United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received MAY | 4 |984 date entered JUN | 4 |984

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

1. Name

historic	Beeks, Silas	Jacob N., House		
and/or common	Same			
2. Loca	ation	NE of Forest	Grove	
street & number	Route 2, Box	C		N/A not for publication
city, town	Forest Grove	Vic, <u>X</u> vicinity of	First Congressional	District
state	Oregon	code 41 count	y Washington	code 067
3. Clas	sification			
Category district building(s) structure x site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisitio _N//Ain process being conside	yes: restricted	entertainment government	<pre> museum park X_ private residence religious scientific transportation other:</pre>
4. Own	er of Pro	perty		
name	Gary Senko			
street & number	Route 2, Box	180		
city, town	Forest Grove	_ <u>X</u> vicinity of	state	Oregon 97116
5. Loca	ation of L	egal Descript	ion	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Washington County Co	ourthouse	
street & number		150 N. First Avenue		
city, town		Hillsboro	state	Oregon 97123
6. Repr	resentatio	on in Existing	Surveys	
Wash	nington County vey and Invento	C. R.	property been determined el	ligible?yes _X_no
date Dece	ember, 1983		federal sta	te <u> </u>
depository for su	rvey records	Washington County Mu	useum	
city, town		Beaverton	state	Oregon 97005

7. Description

Condition

excellent	deteriorated	unaltered
fair	unexposed	

Check one _X_ original site ____ moved date ____N/A_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Check one

The Silas Jacob N. Beeks residence was built in two episodes. The original residence is a one story, two room, timber-framed structure built in 1848. Ca. 1960, a $1\frac{1}{2}$ story Carpenter Gothic style farmhouse was built incorporating the older structure as a wing. This was modeled after a cottage design by Andrew Jackson Downing. The house rests on wooden piers and stone footings that support massive hewn 12 x 12-inch sills and 16 x 16-inch stringers. The house retains its historical integrity and is in good repair.

The house is sited in the Tualatin River watershed on the Tualatin plains one mile south of Dairy Creek in Washington County. The Silas Jacob N. Beeks Donation Land Claim is located in Sections 20, 29 and 32 of Township 1 North, Range 3 West of the Willamette Meridian. The residence is located in the northeast quarter of Section 29. The nominated are is 1.68 acres, and is described as Tax Lot 101. This residence is located one and one-quarter miles north of Forest Grove, Oregon, and one half mile east of Verboort, Oregon.

The residence is in an "L" configuration, the ground plan including the one story wing projecting west. The Carpenter Gothic addition is rectangular in mass. The main facade is oriented to the east, west of Martin Road, one quarter mile south of Verboort Road.

The Beeks settled on this land in 1848 and in 1850 S. J. N. Beeks filed claim #79 for 570 acres. It was later farmed by F. J. Stapleton, Walter Bernard, William Lepschat, and is currently owned by Gary Senko.

The farm residence is the primary component and is enhanced by these contributing features: water tower, smokehouse, machinery shed, aviary and two wells. The flora present on the site includes a stand of oaks, a fruit orchard and remnants of the flower garden.

Architectural Description

The house was designed in the Carpenter Gothic style - similar in manner to Andrew Jackson Downing cottages - and stands one and one half stories. The foundation is made up of

12 x 12-inch wooden piers on stone footings. Some of the stones have been replaced with concrete pads. These footings support massive 12 x 12-inch hewn sills and 16 x 16-inch stringers. In the timber-framed structure the plates are of similar size. The girts and plates are joined by mortise and tenon, with the plates partially exposed on the interior.

