California.

Narrative Description

Please see the attached continuation sheets, documenting the design and construction of all built resources.

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LOCATION:

The Forest House and the nominated parcel are located approximately five miles west of Yreka, California. The overall character of the property is rural, being a portion of the 3500+ acre Forest House Ranch. In addition to the historic resources within the nominated parcel, including the barns, ice house and bathhouse (discussed below), are several non-historic residential and storage structures that were constructed during the last half of the 20th century.¹ At the western end of the property, approximately .25 miles from house site, a portion of land is now dedicated as "Whispering Pines," a Girl Scouts Day Camp. This largely unimproved facility includes a small storage shed and several picnic tables.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The Forest House Ranch, being the entire property that includes the nominated area and all surrounding fields, is accessed via a "driveway" on the south side of California State Route 3 (SR3), approximately five miles south east of Yreka. The highway route is also known as the Fort Jones Road, or sometimes the Yreka-Fort Jones Highway. Continuing in a generally westerly direction beyond commercial uses within the city limits of Yreka, this roadway passes through sparse residential and agricultural development of mixed character, with large parcels and several early barns that relate the traditional ranching and farming uses of the area. Access to the Forest House Ranch is via a "cut" into grade along a gentle rise in the highway on the way toward the Forest Mountain summit. Leaving the highway, a driveway off the south side of Highway 3 makes a right angle turn and connects to what is now a private paved roadway, the former right-of-way of both Highway 3 and, originally, the route of the "Shasta-Scott Valley Turnpike," the private toll road established in part by the original owners of the Forest House property during the mid-19th century. The paved roadbed continues in a generally westerly direction (parallel to and south of SR3), through open pasture and then past an irrigation pond to the south and remnants of an orchard to the north, for approximately .3 miles to the Forest House and the building core area. The road, which provides all access to the ranch, continues for another .25 miles before entering an "s-curve" that, while gated, offers a return to SR3.²

South, to the rear of the Forest House, Yreka Creek runs roughly parallel to the roadway. A small wooden bridge provides access to a rough dirt roadbed, generally referred to as the former haul road that once provided internal connection to the various early industrial uses on the site. The only remaining built resource south of the creek is the Ice House, located just west of the bridge, within the nominated area.³ The generally flat fields of the building compound rise sharply south of Yreka Creek, and toward the heavily treed Canaan and Uminoffer gulches, that in turn lead to the steep hillsides of the Klamath National Forest.

¹ Please refer to Map 5.0 for a site map, showing all extant structures within the nominated area.
² The s-curves are assumed to be a later modification, following the bypass of the main highway route in 1961, as discussed in Section 8. The original route, visible on aerial photographs, continued west.
³ The former sawmill use was located to the west of the Ice House, outside the nominated area. No element of the sawmill remains. While portions of an early irrigation/power ditch system are evident, leading to the pond adjacent to the Ice House, no other built resources related to the historic period are located outside the nominated portion of the property.

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The remaining portion of the Forest House Ranch property, outside the nominated area, is approximately 3500 acres in size, and consists of open fields, currently used for stock-raising, and forested hillsides to the south and west. The nominated portion of the ranch, containing all the historic built resources, is a generally flat plain north of the creek, below and largely hidden from the elevated route of SR3, as established in 1961 to supplant the route directly in front of the Forest House itself. Other than the agricultural and residential uses of the ranch itself, the closest structure is a non-historic private dwelling approximately .75 miles to the east, on the road from Yreka.⁴ To the west, beyond the highway's passage through "Robbers Rock" and over the Forest Mountain summit, all within the Klamath National Forest, scattered agricultural and rural residential development along the highway eventually blends into the commercial core of the incorporated city of Fort Jones, California.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The overall building footprint of the Forest House is an ell, with a 60'-6" x 30'-0" main volume augmented at the SW corner by a 25'-5" x 20'-0" kitchen/dining wing. The rear kitchen volume is wrapped on two elevations by an 8' wide (approximate) screened-in porch that is below its own, single story, half-hipped roof. An open, two-story, front porch lines the entire width of the north-facing, primary, elevation, and is located below the main gable.

The Forest House rises from a post and pier foundation upon a system of 12" [+/-] diameter round log floor joists that are supported at intermediate points with vertical, milled, 6x6" posts. Foundation stones are mixed, with large flat stones and, in some cases, concrete replacements or augmentation. Some areas of the flooring system (i.e., rear porch areas) are of milled lumber. Perimeter sills are supported by a mixture of random laid stone and brick, with some stucco-coated concrete areas (at the east) and some stucco-coated brick (at the north, beneath the kitchen wing). Interior foundation support includes stucco-coated masonry and stacked-stone walls that function as summer beams, with various evidence of alteration and additional support, especially in the root cellar area located at the SE corner.⁵ The root cellar, approximately 6' tall, is accessed by a sunken two-leaf wooden door and concrete steps located below a small shallow-pitched gable covering, assumed non-original, that is at the rear portion of the east-facing elevation. In this area the original round log floor joists have been additionally supported by milled posts (8x8" and larger) spaced randomly between concrete support pads and the floor system. These posts, somewhat randomly spaced, as well as a secondary beam system, are assumed to have been installed to address building settlement. The secondary system is interspersed with the original round log joists, which remain.

Largely "as built," the foundation of the Forest House is in failing condition as the result of extreme damage from bug infestation (powder-post beetles) and dry rot to the original, bark-covered, log floor joists. Missing or inadequate foundation stones create sag at the sills and lack of stucco on the masonry portions of the foundation has led to significant deterioration, particularly at the rear, brick, areas, where some areas have literally dissolved from extreme spalling and freeze-thaw.

⁴ A large gable barn, located immediately south of SR3 approximately one mile east of Forest House at 2516 Fort Jones Road, was reportedly built as a part of the Forest House operation although is no longer a part of the ranch property.

⁵ Cramped access and debris preclude careful investigation of this area, which might provide physical evidence of the actual construction sequence and modification to the Forest House.

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Significant damage from what appears to be powder-post beetles has reduced the capacity of the floor joists. Most exhibit evidence of compression as the bearing capacity has been reduced, with major crushing of the compromised wood fibers causing uneven settlement. The foundation system at the northern, front, of the building is somewhat unclear, as a poured concrete slab installed circa 1915 obscures the full width of the front façade. This feature, the concrete porch deck, is in generally good condition, with little settlement or cracking.

The main volume of the Forest House, being the roughly 30x60' rectangular portion that faces the roadway, is roofed with a 6/12 gable. This roof was originally shingle or shake clad according to available images but was retrofit with its second metal roof approximately thirty years ago, replacing an earlier metal roof system that had been installed prior to 1962. Whereas the first metal roof appears to have been clear galvanized metal, the current roof (installed c1996) is red metal.

A full-width, two-story, porch lines the front, north-facing, elevation, below the extended main roof plane. Two fine interior red brick chimneys with corbelled tops, both original, are located at the east and west gable-ends of the main volume. A simply-designed stucco-clad brick chimney of early but uncertain vintage is located at the rear, centered on the south-facing gable of the kitchen wing. This latter chimney, in poor condition, with missing stucco and mortar, is of smaller scale than the interior chimneys and lacks their corbelled detailing.

Framing of the Forest House is of rough-sawn, actual-dimension, 3x6" (+/-) lumber, assumed to be Sugar Pine, cut on the property and milled by the D. P. Sanborn Sawmill, as was built on Yreka Creek about 1852.⁶ Studs are spaced sixteen inches on center, with original weatherboard siding, set with a bit more than 6" to weather, and attached to the framing with square head nails. Wide (10") plain cornerboards also remain, some showing evidence of repair at the bottom 18"-14" with matching boards. Cornerboards rise to meet a fine vernacular entablature with two-part frieze boards and crown molding below a boxed soffit on the longitudinal elevations. Eave returns continue this element on all three gable ends, with wide friezes and boxed soffits on both the east- and west-facing ends of the main volume. The rear, south-facing, kitchen wing, gable has no eaves or upper frieze, however it does continue the eave return detail. It is not known if this simpler treatment of the kitchen wing is the original design or a later modification; no known historic images show this area of the property.⁷

The full-width, two-story front porch is supported by six large 8" x 8" columns with chamfered edges above and below full dimension (square, non-chamfered) ends. Each of the posts rises from poured concrete columnar pads, about 18" high, set atop the concrete porch floor. All concrete elements are considered to be 90+ year old modifications from the original construction, which appears to have been a wood porch set. The present design, built circa 1915, according to available historic images, was likely undertaken to address rot and settlement to the original wood porch construction and involved

⁶ See Section 8 for the relationship of the Sanborn mill to the Forest House

⁷ There are some references that suggest the construction of additional wings to the rear of the present kitchen however there is no documentation to verify those claims, nor any conclusive physical information to indicate their construction and subsequent removal. Fred W. Burton's 1965 site plan, as published in the Forest House Issue of the *Siskiyou County Historical Society Yearbook*, shows a "kitchen extension and dining area for help" to the rear of the kitchen (See Map 4). As stated, no other evidence, physical or documentary that supports this structure's existence has been located.

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placing small concrete footings under the original posts, reduced slightly in height (18") to remove damaged material.

The upper level of the front porch is of wood framed construction with 3" tongue and groove flooring. This area is surrounded by a simple balustrade with tenoned 1x1" balusters set into the top and bottom railings. Access to the upper porch, currently closed due to structural concerns, is via a wood and glass panel door that opens from the upper floor hall (see interior plans). Large painted sans-serif letters in black spell out "FOREST HOUSE" above the windows of the second floor porch, with a matching sign centered within the east-facing gable end. While both signs have been repainted (c1995), letters with similar detail are clearly visible in pre-WWI images of the property and the painted sign is considered an early element of the Forest House's exterior character.

Regularly spaced windows are located on all exterior elevations. Double-hung 6/6 wood sash windows, uniformly 36x65" in size, light the upper and lower interior floors, with matching, slightly smaller, windows located at the uppermost portion of all three gable ends. Except as noted below, all window sash appear to be original. Most first floor openings have wood shutters that while of uncertain vintage are clearly based upon early appearing elements that can be documented on the house by 1900. Most shutters are of through-tenoned construction with early cast-iron hardware. The main entry door is a broad 40x89" four-panel painted wood door with surface-mount mortise lock and appears to be original. This door is flanked by twin 12" wide glass and wood-panel sidelights below a seven-pane transom band. Wide 6 1/2" plain trim surrounds this entire entryway feature, all of which with the exception of the narrow shutters on either side of the entryway, appears to be original construction.

A second, 34" wide, doorway is located at the SE portion of the main façade, providing access to the "bar room," during the original period of use. Also a four-panel door, this secondary entrance lacks the sidelights of the main entryway and is simply detailed. It does, however, retain an original or very early-appearing painted wood screen door. On the south-facing elevation another entryway is located at the end of the central hallway, providing direct access from the wood-floored rear porch. The final exit from the Forest House is located at the rear of the kitchen wing, also accessing the rear porch. All exterior doors are of original wood construction, all currently painted green or white.

INTERIOR: FIRST FLOOR

The first floor interior of the Forest House is essentially a vernacular "Hall and Parlor" plan with a central hallway dividing the two main spaces. To the east, occupying almost the entire half of the main volume is the "Living Room," originally the bar, or lodge room, a space that was reportedly devoted to the Forest House's male visitors during the 19th century. The bar room has exposed wood plank flooring with a large brick fireplace located on the exterior wall. The mantelpiece, made of a single wide painted board, is mounted above a crown molding and frieze. Non-original split-faced Roman Brick has been applied over the mantel (n.d, circa 1950s) somewhat modifying the character; however the original brick firebox remains intact. A terra-cotta tile hearth extends into the room, also assumed to be a later modification, covering the original, large stone, hearth. Andirons are made from an old piece of iron rail, adding to the character.

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Original lath and plaster walls above horizontal board wainscot remain in the living room. Wall surfaces are of modern wallpaper that includes a dado strip, this latter installed c1990 as the house was occasionally used for interpretative purposes. An early appearing central chandelier, designed for gas illumination and later modified for electric, is ceiling mounted in the middle of the room. Like much of Forest House, this space retains numerous early elements related to the 19th century uses of the building, including the original tavern counter or bar, with its hand-made "combination" lock drawer that can only be opened by the correct manipulation of series of brass levers on its underside. "As one stands in the center of the bar room...there is a sense of traveling back through time" (Lloyd, 1987). Other early furnishings, books, and art work, much of it reportedly dating from the pre-1909 period, remain.

An original 4-panel door, one side of which is faux-grained to imitate mahogany, is located at the SE corner of the living room. This door connects to the dining room, a rectangular space approximately 10' wide and 25'-5" long. Interior finishes in the dining room are of painted plaster, over the original lath, with patterned linoleum tile on the floor. A three-armed circa-1930s ceiling mounted light fixture is mounted over the long dinner table, assumed to date to the house's original electrification. Wide (6") painted base boards meet original 6" wide painted door and window trim. Two exit doors are located at the SW, one leading to the rear kitchen (see below) and the other providing access to the central hallway, and through that to the exterior porch.

The central hall connects the two floors with a fine wood stairwell, retaining its original delicately turned newel and narrow 1" diameter round balusters below the handrail. All work, even the finish on the newel, appears to be original. Bull nose treads, originally painted, are worn in most places from years of use. Surfaces are of early appearing wallpaper (over muslin backing), much of which has failed due to moisture and damage to the muslin backing. Flooring in the central hall is of wood plank, with early sheetgoods (linoleum) covering. Baseboards and trim are as elsewhere, of painted wood.

The single door on the east side of the hall, leading to the living room, is a faux-painted four panel design, matched by the doors opening on the west side. The northernmost leads to the original parlor, a large space that occupies the majority of the west half of the main volume. This space, with carpet over wood floors, retains high integrity in original wall and trim. Wall surfaces are of early-appearing painted paper over lath and plaster surfaces, with simple baseboards and a decorative picture molding. A brick fireplace located at the west wall retains its original wood mantelpiece (generally matching that of the living room). Here the firebox has been minimally modified by the installation of a small cast iron stove for warmth, however the stone remains as original.

A small bedroom or sleeping chamber is located at the SW corner of the parlor. The SE corner of the parlor (now a bedroom) was modified by the construction of the bathroom, changing the original shape of the space. The bathroom can be accessed both from the parlor, via a glass and wood panel door (c1930s) as well as from the central hall. Installed by the Burton family prior to WWII (circa 1930s) the bathroom has porcelain fixtures and 4x4" cream-toned ceramic tile walls with a single dark brown detail strip. All fixtures, detailing, and finish treatments appear to be largely as originally installed, although most are in poor condition.

At the extreme rear (south) end of the central hall another faux-painted four panel door leads to

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another small bedroom or sleeping chamber. Finishes here are as previously described, with full height ceilings and early wallpaper over plaster. All original trim and other detailing remains.

The underside of the stairwell, accessed via an early paneled door, provides for storage, with exposed rough-sawn studs and structure supporting a series of wooden shelves. With the exception of a small exposed incandescent bulb, this space appears almost entirely "as built." To the east the connecting door described earlier provides access to the dining room and, through that space, to the rear kitchen wing.

As might be expected, the kitchen area is among the most "modern" appearing spaces in the Forest House although even here the historic character remains largely intact as the space was modernized during the 1930s and then left largely unchanged. Full height ceilings remain, along with early appearing painted plaster walls, in some areas with 4x4" ceramic tile wainscot. Flooring is patterned linoleum and while a ceiling mounted electric light fixture is present, kerosene "hurricane" type lamps are mounted on the walls to provide additional illumination. Built-in painted wood storage cabinets along the northern wall can be accessed from both the kitchen and the adjacent dining room.

A second bathroom is located off of the kitchen, along the east elevation. While the bathroom itself is obviously a modification from the original design it may have taken advantage of some earlier, original, storage space as based upon the early four-panel doorway. This space, as does the main bath, has linoleum flooring and ceramic tile wainscot with early (c1930s) porcelain fixtures. The rear corner of the kitchen contains a walk-in pantry, behind an early appearing door.

The rear, screened, porch area is accessed via the kitchen, with a second access off the main hall, as described earlier. This ell-shaped space wraps around the kitchen wing. Vertical beadboard wainscot lines a portion of the rear wall, providing a backsplash for an early, wooden, outdoor wash sink that is adjacent to a small exterior toilet housed in a beadboard closet, typical of "field hand" facilities. The rear, south-facing interior wall of the porch is stucco clad, apparently original, while the west-facing interior wall is of wood siding as are the remainder of the exterior walls. Flooring is of tongue and groove and, like the roof framing (of milled, actual, 2x6) has likely been replaced. This area retains substantial evidence of the early operation of the house, including a small chicken coop, wood storage, tool sharpening areas, and other facilities that were likely related to the agricultural uses of the property. The exterior walls, of single-thickness beadboard lowers, with metal screened uppers, includes exit doors to the SE (near the field facilities) and centered on the west-facing wall. Here wood screen doors of mortise and tenon design have almost entirely fallen apart, although virtually all the pieces appear to remain.

INTERIOR: SECOND FLOOR

The upper floor of the Forest House is dominated by a single large space, the original ballroom that occupies the entire east side of the main volume and extends above the kitchen wing to create an area 25'-6" wide and 50'-0" long. Simply detailed, and in poor condition with failing lath and plaster and buckled flooring due to the previously described foundation settlement, the Ballroom has full height, 9' tall, ceilings with painted lath and plaster walls. The floor is unfinished, 6" planking that was installed over a system of cross joists that provided "spring," considered conducive to dancing during the 19th

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Differing from the trim of the first floor, and the balance of the upper floor, window trim in the ballroom is let-in into the plaster, creating minimal projection with only a small sill. This may have been a modification reflecting the original high-occupancy use when dozens of revelers would be dancing within the somewhat confined space. In any case, this treatment only occurs in the Ballroom and is not found in other second floor spaces of the property. The remainder of the ballroom is largely undecorated. At the NE a plaster encased brick flue, extending from the living room, offers a port for a wood stove (non-extant) but otherwise the room is entirely unheated. Three twisted-wire type hanging light sockets are ceiling mounted, providing the only artificial light, to augment the multiple window openings on three of the four elevations. This room, perhaps because of water damage, has lost large portions of its plaster, exposing the wooden lath underneath.

