

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on 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 Stewart, LaSells D., House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1807 East Main Street not for publication

city or town Cottage Grove vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Lane code 039 zip code 97424

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 December 15, 1993
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:)

for Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register 1/28/94 Date of Action

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	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	_____	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)

Commerce/Trade: business/professional office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls wood: weatherboards

roof asphalt: composition shingles

other

Narrative Description

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

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Section number 7 Page 1 LaSells Stewart House, Cottage Grove
OR

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

Situated on the southeast corner lot at the prominent intersection of Gateway Boulevard and the eastern end of East Main Street in Cottage Grove, Oregon, this solid one and a half story bungalow with central dormers and jerkinhead side gable roof is a local landmark that dominates the surrounding landscape. It is a fine example of a well-crafted late 1920s bungalow. The modest but substantial character of the house reflects in many ways the nature and qualities of its owner.

The Stewart House, at 1807 East Main Street, was built during the summer of 1927 by local carpenter and contractor Carl Leabo. According to Jessie Stewart, the house cost about \$6000 dollars, and the clear high-grade cedar used in its construction was supplied from the Bohemia mill at Veatch Spur, south of town. The house which had previously occupied the lot when the family bought the property and moved in during 1924 was moved to the south, or rear portion of the parcel prior to construction. It was later sold and moved again to a lot a few blocks west on East Main, where it later burned down. It is unknown whether the new house was designed by an architect, the contractor, or taken from stock plans, but it was certainly custom-built. There are two other houses in Cottage Grove of similar plan and shape, but they lack the attention to finish work and detailed craftsmanship exhibited by the Stewart house. The porches are also quite different in style. The house was occupied by the family from the time of its completion until Jessie's death in 1972, when it was sold to a local realty company and converted to an office. The paved parking lot and the rear shed dormer and porch entrance were apparently added at this time. The current owner, Willamette Shelter Company, obtained ownership in

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1989. The house is currently used for professional offices and is meticulously maintained.

SETTING

From the streets, the house presents virtually the same appearance that it has since it was built in 1927, although the elements of the surrounding landscape have changed considerably. The built-up lot rises above the intersection, forming the foot of a slope that rises to the immediate southeast of the intersection. The Interstate-5 freeway and Knox Hill lie beyond. The Gateway Shopping Center and parking lot occupies the land to the northeast, a new bank occupies the northwest corner, and a pizza parlor and parking lot sit on the southwest corner lot. Two older homes are situated to the east before the freeway underpass and embankment. A small new church is situated south of the property along 18th/Gateway Boulevard.

The house is set back from the corner sidewalks some ten to fifteen feet. A cement retaining wall was added adjacent to the sidewalks when Gateway Boulevard was constructed during the early 1980s. The front and west, or street side yard areas are planted in grass and landscaped, and retain their original appearance. A wooden sign has been erected at the front corner edge of the lawn, and a large traffic signal has been added on the corner. The rear and eastern side yards have been blacktopped and converted to a parking lot. The east side driveway to the parking lot originally led to a detached garage that has since been removed. Several mature fruit trees remain to the immediate east of the rear parking lot. Historically, the majority of the property behind the house was open space and grazing for the family cow and pony. The original cement walkways encircling the house and leading to the street from the front door and side porch remain as built. Shrubbery, most of

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which appears to be original, occupies the planting strips between the walks and the building.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The footprint of the house is rectangular, aligned with the cross streets and the cardinal directions. The foundation consists of a full basement of poured concrete contained below ground level. The one and a half story mass is a wood balloon frame construction clad with clapboard. The facade is oriented due north, and the floor plan is divided into a three bay configuration. The roof is a side-gable jerkinhead covered with composition shingles. The overhanging eaves are all boxed and trimmed with frieze boards and bed moulding. Two dormers extend from the roof. A central jerkinhead dormer extends toward the front facade, and a large shed dormer has been added to the rear. The original simple interior brick chimney protrudes from the front roof adjacent to the dormer valley. The front porch extends from the roof below the front dormer and is covered by a matching jerkinhead roof supported by a pair of Tuscan columns. The west elevation has a bracketed shed roof side door porch and a large shed roof bay extension that was probably part of the original kitchen. The east elevation is the location of the stairwell and door to the basement. The south, or rear elevation has been recently remodelled, although some original windows still remain. A combination flat-roofed porch and upper floor balcony have been installed on center. The enclosed porch platform is flanked by matching steps. A double french door entrance has been added to the ground floor, and an identical pair of doors directly above provide access to the upper floor porch roof balcony.

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FACADE

The facade is symmetrically arranged, with a central entrance from the raised porch. The front door is panelled with bevelled glass, and flanked on each side by adjacent five-over one double hung sash windows. The upper sashes are divided by vertical

muntings that contain panes of bevelled glass, as are all the upper sash windows on the entire facade and front dormer. The windows are enclosed in flush molding surrounded by simple strips of trim with protruding sills. Equally spaced to each side of the doorway and portico are identical three-window band configurations, each of which consist of a larger central window identical to the two flanking the door and matched to each side by more narrow three-over-one windows of the same style and height. The set of three windows in the dormer are smaller-scale but stylistically identical, the larger central window being a four-over-one likewise muntined between two three-over-one sash windows of the same height. The raised portico is covered by an enclosed jerkinhead roof supported at the front corners by Tuscan columns. The deck structure is enclosed beneath the wooden flooring. Light iron handrails have been recently added to each side of the steps and the front entrance has been roped off due to building code regulations. Well-manicured shrubs decorate the lower portion of the wall and front corners of the portico.

EAST ELEVATION

The east elevation is a plain wall with a band of four three-over-one windows centered on the roof ridge to light the upstairs rooms. Two pairs of four-over-one windows and two smaller single three-over-one windows light the ground floor. There are two basement windows in the foundation to each side of the panelled

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basement door, accessed by a walled-in concrete stairwell. A light iron railing has been added around the top of the stairwell, and a modest light for the parking lot has been affixed to the wall beneath the eaves toward the rear.

WEST ELEVATION

The west elevation contains a pair of four-over-one windows centered on the roof ridge on the upper level, and another larger pair of the same that light the front room of the ground floor. An original glazed three-panel side door, covered by an enclosed and bracketed shed roof is situated toward the front of center on the first floor. A new stoop with iron railings that match the front steps has replaced the original. A large bay, lighted by a pair of three-over-one windows extends from the wall along its rear portion, and a single three-over-one window lights the lower rear corner room.

SOUTH / REAR ELEVATION

The south, or rear elevation is lighted by two original five-over-one double sash windows at the west side of the first floor level. The large recent shed dormer addition to the upper floor covers most of the roof and is lighted by four one-over-one double sash windows along the front, equally spaced, two to each side of a central double french door that opens onto the porch roof balcony. The balcony is enclosed by open iron railing that is identical to the rails on the lower porches and front steps. The flat deck of the balcony forms a roof for the first floor porch addition and is supported by two turned wooden posts at each front corner. The lower porch is raised and accessed by stairs to each side. The rear

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entrance is a matching double french door centered directly below the upper floor doors. A single three-over-one window is situated on the eastern half of the lower wall, and was probably adjacent to an original rear door that no longer exists. There are two basement lights in the foundation at ground level.

INTERIOR

The basement level is of poured concrete with a concrete floor. Originally, it was an open area, but office rooms have recently had added by partitioning the existing space. The original wood-burning furnace has been converted to gas, but remains in place. Open areas were originally used for storage and wood supplies for the furnace.

The first floor interior is divided into three bays perpendicular to the facade. The central bay is a large open area from the front to the rear, with both front and rear entrances opening into it. The original intact fireplace is located at the center of the east wall. The hearth is tiled and topped by a simple frieze and dentil molding about the mantel. The chimney breast slopes inward toward the ceiling. An original glazed double parlor door opens onto the east front room, and a double french door of similar scale has been added to the front west room, both of which now serve as offices. The rear of the first floor interior has been opened up to the west side, and a counter and reception area has been added beside the rear entry. Originally, there was a wall across this area from the rear to the stairwell, and the enclosed space contained the kitchen and pantry, which was located in the bay area. The interior stairs lead to an upper central hall running parallel to the roof ridge, and doors open onto the three upstairs rooms now occupied as offices. Interior door, window and floor moldings are intact except where

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alterations and additions have occurred and the original moldings have been matched and duplicated. A modern HVAC system has been installed above the ceilings in the attic.

SUMMARY CONCLUSION

With the exception of the large shed dormer addition and entrance alterations on the rear of the house, the exterior retains its original integrity and appearance. Much of the original fabric and layout of the original interior also is evident. The additions have all been tastefully accomplished, and are in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines by being compatible yet distinct. The prominent place held by the building in the cityscape and the extremely high quality of its present condition and maintenance contribute to its significant historic qualities. as the long-time residence of LaSells David Stewart, co-owner and operator of the Bohemia Lumber Company and significant community leader in Cottage Grove.