The residence, L-shaped in plan, has front and side porches and a wood shed addition. The roof has a steeply-pitched gable with projecting eaves and is covered with composition shingles. The house is clad with horizontal weatherboards, corner boards and a plain fascia at the roof line. Both the addition and the original structure are fenestrated by 6/6 double-hung sash windows with narrow muntins.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet BEEKS, SILAS JACOB N, HOUSEItem number

Page

The main facade is symmetrically composed and incorporates a centrally located triangular dormer that visually caps the front porch. Within the gable of this dormer is a pointed arch door which provides access to the second floor balcony above the entry porch. The balcony is enclosed with a small turned post balustrade the height of the eave line. The pointed arch door is reflected below in three arches formed by the elaborately jig sawn brackets that embellish the split columns supporting the porch. The front door has four panels and it is highlighted by a three light transom. The porch shades two windows on either side of the door. These are original 6/6 double-hung sash with narrow muntins. The detail exhibited in the screen door, with its jig sawn brackets and turned post frame supports, punctuates the visual aesthetics of the dormer-porch complex.

The siding and porch details of the original portion are consistent with the Gothic addition. The porch wraps around the west and north additions, the west wall is now enclosed with a storage shed and a portion was dismantled to accommodate the wood shed addition at the gable end. The wood shed addition epitomizes the later period of construction, c. 1908. It is clad with shiplap, cornerboards and incorporates 4/4 double-hung sash windows. A large door leads to a concrete walk and privy site; another door is located at the west gable end.

Several features are present that are common to Downing-influenced houses. The house is painted a muted yellow with white trim. This is the original paint, no other paint has been subsequently added. A paint chip comparison was done and this color is called Downing Yellow. The ceilings of the porches are painted a sky blue. The arched door, the low ceilings, the early balloon construction and the bathroom are elements found in Downing-style houses.

Interior

The existing spatial arrangement originates from the 1908 remodel completed by the Bernard family. The main entry opens into the major living space adjoined by a parlor to the north, a bathroom in the southwest corner and an enclosed stairway running parallel along the western wall. The dining-living space, kitchen and woodshed extend respectively into the west wing. The enclosed stairs lead to a second floor hall providing access to three bedrooms: two expand the full width of each gable end and one is lodged under the central dormer. These rooms remain in near original condition, including the victorian-era wallpaper.

The major living space in the later addition was modernized and enlarged c. 1908, by dismantling the walls of the bedrooms and the sitting room; and by enclosing the stairs thus creating a large living space. A multi-paned window replaced earlier fenestrations on the south wall; the east wall retains the original 6/6 sash windows and entry door. The horizontal wall boards were originally covered in cloth, with subsequent layers of wallpapers added over time. The ceiling is 8'6" high in the later addition. The stairs originally projected out from the west wall

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet BEEKS, SILAS JACOB N., HOUSE Item number

Page

into the sitting room. They were enclosed into the west wall making them narrower and steeper. A small door is positioned under the second floor landing which provides access to the back porch and the wood pile. There was a double fireplace which was on the central wall between the sitting room and a bedroom. This fireplace was removed c. 1908. There was a transom over the parlor door. The transom is now enclosed. There may have been transoms above the doors accessed by the sitting room.

The original 1848 portion of the house contains the kitchen in the west end, separated from the living quarters by a wall containing a fireplace and two doors on either side providing access to the main living quarters. A summer kitchen is contained in the woodshed addition.

Outbuildings

Watertower: This building was built by the Bernards c. 1900. It is square in massing with a hipped roof, shiplap siding and plank doors. It consists of a supporting structure, and an enclosed space for the water tank. There is a float gauge on the side of the water tank that indicates the tank's capacity.

Aviary: Constructed c. 1910, it housed canaries. It is a simple gabled structure framed with 2×4 -inch lumber and is enclosed by a fine wire mesh screen.

Machine Shed: Part of this building was also used as a pig sty. It is a low shed roofed building with vertical board siding. It has rail hung doors along the length of the north facade. Broad ax hewn beams form the framework of this structure, which is notched and pegged together. This building was built before 1900.

Smokehouse: This is a small gabled building with a two panel door, shiplap siding and composition shingles.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—C	heck and justify below		
prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599	<u> </u>			religion science sculpture
1600–1699 1700–1799	architecture art		military	social/ humanitarian
X 1800–1899 1900–	commerce communications	exploration/settlement industry invention	: philosophy politics/government pontp∧ute	•

Specific dates 1848 and c. 1860 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Silas Jacob N. Beeks farmstead has architectural, historical and archeological significance and we feel that it is eligible under criteria "b", "c" and "d.".