The upper hallway, running the full width of the main volume, is dominated by the continuation of the stair-rail balustrade, surrounding the well. Walls here are of plain paper over lath and plaster, with a dado trim element set just below the lid. Door and window trim is of painted 6" wide board, with plinths at the door sides, connecting to plain 6" painted baseboard, all appearing original. Flooring is 6" wide plank, below patterned linoleum. A single, centered, ceiling mounted bulb provides the only artificial lighting.

The west half of the upper floor contains three bed chambers. A large room, roughly 20' x 20', occupies the northern portion. This space has linoleum flooring, wallpapered walls and a damaged painted plaster ceiling. A full fireplace with original mantle, finished in painted faux-black marble, is located at the west wall. The fireplace hearth is a typical stone or concrete pad, extending approximately 24" into the room. This room, due to water damage and settlement, has large portions of missing plaster but all finishes, trim, and detail appears to be original.

To the rear, at the SW corner, a smaller bed chamber is accessed from inside the previously described chamber via an original 4-panel painted door.⁹ A third, smaller, bed chamber is located to the east, accessed via the central hallway. Both these spaces, wall-papered and retaining original trim, are in fair condition but retain high integrity.

KNOWN ALTERATIONS [Forest House]

The Forest House, first occupied circa 1852 by the original builders and used as a tavern, hotel, dance hall, and traveler's accommodation in addition to serving as the home of its owners, was converted to a private residence in 1909 when the property was acquired by Fred C. and Gertrude Burton. Family reports and other sources indicate that while some minor lodging use may have continued, the ballroom was converted into a dormitory for field hands and little public use was available. After

⁸ Some early accounts refer to the "springs" in the floor, indicating an actual mechanical support system however there is no evidence that such is the case. Members of the Burton Family report that the "spring" was the result of an unusual framing design with long beams over widely spaced cross-members that allowed a greater flexibility than does a typical floor framing system.

⁹ This interior access largely replicates that of the first floor parlor, as described above, as does the hall-accessed rear chamber that is found on both floor levels as well.

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raising their family, and after his wife’s death in 1961, Fred C. Burton remained at the Forest House for the remainder of his life, until 1968. The house has since been vacant.

As documented in Section 8, the Burtons purchased the Forest House property from R. M. Brown, the nephew of Marshall Short, one of the original developers of the property. Mr. Short remained in the house until his death in April 1909. As a result of the sale, and perhaps a connection with Mr. Short, almost all of the Forest House fixtures and furnishings remained largely intact during the Burton ownership, with much of the extant furniture and other elements from the 19th century having never been removed from the property. This history, coupled with the Burtons’ multi-generational respect for the history of the site, has resulted in a high degree of integrity to the original design.

Known alterations to the Forest House, therefore, are generally minor and are substantially limited to systems upgrades or efforts to improve function or protect the building from the elements. The house was electrified sometime in the 1930s, based upon the fixtures. While the service has been upgraded to modern circuit breakers, the interior fixtures themselves appear largely as originally installed. Indoor plumbing, to replace the outdoor bath and outhouses, was apparently installed about the same time as the electricity, with the two first floor bathrooms remaining largely as installed. There is no plumbing on the upper level whatsoever.

The 85” deep concrete porch lining the front elevation is not original to the structure and along with concrete piers that support the six porch columns was installed c1915, almost certainly to address failure of the original wooden porch and to repair of rotting wood at the bottom of the columns. This feature has a rough toweled surface and is scored into approximately 24x24 squares. Although not specifically dated, the wood porch deck remained as late as 1909 and was replaced by 1918, based on available historic images (see Figures 3-7). An extended concrete pad extends from the east end of the porch, connecting to a set of stairs that line the west elevation. An early-appearing water pump occupies the northern corner while the southern portion, showing some evidence of modification, contains embedded Native American artifacts (grinding bowls, etc.) of uncertain origin.

On the east-facing elevation a lower window, illuminating the dining room, has been either added or modified in some undocumented manner. These two-sash ganged 1/1 window opening, compared to the entirely consistent single 6/6 wood sash found throughout the remainder of the dwelling, appears to have been installed post-construction but can not be dated specifically. No historic photographs of this elevation prior to 1997, when the modification was already in place, are known. Based on construction character and detail, this change likely occurred prior to WWII, but this is only conjecture.

The most significant exterior change to the Forest House is the installation of a metal roof to replace the original wood shingle. It is uncertain if there was an asphalt shingle roof in place prior to the installation of the first metal roof, a grey/galvanized standing seam surface that was installed prior to 1963, based upon available images (see Figure 10). This first metal roof was replaced with the present red metal roof circa 1996.¹⁰ While non-historic, Forest House has now had a metal roof protecting it from winter rain and snow for over half a century. In recent years, this modification has logically provided increased protection from the weather during the past three-plus decades of limited

¹⁰ See Figures 11 and 12, the first showing the earlier grey roof and the later, dated September 1997, with the present red metal roof in place.

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occupancy and is, of course, reversible. More recently, white plastic gutters and downspouts have been installed to better direct water away from the structure.

Overall, despite its more than 150 years of existence, the Forest House retains an amazingly high degree of integrity to its original design, use of materials, and character on both the interior and exterior. Documented alterations, almost all related to the installation of modern systems or to improve the weather seal, do not seriously affect historic character. Taken as a whole the Forest House, the primary structure in the Forest House building complex, remains almost entirely "as built," conveying its mid-19th century construction and design to a remarkable degree.

ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES:¹¹

A. Barn and Dairy Shed (1866)

A fine gable building, the barn and dairy shed is about 34' wide and 63' long, forming a visually significant unit with the adjacent stable and carriage barn. The barn and dairy shed was built in 1866, as a major addition to the Forest House compound. "The new barn lately erected immediately opposite the hotel adds greatly to the appearance of the place, it being on a line with the stable, and blacksmith shop," (Burton Files).¹²

Built with a heavy timber post and beam frame, narrow weatherboard siding gives this structure a neat, almost residential, character. The south-facing gable end of the barn and dairy shed, the "front," is framed with 1x6 cornerboards that connect into a matching "frieze. Early-appearing sliding doors provide access to both interior levels, with a small fixed wooden window lighting the interior on the south elevation. The eastern elevation, is partially open at the upper level, with a sliding door at the rear (north-facing) indicating that at some point the barn was a through-barn.

The interior structure consists of 2x8" floor joists that are supported by mortise and tenon connected posts and beams, most with wooden pegs, or tree-nails. The upper horizontal of each bent is supported by knee braces in both directions, tying the bents and the continuous 6" rafter plates into a solid framed unit. Rafters are approximately 4x6" resting on the outer wall top plate (supported by widely spaced 8x8" posts, and the interior rafter plates described above. Non-original "gussets" obscure the outer knee braces on the east-facing elevation, forming the open upper wall portion. The western wall is sided with vertical boards as opposed to the east-facing (front) elevation with its narrow *horizontal* weatherboard siding. The interior arrangement of the barn includes a small enclosed tack room at the SE corner, with large stall areas lining both elevations. A stairwell provides interior access to the upper story, though most of that floor area is no longer present.

The interior structure of the barn and dairy shed provides physical evidence that the upper floor system once present here has been removed, with notched beams providing evidence of the former

¹¹ Building identification nomenclature follows Fred W. Burton, "Diagram of Forest House Operation," as published by the Siskiyou County Historical Society, 1965 (See Map 4). Map 5.0, with each resource identified as this are in this section, provides more accurate documentation of existing locations and building scale.

¹² This citation refers to a "Back in Time" clipping from the *Yreka Union*, published in 1957, recounting an undated citation from an 1866 article in that paper, describing the barn's construction.

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framing system. Siding has been replaced, largely in-kind, and various other areas show evidence of minor interior reconfiguration. The major modification to the building, the installation of the current metal roof, likely dates to the 1960s, when most of the other structures at Forest House were re-roofed in metal, however this change has not been specifically dated. It is not certain, but assumed unlikely, that the open upper portion of the east-facing elevation is an original design although this change is also not specifically dated.

Despite these alterations, the overall integrity of the barn and dairy shed is quite high and the building effectively relates its original construction, design, use of materials and so conveys its role in the agricultural development associated with the Forest House. The barn and dairy shed is counted as a contributing historic building in Section 5.

B. Stable & Carriage Shed (c1860)

Burton reports that the "horse and carriage shed were built at the same time that the main house was constructed" and the stable was clearly built prior to 1865, when it was referenced in an announcement of the construction of the dairy barn, below. (Burton, 1965:15). Available images of the this barn dated c1900 show the character-defining clipped corner openings facing the roadway. Approximately 43' wide, with a longitudinal gable/shed roof form running the 90' length of the plan, the construction of the stable and carriage shed is mixed, with heavy hewn timber framing in the front (south) portion under the main gable. Framing connections are generally wood-pegged (tree-nailed) mortise and tenon joints,¹³ with large horizontal members of up to 10x10" and smaller, mostly 8x8," vertical posts. Most upper connections are strengthened with knee-braces (approximately 6x6"). There is evidence of a now-removed upper decking, in regularly spaced notching of lateral members. Some portions of the structure, several columns, have been replaced with round poles. Verticals rise from mixed concrete and stone piers, creating uniform "bays" that face south. The barn is currently used for storage of historic farm implements and wagons.

The rear, northern, portion of the stable and carriage shed is almost entirely of pole construction, with significantly smaller dimension lumber than the southern portion. This area is elevated, with approximately 24" difference in grade from the main floor level, assumed as evidence of sequential, if undated, construction. Exterior siding of the entire structure is uniformly of random width (10-14" wide) vertical boards, most continuous for the entire height of the building wall. A full-length (90') "gallery" of sorts divides the two halves of the structure. While there are some minor connections for rigidity, the two framing systems are, essentially, structurally independent, considered further evidence of sequential construction.

Historically the roof of this structure was of shake or shingle. The roof support structure is mixed, with skip sheathing (some of which is wany edge boards)¹⁴ with a non-historic metal sheet roof similar to other structures at the ranch. Rafters are also mixed, with pole and milled timber evident below the

¹³ A "tree-nail" (also Trunnel and Treenail) is defined as "a dowel, or wooden pin, used to join timbers together." (Curl, 1999:681, Harris, 1976:512).

¹⁴ "Wany" refers to the "...rounded edge or bark along an edge of a board" that is caused by sawing too near the surface of a log. The presence of wany lumber, as contrasted to S4S (surfaced four side) lumber is generally an indication of site-milling or early milling practice (See Harris, 1976:534). Wany boards, considered of lesser quality, are often used as skip-sheathing for roofing.

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continuous 1x6" purlins. The eastern-most end projects over a narrow carriage-way between the stable and adjacent barn and dairy shed (see below) to create a modest hay mow arrangement, that extends the full width of the main, northernmost, gable volume. This feature is supported by pole outriggers, with a pole brow. Documentation exists that states the stable was increased in height by Fred Burton and transformed into a hay barn used in association with the ranching operation, however this modification is not dated (Burton, 1965:15).

Beyond the undated "addition" that lines the northern elevation, creating the "shed" portion of the barn, other modifications include the roof replacement, some reframing and repair, as noted, and the partial enclosure of the lower bay openings with wood gates, although the original structure and design are clearly evident. The present metal roof is not dated, but was installed prior to 1997, according to available images. A newer 1x12 "deck" structure occupies the majority of the rear, shed, portion of the volume. This feature, while not specifically dated, is obviously of recent construction but does not seriously impact the integrity of the interior.

Although somewhat modified, the stable & carriage shed retains sufficient integrity in structure, design, and use of materials to effectively convey its historic agricultural function and plays an important role in maintaining the integrity of the setting and feeling of the Forest House. The stable and carriage house, containing major elements that date to the mid-19th Century, is counted as a contributing historic building in Section 5.

C. Forest House (c1852)

The Forest House, as previously described, is included in here, as shown on Map 5, as site "C" for consistency.

D. Bathhouse (c1873)

Located to the rear of the kitchen wing, the bathhouse is a small (11' x 17') wood frame structure. Exterior siding is 5" vertical tongue and groove boards, with a projecting boxed soffit at the gable end that matches the Forest House itself. "Early in its history, a bathhouse was built behind the big old main building. In fact, it's still there" (Burton, 1965:17). The bathhouse interior was divided into two sides, for separation of the sexes and galvanized tubs provided bathing areas for the Forest House residents and guests, with hot water provided by a steam engine and boiler that were located near the wood shed as late as the 1930s, before the main house itself was plumbed. The primary access to the bathhouse was from the east, though now largely overgrown. Flooring is wood plank, supported by a stone post and pier foundation.

This present structure is likely the second bathhouse at the Forest House, being that referred to in a lengthy, if un-cited, quotation reproduced by J. Roy Jones in *Saddlebags in Siskiyou*, documenting a new water supply system developed at the property in 1873: "A new bathhouse, too, was built for the convenience of guests" (Jones, 1953:159). Although the bathhouse is in poor-to-fair condition, with considerable "lean" that is causing the siding to buckle, it still retains essential integrity and virtually all its original material and design. The primary modification is the installation of a metal roof, which has protected the wood structure at least since the late 1990s according to available historic images. The bathhouse is counted as a contributing historic building in Section 5.

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E. Outhouse

Approximately 6'x5' in size, with a single doorway facing west, this small outhouse is of uncertain construction but appears to post date the original development period of the Forest House. It perhaps replaced an earlier feature of similar function in this general location. Construction is of rough-sawn 2x4" framing with 1x6" milled vertical board exterior siding. The shallow-pitched shed roof is missing, as is the door. Given that the Forest House was plumbed c1930, as described previously, it is uncertain if this structure was actually used or is some sort of recreation or interpretative feature. Clearly of later construction, and of questionable history, this non-historic building is counted as a non-contributing building in Section 5.

F. Concrete Block Garage 1

This shed-roofed building, approximately 27' wide and 20' deep, was built for Fred W. Burton about 1980 and used as a garage and storage building. A small accessory volume, about 5' wide, is located at the east, but has no interior connection to the open-bay of the main volume. Windows, many of which are broken, are of industrial style steel sash and the structure is built of unfinished, coursed, concrete masonry units. While generally adding to the "compound" character of the site, this non-historic building is counted as a non-contributing building in Section 5.

G. Concrete Block Garage 2

This shed-roofed building, approximately 30' wide and 20' deep, was built circa 1980 to house and restore multiple antique horse drawn carriages, including an original Yreka Stage Wagon, restored by Fred W. Burton. Similar in basic design to the building to the east, this structure with wooden windows and large garage doors is weather-tight, beneath a green metal shed roof. While generally adding to the "compound" character of the site, this non-historic building is counted as a non-contributing building in Section 5.

H. Wood Shed (c1900)

Located west of the Forest House, the wood shed is a fairly large (about 20' x 36') gable roof building built upon a timber frame with 10x10" sills and, for the most part 6x8" vertical posts. Exterior siding is rough-sawn wide boards (about 12") all retaining saw marks without any form of batten except at the NW corner (these do not appear original). The building has two large open "doors" on the long elevations, indicating it was originally constructed for "drive-thru" loading. A small built in storage area is located at the NW corner of the dirt-floored interior. The remaining space is essentially open bays, still used to store cut firewood.¹⁵

The wood shed is undated but was probably built in the late-19th or early 20th century. It was clearly standing by c1918, as documented by a historic photograph that shows the wood shed in the background of the boiler plant (Figure 6). The wood shed has a non-original grey metal roof, assumed to be of similar design as the original (pre-1961) metal roof of the Forest House. The wood shed is counted as a contributing historic building in Section 5.

¹⁵ As documented in Section 8, firewood sales were a major staple of the Forest House operation during both the 19th and 20th centuries. It is not clear, although assumed, that this shed related to domestic firewood use.

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I. Ice House (c1863, as remodeled c1900)

As early as 1863 Forest House was selling ice to Yreka residents (*Yreka Journal*, 13-May-1863) and the ice house was likely first built around that time. A large "reservoir" or pond was excavated on the south side of Yreka Creek and water was diverted from the on-site ditch system to fill it during the cold winter months. Ice was sawn into blocks and entered the ice house via a small port on the south elevation, to be packed in sawdust and stored within the thick masonry walls until needed. The original structure may have been rebuilt in November 1900, which is the date scrawled into the brown coat of stucco that covers the exterior.

The ice house is a rectangular building, 23'-6" wide and 33'-6" long, with a metal gable roof (non-original) over a wood framed roof system that rises from 16" thick stacked rubble and concrete walls. The exterior, and portions of the interior, walls are coated with thick grey stucco. The interior retains various partitions of uncertain use and was reportedly used to store ice harvested on the site as late as the 1930s (Burton, 1965:15). The ice house is counted as a contributing historic building in Section 5.

Site/Landscape Features

In addition to the roadway, the route of the Yreka-Fort Jones Road prior to 1961, there are several landscape features or minor elements surrounding the Forest House that add to its historic character and document the history of the site. These features are:

1. Hitching post: Located immediately in front of the Forest House, this feature consists of a tapered end hewn beam mounted on two tree stumps, with iron rings. This is apparently a portion of a similar feature that has long stood at this location, as documented in various historic photographs of the site.
2. Watering Trough: Located just east of the porch, this 6' wooden stave basin is located in approximately the same location as an earlier feature that was notably connected with the history of the Forest House during the 19th century. Fed by a pipe that appeared to come from the trunk of an adjacent tree, this feature was historically linked to the Forest House operation. "One much talked about attraction was the watering trough in front of the hotel where by some manipulation of the pipe, the water appeared to come from the body of a large pine tree..." (Glendinning Letter, 1940).
3. Water Pump: An iron water pump is located at the extreme eastern corner of the concrete porch in front of the Forest House.
4. Native American Artifacts: A grouping of Native American items, including three pestles, two mortars, and a ribbed stone that appears to be some sort of grinding surface are embedded into a modified section of the concrete front porch. There is no explanatory panel or marker and the exact history of these features is unknown but family members report that they are items that were given to Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Burton during their lifetime.
5. Bell: Located at the extreme SE corner of the Forest House, as the top of the exterior stairs that leads to the rear porch, an early-appearing swinging cast iron bell is mounted on a wooden pole. This bell was reportedly used to call field hands.
6. Mining & Farming Implements: Mr. Fred W. Burton was an active collector of early Siskiyou County and California history, accounting for numerous carriages, wagons, and other horse drawn implements located about the site. Other artifacts include early

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mining equipment, including most notably a miner's ore cart and a mining "giant," or hydraulic mining nozzle, that are located near concrete block garage 2, just north of Yreka Creek. Other equipment scattered about the ranch includes iron features related to earlier uses of Forest Ranch, including ice house, sawmill, and fruit drying operations.

