

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Moore, John and Helen, House  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 66432 Highway 97 N/A not for publication  
city or town Moro  vicinity  
state Oregon code OR county Sherman code 055 zip code 97039

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
James Hamrick June 27, 1994  
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO Date  
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
  - determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
  - determined not eligible for the National Register.
  - removed from the National Register.
  - other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Guy M. Dapsley Signature of the Keeper  
**Entered in the National Register**  
Date of Action 8/5/94

Moore, John and Helen, House

Sherman County, Oregon

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	3	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Italiante

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls wood: shiplap

roof asphalt: composition shingle

other

Narrative Description

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

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The Moore House, designed in the Italianate style, is located south of Moro, Oregon in Sherman County. The residence was constructed in 1882 by the Moore family. Although a vernacular example of the Italianate style, the building exhibits many characteristics of the style in its asymmetrical massing, lower one-story ell, low-pitched hip roof, bracketed eaves, double bay window, and tall, four over four double-hung windows. The interior of the house is divided into two distinct portions: the main two story volume and the side ell. The two-story volume contains a formal parlor, a bedroom (currently a storage room), a central hall, a bathroom, and the three bedrooms upstairs. The side ell contains the living room, kitchen and dining room. The residence is in good condition.

SITE

The Moore House is located approximately three miles south of Moro, Oregon on Highway 97, in Section 36, T1S R16E. The residence is sited on the west side of the highway on a slight knoll. The northern portion of the property surrounding the house is flat and the southern section slopes down to wheat fields. A circular gravel driveway extends from Highway 97, across the front (north) elevation of the house, around the west and south elevations, meeting up with the highway again. The driveway is separated from the front (north) yard by a low split rail fence. The original driveway extended northeasterly from the garage to the highway (highway realigned ca. 1960).

A garage, dating from ca. 1930, is northwest of the house. A gravelled parking area is east of the garage. A woodshed (dating from the historic period), a studio (constructed 1990-91), and a chicken coop (ca. 1882; currently utilized as a shop) are west of the house. Another studio is located on the south side of the house (built 1986). A circular concrete watering trough is located southwest of the house (pre-1900). The coop is separately contributing.

A variety of plantings surround the Moore House. Mature black walnut trees, dating from the 1880s, cover the north yard interspersed with pine trees. Walnut trees are also scattered throughout the east side yard and western portion of the property. Rows of pine trees (planted in the 1950s) extend northwesterly along the west portion of the property forming a shelter belt.

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The pine trees lining the eastern side of the property along the highway were planted in the late 1950s. A mature yellow rose bush is located west of the house. Other trees planted around the house include a Colorado blue spruce (northeast corner of residence, planted in 1953), maple, and locust (planted by Helen Moore before the turn of the century) trees. Another locust in the center of the back yard (south), was planted in 1982 in honor of the 1882 centennial celebration of the house. Small shrubs are planted around the perimeter of the house.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The two-story Italianate style house has a one story ell on the east elevation. Rectangular in plan, the building measures approximately 55 feet east-west and 27 feet north-south. The residence is covered with a hip roof sheathed with asphalt shingles and has two brick interior chimneys. The heavily molded eaves project over the body of the house and are supported by paired brackets. The large brackets are decorated with a recessed diamond-shaped panel. The brackets span the wide friezeboard. A double bay window is located on the western side of the front (north) elevation. Tall four over four double-hung wood sash windows punctuate both stories of the bay window. All the windows with the exception of a sliding metal frame window on the rear elevation and a two over two double-hung window on the east elevation, are the original four over four double hung wood sash windows. A square bay window was added to the east elevation in 1975.

The small entrance porch is covered with a hip roof and supported by square posts with caps. The front entrance door is capped with a transom. The front door exhibits Italianate features with heavy molding strips outlining the long octagonal upper recessed panels and the smaller lower octagonal panels. The front door is constructed of white pine with redwood panels and has a screen door embellished with jigsaw ornaments. A hipped roof porch extends across the front (north) of the one story ell and is supported by four slender chamfered posts. A small enclosed porch, covered with a hip roof, is located on the west elevation of the house. Two doors are located on the rear (south elevation) including French doors (installed in 1975-76) which open onto the

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back patio. The house rests on the original rock foundation which is covered with a thin layer of concrete.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Moore House is arranged around a central hall. A parlor and store room (originally a bedroom) are in the western volume of the house and the living room, kitchen, and dining room are in the eastern portion. The upstairs is divided into three bedrooms with a rounded closet in the hall.

*Entrance Hall*

The front door opens into the main hall which includes the downstairs hallway, doorways to the living areas, and the staircase to the upstairs. The high entryway ceiling, measuring 11 feet, is embellished with the a plaster ceiling medallion designed with a grape vine motif. The nine inch high baseboards are finished with a heavy, rounded cap molding. The fir floors in the hall have been covered. A doorway under the staircase leads to a closet.

The steep staircase, measuring 36" wide, ascends to the upstairs bedrooms. Brass dust corners are still intact in the corners of the staircase; these were installed to make sweeping easier. The large stair newel post has an octagonal base which supports the tapered octagonal shaft. A small finial finishes the circular newel post cap. The turned balusters line the west face of the staircase. At the top of the stairs, the handrail curves to the north, lining the upstairs hallway.

*Parlor, Back Bedroom, and Living Room*

The formal parlor is a rectangular room accentuated by a bay window on the north elevation. The 11 ft. high ceilings are intact as well as the molded picture rail. An original piece of floral wallpaper had been exposed in the southeast corner of the room. A brick fireplace and hearth (built in 1977) are on the south elevation. The floor is constructed with wide wooden planks (5 1/2"). The upper archway of the bay window is supported by wooden brackets carved in a floral and leaf motif. A transom caps the door leading from the parlor to the hallway on the east elevation. The transom is hand painted with a geometric design.