The Silas Jacob N. Beeks farmstead is a fine and rare example of early Oregon architecture. The two building episodes are fused together, epitomizing the development of architecture in Oregon and illustrating the common practice of the settlers to build a grander house onto the early simpler one once they were well situated. The massive 16 x 16-inch stringers, 12 x 12-inch sills, plates, and piers in the timber-framed first house, built in 1848, are a testament to the builder. Equally massive sills, girts and piers support the balloon framed Carpenter Gothic addition. The design of this addition was inspired by Andrew Jackson Downing. The main facade is symmetrically composed incorporating a centrally located triangular dormer that visually caps the front porch. Within the gable of the dormer a pointed arch door is set, providing access to the second floor balcony. The arched door is reflected below in the three arches formed by elaborately jig-sawn brackets that embellish the split columns supporting the porch. The house exhibits the original paint, one coat of Downing Yellow, with white trim and sky blue paint on the ceilings of the porches. This part of the hou was built c. 1860. The archeological evidence supports this date, and the tax records indicated that between 1859 and 1861, Jacob sold some land and had expenditures that decreased the amount of his personal financial holdings. These monies may have been used to build the second and major phase of the residence.

Jacob Beeks was born in Green County, Ohio in 1819 or 1820 and was a breeder of race horses, and a farmer. Even before he had built the Carpenter Gothic part of his house, he had built a race track on his property. In 1847, Jacob and his wife Mary Anna left Missouri and crossed the plains and mountains with Mary Anna's parents and family, the Beals. Four wagons conveyed the possessions of the family, each having from three to four yoke of oxen. They survived Indian attack, snow, rain and a measles outbreak to arrive in Washington County in December, 1847. Mary Anna had become pregnant during the crossing, and in June of 1848 gave birth to William, who was one of the first white children to be born in Washington County. William grew up around race horses and attained a good reputation as a jockey on the Oregon circuit.

In 1857, Jacob held a horse race at his track. It was the first colt stake run in Oregon. People came from miles around to see it. Seven men entered their colts: Benjamin Cornelius Sr. and Jr., James Imbrie, Wm. Mulkey, Jacob Beeks and two others. All of the colts were sired by a stallion named Crooked Leg Boston. The

9. Major Bibliographical References

Illustrated History of Klickitat, Yakima, and Kittitas Counties, Interstate Publishing Co., 1904.

Bybee, R.E., Early Racing of Oregon, Rural Spirit, Portland, April 29, 1881. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nomina Quadrangle name	ated property <u>1.68</u> Forest Grove, O	acres regon		·	Quadrangle	scale <u>1:24000</u>
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List all states a	nd counties for proj	perties overlapp	oing state or	county bo	undaries	· · · ·
state Nor)e	code	county		. ••	code
state Nor		code	county			code
11. For	m Prepare	dBy				
name/title	Melissa Cole ar	nd Elizabeth	O*Brien			
organization	Cole-O'Brien Co	onsultants		date	December	· 15, 1983
street & number	3327 NE Simpsor	1		telephone	(503) 28	31-0204
city or town	Portland			state	Oregon	
	te Historic	: Preser	vation	Offic	er Co	ertification
The evaluated sign	nificance of this prope	rty within the state	e is:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
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Keeper of the I	National Register					
Attest:					date	
Chief of Regist	ration	Street and Street and	and the second second			

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet BEEKS, SILAS JACOB N., HOUSE Item number

Page

entry fee was \$200, winner take all. The race was one mile. The following is a narrative of the race by R. E. Bybee, who rode the Beek's horse, (The Rural Spirita, April 29, 1881.)