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
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:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry

Period of Significance

1927-1943

Significant Dates

1927

1930

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Stewart, LaSells David (1876-1964)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Carl Leabo, builder

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:

Family records c/o Loran L. Stewart

Eugene OR

Stewart, LaSells D., House

Lane County OR

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 0.42

Cottage Grove, Oregon 1:24000

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

UTM grid with values: 10, 496200, 4849140

UTM grid with empty boxes for Zone, Easting, Northing

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 David K. Voss

organization date July 30, 1993

street & number 419 East 16th Avenue telephone 503/345-4326

city or town Eugene state OR zip code 97401

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 Willamette Shelter Company

street & number 1807 East Main Street telephone 503/942-5535

city or town Cottage Grove state OR zip code 97424

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 one-and-a-half-story clapboarded Bungalow with clipped gables that stands at the prominent intersection of East Main Street and South 18th Street on the easterly edge of Cottage Grove, Oregon was built in 1927 for Bohemia Lumber Company partner LaSells David Stewart and his wife, the former Jessie Hills. Constructed by local contractor Carl Leabo, the house was the second occupied by the Stewarts and their three children at this site from the time they moved into Cottage Grove in 1924, and clearly it is the house most importantly identified with the elder Stewart, a significant figure in history of Oregon logging. As such, the house meets National Register Criterion B in the area industry.

Following an instructive career in the woods of western Oregon, the Minnesota-born Lasells D. Stewart (1876-1964) built the Bohemia Lumber Company into a major local industry contributing to the economy of Cottage Grove. From 1920 onward a full partner in the company formed by Lon Hill and Jack Magladry in 1916, Stewart guided the firm through the Depression with notable success founded on his command of field operations, his ingenuity, or improvisational ability, and respect for his work force. After his retirement in 1946, Stewart's children, sons Loran and Faye, and daughter, Dorothy Stewart Chapman, would develop Bohemia Lumber into one of the largest corporations in Lane County. The company co-founder is commemorated in Corvallis in the establishment of the LaSells David Stewart Center in the School of Forestry at Oregon State University.

This application provides a detailed discussion of the career of a self-made man who made his reputation by devising railroad spurs and equipment capable of extracting timber from tracts in the most rugged terrain of the Row River drainage on the west slope of the Cascades east of Cottage Grove. Stewart's qualities of leadership and logistical organization were employed in the nation's service during the First World War, when he directed military logging and construction operations in France for the Army Corps of Engineers. From 1930 to 1940, he had command of the local unit of the Oregon National Guard and, by organizing and drilling his unit, he was instrumental in securing for Cottage Grove State approval for the sought-after Armory, which during the Depression era fulfilled a

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variety of civic functions. Stewart's work with the National Guard contributed directly to the quality of life in the community and to military preparedness important to the succeeding war effort of the 1940s.

The Stewart House was constructed of high quality cedar manufactured in the Bohemia Mill at Veatch Spur, south of Cottage Grove. Against the backdrop of Knox Hill to the southeast, the house rises on its built-up lot, a brisk side-gabled volume [c. 34 x 36'] with jerkin-headed front dormer and portico. Regularly-spaced windows with divided top lights reveal a symmetrical interior organization based on a central hall plan. The exterior and grounds are notably well preserved, including the foundation planting strips, systems of walks and a retaining wall that was added at street grade at an early date. After the death of Stewart's widow in 1972, the property went into commercial ownership and was converted to professional office space.

Concessions to the adaptation are the paved parking area at the rear of the lot, addition of a full-width rear shed-roof dormer, and a new entrance of double-leaf French doors centered on the rear elevation, fronted by a porch platform and upper deck with wrought iron railings. The interior has been modified chiefly by removal of wall sections to expand working space. Character-defining features of the building's residential role that remain are primarily the Arts and Crafts chimneypiece and historic door and window trim. While the surrounding neighborhood has made a transition from single family residential to commercial zoning, the Stewart House, as viewed from the northwest, is unmistakably recognizable as the 1920s vintage home of the esteemed Cottage Grove business leader.

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SUMMARY STATEMENT

LaSells David Stewart was one of the most well-known and respected men in the lumber industry. His firm, the Bohemia Lumber Company, has been called the "the only successful, 100% haywire operation in the history of the lumber industry."¹ The continual success of the outfit baffled other leaders of the industry, as it ran successfully during downturns in the market and even the Great Depression of the 1930s. Of the countless mills and lumber operations, large and small, that have come and gone in the Cottage Grove area, Bohemia was the most enduring. During Stewart's tenure, the company became a major local industry. It is said that the company was never mortgaged or sued, and its employees were known as the most loyal and hardworking men in the business. Much of its success can be directly attributed to Stewart, who became an owner of a lumber company from the bottom up. His remarkable personal achievements in the lumber industry are legendary.

Moving to Oregon from a farm in Minnesota and equipped with a seventh grade education, he performed feats of logging and engineering that many thought impossible. Stewart built roads and railroad spurs into areas others thought unreachable at the time. He attributed his success, on the occasion of his golden wedding anniversary, to his "sense of humor and his ability to handle men."² His son, Loran, described Stewart's leadership abilities succinctly as "I never knew anyone who had so many friends who were employees."³

¹ The Bohemia Story, Wally Hunter, publ. unknown, 1985. The term "haywire" refers to an early practice of some loggers and millmen who would sometimes literally wire their machinery in place with baling wire to keep it running, sans proper parts.

² Cottage Grove Sentinel, April, 1958

³ Interview with Faye, Loran and Dorothy Stewart, Cottage Grove, Or., July 6, 1993. (auth.)

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Stewart's operations and crews were almost never mentioned as suffering injuries or calamities.⁴ During his tenure at Bohemia, hundreds of people in South Lane County earned good livings and were housed and fed through his company's employ. Bohemia built its reputation by supplying quality wood products. After his retirement in 1946, his family would go on to build the company into one of the largest corporations in Lane County, with gross sales of over a hundred million dollars in 1973-74.

Stewart also achieved an outstanding record in the military during World War I as a Lieutenant and Captain of the 20th Engineers. Upon moving to Cottage Grove in 1924, he played a major leadership role in the American Legion, and was unanimously elected leader of the local Guard Unit in 1930. Stewart's leadership of the local unit ensured the approval of the state Adjutant General for construction of a large local Armory in Cottage Grove. Under his leadership, the unit went on to become one of the most outstanding artillery groups in the country, capturing the national record for accuracy and timing at Fort Canby on the Columbia River in 1933. The armory building was a major focus of social and economic life for the city during and after the depression. At the outset of World War II, Stewart was promoted to Major and placed in command of several Guard Units throughout Southern Oregon. His men won victories in several major maneuvers and mock battles in Oregon during the war. The Cottage Grove Armory is now 2nd Battalion headquarters for the 162nd Infantry, 41st Infantry Brigade of the Oregon Army National Guard.

LaSells Stewart was a man who built the foundation for an empire on common sense, hard work, ingenuity, and good relations. He was a

⁴Based on newspaper searches during the period. Several other local mills and logging operations suffered from fires, destruction of equipment and personal deaths and injuries on an almost regular basis.

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leader of men who respected people and never asked more from anyone than himself.

His service in the military and his leadership among men and his community produced a fine new local armory for Cottage Grove in 1930 (now Battalion Headquarters) and his outstanding leadership produced some of Oregon's finest and well-trained soldiers during the Second World War. Generous gifts of all kinds, for the most part obscured in anonymity, made his community much more than it would otherwise have been without his help.

One local who remembered Stewart described him as "blessed with a sixth sense that could see through solid rock."⁵ The remarkable life and achievements of this self-made man certainly attest to such an evaluation.

When the Stewart family moved to their home in Cottage Grove during 1924, LaSells had already made himself a name in the business and become a full partner in the company, in charge of all field operations. After relocating the company at Veatch Spur, south of town, LaSells had the family home built at 18th and East Main. His strong desire to ensure that his children were properly educated was perhaps a major motivation.

EARLY YEARS IN MINNESOTA

LaSells David Stewart was born on June 10, 1876 on a farm near St. Francis and Anoka, Minnesota. He was the fourth son of David and Eliza Stewart. His father was a successful farmer, blacksmith and a respected religiously minded member of the local community.

⁵ Interview with Earl Stewart (no relation), 1993 [auth].

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LaSells' education came to an abrupt end during the seventh grade when, after being "spelled down" by a female classmate, he prodded the girl in the behind with a pin and beat the teacher to the door, never to return. Stewart continued to work the farm with his family and parents until he was in his 20s, when "the thought of moving out to Oregon got in his blood,"⁶ and he joined his brother in Southern Oregon, near the City of Grants Pass, and claimed a homestead near the present town of Murphy.