While of interest, and adding to the historic character of the nominated property, these minor elements were not counted in Section 5.¹⁶

Two dwellings are located immediately to the east and west of the nominated area. Both are small residential structures and related outbuildings that were erected for Burton family members between the 1950s and 1970s. Outside the nominated historic core area of the Forest House Ranch, they are not considered historically significant and are specifically excluded from this documentation.

SUMMARY

The Forest House, and its related barns and outbuildings, represent an almost entirely intact example of early traveler accommodation and agricultural development during the very earliest settlement of Siskiyou County. Minor alterations and modifications in the past 30-40 years, almost all undertaken to protect the resources, are of only minimal impact to the overall visual integrity of the property and do not in any serious way reduce their historic qualities. The Forest House retains integrity in virtually every aspect of its design, workmanship, construction, and use of materials. On its original location, in a minimally modified setting, the Forest House conveys its historic feeling, original design, historic character, and virtually all of the associations that make it significant.

¹⁶ Site/Landscape features, are not shown on Map 5.

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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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ARCHITECTURE; 19th Century Architecture

Period of Significance

1852-1909

Significant Dates

1852

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Horace Knight & Marshall Short

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance (1852-1909) represents the period of initial development of the Forest House and its continued operation under the first period of ownership, prior to the beginning of the present, Burton, ownership period. This period encompasses the initial development and operation of all traveler and agricultural uses that characterize the significance of the property.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary):

Not Applicable

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Forest House is the central resource within a multiple-building complex known as the Forest House Ranch, located between Yreka and Ft. Jones, California. Settlement on the site, including the initial construction of the Forest House, began in 1852 as a way station that served the growing mining communities drawn to Siskiyou County by the discovery of gold. Over the next half-century the Forest House developed into a significant industrial and agricultural center, containing one of Siskiyou County's earliest sawmills, providing the region with fresh fruit from its extensive orchards, as well as ice, dried fruit, cider and other related products. In addition the Forest House itself became a popular "resort" destination, the site of gala dances, weddings, and other social events. Operated by Horace Knight and Marshall Short, in combination with a series of partners, the Forest House served as the focal point of multiple business ventures that played an important role in the history of Siskiyou County, California during the latter half of the 19th century. In 1909 the property was purchased by Fred C. and Gertrude Burton. More than a century later, the Burtons' descendants continue to own and maintain the Forest House. Over 150 years old and almost entirely "as built," the Forest House retains exceptionally high integrity and accurately reflects the associations for which it is considered significant.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Forest House is significant under the Areas of Exploration/Settlement and 19th Century Architecture

SETTLEMENT: The Forest House was built at this site circa 1852, in connection with the discovery of gold at "Dry Diggings," near Yreka, and played a significant role during the early settlement of Siskiyou County, California. Located upon a private toll road, developed by its owners, the Forest House was a significant roadside and meeting site for the traffic over Forest Mountain, between Fort Jones and Yreka, California during much of the second half of the 19th century.

ARCHITECTURE: The Forest House is a rare and almost entirely intact example of 19th Century vernacular architecture as typified early roadside stage stops and travelers accommodations during the mid-19th century in southern Oregon and the northern California region.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Please see the attached continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Please see the attached 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Siskiyou County Historical Society

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Section number 8 Page 1**CONTEXT:**

The Euro-American settlement of Siskiyou County is largely related to the search for gold in the area's waterways. "To what is generally known as the Trinity excitement, we must look for the opening up and settlement of this region" (Wells, 1881:55). Miners heading up the Klamath and Trinity rivers, or over the Siskiyou Mountains, began to appear in what is now Siskiyou County in larger numbers after 1850. Gold strikes in Scott Valley, Sawyer's Bar, and elsewhere in both northern California and southern Oregon showed sufficient promise that all through late 1849 and 1850 more and more miners passed through what is now the Yreka area, but none recognized the area's potential wealth until the following year.

In a hurried dash for wealth, all overlooked gold beneath their feet. However one day in March 1851 a party from Oregon en route to mine at Greenhorn camped on Yreka Flats. Abraham Thompson, more observing than many others before him, concluded to do a little prospecting before leaving camp that morning...a good prospect of coarse gold was found (Jones, 1953:5)

Within a few short months, miners streamed into what became known as Thompson's Dry Diggings on "Yreka Flats." The area's population, with active mining at Scott's Bar, Sawyers Bar, and Greenhorn ballooned. Wells reports that within two months, by May 1851, there were more than 2,000 miners camped on Yreka Flats alone, searching for gold (Wells, 1881:62). The booming area was organized politically into the Shasta Butte Township,¹ a portion of Shasta County, by late Summer 1851. By October 1851 Shasta Butte City had more than 300 houses, built on two streets. One period report, that of Redick McKee, described the young community as having a plentiful supply of provisions, with restaurants "...fitted up in approach to San Francisco style." (Hendryx & Silva, 2003:3). "So rapidly did the population increase in 1851 that it became absolutely necessary to form a new county" (Wells, 1881:64). On March 22, 1852, the large area around Scott Bar, Sawyer's Bar, and Yreka became part of Siskiyou County, formed from portions of Shasta and Klamath counties. Yreka was named the new county's seat.²

As a bustling community of shops grew to serve the miners in Yreka, activity in the western part of the county also expanded, as mining at Scott Bar and elsewhere continued. This activity was soon augmented by agriculture and general settlement to serve the growing region. To the southwest of Yreka the Federal government established Fort Jones, a US Army outpost that operated between October 18, 1852 and June 23, 1858. Fort Jones' primary purpose was to protect the increasingly important travel route through the mountains, connecting Yreka with the mining areas to the west along the Scott River, as well as to allow connection from Scott Valley via the main stage lines that ran through Yreka.³ Fort Jones' military history, though short, is notable if only for the role several of its young officers would later play during the Civil War. During its short six-year history, future Union generals Philip Sheridan, U.S. Grant, and George Crook were all stationed at or attached to Fort Jones,

¹ Shasta Butte City was the original name given to what is today's Yreka. Shasta County had been designated by the California Legislature on February 18 1850, with the county seat at what is now Redding.

² Siskiyou County is today the fifth largest in California by area, with 6318 square miles. At its creation Siskiyou included most of what is now Trinity County, which contains 3223 square miles (<http://www.counties.org/default.asp?id=398>, visited 21-October-2010).

³ Fort Jones was located in the Scott Valley because the Yreka area did not offer sufficient forage for the unit's horses.

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as was John B. Hood, who would serve as a general in the Confederate Army.⁴

The Scott Valley, in addition to its proximity to gold strikes, developed into the primary agricultural center of the new Siskiyou County region, providing forage for the military at Fort Jones and foodstuffs for the growing city of Yreka, located just 15 miles east, but over steep and often snow covered mountain passes.

After the discovery of gold at Scott Bar, in November 1850, and on Yreka Flats, in March 1851, travel between the two places over the Greenhorn Pass, became alive with moving miners and pack trains [but] it soon became evident that the other trail, over the mountain, from Shasta Valley to Scott Valley, would call for a wagon road, not only because it was a shorter way to the flat land on either side, but also for the reason that interests other than mining were pointing their activities that way..... (*Oakland Tribune*, 28-May-1950).

FOREST HOUSE: EARLY DEVELOPMENT: 1852-1860

As a result of the growing settlement in Yreka, beginning with the discovery of gold and then followed by the formation of Siskiyou County and the military outpost and agricultural developments in Scott Valley, traffic over the most direct route between these areas, over Forest Mountain, grew from the occasional mining party to a steady stream during late-1851 and 1852. At some point the potential economic value associated with that increased traffic became obvious to at least several men, each of whom may have been growing tired of chasing gold.

Horace Knight was born in Vermont in 1813 and had arrived in Siskiyou County by 1851, trying his hand at mining on upper Yreka Creek with uncertain results (Burton, 1965:2). Marshall Short was born near Windsor, Ohio on October 6, 1826 and spent his youth on a farm northwest of Ashland, Ohio. "During the gold fever in 1850, he went to California, going by way of the Isthmus of Panama" (*Mansfield [OH] Semi-Weekly News*, 24-May-1898). Short mined, ran a pack train, and held a variety of other jobs before joining Knight. Two other men, and possibly a third, were also involved in the early development of the Forest House. John F. Whittier and Gardner Wadleigh, the former born in Vermont and the latter in Canada, almost certainly knew Horace Knight in the east and came to California with him. In at least one account, J. F. Whittier is reported as Knight's brother-in-law. At some undocumented point, probably in mid-to-late 1852, Knight, Short, Whittier, and Wadleigh, perhaps with some financial backing from another earlier miner, Ferdinand Grisez, recognized the economic potential of the Yreka-Fort Jones route and established themselves at the base of Forest Mountain.⁵ The men were intent upon developing a wayside stopping point and improving a roadway directly in front of their new establishment through the formation of a toll road over Forest Mountain, soon dubbed the Shasta-Scott Valley Turnpike Road. The 1860 Census, the first with data

⁴ See <http://www.militarymuseum.org/FtJones.html>, visited 21-October-2010.

⁵ Some sources date the development at Forest House as early as 1850 although this seems unlikely, given other sources of the settlement of the area. As will be noted in this discussion, the Forest House was clearly established by early 1853 and the building existed in its current form by 1855, almost certainly earlier, however no definitive statement of its construction date has been located, with more than a century of speculation ranging as late as 1865 in some accounts.

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on Siskiyou County, documents that all four men, Knight, Short, Whittier, and Wadleigh, were in residence at the Forest House as equal partners in the operation, then valued at more than \$20,000.⁶

At some point during this period, probably in 1851-1852, D. P. Sanborn, described as a "very competent millwright" established what has been referred to as the first sawmill in Siskiyou County at the base of Forest Mountain, southwest of Yreka. Forest Mountain, as the name implies, was covered with a dense stand of Sugar Pine and the rapid settlement in the area, with more than 300 dwellings in Yreka by October 1851, created a need for building materials. The relationship between Sanborn and Knight is unclear; what is clear is that the Forest House was built, probably by mid-1852 and was sufficiently established by early 1853 to serve as a landmark for the Siskiyou County Board of Commissioners when they dedicated one of the county's first roadways.⁷ At the Board's meeting on 9-February-1853 the Commissioners created a public roadway as follows.

[F]rom the south end of Main street [sic]...by the sawmill and Forest House Ranch in Scott Valley, thence up the valley to Callahan's Ranch. Also from Forest House Ranch, by the Lone Star Ranch, to Johnson's Ranch, in the lower end of the valley (Siskiyou County Records, Vol. 1, Page 120).

A year later, in February 1854, Horace Knight filed paperwork with the Siskiyou County Clerk documenting his lease of the property known as "Sanborn's Sawmill," located five miles from the town of Yreka" from D. P. Sanborn (Siskiyou County Deed Records, 2:215). The sawmill, water-powered by Yreka Creek, was located west of the Forest House, down the "haul road," from the present Ice House. In addition to the lumber mill, the sawmill operation would eventually be expanded to include a box mill, used to build packing crates for the Forest House orchard operation, as well as barrel repair (Burton, 1965:6).

Much of the early history of the Forest House is, unfortunately, subject to conjecture, based on the variable data, or the lack of it, from a variety of sources. There is at least some indication that the construction on the Forest House itself continued through 1853 and 1854, with numerous mid-20th century accounts claiming the hotel was "completed" in 1855. None of these reports, however, are specifically sourced and most rely on accounts that all stem from the recollections of either Fred C. Burton or his son, Fred W. Burton, who owned the property after 1909.⁸ Both Burtons wrote extensively on the history of the Forest House, gathering information from early pioneers of the area, newspaper accounts, and other sources. These reports, even from the Burtons themselves, are often contradictory. However the preponderance of the data, along with the general development pattern in the region, supports a construction date for the Forest House of circa 1852. The beginnings of the

⁶ Comparing relative dollar amounts over time is an exact science however one source, www.measuringworth.com, indicates that \$20,000 in 1860 would be worth a minimum of \$5 million in today's dollars, with an average value in the range of \$6.5 million, giving some indication of the scale of the successful Forest House operation less than a decade after its establishment.

⁷ Given the winter weather, this dedication, the earliest dated documentation of the Forest House that has been located, clearly demonstrates that the building was in place by the Winter of 1852-53, indicating a logical construction beginning between Spring and Fall 1852.

⁸ J. Roy Jones at least implies that the Forest House in its present configuration was not completed until 1855 (Jones, 1953:159), however Knight was clearly on the property and some sort of development was present by 1852-1853 based on Siskiyou County deed records.

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Forest House are largely tied to one man: Horace Knight.

Horace Knight was the owner and operator of the Yreka Hotel, located on Main Street, in downtown and he logically began the Forest House, perhaps with Grisez as an investor.⁹ The Yreka Hotel was a popular and successful establishment in the growing town, and Knight had the background to operate a wayside inn, as well as a need for a larger tract that could supply his operation with a stable supply of foodstuffs. Toward that goal, the Forest House operation soon expanded beyond a wayside travel stop to include fruit and orchard production. This was likely the impetus for the creation of the Forest House partnership. James F. Whittier, and perhaps Gardner Wadleigh, knew Knight in the east and had arrived in California with him circa 1850. The three Vermonters must have known Short, who had background in agriculture, and thus the partnership was forged.

Arriving in California in 1850, Marshall Short, worked a variety of jobs, including mining and packing among others. In 1852 he was living in Trinity County, according to California census records and as late as 1853 was apparently operating a mercantile store in Shasta County, erecting a number of buildings and doing well until the business was destroyed by fire in 1853. Sometime in 1853, and perhaps as late as 1854, Short took a pack train north, over the Siskiyou Mountains, into Oregon and returned with some 10,000 young fruit trees. According to his obituary, he first attempted to sell the trees, but when a market could not be found, "...he bought and took up with others some land near Yreka known as the Forest house [sic] place, and cleared the land and set out his fruit trees, thus having one of the finest fruit orchards in this part of the country" (*Yreka Journal*, 14-April-1909, 3:3). The most logical scenario would have Knight, already established at the Forest House and operating it in tandem with the Yreka Hotel, perhaps with Whittier and Wadleigh, and then seeing an opportunity for a fruit operation, the three brought Short into the Forest House operation.

Together, and perhaps with added funding from Grisez, "Knight & Company" then went about the systematic development of the Forest House into a major agricultural supplier to augment the sawmill and wayside facilities already on the property. Short's 10,000 trees were the first step in a major orchard and agriculture development that supplied a wide region with fresh produce.

In 1854 Knight formally sold a 1/3 interest in the Forest House to Marshall Short and a Mr. Ladd, assumed to be Lorenzo Ladd. This probably relates to Short's investment in the orchard planting and the development of the agricultural facilities around the hotel. By the following year, 1855, the reputation of the Forest House as a hotel/way station for travelers was growing. Visitors such as Henry D. Wright, who would become a successful miner in Siskiyou County, reported "staying a short time at what is known as the Forest House," before permanently establishing himself in the area (Wells, 1881:108B). The following year the Forest House was the destination of an excursion of the Yreka Turnverein Society, a social group for German immigrants. On October 18, 1886 a group of 150 men on horseback, in holiday attire with flying colors, head west from Yreka to the Forest House, to celebrate "Leider Tafel," a singing event (Wells, 1881:183).

In 1857 Knight & Company sold the sawmill operation to Martin F. Thomas and Isaac Shannon, for cash and the rights to 273,000 board feet of lumber, presumably needed for construction projects at the

⁹ Knight is often referred to in later histories as "Knights." Flowing 19th script may account for this terminal "s" however it appears that the surname "Knight" is in fact correct.

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Forest Ranch (Agreement, Burton Papers). That same year a large dance was held in the upstairs ballroom of the Forest House, as advertised in the *Siskiyou Chronicle* on November 18, 1858 (Burton Papers). "There Yrekans held cotillion parties, where 'bright eyes and happy hearts formed the circle' (Jones, 1953:76). In order to help in managing the growing operation, Horace Knight's wife, Elmira, (also spelled as both Elmyra and Almira),¹⁰ joined him at the Forest House in 1858. Knight ran the hotel, while Short and the other partners concentrated on the growing orchards of the Forest House operation. Alonzo Whittier, James Whittier's brother, managed the company's interest in Shasta-Scott Valley Turnpike, the toll road that ran immediately in front of the house.¹¹

The road was built for the traveling public in the 1850s. One toll gate was located beside the hitching rack in front of the Forest House and was kept by the owners of that place. The other toll gate was between Robber's Rock and the Fort Jones summit, and was maintained by "Yank" Johnson (Burton, 1965:23, See also Burton Papers).¹²

FOREST HOUSE: 19th CENTURY EXPANSION 1860-1880

During the 1860s, as the orchards came into production, the operation at the Forest House continued to expand and prosper. In August 1861 Horace and Elmira Knight, along with "Frank" Whittier,¹³ sold a portion of the operation to Alonzo Whittier for \$3000, "...described as being the tract or parcel of land upon with that certain building known as 'Forest Hall' is situated, together with all and singular tenements and appurtenances of every kind and description whatsoever..." (Siskiyou County Deed, 8:330). The same day Knight and Frank Whittier also sold an undivided 1/4 interest in "Forest Hall" to Marshall Short, for the sum of \$2000 (Siskiyou County Deed, 8:328). The exact nature of these transactions, and the relative roles of the Whittiers, Knight, and Short both before and after, are somewhat unclear, given that all four men are listed as equal partners in the 1860 Census, before these transactions took place. At least some of the confusion may stem from the variety of operations underway at Forest House, with different partnerships formed concerning the land, the toll road, the Forest House itself, and the orchard interests. Knight, Short, the Whittiers, and various others (some of whom were likely mortgage holders only) clearly had complex, and overlapping, partnerships throughout the period 1855-1890.