The race was a novel one from start to finish. The Beek's colt, a bay, (?) by myself, ran over Bill Tompkins (who was turning the inside colt) and thus lost about 20 lengths. He finished second from Imbrie's Mary, with Johnny Wilson up, and would have beaten her, but in the last quarter the friends of Mary, all on horseback, -- and they were a Cavalry Brigade -- ran in the track and each one tired to see which one could whip her the most; so I was unable to get the tired bay through the crowd. This on any track governed by society rules, would have disqualified the mare; but here it was a farmer's race, and everything went.

8

William Beeks was a jockey on the Oregon circuit, but left home when he was sixteen. With his uncle he took a band of cattle north to British Columbia. He was a cowboy until the Bannock Indian War of 1878, when he enlisted under General Howard. According to the <u>Illustrated History of Klickatat, Yakima and Kittias</u> <u>Counties, 1904</u>, William Beeks "participated in nearly all the skirmishes of that campaign. The following year he was with the troops who quelled the rebellion at the Warm Spring Agency, Oregon, and, at the lava beds distinguished himself by rescuing his wounded captain. . . The troops had made an unsuccessful charge, and among those who had gone down before the fire was their gallant captain. Trooper Beeks when he saw how matters stood, made a daring run to the Indian's fortifications, fastened a rope around his captains body, and dragged him to safety within the line, all under terrific fire." (p. 636)

After this, William moved to Klickitat County, Washington, and purchased a ranch. Jacob and Mary Anna and their six other children (some of them married) left the farmstead in Washington County and moved to Klickitat County with William. William at one time had 180 head of blooded horses. In the mid 1890s he suffered a financial loss and in 1897 drove a band of horses to Cheyenne, Wyoming and sold them for good prices. Mary Anna died in 1893, and Jacob lived to be 83, dying in 1902.

The farmstead in Washington County changed hands several times. In 1899, Walter Bernards bought the farm. The family was Dutch, and settled there because the Dutch community of Verboort was only one mile away. They remodeled the house c. 1908, according to Francis's specifications. Walter was killed in an accident, and his wife was left to raise seven children. Martin Bernards was one of their children. He started one of the first trucking companies in Oregon. The house passed to Josephine Bernards Lepschat, Martin's sister. The Lepschats held onto the farmstead until 1976 when the present owner, Gary Senko, bought the farmstead and 1.68 acres of the original Beeks land claim.

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet BEEKS, SILAS JACOB N., HOUSE Item number

Archeology

Th archeological investigation at this residence is an example of how archeological data can dovetail with architectural and archival information to provide a more accurate scenario for building episodes, and an intimate glimpse of the lives and activities of the early occupants of the residence.

8

The purpose of the excavation was to enhance the historical interpretation relating to the early period of occupation.

Excavation units were located in association with the earliest wing of the house and where the probability of household artifacts was high. Unit one was located in the privy area, and unit two was located adjacent to the kitchen porch in the logical position for swept kitchen debris to accumulate. Both were one meter by two meter units.

Early Setting. Prior to European settlement the Tualatin River watershed was a complicated mosaic of coniferous forests, oak woodlands, meadows and wetland prairies.

In 1848, when Oregon was a territory, Jacob and Mary Anna Beeks settled on 570 acres of land on the Tualatin plains. They built their house on the edge of an oak grove, one mile south of Dairy Creek. To the west and south most of their claim was covered in Douglas fir. The Tualatin Indian settlement was six miles south at Wapato Lake. The nearest town was Centerville (now a site), two miles north. Jacob and Mary Anna had crossed the plains with Mary Anna's parents and family, the Beals, whose claim bordered their southwest boundary.

Artifacts Analysis and Discussion

The archeological findings fulfilled the purpose of the excavation in a number of ways. The archeological data indicates that the major building episode occurred between 1850 and 1860, and that the older wing was built between 1845 and 1850. This evidence dovetails with the archival information and provided a more accurate scenario for the building episodes than the archival information alone.

The artifacts and artifact assemblages also provide an intimate glimpse of the lives and activities of the early occupants. The results of the laboratory analysis of the cultural materials are described below.

