

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

483

# 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 Lamson Ranch

other names/site number Hawks, Jeremiah and Helen, Lamson Ranch; Lamson, Edward and Helen, Burgess Ranch

### 2. Location

street & number 37845 S.W. Dent Road  not for publication

city or town Willamina  vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Yamhill code 071 zip code 97396

### 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

*Christine Coma* 5-16-13  
Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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:)

*For Edson H. Beall* 7-9-13  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only one box.)

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	4	buildings
		district
1		site
1		structure
		object
6	4	<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
- DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure
- AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Outbuilding
- AGRICULTURE: Storage
- AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Field (orchard)

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
- DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure
- AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Outbuilding
- AGRICULTURE: Storage
- AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Field (orchard)

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

- MID-19th CENTURY: Gothic Revival
- NO STYLE

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

- foundation: STONE; CONCRETE
- walls: WOOD; BRICK
- roof: WOOD, METAL, ASPHALT COMP.
- other: N/A



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### 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 Lamson Ranch is located at 37845 Dent Road, about one mile west of the Yamhill County town of Willamina. Sited on a knoll overlooking Willamina Creek and open grass fields to the east and north, the residence and agricultural buildings are arranged in an irregular pattern on a slight north- and east-facing slope with mature Douglas fir forest and scattered remnant fruit trees to the south, east and west. The nominated area is comprised of a little more than eight acres that includes six contributing features: a circa-1850 hewn-frame barn and its adjacent wood frame silo of circa 1915 vintage; the 1880-1883 box-constructed, Gothic Revival main residence; a pre-1880 worker residence formerly used as a wash house; an undated outhouse and an historic orchard remnant. This extant collection of buildings and features spanning over half a century is an increasingly rare representation of a long continuum of agricultural development and use in the Willamette Valley. The four non-contributing buildings include a garage, woodshed, and pump house all dating to the mid-twentieth century (post-World War II), and a modern storage shed. None of the non-contributing features detract from the overall character of the site, and all contributing features retain sufficient integrity to convey their period of construction and historic function. Of particular note are the house and barn. The house is largely intact, showing few alterations since about 1930. The barn retains good integrity of location, materials, setting, workmanship, feeling and association. In the area of design it is compromised by deterioration of the south wall and sheds, though it still successfully conveys its original period of significance, function and workmanship through the remaining structure. Overall, the farmstead constitutes a group of buildings of various ages joined by a common historical context and function, which in aggregate illustrates the evolution of a settlement-period Willamette Valley farm from the 1850s to the mid-twentieth century.

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### Narrative Description

#### Setting and Landscape

Situated in perhaps one of the furthest western reaches of the Willamette Valley, the rural setting of the 250-acre Lamson Ranch is characterized by rolling hills with a mix of open farmland to the east and the wooded slopes of the Coast Range foothills to the west.<sup>1</sup> Willamina Creek flows south/southeast along the eastern boundary of the original 654-acre Lamson donation claim before meeting the Yamhill River just east of the town of Willamina, approximately one mile east of the Ranch. The original claim was located in the southern portions of Sections 35 and 36, Township 5 South Range 7 West, and the northern portions of Sections 1 and 2, Township 6 South Range 7 West (Figures 1-3, 9 and 10). At the time of the government survey in 1855, the claim was thus described: "This claim lies principally in the Willamina bottom mostly prairie with dense groves of ash alder & vine-maple on the Creek & bounded all round with Oak openings Claim 1<sup>st</sup> rate".<sup>2</sup> The nominated area encompasses approximately 8.2 acres of the current holding, in a rectangular shape measuring 550 feet north to south, and 400 feet east to west (Figures 4 and 5).

All ten features are sited on a slope overlooking open farmland to the north and east, the house and barn forming the core of the grouping. The main house fronts east toward town on an elevated site; the barn is sited 200 feet north of and slightly below the house, a distance typical for the period (Photos 1 and 2). The main access doors of the side-opening barn face west, toward the lane. The auxiliary buildings are strung out

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<sup>1</sup> At this writing, the ranch comprises 250 acres, straddling the Polk and Yamhill County boundaries. A pending land sale will diminish the holdings that include the subject buildings to 125 acres. The nominated area lies entirely within Yamhill County.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. General Land Office claim survey notes for Jeremiah Lamson land claim numbers 38 (T6S, R5W) and 46 (T7S, R5W), notification number 6681, survey year 1855, notes dated January 17, 1856. Bureau of Land Management Land Status and Cadastral Survey Records <[http://www.blm.gov/or/landrecords/survey/yNoteView1\\_2.php?D0024OR0116001190](http://www.blm.gov/or/landrecords/survey/yNoteView1_2.php?D0024OR0116001190)> Accessed July 2012.

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between the house and the barn, to the west and along the lane. The sites of the smokehouse and the granary (demolished between 1936 and 1945) are within the nominated area, and are in the vicinity of the concrete block pumphouse (Figures 4 and 5).

The lane from Dent Road south to the house weaves among and past neighboring outbuildings (historically part of the Lamson holdings) and the old Lamson barn before arriving at the elevated house, an approach that appears little changed since the 1930s (Figures 4, 11 and 12; Photo 1).<sup>3</sup> The lane currently terminates at the house, but topographic maps and aerial photographs suggest the route historically skirted the hillside to the east of the house and died out in the hills one-half to three-quarters of a mile beyond the residence (Figures 1, 11-13). Many of the field fence lines are largely unchanged since the 1930s. The house yard is still clearly delineated with an old wood post-and-wire fence along the north, east and south perimeter; this fence replaces an early picket fence, visible in historic photographs and typical of late nineteenth century domestic landscapes. (Figure 16) Mature landscape features such as lilac and laurel are scattered within the yard, and large cedar, fir and maples further frame the house group outside the fence line along the north and east sides. Some of these large trees may pre-date the current house; they certainly date to the historic period.

## **Main House (Contributing)**

### **Exterior**

The Lamson house, a contributing building, was built between 1880 and 1883 possibly in a form similar to a previous lumber house on the site, which was destroyed by fire in 1879-1880.<sup>4</sup> The existing building is two stories in height with an irregular plan and a steeply-pitched intersecting gable roof typical of the Gothic Revival style (Photos 4-6). In total, it measures approximately 76 feet 10 inches long (east to west) by 32 feet 4 inches, and consists of a side-gabled front volume, with a one and one-half story kitchen wing extending to the rear (west), and a one story woodshed attached to the western end of the kitchen wing (Figure 6; Photos 5 and 6). A modern (post-1970s) open carport extends south from the woodshed. According to tax records the six bedroom, one bathroom house contains 2,004 square feet.

The foundation is not visible from the exterior nor is it fully accessible from beneath, but it appears to be post and beam with circular sawn eight- by ten-inch sills. On this base rest the box-constructed walls of 1½-inch variable-width boards set vertically that extend from the sill to the roofline. The two-story and kitchen wing volumes are of box construction; the original attached woodshed is built using balloon frame technology. On the entire exterior, walls are clad in 7½-inch shiplap with a variable-width water table (comprised of two 11¼-inch boards at its widest point on the northeast corner) with a simple narrow drip cap, and 3¾-inch corner boards with moulding capitals. The approximate 18-inch boxed eaves are articulated with a wide, layered frieze board, narrow bed moulding and cornice moulding (Photo 8). Prominently accenting the front (east) roofline is a row of three, asymmetrically placed, steep gable wall dormers, the second (center) of which includes a pointed-arch doorway onto a second-floor porch. The main roof is pierced at the south end ridge by a red-brick chimney; the kitchen stove chimney rises from the roof ridge of the kitchen wing.

In the two-story volume, windows are double-hung wood sash, two lights over two. Framed in 3 5/8 -inch boards with shaped trim at the top and bottom edges, the windows have heavy box architraves that measure approximately nine inches in height and project some six inches from the wall plane (Photos 7 and 8). A large bay window on the front (east) facade lights the parlor, and is composed of four double-hung sash and a hip roof with detailing to match the main roof and eave. The kitchen wing includes twentieth-century one-over-one double-hung sash windows of a more horizontal emphasis, and a singular six-pane upper sash with open

<sup>3</sup> These include a dairy barn, machine shed and horse barn, and all are outside the property boundary and the nominated area boundary.

<sup>4</sup> Elizabeth (Tibby) O'Brien, "Lamson Place," Yamhill County Cultural Resources Inventory/Oregon Historic Resources Inventory (1984). Information regarding the history of the house likely came from the interview with Keith Lamson (great-grandson of Jeremiah and Helen Lamson), who grew up at the subject property, and later resided nearby on Dent Road.

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lower sash (without muntins or glass) in the west gable end. This six-pane sash appears older than others in the building, and could have been salvaged from the earlier residence.

The house has two porches: a formal front, east-facing entrance porch, and a recessed side kitchen porch facing north. The original four-panel single front door with two-pane sidelights and transom is centered beneath the new two-story front porch. Although the porch is new, its general dimensions mimic those of the historic structure, which was embellished with sawn scrollwork and a low upper rail according to historic photographs (Figure 15). The four-panel front door is original, displaying elongated round-arched upper panels with perimeter moulding over smaller square lower ones, a configuration typical of the Gothic Revival. At the second floor above the main entrance is the pointed-arch half-light door, trimmed with layered moulded trim. The glass appears to be original, divided horizontally, and surmounts two solid recessed panels below (Photo 12).

The second porch, along the north facade of the kitchen wing, is a 27-foot-long by nearly 8-foot-deep recessed porch with square posts and scroll-sawn brackets. Doors on either end (east and west) provide access to the center hall of the main house and the wood shed respectively; a third door enters the kitchen, and a fourth near the woodshed leads to a fruit room that is not accessible from the interior of the house (Figure 6). A hatch door in the floor, no longer used, opens to a short stair to the cellar, which is located directly below the kitchen. The stairs remain in deteriorated condition and are viewable from the cellar.

There was no well on the property. Originally, water for the house was provided by a gravity-flow system that tapped into a spring located up the hill to the south/southwest of the house. On the porch are a water tank and sink that were originally fed with that system. A second spring provided water to the barn area in similar manner. Eventually the upper system was taken out of commission, and water was pumped from the lower spring up the hill to the house. Plumbing was not added to the house until after 1942, when the property passed to one of Jeremiah and Helen's great-grandsons.<sup>5</sup>

### Main House Interior

The center-hall plan of the Lamson house is common to mid-nineteenth century farmhouses in Oregon. The first floor contains a 7-foot-wide center stair hall flanked by two rooms on either side: parlor and dining room on the south side, and bedroom, hallway and newer bathroom on the north. The rear one and one-half story wing encompasses the kitchen, pantry and fruit room. Beyond these rooms is the attached wood shed (Figure 6). In plan the second floor mimics the first, with two bedrooms on either side of the center hall. At the east end of the hall is access to the upper porch via the pointed-arch door; at the west end the hall terminates at the two small attic bedrooms over the kitchen wing (Figure 7).

Floors throughout the house are fir, some covered with carpet. Above the 12-inch baseboards are rough-sawn vertical plank walls (exterior and interior partitions) covered with muslin and one to two layers of wallpaper. The parlor walls are also finished with a recessed panel wainscot. Ceilings throughout are 3½-inch planed boards, painted, with a narrow cavetto bed moulding. Interior trim at the windows and doors, which protrudes approximately 2½ inches from the wall plane, is cleverly built up and embellished, disguising the abrupt and significant relief. All interior doors are the original recessed four-panel type with three-part hinges of varying designs; all have mortise lock sets with the exception of the Gothic-arched exterior door, which has a large rim lock with a mismatched catch. Aside from three doors, all trim, window sash and doors are painted (Photos 12 and 14). The interior of the front door and the two small doors into the small rear bedrooms (over the kitchen) retain their original faux wood graining finish (Photo 14).

<sup>5</sup> O.C. Yocom, telephone interview with author, November 2012. Mr. Yocom is one of Jeremiah and Helen Hawks Lamson's great-grandsons and the grandson of Edward F. and Helen Burgess Lamson. In 1942 Edward Delgrado Lamson gained ownership of the property following the death of his grandmother, Helen Burgess Lamson.



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Interior features of note include the parlor fireplace, central stair and pantry. The fireplace is large, the firebox measuring approximately 37 inches wide by 30 inches tall at the face opening (Photo 9). The hearth and box are dark grey/black stone; the frame of the firebox (including lintel) is also made of dark stone, with chamfered and stylized shaped edges. The hearth is a single slab of stone. The wood mantel design is simple with some classical influence seen in the simple pilasters set on stone plinths, with a moulding capital. The pilasters support a heavy architrave board and cornice moulding that supports the curved board mantel. This is the only fireplace in the house. The dining room and at least one upper bedroom were heated by wood stoves.

The 34-inch-wide stair runs approximately 16 feet along the north side of the 26-foot-long center hall. The large turned newel post has a square base that is set into the bottom stair (Photo 10). To the top of the newel post is joined the shaped handrail, which, along with the turned spindles (two per tread) forms an open balustrade. At the top of the stair the balustrade curves to make a sharp but elegant return, continuing back to the end of the stair well opening at the east end of the center hall (Photo 11).

The kitchen is fitted with modern cabinets, counter and sink, but retains a turn-of-the-century cast-iron stove and a late 1920s or early 1930s refrigerator (Photos 15). The interior doors are original, and the windows are 1930s or 1940s one-over-one double-hung wood sash, replacing the original two-over-two sash. Barely-visible paint marks on the east wall of the kitchen reveal to the careful observer the original location of the back stairs to the attic bedrooms. These small rooms were used by hired help, including Chinese workers, in the nineteenth century; the 1880 census registers the name of eighteen-year-old Sam Loo of China, a servant living in the Lamson household.<sup>6</sup> The stairs were removed sometime after 1943.<sup>7</sup>

Adjacent to the kitchen to the west, the pantry retains original, built-in, floor-to-ceiling wood cabinetry (cabinets, open shelves and bins) along the entire west wall. A narrow hatch door with steep stairs to the cellar beneath the kitchen is located in the pantry floor, and apparently replaced a hatch door originally located in the kitchen.<sup>8</sup> It appears to have replaced the porch access entrance long in disuse.

Other alterations to the house are limited to the recent replacement of the two-story front porch, a set of French doors possibly from the 1930s added to the south wall, providing outdoor access from the dining room, the replacement of the tall windows in the kitchen with smaller one-over-one sash, probably also in the 1930s, and the similarly-dated kitchen door.

### **Outhouse** (Contributing)

A small, simple box-constructed structure with a shed roof was formerly the outhouse, but is currently used as a storage shed (Photo 16). This structure is approximately forty feet from the southwest corner of the house. Materials appear to be no earlier than the late nineteenth century (wire nails and rough, circular sawn lumber), and could date into the mid-twentieth century. Plumbing was added to the main residence after 1942. The outhouse is a contributing feature.

### **Barn**<sup>9</sup> (Contributing)

The Lamson barn is a side-entry 40- by 60-foot hewn-frame barn with 20-foot-wide sheds, the main entry on the west-facing side (Photos 17 and 18). Set on stone piers and 9-to-11-inch-square hewn sills, this hand-hewn, mortis-and-tenon constructed barn is clad in variable-width sash- and circular-sawn boards, with the

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census, "Sheridan voting precinct," Yamhill County, Oregon, 1880; Elery McKern, personal communication with author, September 2012; O.C. Yocom, interview with author, November 2012. According to the 1880 census, neighboring Henry and Sarah Lamson also had a Chinese servant in their household, eighteen-year-old Chuuk Lung.

<sup>7</sup> O.C. Yocom, telephone interview with author, November 2012. Mr. Yocom is one of Jeremiah and Helen Hawks Lamson's great-grandsons and the grandson of Edward F. and Helen Burgess Lamson.

<sup>8</sup> O.C. Yocom.

<sup>9</sup> This description was provided by Gregg Olson in the summer of 2012.



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roof covered in corrugated sheet metal. In plan, the four-bent structure has 18-foot mows at each end (north and south) and a very unusual 24-foot middle bay, which includes the drive (Figure 8). Within the middle bay is a special arrangement that creates a 24-foot square open area on the west (which includes the drive), which could have been used as a thrashing floor. The 2-inch floor planks in this area appear to be original. The remaining 12- by 16-foot area to the east of the thrashing floor is defined by a now-removed column and an original stud wall to the north that is captured in the second bent. This space appears to have once had a door into the east shed. While this space does not specifically have details of grain storage, whatever its use was it is unique to the known Willamette Valley barn plans, as it was strategically placed at the center of this building.

The original drive doors on the east wall remain intact over the ramp, which until recently was protected by the shed. The doors are made of sash-sawn lumber and retain their hand-forged hinges (Photo 21). The west doors are centered in the the 24-foot bay, but may have been altered from an original position directly across from those on the east, which are slightly south of center, and aligned with the drive ramp into the east shed.<sup>10</sup>

The entire 24-foot center bay has an original and singular multi-leveled loft system. This stair-like arrangement allowed loose hay to be passed up from a wagon to load the various mow areas in succession (Photos 19 and 20). The sheds also had hay storage capability overhead, those lofts supported by unusually heavy original hewn 6- by 10-inch girts set under the top plates, with a system of smaller beams spreading out over the ceilings. The capacity to store hay in this barn is unusual for its time, and illustrates not only a need, but the capability of the Lamsons to produce such quantities of hay. The north shed (now missing) provided shelter for horses, and the south appears to have been a loafing shed.<sup>11</sup>

The spacing of the four bents (within the sixty-foot length of the barn) creates spans of 18-24-18 feet, much longer for the purlin, which lays supported by columns and braces at approximately 30 degrees (Photo 20). This is longer than those used in other barns, which typically have at least five bents in the same sixty feet. The 20-foot sheds required at least 24-foot rafters made in a single piece of 3- by 5-inch sash sawn lumber. These rafters are longer by four feet than any other known sash sawn lumber in the state. The rafters of the main barn are the same length. The shed rafter ends are attached to the plate with a nail-less notched joint but laid out with an equilateral triangle not known in any other building. The entire roof has been covered in corrugated metal.

According to the recollections of O.C. Yocom, the barn had twelve to fourteen tie-stalls, as well as box stalls. Horses were kept in the north shed, and there were no stalls in the east or south sheds; the south functioned as a loafing shed. Although not evident today, the barn had a drop-chute through which grain could be passed to a manger from above. A corral was historically located on the east side of the barn, and water was provided by a nearby spring.<sup>12</sup>

The barn has been altered by the removal of the north shed and one-half of the east shed. This was precipitated by damage to the northern end of the east shed in the Columbus Day Storm of 1962.<sup>13</sup> The siding in these areas has been partially replaced (to infill the space formerly taken by the shed structure). The west doors may have been moved from their original location directly opposite the original east doors. The original roofing is long gone, and has been replaced with corrugated metal. Although in poor condition, the barn retains a remarkable degree of integrity in terms of remaining material dating from the original construction period, including hand-hewn structural members, some siding, fasteners (both wrought and machine-cut), flooring, and doors.