The agrarian homestead life did not seem to suit him. In Grants Pass he went to work for the Sugar Pine Door and Sash Factory and, as his wife Jessie describes, "got a smell of sawdust that never left him."⁷ This is apparently where LaSells first decided that earning a living as a logger was something he enjoyed, and his work here exposed him to the emerging lumber industry in the inland region of Western Oregon. While working in the woods for the Sugar Pine Door and Sash Company in Josephine County, LaSells may have become acquainted with some of the men that would soon become his associates and leading figures in the Oregon lumber industry. Among the men who worked there were R. A. Booth and the Kelly brothers, founders of Booth-Kelly Lumber Company, and his later partner in the Bohemia Lumber Company, Jack Magladry.

THE MOVE TO LANE COUNTY - FALL CREEK

By the early 1900s, these future leaders of the Oregon lumber industry had all relocated to the Lane County area. R. A. Booth purchased the Saginaw mill of J. I. Jones, near Cottage Grove. Jack Magladry was hired on as woods boss. The Kelly brothers also moved north to Lane County and purchased a mill in the Mohawk Valley near

⁶Jessie Hills Stewart notes, mss., 1973.

⁷ibid.

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Donna, which was soon merged with Booth's Saginaw enterprise. Stewart also moved north to Eugene and "hired out" to work for Booth-Kelly in the dense woods of the Fall Creek Area. His boss was Lon Hill, who would later be another of his partners in Bohemia.

Booth and the Kellys merged their operations after securing logging rights to the vast timber holdings acquired by the Southern Pacific railroad in their takeover of the Oregon and California line and acquiring the Central Oregon Military Road Company. The Booth-Kelly Lumber Company was a giant of the Northwest lumber industry and the first Willamette Valley lumber company to engage in interstate commerce. The company erected a large modern mill in Springfield, downriver from their timber holdings in East Lane County. Operations began at the Fall Creeks, and timber was floated to the Coburg and new Springfield mills along the Middle Fork of the Willamette River.

Starting as a hooktender at a sawmill in the woods there, Stewart was soon made a foreman and put in charge of the river-born log drive operations for Booth-Kelly and the Kibblebeck family of Eugene. Stewart's sister Evelyn came to Eugene about this time and questioned "How does he know what he is doing?"⁸, since she knew he had no training for such work, but LaSells was soon running the show in the woods for operators in the area. Lon Hill soon had Stewart in charge of all log movements and communications for Booth-Kelly in the area. At this time, the movement of timber was accomplished by "booming"⁹ the logs down the creeks through a series of "splash

⁸Jessie Hills Stewart mss.

⁹Log "booming" was an early practice of the industry that involved the building of dams along the creeks and rivers. A log dam would be constructed to create a pool, into which the fallen logs would float and accumulate. Once sufficient water and raw material was accumulated behind the dam, it would be breached, and the logs would be carried by water to the next "boom," or released to travel on towards the mill.

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dams"¹⁰ to the sawmills downriver. Stewart was put in charge of the river log drives, and also given responsibility for installing a primitive local telephone system that was used to coordinate the dam releases. This early work on the dams and phone system gave Stewart a taste for engineering projects that would remain with him throughout his long career. His success at these endeavors also proved to his employers that he was a skilled leader and problem-solver. Many of the men who worked for him would follow him later. Although his present reputation derives primarily from his success with the Bohemia Lumber Company, Stewart, it seems, had made a name and reputation as a premier logging operator for himself before 1910.

MARRIAGE TO JESSIE HILLS

During this early tenure working on the Fall Creeks, Stewart met his future wife, Jessie, who was the daughter of a territorial pioneer and logging family. The two met at a weekend dance about 1903, held in Jessie's uncle's home in Jasper, on the Middle Fork of the Willamette River. Jessie's recollection of their meeting describes how "Sells wore rubber boots instead of shoes, but we danced anyway."¹¹ The courtship lasted for several years, and the two often went horseback riding together. The couple married in Lents, a suburb of Portland, on March 31, 1908. They returned to the Fall Creek area afterwards, and remained there until the logging was completed. By this time, LaSells was boss of the logging operations for Booth-Kelly around Winberry.

¹⁰"Splash dams" were the structures built and controlled as dam pools by the log drivers. The name derives from their occasional openings, where the logs would then be forced to follow the rushing tide downriver- all at a single unleashing stroke. "Boom" and "Splash" were highly developed arts and manipulations that controlled water levels on watersheds accomplished by logging crews in the early nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

¹¹ Jessie Hills Stewart mss. The rubber boots were shiny and better looking for dress than other logging work boots, which were typically all the men owned.

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WENDLING

When Booth-Kelly cut their deal with the Southern Pacific Railroad, they inaugurated railroad logging and lumber shipments from the Willamette Valley on a large scale. After erecting their large mill in Springfield, a saw mill complex, rail line and a new town were established in the Mohawk Valley at Wendling, about twenty miles north of Springfield.

After Fall Creek operations were shut down, the Stewarts moved to Wendling to work for Booth-Kelly. LaSells was assigned as "hooktender"¹² for the mill, and worked the millpond. It was in Wendling that the Stewarts became good friends of the Faye Abrams family, and the Stewart's and Abrams' worked and played together during this time. Faye Abrams would go on to direct operations for Booth-Kelly for many years. Jessie Stewart recalled how they had to fetch water from a community well, and the newlyweds had been assigned to the oldest house in town. In October of 1909, the Stewarts lost their first-born daughter after six days of life. She was injured by the instruments used at her birth. The Stewarts would later name their second son Faye, in honor of their dear friend who they met at Wendling.

Although the position of hooktender was just short of superintendent of operations, Stewart must have tired of working at the mill, living in the old company house, and he developed a desire to reenter the woods, or at least, move on. At any rate, his position at Wendling was short-lived. His former woods boss at Fall Creek, Lon Hill, offered LaSells a job in the woods of the Row River Valley, which he accepted.

¹² Hooktender was just one step below superintendent, and duties involved making sure that the timber was fed into the mills appropriately and on schedule.

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By this time, Lon Hill had moved on from Booth-Kelly and become a partner in the Brown Lumber Company, working out of Cottage Grove. Banker W. E. Brown, of the Eugene Savings and Loan Bank, had "received" a bankrupt operation, and Jack Magladry, after a lackluster stint in the real estate business of Eugene, became a partner with Brown, in hopes of turning a profit. Magladry probably brought his friend Lon Hill on board. Hill was a quintessential logging operator, and by this time had become a master of acquiring lumber contracts and a shrewd investor in the Lane County lumber business. From working their ways up through the ranks, they knew that their new company needed a hands-on field operations manager who could "get out the cut" and meet the orders they rustled up in San Francisco and Portland. Magladry worked the mill as boss for a time, but Stewart, they decided, was their man to do the job.

THE MOVE TO SOUTH LANE COUNTY

In 1911, Stewart moved to the Dorena Area about ten miles east of Cottage Grove and took over the woods operations for his friend Lon Hill. The couple's first son, Loran, was born in the Hedrick's maternity home at Cottage Grove in January of the same year. The next few years found the Stewarts moving up and down the Row River Valley as he and his men logged tracts along its tributary valleys and foothills. Their second child, Dorothy, was born in Cottage Grove at the end of 1913. Another Stewart son, Faye, was delivered at home in Rujada in 1915.

Stewart worked a number of positions during this time, including head sawyer and logging boss. Logs were shipped to the mills via the Oregon South Eastern Railroad, a short line to Cottage Grove that had originally been developed to serve the gold mines of the Bohemia District some thirty miles southeast of the town. The age of railroad

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logging had arrived, and this short line offered access to the richest area of all of Oregon's tremendous uncut timber resources.¹³ By 1910, logging by railroad was in full swing. It was during the following pre-war period that LaSells Stewart established his remarkable reputation for accomplishing the "impossible," through his feats of engineering, his ability to lead men, and by reworking "logged over" areas at a profit.

THE MASTER ENGINEER

As the easily-accessed timber in the Row River Valley began to be depleted, a large stand of prime forest land awaited harvest in an area known as Upton, north of the Stewart camp in Rujada. Despite the excellent quality of the standing timber, it was commonly thought that the extremely rugged and mountainous landscape made logging the tracts a pipe dream. About 1913, the Upton challenge was passed to LaSells, and his subsequent achievements in this area made his reputation as a man of accomplishment secure for life.

Undaunted by the topographic challenge, LaSells marched into the woods of Upton with a single assistant, a carpenter's level and a 50-foot length of whistle wire. Armed with these accoutrements and a

¹³ In 1926, Sentinel Editor Elbert Bede stated that; "approximately one-sixth of all the timber in Oregon is tributary to Cottage Grove, giving us one thirteenth of all the timber of the United States and giving us the greatest body of timber tributary to any city in the world."