Window Glass Assemblage

The most supportive evidence documenting the early building episodes is provided by the window glass assemblage. The glass was analysed according to Chance and

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet BEEKS, SILAS JACOB N., HOUSE Item number

8 Page 4 hickness for the Pacific

Chance's (1976) chronological scheme of window glass thickness for the Pacific Northwest. The modal thickness of the window glass fragments was measured in thousandths of an inch and graphically plotted by frequency and width. The frequency clusters of .060" and .075" widths indicated two early building episodes. The early component (.060") dates from c. 1840-1350. The subsequent component (0.075") dates from between 1850 and 1860. All of the non-modern glass currently present in the 6/6 windows dates from this period. This suggests that the windows on the older wing of the house were replaced during the 1860 building episode.

Nail Assemblage

Four nail types were identified in the nail assemblage. There were 38 machine cut square nails, three hand wrough rosehead nails, four hand wrought flat head nails, and nine round nails. According the Steel et al (1975) machine cut square nails were imported locally in large numbers after 1845, when they replaced hand forged nails.

Brick

Over seventy brick fragments were recovered. Only one type of brick is represented. It is a soft red molded hand-trimmed brick that resembles brick found at other local archeological sites, but it cannot be specifically identified.

Household Artifacts

Ceramics

126 ceramic shards were present. They were from table and kitchen wares commonly used in the nineteenth century. Almost half of the ceramic assemblage is made up of cream colored earthenware. This type of ware was a moderately priced commodity manufactured between 1820 and 1900. Part of the early component included two shards of blue transfer printed earthenware. This was popular from 1830 to 1860. Also from the early component were several shards of polychrome hand painted earthenware.

In the 1850s and 1860s, molded white ironstone gradually became more popular than softer earthenwares. This trend is reflected in this assemblage. The earliest diagnostic fragment comes from the "Gothic" molded pattern type which was manufactured from 1843 to 1855 (Steel et al 1982). Another diagnostic fragment is molded in the "Floral" type pattern which was manufactured from 1848 to 1863 (Steel et al 1982). Ironstone was in popular use to the turn of the century, and comprised about 1/3 of the total assemblage.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet BEEKS, SILAS JACOB N., HOUSE Item number



Glasswares

46 fragments from liquor bottles, food containers and drug bottles were recovered from the early period of occupation. These fragments were from blown or blown-in-mold vessels. The most frequent color was aqua green. This was a coarse utilitarian glass. Vessels made from this glass generally contained food, soft drinks and medicinals. (Wesen, 1983). Dark olive green glass was the second most frequent glass color. It is likely that these fragments were from wine bottles. There were eight fragments of black glass (dark amber-green). Bottles of this color were used for rum, brandy, bitters, medicinals or wine. This assemblage is typical of bottle glass present in the Hudsons Bay era assemblage at Ft. Vancouver, ca. 1830-1850, (Bryn Thomas, personal communication).

8

Personal Items

Three buttons were recovered: A metal four hole sew-through button, a ceramic four hole sew-through undergarment button and a black faceted molded button.

Two trade beads were found in a low level of unit two adjacent to the back porch. These represent part of the early component of the artifact assemblage. They were probably of Hudsons Bay Company origin. The largest is a wire wound faceted bead of a dark cobalt blue glass. The small bead is a double layer blue on white drawn glass bead. This type of bead is called a Cornalione D'Aleppo and was made in Italy, (Dan Sullivan, personal communication).

Miscellaneous Artifacts: (listed)

Iron gate latch Six harness roves (two were unused) Two carriage bolts Two .22 caliber shell casings Buckle Horse shoe (heated and formed to fit a mule hoof) Metal fragments Machine ground slate fragments from school childs slateboard Three lead caps or seals of unknown use Kitchen (?) utensil handle

Conclusions

The window glass assemblage documents the early building episodes and fits them into a timeframe that suggests that the early building episode was before 1850, and that the main building episode was c. 1860. All of the non-modern glass on the residence dates to this episode, indicating that the windows on the early timber framed structure were altered c. 1860. The presence of hand-wrought nails further supports an 1848 date for the timber-framed structure.