<sup>10</sup> The west-wall door posts have notching inconsistent with their present use.

<sup>11</sup> A loafing shed is a (usually three-sided) structure into which livestock can enter or range freely, without fixed stanchions.

<sup>12</sup> O.C. Yocom.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

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### Silo (Contributing)

The historic contributing wooden silo was constructed by Ralph Rice sometime between 1912 and about 1920.<sup>14</sup> This round structure with a conical roof is positioned at the southwest corner of the barn frame (Photo 17; Figures 5, 11). The exterior walls consist of vertical wooden staves with metal bands placed at approximately three- to four-foot intervals along the entire height of the structure. Close access to this feature was not possible due to overgrown blackberry brambles surrounding both silo and barn. The silo is estimated to be approximately 12 to 15 feet in diameter, and possibly 25 feet in height.

A square silo with a gable roof is shown in a 1954 newspaper article about the barn.<sup>15</sup> The present structure is presumed to be that shown in the article, with the square "house" removed (Figures 17 and 18). Although built to hold silage, the structure apparently was not heavily used after its construction, making the construction of an entirely new silo (round rather than square) unlikely.<sup>16</sup>

### Secondary/Workers' Residence / Wash House (Contributing)

The approximately 500-square foot secondary residence is situated 100 feet west of the main house, and is a contributing resource (Figures 4 and 5). The exact date of its construction is not currently known. This diminutive building is irregular in plan, being an amalgamation of two small structures exhibiting a mix of nineteenth- and twentieth-century materials, features and design (Photo 22). The 1984 inventory states that "The small-framed building west of the dwelling became the Lamson's temporary home while the new one was completed; thus dating it several years earlier than the 1883 home."<sup>17</sup> Other Lamson descendants have indicated that the family lived in the wash house that was originally located north of the main house, and others recall discussions of moving a small house on the property.<sup>18</sup> Visible in aerial photographs of 1936 and 1945, the wash house appears to be of similar size as the westernmost portion of this building. Given the form, materials, construction type and apparent age of the older part of this building, coupled with family tradition about its use as a temporary residence, it seems entirely feasible that this was the original wash house, moved sometime between 1945 and 1956 and re-purposed as living quarters for ranch workers. If so, this westernmost section pre-dates the main house, though its exact date has not yet been determined.

The box-constructed, one and one-half story section of the building is the older of the two volumes (it is evident on the 1936 aerial photograph), and measures approximately 12 feet by 18. The structure has a concrete- and block-pier foundation, shiplap siding (which may be secondary), and a side-gable roof. Original exterior treatment may have been simple board-and-batten as was often the case with box-constructed buildings. Windows are mid-twentieth century, paired one-over-one wood sash. Both the north and south entrance doors appear to be of mid-nineteenth century vintage, the southern door being of the same design as those in the main house. A full-width, hip-roof front porch spans the north elevation, and has been enclosed for use as living space. Windows on this enclosure appear to date to the mid-twentieth century, but the central four-light, four-panel door (which is hung inside-out) is significantly older, possibly dating to the late 1850s or 1860s (Photo 22). Shiplap siding, corner boards and shingles (on the enclosed porch) are attached with wire nails. The steeply-pitched roof has boxed eaves with a wide frieze board, features common to a mid- to late-nineteenth century building. A later exterior stair on the east facade provides exterior access to the attic.

<sup>14</sup> O.C. Yocom. Edna Lamson re-married to Ralph Rice after her husband Rex (Edward and Helen's son, Jeremiah and Helen's grandson) died in 1911.

<sup>15</sup> McMinnville *Daily News-Register*, "Ancient Structure Being Preserved." April 1, 1954, page 1.

<sup>16</sup> O.C. Yocom, November 2012.

<sup>17</sup> This information likely came from Keith Lamson during the 1984 survey interview. Keith Lamson was a great-grandson of Jeremiah and Helen Lamson, and lived nearby on part of the original claim until his death in 2007.

<sup>18</sup> O.C. Yocom recounted that the family had lived in the wash house while the current residence was being built. Elery McKern recalled discussions of moving a small house on the property. The wash house was historically located just north of the kitchen wing, and is barely visible in aerial photographs of 1936 and 1945.

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Other than the historic exterior doors, one of which appears to be re-purposed from its original interior use, and the sash-sawn 3½" wood board ceiling, no historic-period interior features are evident. This could be explained if the building originally served as a wash house, and may have had little in the way interior finish features until it was moved and reused in the mid-twentieth century. Spatially, the building is composed of two rooms (corresponding to the two formerly separate buildings) on the first floor, and upstairs space over the former wash house.

The one-story, front-gabled volume to the west appears to be a twentieth-century construction, built sometime before 1936 according to aerial photographs. Resting on a post-and-pier foundation, the wood stud walls are clad in wood shingles, and the building is covered with a lower-pitched gable roof with no eave ornamentation. Fixed, single-sash six-pane windows of twentieth-century vintage flank the central five-panel door on the north elevation.

Although altered, the features of this building date to the historic period, and the older section is likely the second-oldest structure remaining on the property. The historic characteristics and periods of construction are still discernable, and the building itself physically embodies a link between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

#### **Spring and Pumphouse** (Contributing and Non-contributing respectively)

A small concrete-block pumphouse is located west of the lane between the worker's house and the barn (Photo 24). This building is of post-1950 construction, and is considered a non-contributing feature. It appears to be located on or near the site of the smokehouse and granary visible in the 1936 aerial image (Figure 7). However, the house covers a 3½ to 4-foot diameter brick-lined spring that originally provided water to the barn and barnyard, and later also to the house. The date of the improvements to this feature, namely the brick lining, is not known, but this is one of the two springs used by Jeremiah Lamson. While the concrete block building is not contributing due to its age, the spring itself is considered a contributing feature. The spring that originally fed the house is located further up the hill to the west/southwest, approximately 300 feet from (west of) the main residence. This historic feature, which also has a brick lining, has been previously identified by the owner but at the time of the preparation of this document its exact location could not be pinpointed though it is known to exist within the nominated area. If and when it is again definitively located and documented, it should be included as a "Contributing" feature.

#### **Orchard Remnant** (Contributing)

Three historic orchard trees, two apples and a pear, remain on the north-facing slope about 200 feet west of the main residence. Based on their diameter size - approximately 30" at breast height - these large trees appear to date to a very early period. (Photos 25 and 26) One specimen is known to be the heritage variety "Gloria Mundi," a common apple tree planted by early settlers. The Gloria Mundi was introduced in Oregon in 1847 as one of the varieties brought overland by pioneer nurseryman Henderson Luelling.<sup>19</sup> Three trees are known and identified; others may remain on the densely-overgrown slope.

#### **Garage** (Non-contributing)

The garage building, sited approximately fifteen feet south of the cottage, also has a post-1945 construction date, as evidenced by the twentieth-century building materials and form, as well as its first appearance on aerial photographs of the mid-1950s (Figure 5; Photo 23). The structure has a wide vehicle opening (with no door) in the east gable end wall. Walls are vertical boards with battens. The front-gable roof is covered with

<sup>19</sup> Thomas C. McClintock, "Henderson Luelling, Seth Lewelling and the Birth of the Pacific Coast Fruit Industry," *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 68, No. 2 (June 1967), 157; USDA Agricultural Research Service, National Clonal Germplasm Repository, Corvallis Oregon "History of Fruit Growing in the Pacific Northwest, Henderson Luelling and Seth Lewelling," 2002. <<http://www.ars-grin.gov/cor/cool/luelling.html>> Accessed April 2013.

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asphalt composition shingles. Due to its later construction date, this building is considered a non-contributing feature.

#### **Shed (Non-contributing)**

Less than ten feet to the south of the secondary house, wedged between the house and the garage, is a small, detached, three-sided shed, possibly used as a woodshed. The structure measures perhaps eight by ten feet, with walls covered in wood shingles, a square fixed window on the east side, and a shed roof. This post-1945 building is in poor condition, and due to its date of construction is considered a non-contributing resource in the nominated area.

#### **Modern Storage Shed (Non-contributing)**

The small storage shed located west of the house and south of the outhouse is of recent construction, and is a non-contributing feature.

#### **Conclusion**

Overall the Lamson Ranch retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The landscape features, including the approach lane and house yard plantings appear much as they did through the middle 1930s. The six contributing features of the Lamson Ranch retain the level of integrity necessary to convey their periods of construction, architectural significance and historic function, as well as illustrate the spatial arrangements expected of nineteenth century farm groups in the Willamette Valley. Their relationships with and within the landscape are intact, and the grouping would very likely be recognizable by early Oregon generations of the Lamson family. The four non-contributing features are all of later construction dates that fall outside the period of significance for the property, but do not detract from the overall historic character of the property.



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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

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

c. 1850-1870 (Criterion A Exploration/Settlement)

c. 1850-1942 (Criterion A Agriculture)

c. 1850 and 1880-1883 (Criterion C Architecture)

**Significant Dates**

c 1850 construction of barn

1880-1883 construction of house

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

William Parker, attributed (house)

**Period of Significance (justification)**

Broadly speaking, the period of significance for the Lamson Ranch is c. 1850-1942. As of this writing, the location of the earliest structure known to have been on the site - the initial 1848 dwelling - has not been definitively identified, hence the opening date of circa 1850. However, if this important building or site is discovered, it is recommended that the period of significance and the nominated area boundary be adjusted accordingly. Under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement, the period of significance is 1850-1870. The opening date of circa 1850 reflects the construction date of the earliest extant feature, the barn; the closing date of 1870 marks the end of the "settlement" period in the northern Willamette Valley, signaled in

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**Period of Significance (justification) continued**

large part by the arrival of the railroad. This period encompasses the initial occupation and development of the claim, as well as involvement and collaboration with the military at Fort Yamhill in the 1850s and 1860s.

Under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture the period of significance is 1850-1942, which encompasses the extended period in which the property was used for ranching by two generations of the family, during which time additional acreage was acquired and successful livestock operations were managed by both the Jeremiah Lamson family and the Edward Lamson family. The closing date of 1942 reflects the year in which Helen Burgess Lamson died, and the property ownership and management shifted to her grandson Edward Delgrado and his wife LoCeil. All contributing features appear to pre-date 1900, some constructed under Jeremiah Lamson's ownership, and some under that of Edward Lamson. The ranch continued to be occupied by Lamson descendants until the year 2000, with some of the existing outbuildings dating to later periods (1950s) of occupancy. The ranch remains in family ownership today.

The periods of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture are circa c. 1850 for the large settlement-era barn, and 1880-1883 for the Lamson house. In both cases, these periods correlate to the construction dates for each building.

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**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A**

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

The Lamson Ranch is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Agriculture, and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Under Criterion A, the ranch has significant associations with early Yamhill County, Oregon settlement and agricultural pursuits extending into the twentieth century. The Lamson family was among the earliest settlers in this part of the Willamette Valley, and developed a successful ranching operation in addition to participating in local and territorial government activities. They were peripherally associated with the establishment and maintenance of nearby Fort Yamhill and had business dealings both with the Fort and with the Grand Ronde Agency, although that is not a main focus of this nomination. The remaining ranch buildings, specifically the house and barn, are significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as excellent and now-rare examples of their respective types. The circa-1850 barn is an extremely rare surviving example from the settlement-era, which at the time of its construction was one of the largest barns in the Willamette Valley. The 1880-1883 Gothic Revival residence, the third dwelling on the property, is a virtually intact example of the rural Oregon interpretation of that style, retaining many exterior and interior features from the period of its construction. The period of significance for the ranch, circa 1850 to 1942, corresponds to the Lamson's late summer 1848 arrival to this property, and the subsequent occupation and growth of the ranching enterprise by both Jeremiah and Helen's family and later their son, Edward Francis Lamson and his family. The six contributing features include the circa-1850 barn and adjacent silo, the early 1880s main residence, the smaller pre-1880 secondary residence, a historic outhouse, and a remnant orchard of three large fruit trees. The site of the original log cabin is also believed to be in close proximity to the barn (and within the nominated area), but the exact location has yet to be determined. Non-contributing features, all of which date to the years following World War II, do not detract from the group's overall character, appearance or significance. In aggregate, the grouping retains a high degree of integrity in all areas (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association), allowing it to convey its story of development and use over a period of more than eighty years.

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

The Lamson Ranch was initially settled in 1848 by Jeremiah and Helen Hawks Lamson, and has been continuously owned and occupied by family members since. Buildings and features on the property are

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representative of the period of significance encompassing the first two generations of ownership and agricultural pursuits on the land, from 1848 to 1942. The ranch is eligible for listing in the National Register in the areas of Exploration/Settlement, Agriculture and Architecture.

In the area of **Exploration/Settlement**, the property represents one of the earliest established farmsteads remaining in Yamhill County. Arriving in the late summer of 1848, the Lamsons were among the first Euro-Americans to settle permanently in the county, and Jeremiah was involved in early political activities at both the local and territorial levels. The Lamson children were fully engaged in early Oregon's opportunities and challenges, attending and excelling in their educations locally and at the Oregon Institute in Salem, witnessing the strife between native people and the settlers, and working on the ranch, helping to perpetuate the success initiated by their parents. The family was also engaged with the military at the newly-established Fort Yamhill during the 1850s and 1860s.

In the area of **Agriculture**, the Lamson Ranch is of note locally as the core of the Lamson's once-considerable land holdings, on which they successfully grew hay and raised livestock for over ninety years. Jeremiah Lamson applied his experience as a merchant to his ranching activities, and in addition to his success selling dairy products and beef, he obtained contracts with the military and the Grand Ronde Agency to provide them with beef and oxen. Jeremiah and Helen's son Edward, who took over the management of the ranch in the early 1870s, was well-known and respected for his knowledge and success in the realm of raising livestock. The Lamson Ranch, encompassing over 2,000 acres for at least fifty years, was prominent in this part of Yamhill County in acreage and breadth of the operations during the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The land continues to be used for agricultural purposes today.

**Architecturally**, the Lamson house and barn are each exemplars of their respective periods and types. The circa-1850 barn is perhaps the oldest building of its type in Yamhill County. Retaining an unusual amount of original 1850s material, the building is also unique in design and was at one time among the largest barns of its type and age known in the Willamette Valley. The 1880-1883 residence is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival style, retaining high exterior integrity, and exceptional interior character. Collectively, the farm group represents an early settlement site that illustrates the changes - through both attrition and additions - that occur over time as needs dictate, reflecting the evolution of farm groups through two centuries (now three) and multiple generations of agricultural use.

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#### Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

##### Jeremiah and Helen Marie Hawks Lamson, 1848-1871

Jeremiah Lamson and Helen Hawks were both born in Massachusetts in 1812, he descended from a prominent family line that arrived in America from England in the 1630s, and she was the daughter of Reverend Roswell Hawks, who assisted in the founding of Mount Holyoke Female Cemetery (now Mt. Holyoke College). They married in Massachusetts in 1837, and within a year had relocated to Burlington, Iowa where their first two children were born, Roswell in 1838 and Henry in 1840.<sup>20</sup> Jeremiah established one of the first mercantile businesses in that frontier town, served as an alderman in 1838, was involved in the establishment of the ferry crossing the Mississippi River, as well as the coeducational Burlington Seminary, and continued as a successful merchant there for several years.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Massachusetts Town and Vital Records, Belchertown (Mass.), 1765-1893, page 342 (accessed via Ancestry.com page 314); "Another Pioneer Gone," *Portland Oregonian*, November 24, 1892, p 8; Genealogical information, "Jeremiah Lamson b. 1812..."; "Jeremiah Lamson," in *Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims*, Volume 2 (Portland, Oregon: Genealogical Forum of Oregon, 1957), p 63.

<sup>21</sup> J.L. Spalding & Co., *Commercial and statistical review of the city of Burlington, Iowa...* (Des Moines, Iowa: J.L. Spalding & Co., 1882), 27; *Burlington Gazette*, February 10, 1838; James M. McPherson and Patricia R. McPherson, *Lamson of the Gettysburg: The Civil War Letters of Lieutenant Roswell H. Lamson, U.S. Navy.* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997), 3; *The History of Des Moines County, Iowa...* (Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879), pp 463, 518-519.

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The fever to move west struck again in the mid-1840s, and a dated land sale document signed by J. Lamson suggests that Jeremiah may have traveled to Oregon as early as 1845 to establish a land claim along Willamina Creek.<sup>22</sup> He returned to Iowa soon thereafter to retrieve his family, and with thirteen yoke of oxen and three wagons, they started the overland trip in May of 1847.<sup>23</sup> According to a later account in the *Portland Oregonian*, the Lamsons "...came across the plains in 1847, with what was known as the Burlington party, having started from Burlington, Ia. This was one of the largest and best equipped parties which ever came to this state, comprising about 300 men, with their wives and children, nearly all of them well to do."<sup>24</sup> Their arrival at Oregon City via the Barlow Road in the fall of that year was reported in the *Oregon Spectator*: "The first wagons, those belonging to Mr. Lamson [sic], arrived at this point on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst., being about one week in advance of the time of arrival of last year's immigration."<sup>25</sup> Initially settling a 640-acre claim in Clatsop County about two miles up the Skipanon River (near present-day Warrenton), the decision was later made to remove south into the Willamette Valley.<sup>26</sup> In August of 1848 the family relocated to the 654-acre Yamhill County claim (possibly the land he had purchased for \$200 from John Eldridge in 1845), and there made their permanent settlement.<sup>27</sup>

The earliest settlers to arrive in the immediate area of the subject property came with the "Great Migration" of 1843 (Charles Fendall and Barnet Haggard), with several others, apparently including Lamson, arriving in the mid-1840s. The larger migrations of the early 1850s brought even more settlers to the area, resulting in a land settlement pattern of mixed large (640 acre) and smaller (320 acre) claims. Yamhill County was established by the Provisional Legislature in 1843. Originally encompassing some 12,000 square miles,

...twelve counties were eventually created from Yamhill County leaving 709 square miles within its present borders. The county was named for the original inhabitants of the area, the Yamhill Indians...who lived around the Yamhill River. The earliest non-native settlers entered the area in 1814; most were employees of the various fur companies operating in Oregon. Many of the American immigrants who came over the Oregon Trail during 1843-1844 settled in the Yamhill region, which became the agricultural center of the Willamette Valley.<sup>28</sup>

The town of Willamina was not formalized until the late 1870s. The place draws its name from Willamina Creek, so-named for Willamina Craig Maley Williams, who arrived in the area with her first husband James Maley in 1845 and was reputed to be the first woman to cross the creek on horseback.<sup>29</sup> The Willamina post office was first established in 1855 on the James Brown claim east of the present-day town, and was moved to the Lamson Ranch, with Jeremiah Lamson as postmaster, for a little over two years before being returned to its previous location on Brown's claim.<sup>30</sup> Although the area was settled and developing much earlier, the town itself was actually platted in 1879.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>22</sup> "Eldridge claim Papers," September 7, 1845. This handwritten document describes a series of land exchanges involving J. Lamson and others. For \$200, Lamson apparently purchased the John Eldridge claim "...situated on the Willamina creek...bounded on the north by William Willson's claim on the east by land supposed to be unclaimed on the south by the Nichols' claim so called and on the west by land supposed to be unclaimed." No other locational information is given, and no other documentation of Lamson's presence in the Oregon Country in the mid-1840s has been located to date. Document is held in McKern family files.