Twenty-five years later, in 1951 alone, production from Lane County was about 1.5 million board feet of lumber, or slightly more than 20 percent of total Oregon output. The estimated stand of timber in Lane County at that time was roughly 50 billion board feet, growing on some 2.5 million acres of county forest land, public and private. The county had led all counties in the Pacific Northwest in production of Douglas fir each year since 1943.

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seventh-grade education, Stewart successfully located and constructed a road into the area.¹⁴

Although the road into this steep and rugged wilderness was a substantial achievement in itself, it was Stewart's employment of a new railroad line technique at Upton that earned him respect throughout the logging community in the Pacific Northwest. Stewart's design employed the use of "switchbacks," which had not been used by Northwest logging interests to this time. This innovation allowed a Shay locomotive to push and pull rail cars for timber up and down the new road.¹⁵ By 1916, as his wife Jessie later wrote; "confidence was raised in Sells' ability, the ability to do any task he wanted to do."¹⁶

¹⁴ Stewart and his helper located the road bed by proceeding up the terrain in 50- or, if possible, 100-foot intervals, meting out a more-or-less constant grade of six percent incline. Stewart would position himself at the low point and then sight down the level to the three- or six-foot point on his helper up slope. Slowly but surely, the road was laid up the demanding topography for several miles into the woods.

¹⁵ Stewart's ingenious use of switchbacks allowed the steam engines to not only navigate up and down the mountain with a set of cars, it also allowed for the use of two trains on the same line at the same time- one going up, and one going down. The switches were placed at the "switchback" position, or the point where the rails changed direction to ascend or descend the terrain. At such points along the line a switch was installed and a portion of rail was extended out from the convex side of the turn onto a relatively flat surface area. The switch would be set to recieve the train and its cars onto the rail extention at the switch. The switch would then be thrown, and the train would proceed up or down the line, as the case might be, alternately pulling or pushing its load from one switchback to the next.

¹⁶ Jessie Hills Stewart mss.

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BIRTH OF THE BOHEMIA LUMBER COMPANY

About 1916, lumber industry veterans and co-partners in the Brown Lumber Company Lon Hill and Jack Magladry decided to buy a bankrupt logging outfit on the Row River known as Stocks and Harlow, or the Star Mill. Stocks and Harlow had gone bankrupt and the company was in the receivership of the Bank of Cottage Grove, who were anxious to be rid of this precarious asset. Hill and Magladry bought the company and renamed it the Bohemia Lumber Company, after the mining district nearby. The birth of a future international corporation; "the only 100 percent successful 'haywire'¹⁷ operation in the history of the timber industry," and an Oregon corporation that would eventually employ over a thousand people and record sales of over 100 million dollars in 1974 was thereby accomplished.

Jack Magladry had ventured into the real estate business in Eugene after retiring from Booth-Kelly, and was not pleased with his new occupation. Lon Hill quit the Brown Lumber Company when it was sold to out-of-state investors and transformed into the Western Lumber and Export Company. Both these seasoned lumbermen felt they could make their fortunes together with their own outfit, given the right personnel to actually accomplish something.

LaSells Stewart followed Lon Hill and went to work for his old friends as logging boss for their new company almost immediately. He

¹⁷ "Haywire" was a commonly understood descriptive term of the early logging industry that referred originally to the use of hay baling wire to rig and jury-rig actual machinery at logging mills. It became a slang description of operations that relied on ingenuity and spare parts to attempt, by hook or by crook, to run a successful logging and lumber enterprise. The ultimate compliment implied in this quote refers to the ability of the Bohemia Company to succeed and persevere despite their lack of large capital investment and their oftentimes unorthodox modes of operation.

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became the "hands-on" operator overseeing the actual functions and production of the company. Meanwhile, Hill wined and dined company clients in San Francisco, racking up orders, and Magladry assured that the financial and business end of the new company's operations ran as smooth as possible. Stewart worked the woods as the winds of war approached from Europe. At this point, international events interrupted the progression of events at Bohemia, in Cottage Grove, and throughout the rest of America.

WORLD WAR VETERAN

As the United States became embroiled in the European vortex of the First World War, Stewart became increasingly focused on his own potential personal involvement. His old friend George Kelly was appointed a Lieutenant-Colonel of the American Expeditionary Force and commander ("lumberjack-in-chief") of the 20th Engineers. Stewart applied to his old friend, who knew LaSells would be a positive asset for the American effort overseas and encouraged his enlistment.

Stewart was 37 years old in 1917, but by "fudging" his age and using his personal connection with Kelly, he entered the U.S. Army as a Lieutenant, and was sent for training to Camp Independence near Washington D.C. Stewart's leadership abilities were quickly recognized by his superiors, even at training camp. His commanding officer at the camp asked Stewart to take his place in leading a parade dress drill past the White House and movie star Mary Pickford, which Stewart accomplished despite the fact that he had never even seen a military group in formation before entering the service.

During the trans-Atlantic voyage, Stewart was appointed officer-in-charge of the lower ship deck, and was chosen to be one of the first

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ashore in France to scout for a landing and camp site for the 2,000 men aboard.

Stewart was commissioned an officer of the 20th Engineers. The 20th Engineers performed all lumbering operations for the American Army in France during the war, and was the largest regiment in the entire army, comprised of 145 companies. Stewart was put in charge of woods operations, logging, and transportation facilities for a mill near the castle of Meillant. He wrote home to his brother that:

"When I see the beauties, the tranquility and simplicity of France, I cannot help but wonder at the vandalism of the Germans when they destroy it all at one shot. France should have been left in peace with its beauties, for the good of the ages and people to come."

Once while passing a cafe on a tour of his woods operations, Stewart noticed a disturbance in a cafe, where a group of black American soldiers were about to attack a group of french soldiers and "cut their hearts out." Stewart took charge of the situation by mounting a table and shouting orders, and the Americans were marched peacefully out of the area. Lt. Stewart was awarded a citation in France from both General Pershing and Marshall Foch for this action in preventing a possible "race riot" and an international incident between the allied troops. Stewart was later one of two Cottage Grove veterans to receive a purple heart for his war time service.

After the Armistice, Stewart was promoted to the rank of captain and placed in charge of roadbuilding operations for the Army in France. The number of new and improved roads he built in France after the war may never be known. He remained on active duty until June of 1919, when he was decorated by the American Commander-In-Chief for his work there. Stewart wrote his wife on June 13 about the

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incident, and quipped that the medal "made a fine decoration for a fellows coat but it will not buy a fellow much to eat."¹⁸

JESSIE AND FAMILY DURING THE WAR

While LaSells was in Europe, Jessie moved the family to Eugene. During their stay there, Jessie was struck down by an undetermined illness, perhaps a victim of the 1918 Influenza Epidemic. She gradually recovered with the help of their neighbors from the throes of death. Jessie's recovery left her a semi-invalid with a deeply-embedded belief in Christianity that transformed her life thereafter.

BACK TO COTTAGE GROVE - A PARTNER IN BOHEMIA

When LaSells returned home he was offered work by both his old friend Faye Abrams at Booth-Kelly and Lon Hill in Cottage Grove. Legend has it that he made his decision by throwing down a stick of kindling in the upper-floor bedroom of the Eugene house, which fell in the direction of Row River and Cottage Grove.

Regardless, the Stewarts were soon back in the Cottage Grove area, this time for good- and Hill and Magladry immediately made Stewart their logging boss and a full partner in the Bohemia Lumber Company during 1920. By this time, Lon Hill had moved to San Francisco and Magladry was involved in state politics. Both partners realized the necessity of an active operations person and knew that Stewart could do the job. A fourth partner, bookkeeper William Garoutte, was also added at this time.

¹⁸ Family post-card collection.

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"Bill" Garoutte was a local man from Cottage Grove, and a sharp businessman in his own right. Garoutte had also worked for Lon Hill at the Brown Lumber Company. He was not interested in working for out-of-state interests and quit when the company was sold to Anderson-Middleton of Aberdeen, Washington. With Lon Hill semi-retired in San Francisco, Magladry ensconced as a State Senator in Salem, and Stewart running the woods and sawmill, Garoutte stepped in as accounts manager. Apparently the owners had utmost confidence in their new partners. Stewart and Garoutte proceeded to run the company while the senior partners pursued other activities. In 1924, Lon Hill passed away in San Francisco, and the Bohemia partners became a triumvirate. According to Jessie, Hill's share in the company was passed to Stewart by his widow.