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The back bedroom (now storage room) is a rectangular room with a door opening to the central hall. A door was installed (later removed), connecting the parlor with the back bedroom, when the house was converted into two apartments around 1925. The back bedroom was then converted to use as a kitchen for one of the apartments. Retaining its original ceiling height and picture rail, the room is currently used for storage and houses the furnace. A door on the room's west elevation opens to a small enclosed porch.

The large open living room (formerly the dining room) is located on the east side of the main hall in the one-story ell. The room is lit by two four over four double-hung windows on the north elevation. Bookcases line the east wall which once had a pass-through window leading to the kitchen. An original chandelier (originally in the hallway) is the focal point of the living room. Originally, the living room had five doors which lead to the front porch, the kitchen, the back porch, the closet under the stairs, and the hallway. The room also had a window on the south elevation overlooking the back yard and porch (see alteration section).

### *Kitchen and Current Dining Room*

The kitchen is accessed through a door on the east elevation of the living room. The rectangular room has a door on the north elevation (originally a window, removed in the 1960s) and a four over four double-hung window on the east elevation. The kitchen was remodeled in 1990. At that time, the ceiling height was restored and the door between the kitchen and living room was heightened duplicating the transom and trim detail of the original doors. The door on the south side of the kitchen leads to the new dining room addition, once a screened back porch.

The dining room has a square bay window on the east elevation, French doors on the south elevation and an opening on the west elevation which leads to the back hallway addition. The addition on the back includes two bathrooms and a utility room.

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### *Upstairs*

The upstairs consists of three bedrooms and a closet (originally known as the bathroom). The closet at the south end of the hall has a rounded, exterior wall. A chair rail divides the hall walls. The bedrooms have wide painted wood plank floors and high ceilings. The master bedroom, in the northwest corner of the second floor, has a bay window. The bay is decorated with scalloping around the top of the opening. The bottom of the bay window trim meets the high unpainted baseboards.

A portion of the original wallpaper has been exposed and framed in the southwest bedroom. The wallpaper sample is on the east elevation of the room. A smaller bedroom, located in the northeast corner, is similar in detail to the other bedrooms with its high ceilings and plank floors.

### *Interior Finishes*

Distinctive interior finishes in the Moore House include the painted transoms and false graining. The majority of the interior and exterior doors are capped with movable transoms which have been hand-painted (sepia tones) in geometric designs. Examples of false graining are on the master bedroom door and closet. The graining is in excellent condition, depicting the finish which was common practice in the late 1800s. Most of the interior is constructed of fir.

The doors are four panel and are constructed with mortise and tenon joints. The original lock boxes and porcelain knobs are intact on the majority of the doors. The door and window hardware are also original.

### MAJOR ALTERATIONS

#### *Historic*

The house was made into two apartments around 1925. The downstairs bedroom became a kitchen and the parlor a living room. The original dining room (currently the living room) was enlarged by moving the wall between the kitchen and dining room. A pass-through between the two rooms was removed along with the plate rail. The door from the front porch to the dining room was also removed at this time and replaced by a window. A small, enclosed

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porch was constructed at the west end of the back bedroom when the house was made into apartments. Asbestos shingles were installed over the exterior of the house in the 1940s.

*Recent Alterations*

The back porch was removed in 1975-76 and an addition was constructed along the back of the house which included the dining room with bay window, utility room, and two bathrooms. In the 1960s, a door was installed on the north elevation of the kitchen, replacing an original window.

*Restoration*

The asbestos shingles, installed in the 1940s, were removed in 1993 exposing the original shiplap siding. After the removal of the asbestos shingles, the exterior trim details were restored. Historic photographs and paint lines were used to accurately duplicate the trim dimension and detailing (door and window trim, and cornerboards). Future work includes removing the wood shingles from the rear addition and installing siding that matches the historic shiplap siding.

OUTBUILDINGS

*Garage - Historic Non-Contributing (not contemporary with house)*

The one-story garage, constructed in the 1930s, is located northwest of the house. The building is clad with shiplap siding and covered with a gable roof. Cornerboards, brackets and exposed rafters embellish the building. Wood shingles sheath the gable ends. The window on the north elevation is a one over one double-hung wood sash window. A original garage door has been replaced with a metal door. A metal extension has been added to the rear (west) elevation of the building.

*Chicken Coop - Contributing (contemporary with house)*

Located southwest of the house, the chicken coop (built ca. 1882) is a long rectangular building clad with wide shiplap siding. The corrugated metal shed roof is supported by brackets. The building is supported on a concrete foundation. A wooden plank platform, on the east elevation below the entrance door, originally was a



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lean-to used for feed storage. Another door is located on the west side of the building. Two six-pane windows punctuate the north elevation. The building is in fair-good condition.

*Wood Shed-Historic Non-Contributing*

The small building has a gable roof and is covered with wood shakes. The building was moved to the Moore farm in the early 1970s.

*Quilting Studio-Compatible Non-Contributing*

The studio, built in 1986, is located near the southwest corner of the house. The building is covered with a gable roof and sheathed with wood shingles. Small brackets decorate the eaves.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1882

**Significant Dates**

1882

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Sherman County Museum

Moore, John and Helen, House  
Name of Property

Sherman County, Oregon  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 2.24 acres

Erskine, Oregon: 1:24000

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	0
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6	7	5	7	0	0
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5	0	3	4	7	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3 

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Zone Easting Northing

2 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Sally Donovan, Principal  
organization Donovan and Associates date November 10, 1993  
street & number 111½ Third Street telephone 503/386-6755  
city or town Hood River state OR zip code 97031

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

name Mildred E. Moore  
street & number PO Box 233 telephone 503/565-3610  
city or town Moro state OR zip code 97039

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

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

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**SHPO SUMMARY**

The Italian Bracketed Villa built for John and Helen Moore in 1882 southeasterly of Moro, the government seat of Sherman County, is a prominent landmark on the west side of U. S. 97, a highway that links the rolling wheat ranch country of Oregon's high plateau to points north and south.