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



8

Continuation sheet BEEKS SILAS JACOB N., HOUSE Item number

The ceramic assemblage suggest that the inhabitants of this house were middle class people that generally preferred plain unembellished kitchen and table wares. The presence of ceramics from the 1830s may indicate that they brought dishes with them when they crossed the plains in 1847.

Six harness roves (rivets) were found off the back porch. These were with washers. Four showed considerable use, and may have been bent when they were removed. Two roves were unused, and were found in association with the others. The back porch may have been used as a repair station for a harness, and two new roves rolled off the porch with the used ones.

The slate fragments were machine ground on one side. It is likely these fragments were from a school childs slateboard.

The buttons were from garments made before the 1920s. The black faceted molded button may date from the 1880s. The metal button is less chronologically sensitive, but is similar to buttons found in Hudsons Bay era sites. The undergarment button is ceramic, and was probably made before plastic buttons became cheaper, c. 1920.

The scope of this excavation was limited. A large scale excavation at this site could possibly located the sites of previous outbuildings and the horse track. Further exploration of the wells, privies, and midden deposits would yield a larger assemblage of household and personal artifacts, expanding the data base and enhancing the historical interpretation of the early period at the Silas Jacob Niles Beeks Farmstead.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form



Continuation sheet BEEKS, SILAS JACOB N., HOUSE Item number

9

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United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet BEEKS, SILAS JACOB N., HOUSE Item number

For HCRS use only received date entered

Page

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Censuses

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Washington County 1880 Census, Washington County Museum

Klickitat County Census 1880, Oregon Historical Society

1830 Federal Population Census, Ohio Index, Ohio Library Foundation 1964, American Life Foundation.

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- Charley, Caroline D., "HBC Kanaka Village/Vancouver Barracks," 1977, University of Washington, Office of Public Archeology, Reports in Highway Archeology 8.
- Garrow, Patrick H., "Dating 19th Century Ceramics," Professional Service Industries, Soil Systems Division, Denver, 1983.
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- Miller, George, "Classification and Economic Scaling of 19th Century Ceramics," Historic Archeology, Vol. 14, pp. 1-39.

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form



Continuation sheet BEEKS, SILAS JACOB N., HOUSE Item number

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Maps

Washington County Tax Assessors Map, 1N 3W.

Wilkes Brothers Map, \$78, 160.100,2/150, Washington County Museum.

Interviews

John Beeks	Francis Koehnke	Mary Weiffles	Calls Damaanda	O
John Beeks	rrancis Koennke	Marv weittles	Celia Bernards	Gary Senko

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet BEEKS, SILAS JACOB N., HOUSE Item number

For MCRS use only received date entered Page 1

10

A portion of that certain tract of land in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 20, T1N, R3W, W.M., and the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29, T1N, R3W, W.M., Washington County, Oregon, conveyed to William C. Lepschat by Probate #7590, Estate of Josephine Lepschat, Records of Washington County, Oregon, said poriton being moe particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point on the east line of the Silas J. N. Beeks DLC #79, which bears South 01° 33' 37" E., 1075.54 feet from the NE corner thereof; and running thence along the east line of said Beeks DLC, South 01° 33' 37" East, 152.40 feet to the SE corner of said Lepschat tract; thence along the southerly line thereof, South 89° 48' 54" West, 500.34 feet to a point; thence N. 01° 33' West, 152.40 feet to a point; thence N. 89° 48'54" East, 500.31 feet to the point of beginning; EXCEPTING THEREFROM any portion therof lying within the boundaries of public roads. The sketch below is made solely for the purpose of assisting in locating said premises and the Company assumes no liability for variations, if any, in dimensions and location ascertained by actual survey.

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TICOR TITLE INSURANCE

Beeks, Silas Jacob N., House Route 2, Box 180 Forest Grove, Washington Co., Oregon