After his return to Bohemia and the Row River Valley, Stewart went to work on another railroad spur which was constructed along a northerly route into the hills above Dorena. The ties were laid for the most part without ballast, and a huge trestle was constructed. The rails were laid on ties from the mill with variances between them of several inches. To overcome these primitive problems and lack of a proper roadbed, Stewart ordered the construction of special flatbed rail cars which were to enter into legend in the Cottage Grove/South Lane County Area. If Stewart's road to Upton was not enough to endure the ensuing decades, his rail contrivances certainly were.

THE STEWART GOOSE CARS

"The Goose", "Gallopig Goose", and "Grey Goose" eventually were nicknames applied to the railcars developed by Stewart, a gas-powered passenger trolley contraption, and the train itself that ran

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along the Oregon South Eastern (later, the Oregon Pacific and Eastern) short-line railroad in the Cottage Grove area. The "goose" moniker is as common and well-known as the "Old Slow and Easy" nickname derived from the initials of the original company name.

The special flatbed cars developed by Stewart, known as "The Goose," were to be used in logging operations for decades on the rough terrain by many loggers in the area surrounding Cottage Grove, in places that could never have been served by standard railcars. In typical practicable fashion, the cars were probably sold to the highest bidder when their original tasks were completed, allowing Stewart and his partners to purchase some more timber, or perhaps some used parts for mill machinery from another less substantial logging outfit in need of capital. The Goose Cars were clouded in myth by the late 1960s, when they were described as being an invention of Bohemia Lumber Company.¹⁹ It is unknown whether any of these

¹⁹The actual makeup of these unique logging vehicles is aptly described by author Wally Hunter in his book, The Bohemia Story as follows:

"Roughly, this is how the Goose was laid out. Each car had eight flanged wheels, four on each end. Each wheel was on its own axle and was allowed to slide freely back and forth thereon. The axles were in turn securely fastened with U-bolts onto parallel timbers in the manner of a wheel on a wheelbarrow.

These parallel timbers were then connected by cross braces to form a car. Onto the four stringers was laid a more or less conventional deck which was loosely bolted down in order to provide the car with built-in knee action.

Purpose of the sliding wheels and knee action deck was to overcome the Goose's main problem - lack of a proper road bed. Tracks for the line consisted of ordinary rails laid on ties which meandered up the hillsides in a haphazard manner. Obviously it was not practicable to spend a great amount of time to build fancy roadbeds, as it was thrown together hastily whenever they made a move.

In some spots the distance between the rails varied as much as twelve inches and it traversed both dips and bumps that would have stymied a

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unique contraptions are extant, although rumor has it that one car still exists.

THE VEATCH SPUR MOVE - A HOME IN COTTAGE GROVE

It was in 1924 that the partners decided to relocate their operations. The company bought a dormant mill and timber acreage a few miles south of Cottage Grove known as the "Banana Ranch," a derisive nickname derived from the outfit's original title; The Orchard Land and Lumber Company- which had never amounted to much of anything. The company operated at the Veatch Spur location a few miles south of Cottage Grove with marginal results until the Great Depression and logged-out property combined to force its closure in 1930.²⁰ The volatile lumber market of the 1920s made operations often nebulous, but the Bohemia Company continued to run until 1930 by supplying what the market ordered through their operations.

lesser car. With the deck rattling and the flanged wheels skating happily back and forth on the axles, the Goose could go virtually anywhere.

Power for this contraption was supplied by two steam donkeys working in relay on the hillside. One donkey cabled the cars up hill and there the other would take over. Going downhill with a load of logs, the procedure was reversed."

....."During its heyday, the Galloping Goose boasted as much as three miles of track and enabled Bohemia to pick timber off hills that normally would have been ignored because of comparative inaccessibility."

"In its own quaint way, The Galloping Goose is symbolic of Bohemia's constant efforts to improve methods and fully utilize technological advances."

²⁰ A 1927 Directory of the Lumber Industry lists Bohemia under Oregon Logging Operations as having a daily output of 50,000 feet, a crew of 35 men with 5 donkey engines, route via Cottage Grove, and L. D. Stewart as manager, superintendent and purchasing agent.

Under Oregon Sawmill Operations, Bohemia is a mill of identical output shipping from Veatch, and W. A. Garoutte as manager and sales manager.

There is no mention of Magladry.

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By not overextending themselves, as so many other outfits, especially out-of-state companies, proceeded to do in the area at the time, Bohemia was able to survive.

The Stewarts finally bought their first home and property in 1924, when the company relocated. The place they chose was in Cottage Grove at 18th and East Main Streets. This was to be the family home for the rest of LaSells' and Jessie's lives. With children of school age, and LaSells' duties as a principal partner in Bohemia, the family bought a plot on the very eastern outskirts of the city and moved into the old house it contained. The existing house proved to be too small for the family of five, so it was moved to the back of the property in 1926, when the Stewarts had a new house erected. The original house was later sold and moved to another location on East Main, where it stood for several years until it burned down. The Stewart children, Faye, Dorothy and Loran, were enrolled in school.

After the Great Depression of 1929 set in, the partners contemplated their next move amidst a background of inflation and negligent demand. Mill operations were shut down for a short while. Stewart took an engineering contract with the Forest Service in the meantime, and built part of the Champion Trail Road into the Bohemia District for the Umpqua National Forest. His skills at engineering and management were lauded by the Ranger, who sounded nearly shocked by the progress made and the quality of the product in an interview with the local newspaper. Meanwhile, the partners waited for improvement in the market, and Bill Garoutte pushed to reopen the company operations.

THE ARMORY AND THE STATE/NATIONAL GUARD

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In the late 1920s, Cottage Grove had made arrangements with the state and county for construction of a new armory, but in 1930, the local unit was found to be unqualified and unworthy by Adjutant General White of Salem. This placed the proposed construction in jeopardy, and an emergency call was issued to all the town citizens. Within a matter of two days, the local American Legion, Calvin Funk Post, had rescued the unit by enlisting some fifty men and reorganizing the entire unit. Captain LaSells Stewart was unanimously voted commander of the battery, and within weeks Stewart had whipped the unit into shape and won the approval of the State Adjutant General for construction of the new armory. The building was completed the following year, and the local Guard Unit, Battery "E" of the 249th Coast Artillery, was fully commissioned.

Under Stewart's leadership, the local unit went on to become one of the most outstanding companies in the state, and won the national record for artillery accuracy at Fort Canby just two years later after he assumed command. Stewart was commander of the unit until 1940, when he was promoted to HQ in Salem and given the rank of Major. LaSells' son Faye, who had joined the local battery in 1931 at the age of sixteen, was appointed commander upon promotion of his father. In 1940, the unit was permanently stationed at Fort Stevens, at the mouth of the Columbia River, as the Second World War approached. As testimony to the excellence of the unit, the leaders of the Cottage Grove battery were quickly promoted at the fort and put in charge of other less prepared units of the state.

Although LaSells was assigned to HQ, based in Salem, he remained stationed in Cottage Grove, and the armory became regional headquarters for all the batteries in Southwest Oregon. Stewart travelled to the other units and oversaw their preparedness and training. During the war, he commanded the battalion in war

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maneuvers and mock battles with other state units. Victorious in the maneuvers, the battalion established an exemplary record at home, and many excellent soldiers for the armed forces were produced from the ranks of the Southern Oregon/Cottage Grove unit.

In honor of his achievements on the home front, LaSells was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel during the war and appointed commander of the Guard in Southwest Oregon.

BOHEMIA MOVES TO CULP CREEK

As testimony to the abilities and resourcefulness of Stewart and his partners, no more fitting example could be offered than their decision to expand their operations once again back into the Row River Valley, start up production, and build a new sawmill at Culp Creek in 1932, during the height of the Great Depression. By hook and by crook, and with the security of LaSells' \$5000 equity bond, the mill was constructed and put into operation. The new mill at Culp Creek- built with "haywire," "borrowed" parts from the bankrupt out-of-state mills, cheap timber obtained from receivers and exceptional "know-how", was to operate successfully for another sixty years and form the foundation for an international multi-million dollar corporation. During the turbulent period of the Great Depression, Bohemia consistently produced high-grade lumber for a limited market, and sold its products wisely to select buyers in need of their product through the marketing acumen of Garoutte and the production skills of Stewart.

Upon the death of Jack Magladry at the end of 1940, Stewart and Garoutte became sole owners of the company. During the war, the Bohemia mills ran non-stop and provided some 250 local residents

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with steady employment. In 1946 Stewart and Garoutte decided they had seen enough of the lumber game, and suddenly offered the company up for sale. Stewart's sons, Faye and Loran, heard about the sale through second-hand sources. Dismayed at their father's sudden decision and caught off-guard by its abruptness, the brothers, along with sister Dorothy and her husband, Larry Chapman, finally prevailed upon LaSells to sell them the company. Chapman and the Stewart brothers barely snatched the company away from out-of-state investors, and afterward went on to build the Bohemia Corporation, one of the largest Oregon enterprises yet created, on their father's foundations.