The north-facing frame house clad with drop siding is composed as a 27 foot square, two-story volume with a 28x30-foot single story kitchen/family room ell on the east side. A full-width front porch supported on chamfered posts brings the north front of the ell flush with the main block. The back porch of the ell was enclosed when the wing was enlarged to its present dimensions in recent years. The added portion is clad with raked wood shingles.

Both main volume and ell are enclosed with low hip roofs. The main volume interior is organized on a side hall plan and contains a front parlor and bedchambers. It is distinguished by its single bay front and an encircling bracketed cornice that are hallmarks of the Italianate style. A hip-roofed Tuscan portico with shadow pilasters balances the two-story polygonal window bay slightly offset from the center of the facade. Typical elongated window openings are fitted with double-hung, four over four sash and trimmed with simple architrave surrounds.

The house is proposed for nomination under Criterion C with two and a quarter acres of a 25-acre holding to encompass the residential precinct of the historic ranch, its accessory buildings and a lawn well shaded with locust trees planted by the present generation of Moore family occupants. A chicken coop of c. 1882 and a garage dating from the 1930s stand outside a gravel driveway that circumscribes the house on the west. Of these, only the chicken house with its drop siding can be counted a contributing feature since it is contemporaneous with the house. The westernmost edge of the area proposed for nomination is drawn to exclude a non-historic studio building, which stands slightly beyond the other accessory buildings to the west. Other non-historic features within the nominated area are a woodshed and small craft studio.

Notwithstanding several structural modifications beginning in the Depression era to jointly accommodate the families of the Moores'

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two sons, the interior is in an excellent state of preservation. It contains major features and finishes of the historic period, such as preserved sections of original wall paper and examples of hand painted grained woodwork. Notable features include the straight-flight staircase with tapering octagonal newel post and railing of knob-turned balusters representative of stock order items supplied by the region's lumber manufactories. Douglas fir is used for flooring and trim. Red cedar was used for the panels of four-panel doors in the main block. Original painted graining remains unretouched in the upstairs front bedchamber. Also noteworthy are a plaster ceiling medallion in the hallway and interior transom lights hand-painted in geometric patterns.

The property is owned and occupied by Mildred Moore, former wife of the Moores' great grandson, David, who died in 1988. David and Millie Moore embarked on a painstaking restoration in 1986 and were responsible for removal of non-historic asbestos exterior siding and rebuilding of the well-documented but deteriorated front porch. [Mrs. Moore is now the wife of Richard Voll.]

The Moore House meets National Register Criterion C as the singular, well-preserved example of Italian Bracketed residential architecture in rural Sherman County, a sparsely populated jurisdiction subdivided from Wasco County in 1889. Defined by Deschutes County on the west and by the John Day River on the east, Sherman County was first settled by Euro-Americans in the reverse migration to eastern Oregon that followed from gold excitement in the 1860s. The story of the Moores' settlement and use of the land epitomizes the county's development in the late 19th century. The native bunch grass and naturally-occurring springs of the otherwise barren landscape of the Columbia Plateau helped homesteaders of the 1860s and 1870s develop stock ranches. Completion of the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company link to the transcontinental network along the south bank of the Columbia River in 1881 aided in the further transformation of Sherman County to one of the important wheat-producing areas of the state. Relocating from California, John and Helen Moore purchased 480 acres for a raising livestock in 1882, the same year that Moro was platted three miles to the northeast. Over time, the Moore spread was developed as a wheat ranch. The house has continued under Moore family ownership to the present day.

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The John A. and Helen Moore House, constructed in 1882 in the Italianate style, is significant under criterion "c" as an excellent example of a rural Italianate style house. The house displays characteristics of the style in its asymmetrical plan, low-pitched hip roof, overhanging eaves with decorative brackets, rectangular massing, tall windows, shiplap siding, double bay window, and a small, projecting entry porch. The Moore house is one of the earliest houses in Sherman County and is the only Italianate style residence in the region.

There are only two resources in Sherman County on the National Register of Historic Places: the Wasco Railroad Station and a archaeological site near Grass Valley. There are no residential dwelling listed in the 1976 *Sherman County Inventory Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings*.

The Moore House

The Moore House was constructed in 1882 in the rural hills of north central Oregon. The house is credited with being the first substantial house built in the region that would later become Sherman County. Houses in the 1870s and early 1880s in the region were typically small single story structures consisting of only a few rooms. The Moore House was not only substantial in size but reflected a popular building style, the Italianate style.

The Italianate style was associated with America's picturesque or romantic movement popularized in the 1840s. The style was promoted by the architectural pattern books of Andrew Jackson Downing. Downing featured residences or "villas" in the Gothic Revival and Italianate styles and believed strongly that the house and landscape should be an integral part of one another.

One of the earliest Italianate houses constructed in Oregon was the Benjamin Franklin Dowell house in Jacksonville (1861). The style, however, did not gain popularity in Oregon until the 1870s and 1880s.

Although a vernacular example of the style, the Moore House displays distinct characteristics of the popular Italianate style. The asymmetrical massing, low-pitched hip roof, and heavy molded overhanging eaves with decorative brackets are all representative

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of the style. Other features of the style include the double bay window, tall windows, shiplap siding, rock foundation, and a small projecting entry porch

Helen and John Moore purchased the land for their house on December 28, 1881. The lumber for the house was thought to have been purchased in Goldendale, Washington, approximately 35 miles to the north. It is unknown whether a local person was hired to construct the house or the whether a carpenter was hired from Goldendale. William Gerkins was listed in the 1880 census as a carpenter in the region. Moore may have employed Gerkins to build the house or he may have also helped in the construction of the residence.