<sup>23</sup> "Lamson Family Notebook Volume I," page 1, Willamina Museum (Willamina, Oregon); McPherson, 4.

<sup>24</sup> "Another Pioneer Gone..." *Portland Oregonian*, November 24, 1892, page 8.

<sup>25</sup> *Oregon Spectator*, (Oregon City, Oregon Territory) September 30, 1847, page 2.

<sup>26</sup> Warren Forsythe, "1847 Oregon Trail Emigrant Families," researched from the Frances W. Milne files in 1980, <<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=oregon1847&id=I5868>> Accessed July 2012; McPherson 1997, 4. The Clatsop claim was "Abandoned by written request of claimant in favor of L. Stone, 10 July 1848, according to *Genealogical Material in Oregon Provisional Land Claims*, Abstracted from Volumes I-VIII, 1845-1849 (Portland, Ore.: Genealogical Forum of Portland, 1982), p 178.

<sup>27</sup> McPherson 1997, 4; "Eldridge claim Papers," September 7, 1845.

<sup>28</sup> "Yamhill County History," Oregon Historical County Records Guide, Oregon State Archives (Oregon Secretary of State, 2012). <<http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/records/local/county/yamhill/hist.html>> Accessed September 2012.

<sup>29</sup> Lewis A. and Lewis L. McArthur, *Oregon Geographic Names*, Seventh Edition. (Portland, Oregon: Oregon Historical Society Press, 2003), 1041.

<sup>30</sup> McArthur (2003), 1041.

<sup>31</sup> Charlene Brown, "Willamina (city)," Oregon Encyclopedia entry (copyright 2008-2012). Accessed August 2012. <[http://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/entry/view/willamina\\_city\\_/>](http://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/entry/view/willamina_city_/>)



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It is presumed that, typical of most early settlers, upon arrival on their claim the Lamsons first built a log cabin, which they occupied for a number of years. The exact location of the early dwelling is not currently definitively known, but one family reminiscence placed it "...at the foot of the hill...", and according to a 1954 newspaper article the fireplace and chimney remnants were located "near the barn."<sup>32</sup> Given the topography of the site, its long occupation with buildings confined to a specific area, and the above notations, it seems possible that the site of the earliest dwelling could be within the nominated area boundary.

Jeremiah Lamson reportedly traveled to the California mines, a trip that is mentioned in several sources. While the year of his journey is not known with certainty, he may have been absent for up to two years.<sup>33</sup> An unpublished document drawn from a family-member interview makes mention of Jeremiah having "...left Helen and their four children alone for months at a time."<sup>34</sup>

Another source described the scene on the homefront during his absence:

...when Jeremiah was in California for gold, and failed to return for the winter, his young wife was informed that he was dead; but the winter was already too far advanced for her to move out and live with relatives; to her horror, she was approached by the braves of the Tillamook tribe, which used to winter in that valley; but, lo and behold, their only intention was to provide the little family with Indian food throughout the winter; then, in the spring, to the mother's delight, Jeremiah, never really dead, returned.<sup>35</sup>

A third source, which provides a more detailed (or perhaps more embellished) version of the same story, also makes mention of several buildings on the property at the time of Jeremiah's absence, including a barn, shed, meat-house and granary.<sup>36</sup>

Upon his return, some significant improvements were apparently made to the family claim, implied by the increasing real property values in the tax rolls of the early 1850s. The large side-opening barn, which is extant, is the oldest standing building on the property. Family tradition holds that it was constructed in 1850: "Jeremiah had timber cut on the place, dragged down by oxen and had a barn built in 1850. That barn still stands, the largest barn in the valley."<sup>37</sup> The Lamson barn is unusual among remaining settlement-era barns for the amount of remaining 1850s material, its size and its layout. Clearly constructed to accommodate a huge volume of hay, the stepped loft system is singular in Willamette Valley barns of the period. The extraordinary twenty-foot sheds, of which there were originally three, are also unmatched in known Willamette Valley barns.

Probably following the construction of the barn, the family graduated to a larger lumber house, though the date of its construction is not currently known. According to early Oregon architecture expert, University of Oregon

<sup>32</sup> Lamson Family Notebook, Volume 1, page 9; "Ancient Structure Being Preserved," *McMinnville Daily News-Register*, April 1, 1954, page 1. Another family source (O.C. Yocom, interview with author, November 2012) states that Lamson bought a squatter's rights to the claim, and the family moved into the squatter's dugout that had been built and used for sometime prior to their arrival. The location of that building is assumed to be uphill and west of the current residence, possibly near the spring that originally provided water for the house.

<sup>33</sup> O.C. Yocom, November 2012. At least two of Lamson's neighbors (John Eldridge and Charles Fendall) went to the mines in 1849. The fact that Jeremiah Lamson's name is included in the October 1850 Yamhill County census, along with those of his wife and children, may (or may not) indicate his physical presence in Oregon at that time.

<sup>34</sup> Myrtle Barber, unpublished family history on file at the Willamina Museum (1959). Jeremiah and Helen Lamson had four children: Roswell and Henry, born in Iowa in 1838 and 1840 respectively, Dorinda (Dora), born in 1848 in Clatsop County, Oregon, and Edward, born in the log cabin on the Lamson Ranch in 1850.

<sup>35</sup> Martinus Cawley, *Father Crockett of Grand Ronde: Adrien-Joseph Croquet, 1818-1902, Oregon Indian missionary, 1860-1898: a life in honor of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his arrival.* (Lafayette, Oregon: Guadalupe Translations, 1985), 52.

<sup>36</sup> Rev. R.W. Summers (Martinus Cawley, ed.), *Indian Journal of Rev. R.W. Summers: first Episcopal priest of Seattle (1871-73) and of McMinnville (1873-81)*, (Lafayette, Oregon: Guadalupe Translations, 1994), 15. None of these buildings remain, but it is reasonable to assume that by 1850 there would have been a number of outbuildings on the claim, including such structures as those mentioned in this description.

<sup>37</sup> Untitled, unpublished, type-written document on file with the Willamina Historical Museum. A handwritten margin note suggests the information is from family member Myrtle Barber.

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Professor Philip Dole, this was a rather predictable sequence of construction on early Oregon claims. On arrival and with shelter the most pressing need, a log cabin was constructed. Following the cabin, in addition to planting gardens and crops, settlers would construct a number of necessary farm buildings or features such as fence, sheds, cellars and barns. Eventually the small temporary log cabin was replaced with a more substantial residence, perhaps in the form of a more finished hewn log house, but more often with a "real lumber house" of sawn materials available from nearby mills.<sup>38</sup> Sawn lumber was available from nearby mills by the late 1840s or early 1850s, and the barn retains sash-sawn elements in the barn doors and roof framing.<sup>39</sup> Although the precise construction date of the Lamson's first lumber house has been lost, tax rolls of 1855 indicate a real property value of \$3,500, suggesting some significant development on the claim had been made.<sup>40</sup>

During Oregon's settlement period, several military forts were established along reservation boundaries for the purpose of controlling interactions between white settlers and the Indians who had been forcibly relocated to the Siletz and Grand Ronde Reservations from elsewhere in Western Oregon. Fort Yamhill, established in 1856, was located about four miles west of the Lamson ranch, and the family enjoyed a social and business relationship with both the military and subsequently with the Agency. Lieutenant Philip Sheridan (later General Sheridan) was a regular social caller, and family tradition holds that the Lamson barn was used to house some of the Fort Yamhill military horses during the time before the Fort had constructed such shelter on site.<sup>41</sup> While it was apparently common practice for the military to contract with local farmers and ranchers for needed goods and services, the Lamsons were in a unique position (due to the size of their barn and their ability to produce and store large quantities of feed) to provide shelter to the Army's horses. It is suspected that Jeremiah Lamson may have anticipated this need when he chose to build such a massive barn in the early 1850s.

Although they did some crop farming, the Lamsons engaged primarily in stock raising for their livelihood, and Jeremiah purchased nearby land that he used for this purpose, which included growing hay, raising Durham cattle, hogs and sheep.<sup>42</sup> Less than two years after arriving in Yamhill County, the Lamsons had already accomplished much. As of June of 1850, the U.S. Census Agricultural Schedule showed the Lamson ranch had 125 improved acres with a total farm value of \$400.<sup>43</sup> No specific crop production was indicated, but \$100 worth of "Produce of Market Gardens" was indicated. The family owned substantially more livestock than their neighbors: five head of horses, 36 milch cows, three working oxen, 90 "other cattle," and 30 head of swine, for a total livestock value of \$4,200. Only a handful of other individuals in the county had more value in livestock. It appears that at that time the Lamsons were engaged in dairying, as they were listed as producing 500 pounds of butter and 1,000 pounds of cheese, more than any other individual in the County.

Notably, the Lamson ranch grew rather quickly to a size that was atypical of most early holdings. By April of 1865 Jeremiah reported to son Roswell of having acquired substantial additional acreage: "As opportunity presented I have invested in real estate thinking that would be safe if it did not bring me much income. We now have 2500 acres land and a large herd of sheep and cattle. Prospects for business in Oregon looks better than it has done..."<sup>44</sup> The additional land was purchased (in part) from Franklin Yocum (the Jeremiah Kenoyer

<sup>38</sup> Philip Dole, "Farmhouses and Barns of the Willamette Valley," in *Space, Style and Structure: Building in Northwest America* (Portland, Oregon: Oregon Historical Society, 1974), 82.

<sup>39</sup> Elias Buell's sawmill was located perhaps eight miles east of the Lamson claim. Buell reportedly built his sawmill in 1849 with proceeds from his success at the California mines. "Buell (Elias) Mill Site," Oregon Inventory of Historic Sites database; Rev. H.K. Hines, "Cyrus Buell," *An Illustrated History of the State of Oregon* (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1893) p 664.

<sup>40</sup> Oregon Territorial tax rolls, 1853 (case #12276A) and 1855 (case #12276C), Oregon State Archives Microfilm. The 1853 rolls did not specifically call out real estate valuation, but did list "Improvements to Land Claim" valued at \$50. This may have referred to fence and other such improvement, rather than buildings.

<sup>41</sup> Genealogical information, "Jeremiah Lamson b. 1812," undated. On file with the Willamina Historical Museum.

<sup>42</sup> McPherson 1997, 132 and 154; U.S. Census Schedule 4 - Productions of Agriculture, Yamhill County, 1850. According to O.C. Yocom, Durham cattle were a desirable choice because they were a "dual-purpose" breed: they could be used as beef or for milk production.

<sup>43</sup> U.S. Census, Schedule 4 - Productions of Agriculture, Yamhill County, 1850.

<sup>44</sup> McPherson 1997, 230. Excerpt of letter from Jeremiah Lamson to son Roswell Lamson, April 8, 1865.

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claim to the west) and Jesse Benifield.<sup>45</sup> Land holdings of such size certainly would have allowed for the production of hay and grain sufficient to raise cattle for profitable market sale. Perhaps earlier, but certainly by the 1860s, Jeremiah Lamson had contracts to provide the Fort and the Grand Ronde Agency with beef, an arrangement he evidently held exclusively. "I have a contract to supply Fort Yamhill with beef on which I shall clear \$500. I have just completed a contract with the Indian department for to furnish them with work oxen on which in five days I made \$550, one half of which I gave Henry."<sup>46</sup>

As did a number of early pioneers, Jeremiah served his community well both personally and politically. He "...took a prominent part in political and other affairs in his adopted state, and from the beginning of its establishment was identified with the Republican party. He was a member of the first senate of Oregon [in 1858 and again in 1859], and was several times a member of the legislature, serving also four years as county judge."<sup>47</sup> He also held the position of postmaster from 1863 to 1865.

While the elder Lamson apparently may not have enjoyed the benefits of much education, its importance was impressed upon his children, as at least three of them (Roswell, Dorinda and Edward) were educated at the Oregon Institute (in Salem) and beyond.<sup>48</sup> Oldest son Roswell H. Lamson, who arrived in the Oregon territory at the age of nine, came of age on the Ranch in the years preceding the Civil War. After graduating from the Oregon Institute in 1854, he worked on his father's farm and in 1857 enlisted to fight in the Territory's Indian-Settler conflicts.<sup>49</sup> Jeremiah apparently had considerable pull, as he "...used his political influence [and] secured Roswell an appointment in the Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1858."<sup>50</sup>

According to family history,

The oldest of Jeremiah and Helen Lamson's children, Roswell, entered the Naval Academy in 1858, the first cadet from Oregon. He graduated second in a class of 84 at the beginning of the Civil War and became commander of the ship *The Gettysburg*. At the close of the war he was appointed to the staff of the first American Admiral to visit Europe. He retired from the Naval service in 1866 and settled in Portland where he served as County Clerk and a Professor of Mathematics at Pacific University. He was clerk of the United States Court in Portland for 17 years. In 1908 a torpedo boat destroyer was named in his honor.<sup>51</sup>

After the Civil War Roswell returned to the Lamson ranch and was involved in its operation for a period of time before relocating to Portland.

<sup>45</sup> "History of Jeremiah Lamson Lands, 1848 Forward, Property of Keith Lamson." On file at the Willamina (Oregon) Historical Museum.

<sup>46</sup> McPherson (1997), p 153-154 (letter from Jeremiah Lamson to his son Roswell, January 23, 1864). Although not reviewed for this study, records of government contracts apparently exist in Oregon Historical Society archives. See references in Justin Eichelberger, "Foodways at Fort Yamhill, 1856-1866: An Archaeological and Archival Perspective," published in *Journal of Northwest Anthropology*, 45(1):37-56 (2011). Eichelberger indicates that Lamson was the provider of beef to the Fort; other neighbors had contracts to supply other products.

<sup>47</sup> "Yamhill Journal of 1850s Found," *Portland Oregonian*, April 26, 1937, page 4, column 2; McPherson 1997, 4; "Edward F. Lamson," *Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley, Oregon*, (Chicago: Chapman Publishing Company, 1903), p 1285; Oregon State Archives, "Oregon State Legislators, Territorial Government Legislators and Staff," (<http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/records/legislative/recordsguides/histleg/territorial/index.html>). The claim of Lamson's long alignment with the Republican party seems to be in error, as several 1850s articles in the Oregon *Statesman* clearly indicate his Democratic leanings and representation in the legislature.

<sup>48</sup> McPherson (1997), pp 4, 22 and 44. Dorinda (Dora) Lamson went on to graduate from the Oregon Institute, the precursor to Willamette University, and later taught school in the area for a number of years. (Genealogical information, "Jeremiah Lamson b. 1812," undated. On file with the Willamina Historical Museum.)

<sup>49</sup> McPherson (1997), p 4.

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>51</sup> Genealogical information, "Jeremiah Lamson b. 1812..." See also Francis P.B. Sands, "The Brilliant Career of Lieutenant Roswell H. Lamson, U.S. Navy," *War Papers Number 76, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States*. (Read at the State Meeting of January 6, 1909), pp 17-18. The Portland, Oregon house that Roswell H. Lamson owned and/or occupied appears to be extant at 2630 SW Patton Road, built in 1886. The building was identified in an early 1980s survey of historic properties, and is listed in the Oregon SHPO database.



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Henry Lamson married Sarah Charleton in 1860; in addition to ranching, Henry was a state representative from 1891-1893. They lived on the northern portion of the Jeremiah Lamson claim until about 1900, when census records indicate that Henry and Sarah and their children's families were living in Crook County. Dorinda ("Dora") Lamson married Dr. Willis Everett in 1888 and they made their home in Tacoma, Washington.

### Edward Francis and Helen Aurelia Burgess Lamson, 1871-1929

The youngest Lamson child, Edward Francis, was born on the Lamson place in 1850 and lived his entire life on the property (Figures 15, 21-22). He was awarded ownership of the claim, including the house and outbuildings, by his parents in November of 1871 for the sum of \$50, with the provision that he could not sell any part of the property while either Jeremiah or Helen was still living.<sup>52</sup> The property he received was of great value as indicated in the 1870 agricultural census. On the 2,000 acres indicated (1,600 improved and 400 unimproved), which was valued at \$10,000, there was \$5,000 worth of "farming implements and machinery." The ranch supported ten head of horses, five milch cows, 110 "other cattle" and 40 swine, valued at \$3,070. 800 bushels of spring wheat was grown, three tons of hay, and \$50 worth of orchard products and 50 pounds of butter were produced.<sup>53</sup> In 1873, soon after taking over the affairs of the ranch, Edward married Helen Aurelia Burgess, who was born in 1853 in Missouri, and had arrived in Oregon in 1869 (Figures 23 and 24).<sup>54</sup> They continued managing the property with great success raising sheep and cattle, and Edward was "...one of the first ranchers in Yamhill County to import Black Angus cattle from Idaho."<sup>55</sup>

On October 12, 1879, Jeremiah died and was buried in the Willamina Cemetery (Figure 19). In the same year, the first lumber house burned; the exact date is not known, nor is it clear whether Jeremiah's death was related to that event.

By 1880, Edward was listed as "Head of Household" in the census, residing on the property with his wife Helen, three children, Helen's sister Hannah Burgess, a farm laborer named William Carter, and Sam Loo, a Chinese servant.<sup>56</sup> Since the house had been destroyed by fire in 1879, it is unclear in which building the family was living at the time of the June 30, 1880 census enumeration. Information in the 1984 Yamhill County Inventory suggests the family occupied the small worker house (which seems to be of an early vintage) while the new residence was being built.<sup>57</sup> Other family recollections seem to support this, and further suggest that the older portion of the small house may have originally served as the Wash House, in which the family lived during construction of their new home.<sup>58</sup>

Credit for the construction of the new house was given to John Parker in the 1984 Yamhill County inventory form.<sup>59</sup> This attribution is somewhat suspect, as John Parker was only sixteen years old in 1880; his father William Parker was also a house carpenter in Yamhill County, and it may in fact have been the father who was responsible for this building's construction. Regardless, according to family accounts the family moved into the newly-completed replacement (the current building) by 1883.<sup>60</sup>

<sup>52</sup> Deed, Jeremiah and Helen Lamson to Edward F. Lamson, November 30, 1871. In "History of Jeremiah Lamson Lands..."

<sup>53</sup> U.S. Census, Schedule 3 - Productions of Agriculture in the Sheridan Precinct of Yamhill County, 1870.

<sup>54</sup> Helen A. Lamson obituary, Portland *Oregonian*, August 20, 1942; Genealogical information, "Jeremiah Lamson b. 1812," undated document. On file with the Willamina Historical Museum; William J. Lamson, *Descendants of William Lamson of Ipswich, Mass. 1634-1917* (New York: Tomas A. Wright Printer and Publisher, 1917), p 236;

<sup>55</sup> O.C. Yocom.