RETIREMENT

LaSells officially retired in 1946, but remained involved as advisor to his scions until 1951, when he was struck down by a stroke that left him partially paralyzed and unable to speak.

Stewart lived his remaining days with wife Jessie in their modest home in Cottage Grove, and took almost daily chauffer-driven rides down to Main Street, where a twinkle would always come to his eyes when he spotted one of his men- be they from Bohemia or the Guard-sauntering down the road.

LaSells David Stewart met his end on June 13, 1964, at this home in Cottage Grove. He was 88 years old. His death was eulogized by all the major newspapers of Oregon as the tragic passing of a true man of accomplishment and a rare breed whose like was not presently known and whose deeds and achievements should long be remembered by those who follow.

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CONCLUSION

With a seventh grade education and nothing but his own abilities, LaSells Stewart is the epitome of the "self-made man" of American lore and legend. Stewart followed his heart and used his natural abilities to become one of the most capable and respected lumbermen in the country.

He prospered in life, yet never lived ostentatiously, and thereby was able to achieve all he hoped for. Deprived of an education through his own actions, he made sure that his offspring received the best he could provide, sending his children to college during the Great Depression while also risking his savings on the company he had helped to build and the partners who had helped make it a reality. Stewart was always there to help his men do their job, and worked and played with them to ensure their support. He was known to reward good work and to never expect the impossible. A natural born leader, he could somehow achieve his goals while making men proud and amply rewarded to be part of the achievements.

Stewart never hesitated to offer a helping hand to anyone who asked, and his innumerable acts of generosity may never be known. His daughter Dorothy recounts how LaSells was approached by one of his men who wished to go to school, and he responded to the young

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man's description of his inability to secure a loan by removing and opening his wallet, laying it on the table, and telling the young man to "take whatever he needed." Stewart then walked out of the room. This is only one isolated story of Stewart's contributions- never publicized- to his workers and community. No Bohemia worker in need ever went without the necessary funds to buy a needed pair of boots. Food, through the cook house of Jay and Ethel Kuni, and a place to live were both supplied by the company. LaSells was always an early visitor to any crew family with a new member, to make sure all was well. These values of leadership are becoming rare in a world where all are expected to achieve on their own.

Stewart had served his country during the First World War, but when the community faced a crisis in losing their armory, people turned to him and he stepped forth and assumed leadership. The local Guard unit became a distinguished leader in the state under his guidance, and his instillation of pride and accomplishment is still fondly remembered by citizens of the community. The training he provided is illustrated by the rapid advancement in rank and responsibility of his men during the Second World War, to the benefit of countless soldiers who served during the struggle.

Always ready to help a friend, Stewart never lost respect for his fellow citizens. When, during the 1930s, the workers at Bohemia's mill went on strike, Stewart became a laughing stock by carrying a picket sign for one of his men who had gone to fetch a tool he needed from the compound. Respect quickly returned when the workers realized he was only doing a job for someone in exchange for helping him to do his.

Stewart's charitable donations to the community are buried, for the most part, in anonymity. His donation of a painted mural on the wall of Cottage Grove High School, in memory of his children who had

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been educated by the district, is one example. Stewart's contributions to the founding of Cottage Grove Hospital and continued support of Sacred Heart Hospital in Eugene stand as another. The generosity of his children, who provided a portion of the funds for the LaSells Stewart Center at Oregon State University in his honor echo and continue their father's tradition of support for community projects and causes.²¹

LaSells David Stewart was certainly a leader of his community, and his legacy is continued today by his children, who continue to contribute their time, resources and energy to the people and institutions of Oregon.

²¹ The LaSells Stewart Center for Conferences and Performing Arts is the primary conference facility at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon. The facility is in constant use for meetings and presentations of all kinds, and serves all of the various schools and departments on campus. The center is administered by Office of Conferences and Special Events.

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Section number 10 Page 1 LaSells Stewart House, Cottage Grove, OR

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Stewart House is located on Tax Lot Number 20 03 27 4 4 01501, in the City of Cottage Grove, Oregon. The parcel is described as follows:

Beginning at a point 89 feet East of the Northeast corner of the William Shields Donation Land Claim No. 55, Section 27 South, Range 3 West of the Willamette Meridian, in Lane County, Oregon; running thence East 90 feet, thence south 147 feet, thence East 77.0 feet, thence South 36.0 feet; thence East 13.0 feet; thence South 36 feet; thence West to the East line of South 18th Street; thence north 219 feet to the place of beginning, in Lane County, Oregon.

EXCEPT that part conveyed to the City of Cottage Grove by deed recorded May 15, 1969, Reception No. 64235, Lane County Records, in Lane County, Oregon.

ALSO EXCEPT that portion conveyed to the City of Cottage Grove, by deed recorded September 26, 1984, Reception No. 84-38024, Official Records of Lane County, Oregon.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is the legal lot containing the house and some of the fruit trees from the small orchard in the back. It is a partition from the original Stewart property that stretched many more hundreds of feet to the south. The present Tax Lot Number 1500 adjacent to the south contains a larger piece of the original Stewart property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LaSells Stewart House, Cottage Grove, OR
Section number Photographs Page 1

PHOTOGRAPHS

PHOTO #1: historic

The Stewart House

1807 East Main Street

Cottage Grove, Oregon

photographer: Unknown

date: 1927

negative: author

view: Looking south-southeast from near the corner of S. 18th and East Main Streets.

description: The Stewart family in front of their newly built home. From left to right: Loran; Faye; LaSells; Jessie; Dorothy.

PHOTO #2: historic

The Stewart House

1807 East Main Street

Cottage Grove, Oregon

photographer: Unknown

date: circa1940

negative: author

view: Looking south from walk near East Main Street.

description: The Stewart house in later years with LaSells out front.

PHOTO #3: current

The Stewart House

1807 East Main Street

Cottage Grove, Oregon

photographer: David Voss

date: July, 1993

negative: author

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LaSells Stewart House, Cottage Grove, OR
Section number Photographs Page 2

view: Looking southeast from the northwest corner of Gateway Boulevard and East Main Street.

description: Street level view from across the street.

PHOTO #4: current

The Stewart House

1807 East Main Street

Cottage Grove, Oregon

photographer: David Voss

date: July, 1993

negative: author

view: Looking south from East Main Street.

description: Facade.

PHOTO #5: current

The Stewart House

1807 East Main Street

Cottage Grove, Oregon

photographer: David Voss

date: July, 1993

negative: author

view: Looking southwest from East Main Street.

description: Facade / east elevation.

PHOTO #6: current

The Stewart House

1807 East Main Street

Cottage Grove, Oregon

photographer: David Voss

date: July, 1993

negative: author

view: Looking northeast from South 18th Street.

description: Rear and west elevations.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LaSells Stewart House, Cottage Grove, OR

Section number Photographs Page 3

PHOTO #7: current

The Stewart House

1807 East Main Street

Cottage Grove, Oregon

photographer: David Voss

date: July, 1993

negative: author

view: Looking southeast from cement walk.

description: West side porch.

PHOTO #8: current

The Stewart House

1807 East Main Street

Cottage Grove, Oregon

photographer: David Voss

date: July, 1993

negative: author

view: Looking north from rear entrance toward front door.

description: Central first floor waiting room.

PHOTO #9: current

The Stewart House

1807 East Main Street

Cottage Grove, Oregon

photographer: David Voss

date: July, 1993

negative: author

view: Looking southwest from fireplace area.

description: Rear entrance and reception area.

PHOTO #10: current

The Stewart House

1807 East Main Street

Cottage Grove, Oregon

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LaSells Stewart House, Cottage Grove, OR
Section number Photographs Page 4

photographer: David Voss
date: July, 1993
negative: author
view: Looking east from top of the stairway.
description: Central second floor hallway and office entrances.

PHOTO #11: historic

Jessie and LaSells Stewart with his crew at camp

Nesmith Station

Row River Valley, Oregon.

photographer: Unknown.

date: circa 1911

negative: author

view: Unknown.

description: Stewart is second from right, sitting on log. Jessie is standing immediately behind him.

PHOTO #12: historic

Stewart and helper surveying a new road

Rujada / Disston Area

Row River Valley, Oregon.

photographer: Unknown.

date: circa 1913

negative: author

view: Unknown.

description: Stewart is on the right. This is probably the Upton Road.

PHOTO #13: historic

The Stewarts at their company house

Rujada

Row River Valley, Oregon.

photographer: Unknown.

date: circa 1915

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LaSells Stewart House, Cottage Grove, OR

Section number Photographs Page 5

negative: author

view: Unknown.

description: LaSells, Jessie, Faye and Dorothy.