The house was constructed with full-cut lumber; the joists measure three inches by eighteen inches and the studs, two inches by four inches. Upon completion, the main two story portion of the house was decorated with heavy cornice molding and brackets. These decorative features were stock pieces probably obtained from lumber mills in the region. The double bay window, a common feature in Italianate houses, accentuates the vertical lines of the house. The small entrance porch projects from the main body of the house and has a hip roof supported by square posts. The front door was constructed of fir with contrasting red cedar recessed panels.

The one story ell on the east elevation is less ornate in detailing with the exception of the four slender chamfered porch posts on the north elevation. An original screened porch on the south elevation extending across the back (south) of the ell was removed in 1975-76 when the addition was constructed.

The interior of the first story of the house consisted of a parlor, dining room, kitchen, two pantries (one was a "dark" pantry which was kept dark for the storage of cereals, grains, and flour), and a bedroom. The second story consisted of three bedrooms and a rounded hall closet which was referred to as the "bathroom". Each bedroom had a built in closet, an unusual detail in houses of this period. The house is credited with being the first plastered house in the region and also boasted of indoor faucets which were fed by a gravity flow system from a spring south of the house.

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A beautiful plaster medallion designed with a grape vine pattern, decorates the ceiling in the hallway. Originally, the doors were false grained as evident in the upstairs master bedroom. Other decorative features include the transom above the doors which were hand-painted in geometric designs. Some of the original furniture remains in the house including a bedroom set from Powers Furniture Company in Portland, a bookcase, the chandelier in the living room (originally in the hall), and remnants of a carpet and summer straw matting (currently stored).

Samples of the original wallpaper have been uncovered in the parlor, back bedroom, living room, kitchen, and upstairs bedroom. The upstairs bedroom's wallpaper was gilded with white flowers. The paper uncovered in the parlor is designed in a large pink and green floral pattern against a dark green background.

#### Early Outbuildings

A detached summer kitchen (razed) was constructed on the southeast corner of the house. The building was approximately 15 feet by 15 feet and had thick walls which were filled with saw dust to retain the heat in the winter and keep the building cool in the summer. According to recollections of Leo V. Moore, the interior consisted of a large, brick cook stove with a flat steel top on the north elevation, a sink with running water and drainboard on the south elevation and a large table in the middle of the room. This kitchen was used in the summer to keep the house cool and to feed the hired hands.

The cellar (built in ca. 1920; razed) was located in the south yard and was accessed by double doors. Shelves lined the walls of the cellar which were filled with jars of preserved goods. A smoke house and a large barn were also located in the south yard. The barn (razed) was constructed southwest of the house, built into the embankment. A chicken coop (extant), and smoke house (razed) were also part of the ranch. The garage (extant) was constructed sometime in the 1930s.



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Historical Background of Sherman County, Oregon

Sherman County, originally a part of Wasco County, was formally organized in February, 1889. The small county is bounded on the west by the Deschutes River, the north by the Columbia River, and the east by the John Day River. The Oregon Trail extended across the northern portion of the county near the Columbia River. The trail was the major route for pioneers crossing the state in the 1840s. Settlers did not venture into the interior of the county until the 1860s, but the area was noted for its abundance of bunch grass and natural springs.

The few settlers who homesteaded in the region in the 1860s and 1870s primarily used the bunch grass covered land for stock grazing (horses and cattle). A stage road was built in 1864 from The Dalles through Umatilla, Oregon enroute to Walla Walla, Washington. The road extended across the northern portion of the county and was used extensively. In 1868 a military road was constructed south from the Columbia River through the heart of what would become Sherman County, further opening the region for settlement. Around 1878 (population of region 42 people), settlers began successfully farming the land which ushered in the new influx of settlement in the 1880s. At this time, the land was used for farming and grazing.

On May 4, 1880 The Dalles, *Weekly Times*, reported, "In our own county, between the John Day and Deschutes rivers, the bunch grass hills are dotted with cabins of settlers some of whom came from far-off states, and others from the Palouse and other sections of the country of Washington. We have no desire to be boastful, but there is no doubt that eastern Oregon is fast filling up with an agricultural population." The area was characterized by its vast rolling grass lands dotted with a few small homesteads.

The 1880s brought many settlers to this region of Wasco County. John A. Moore, along with others from the Moore family, is cited as one of the new settlers to arrive in 1880 (*History of Central Oregon*, 1905; 430). The native bunch grass was used to graze sheep, cattle, and horses. After the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company completed the railroad along the south bank of the Columbia River (northern boundary of Sherman County) in 1881, crops soon began replacing the grazing lands of the region. Wheat growing began to predominate. The wheat could now be hauled to

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the O.R. & N. Railroad depots at Biggs and Rufus. The railroad transformed the region as many people of various vocations made their homes in this portion of Oregon.

As the region grew at a steady pace, petitions in favor of creating a separate county circulated. After much debate, Governor Pennoyer, signed the bill creating Sherman County on February 25, 1889. The county was named in honor of General William Tecumseh Sherman (originally the county was to be named Fulton after a long-time resident). In 1889 the population of the county had climbed to 1,400. The Columbia Southern Railway extended the railroad south from Wasco to Moro, further stimulating the economy of the newly formed county. The population continued to grow and by the turn of the century the county boasted of 3,477 people. Sherman County had become the top wheat producing region in the state. By 1905 there were 1,100 farms that yielded wheat in the county (*History of Central Oregon*, 1905; 438). Sherman County continues to be a major wheat producing region in the state.