<sup>56</sup> "Edward Lamson," U.S. Census, Yamhill County, Oregon, 1880. Accessed September 2012 via <http://www.ancestry.com>.

<sup>57</sup> O'Brien 1984. This is likely information from the interview with Keith Lamson.

<sup>58</sup> Elery McKern and O.C. Yocom, communications with author, 2012.

<sup>59</sup> Interestingly, in both the 1860 and 1880 censuses, a man named Henry Sampson, listed as a master carpenter (1860) and a house carpenter (1880) was noted as living in the household immediately adjacent to the Lamsons. Sampson was the head carpenter for the construction of Fort Yamhill, but no information has been found that links him with the construction of any of the Lamson buildings. Dole and Olson (c. 2002), 45.

<sup>60</sup> "Jeremiah Lamson b. 1812..."



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Edward's mother Helen Lamson was listed as living in Tillamook County in 1880 with daughter Dora (who was teaching school) and a grandson Roswell B. Lamson (son of Roswell H. and Catherine Lamson). It is unclear how long she stayed at that location, but she eventually returned to the Ranch, and she passed away in Willamina in 1892 at the age of 80 years (Figure 20). Although little is said of the labors and contributions of pioneer women on the frontier, it may be assumed that Helen Hawks Lamson's participation in her husband's and her son's success on this ranch, acknowledged by history or not, was significant.

As did his father before him, Edward served in the Oregon Legislature from 1898 to 1902, and was well-respected in the community. The entry in *Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley, Oregon*, states:

In addition to the four hundred and eighty acres comprising the home farm Mr. [Edward] Lamson farms other lands, making in all twenty-one hundred acres, and he is engaged principally in stock raising... The stock includes sheep and Hereford cattle and Mr. Lamson is one of the best informed men on stock matters in the country. He has filled many positions of trust in the community and as a Republican politician was elected to the Legislature in 1898 and again in 1900. President Harrison appointed him Indian Agent of the Grand Ronde Reservation and he creditably maintained that position four years [1891-1893]. The many sterling qualities of Mr. Lamson have won him many friends in Oregon, and has ever had the sincere respect and liking of all who have been associated with him.<sup>61</sup>

Rex Lamson, Edward and Helen's third son (of three) was born in 1878 and married Edna L. Stewart in about 1899. Around this time, Edward deeded all of the ranch property to Rex, who was also engaged in stock raising. When the federal government moved to limit free-range grazing at the turn of the century, Edward and Rex Lamson began a transition from stock raising to dairying, which is illustrated by the remaining silo (one of several built to hold silage for the dairy cows).

Both generations of the family continued living on the ranch together until 1911, when tragically, Rex died from injuries sustained in a fall in the barn.<sup>62</sup> Edna soon remarried to Ralph Rice, and moved away from the ranch with their two children, Edward Delgrado and Florence.<sup>63</sup> Following Rex's death, ownership of the ranch fell to Edna; eventually Edward F. and Helen regained ownership, and divided 180 acres from the larger parcel and deeded it to Edward Delgrado and Florence.<sup>64</sup> According to O.C. Yocom,

...the Lamson Ranch did not come to a complete standstill [after Rex's death]. Operations continued with Ed working closely with Ralph Rice and later Bob Miller. The fields were planted with clover seed crops [and] grass for silage and hay. In Yamhill County, the Lamson Ranch pioneered the use of flood irrigation to water their seed crops. Along with flood irrigation, they experimented with and developed tiling of the fields to enhance the crops. The ranch operation continued in this vein through 1942.<sup>65</sup>

Edward and Helen Burgess Lamson continued to live together at the ranch until Edward's death in 1929 (Figure 25). According to family recollections, Helen remained on the property after Edward's death. She was listed in the 1930 and 1940 censuses as a renter, the sole occupant of her household and was identified as living on a farm (the Lamson Ranch).<sup>66</sup> Helen passed away on the ranch in 1942, and is buried in the Willamina Cemetery. (Figure 26)

<sup>61</sup> *Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley, Oregon* (Chicago: Chapman Publishing Company, 1903), p 1285.

<sup>62</sup> U.S. Census records, Willamina Precinct, Yamhill County, 1900 and 1910; Elery McKern, personal communication with author, September 2012.

<sup>63</sup> Edna remarried to Ralph L. Rice, and she and her two children (Edward Delgrado and Florence) lived with him at a Tillamook Highway address in Yamhill County until the mid-1920s. U.S. Census, Precinct 38, Yamhill County, Oregon, 1920.

<sup>64</sup> O.C. Yocom, November 2012.

<sup>65</sup> O.C. Yocom, November 2012.

<sup>66</sup> U.S. Census, Precinct 34, Yamhill County, Oregon, 1930 and Precinct 8 Willamina, Yamhill County, Oregon, 1940; Elery McKern, personal communication with author, October and November 2012. Mr. McKern's wife LoDell Lamson McKern remembered visiting Helen Lamson at the ranch as a child in the 1930s. According to Traci and O.C. Yocom, "Kenneth Lamson lived at the ranch from 1928 to 1942 while he was going to high school and after graduating, he worked for Bob Miller who farmed the ranch. Kenneth moved out to the ranch to help Ed and Helen and after Ed died he stayed to help Helen." O.C. Yocom recalls that Helen Lamson died

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### Later Generations, 1942-Present

Following the close of the period of significance in 1942, the occupancy and management of the ranch continued in a similar albeit somewhat diminished capacity. Although farming practices and market demands had changed, family members continued to live and work on the land.

Edward Delgrado Lamson, born in 1900, married LoCeil Kirkpatrick in 1924 in Newport, Oregon, and several years later they relocated to Sheridan. By the time Edward Delgrado's mother, Helen A. Lamson, passed away in 1942, the house, outbuildings and 250 acres of land had passed to him, and in 1943 he moved his family there, remaining until his death in 1977.<sup>67</sup> (Figure 27) LoCeil Lamson survived him by some thirty years, continued living on the ranch, and died in November of 2000. The large holdings originally in Jeremiah and Edward were eventually split among descendants or sold, though a number of Lamson descendants continue to live in and around Willamina and throughout Yamhill County and the Willamette Valley.

### Architectural Significance - Lamson House, 1880-1883

Buildings on the Lamson Ranch are also being nominated under Criterion C for their architectural merit. The 1880-1883 residence is an impressive example of the Gothic Revival style. One of the earliest architectural "styles" to appear in Oregon, the Gothic Revival followed the Federal and Classical Revivals of the 1840s and 1850s, overtaking them in popularity by the middle 1860s. The style was inspired by the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century picturesque movement, and in Oregon "...appeared in conjunction with the availability of pattern books by Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852)."<sup>68</sup> The style is generally characterized by a more vertical emphasis than its immediate predecessors, with features including steep gable rooflines, central gables and wall dormers, elongated windows of two-over-two or four-over-four sash, pointed-arch window and door openings, wood construction and jig-sawn trim details.

Built using the box construction method, the Lamson house is built on a Georgian plan, with a central stair hall flanked by two rooms up and down (Figure 6). Gothic Revival features include the building's overall vertical emphasis, which is accentuated by the elongated windows and the multiple sharp gabled wall dormers on the front (east) facade, as well as the pointed-arch doorway, layered eave and frieze details, and interior layout and original elements that are typical of the period and style (Photos 4, 7, 8 and 12). The original four-panel doors and four-pane-over-four double-hung windows are also characteristic of the Gothic Revival in Oregon. While a number of Gothic Revival residences remain in Yamhill County, the Lamson house is perhaps one of the finest for its detailing and historical integrity inside and out.

It is believed that this second lumber house was constructed directly on the site of the first, making this a high probability site for historical archaeological deposits from the early to mid-1850s onward.<sup>69</sup> In the 1984 survey, some allusion was made to the idea that the design of this second frame house mimicked the first. No images or recollections of that first dwelling remain, and no other corroborations have been found, but it is possible that the existing building is similar in aspect and in plan (the center hall plan was also employed in houses of the 1850s and 1860s) to the first house. In addition, the survey credited John Parker as the builder, though given his age of sixteen years in 1880, it was more likely his father William who was primarily responsible for the construction. O.C. Yocom also credits Parker with the construction of the Henry Lamson residence, originally located to the north, and possibly also the nearby Fendall house (neither of which are extant). These two buildings apparently bore some resemblance to the Lamson house, suggesting that perhaps Parker was involved in the construction of all three residences.

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on the ranch. Traci L. Yocom, personal communication, November 2012.

<sup>67</sup> Elery McKern, September 2012.

<sup>68</sup> Rosalind Clark, *Oregon Style: Architecture from 1840 to the 1950s*, (Portland, Oregon: Professional Book Center, 1983), p 45.

<sup>69</sup> O.C. Yocom, November 2012.

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## Comparative Analysis

In terms of comparable properties that have been previously identified, only two farmsteads, labeled as such, appear in the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office database of historic properties in Oregon. Both are located in or near Newburg, and both have “non-contributing” status.

Further examination of the database reveals approximately twenty-six Gothic Revival residences of similar age to the Lamson House.<sup>70</sup> Of those twenty-six, six were not reviewed as part of this comparative study because there was no inventory form or photograph available. Of the twenty remaining, three present a scale and level of detailing, including multiple front wall gables, similar to the Lamson house (although one may have been demolished):

Davis, Albertus & P.C. House	11301 Peavine Rd. SW, McMinnville	c. 1875	Eligible Contributing
Mesner, Philip House	12305 Hwy 47, Carlton	c. 1870	Eligible Contributing
Yamhill County Poorhouse	412 Hill Road, McMinnville	c. 1880	Eligible Contributing, altered

The circa 1875 Davis House is described in 1980s survey documentation as “...one of the finer Gothic Revival buildings existing in the County today...” At that time the house displayed three gable dormers on the front elevation, the center dormer with a door to the roof of the original front porch. The building also retained original pointed-arch windows, bracketed bay windows and trim details in the eaves and around windows and doors.

The Philip Mesner House of circa 1870, also known locally as the “House of Seven Gables,” has multiple, sharply-pitched gable dormers on three sides of its unusual mansard roof. At the time of the 1980s survey the house retained original two-over-two window sash with prominent architraves, as well as jig-sawn eave brackets. The front porch appears to have been replaced or altered in the twentieth century, and is partially enclosed.

The farmhouse-turned-poorhouse on Hill Road in McMinnville also shows multiple front gables with pointed arch, two-over-two window sash. Undated survey information (which appears to be circa 1980) indicates that the house has been altered by the installation of larger windows in the lower level, a newer front porch and some replacement siding. A review of current aerial photographs suggests that this building may have been demolished.

The residual seventeen buildings are simpler, more vernacular interpretations of the Gothic Revival style, without the level of architectural articulation seen in the Lamson house or the above comparative properties.

The Lamson House appears to be unusual among this group for its historical integrity. Although the original front porch has been replaced, other significant details such as the historic floor plan, doors, windows, glass, window trim, eave details, interior details and some interior finishes remain. The absence of any other significant character-altering changes or additions further accentuate the building’s architectural merit.

<sup>70</sup> Search parameters used were Yamhill County (location), 1860-1889 (construction dates), Building (resource type), Single Dwelling (function) and Gothic Revival (style).

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**Architectural Significance - Lamson Barn, circa 1850**

The wooden, multi-purpose barns of the 1850s were "...the most visually prominent and economically important building[s] found on the agrarian landscape... On these farms, barns were used to store grain, hay and straw; house livestock; process grain; shelter and repair farm implements; and milk cows."<sup>71</sup> They had some typical features, though not all were the same. Their low-slung appearance is due to the relatively low-pitched roof (about 30 degrees) of the barn and the usual sheds on one, two or three sides. Many early Oregon barns were side-opening "English" types with a central wagon drive often also functioning as a threshing floor; adjacent bays were used for storing hay, straw or grain, and loft space above allowed additional hay storage. Stalls and other space for livestock might be provided in the sheds.

Structurally, Philip Dole described these buildings as having

...hand hewn sills, beams posts and plates. Mortised and tenoned connections fitted these pieces together and wooden pegs held them rigidly in place. All were built through a similar construction process. The pre-assembled sections, or 'bents' as they were called, were pushed up into place by a building crew (a 'barn raising') and connected with the intermediate girts or beams. The outside was closed in with wide vertical boards, their joints butted but not covered. Rafters about 3x6 [inches] in size supported a roof of shakes laid over wide boards. All materials were left to weather.<sup>72</sup>

The circa-1850 Lamson Barn is particularly important as one of the oldest standing buildings in Yamhill County, and may be the largest remaining barn known in the Willamette Valley, the twenty-foot sheds extending it beyond the next-largest known barn by eight feet.<sup>73</sup> Today, despite its condition, this barn retains more 1850s material than most buildings of its type and age, including hewn framing, sash-sawn elements (in the roof structure, sections of siding, and original doors), original hand-forged door hardware and some hand-forged nails. Its dimensions rival the largest remaining barns of this period and type in the Valley, requiring framing elements of dimensions also uncommon (or non-existent) in other examples. The unusual plan is not known in any other extant Willamette Valley barns.

Few barns or outbuildings of any type from the 1850s remain standing, making the Lamson Barn important in the context of Yamhill County (and Willamette Valley) settlement and early agricultural practice. This significance is further emphasized by the relationship that the Lamsons had with Fort Yamhill, which included the lodging of military horses in the barn. In addition, the contract(s) that Lamson had to supply beef to the Fort (along with his other stock-related business dealings) would have required the winter storage of large volumes of hay, which is clearly possible in a barn of this unusual size.

Again utilizing the Oregon SHPO database, only one other barn of this era has thus far been identified in Yamhill County.<sup>74</sup>

Allen, Solomon, Barn	Southeast of Amity	c 1854	Eligible Contributing
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The Allen Barn differs from the Lamson Barn in that it consists of five bents, where the Lamson Barn was built with only four. Other aspects of that building's early composition, such as whether the building had sheds extending from any side or the loft configuration, are not currently known. According to the 1984 inventory form, the Allen Barn is in good physical condition, with few character-altering changes. The next-oldest Yamhill

<sup>71</sup> Mary Gallagher et al., "Historic Context Statement: The Barns of Linn County, Oregon, 1845-1945" (Albany, Oregon: Linn County Planning Department, 1997) p 1.

<sup>72</sup> Philip Dole, "Farmhouse and Barn in Early Lane County," *Lane County Historian* 10:2 (August 1965), 36.

<sup>73</sup> This next-largest is the James Watson Barn in Kings Valley, Benton County, Oregon, which is listed in the National Register.

<sup>74</sup> Search parameters used were Yamhill County (location), 1840-1859 (construction dates), Agricultural Outbuilding (function). A second search using Yamhill County (location), 1840-1859 (construction dates), barn (in name) had the same results.



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County barns are the Clark-Fryer Barn of the early 1860s, an end-opening barn located near Yamhill, and the T-shaped Christensen-Olds Barn built in the late 1860s or early 1870s in the McMinnville vicinity.

When database search parameters are expanded to include barns in the wider Willamette Valley with construction dates of the 1840s and 1850s (1840-1859), thirteen are identified, and three of those are National Register-listed. They are:

Watson, James & Mary Farm - Barn	23380 Hoskins Road, Philomath	Benton	1852	National Register <i>Barn dates to late 1840s</i>
King, Isaac, House & Barn	Route 1, Philomath	Benton	c 1852	National Register <i>Barn dates to late 1840s</i>
Brown, Hugh Leeper, Barn	Hwy 228, Brownsville vic.	Linn	c 1848	National Register

The Watson Barn in Kings Valley, Benton County, which may have been made as early as 1848, is similar to the Lamson Barn in workmanship and scale, being forty feet by sixty, but with five bents rather than the Lamson's four. Like the Lamson building, the Watson Barn originally had three sheds measuring twelve feet wide. The Watson Barn is in fair condition, and is National Register-listed as part of the larger James and Mary Watson Farm.

The Isaac King Barn, also in Kings Valley, was originally listed in conjunction with the Isaac King House, but it appears the circa-1855 house was lost to extreme deterioration several years ago. The late 1840s side-entry barn with single shed remains, however. The original workmanship in this barn is similar to the Lamson and Watson barns in its hewn frame and sash-sawn roof elements. While the "...timber-frame construction is still visible in the loft...the barn was remodeled in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, apparently to serve as a dairy barn. The original spatial organization of the barn has been altered to accommodate metal stanchions for dairy cows."<sup>75</sup>

The circa-1848 Hugh Leeper Brown Barn is outside of Brownsville, Linn County. This is a 57-by-75-foot barn (with sheds), of six-bent construction with two swing beams to accommodate the unusual three-bay-wide threshing floor. Built with hewn and sawn elements, this barn also retains original hand-forged hinges similar in design to those seen in the Lamson Barn.<sup>76</sup>

Of the ten other identified barns (listed below), three have been demolished and one has not been evaluated (the Morgan Farm Barn in Shedd, Linn County). Six of the seven that remain were evaluated as being "Eligible Contributing" and all appear to date to the mid-1850s or earlier. Representation of the lower (northern) Willamette Valley in which the Lamson Barn is located is poorer with only two barns (in Clackamas and Yamhill Counties) than that of the upper (southern) Valley, which has five.

Blodgett, William, Barn	Hwy 20, Blodgett	Benton	c 1850	Eligible Contributing
Belknap, Ransom, Barn	Coon Road, Monroe vic	Benton	1853	Eligible Contributing
Feyerer, Gottlieb, Barn	32694 S. Dickie Prairie Rd, Molalla	Clackamas	c 1850	Eligible Contributing

<sup>75</sup> Paul Falsetto, "Isaac King House and Barn," National Register Nomination Form (1995), Section 7, page 6. (Nomination revised from original 1971 submittal prepared by Paul Hartwig and Gregg Olson).

<sup>76</sup> Gallagher/Nelson/Dunn, "Hugh Leeper Brown Barn on Hwy 228," Linn County Inventory of Historic Properties, Historic Barn Form (1996). Form available via Oregon SHPO database, <<http://heritagedata.prd.state.or.us/historic/>> Another barn that may be of comparable age and design is the Matthew C. Chambers barn in Linn County. The attributed date of that building is 1860, hence it did not appear in the data analysis, which spanned the years 1840 to 1859.

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Rigdon Barn	36421 Tinker Rd, Pleasant Hill	Lane	c 1854	Eligible Contributing
Settle, John, Barn	36375 Gore Dr., Lebanon	Linn	c 1850	Demolished
Settle, John, Barn #1	33916 Hwy 20, Lebanon	Linn	c 1850	Demolished
Backus, Gideon, Barn	36210 Spicer Dr, Lebanon	Linn	c 1850	Demolished
Morgan Farm Barn	33740 Morgan Dr, Shedd vic.	Linn	c 1850	Unevaluated
Jackson, Willis, Barn	33043 Seven Mile Ln, Tangent	Linn	c 1850	Eligible Contributing
Allen, Soloman, Barn	Bethel Road, Amity vic.	Yamhill	c 1854	Eligible Contributing

The weak point in this comparative analysis is the possibility that some early barns are not listed in the database separately, but as part of a group of buildings (as with the Lamson Ranch), and therefore would not appear on a search specifically for barns or agricultural outbuildings.