In 1862 J. F. Whittier granted Horace Knight a power of attorney, the purpose of which was to sell stock on the Shasta and Scott Valley Turnpike Company, the portion of the Forest House operation that ran the toll road. Some reports indicated that the toll road was purchased for \$3000 and donated to the County in 1864, so that it could provide for free passage.

¹⁰ Elmira Knight was also born in Vermont, in 1817, according to the 1880 US Census.

¹¹ At least one source, written in 1901 and apparently reliant upon Marshall Short himself, states that he did not purchase an interest in the Forest House until 1858, although based on deed filings this appears to be inaccurate (*Siskiyou News*, 26-December-1901).

¹² The Burton Papers include various receipts from the toll road, while the Day Books record income from tolls paid as well as improvements made to the road, etc. The Day Books, consisting of about sixteen leather bound ledger books for varying sizes, are each dedicated to a year's worth of transactions. The Forest House ledgers have remained at the house since their creation, and are cited as a portion of the Burton Papers. These books were reported as being "...discovered behind a chimney in the Forest House in December 1963" and remain in the possession of the Burton family (Burton, 1965:29).

¹³ Assumed to be James F. Whittier, who apparently also went by his middle name.

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We are informed that all the money subscribed for the purpose of purchasing the toll road over the mountain from Forest House to Scott Valley has been paid in with the exception of about eight to one hundred (sic) dollars. It may not be free at all. It will be...to those that have subscribed to purchased the road, and the deficiency will be made up by collecting the regular toll from non-subscribers (*Yreka Semi-Weekly Union*, 26-November-1864).

While other, later, reports indicate that the Forest House owners themselves subscribed more than half the purchase price for the toll road, the exact nature of this transaction is unclear and the road, in at least some fashion, remained a private holding for another fifteen years or more. As late as 1881, according to a contract that remains in the Burton Papers, Knight, Short, James F. Whittier and another partner, Norval Garland, sold 35 shares of stock in the Shasta-Scott Valley Turnpike Company to Alonzo Whittier for \$2000. Whittier's purchase, in addition to cash considerations, offered the partners in Knight & Company the following:

....as proprietors of the Forest House and farm and garden contiguous, to and connected therewith (the road) ...shall at all times until the month of April 1881, have passage over and upon the road of said company as it now exists, for all business connected with said house and garden and for their pleasure and also for their teams and vehicles of every description, for 3/8ths the price of passage money or rent as charged other persons.... (Burton Papers, 1862).

In addition to the continued operation of the toll route during the 1860s and 1870s, the fruit operation at Forest House expanded to the point where some early references to the project call the site the "Forest House Gardens," assumed to indicate both the shifting focus of the operation, and perhaps the comparatively lush landscape that was developing around it. Knight and Short built new facilities to support their growing fruit businesses. A three-story fruit dryer or evaporator was built to dry excess fruit, however the sale of fresh apples, pears, other tree fruits, and grapes accounted for most of the orchard's production. Box sales, including receipts, are well documented in the surviving Day Books, that report the daily financial transactions of Knight & Company during the 1860s-1880s period. Some reports indicate the orchards kept as many as 30 women employed to "...sort, cut, core and can" the products for distribution throughout northern California (Burton, 1997:2). Early labels from canned fruit, champagne, and apple cider packed at "Knight & Company's Forest House Gardens" remain in the Burton collection.

In 1864, in honor of George Washington's birthday, Forest House hosted an elaborate ball, heavily advertised in the Yreka newspapers. "The Forest House is a place of popular resort. It has the best dancing hall in the country and none who are fond of pleasant, healthful, innocent recreation or who dance to properly celebrate the natal day of the father of his country should fail to be at the Forest House on the 22nd" (*Yreka Union*, 10-Feb-1864). Balls at the Forest House were a frequent, if not regular, occurrence and were mentioned in the Yreka press. The dance programs for many of the balls remain in the Burton Papers. Typical, perhaps, was a May 1868 event in celebration of the fraternal International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) anniversary. The event was "...well attended and passed off more pleasantly than any party that has been given in this vicinity for a long time...Much credit is due our friend Horace Knight and his associates, and Mrs. Knight, for their exertions" (*Yreka Union*, 4-May-1868).

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Visitors to the Forest House arrived on horseback, by buggy or carriage, and the Stable and Horse Barn was probably built about 1860 to house their rigs. In 1865 a "barn raising" at the Forest House was announced in the local paper, to build the Dairy barn (Yreka Scrapbook #14, 26-October-1865). With other additions, the Forest House was taking on aspects of small rural community, providing a full range of services from social to traveler accommodation, not to mention a growing agricultural business for its own consumption and sale to others.

Last Sunday we visited the Forest House and discovered that a vast amount of improvement has been going on in putting up new buildings and enlarging the orchard since our last visit. The new barn lately erected immediately opposite the hotel adds greatly to the appearance of the place, it being on a line with the stable, blacksmith shop, two story chicken house, and wagon house, presenting quite an aristocratic row of buildings for a small town. On the west side of the road is also a new orchard, well filled with two hundred cherry trees, one hundred plum trees, and several young peach trees, together with a large number of two-year old grape vines (*Yreka Union*, 14-Nov-1866, as cited in "Yreka in 1866," undated clipping c1966, Burton Papers).

The fruit production at the Forest House continued to grow during the late-1860s and 1870s, with reports the orchards shipped as high as 20,000 pounds of fruit in some years, depending upon the weather (*San Francisco Bulletin*, 22-September-1871). Upon the report that Forest House orchards production was down, due to a killing frost, Marshall Short responded, via the *Yreka Union*, and in so doing provides a snapshot of the Forest House orchards during the period.

Marshall Short, of the Forest House, dropped by and informed us that the Forest House fruit was not generally killed [in the recent frost]. Apples are entirely unhurt; pears and peaches are nearly in the same condition; and even the nectarines and apricots are not wholly destroyed (*San Francisco Bulletin*, 1-May-1871, citing the *Yreka Union*, 27-April-1871).

The sophistication and scope of the orchard operation is demonstrated by an account of what the editor of the local paper described as an "ingenious" irrigation system, installed at the orchard in 1873.

Logs were laid underground for about three-quarters of a mile, forming a pipe from the creek south of the Forest House. Knight's pipe line created pressure, through a four and half-inch bore, that was sufficient to throw a stream eighty feet in the air. The logs were bored by machinery run by horse power, four horses boring a twelve foot log in less than five minutes. The logs were then driven together and the ends bound with iron rings to prevent leakage and give security. From the end of the log pipe line a fifty mile ditch system conducted water to all parts of the premises, both sides of the creek, and to a reservoir used for ice cutting during the winter (Jones, 1953:159).

Knight & Company further branched out to during this period of expansion to create a distillery, reportedly the first such facility north of Sacramento to be licensed by the State of California. "A new enterprise, Messrs. Knight (sic) and Short of the Forest House are about to engage in the manufacture of liquors from their surplus fruits...They already have their house for the purpose erected. It is 30 feet one way by 36 feet the other. Their still will be on the ground in a day or two" (*Yreka Union*, 12-December-1874, as cited by Burton, 1965:13). In less than a decade it was reported that Marshall Short, from the distillery at Forest House was manufacturing about 1200 gallons of wine annually, as well as 500 gallons of brandy.

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He also dries apples, peaches, plums, potatoes, corn and tomatoes by evaporation, a process which leaves the article pure and white, far superior to the ordinary dried fruit. He has 12,000 fruit trees and 2,000 grape vines (Wells, 1881:193).

Forest House's location, at the base of the steep pass, made a logical stopping point for cattle drives moving across the pass between the ranches of the Scott Valley and the markets of Yreka. "The first indication of a [cattle] drive involving the Forest House was that of old Charles Hammond, who sold between 500 and 600 head to Mr. Sweetman of Petaluma for \$24.00 each on April 24, 1869 (*Yreka Union*, as quoted in Burton, 1965:19).

The 1870 census shows Knight, Short, and Whittier still as partners in the Forest House, now joined by Lorenzo Ladd (age 47, also born in Vermont). The four partners listed their occupation as "Hotel & Gardens," each sharing equally in the project value, now reduced in scale to just \$10,000. Knight, age 58 in 1870, was living with his wife Elmira (listed as "keeping house") and the couple's two children, George (age 25, "at school") and Martha (age 6, "at home"). Frank Whittier and his wife Lovanthia also lived at the Forest House, as did Short and Ladd, both unmarried. The census also reported Henry Stokes, born in Tennessee, Hiram Skein and Thomas Knight, as working in the gardens. Jim Bell, born in China, was working as the operation's live-in cook. Four other men, led by William Byrd, were employed manufacturing brick (1870 US Census, MS593, Roll 89, Page 672-73).

As the agricultural operations at Forest House expanded, the hotel operation also gained in reputation, with local couples finding the site an appropriate wedding venue, and the relaxing environment becoming increasingly popular as a "resort." Forest House became popular during the hot summer, when the slight rise in elevation and proximity to the mountains made the Forest House a retreat from the hot weather of the Shasta Valley. In the winters sleighing parties became a popular entertainment. "On Tuesday evening last a large number of our young people, and old ones for that matter, got up a sleighing party and taking their music along went out to the Forest House and had a dance" (*Yreka Journal*, 29-January-1876).

As early as 1866 Horace and Elmira Knight were both sufficiently successful and needing a break from the daily operation of the Forest House that they were reported as have taken a year's vacation to the eastern United States. "Horace Knight returned from a years' trip to the East and looks hearty as though he enjoyed it. He traveled through all the northern states" (*Yreka Journal*, 16-Nov-1866). In 1878 the area surrounding the Forest House was finally surveyed by the General Land Office, divided into township, section and range by Theo Wagner, the Survey General of California.¹⁴ In October 1879, Knight sold his interest in the Forest House to Marshall Short and Joseph Wilson¹⁵ in consideration of the sum of \$10,000, transferring:

all those certain premises situated in Yreka township, Siskiyou County, California, and on the Stage Road from Yreka to Fort Jones, known as the Forest House...heretofore

¹⁴ The General Land Office plat documents "Knights and Short" pasture in Section 8, but fails to pinpoint the location of the Forest House or its surrounding barns. The notes for the survey notes under "General Description" that "...The Forest House property of Knights & Short is in center of SW ¼ of Section 8. (McKay, 1878:506).

¹⁵ Wilson, according to the 1880 Census, was keeping the hotel. This transfer may relate to the business, not the real estate, which appears to have remained entirely in Short's possession.

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held and owned by the said Grantors with the said Marshall Short and including the preemption claim of Horace Knight, to have and to hold all of the interest of the Grantors in and to the said Forest House (Siskiyou County Deeds, 17:474).

Although some earlier sources report Horace Knight retired to Montana, this appears to be incorrect, probably an earlier confusion with James F. Whittier, who left Siskiyou County to go into partnership with his brother Alonzo in a mining operation in Deer Lodge, Montana. The 1880 Census reports Horace and Elmira Knight living in Yreka, where he reported his occupation as "retired Hotel Keeper." The couple later followed their son, George H. Knight, to Adin, an unincorporated community in Modoc County, California, where George had started a general mercantile business, Roseberry & Knight General Merchandise.¹⁶ In 1885, when US President Rutherford B. Hayes stopped in Yreka as part of a first ever presidential tour of the western United States, Horace Knight was a member of the local welcoming committee (Jones, 1953:202). Knight died, in Adin, on 23-September-1889, at 77 years of age. Horace, as well as his wife Elmira and son George, are buried in Adin Cemetery.

FOREST HOUSE: TRANSITION 1880-1909

By 1880 the Forest House operation had again changed, with both Whittier and Knight leaving the partnership. At the Forest House, Marshall Short was now in charge of the entire operation. The 1880 census reports Short, a "farmer" living on the property, along with a Joseph W. Wilson (who listed his occupation as hotel keeper), Wilson's wife and children, Go-Wah, "cooks in hotel," two gardeners, and four "wood choppers" all in residence at Forest House (US Census 1880, Series T9, Roll 83, Page 267).

Knight and Short had filed land claims (including the preemption claim, referred to above) on parcels that would form the core of the Forest House property upon first settling the area in 1852.¹⁷ In 1880, after he had sold his interest to Short, Horace Knight received Patent Certificate No. 526 for 160 acres. Short himself, under Patent Certificate No. 608, received another 160 acres adjoining Knight' parcel. In 1890, under Homestead Act (Certificate No. 858), Short received another 160 acres, as well as purchasing additional land, expanding the Forest House property (Siskiyou County Deeds, 27-365).

During the 1880s the ownership of the Forest House was consolidated by Marshall Short, who apparently bought out the interest of Joseph Wilson in the hotel operation. Short, who never married, relied upon several members of his extended family, who lived at and helped him keep the Forest House over the years. These included a niece, Mary Elizabeth Short (born July 5, 1859) and David Ulysses Grant (born September 4, 1864), each of whom spent several years in Siskiyou County. Marshall Short's younger sister, Mary Jane (born 1830), came to visit her brother in 1868. Skilled as an artist, Mary Jane married Amos Woods, a noted photographer. After Amos' death, in 1887, Mary Jane moved into the Forest House where she lived the remainder of her life, passing in October 1897.

¹⁶ This business, today known as Adin Supply Company, remains a landmark in the "Big Valley" region of Modoc County. See <http://www.adinsupply.com/>, visited 17-December-2010.

¹⁷ A preemption claim is a type of land transfer from the Federal Government that was created under the Preemption Act of 1841, originally applying to lands in the old Northwest Territory (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois etc., expanded to include areas in the South). Preemption claims were used in the Kansas and Nebraska territories in 1854 and, prior to the passage of the Homestead Act, in 1862, would logically been the basis for land claims in northern California during the period of Siskiyou County's original American settlement.

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In the early 1890s, Marshall Short brought his nephew, Robert Marshall Brown, into the Forest House business. Robert, born in 1858, was married to Lillie White in 1882 in Kansas, where their two daughters, Bessie Olive and Helen, were born. Sometime after 1892, as Marshall Short was aging, Robert's family moved to Siskiyou County and became partners in the Forest House operation. The 1900 census shows the couple, along with their teenage daughters, living with Marshall Short and two Scottish housekeepers, indicating the hotel operation was still in full swing (US Census 1900, T623, Roll 113, Page 91).¹⁸

By 1898 the Browns were sufficiently capable at running the operation that Marshall Short, then 71-years old, determined to return to Ohio to visit relatives. This was Short's first return to his native state, and the event was reported in the *Semi-Weekly News*, published in Mansfield, Ohio.

Mr. Short is a native of Ohio and spend the earlier years of his life on a far southwest of Ashland. He now has a fruit farm as is also engaged in stock raising. This is Mr. Short's first visit to Ohio since he left here 48 years ago. He is revisiting the scenes of his early home... (*Semi-Weekly News*, 24-May-1898).

In 1908 Short transferred total ownership in the Forest House to his two young nieces, Elizabeth (Bessie) and Helen.¹⁹ In March 1908, for the sum of one dollar, Short deeded "the south half of the section 8, the south half of the Northwest quarter of section 8, and the west half of the northwest quarter of section 8, all in Township 44 North and Range 7 West...being all the property commonly known as the Forest House Ranch" to the children of R. M. and Lillie Brown (Siskiyou County Deeds, 77:44). Marshall Short died on April 10, 1909, aged 82 years, while sitting in front of the fire at Forest House.

He had been in feeble health for several months but was up and around until the moment of his death. He died suddenly in his chair, with members of the family at his side, little thinking death was near (*Siskiyou Daily News*, 15-April-1909, 3:4).

Marshall Short was buried in the Evergreen Cemetery, in Yreka. Five and half months later, on 2-September-1909, Robert M. Brown and Lillie, his wife, along with their two daughters, sold the Forest House, ending more than half a century of Short family connection to the property. The property, described exactly as it had been in the 1908 deed language was sold to Fred C. Burton for "...ten dollars in Gold Coin" (Siskiyou County Deeds, 78:177).

FOREST HOUSE: BURTON OWNERSHIP, 1909-Present

Fred C. Burton, the patriarch of the second period in the Forest House's history, was born in Scott Valley, California on March 28, 1879. He was the son of the pioneer Stephen Burton, who had arrived in Siskiyou County in 1863 as a 16 year old boy, and of Sarah Shelley Burton, daughter of William Shelley, another Scott Valley pioneer. Fred C. Burton was educated in Siskiyou County, and then at the Ashland (Oregon) Normal School. Gertrude Bryan Burton (b. May 18, 1880), was the daughter of James Bryan, who had been a Sergeant with Company E, stationed at Fort Jones in 1852 and had then

¹⁸ See also www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohrichla/hbrait.htm.

¹⁹ As with so much of the Forest House history, this recorded deed is somewhat confusing. In it, Short and Lillie Brown, "...wife of R. M. Brown" (not widow), transfer the Forest House "...to Elizabeth Olive Brown and Helen Brown, their daughters." No earlier record of Lillie's obtaining an ownership position in the Forest House was located, nor is their any mention of R. M. Brown's status at the time of this transfer (March 1908).

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returned to the region when his army duty was up. Fred and Gertrude were married in Yreka in June 1907. The couple "...immediately left for Nome, Alaska, where [Fred] became mine foreman of the Miocene Ditch Company, a placer operation. Shortly after returning to Siskiyou County, he bought the Forest House Ranch" (Burton, 1965:4-5).

Fred Burton was clearly interested in the history of the Forest House. As a Fort Jones resident in the late 19th century he would certainly have known the building, and Marshall Short, during his youth, traveling past the ranch on his way to and from Yreka. After having purchased the ranch, evidence in the Burton Papers indicates that Burton began to seek information on the building prior to WWI, writing to elderly pioneers for their recollections and gathering images and other materials related to the site's history. By the late 1940s, his efforts to publicize Forest House began to succeed, as several newspapers in northern California and southern Oregon ran pieces on the long history of the property.

Before the old Forest House is completely lost to posterity, someone should take a few pictures of it...The road was built in the early 1850s according to Supervisor Fred Burton, who property it winds... (*Siskiyou News*, 6-January-1949, in SCHS Scrapbook #12, Page 23).

Fred and Gertrude Burton continued to operate the Forest House during the 1950s, although much of the century-old orchards were removed and the focus of the property was shifted toward cattle ranching. Remnants of the earlier industrial uses on the site, the evaporator, portions of the sawmill and other buildings fell into disrepair and were removed or slowly collapsed (McKinney, 1963A). Other buildings, however, such as the solidly built Ice House, were retained despite their essential lack of purpose. A new dwelling was built for Homer Burton, the Fred and Gertrude's oldest son, to the west of the main house in 1952. Another dwelling, for Fred W. Burton, another son, was built to the east of the Forest House in the 1960s.

In 1961 the State of California rerouted the highway in front of the Forest House, building a new grade that stayed higher on the mountain and created a more direct route. "The Forest House south of Yreka on State Route 82 for the first time since its construction in 1852 will not have a steady stream of wayfarers passing only a few feet from its front door" (*Sacramento Bee*, 26-November-1961, B4:1-4). The bypassed roadway was abandoned, becoming the private route that still exists and serves as the entry into the property.

Gertrude Burton died on July 29, 1961. Fred C. Burton continued to reside at the Forest House for the remainder of his life. He died, at 89 years of age, in May 1968. Ownership of the Forest House was transferred to the three Burton children; Homer, Fred W., and Patricia. After Fred W. Burton's death on June 4, 2004, ownership of the Forest House was consolidated under the control of the children and grandchildren of Homer Burton, the eldest son of Fred C. and Gertrude, and today continues more than a century of Burton family ownership.

Mid-19th Century Waysides: State of Jefferson

Although the Forest House is significant as one of the oldest structures in Siskiyou County, California, for its role in the early development of agriculture and industrial development in that region, and as an almost entirely intact example of mid-19th century vernacular architecture, the property also gains significance as an exemplar of type, the 19th century "wayside" that were once a common development

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type in this far-flung, rural, area. These facilities, once familiar elements of the roadside that served the traveling public along established stage coach routes as well as for other, private, travelers, share a certain architectural character in the "State of Jefferson," as the area flanking the southern Oregon-northern California borderline is often termed.

Siskiyou County, as a result of its mining-inspired settlement, retains a number of pre-1860 resources of varying types. Of the nineteen National Register listings in the county (nine of which are Federally-owned), the Lewis Falkenstein House and the Lewis Heller Studio, both in Fort Jones, have some similar associations as the Forest House, dating from the 1850-period and, at least in the case of the Heller Studio (also known as the Fort Jones House), having had a lodging function. In Yreka, there are 1850s-era resources located within the West Miner Street-Third Street Historic District. None of these resources, however, share the same combination of social and agricultural associations that the Forest House holds, being located as it is within the rural separation between Shasta and Scott Valley.

Just below the Oregon-California border, about 25 miles north of Forest Mountain, stands Cole's Station, located outside the community of Hilt, at the base of Siskiyou Mountains. Reportedly built in 1854,²⁰ Cole's Station, owned and operated by Rufus Cole, was the last California stop on the Oregon-California Stage Route and functioned in that capacity until the completion of the railroad line over the mountains in December 1887. The ell-shaped building, with a large front-facing gable and wrap-around porch that leads to a rear wing, has vertical board and batten siding, 6/6 windows and remains in excellent condition and is used as private residence (Miller, 2008).

Perhaps the best known and most similar resource in the region is the Callahan Ranch Hotel, located about 31 miles SW of Forest House, on Highway 3, at the southern end of the Scott Valley. "In the fall of 1851, M. B. Callahan came to this place and decided to locate here. He built a small cabin and furnished a slender meal to weary travelers... The next spring he...with his wife opened a regular hotel (Wells, 1881:215). Callahan's served a stop on the Yreka-Fort Jones stage line and, like the Forest House, provided accommodations to area miners and others, however it never developed the associated agricultural and small industrial uses that were developed at the Forest House. The two buildings, however, do share a common architecture. The Callahan Ranch Hotel is a two story wood-frame structure, gabled with 6/6 wood windows, twin interior brick chimneys, eave returns and full width shed roof porch that abuts the highway. This house is currently vacant, with boarded windows and is in poor condition. Perhaps the most interesting corollary between the Forest House and the Callahan Ranch House is the large painted sign below the eave line, facing the roadway.

North of the California border, in Oregon, two other early wayside facilities were built in the early 1850s. One, the Mountain House, built in 1851 shares a similar development history with the Forest House, having been built by several pioneer men who saw potential for a travelers' accommodation then jointly developed the property as a stage stop and "hotel" and agricultural center during the 19th century. Mountain House's history continues to parallel the Forest House in that it was then sold to a second, long-term owner, the Barron family, and enjoyed a second period as the headquarters of that family's extensive ranching operation. The Mountain House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004 (NRIS #03001479). Further north, in Phoenix, Oregon, the Samuel Colver

²⁰ Other sources date construction from the mid-1850s to as late as 1859. See Tveskov, Derr et al, 2001:17 and Tickner & Fiorini-Jenner, 2006:38

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House, built of hewn log, was also a two-story volume with a double front porch, the upper floor of which was used as Colver Hall, a popular dancing and meeting place. The Colver House, listed on the National Register in 1990 (NRIS #90001596) was severely burned in 2008 and no longer survives.

Summary:

The Forest House, established circa 1852, and including the associated contributing resources that surround the main house, is significantly associated with the earliest settlement period in Siskiyou County, California. The property was built in connection with a jointly-owned private toll route that provided the most direct connection between the agricultural and military developments of the Scott Valley and the bustling mining, governmental, and commercial center that grew around the town of Yreka following the discovery of gold at Dry Diggings. This route became increasingly important after the designation of Yreka as the county seat after the creation of Siskiyou County on March 22, 1852.

Under the management of Horace Knight, Marshall Short, and a series of business partners, the Forest House developed not only as a hotel/resort and popular social center for the Yreka area, but as one of the first and largest commercial orchards in northern California during the mid-19th century. Extensive orchards, along with production of other agricultural products that included dried fruit, cider, and champagne from the Forest House Gardens, made the site an important food producer in the region for more than five decades. Other uses, including an early saw mill, brick yard, and the harvesting, storage and sale of ice, all contributed to the property's reputation. Purchased in 1909 from a descendent of Marshall Short, one of original owners, the Forest House has since been owned and maintained by three generations of the Fred C. and Gertrude Burton Family.

The Forest House is significant under Criterion "A" for its association with the early development of Siskiyou County, California and the themes of agriculture, entertainment/recreation, and transportation. The property is additionally significant under Criterion "C" as a virtually intact example of mid-19th century vernacular way station or hotel built to serve the traffic on the Shasta-Scott Valley Turnpike, a toll road developed and operated by the owners of the Forest House.

While unoccupied for more than 40 years, the Forest House retains very high integrity of its original design and strongly conveys both its historic character and the associations for which it is significant. The integrity of the site, with the now bypassed route of the Yreka-Fort Jones Highway traversing the nominated parcel as it did from the 1850s through 1961, is further enhanced by a series of 19th century outbuildings that convey the once bustling agriculture-related activities associated with the Forest House during the last half of the 19th century. Owned by just two parties since its construction and retaining integrity in virtually all aspects of evaluation, the Forest House is a rare and near unique resource that clearly and effectively conveys its historic significance.

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Section number 9 Page 1 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Yreka Union. Misc. articles as cited by date, in text.

100 - COTTON
FURNISHMENT RECORD
MAY 1901

FOREST HOUSE

Name of Property

SISKIYOU, CALIFORNIA

County and State

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.75 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>526 205</u> Easting	<u>4613 485</u> Northing	3	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>526 200</u> Easting	<u>4613 280</u> Northing
2	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>526 295</u> Easting	<u>4613 280</u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See the attached Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See the attached Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title George Kramer, M.S.
organization Kramer & Company date February 2011
street & number 386 North Laurel telephone 541-482-9504
city or town Ashland state OR zip code 97520
e-mail george@preserveoregon.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**United States Department of the Interior
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FOREST HOUSE
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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated area is an approximate 5.75 acre portion of Parcel 9B, as described in Document No. 08-0007448, located with Section 8, of Township 44 North, Range 7 West. This area begins at the property line immediately south of the California State Route No. 3 right-of-way and continues in a generally southerly direction for 307 feet, across the former highway route, and then, crossing Yreka Creek, for 554.57 feet. From that point the boundary continues westerly for approximately 512.7 feet, then angles north and thence easterly for to a point approximately 80.15 feet south of Yreka Creek, then northerly across the creek and back to the boundary of State Route 3, a distance of 551.95 feet, before ending easterly to the point of beginning. This parcel, as described and shown in the attached survey by Philip Bray (2010) defines the historic "building core" of the Forest House development with the larger, 3500+ acre tax lot associated with the ranch. (See attached survey for detailed boundary description and map.)

Boundary Justification:

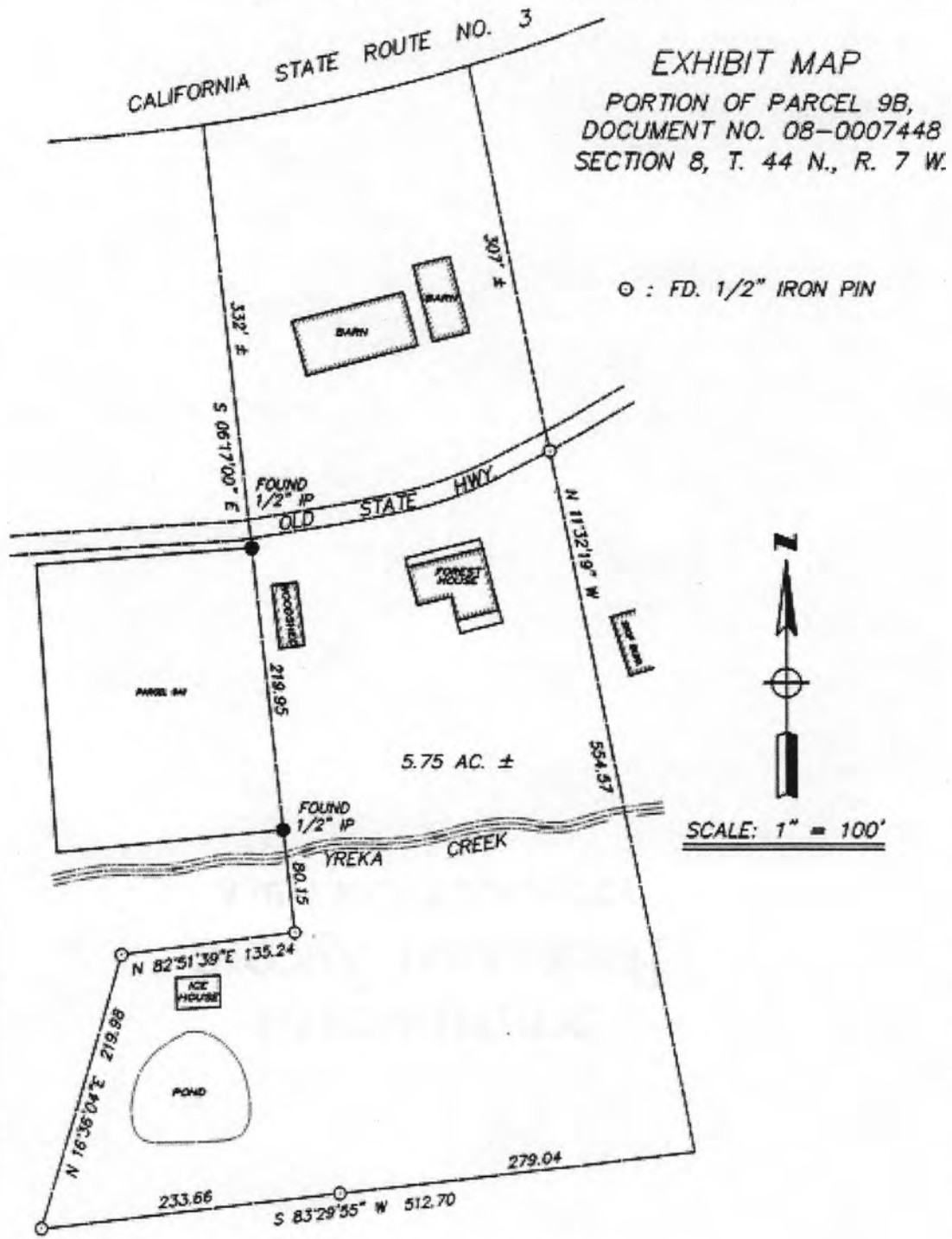
The nominated portion of the subject tax lot, as depicted on the following survey, includes the Forest House and all identified standing historic resources associated with its 19th century development, including significant site features (old toll road route, ice pond) that allow the resources to effectively interpret their historic associations. The nominated area excludes proximate, non-historic resources built after the end of the period of significance that do not relate the historic 19th century development of the property.

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FOREST HOUSE
NOMINATED AREA (P.Brady, 2010)

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A parcel of land located in a portion of the Southwest one-quarter of Section 8, Township 44 North, Range 7 West, described as follows:

All that portion of Parcel 9B, as described in that certain document number 08-0007448 recorded July 1, 2008 in the Office of the Siskiyou County Recorder further described as follows:

Beginning at a found ½" diameter iron pipe at the Northeasterly corner of Parcel 9A1 as described in the aforementioned document number 08-0007448,

Thence S 06°17'00" W, 219.95 feet (220.20 record) to a ½" iron pipe at the Southeast corner of said Parcel 9A1;

Thence continuing S 06°17'00" E, 80.15 feet to an iron pin;

Thence S 82°51'39" W, 135.24 feet to an iron pin;

Thence S 16°36'04" W, 219.98 feet to an iron pin;

Thence N 83°29'55" E, 233.66 feet to an iron pin;

Thence continuing N 83°29'55" E, 279.04 feet;

Thence N 11°32'19" W, 554.57 feet to an iron pin on the South edge of old State Highway no. 82;

Thence continuing N 11°32'19" W to the Southerly right of way of California State Route No. 3;

Thence Westerly along said Southerly right of way to a point which bears N 06°17'00" W from the point of beginning;

Thence S 06°17'00" E to the **Point of Beginning**.

The Basis of Bearings for this description are the found iron pipes on the East line of Parcel 9A1, S 06°17'00" E.

Containing 5.75 acres, more or less.

This description is for the purpose of delineating a portion of a parcel of land for inclusion into the National Register of Historic Places, and in no way is intended to divide or separate it from the parent parcel described as Parcel 9B in Document No. 08-0007448.

FOREST HOUSE

Name of Property

SISKIYOU, CALIFORNIA

County and State

Property Owner:

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

name **FOREST HOUSE RANCH [Burton Family Partnership], c/o Steven F. Burton**

street & number **P.O. Box 363**

telephone **(530) 340-0104**

city or town **Yreka**

state **CA**

zip code **96097**

1004-COLLON TIER
FEDERAL RECORD
SOUTH WORTH

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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FOREST HOUSE