Moro, Oregon

Moro was platted in 1882 and later became the county seat of Sherman County. Henry Barnum is credited with being the first settler in the would-be town, erecting a home in 1868. Barnum established a general merchandising store in 1879. Moro developed slowly after the initial settlement and by the time it became the county seat in 1892, the town boasted of a well equipped hardware store, a post office, a hotel, and several residences.

The end of the 19th century brought a small spurt of growth to the town primarily due to the arrival of the railroad. The railroad reached the community in 1898 and Moro became a trading center for the prosperous farming district that surrounded the town. Because of the highly productive wheat fields, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the O.A.C. Branch Experiment Station built field stations in Moro. By 1913, the population had reached 500 people. Many members of the Moore family made their home in Moro throughout their long history as residents of the county due to its proximity to their ranch.

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The Moore Family

John Moore was born on August 12, 1831 in Claremont, New Hampshire and Helen Vincent Moore was born on May 11, 1830 in New York. Helen and John both moved to California in the 1850s and were married in December 1856. The couple remained in California until they moved to Oregon in 1881. John Moore arrived in Sherman County near Moro from Cherokee, California in 1881 with his brother, Rufus, and his brother's sons, Walter H., Henry, Charles W., John, and Lawrence and the Henry (Cap) Moore family. While residing in California, John Moore was active in the mining industry, owning part of a gold mine. He sold his interest in the mine and left for Oregon with \$100,000 in his pocket (Moore, 1982: 2). Moore travelled with his relatives looking for an appropriate area to settle. The Moores arrived in present-day Sherman County in 1881, most-likely hearing of the vast grazing land from friends, Abel Erskine and George Vinton, who had previously settled in the region (Moore, 1982: 3).

John and Helen Moore purchased 480 acres of land in Section 36, T1S R16E for \$2.00 an acre. Helen Moore purchased 320 acres (south one-half section of Section 36) on December 28, 1881 (Wasco County Deed Book J, p. 560). John Moore purchased the northeast quarter section of Section 36 (160 acres) on the same day (Wasco County Deed Book J, p. 559). The deeds were recorded on July 22, 1882. The Moore acreage was originally part of land set aside by the state as school land (Ernest Moore purchased the remaining NW quarter of Section 36 in 1893).

The Italianate Moore house was constructed in the spring of 1882 from lumber, most likely, purchased in Goldendale, Washington (the closest and most convenient source of lumber). After the house was started, John Moore left for California to bring his family to Oregon. The Moore family soon left California, perhaps driving cattle John had purchased before travelling north (Moore, 1982: 3).

John, Helen, Ernest (18 years), and Leon (14 years) arrived at their new home in north central Oregon in June 1882. Along with the immediate family, the Moores brought with them the hired hands and a Chinese cook. In the fall of 1882, the Moores had a open house which was probably attended by the Moore's relatives who

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moved from Cherokee, California in the months past, and other local settlers.

John Moore ran herds of cattle on the family's bunch grass covered acreage. One story passed down through the years recounts Moore losing 800 head of cattle during a single cattle drive due to harsh winter conditions (perhaps the devastating winter of 1884) (Moore, 1982: 13). John Moore continued to run cattle on the land along with developing it to agriculture. The land later became prime wheat lands.

The region, later known as Sherman County, continued to grow throughout the 1880s as small towns gradually increased in size and more farms dotted the landscape. After Sherman County was officially formed in 1889, John Moore was elected as one of the first county commissioners. Moore served on the commission from 1890 to 1894 (*History of Central Oregon*, 1905: 457).

Ernest Moore, John and Helen's son, only resided in the family home until 1885 when he left for college in San Francisco. Leon followed his brother's lead and studied at Behnke-Walker in Portland, Oregon. Leon married Etta Woods on December 23, 1891 and came to live with Helen and John until their house was completed on an adjoining section of land in 1892. Ernest Moore married Anna Powell a year after his brother moved out of the family home on May 25, 1893. Anna and Earnest lived with Moores after their marriage (Moore, 1982: 8).

John Moore died on August 20, 1897 at the age of 66. The funeral was held in the parlor at the Moore house where John was kept until his burial. Ernest and Anna continued to live with Helen Moore until the couple moved into Moro in September 1900. The couple had two children, Collis Powell and Roscoe Ernest. Leon soon followed his brother to Moro, moving to town in 1902. Leon and Etta had three children, Gladys, Cecile and Leo (Moore, 1982).

After the children moved into town, Helen Moore remained in her home at the ranch until her death on March 21, 1903. She was 72 year old. Her obituary states that she was one of the last of the old folks that came from California and also noted that she was a homebody (*Sherman County Observer*, March 27, 1903). Services were held at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Moro which was decorated

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with Easter lilies and potted plants (*Sherman County Observer*, March 27, 1903).

According to family members, the Moore house stood vacant until the fall of 1909 (Moore, 1982: 8). At that time, Roy (brother of Anna Powell Moore) and Alice Powell moved into the house. The yard was full of weed, there was no indoor plumbing, and the house had no electricity. A year later Alice Powell gave birth to a daughter, Norma, in the parlor of the house; the only child born in the house. The Powells moved in the spring of 1911. The house was later leased (in the teens), along with some land, to James (brother of Etta Woods Moore) and Margaret Woods.

In the late teens, the house once again became occupied by the Moores, when Earnest and Anna moved back to the ranch. By this time the statewide "Good Roads Movement" had improved the county road system substantially making Moro and Grass Valley more accessible. The Moores drilled a well so they would not have to haul water to the cistern, replaced the coal lamps with a Delco light system, built a root cellar, and planted two strips of lawn (Moore, 1982: 9).

On May 25, 1925 Collis Moore (Ernest and Anna's son) married Dorotha Huntley (born December 29, 1903) in Beaverton, Oregon. The marriage occurred on the 32nd wedding anniversary of Collis' parents. The Moores divided the house into two apartments and gave their sons each a portion of the house. Ernest and Anna then moved back to Moro where they lived until their deaths in 1951 and 1960, respectively. The two sons, Collis and Roscoe, lived in the house together for only a short period of time. Roscoe moved out ca. 1930 while Collis and Dorotha continued to reside in the house (Moore, 1982: 9).

David Huntley was born to Dorotha and Collis Moore on June 9, 1931. The Moore family continued to work the family wheat ranch through the height of the depression. In the middle of the depression, Dorotha became involved in politics when she was elected the precinct committee member. She continued her involvement in politics and in 1952 she was elected as Sherman County Chairperson which she served for two terms.

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Dorotha and Collis Moore worked the ranch until 1958 when David Moore moved into the house with his wife, Mildred Marshall Moore. David and Mildred Moore were married in 1956 while David was attending Lewis and Clark College in Portland. Collis and Dorotha Moore moved to Moro after giving the house to their son and daughter-in-law, David and Mildred.

Dorotha Moore continued her political career as a resident of Moro and became known throughout the state for her long standing involvement with the Republican National Committee. In 1956 she was elected the Oregon Republican Committee Chair Women. Dorotha served on the Executive Committee of the Republican State Central Committee of Oregon, was secretary of the Republican Western Conference in 1964, elected vice-president of the Republican National Convention in 1965 (which she served for eight years), a delegate at the 1972 convention and was on the Arrangement Committee for the conventions in 1972, 1976 and 1980 (*The Dalles Weekly Reminder*, August 16, 1984). She stayed active in politics until her death in 1988. Dorotha's husband, Collis, preceded her in death in 1976.

David and Mildred Moore ran the ranch with their had two children, Julie and David John which were raised in the family house. David Moore died in April 1988. Mildred Moore continues to live in the house with her husband, Richard Voll.

The Moore house has been continually owned by members of the John A. and Helen Moore family for over 110 years. All of the original acreage is still owned by members of the Moore family and is cultivated in wheat. The Moore ranch is designated as a Sherman County Centennial Farm. The Moore house is a reminder of the early prominent Sherman County residents and their contribution to the settlement of the region.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The subject property is located in the NE 1/4 of Section 36, T1S, R16E. The parcel encompasses a portion in the southern portion of tax lot 4300. Legal description: beginning at the point of intersection of the westerly r/w line of US Highway 97 and the north boundary line of Section 36, thence west 375 feet, thence south 312 feet, thence east 250 feet, thence northeasterly along the westerly r/w of Highway 97 to the point of beginning. The nominated area encompasses approximately 2.24 acres of tax lot 4300 which includes a total of 25 acres.

Boundary Justification

The nominated area encompasses 2.24 acres of the Moore farm. The nominated area includes the remaining farm complex buildings and the front yard area (originally the local of the driveway). The majority of the tax lot not included in the nominated area is planted to crops.



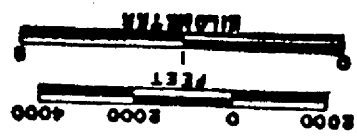
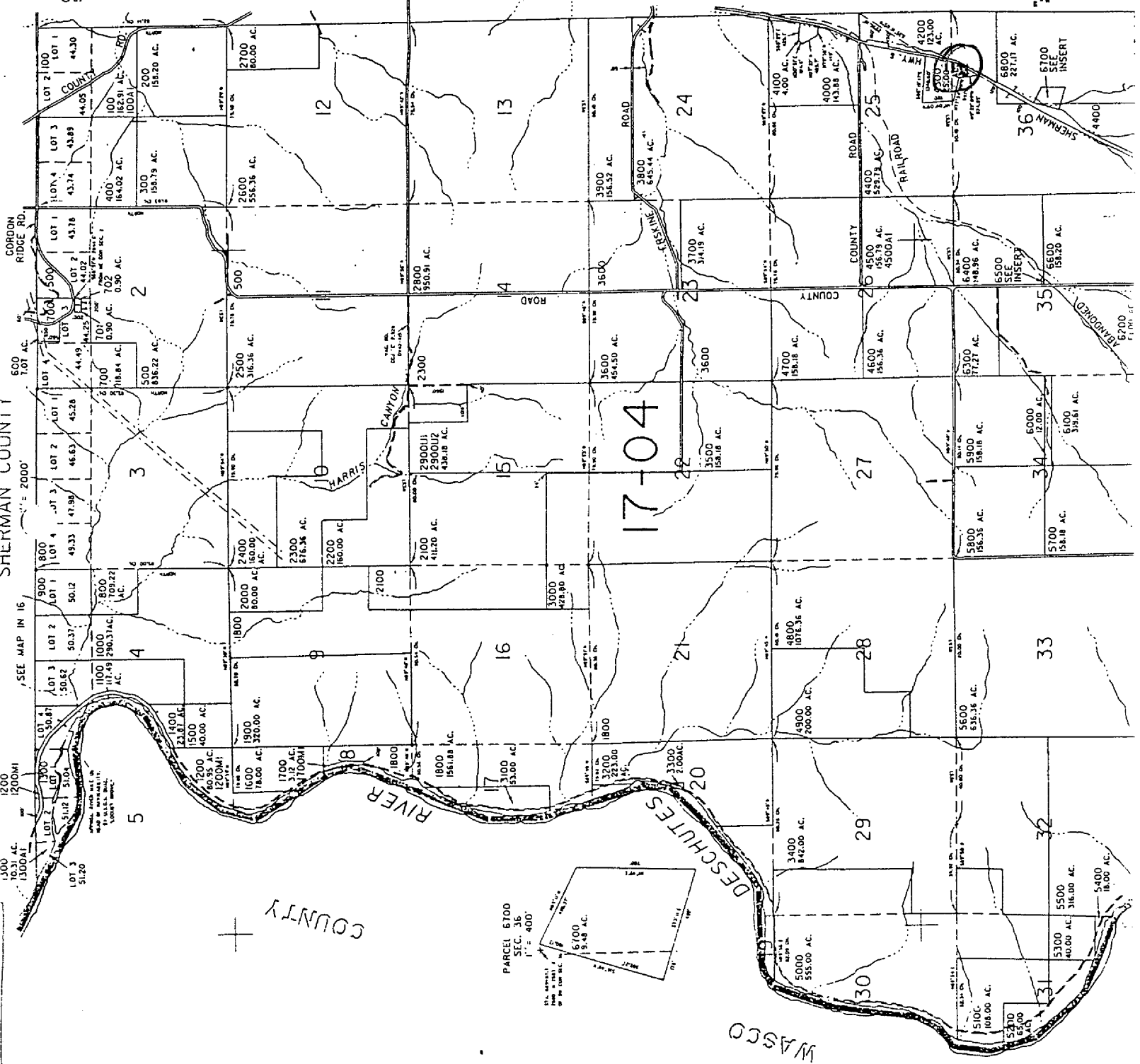
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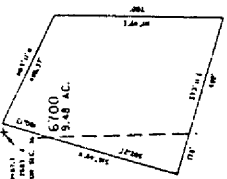
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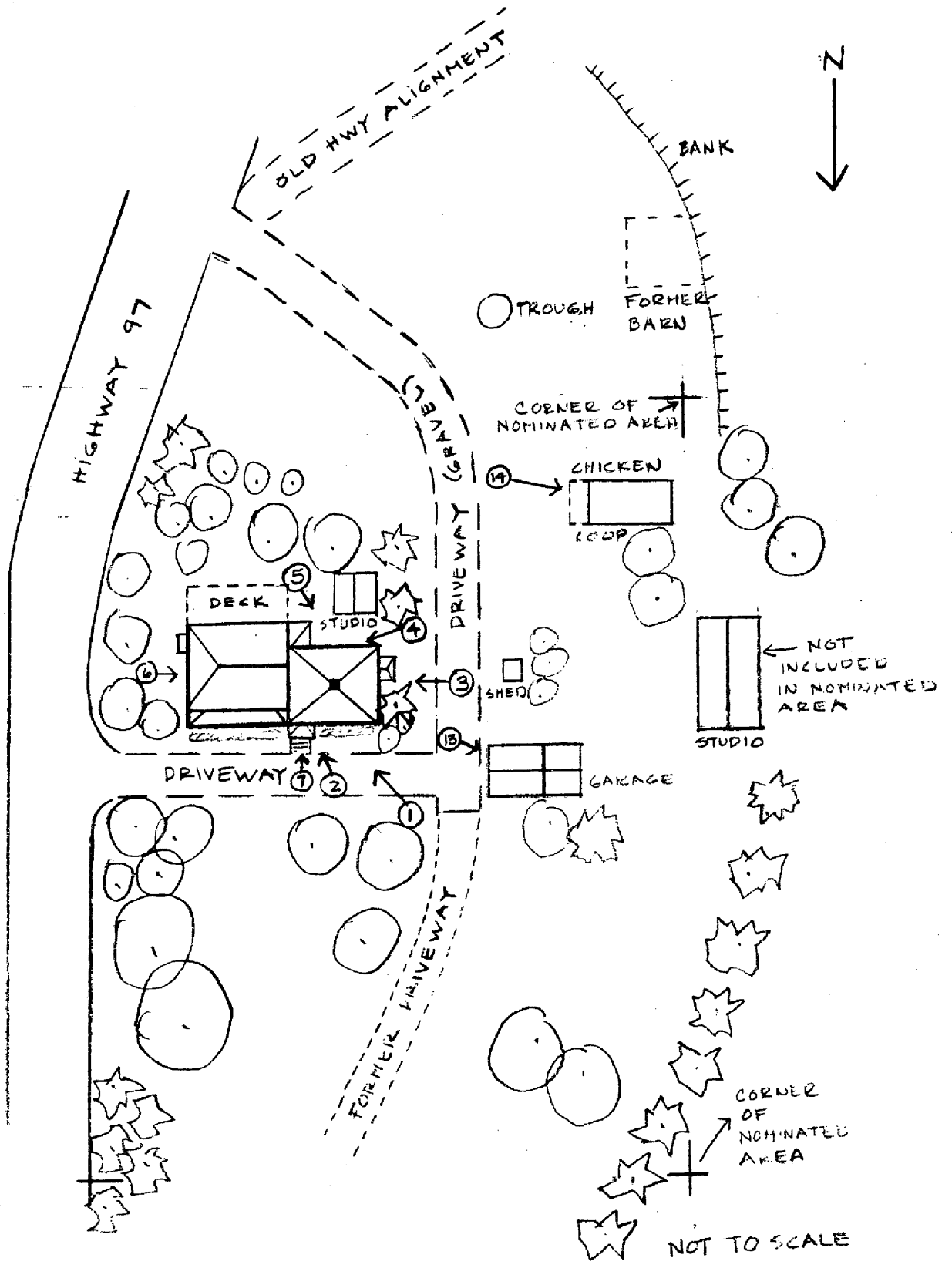
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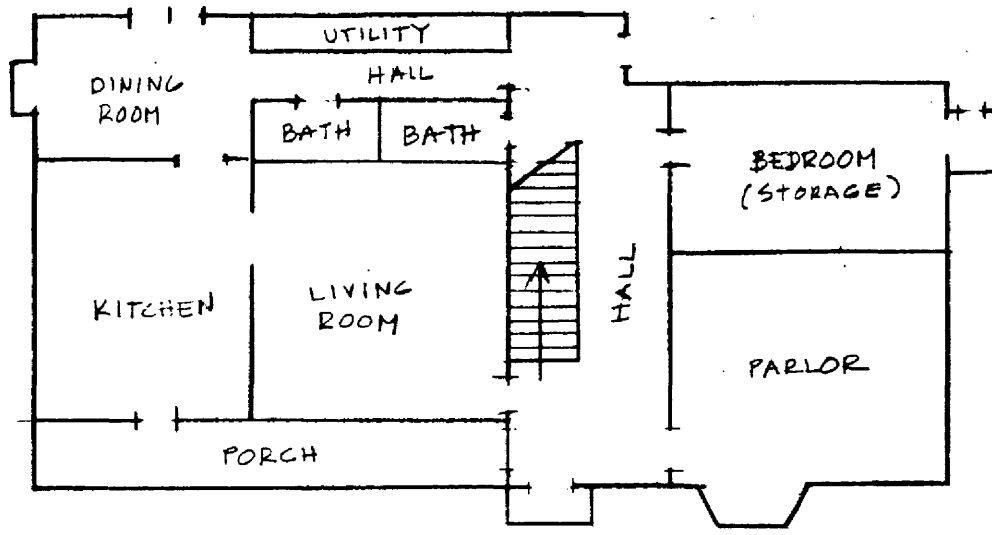
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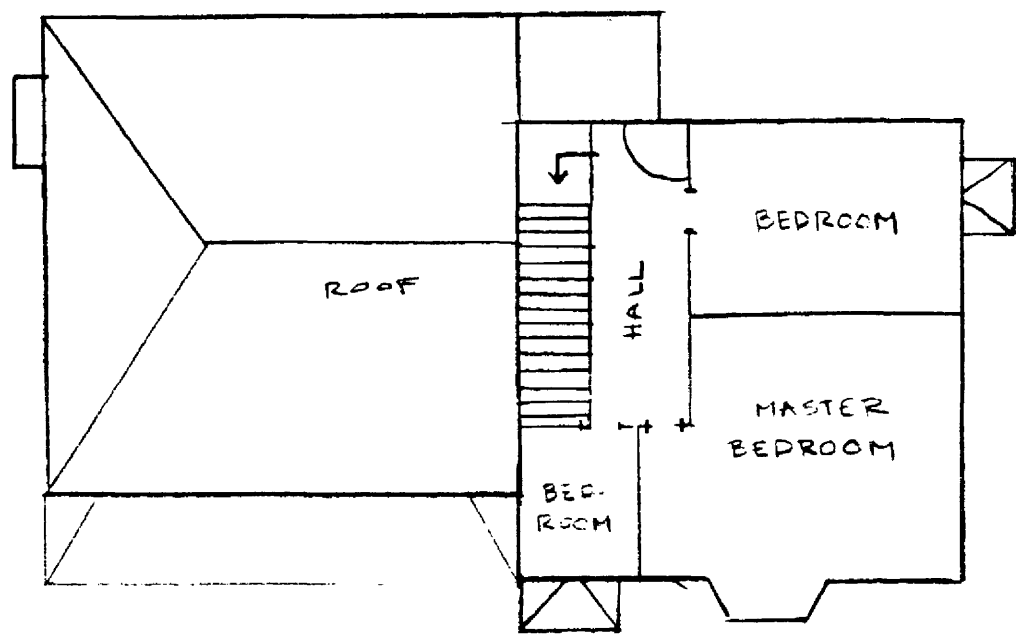


Site Plan

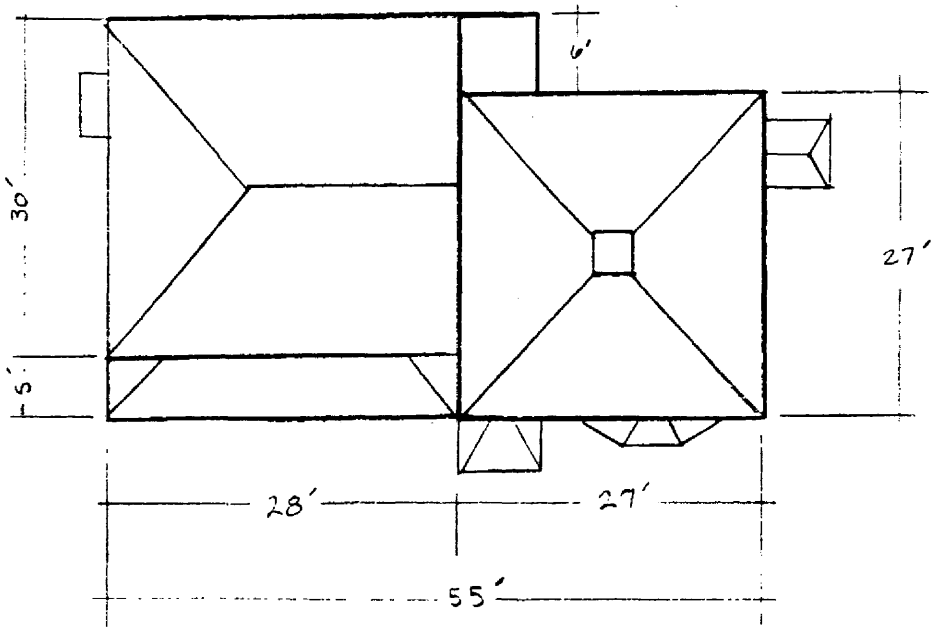
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FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



MOORE HOUSE