PHOTO #14: historic

Logging boss Stewart with donkey and "Goose" car
probably Row River Valley, Oregon.

photographer: Unknown.

date: circa 1917

negative: author

view: Unknown.

description: Photo caption probably should read "Bohemia Lumber Co."

PHOTO #15: historic

The "Galloping Goose" in action
probably Row River Valley, Oregon.

photographer: Unknown.

date: Unknown

negative: author

view: Unknown.

description: Note railroad grade.

PHOTO #16: historic

Stewart at his headquarters
Bohemia mill
Culp Creek, Oregon.

photographer: Unknown.

date: circa 1940

negative: author

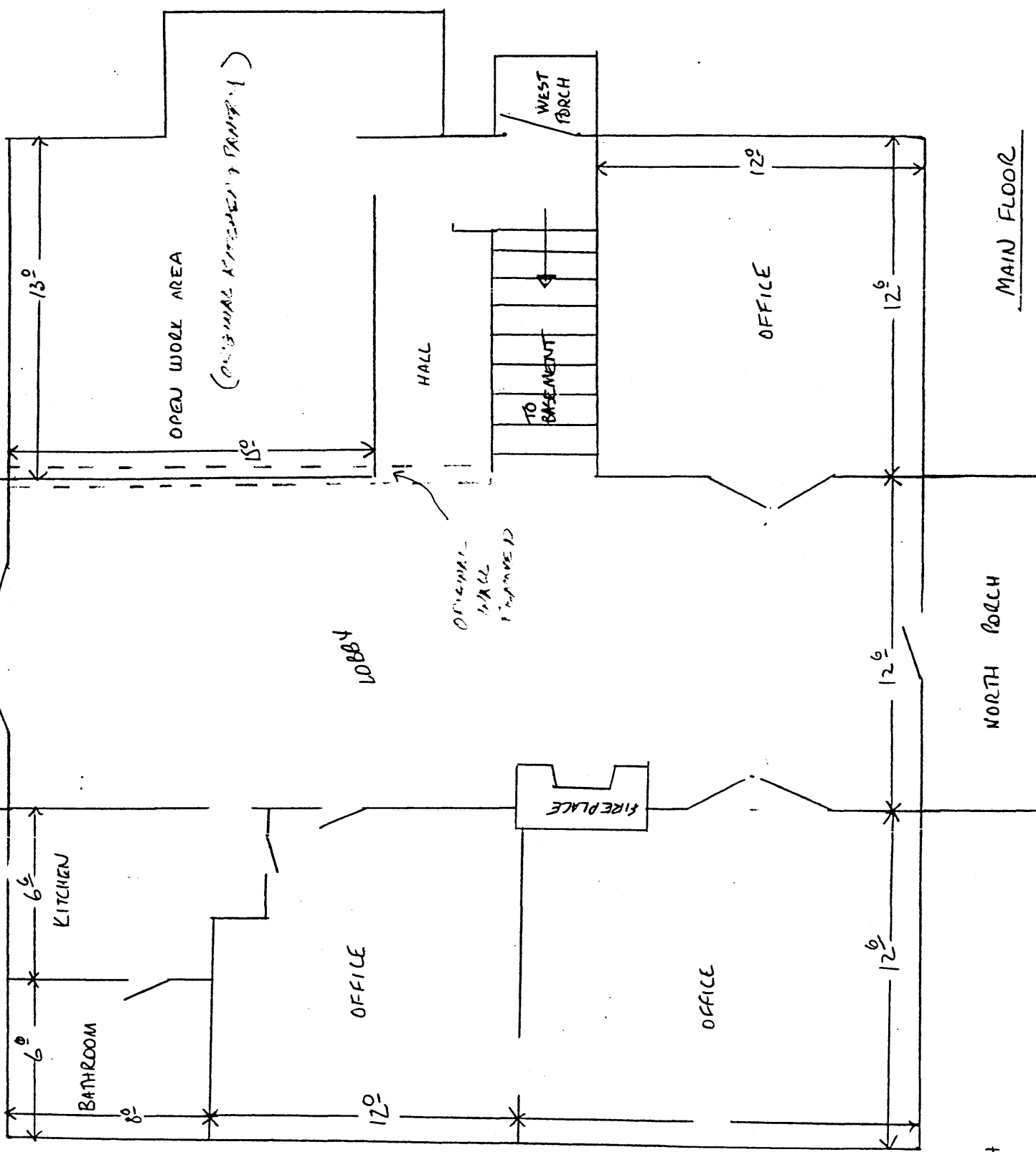
view: Unknown.

description:

1807 E. MAIN
COTTAGE GROVE, OR

LABELED STEAMER HOUSE

SOUTH PORCH
(ENTRANCE)



OPEN WORK AREA
(ORIGINAL KITCHEN & PANTRY)