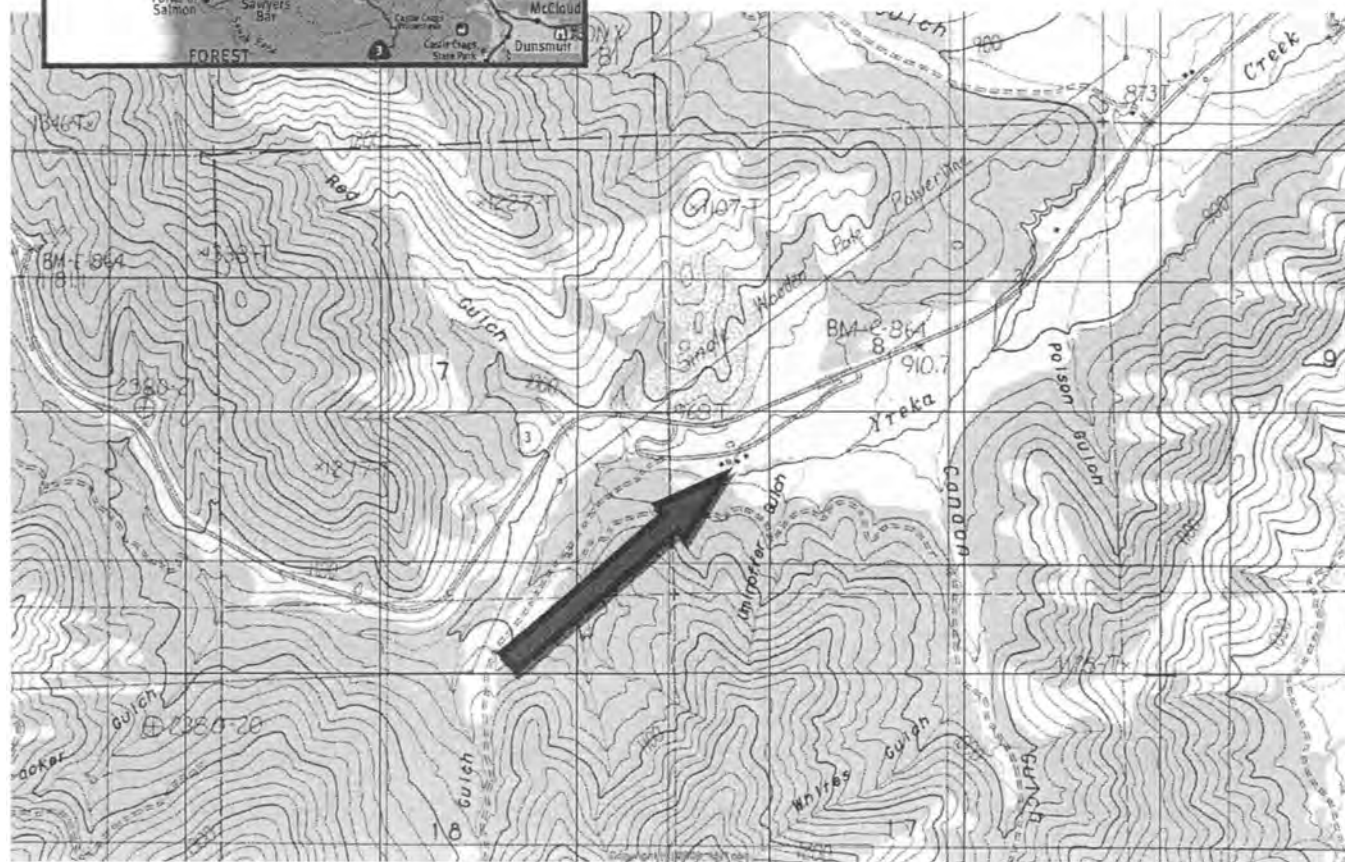
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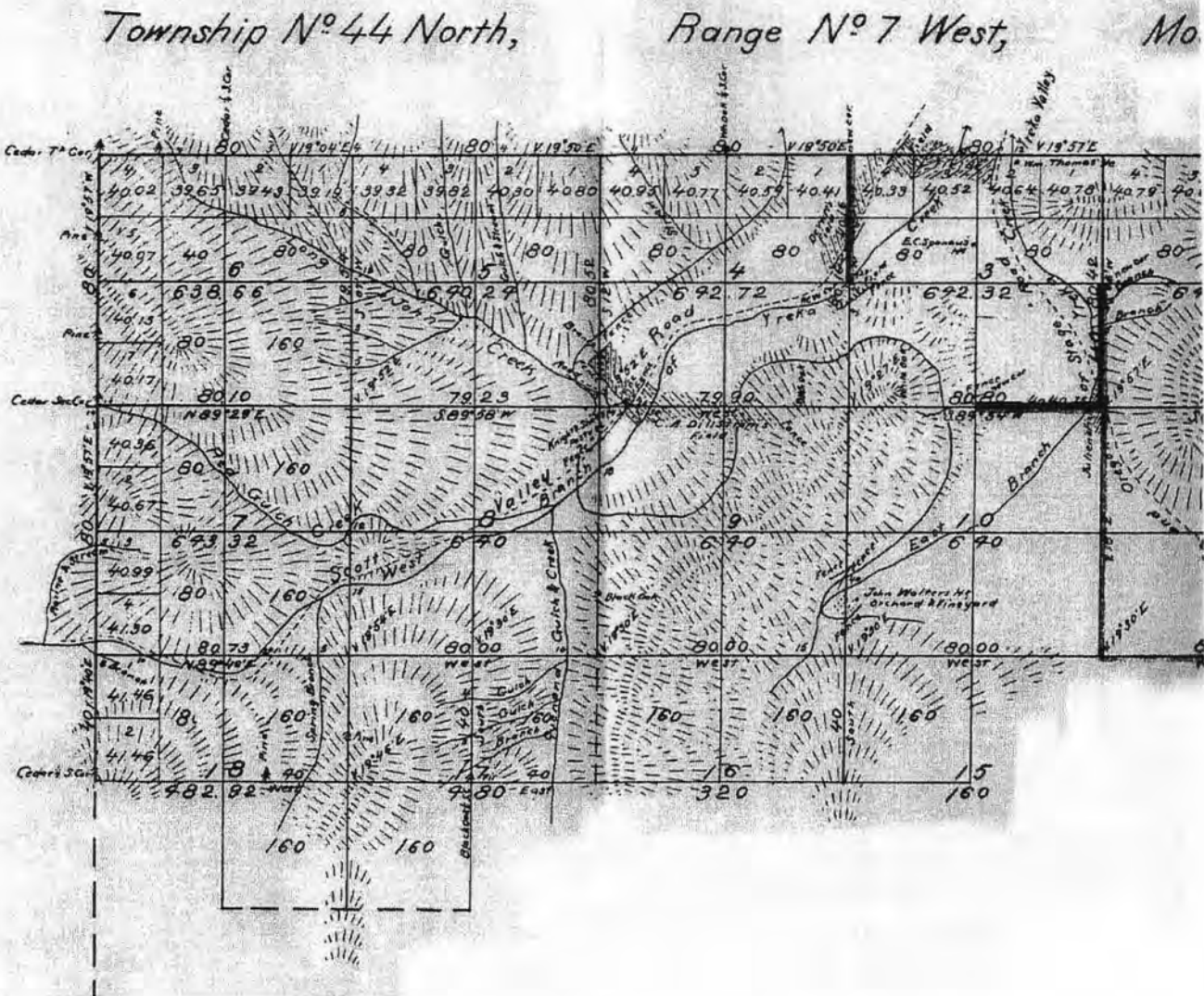
MAP 1.
 USGS "YREKA" Quadrangle
 1984
 [Annotated, Overlay Vicinity Map from California State Parks Department]

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MAP 2.
US General Land Office Map
Twn 44 N, Range 7 W, Mt. Diablo Meridian
1879

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MAP 3.
Siskiyou County Map
Carefully Compiled by J.M. Davidson
1887
(Siskiyou County Library)

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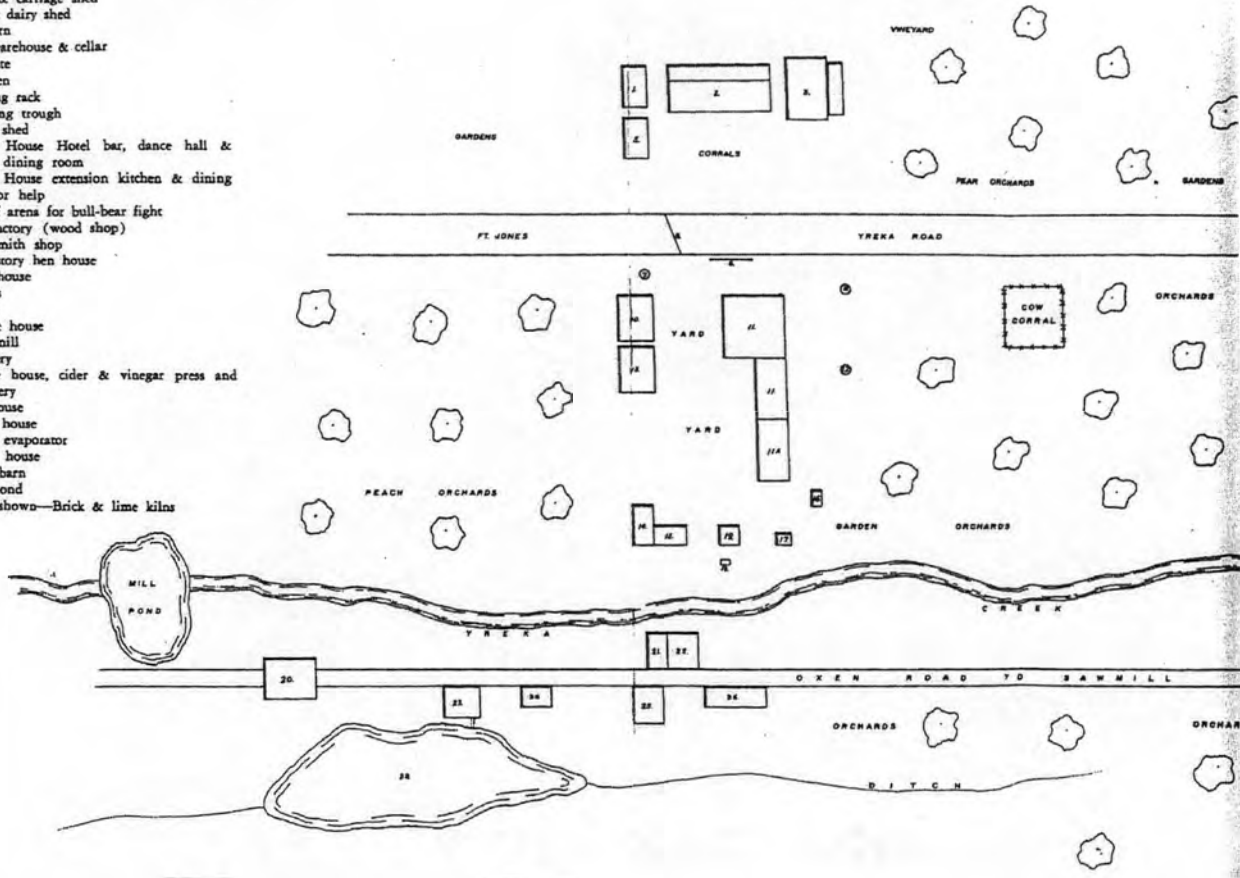
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Diagram of Forest House Operation

- 1 Bunkhouse
 - 2 Stable & carriage shed
 - 3 Barn & dairy shed
 - 4 Hay barn
 - 5 Fruit warehouse & cellar
 - 6 Toll gate
 - 7 Bear pen
 - 8 Hitching rack
 - 9 Watering trough
 - 10 Wood shed
 - 11 Forest House Hotel bar, dance hall & public dining room
 - 11a Forest House extension kitchen & dining area for help
 - 12 Site of arena for bull-bear fight
 - 13 Box factory (wood shop)
 - 14 Blacksmith shop
 - 15 Two story hen house
 - 16 Bath house
 - 17 Toilets
 - 18 Ovens
 - 19 Smoke house
 - 20 Saw mill
 - 21 Cannery
 - 22 Apple house, cider & vinegar press and distillery
 - 23 Ice house
 - 24 Fruit house
 - 25 Fruit evaporator
 - 26 Fruit house
 - 27 Hay barn
 - 28 Ice pond
- Not shown—Brick & lime kilns



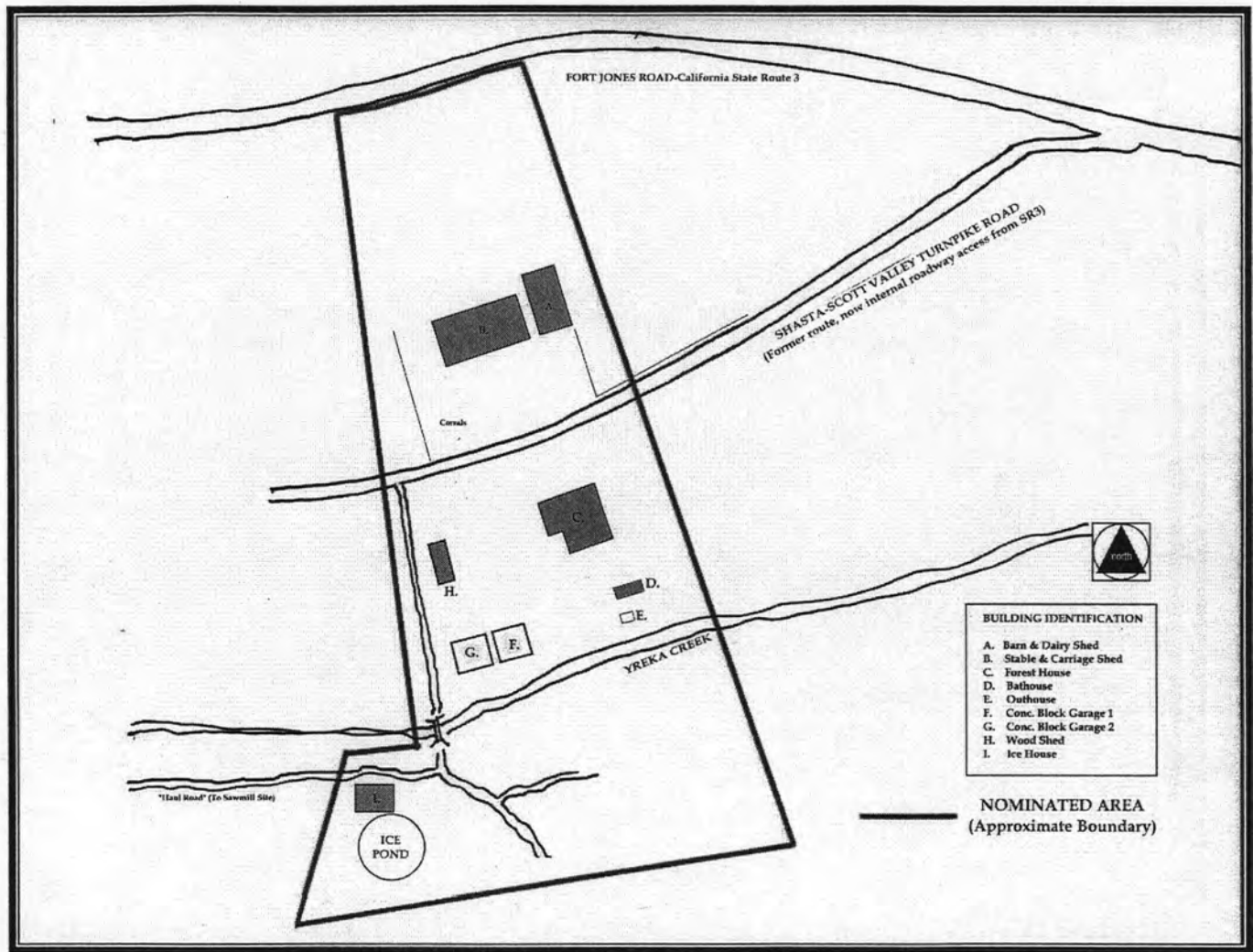
MAP 4.
 FOREST HOUSE SITE MAP
 from Fred W. Burton
 Siskiyou County Historical Society "Forest House Issue"
 1965

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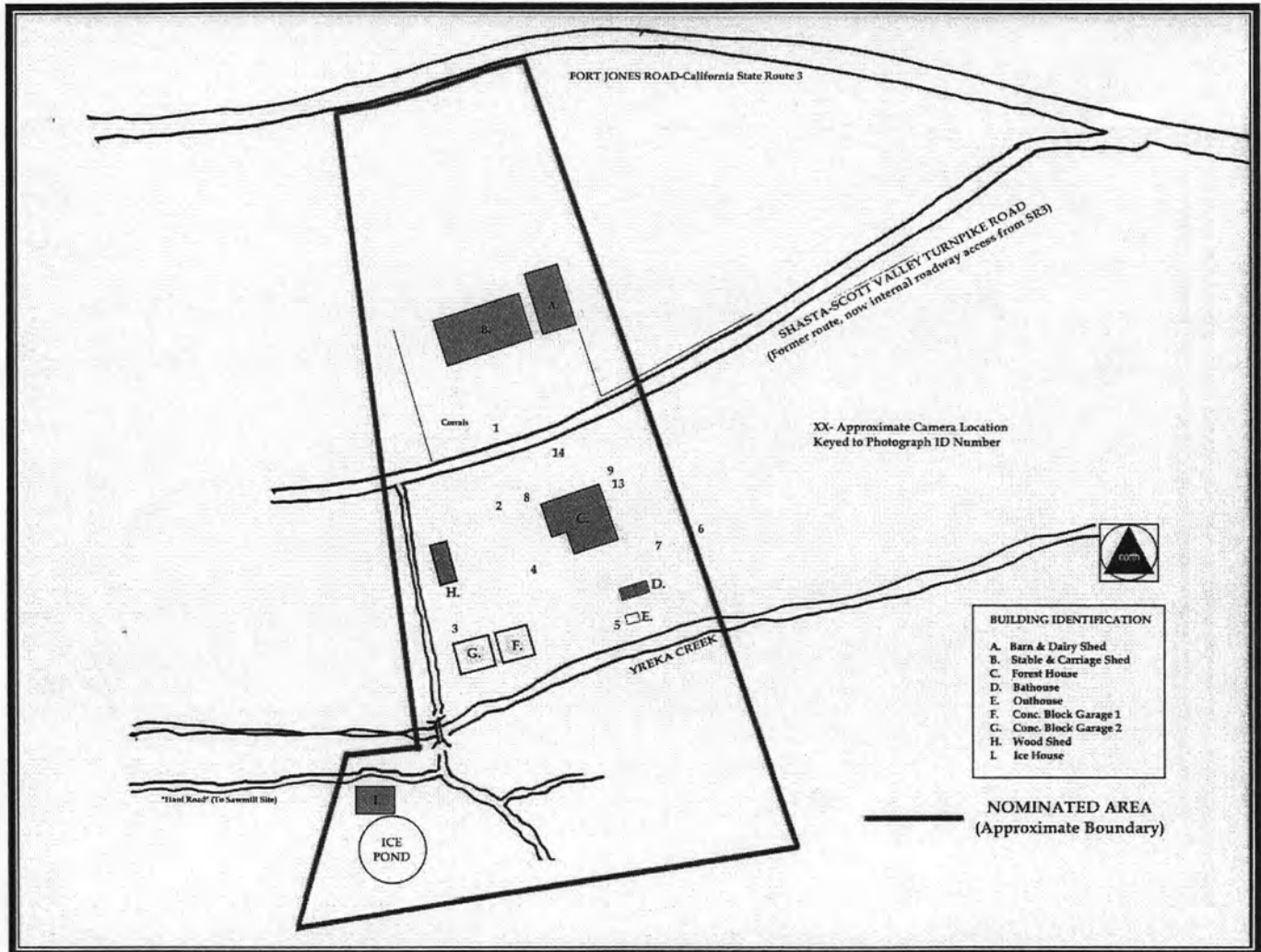
MAP 5.0
FOREST HOUSE
Sketch Map
2011

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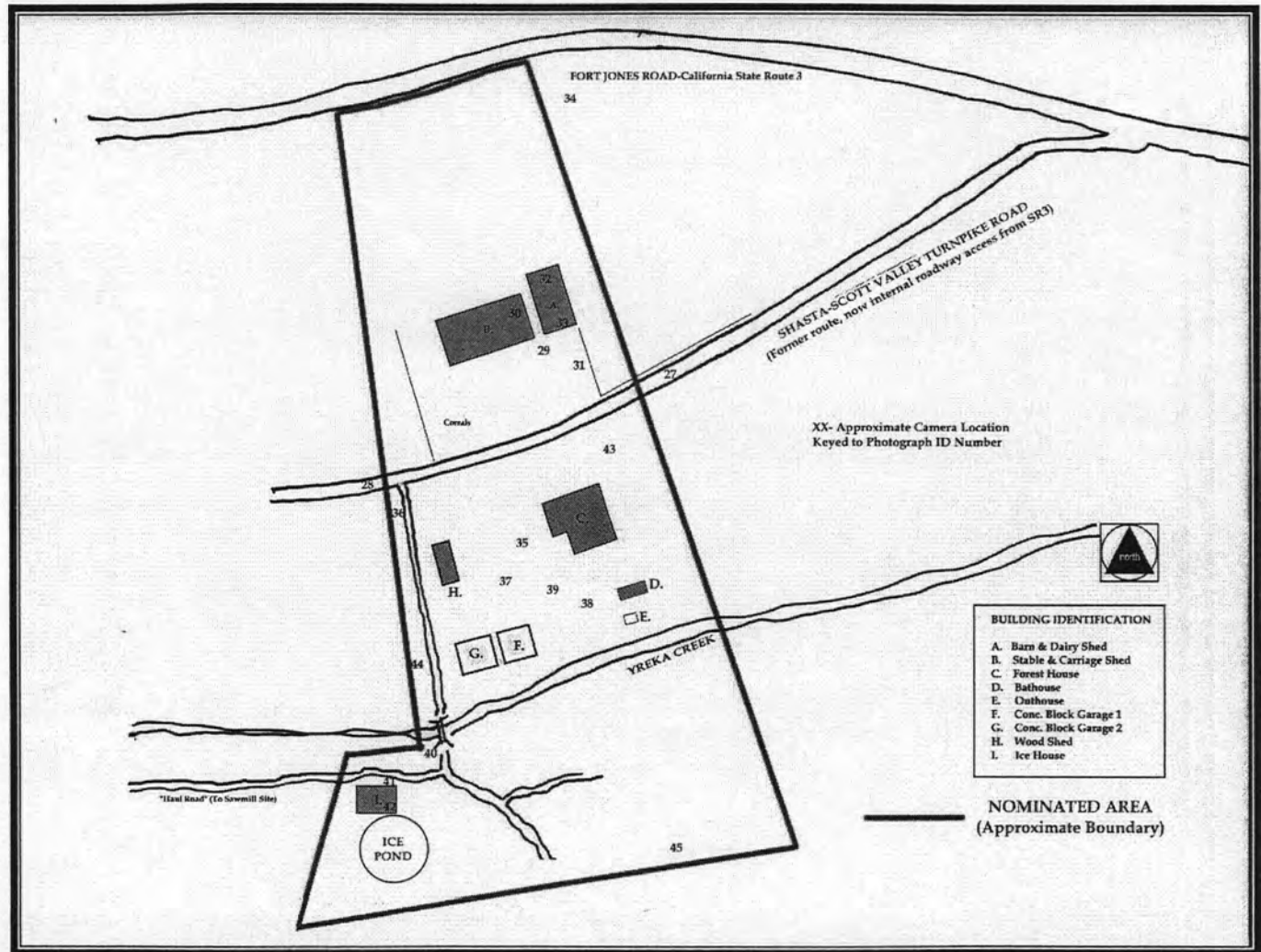
MAP 5.1
FOREST HOUSE EXTERIOR
Sketch Map
Keyed to Photographs
2011

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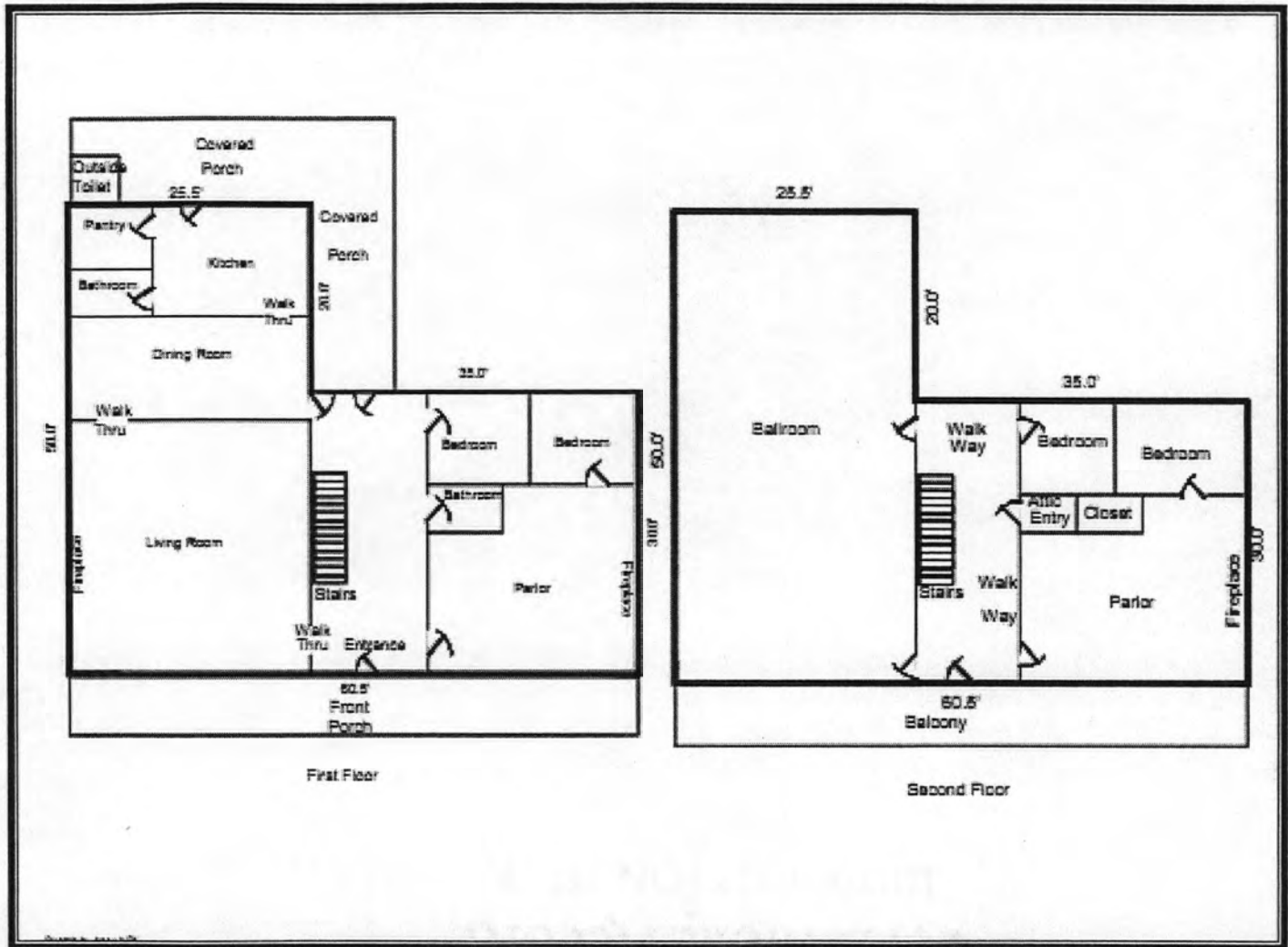
MAP 5.2
FOREST HOUSE, OTHER BUILDINGS
Sketch Map
Keyed to Photographs
2011

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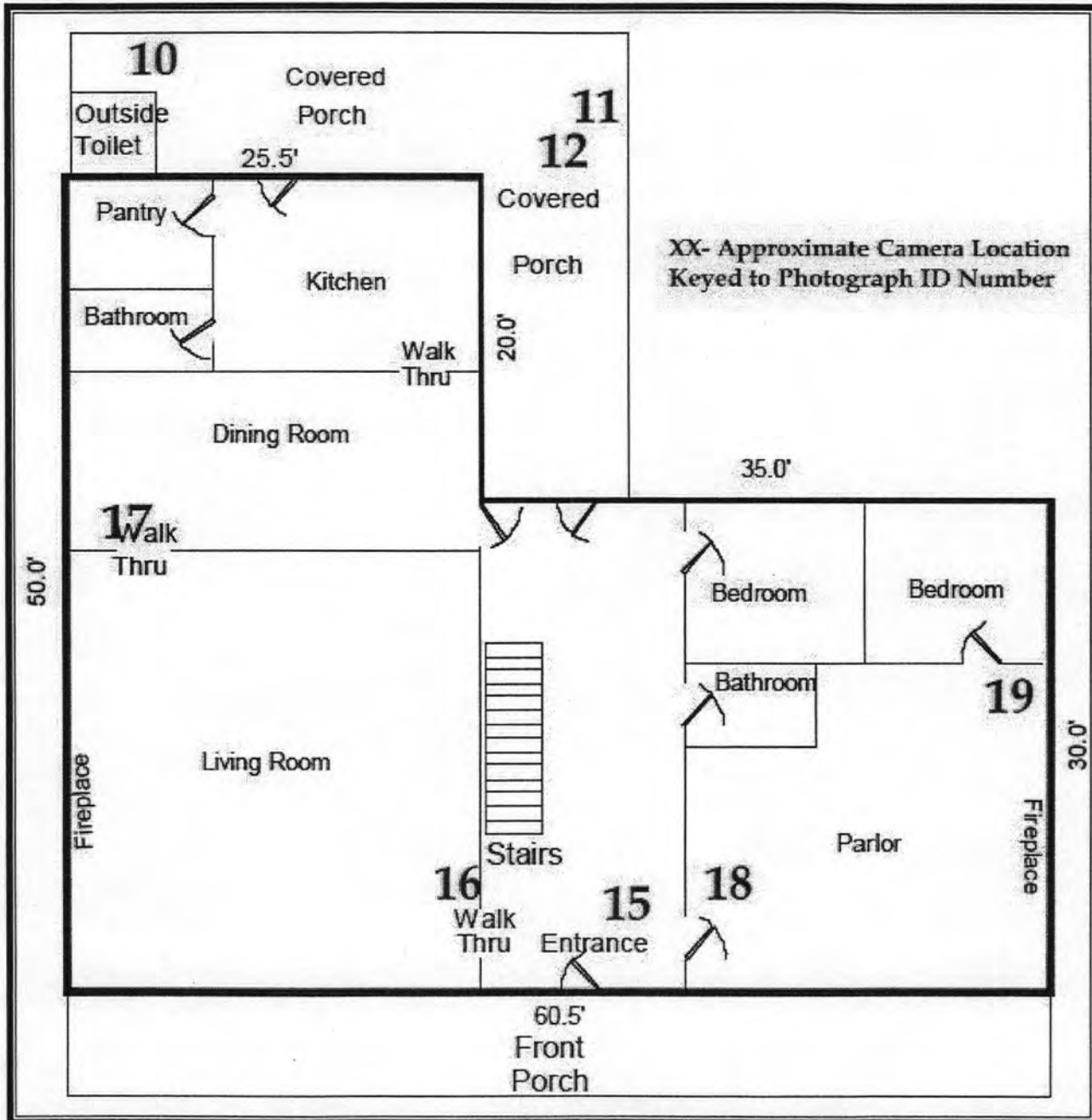
MAP 6.0
Interior Floor Plan, Forest House
Approx 4650 sq feet total
2011

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XX- Approximate Camera Location
Keyed to Photograph ID Number

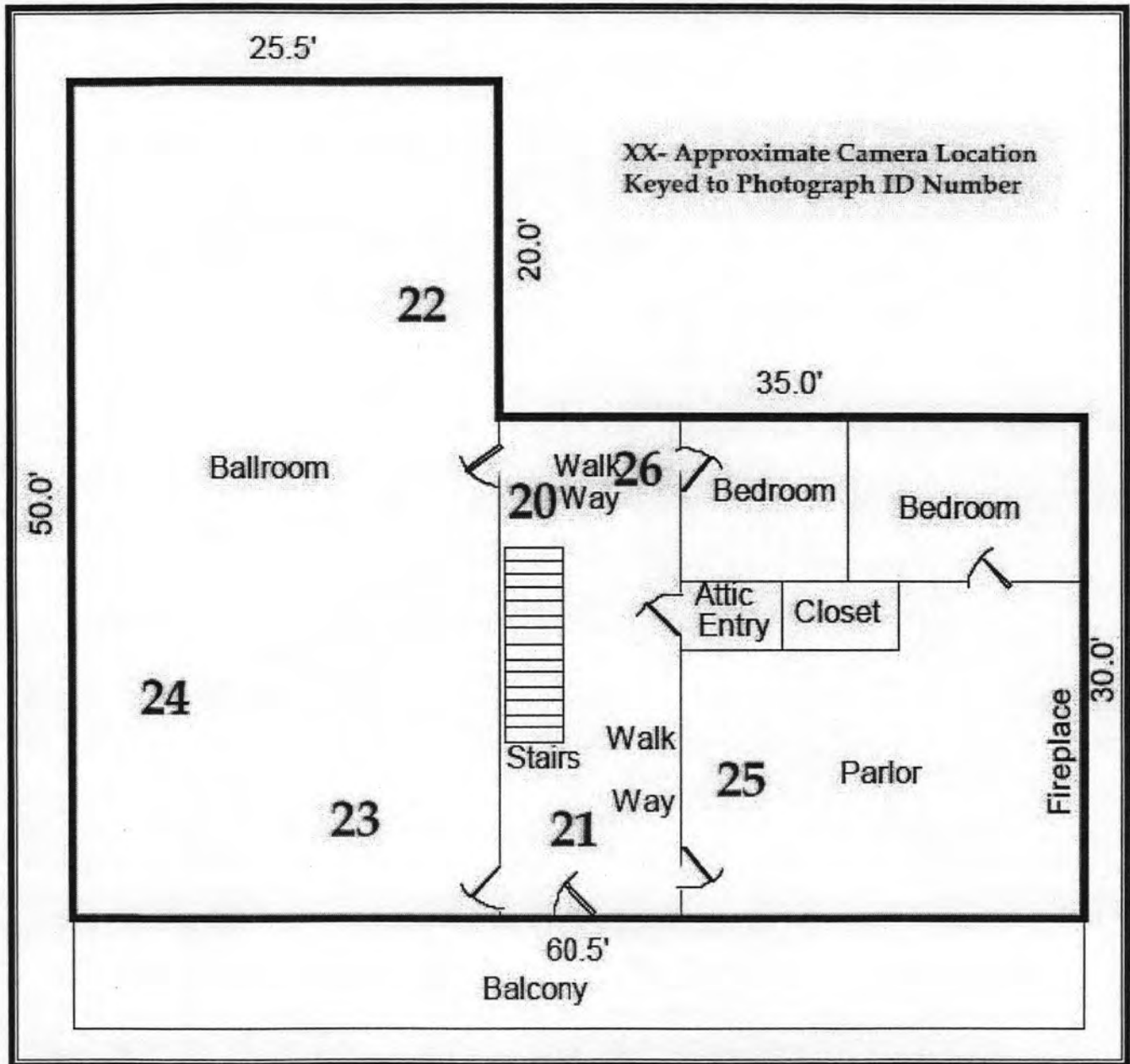
MAP 6.1
Forest House
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
Keyed to Photographs
2011

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MAP 6.2
Forest House
SECOND FLOOR PLAN
Keyed to Photographs
2011

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Figure 1. Forest House & Barns, Pencil Rendering, c1858
from an original owned by Charles King, Yreka



Figure 2. "Road House, Near Yreka, Calif.," c1900
Postcard View, Collection of the Author

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Siskiyou County, CA
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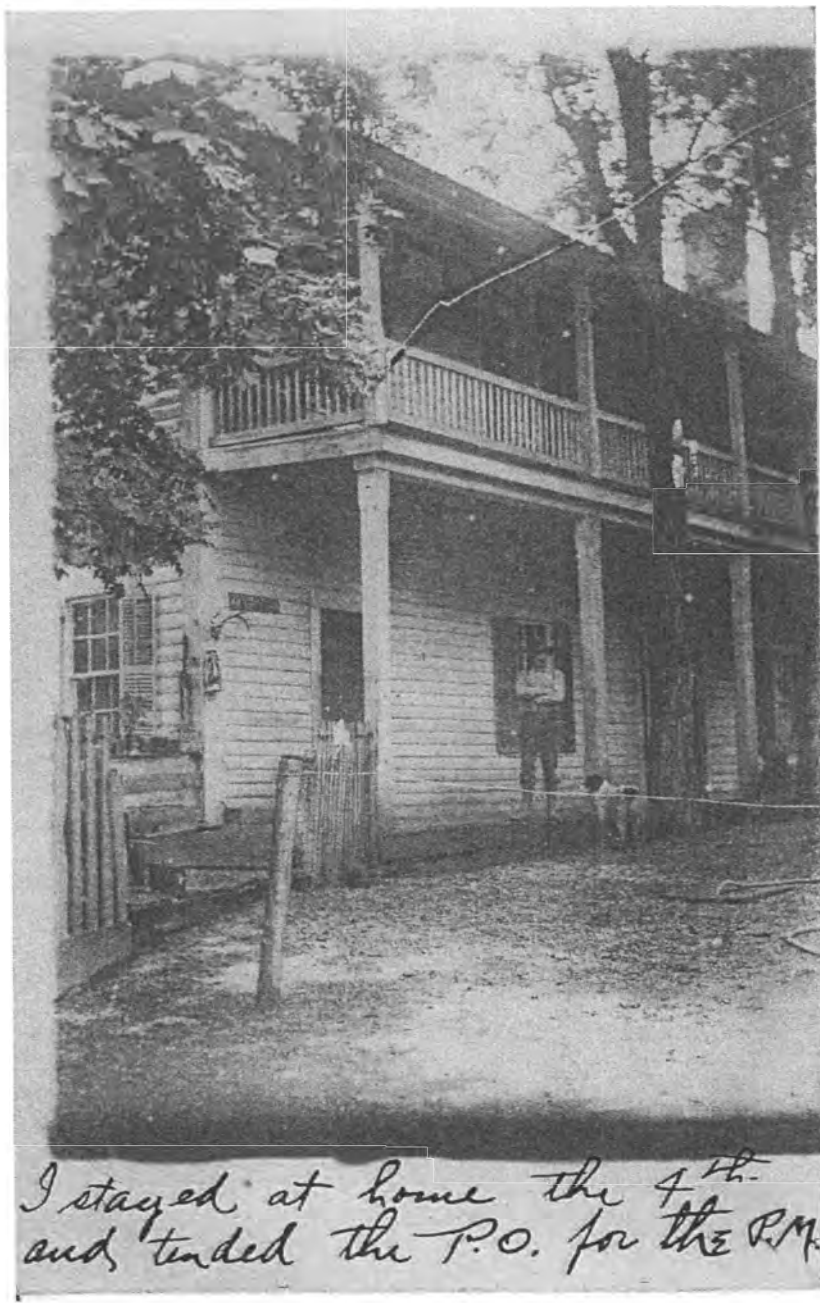


Figure 3. Forest House, Front Elevation Looking SW, from roadway, c1909
Burton Collection

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Figure 4. Forest House, in Snow, 1910
Burton Collection



Figure 5. Homer and Fred Burton, at the Forest House, Looking NE, c1916
Burton Collection

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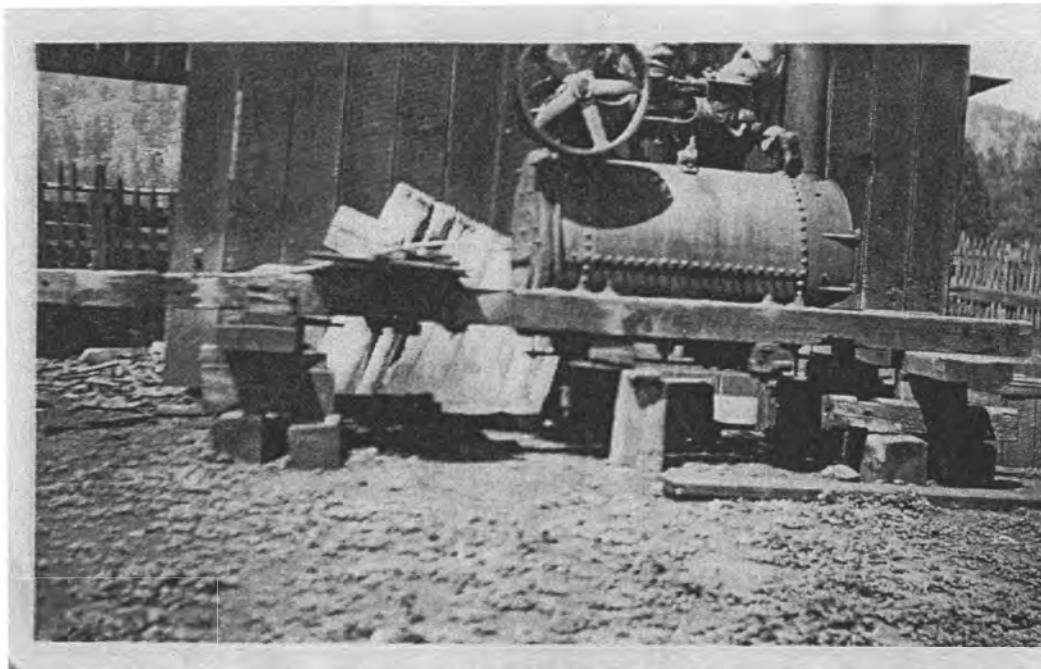


Figure 6. Hot Water Boiler, in front of Wood Shed, Looking West, c1918
Burton Collection



Figure 7. "Prospector at Forest House," 1918
Burton Collection

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Figure 8. "Hauling Cordwood," 1918 (Note Barn)
Burton Collection



Figure 9. Forest House, Looking SW, across roadway, c1920
Burton Collection

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Figure 10. Forest House, c1963 (Photo by J. O. McKinney)
Burton Collection



Figure 11. Forest House, 1995
Burton Collection

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Siskiyou County, CA

County and State

n/a

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 17



Figure 12. Aerial View, Forest House, September 28, 1997
Looking North, from above Yreka Creek
Burton Collection

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

FOREST HOUSE
Name of Property Siskiyou County, CA
County and State n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation Page 18

PHOTO INVENTORY

Name of Property: FOREST HOUSE
 City or Vicinity: v. Yreka
 County: Siskiyou (093)
 State: CA
 Photographer: George Kramer, Kramer & Co. (Ashland, OR)
 Date of Photographs: October 2010
 Location of Original Digital Files: 396 North Laurel, Ashland, OR 97520

- Photo #1. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0001)
North-facing [Front] elevation, looking SE, across "old highway."
- Photo #2. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0002)
West-facing elevation, looking SE, portion of rear screened porch visible at right.
- Photo #3. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0003)
West and south-facing elevations, looking NE from "garage" area.
- Photo #4. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0004)
Rear porch, kitchen wing, west and south-facing elevations, looking east.
- Photo #5. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0005)
Rear, south-facing, elevation, showing kitchen wing (note foundation condition), looking north.
- Photo #6. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0006)
East-facing elevation, looking west.
- Photo #7. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0007)
East-facing elevation, looking northwest.
- Photo #8. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0008)
Front Porch detail/North-facing elevation, looking east, from front yard area.
- Photo #9. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0009)
Front Porch detail (NE corner) looking SW.
- Photo #10. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0010)
Rear Screened Porch, looking west.
- Photo #11. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0011)
Rear Screened Porch, looking north, toward (rear) central hall entry door (note siding).
- Photo #12. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0012)
Rear Screened Porch, looking east, toward (note outdoor, field hand facilities).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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FOREST HOUSE

Name of Property
Siskiyou County, CACounty and State
n/a

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- Photo #13. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0013)
Exterior detail, Cornerboards and returns, at NE corner.
- Photo #14. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0014)
Exterior detail, Main Entry Door, looking south.
- Photo #15. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0015)
INTERIOR: Central Hall, Stair, looking south from main entry door.
- Photo #16. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0016)
INTERIOR: Living Room [Bar], looking NW, toward main entry, hallway.
- Photo #17. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0017)
INTERIOR: Dining Room, looking SW, toward kitchen, from Living Room.
- Photo #18. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0018)
INTERIOR: Parlor, looking SW toward rear bedroom from near Central Hall.
- Photo #19. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0019)
INTERIOR: Parlor, looking NW, from rear bedroom toward Central Hall and Main Entry
- Photo #20. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0020)
INTERIOR: Upper Floor, Central Hall, looking north.
- Photo #21. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0021)
INTERIOR: Upper Floor, Central Hall, looking south.
- Photo #22. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0022)
INTERIOR: Upper Floor, Ballroom, looking north.
- Photo #23. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0023)
INTERIOR: Upper Floor, Central Hall, looking south.
- Photo #24. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0024)
INTERIOR: Upper Floor, Central Hall, Flooring detail.
- Photo #25. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0025)
INTERIOR, Upper Floor, Large Bed Chamber, looking west.
- Photo #26. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0026)
INTERIOR DETAIL, Door to rear bed chamber, from Central Hall (Faux Painted).
- Photo #27. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0027)
STABLE & CARRIAGE SHED and BARN/DAIRY SHED, looking west, from old highway route.
- Photo #28. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0028)
STABLE & CARRIAGE SHED and BARN/DAIRY SHED, looking east.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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FOREST HOUSE

Name of Property
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- Photo #29. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0029)
STABLE & CARRIAGE SHED, South-facing elevation, looking NW.
- Photo #30. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0030)
STABLE & CARRIAGE SHED, Interior View, looking east (note post/beam framing at right and pole framing at left).
- Photo #31. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0031)
BARN & DAIRY SHED, looking north.
- Photo #32. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0032)
BARN & DAIRY SHED, Interior View, looking SE (note floor framing notches, treenails).
- Photo #33. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0033)
BARN & DAIRY SHED, Interior View, looking east, toward "tack room" area.
- Photo #34. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0034)
GENERAL VIEW, showing Barn/Dairy Shed in foreground, Stable and Carriage Shed to right and, across old hwy, Forest House in the background, at foot of Forest Mountain.
- Photo #35. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0035)
WOOD SHED, looking West from Forest House.
- Photo #36. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0036)
WOOD SHED, looking SE, from drive that forms boundary of nominated area.
- Photo #37. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0037)
BATHHOUSE, looking SW from point between Forest House and Wood Shed.
- Photo #38. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0038)
BATHHOUSE, looking east (note "outhouse" to right).
- Photo #39. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0039)
CONCRETE BLOCK GARAGE 1 and 2, looking SW from behind Forest House.
- Photo #40. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0040)
ICE HOUSE, looking SW from "Haul Road" at head of bridge over Yreka Creek.
- Photo #41. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0041)
ICE HOUSE, Interior view, looking south, from doorway toward "loading port" overlooking Ice Pond.
- Photo #42. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0042)
ICE HOUSE, Interior view, looking SW, from entry door, showing construction details.
- Photo #43. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0043)
GENERAL VIEW, "Hitching Post," in front of Forest House, looking West.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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FOREST HOUSE

Name of Property

Siskiyou County, CA

County and State

n/a

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Photo #44. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0044)

GENERAL VIEW, looking NE from bridge at Yreka Creek. Wood Shed at left, Stable/Carriage Barn and Dairy Barn in distant center, Forest House and Concrete Block Garage 2 at right.

Photo #45. (CA_Siskiyou County_Forest House_0045)

GENERAL VIEW, looking north from Haul Road, across Yreka Creek, toward Forest House (Note Stable and Carriage Barn roof in distance, SR3 cut is beyond, partway up the hill.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Forest House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Siskiyou

DATE RECEIVED: 6/03/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/24/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/11/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/19/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000433

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7.14.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.













FOREST HOUSE



FOREST HOUSE



































































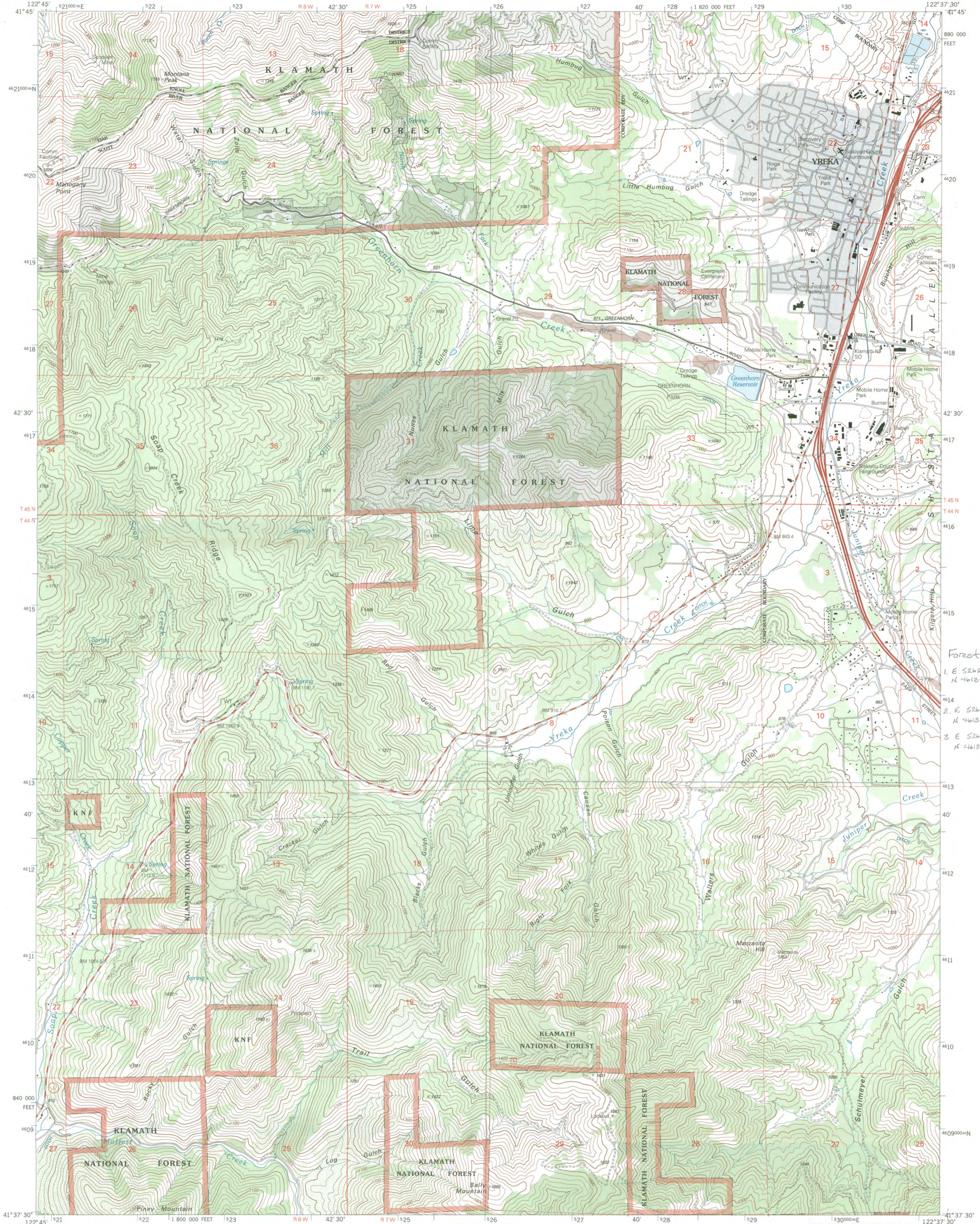










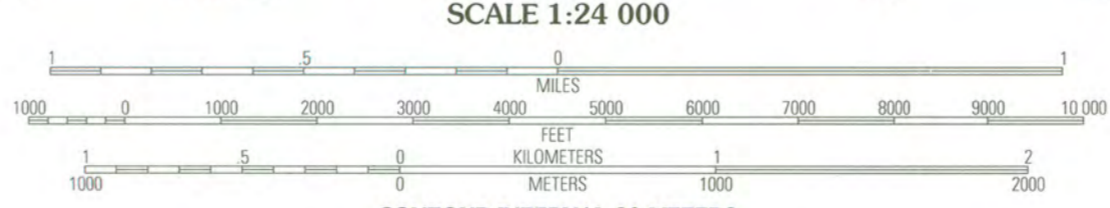
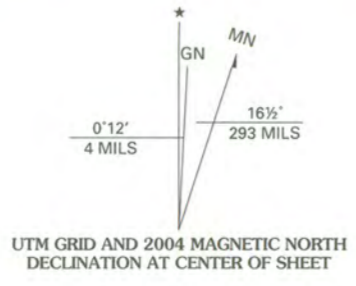


Forest House
1. E 526205
N 4613185
2. E 526295
N 4613280
3. E 526200
N 4613280

Produced by the United States Geological Survey 1984
Revision by USDA Forest Service 2001

Topography compiled 1974. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1998 and other sources. Public Land Survey System and survey control current as of 2003. Boundaries current as of 2003.
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 10 000-foot ticks: California coordinate system, zone 1 (Lambert conformal conic).
Blue 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 10
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.

Non-National Forest System lands within the National Forest
Holdings may exist in other National or State reservations
This map is not a legal land title or ownership document. Public lands are subject to change and leasing, and may have access restrictions; check with local offices. Obtain permission before entering private lands



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 METERS
SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
TO CONVERT FROM METERS TO FEET, MULTIPLY BY 3.2808



1	2	3	1 McKinley Mountain
4	5	5	2 Badger Mountain
6	7	8	3 Hawksville
			4 Indian Creek Baldy
			5 Montague
			6 Fort Jones
			7 Duzel Rock
			8 Gazette

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLES

HIGHWAYS AND ROADS

Interstate	.....	.....	Primary highway	.....
U. S.	.....	.....	Secondary highway	.....
State	.....	.....	Light-duty road	.....
County	.....	.....	Composition: Unspecified	.....
National Forest, suitable for passenger cars	.....	.....	Paved	.....
National Forest, suitable for high clearance vehicles	.....	.....	Gravel	.....
National Forest Trail	.....	.....	Dirt	.....
			Unimproved; 4 wheel drive	.....
			Trail	.....
			Gate; Barrier	.....

YREKA, CA
2001
41122-F6-TM-024
NIMA 1467 II NW-SERIES V895



**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053
calshpo@parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



May 25, 2011

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service 2280
1201 I (Eye) Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Subject: **Forest House**
Siskiyou County, California
National Register of Historic Places Nomination

Dear Ms. Shull:

Carol

Enclosed please find the **Forest House** nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. On May 19, 2011 in Santa Monica, California, the California State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the property eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level of significance.

The two-story, wood-frame building, of modest vernacular design with a full-width front porch, central hall and parlor plan, and a projecting kitchen wing to the rear, is surrounded by 19th century barns and outbuildings related to the early history of Siskiyou County. Settlement on the site, including the initial construction of the Forest House, began in 1852 as a way station that served the growing mining communities drawn to Siskiyou County by the discovery of gold. Over the next half-century the Forest House developed into a significant industrial and agricultural center, and the House became a popular "resort" destination, the site of gala dances, weddings, and other social events.

In 1909 the property was purchased by Fred C. and Gertrude Burton, closing the period of significance that began in 1852. The Burtons' descendants continue to own and maintain the Forest House, and the property is nominated on their behalf. Over 150 years old and almost entirely "as built," the Forest House retains high integrity.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact Amy Crain of my staff at (916) 445-7009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Milford Wayne Donaldson".

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

**Forest House
v. Yreka, Siskiyou County
Staff Report**

The building complex located at the heart of the Forest House Ranch is a cluster of nineteenth-century barns and outbuildings related to the early history of Siskiyou County, all centered upon the Forest House itself, a two-story, wood-frame building on the Yreka-Fort Jones Road, southeast of Yreka. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement as well as Criterion C, both at the local level of significance. Its period of significance is 1852 to 1909.

Settlement on the site, including the initial construction of the Forest House, began in 1852 as a way station that served the growing mining communities drawn to Siskiyou County by the discovery of gold. Over the next half-century the Forest House developed into a significant industrial and agricultural center, containing one of Siskiyou County's earliest sawmills, providing the region with fresh fruit from its extensive orchards, as well as ice, dried fruit, cider and other related products. In addition the Forest House itself became a popular "resort" destination, the site of gala dances, weddings, and other social events.

Operated by Horace Knight and Marshall Short, in combination with a series of partners, the Forest House served as the focal point of multiple business ventures that played an important role in the history of Siskiyou County, California during the latter half of the nineteenth century. In 1909 the property was purchased by Fred C. and Gertrude Burton. More than a century later, the Burtons' descendants continue to own and maintain the Forest House. Over 150 years old and almost entirely "as built," the Forest House retains exceptionally high integrity and accurately reflects the associations for which it is considered significant.

The house is of modest vernacular design with a full-width front porch, central hall/parlor plan and a projecting kitchen wing to the rear. Surrounding barns and outbuildings accurately relate the agricultural and industrial uses of the property. The setting and associated resources add substantially to the Forest House's ability to convey its significance as a large nineteenth-century agricultural and tourism-related operation during the earliest settlement period of Siskiyou County, California.

The property is nominated on behalf of the owners, the Burton Family Partnership. To date, no letters of support or objection have been received. Staff supports the nomination as written and recommends the State Historical Resources Commission determine that the Forest House meets National Register Criteria A and C at the local level of significance. Staff recommends the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register.

Amy H. Crain
Historian II
March 10, 2011