A search for Willamette Valley farmsteads of the 1840-1859 era revealed a list of eighteen properties. Six of these were removed from comparison because they were specifically identified as "sites" with no remaining above-ground settlement-period buildings or structures. Two others were removed because they were described as having no associated outbuildings, or were described as farmsteads but retained no nineteenth-century buildings or structures. Of the residual ten, one was a grouping (the Roland Farm) that contained an early barn (and other outbuildings) that had not been separately identified in the data search described above. The Watson farm appears in searches for both farmsteads and individual agricultural outbuildings. Some of the remaining eight examples retain outbuildings that significantly post-date the early settlement period, and others apparently include un-enumerated or undated outbuildings that were not field-checked for this project, and no more recent information was available at this writing.

Roland Farm	2800 Weltzin Ave., Corvallis	Benton	c 1850	Eligible Contributing <i>Portion of 1850s barn extant (altered)</i>
Watson Farmstead	23380 Hoskins Road, Philomath	Benton	1852	National Register <i>1850s barn extant</i>
Carman, Waters, Farm	3811 SW Carman Dr, Lake Oswego	Clackamas	c 1857	Eligible Contributing c 1857 house extant 20 <sup>th</sup> century barn
Bagby Farm	14388 S. Bagby, Molalla	Clackamas	1852	Eligible Contributing Bldg status unknown
Boeckman Farm	26363 SW Mountain Rd., West Linn	Clackamas	c 1850	Eligible Contributing Multiple undated outbuildings Bldg status unknown
Kruse Farm	5440 SW Kruse Rd, Wilsonville	Clackamas	c 1857	Eligible Contributing 1857 house extant c 1880 barn extant Other bldgs unknown
Seaview Ranch	Mouth of Elk River, Port Orford vic.	Curry	1850	Eligible Contributing Bldg status unknown (no form available)

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Landes House	89205 Old Coburg Road, Eugene	Lane	1854	Eligible Contributing House demolished No barn
McCoy Farm	Peoria Road, Tangent	Linn	1846	Eligible Contributing Bldg status unknown
Buell, Elias, Farm	3825 Mill Creek Rd, Sheridan	Polk	c 1855	Eligible Contributing 1856 house extant (altered) c 1900 barn (undated)

**Potential Significance Under Other Criteria**

While Criterion D is not being applied, it should be noted that there is a high probability of historical archaeological deposits within the nominated area related to the undated first lumber house, early agricultural outbuildings, and possibly to the earlier dugout or log cabin site. The exact site of the earliest dwelling has not been definitively determined, but cursory research on the sequencing and relative locations of early farmstead buildings suggest it could be within close proximity to the current house and barn. Remnants of a log cabin fireplace and chimney were reported to be extant "near the barn" in 1954.<sup>77</sup> Further research and field investigation are needed to locate the site with any certainty. A brick-lined spring and possible spring house remnants, which could have been a very early construction, may also remain, as the primary original water source for the house was a spring reportedly located about 150-200 yards west/southwest of the dwelling.<sup>78</sup> Regardless, the potential contribution historical archaeology could make to the overall story of this site and settlement in the area should not be discounted.

**Conclusion**

Collectively, the buildings and features of the Lamson Ranch form a cohesive agricultural unit with representative (contributing) features clearly illustrating the Ranch's period of significance and historic use. With the number of nineteenth century farm groups in Yamhill County dwindling, the Lamson Ranch is an important remaining representative of an early agricultural site that has maintained that use for decades. In the house and the barn, the ranch contains two buildings that are each significant for their architectural merit, not only marking two generations of the family on the property, but each illustrating types of construction distinctive of their respective periods.

<sup>77</sup> McMinnville *Daily News-Register*, "Ancient Structure Being Preserved." April 1, 1954, page 1.

<sup>78</sup> O.C. Yocom and Elery and Scott McKern, November 2012. This spring is reportedly brick-lined, though the date of the lining is not currently known.

Lamson Ranch  
Name of Property

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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**Portland Oregonian**

- "Another Pioneer Gone." November 24, 1892, p 8
- "Edward F. Lamson," September 26, 1929, page 14.
- "Yamhill Journal of 1850s Found." April 26, 1937, page 4.
- Helen A. Lamson Obituary, August 20, 1942.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** approximately 8.2 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>10</u>	<u>460233</u>	<u>4992053</u>	3	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	4	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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

The nominated area is comprised of a rectangular parcel measuring 650 by 550 feet and encompassing approximately 8.2 acres. The southeast corner of the boundary is located 100 feet east and 150 feet south of the southeastern corner of the house. The southern line runs west 650 feet from this point to a fenceline that is approximately ten feet west of the historic spring. This western boundary line extends north 550 feet to a line that is approximately 120 feet north of the north wall of the barn. This northern boundary line extends 650 feet to the east, and connects with a north-south line that is 100 feet from the southeast corner of the house. (Figures 4 and 5).

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated area boundary includes all contributing resources currently situated on the land still within family ownership. There are no convenient legal or visual boundaries present, therefore boundaries were determined to encompass all significant built and landscape features historically associated with the property during the occupancy of Jeremiah and Helen Lamson and Edward F. and Helen Lamson, and to allow for approximately 100-200 feet from the outer walls of the primary buildings (the house and barn).

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Liz Carter  
organization N/A date 1 November 2012  
street & number 1375 E. 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue telephone (541) 343-6499  
city or town Eugene state Oregon zip code 97403  
e-mail lizcarterhp@gmail.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.)

Lamson Ranch  
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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** Lamson Ranch  
**City or Vicinity:** Willamina  
**County:** Yamhill Co. **State:** Oregon

**Photos 1-19 and 21-26 of 26**

**Photographer:** Liz Carter  
**Date Photographed:** May, August and September 2012

**Photos 20 of 26**

**Photographer:** Gregg Olson  
**Date Photographed:** May 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

- Photo 1 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0001)  
View from lane, looking south. House to left, second residence to right.
- Photo: 2 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0002)  
View from lane, looking southeast. from left to right: barn, silo and house (in distance).
- Photo 3 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0003)  
Southeast corner view of house looking northwest from line of trees at eastern nominated area boundary.
- Photo 4 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0004)  
View of southeast corner (front) of house.
- Photo 5 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0005)  
Facing northeast, view of woodshed and new carport, kitchen wing and main two-story volume.
- Photo 6 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0006)  
View looking southeast at northwest corner of house.
- Photo 7 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0007)  
Window detail.
- Photo 8 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0008)  
East (front) facade dormer, eave and window detail.
- Photo 9 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0009)  
Parlor and fireplace.
- Photo 10 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0010)  
Center stair hall, view from front door looking west.



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### Photos Continued

- Photo 11 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0011)  
Upstairs stair rail and hall, view looking east toward front of house.
- Photo 12 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0012)  
Pointed-arch door to upper front porch.
- Photo 13 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0013)  
Southeast bedroom. Details typical.
- Photo 14 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0014)  
Door to small bedroom over kitchen displaying original graining.
- Photo 15 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0015)  
Kitchen, view of stove with door to pantry at right.
- Photo 16 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0016)  
Outhouse, view looking south/southeast.
- Photo 17 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0017)  
Barn and silo, southwest corner view from lane looking east/northeast..
- Photo 18 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0018)  
Northeast corner of barn.
- Photo 19 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0019)  
View from east drive doors looking toward northwest corner of barn.
- Photo 20 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0020)  
View of barn loft area and roof structure, looking north. Courtesy of Gregg Olson.
- Photo 21 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0021)  
Original forged strap hinge in east drive doors.
- Photo 22 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0022)  
Secondary residence. View of north elevation, with older side-gabled section on left.
- Photo 23 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0023)  
Circa 1950 garage, immediately south of secondary residence.
- Photo 24 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0024)  
Post-1950s pumphouse.
- Photo 25 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0025)  
Historic fruit tree.
- Photo 26 of 26:** (OR\_YamhillCounty\_LamsonRanch\_0026)  
Historic fruit orchard.

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**Property Owner:** (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Scott McKern and Kendra Costin  
street & number 13080 SW Heather Court telephone (503) 519-9432  
city or town Beaverton state Oregon zip code 97008

**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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National Park Service

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### Documents

- Figure 1:** USGS topographic map with Lamson Ranch indicated
- Figure 2:** Street map with Lamson Ranch indicated
- Figure 3:** Tax lot map
- Figure 4:** Current aerial view with Lamson Ranch indicated
- Figure 5:** Lamson Ranch site plan
- Figure 6:** Lamson house first floor plan
- Figure 7:** Lamson house second floor plan
- Figure 8:** Lamson barn floor plan
- Figure 9:** Details of early General Land Office donation claim survey maps, with Lamson claim indicated
- Figure 10:** Detail of 1861 General Land Office donation claim survey map with Lamson claim indicated
- Figure 11:** 1936 aerial photograph.
- Figure 12:** 1945 aerial photograph with approximate nominated area indicated
- Figure 13:** 1956 aerial photograph with approximate nominated area indicated
- Figure 14:** Circa 1890 photograph looking west. House at left, barn center.
- Figure 15:** 1890 family photograph
- Figure 16:** Photocopy of undated photograph showing north side facade
- Figure 17:** Undated photograph looking north from lane toward smokehouse
- Figure 18:** Barn and silo as pictured in 1954 McMinnville News article
- Figure 19:** Obituary of Jeremiah Lamson (1812-1879)
- Figure 20:** Obituary of Helen Hawks Lamson (1812-1892)
- Figure 21:** Photo portrait of Edward Francis Lamson (1850-1929)
- Figure 22:** Edward Francis Lamson (1850-1929) and his dog.
- Figure 23:** Photo portrait of Helen Aurelia Burgess Lamson (1853-1942)
- Figure 24:** Lamson Family photograph of 1922
- Figure 25:** Obituary of Edward Francis Lamson (1850-1929)

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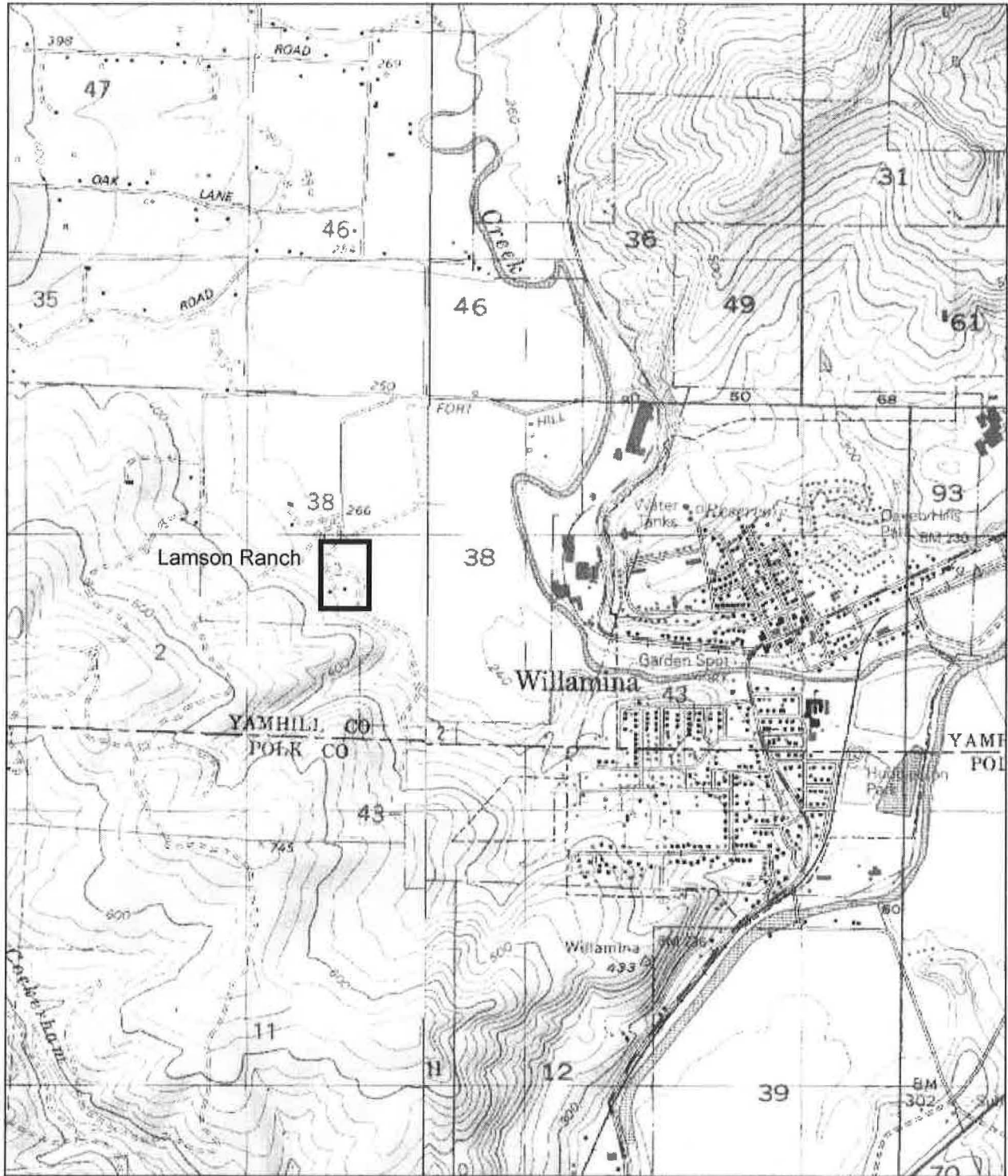


Figure 1: USGS topographic map with Lamson Ranch indicated.





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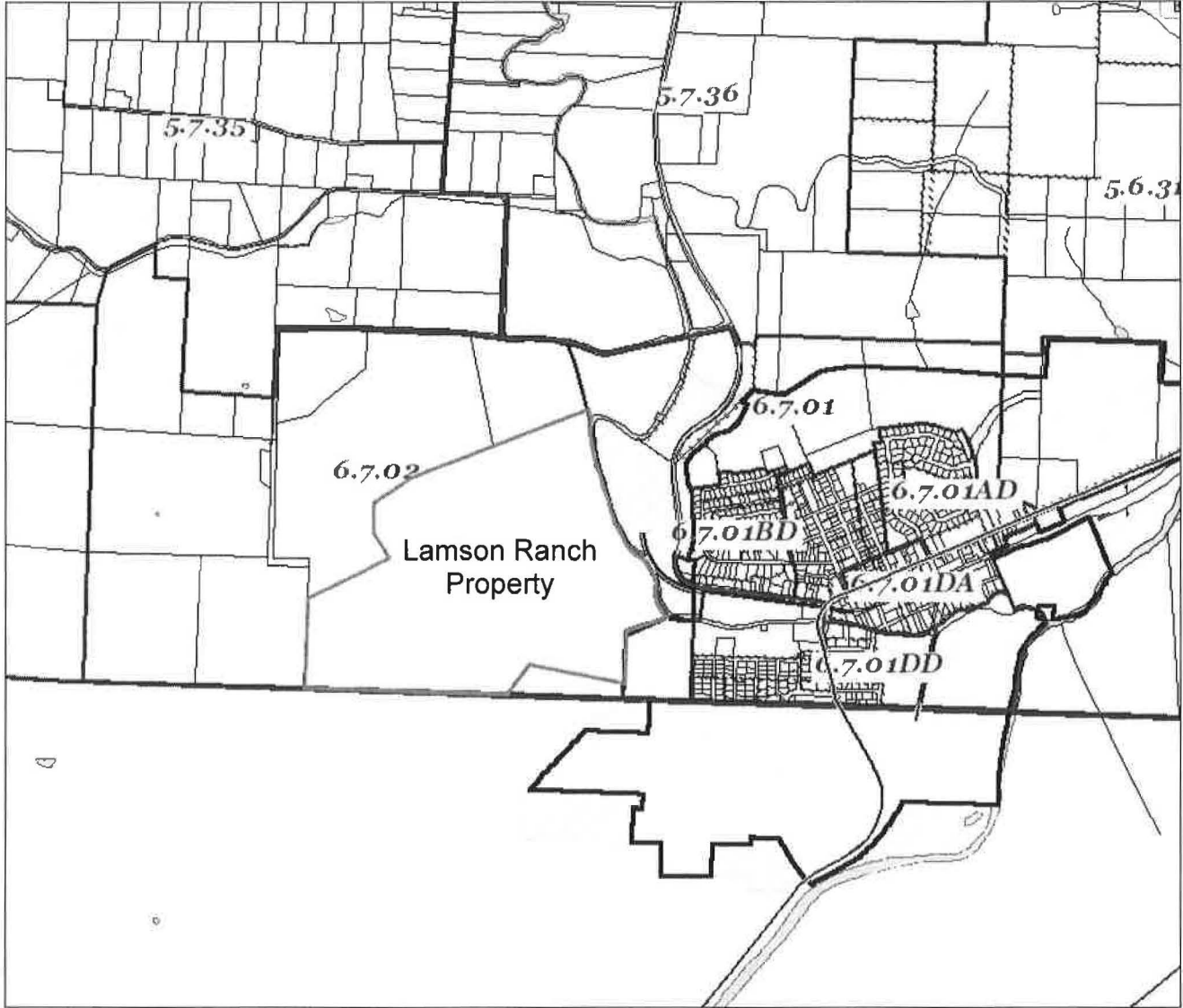


Figure 3: Current (November 2012) Yamhill County tax map with Yamhill County portion of the Lamson Ranch property indicated.

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Figure 4: Current aerial view with Lamson Ranch indicated. Courtesy Google Maps.

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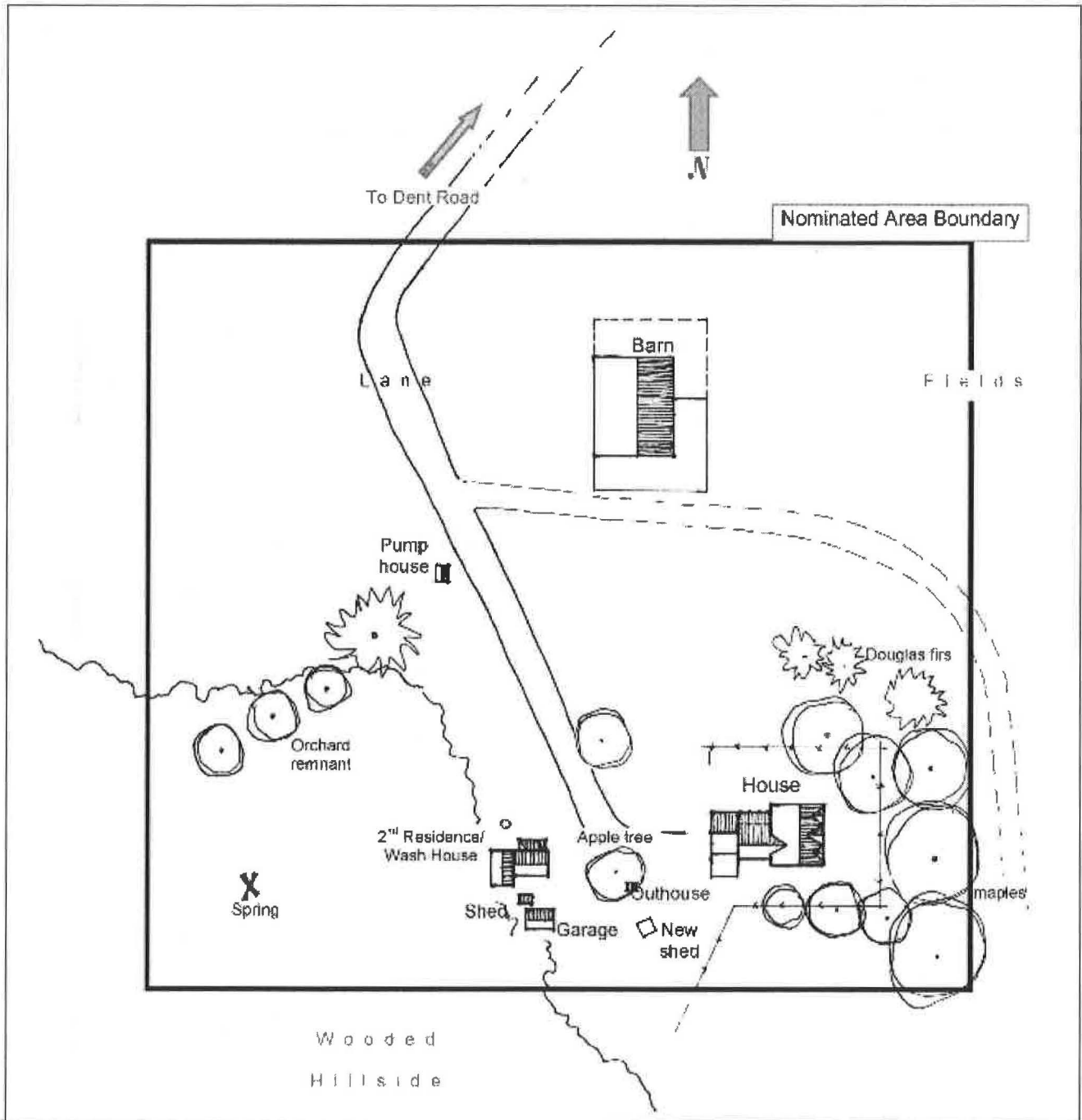


Figure 5: Lamson Ranch site plan.



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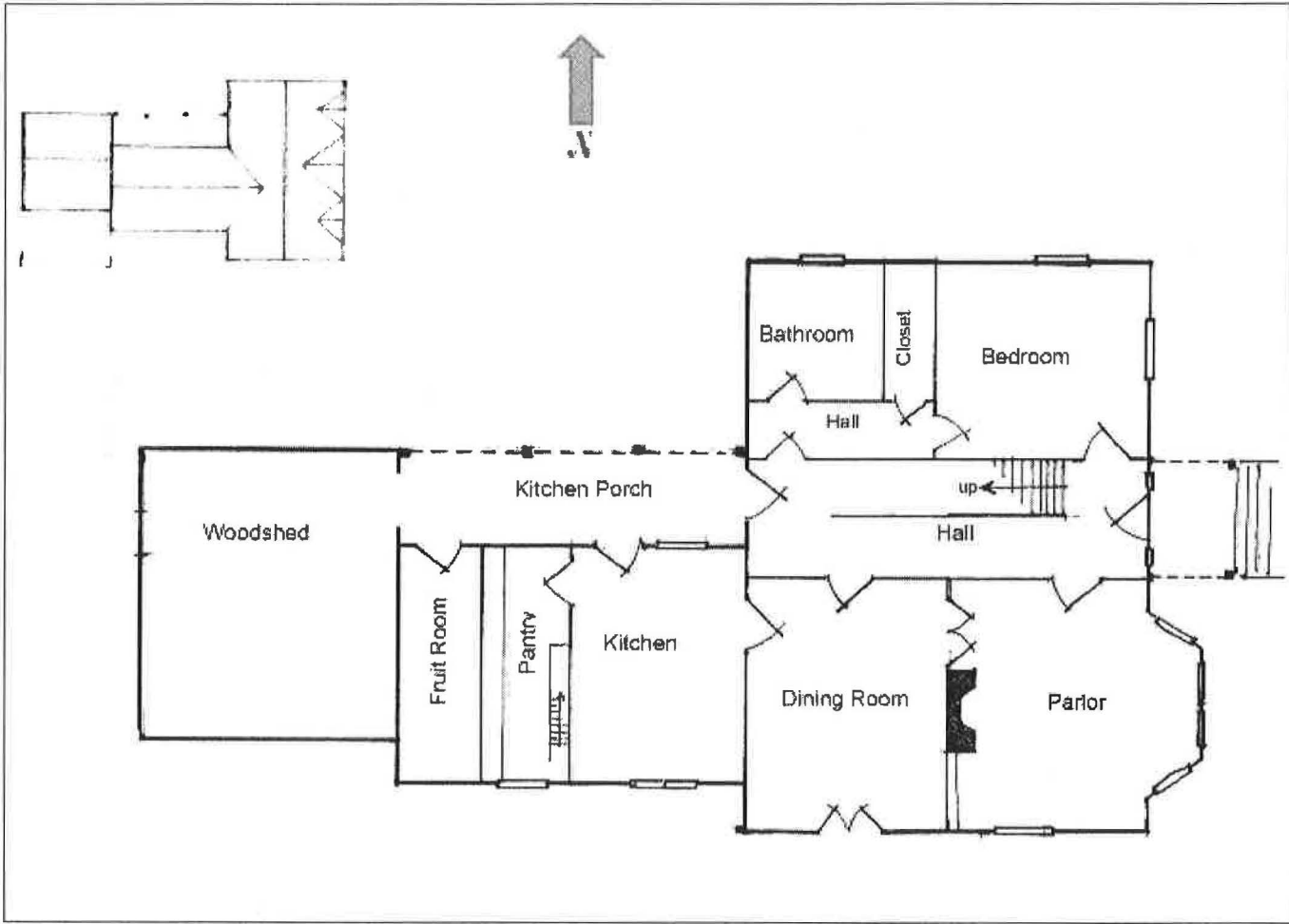


Figure 6: Lamson house first floor plan.

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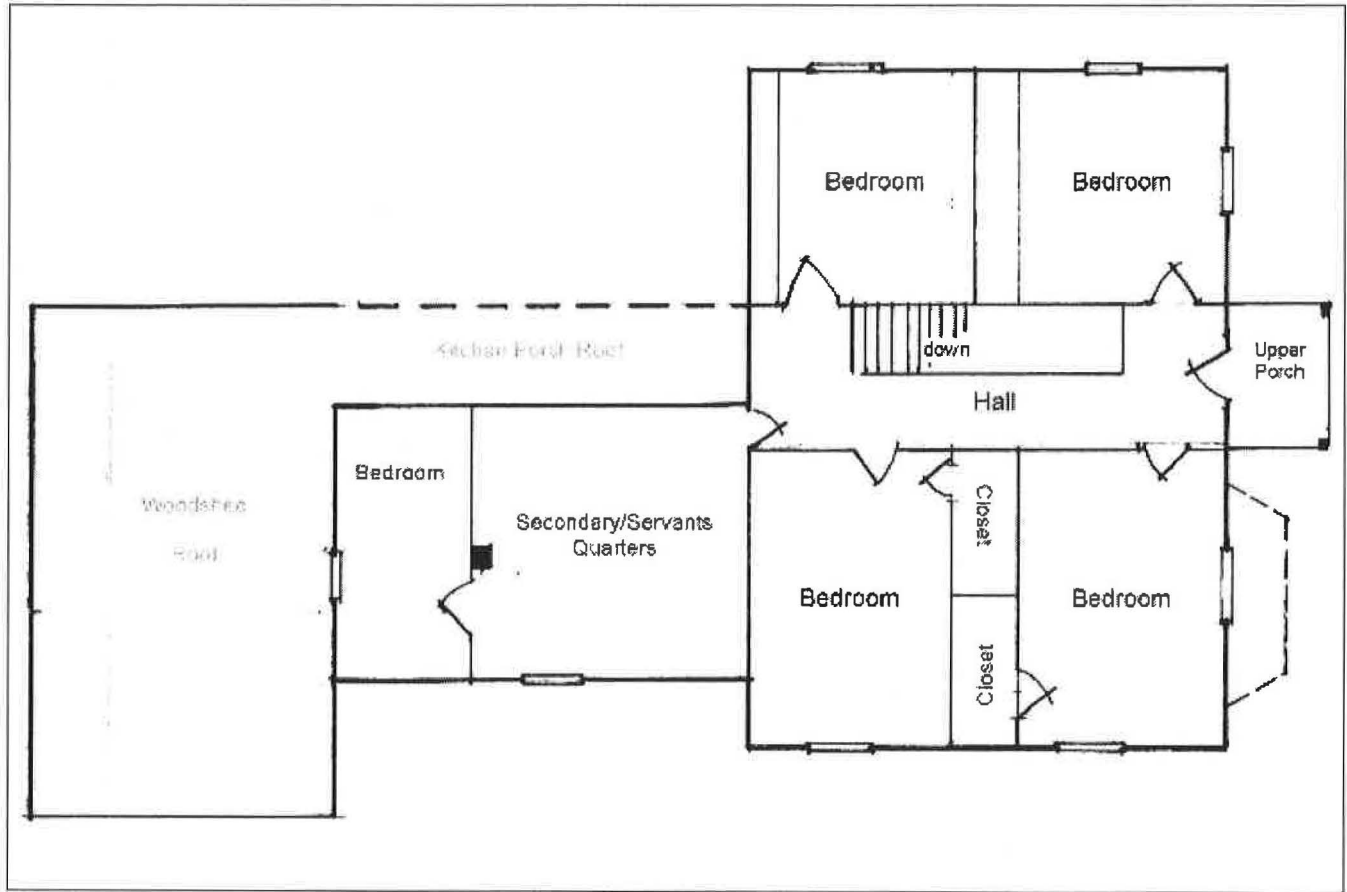


Figure 7: Lamson house second floor plan.

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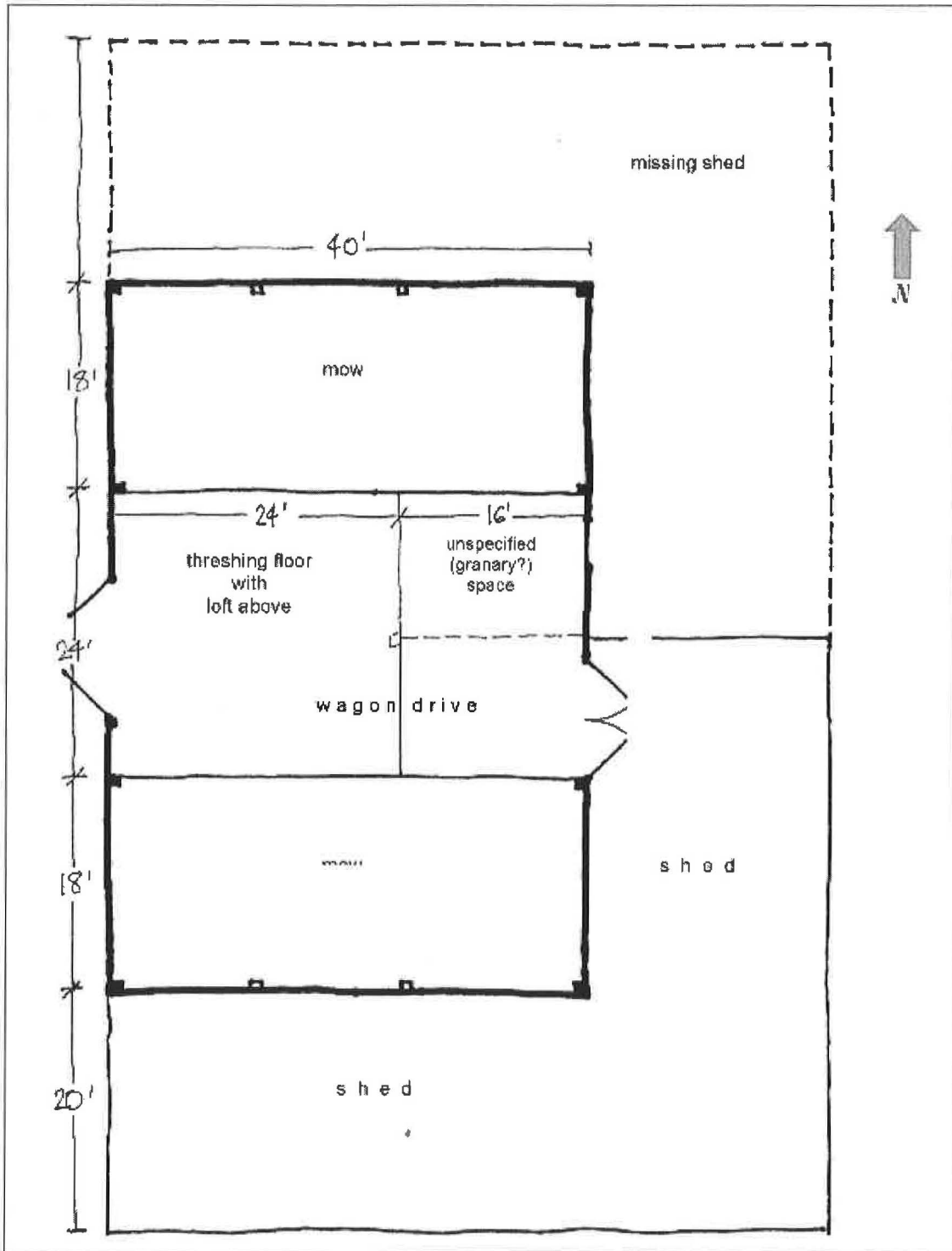


Figure 8: Lamson barn floor plan.

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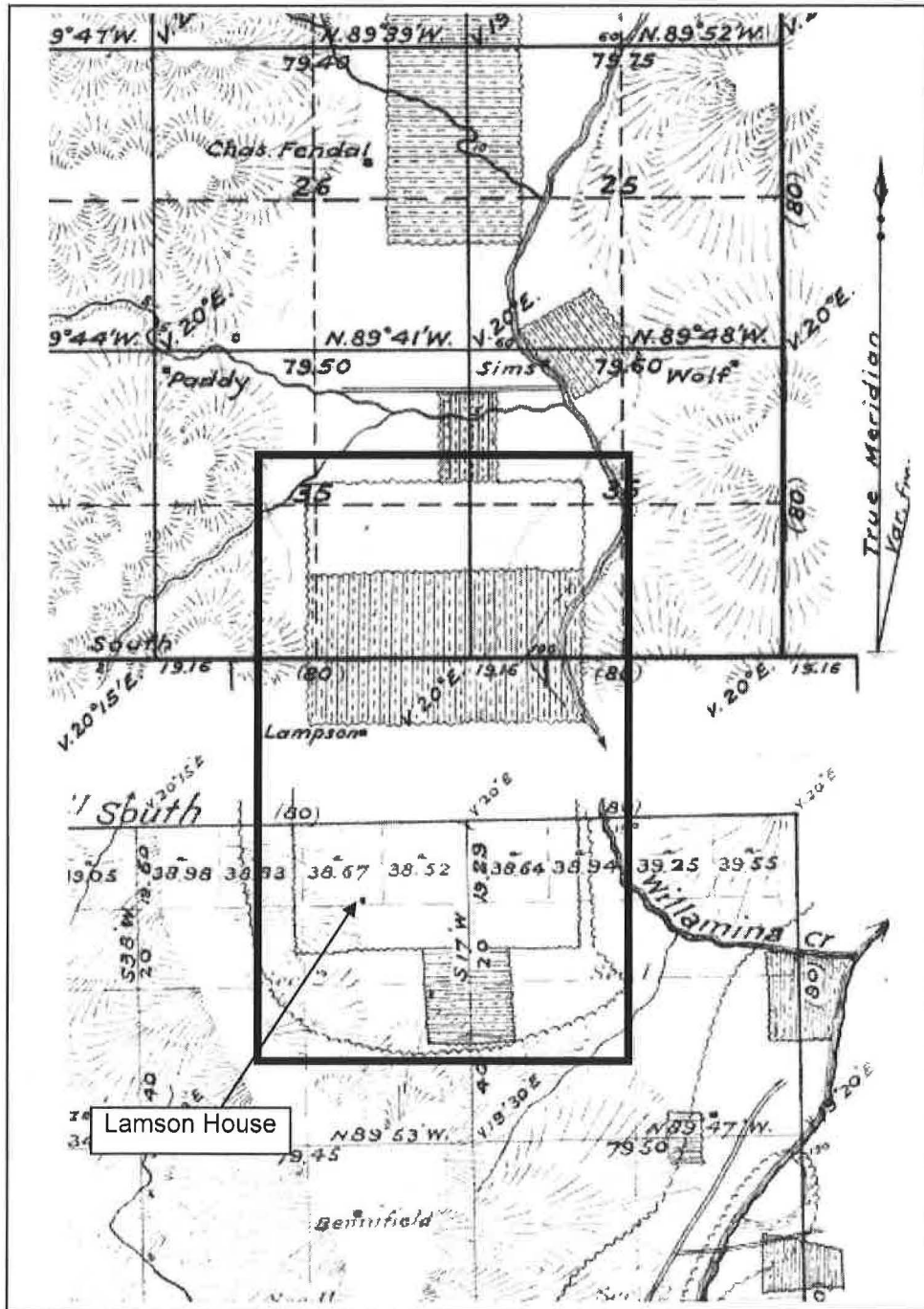


Figure 9: Details of early General Land Office donation claim survey maps, with Lamson claim indicated.  
Top image: 1855, T5S R7W Sections 35 and 36  
Bottom image: 1856, T6S R7W Sections 1 and 2



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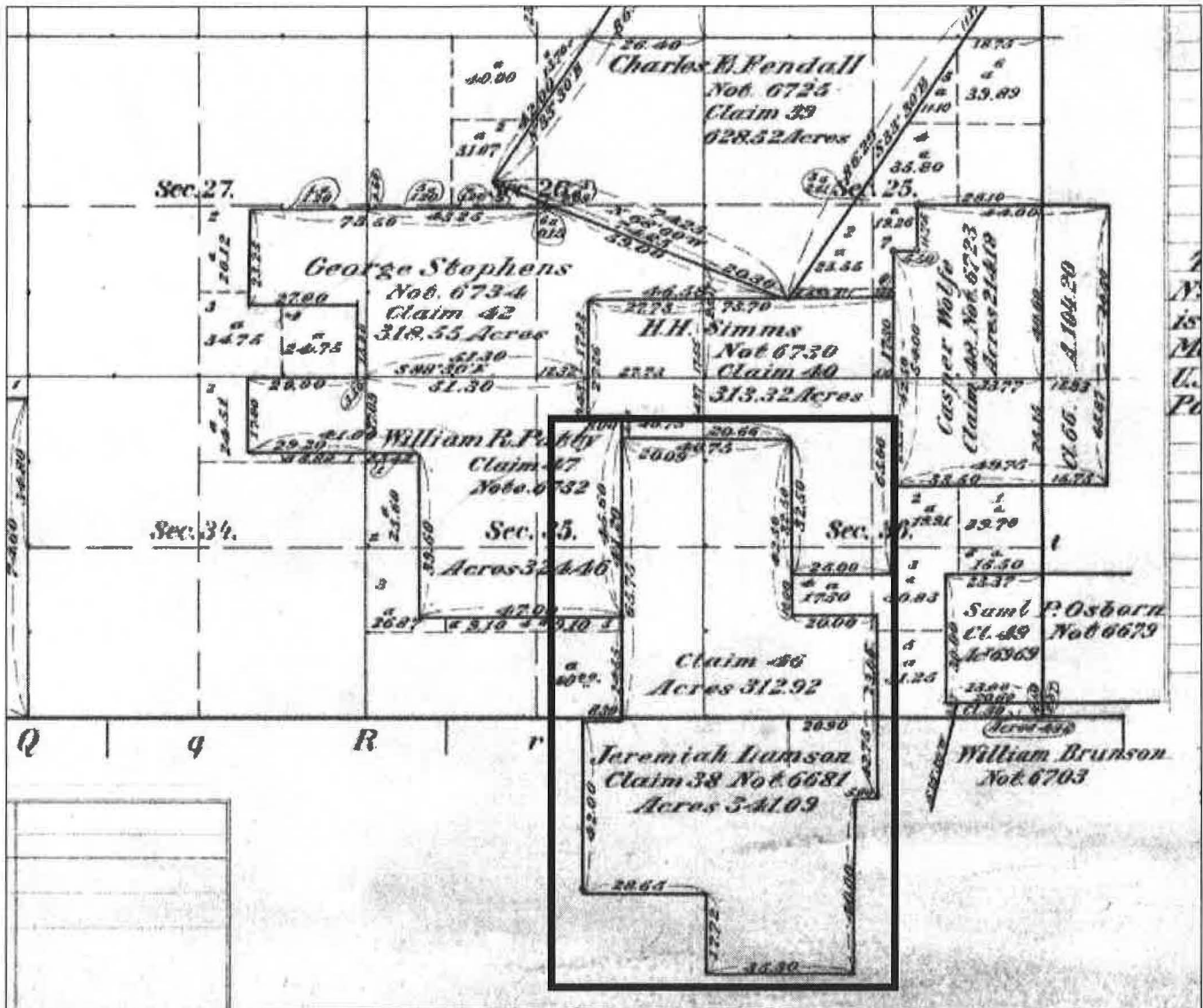


Figure 10: Detail of 1861 General Land Office donation claim survey map (T5S R7W), with Lamson claim indicated.

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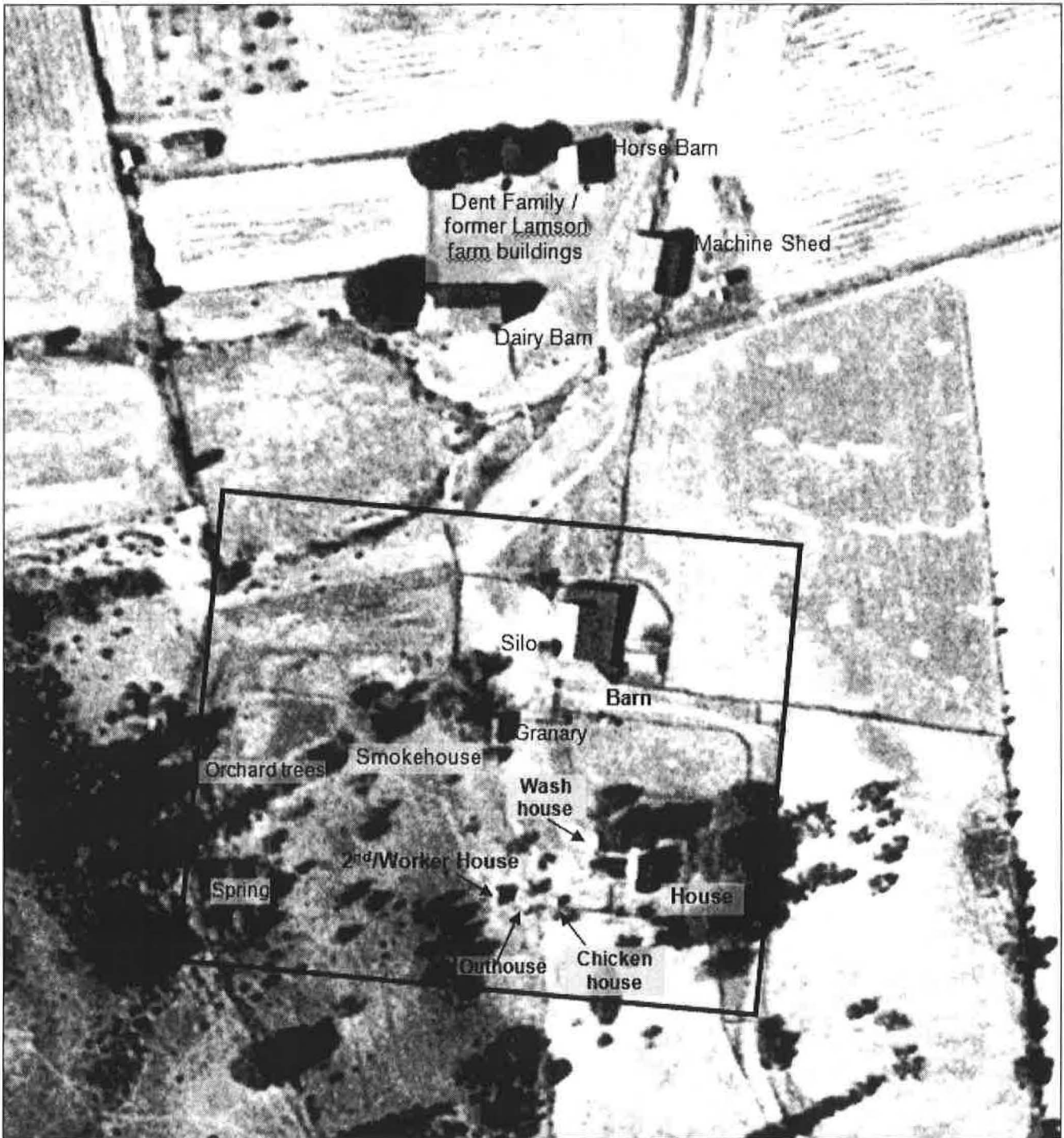


Figure 11: 1936 aerial photograph. Courtesy University of Oregon Map Library

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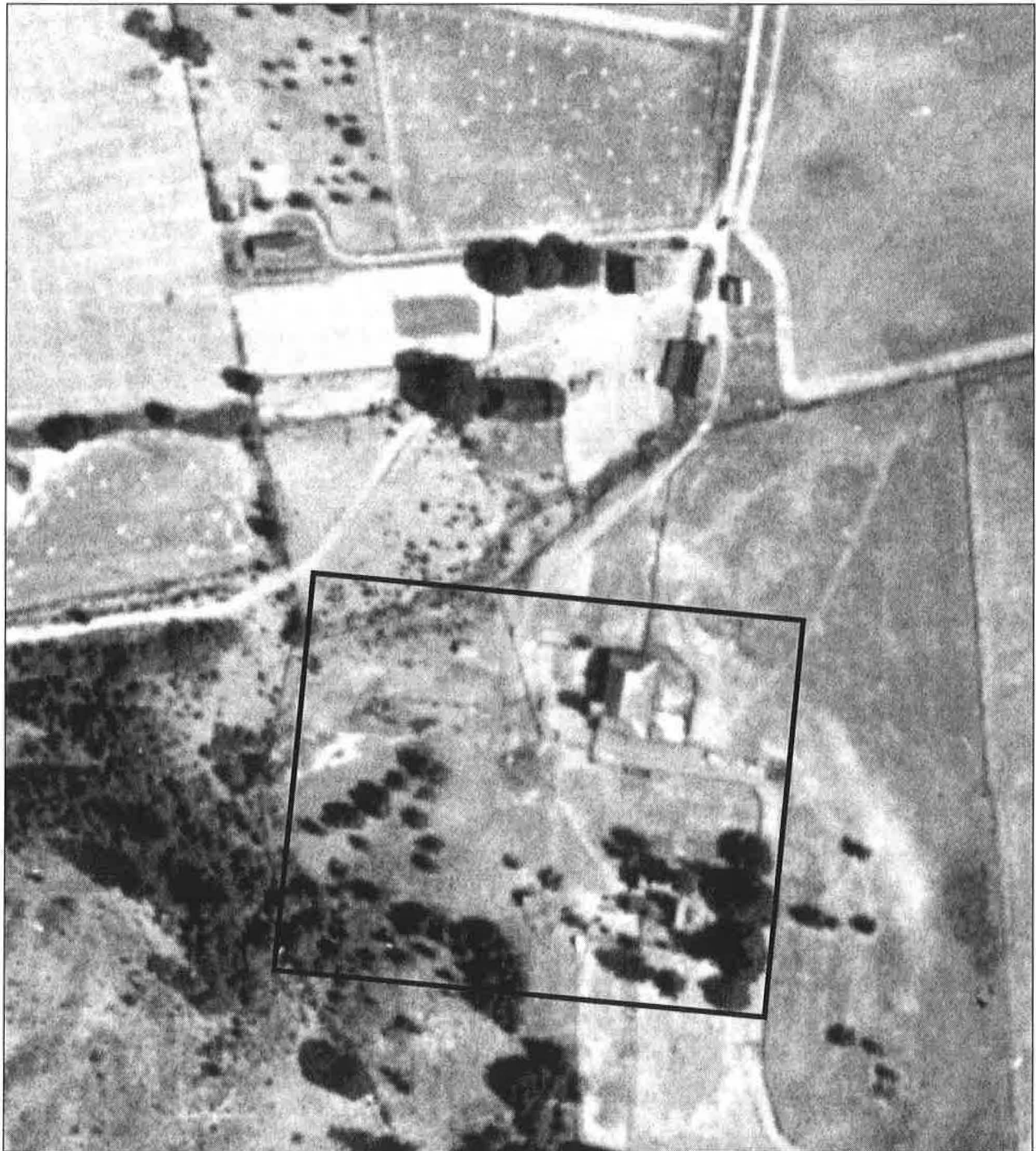


Figure 12: 1945 aerial photograph with approximate nominated area indicated.  
Courtesy University of Oregon Map Library.

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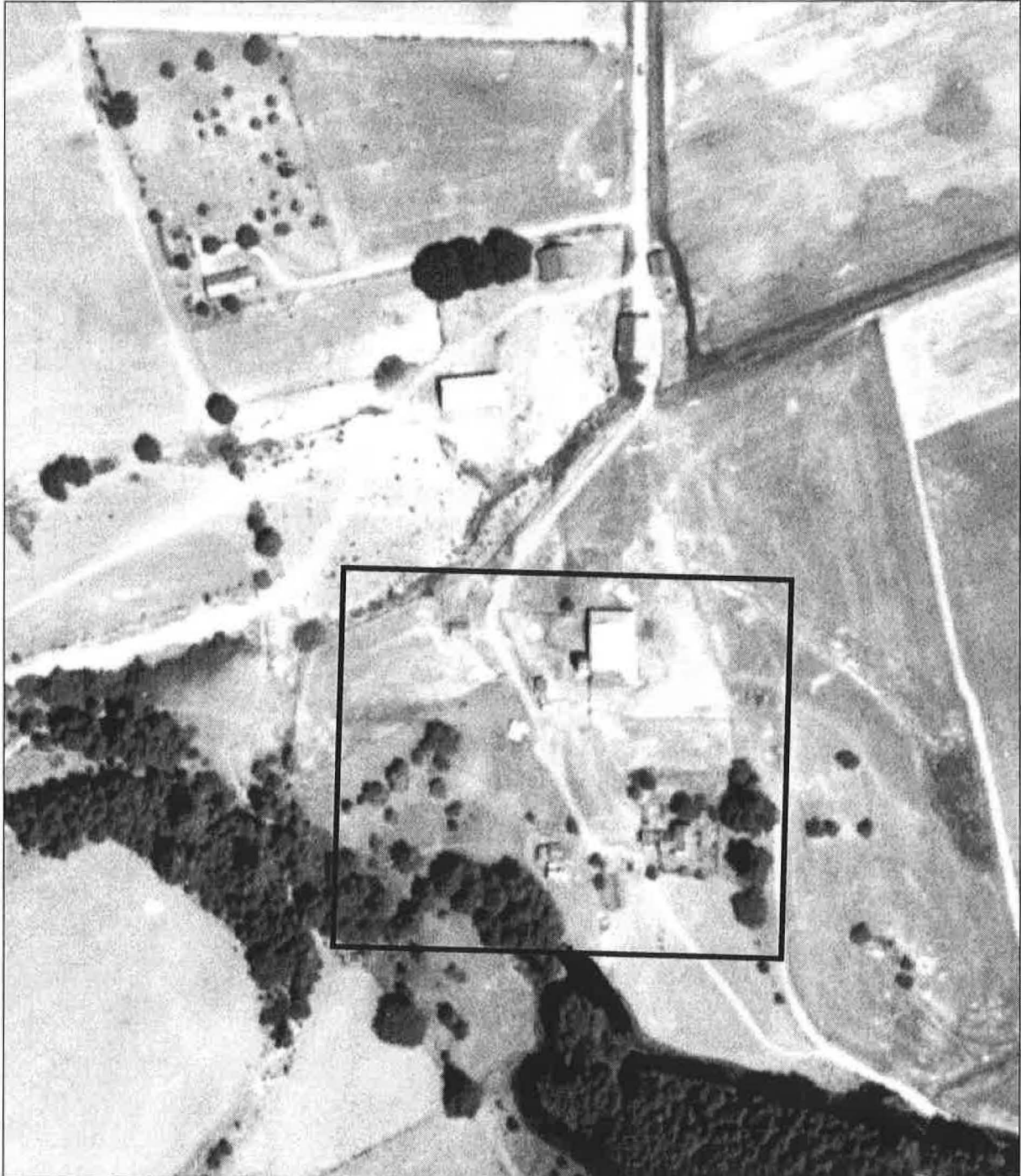


Figure 13: 1956 aerial photograph with approximate nominated area indicated.  
Courtesy University of Oregon Map Library.



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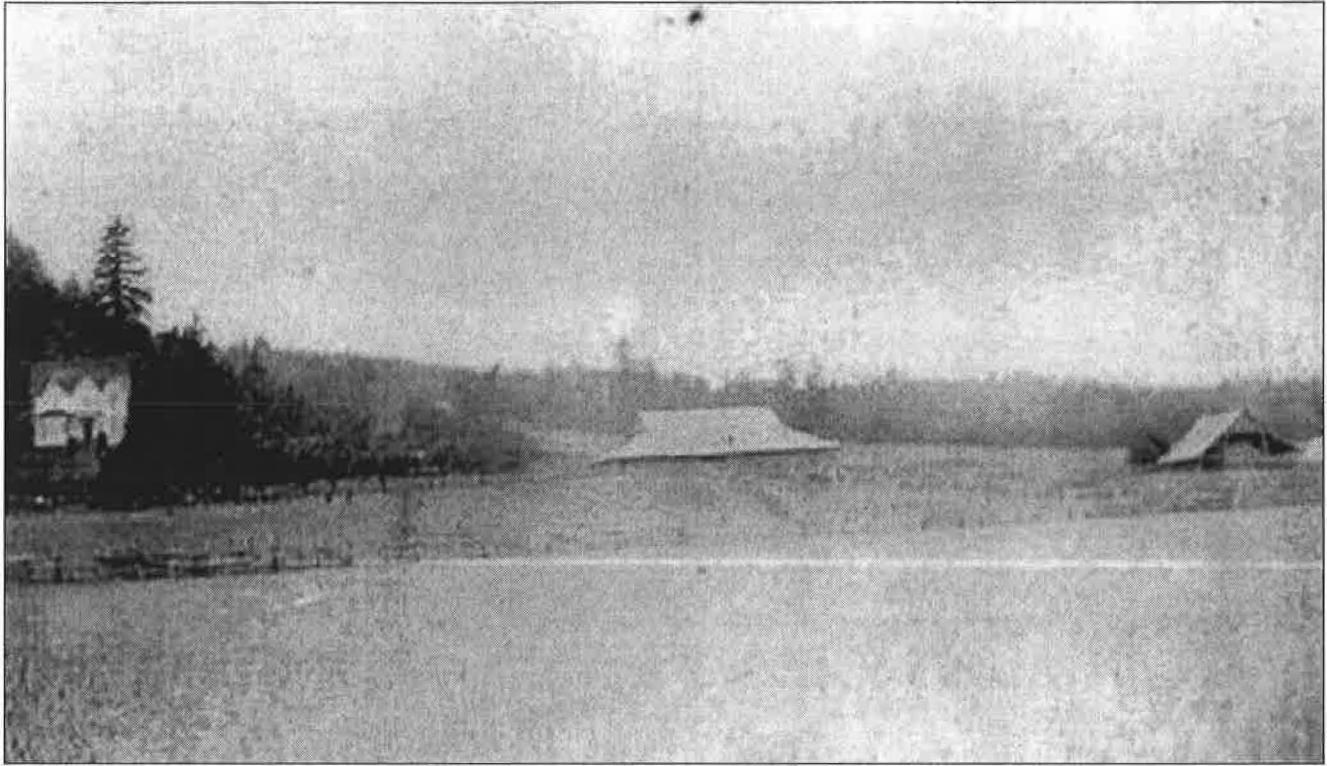


Figure 14: Circa 1890 photograph looking west. House at left, barn center.  
(Barn at right is outside current property and nominated area boundary.)  
Courtesy Willamina Historical Museum.

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Figure 15: 1890 photograph, with (left to right) Dan Savage, Jennie Childers, Edward Lamson and his wife Helen Lamson.  
Courtesy Willamina Historical Museum.

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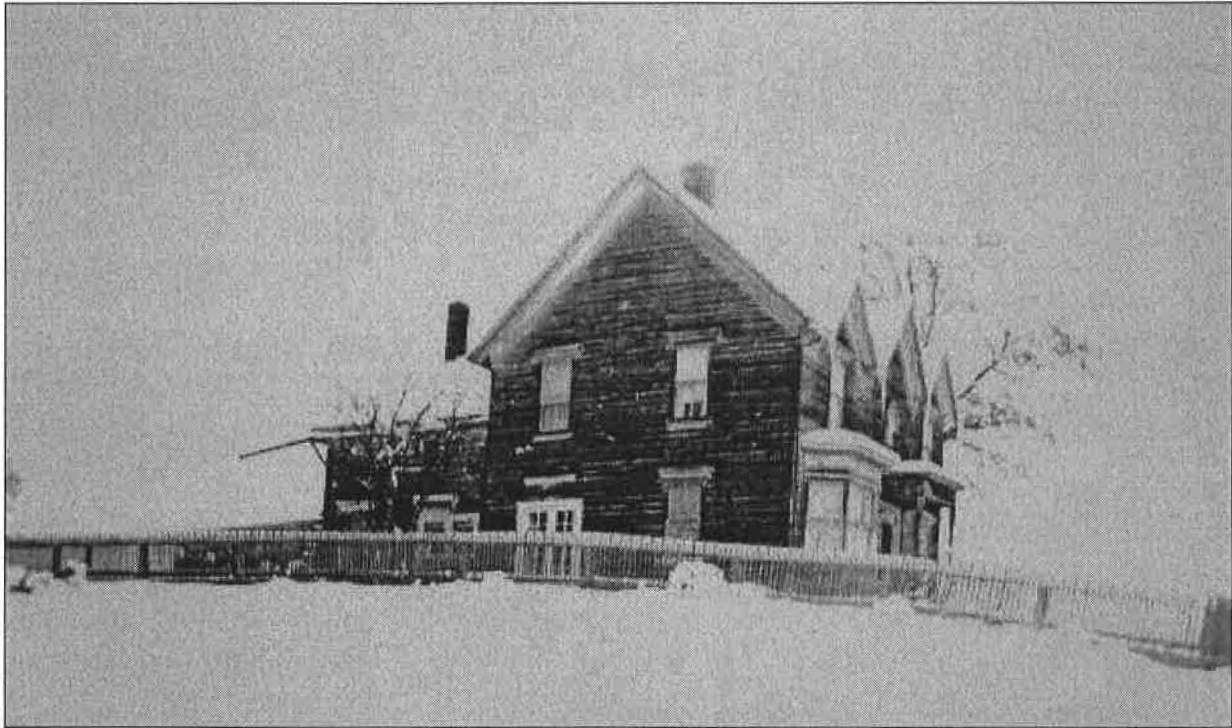


Figure 16: Photocopy of undated photograph showing north side facade and early picket fence (now gone).  
Courtesy Willamina Historical Museum.

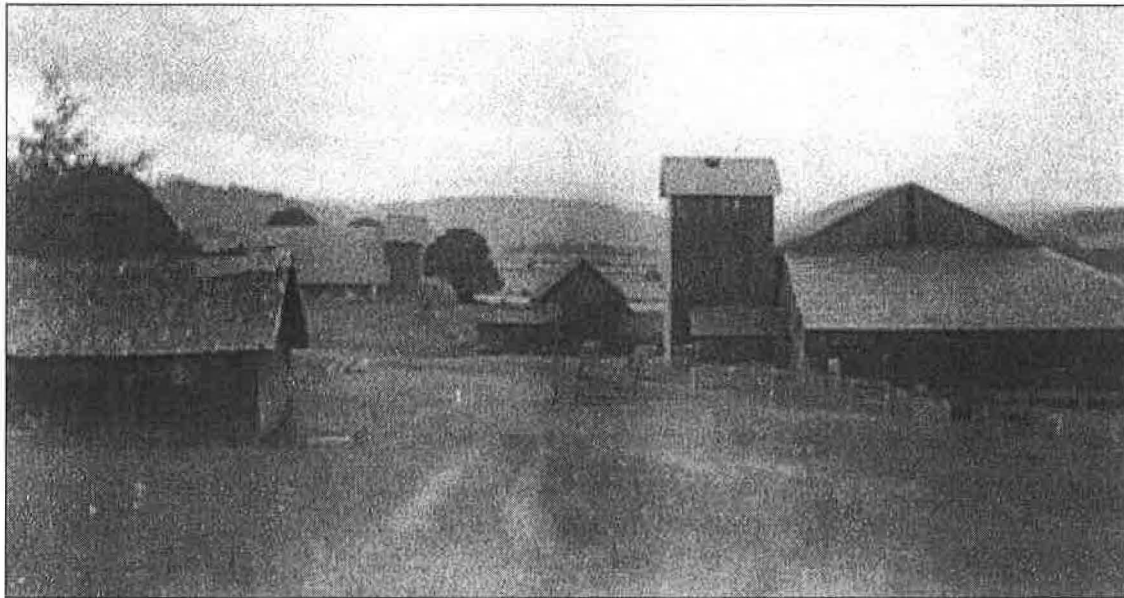


Figure 17: Undated photograph looking north from lane toward smokehouse (?) left, old barn & silo (right). Buildings beyond are now outside property boundary.  
Courtesy Elery McKern and Traci Yocom.

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Figure 18: Barn and silo as pictured in 1954 McMinnville News article. Note house over silo (right) and north shed on barn (at left of picture).  
Courtesy Willamina Historical Museum.

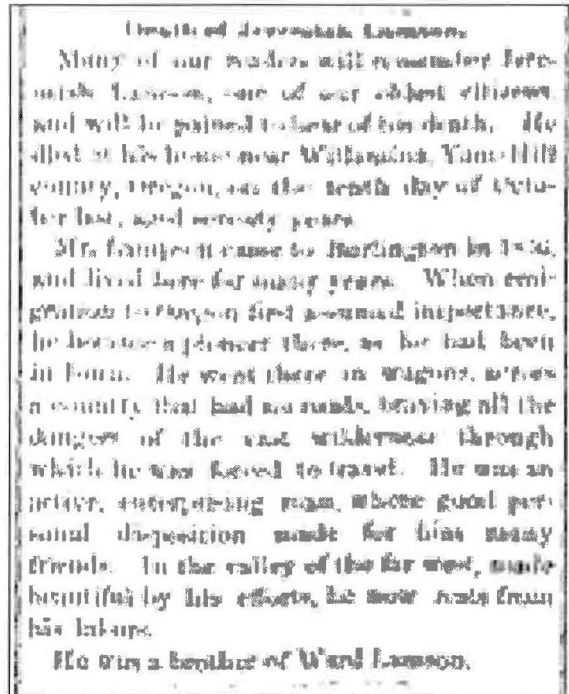


United States Department of the Interior  
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Lamson Ranch
Name of Property
Yamhill Co., Oregon
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Supplemental Information Page 51



Transcription:

**Death of Jeremiah Lamson.**

Many of our readers will remember Jeremiah Lamson, one of our oldest citizens, and will be pained to hear of his death. He died in his home near Willamina, Yam-Hill county, Oregon, on the tenth day of October last, aged seventy years.

Mr Lamson came to Burlington in 1836, and lived here for many years. When emigration to Oregon first assumed importance, he became a pioneer there, as he had been in Iowa. He went there in wagons, across a country that had not roads, braving all the dangers of the vast wilderness through which he was forced to travel. He was an active, enterprising man, whose good personal disposition made for him many friends. In the valley of the far west, made beautiful by his efforts, he now rests from his labors.

He was a brother of Ward Lamson.

Figure 19: Obituary of Jeremiah Lamson (1812-1879). Burlington *Daily Hawk Eye*, November 27, 1879, page 4.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Lamson Ranch
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County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

### ANOTHER PIONEER GONE.

#### Death of Mrs. Helen M. Lamson, at the Age of Eighty Years.

Mrs. Helen M. Lamson, relict of Jeremiah Lamson, and one of the pioneers of 1847, died aged 80 years and 8 days, November 18, at her home on her donation land claim near the Willamette, in Yamhill county, where she has lived continuously 44 years. Her husband died in 1870. They came across the plains in 1847, with what was known as the Burlington party, having started from Burlington, Ia. This was one of the largest and best equipped parties which ever came to this state, comprising about 300 men, with their wives and children, nearly all of them well to do. On arriving here Mr. and Mrs. Lamson took up their residence in Astoria where they resided one year, and in 1848 took up a donation claim in a beautiful section of Yamhill county.

Mrs. Lamson was born in Massachusetts, and was a daughter of Rev. Roswell Hawkes, a Presbyterian clergymen, who was associated with Miss Mary Lyon in founding Mt. Holyoke College, the first college for women in the United States. She visited her son in this city three weeks since on her way home from visiting a daughter in Tacoma, and left here for home in her usual good health. She leaves four children—Captain R. H. Lamson, of this city, clerk of the United States courts, H. W. Lamson, joint senator for Yamhill and Tillamook counties, Mrs. Willis E. Everette, of Tacoma, and E. F. Lamson, agent at the Grand Rondo Indian reservation.

Figure 20: Obituary of Helen Hawks Lamson (1812-1892).  
Portland Oregonian, November 24, 1892, page 8.

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure 21: Photo portrait of Edward Francis Lamson (1850-1929). Courtesy of Traci L. Yocom



Figure 22: Edward Francis Lamson and his dog (1850-1929). Courtesy of Traci L. Yocom

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Figure 23: Photo portrait of Helen Aurelia Burgess Lamson, wife of Edward Francis Lamson (1853-1942).  
Courtesy of Traci L. Yocom

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Lamson Ranch

Name of Property

Yamhill Co., Oregon

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure 24: Lamson Family photograph of 1922.

Front row, left to right: Belle Yocom holding O.C. Yocom, Keith Lamson

Middle row, left to right: Margie Lamson, Ruth Lamson, Wilma Lamson Yocom,  
Geraldine Lamson, and Roy Lamson.

Back row, left to right: Helen Aurelia Burgess Lamson ("Little Grandma"),  
Zelda "Tootsie" Lamson, and Edward F. Lamson.

Courtesy of Traci L. Yocom



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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Edward F. Lamson.**

WILLAMINA, Or., Sept. 25.—(Special.)—Funeral services for Edward Francis Lamson, 79, were held from the Methodist church in Willamina, Saturday. Mr. Lamson died last



Thursday on his birthday anniversary. He was born on his father's donation claim, near the present site of Willamina, September 12, 1850. He had resided there ever since his birth. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Lamson, who crossed the plains by ox team, coming to Oregon in 1847 from Bur-

lington, Ia. They settled on Clatsop plains when arriving in Oregon, but came to Willamina in 1848 and took up a donation claim.

Mr. Lamson was the youngest of four children. One sister, Mrs. Dora M. Everett of Tacoma, Wash., survives. In 1873 he married Helen A. Burgess of Sheridan. Three children were born to this union, two of whom—Roy B. Lamson and Guy O. Lamson, both of Willamina—survive.

Figure 25. Obituary of Edward Francis Lamson (1850-1929).  
Portland *Oregonian*, September 26, 1929, page 14.

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Continuation Sheet**

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Yamhill Co., Oregon
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

## HELEN A. LAMSON

WILLAMINA, Aug. 19. (Special) — Funeral services were held here Tuesday for Mrs. Helen Aurelia Lamson, 89, who died August 15 after an extended illness. She had been a member of the Christian church at Sheridan for 70 years.

Mrs. Lamson was born in Warren county, Missouri, and came to Oregon in 1869. She was married July 31, 1873, to the late Edward F. Lamson and had resided on the Lamson land claim near here since her marriage.

Mrs. Lamson is survived by one son, Roy B. Lamson of Willamina, and one sister, Mrs. Alice Walker of California.

Figure 26. Obituary for Helen Aurelia Burgess Lamson (1853-1942).  
Portland *Oregonian*, August 20, 1942, page 10.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

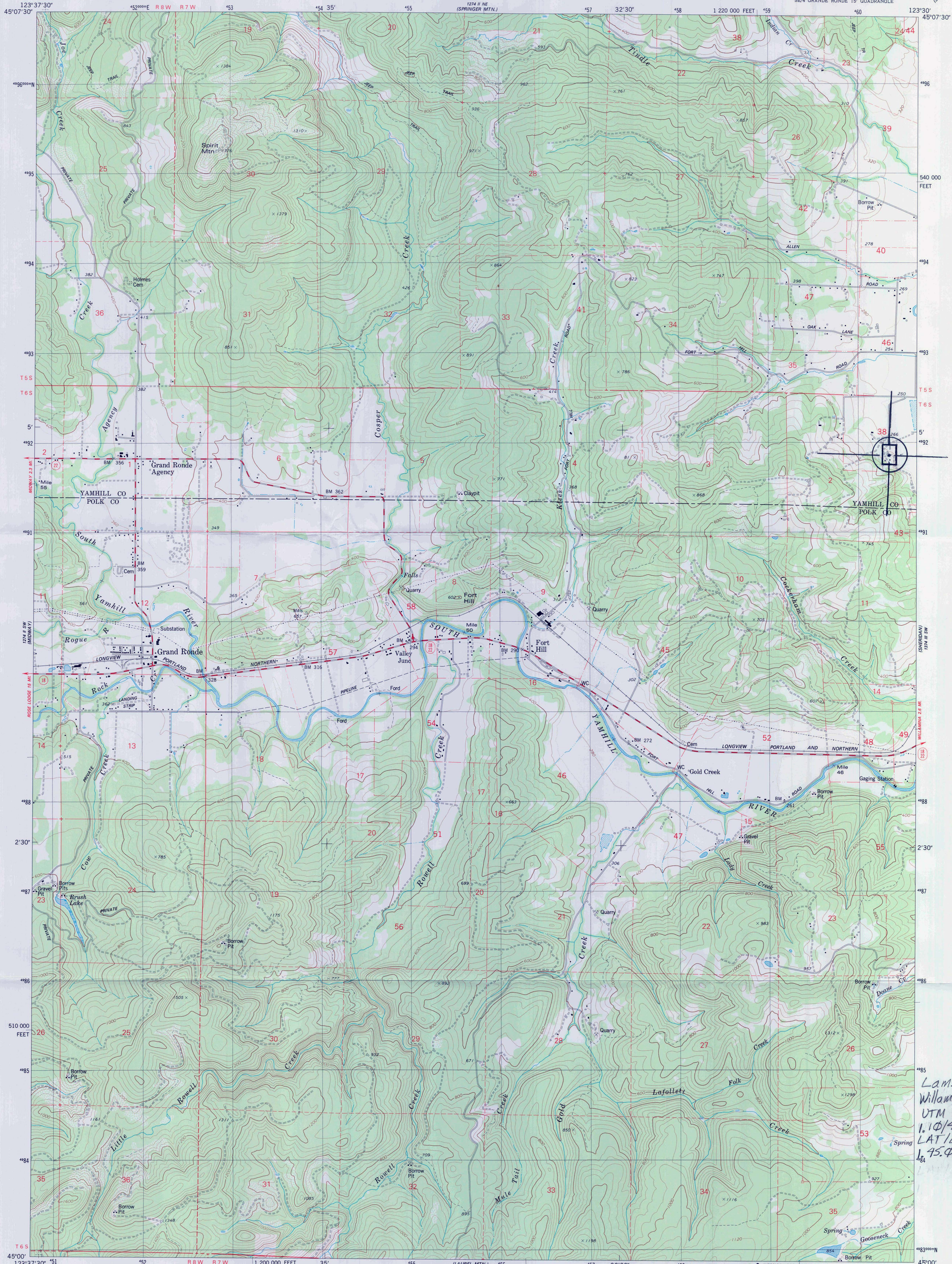
Section number Supplemental Information Page 58

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Name of Property
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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



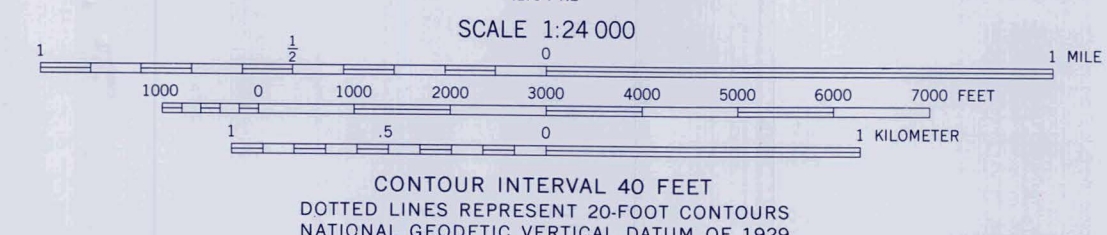
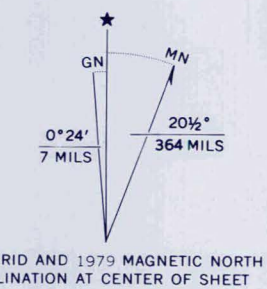
Figure 27. Edward Delgrado Lamson (standing, left) and his mother Edna L. Steward Lamson (seated). Helen Lamson Graham, Michael Graham holding Scott Michael Graham.  
Photo taken on south side of house in 1969. Courtesy of Traci L. Yocom





Lamson Ranch  
Willamina, Yamhill Co., OR  
UTM Reference  
110460233/4992053  
LAT/LONG Reference  
45.080824/-123.505275

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1973. Field checked 1974  
Map edited 1979  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Oregon coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 10 1927 North American datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 23 meters north and 96 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs  
This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

GRAND RONDE, OREG.  
SE/4 GRAND RONDE 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4500-W12330/7.5

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST







































































































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Lamson Ranch

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OREGON, Yamhill

DATE RECEIVED: 5/24/13      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/18/13  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/03/13      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/10/13  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000483

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    7.9.13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

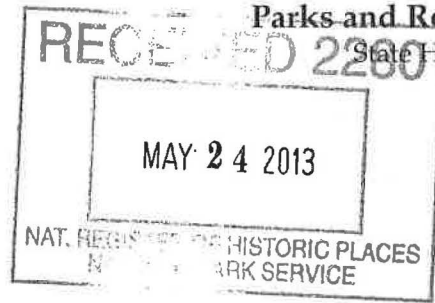
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor



## Parks and Recreation Department

State Historic Preservation Office

725 Summer St NE, Ste C

Salem, OR 97301-1266

(503) 986-0671

Fax (503) 986-0793

www.oregonheritage.org



May 16, 2013

Ms. Carol Shull  
National Register of Historic Places  
USDOI National Park Service - Cultural Resources  
1201 "Eye" Street NW, 8th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Shull:

At the recommendation of the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation (SACHP), I hereby nominate the following historic property to the National Register of Historic Places:

**LAMSON RANCH**  
37845 DENT RD  
WILLAMINA VCTY, YAMHILL COUNTY

The SACHP recommended the following property for inclusion in the National Register; however, the majority of the private property owners object to listing:

**NORTH BUCKMAN HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
**PORTLAND OREGON'S EASTSIDE HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL**  
**RESOURCES, 1850-1938 - MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENT.**  
[DISTRICT]  
PORTLAND, MULTNOMAH COUNTY

The original notarized objections submitted to our office, an owner list provided by the City of Portland, and a summary of the nomination process for the North Buckman Historic District are enclosed. I ask that you consider the submitted materials and provide a formal Determination of Eligibility for the District.

I appreciate your consideration of these nominations. If questions arise, please contact National Register and Survey Coordinator Ian Johnson at (503) 986-0678.

Sincerely,

for Roger Roper  
Deputy State Historic Preservation

Encl.