HALL

TO
BASEMENT

WEST
PORCH

ORIGINAL
HALL
REMOVED

LOBBY

FIRE PLACE

OFFICE

OFFICE

OFFICE

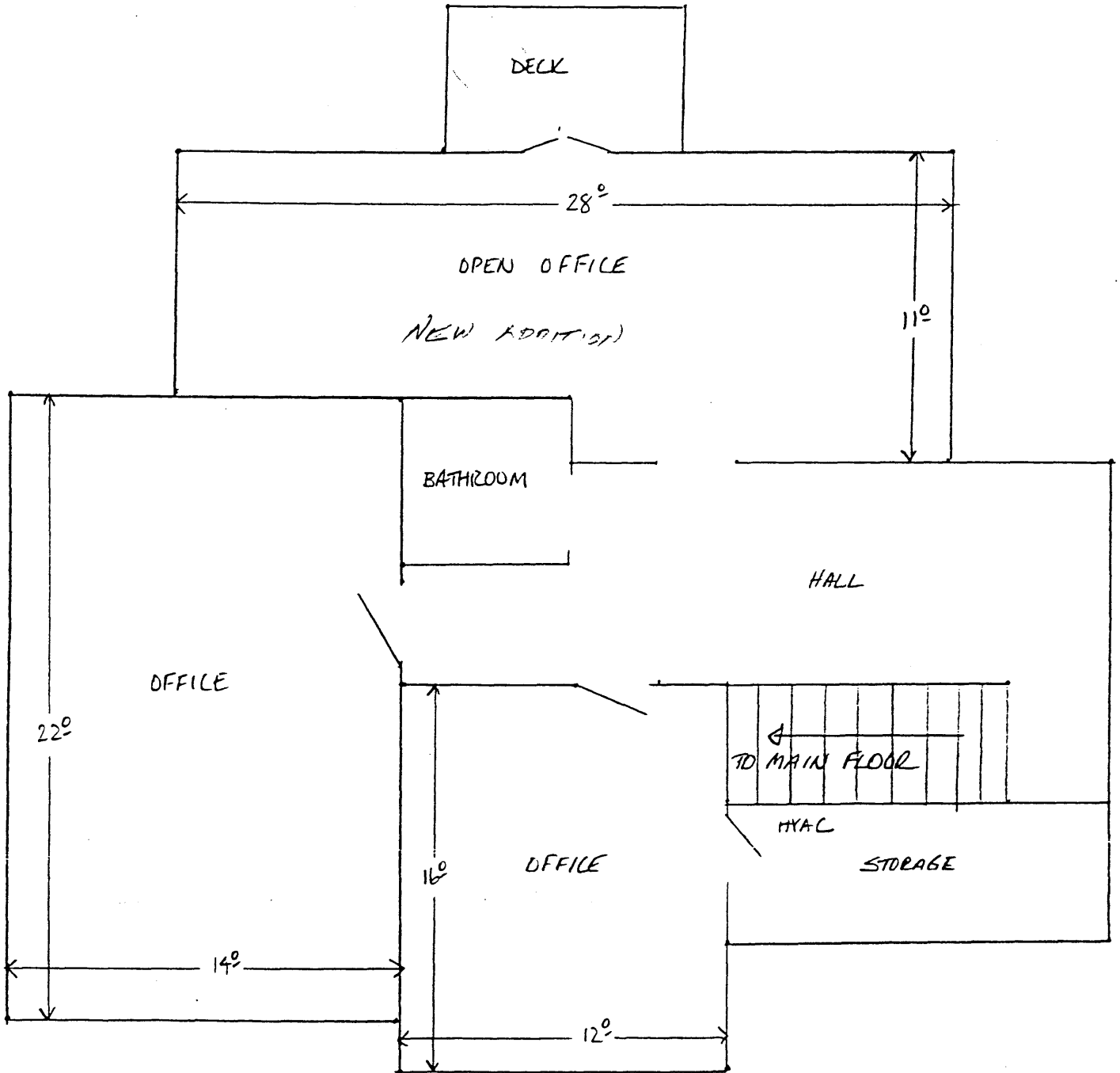
NORTH
↑

NORTH PORCH

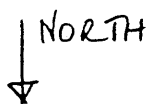
MAIN FLOOR

STEWART, LASSELLS HOUSE

1807 E MAIN
COTTAGE GROVE, OR

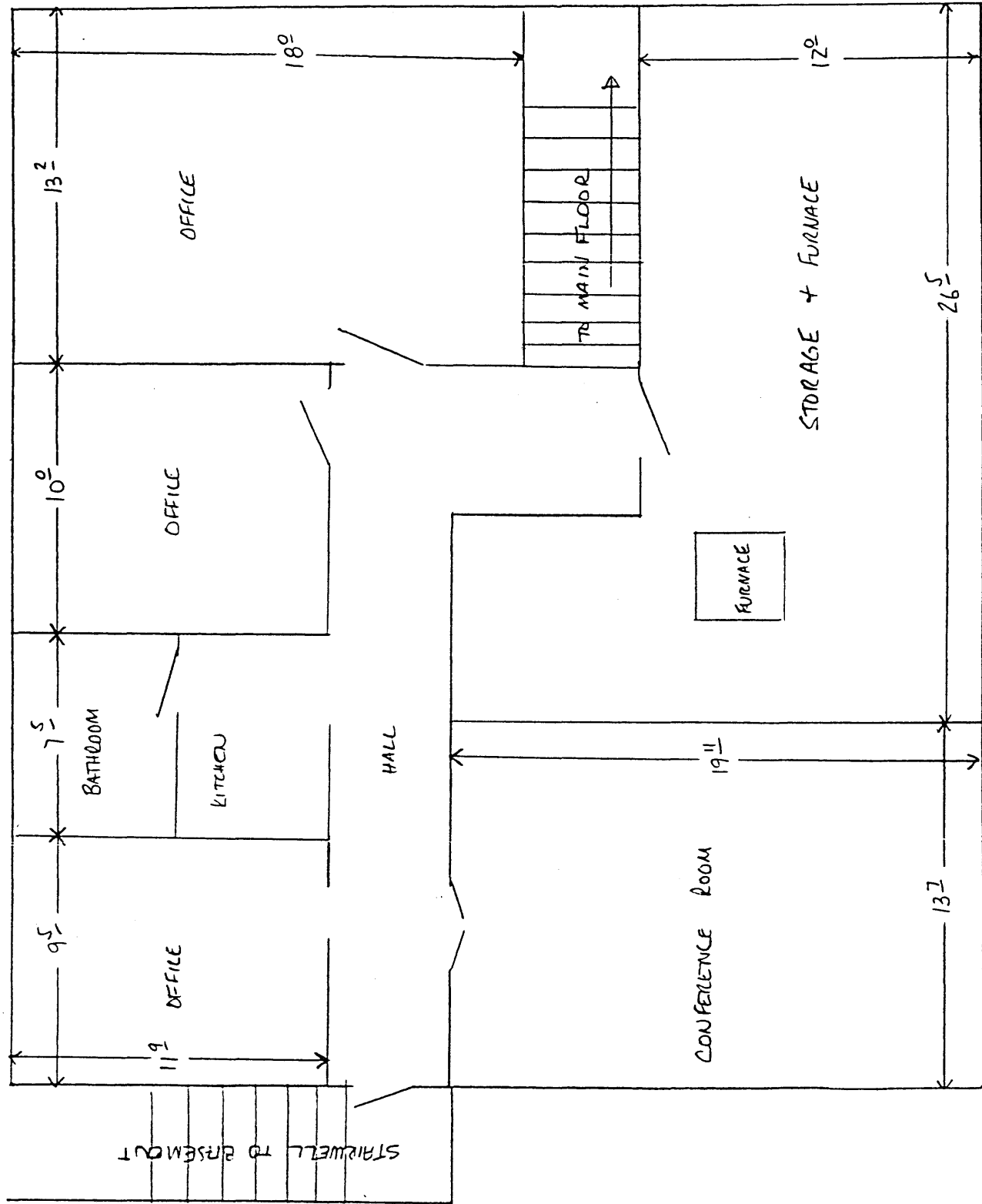


SECOND FLOOR



1807 E MAIN
COTTAGE GROVE, OR

STEWART, LA SONS HOME



BASEMENT

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM
COUNTY: LANE

LaSells

HIST. NAME: ~~LaSalle~~ Stewart
COMMON NAME: Gateway Prof. Center
ADDRESS: 1807 E. Main
CITY: Cottage Grove
OWNER:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: -1916-- 1927
ORIGINAL USE: Residence
PRESENT USE: Offices
ARCHITECT:
BUILDER:
THEME: 20th Cent.. Architecture
STYLE: Bungalow

TIR/S 200327
MAP NO.: 20032733 TAX LOT: 1501
ADDITION:
BLOCK: LOT: QUAD: NW

(BLDG) STRUC. DIST. SITE OBJ.
RANKING: High

PLAN TYPE / SHAPE: Rectangle
NO. OF STORIES: 1
FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Poured concrete
BASEMENT (Y / N): Y
ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: Jerkinhead/composition shingles
WALL CONSTRUCTION: Frame
PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: 4:1 double hung wood, vertical muntins

EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIAL: Clapboard
DECORATIVE FEATURES: Boxed eaves; beveled glass on all front windows; iron front and side porch rails (very nice, not original); turned tuscan columns on front porch.

CONDITION: GOOD_x FAIR POOR MOVED: (DATE):

EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS / ADDITIONS: Huge 2nd story dormer on rear (S) w/ balcony; rear porch and French doors; basement entrance railing.

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: Retaining wall (poured concrete - original) on W and N. Old orchard @ SE corner; yews and Rhododendrons.

ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: None

KNOWN ARCHEOLOGICAL FEATURES: UNKNOWN

SETTING: Faces N on SE corner of Main and Gateway Blvd.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
C.G. Historical Society has "historic" photo.

SOURCES:

NEGATIVE NO.: HH-32
SLIDE NO.:

RECORDED BY: TFN;KJG
DATE: 4/2/92
SHPO INVENTORY NO.:

**OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM - TWO**

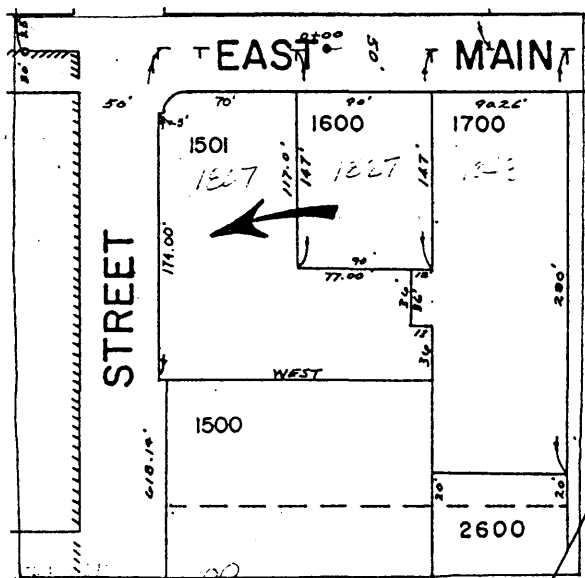
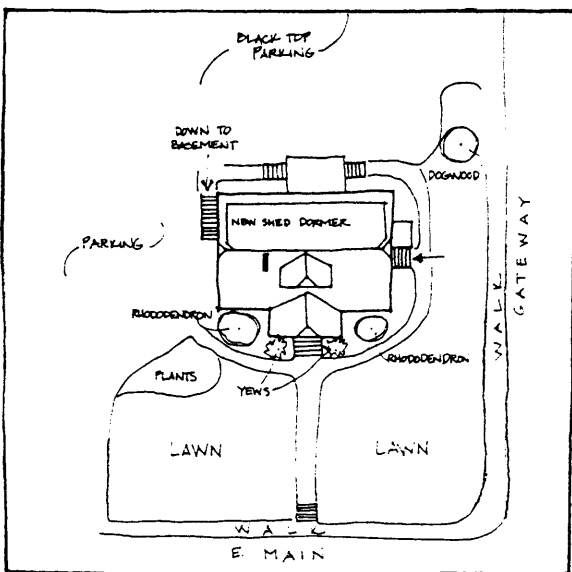
NAME:
ADDRESS: 1807 E. Main Street
Cottage Grove, Oregon 97424

TIRIS: 200327
MAP NO.: /33 **TAX LOT:** 1501
QUADRANGLE: NW



NEGATIVE NO.: HH-32

SLIDE NO.:



GRAPHIC & PHOTO SOURCES:

SHPO INVENTORY NO.:

