

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

MAR 15

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places 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 Foskett, Dr. Wilson, Home and Drugstore

other names/site number

### 2. Location

street & number West side of River Road N/A not for publication

city or town White Bird N/A vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Idaho code 049 zip code 83554

### 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.)

Susan P. Neitzel 3/11/2005  
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
 SUSAN P. NEITZEL, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or 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 this 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:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
S.P. Neitzel 4/26/05

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Foskett, Dr. Wilson, Home and Drugstore  
Name of Property

White Bird, Idaho, Idaho  
City, County, and State

**5. Classification**

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

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

**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	
<u>2</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>2</u>		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**

0

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/multiple dwelling  
HEALTH CARE/medical business/office  
COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

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

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne  
  
 Other: One-part commercial block  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation WOOD  
 walls WOOD: weatherboard  
 Roof METAL: tin  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Foskett, Dr. Wilson, Home and Drugstore  
Name of Property

White Bird, Idaho, Idaho  
City, County, and State

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all 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.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

### 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  Other State agency
- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Health/Medicine

Commerce

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Period of Significance

1902-1942

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Significant Dates

1902

1924, 1926

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Foskett, Dr. Wilson

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Architect/Builder

Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

#### Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository:

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Foskett, Dr. Wilson Home and Drugstore  
Name of Property

White Bird, Idaho, Idaho  
City, County, and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1 / 1 5/5/4/4/2/0 5/0/6/7/6/3/5 B 1 / 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1/1  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 1 / 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1/1 D 1 / 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1/1

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lot 8, Block G, Fenn's Addition, White Bird, Idaho.

\_\_ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the property historically associated with the joined buildings.

\_\_ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Suzanne Julin  
organization Suzanne Julin, Public Historian date June 1, 2004  
street & number 500 Hartman, #F telephone 406-544-8606  
city or town Missoula state MT zip code 59802

### 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/or 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

name Joseph James Wisenor  
street & number PO Box 64 telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town White Bird state ID zip code 83554

**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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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Name of Property Foskett, Dr. Wilson, Home and Drugstore

County and State White Bird, Idaho County, Idaho

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## Narrative Description

The Dr. Wilson Foskett Home and Drugstore are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A, association with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of our history, and under Criterion B, association with lives of persons significant in our past. This unusual combination of two buildings represents the combination of home, medical facility, and commercial enterprise during the period of significance, 1902 to 1942. The Dr. Wilson Foskett Home and Drugstore illustrates significant elements of the history of the community of White Bird, the Salmon River country of Idaho, and the American West.

The Dr. Wilson Foskett Home and Drugstore is in White Bird, Idaho, a village of about 100 people in Idaho County, at the southern end of the Idaho panhandle. White Bird is located in a narrow mountain canyon drained by White Bird Creek, which empties into the Salmon River about a mile south of the town. The house was built in 1902, and an addition to the rear was added between 1914 and 1918. The drugstore was probably constructed between 1910 and 1914, about seventy feet to the south. In about 1926, the drugstore was moved to sit immediately adjacent to the house, and a passage was cut between the two buildings.

The joined buildings are situated to the north of White Bird's commercial section. The buildings face east, and are bordered on the east by a graveled city street, with residences located immediately across the street. To the immediate south is a vacant lot that was part of the original property. To the west, the property rises gradually until it meets a steep section of the canyon wall. To the north, the property rises to an elevated plateau that has been supplemented by recent additions of dirt fill. City buildings and a residential area lie to the north of the property's boundary.

The drugstore and house are immediately adjacent to each other, with the house section on the north and attached to the drugstore at about the rear third of that building. The drugstore's roof has been slightly altered to accommodate the house. The east-facing façade presents the fronts of the joined drugstore and home. The buildings exhibit weathered wood siding with traces of trim paint remaining. The rectangular, one-story drugstore building is to the south and measures about twenty feet by forty feet. Its storefront retains many of the original elements, including a double door entrance centered between two sets of three panels of fixed windows. Two rectangular panels filled in with diagonal strips of wood appear below the window panels. Each of the window panels holds three windows in original wooden surrounds; the original glass remains, although two of the panes are damaged and one has been replaced with wood. The doors retain three of four original glass panels; the fourth is boarded. A large, square window over the double doors has been filled in with wood. Four knee-brace type supports hold a wooden canopy roof at an angle, and shakes cover its wood slats. This canopy is damaged in some places, and the shakes are in poor condition. Hardware at the sides of the building indicate that a fabric canopy was once used in addition to the wooden canopy. A false front rises over the canopy roof. The roof of the building is covered in corrugated metal roofing, covering the original shakes.

To the north, the façade of the original house is recessed from the façade of the drugstore. The house is vernacular, Late Victorian with some Queen Anne accents. The main section of the house is a one-and-a-half story, sixteen foot by fourteen foot rectangle; a twelve foot by sixteen foot, one-story, lean-to wing extends to the north. A porch wraps the façade and north side of the house, its hipped roof abutting the lean-to. The porch's wood floor is sagging and has deteriorated in some areas. Three of the original turned porch posts remain in

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place, and another has been removed but is stored at the site. The main entrance door has been replaced, but the screen door is original. To the south of the door, paired rectangular one-over-one, double-hung sash windows appear. Another set of paired windows appears in the second-story gable end; a modern vent has been installed in the peak of the front gable formed by the steeply pitched roof. The house's wood siding is marked by plugged holes created by insulation installation. The lean-to features a former door that opened onto the porch but is now boarded up. One rectangular, one-over-one window appears to the north of the door. The porch and house roof are covered in corrugated metal roofing that conceals the original shakes.

On the north elevation of the house, one square window appears in the second story at the intersection of the lean-to. The north elevation of the lean-to exhibits two square windows that probably date to a 1940s renovation. Between these windows, a boarded-over area indicates the existence of an original, nearly full-length rectangular window. To the west of the lean-to section is an L-shaped addition, added between 1914 and 1918. A recessed area exhibits one door and one square window, probably installed in the 1940s. Traces of an original door exist. A protruding end-gabled section holds a woodshed that is deteriorating at the foundation. A door and gable window or storage opening are missing; any original surrounds are also missing. The steeply pitched roof matches the design of the original house roof.

The west elevation presents the side of the woodshed, which has no windows. A projecting section immediately south of the woodshed, that holds the washroom and pantry, features a steeply pitched, gabled roof and one square window that is boarded over. Paired windows appear on the first-floor level of the house proper. A boarded door opening is centered on the second floor, indicating that a porch may have existed on this end of the house at one time. An off-center, modern metal vent has been installed in the gable, and a modern outdoor light extends from the gable peak. A television antenna appears on the roof. The west façade of the drugstore section exhibits a pitched roof with a small square window in the gable, now filled with tin. Small vents appear on each side. A door appears on the southern end.

The south elevation of the house shows one square window under the eaves near where the buildings join. Sliding rectangular windows in deteriorated surrounds are on the first-floor level. A door that appears to be original appears at the corner where the sections of the two buildings meet. Centered in this part of the façade is one square window in a very simple wooden surround, probably an addition to the original building. The south elevation of the drugstore reveals several telephone insulators and insulation holes on the north section. An apparent rectangular window at the center has been boarded. Two other rectangular windows are paired in simple surrounds. Brick chimneys project from the peaks of the drugstore and house roofs.

The interior of the house has been remodeled, but reveals many original elements. The front door of the house leads directly into the living room. Modern paneling has been installed on the walls and the ceiling has been lowered, but the original woodwork remains. To the south is a wide opening leading to the drugstore building; the entrance to the kitchen is at the west end of the living room. The kitchen cupboards and stove probably date to the 1930s. A new stainless-steel sink has been set in to the original sink location. The walls in the kitchen are covered with linoleum and oilcloth. To the north of the kitchen are a bathroom and bedroom that occupy the one-story, lean-to section of the house. The stairs to the second floor originally led directly up from the kitchen, but now lead off the small area outside the bathroom. The washroom is west of the kitchen, and the woodshed and a large pantry area are west of the laundry.

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County and State White Bird, Idaho County, Idaho

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The landing at the top of the stairway holds the chimney and a space used as a bedroom. An arched entry into an adjoining bedroom was probably added in the 1940s. A third, larger bedroom occupies the front of the second-floor section, and is accessed by a hallway. The original stairway landing now holds a shower. The second floor features hardwood floors, original woodwork, and wallpaper probably dating from the 1930s or 1940s. The ceilings are sloped.

The drugstore section was originally one rectangular space, but has been divided into three sections by the addition of plywood partitions. The front section retains the original high ceiling. A small plywood enclosure has been added in the southwest corner. Painted oilcloth, probably dating from the 1930s, still covers the walls. The middle section also retains the high ceiling. Insulation covered with black plastic has been placed on the new partition. The final section has a lowered ceiling and paneling installed on the walls. The entrance to the house is in this section.

### Summary

The Dr. Wilson Foskett Home and Drugstore retains a high degree of integrity. The drugstore represents an early twentieth-century commercial structure; its storefront is almost completely original, as are the house's windows and porch. The addition to the house was constructed during the period of significance, and indicate a natural expansion of a home holding a growing family. The drugstore and house were joined during the period of significance and illustrate the Foskett family's need to adapt to living and financial circumstances following the doctor's death. Together, the home and drugstore represent the career and family life of a pioneer doctor in the American West.

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County and State White Bird, Idaho County, Idaho

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The Dr. Wilson Foskett Home and Drugstore is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A, as a property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, and Criterion B, as a property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. The home and drugstore, originally separate buildings but now joined, illustrate the importance of a dedicated physician to the health and welfare of a sparsely populated, widespread mountain community. The joined buildings also illuminate the demands made upon the family of a pioneer physician. Finally, the home and drugstore represent the career of Dr. Wilson Foskett, who cared for families in this Salmon River country for twenty-six years, often under difficult circumstances. The development of this property and its transitions within the period of significance, 1902-1942, make it significant under the categories of Health/Medicine, Commerce, and Social History.

The Dr. Wilson Foskett Home and Drugstore is in White Bird, Idaho, a village of about 100 people in Idaho County, at the southern end of the Idaho panhandle. White Bird is located in a narrow mountain canyon drained by White Bird Creek, which empties into the Salmon River about a mile south of the town. The canyon enjoys a particularly mild climate, with warm temperatures and little snowfall characterizing its winters. The area saw non-Indian settlement beginning in the 1860s after gold was discovered in nearby mountains. White Bird's post office opened in 1890, and a flurry of commercial development followed. By 1915, the town's population had reached about 400, and it served as a trade center for the surrounding area.<sup>1</sup>

**Wilson Foskett and Family**

Wilson Abner Foskett became one of White Bird's most prominent citizens and an important figure in the Salmon River valley. Born in Warsaw, New York in 1870, Foskett attended Rush Medical School in Chicago. He graduated in 1897 and came West shortly afterwards, stopping briefly in Butte, Montana. By 1899, he was practicing in White Bird. He boarded at a White Bird hotel operated by Francis and Mary Margaret Taylor. There the doctor met Loris Taylor, the hotel-keepers' daughter, who was twelve years his junior and a talented violinist.<sup>2</sup>

Loris Taylor and Wilson Foskett married at her parents' home on the first Sunday in November 1902. The newspaper article announcing their wedding described it as an "impressive marriage ceremony" and noted that the groom was "the popular and successful physician of that town, but . . . well-known all over the county, where he has hosts of friends." The article said that the couple would move into "the beautiful new home just completed."<sup>3</sup> A photograph taken about two years later shows the couple in front of that home on Lot 8, Block G of Fenn's Addition. Wilson and Loris Foskett stand by the property's picket fence with their first child, Lawrence, who was born in 1903. Two other children followed: Erna was born in 1907, and Andy in 1912.<sup>4</sup>



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## Dr. Wilson Foskett as a Pioneer Physician

For a time, Dr. Foskett saw patients in an office in his home, and at one point had an office in a separate building north of the house. About 1914, he built a drugstore about seventy feet south of his home. A small room at the rear of the drugstore, which has been removed, served as an office and examining room. A skylight provided illumination, and his children sometimes scaled the exterior of the structure and watched their father examining patients. In order to provide medications to his patients, Dr. Foskett became certified as a pharmacist and compounded his own prescriptions. Loris Foskett operated the drugstore and also assisted her husband in the care of his patients who came to White Bird to receive his services.<sup>5</sup>

For the most part, however, Dr. Foskett practiced medicine outside the town as a matter of necessity. He faced situations familiar to medical practitioners in other isolated areas of the American West in the early twentieth century. The sparse populations of widespread areas lived at significant distances from medical care. In cases of accident, sudden illness, or childbirth, a long trip to the doctor's office by horseback or wagon over rough roads was out of the question; instead, a physician went to those who needed his services. Dr. Foskett's patients were on far-flung ranches and in small communities in the surrounding mountains and the Salmon River valley. He rode horseback to call on them, and several ranchers kept a spare horse for him so that he could change to a fresh mount as necessary. In the dark, he traveled by the light of a lantern made from a tin can and a candle. These trips could be dangerous; one night his horse slipped and threw him over a bluff, but the new raincoat he was wearing caught on a bush. His fall broken, he was able to climb back up the bluff and retrieve his horse.<sup>6</sup>

Dr. Foskett's patients were dependent on his ability and his willingness to reach them when he was needed. He cared for one woman through the birth of six children in her ranch home; the woman did not come into White Bird for fifteen years and relied upon the doctor coming to her. The doctor was resourceful about conducting his practice under unusual circumstances. One anecdote about Foskett says he rode horseback thirty-two miles to treat a bachelor rancher with a bowel obstruction who lived in a cabin with no windows. In order to have enough light to perform surgery, the doctor instructed a neighbor to cut a hole in the roof. Foskett remained for a day to monitor the recovery of the patient, who survived and never filled in the hastily cut skylight. Foskett's wife remembered his encountering a man on the trail during a snowstorm; the man was suffering from a tooth abscess, and the doctor pulled the tooth while the patient sat on a rock with the snow whirling around him.<sup>7</sup> As a physician, Wilson Foskett did what he could under the circumstances at hand to serve the populace of the region.

Dr. Foskett expected his wife and children to share in his dedication to his patients. The family's social life, confined primarily to church activities, was often disrupted when the doctor was called out on a case. Ranchers strung telephones from their properties into the Foskett's drugstore, giving area residents greater ability to reach the physician, and a local switchboard was also installed. Once the doctor was available by telephone, his family could not sit down to a meal together because someone needed to be on the switchboard. His daughter later wrote that she "believed we had the worst kept house in the country because the whole family had to sacrifice to save lives. Our home was totally devoted to that cause and it wasn't easy for any of us."<sup>8</sup>

By the early 1920s, the development of the economical automobile began to affect the way rural patients and their physicians interacted. Doctors could reach patients and hospitals more quickly and more comfortably. People who considered the care they received from their local practitioner inadequate could travel to other areas and consult with doctors they considered more skilled or experienced.<sup>9</sup> One study of rural medicine suggests that the car "changed rural medicine almost as much as Robert Lister's antiseptic surgery."<sup>10</sup>

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This transition acquired particular significance in the history of Dr. Foskett's career. Travel in the rugged Salmon River region had always been an issue for him and his patients. Wilson Foskett was not an experienced horseman when he came to the West, but necessity made him one. He became a skilled rider and developed a deep appreciation for good horses and their ability to take him where he needed to go. However, the availability of cars and the development of automobile roads in the area helped convince him--rather reluctantly--that travel by modern transportation would be more efficient and convenient than his normal horseback or horse and buggy travel. After acquiring a car, he began taking his teen-aged daughter, Erna, on calls with him, perhaps preparing her to follow him in his medical career.<sup>11</sup>

When Foskett was called out on Sunday, April 13, 1924, however, he left Erna behind because she had to go to school the next morning. He drove to the Louis Reeves ranch at the fork of Squaw and Papoose creeks near Riggins, Idaho. The Reeves' daughter, Mrs. Lark Alkire, was in labor that was probably premature, because the infant girl he delivered weighed only three pounds. After a long night, the doctor began the drive back to White Bird. He stopped briefly in the village of Lucile, where a relative of the Alkire family urged him to eat breakfast and rest before continuing home. Concerned about other patients and not wanting to alarm his wife by his tardiness, the doctor declined.<sup>12</sup>

Loris Foskett began to worry when her husband did not return as soon as she had expected, and she asked the driver of the mail stage to watch for him. Within a short time, the driver spotted evidence of an accident at the edge of the Salmon River in a box canyon near Slate Creek. Dr. Foskett's body was located at about 10:30 AM on April 14 on a bank of the river. His car had gone off a high embankment and plunged into the Salmon; he was thrown from the automobile before it entered the deep water. News reports concluded that he had fallen asleep at the wheel.<sup>13</sup> Two days later, hundreds of people traveled by car, buggy, and horseback to attend Wilson Foskett's funeral. A newspaper report said they had come "to view, for the last time, the remains of the physician who had attended every family in the valley during the past 26 years of his residence in Whitebird."<sup>14</sup> Two weeks later, a local newspaper published an announcement headed, "Wanted—Doctor for Whitebird; Apply at Once." Area residents needed to locate a physician to replace Dr. Foskett, the article said; the nearest doctor was at Grangeville, twenty miles away.<sup>15</sup> Wilson Foskett's death left a serious vacuum in this Salmon River region.

**Dr. Wilson Foskett Home and Drugstore**

The configuration of buildings comprising the Dr. Wilson Foskett Home and Drugstore presents an illustration of the history of the career and family of its owner. According to Sanborn Maps and a photograph taken about 1904, the original house was rectangular, with a one-story, lean-to extension on the north side. Between 1914 and 1918, an addition to the west, holding the washroom, pantry, and woodshed, was added.<sup>16</sup> The drugstore, a rectangular building with a rear extension that has been removed, was originally located to the south of the house. The joining of these two buildings was a direct result of Dr. Foskett's fatal car accident.

Wilson Foskett's death created a particular crisis in his family. Loris Foskett was widowed at 42. Erna and Andy were in high school, and Lawrence was in college at the University of Idaho. Dr. Foskett's practice had never been financially lucrative; particularly in the early days, many of his patients had paid him in produce, meat, wood, and hay, rather than cash. The distraught widow needed to support herself and her children. Mrs. Foskett was not qualified to continue to provide prescriptions, but she converted the drugstore to a confectionary and soda fountain and sold sundries. Thus, the Foskett drugstore became a commercial enterprise, rather than one

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developed primarily to support a medical practice. As the children grew up and left home, Mrs. Foskett supplemented her income by taking in boarders, particularly the town's schoolteachers. About two years after the doctor's death, in an attempt to make her life easier, family members moved the drugstore building to a location immediately adjacent to the house. They cut a wide entrance between the house's living room and the mid-section of the drugstore, allowing Loris Foskett to have immediate access to both her home and her business. In 1929, she married Fred Otto, one of her boarders, and he helped her remodel elements of the interior of the house so that it could better serve as a boardinghouse.<sup>17</sup>

About 1942, Loris Foskett Otto sold the house and drugstore to the Barritt family, and she and her husband moved to Spokane, Washington. The Barritts utilized both the house and the attached building as a residence; the commercial use of the structure ended. After the 2004 death of the last member of the Barritt family to live in the house, the property was acquired by Joseph James Wisenor of White Bird, and is now vacant.<sup>18</sup>

**Summary of Significance**

The Dr. Wilson Foskett Home and Drugstore is significant under Criterion A because of its illumination of the importance of the practice of medicine in an isolated mountain region in the early twentieth-century American West and its representation of the family life of a pioneer physician. The modest home was considered an imposing one in this setting, and it first served as the doctor's office as well as his residence. The drugstore provided Dr. Foskett's patients with easily accessible medications as well as a center of communication with him. His family's involvement in operating the drugstore and in manning the telephones that alerted him to medical emergencies illustrates the dedication a doctor and his family employed in order to serve a large, sparsely populated, and rugged section of Idaho. The joined buildings represent the family sacrifices inherent in a rural commercial enterprise. The Doctor's income was supplemented by the drugstore business his wife operated, and after his death, the buildings were joined to help her support herself and her family more easily. The property is significant under Criterion B because of its association with Dr. Foskett, who for twenty-six years served as the only physician for this section of the Salmon River country, and whose care of his patients has reached almost legendary status among area residents. Although few of them were born before he died, many still speak respectfully of "Doc" Foskett.<sup>19</sup>

**Criteria Consideration B:****Property is removed from its original location**

The drugstore portion of the building was originally located approximately 70 feet south of his home. After his death, Dr. Foskett's wife had the store moved forward and attached to the house, to make it easier for her to run the store and her household. This move occurred within the period of significance and reflects a significant element of the property's history: the changing nature of the store from pharmacy to general store and soda fountain. The building's integrity of design, materials, workmanship and association are not changed. The integrity of setting and location are only slightly changed, but are essentially the same. The property's integrity of feeling is perhaps the most affected by the move, as the store went from a free-standing structure, to one that is now physically connected to a house. Again, this change would not render the property ineligible, as it embodies the significant fact of the widow Foskett's altered life after her husband's death, and represents a significant portion of the life of both structures.

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County and State White Bird, Idaho County, Idaho

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## Endnotes

1. Sr. M. Alfreda Elsensohn, OSB, *Pioneer Days in Idaho County*, Volume I (Cottonwood, Idaho: The Idaho Corporation of Benedictine Sisters, 1947; 1965 edition), p. 38, 265-276.
2. Erna Foskett Bentz, "Wilson Abner Foskett, Country Doctor," unpublished manuscript provided by Virginia Bentz Adkison, Grangeville, Idaho; "100 Years Ago, November 17, 1899" unidentified newspaper article provided by Virginia Bentz Adkison; "Early-Day Country Doctor Aided Salmon River," in *Folks* column, unidentified newspaper clipping, provided by Virginia Bentz Adkison; "Salmon River Claims Foskett," *Cottonwood Chronicle*, April 18, 1924.
3. "Foskett-Taylor Nuptials," *Grangeville News*, November 8, 1902.
4. Photograph provided by Virginia Bentz Adkison, Grangeville, Idaho.
5. "Early-Day Country Doctor Aided Salmon River;" Interview with Virginia Bentz Adkison, April 25, 2004; White Bird Sanborn Map, 1914; Erna Foskett Bentz, "Wilson Abner Foskett," and Erna Ruth Foskett Bentz, "Memories of Loris Foskett," unpublished manuscripts provided by Virginia Bentz Adkison, Grangeville, Idaho. Information provided by Virginia Bentz Adkison, Grangeville, Idaho, and Erna Foskett Bentz, White Bird, Idaho, June 4, 2004.
6. Ward B. Studt, M. D., Jerold G. Sorensen, Beverly Burge, *Medicine in the Intermountain West: A History of Health Care in Rural Areas of the West* (Salt Lake City: Olympus Publishing Company, 1976), p. 54-55; "Early-Day Country Doctor Aided Salmon River," Erna Foskett Bentz, "Wilson Abner Foskett."
7. Loyal Rice, "Sheep and Hardhats," unpublished manuscript provided by Virginia Bentz Adkison, Grangeville, Idaho; Erna Foskett Bentz, "Wilson Abner Foskett, Country Doctor;" *Snake River*, p. 217; "Early Day Country Doctor Aided Salmon River."
8. Erna Foskett Bentz, "Wilson Abner Foskett, Country Doctor."
9. Studt, Sorensen, and Burge, *Medicine in the Intermountain West*, p. 57-58.
10. *Ibid.*, 53.
11. Interview with Virginia Bentz Adkison, April 25, 2004; Erna Foskett Bentz, "Wilson Abner Foskett."
12. Kreetha B. Alkire to Editor, *Lewiston Morning Tribune*, May 17, 1990; Loyal Rice, "Sheep and Hardhats."
13. "Early Day Country Doctor Aided Salmon River;" "Salmon River Claims Foskett," *Cottonwood Chronicle*, April 18, 1924; "Whitebird Man is Auto Victim," unidentified newspaper clipping provided by Virginia Bentz Adkison, Grangeville, Idaho.
14. "Attend Funeral: Hundreds Honor Memory of Late Physician," reprinted in Hardin's Market, *The Rustler*, June 19, 1962, provided by Virginia Adkison, Grangeville, Idaho.

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15. "Wanted: Doctor for Whitebird; Apply at Once," *Idaho County Free Press*, May 1, 1924.
16. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, White Bird, Idaho, (Sanborn Map Company, 1914, 1918); Photograph provided by Virginia Bentz Adkison.
17. "Whitebird Man Is Auto Victim;" Erna Foskett Bentz, "Wilson Abner Foskett, Country Doctor;" Interview with Virginia Bentz Adkison, April 25, 2004.
18. Interview with Virginia Bentz Adkison, April 25, 2004; Idaho Residential Property Record and assessment records, Idaho County Treasurer's Office, Grangeville, Idaho.
19. In the course of researching this property, the preparer found that the site was still referred to by many local people as "Doc Foskett's place," and that area residents and officials were very familiar with the doctor's reputation and his story.

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- "Attend Funeral: Hundreds Honor Memory of Late Physician." Reprinted in Hardin's Market, *The Rustler*, June 19, 1962.
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- "Foskett-Taylor Nuptials." *Grangeville (Idaho) News*, November 8, 1902.
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- "100 Years Ago, November 17, 1899." Unidentified newspaper article. In possession of Virginia Bentz Adkison, Grangeville, Idaho.
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Sanborn Map Company. Sanborn Maps, White Bird, Idaho, 1914, 1918, 1918. Corrected 1929.

Studt, Ward B., M.D., Jerold G. Sorensen and Beverly Burge. *Medicine in the Intermountain West: A History of Health Care in Rural Areas of the West*. Salt Lake City: Olympus Publishing Company, 1976.

"Wanted: Doctor for Whitebird; Apply at Once." *Idaho County Free Press*, May 1, 1924.

"Whitebird man is Auto Victim." Unidentified newspaper article. In possession of Virginia Bentz Adkison, Grangeville, Idaho.

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County and State White Bird, Idaho County, Idaho

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### Photographic Documentation:

Dr. Wilson Foskett Home and Drugstore  
White Bird, Idaho County, Idaho  
All photos taken by Suzanne Julin  
April, 2004  
Original negatives on file at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

- Photo #1 of 5: View looking north
- Photo #2 of 5: View looking west
- Photo #3 of 5: View looking southwest
- Photo #4 of 5: View looking northwest
- Photo #5 of 5: View looking east



1-4/29-90-17/45

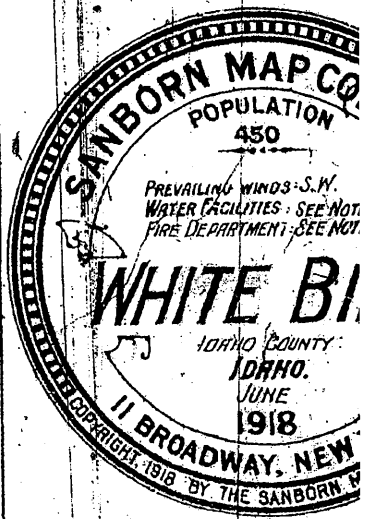
# Foskett, Wilson Home and Drugstore White Bird, Idaho, Idaho

**WATER FAC:**- WHITE BIRD LIGHT & POWER CO. (PRIVATE OWNERSHIP). WATER TAKEN FROM WHITE BIRD CREEK AT A DAM LOCATED 1/2 MILE N.E. OF P.O. & ELEV. 50' BY BUSINESS SECTION. THRU A 24" WOOD STAVE PIPE. NO HYDS. ABOUT 3000' 24" WOOD STAVE PIPE Laid IN 1918 PRESSURE ABOUT 30 LBS.

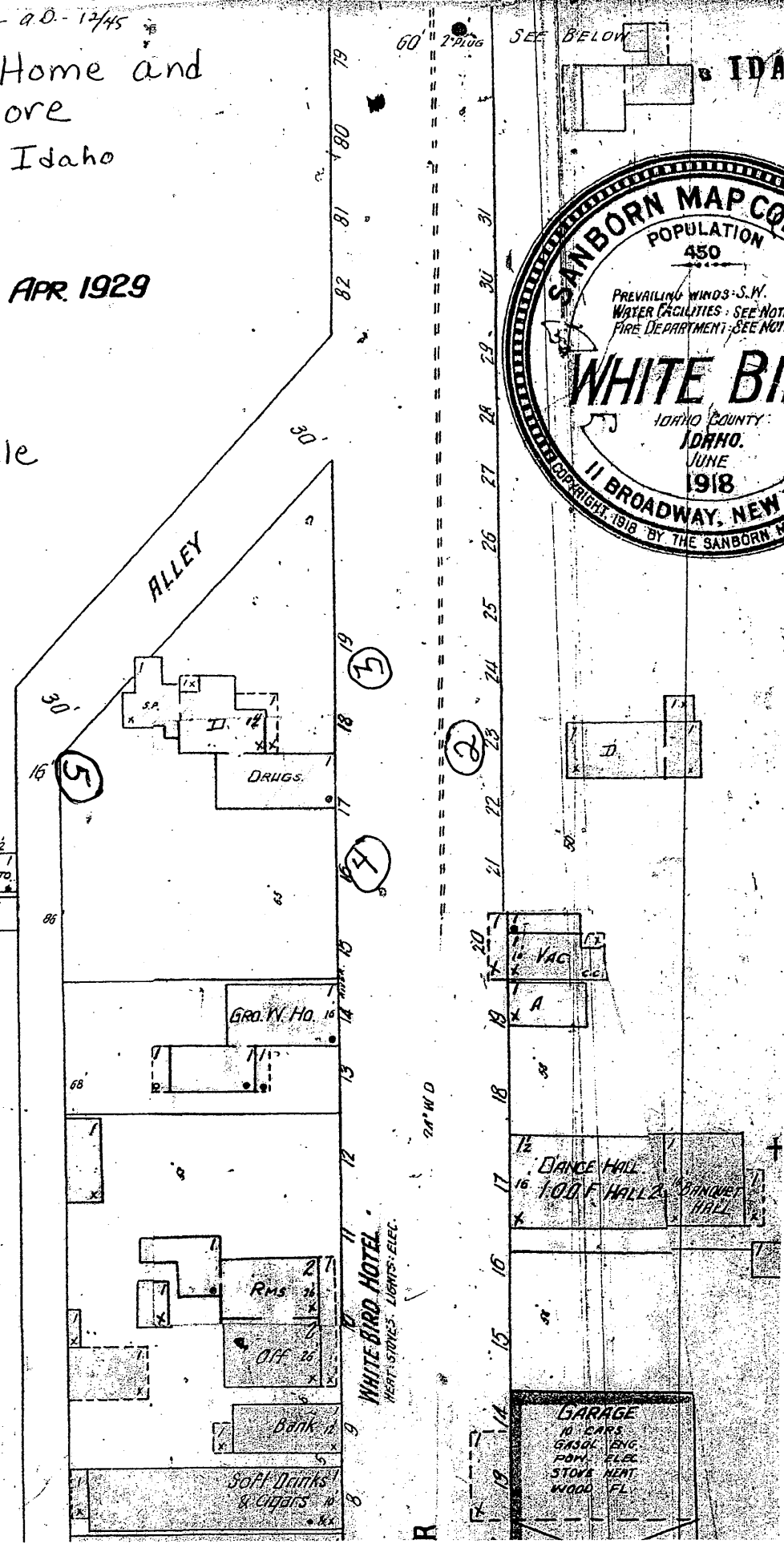
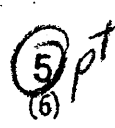
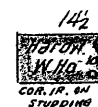
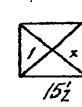
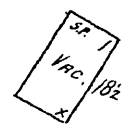
**FIRE DEPT:**- NONE. NO HOSE OR APPS. TOWN PRACTICALLY LEVEL. STREETS: UNPAVED. LIGHTS: ELEC.

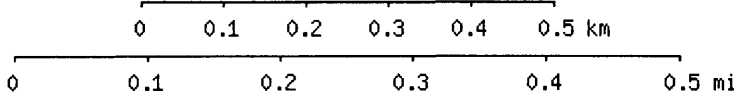
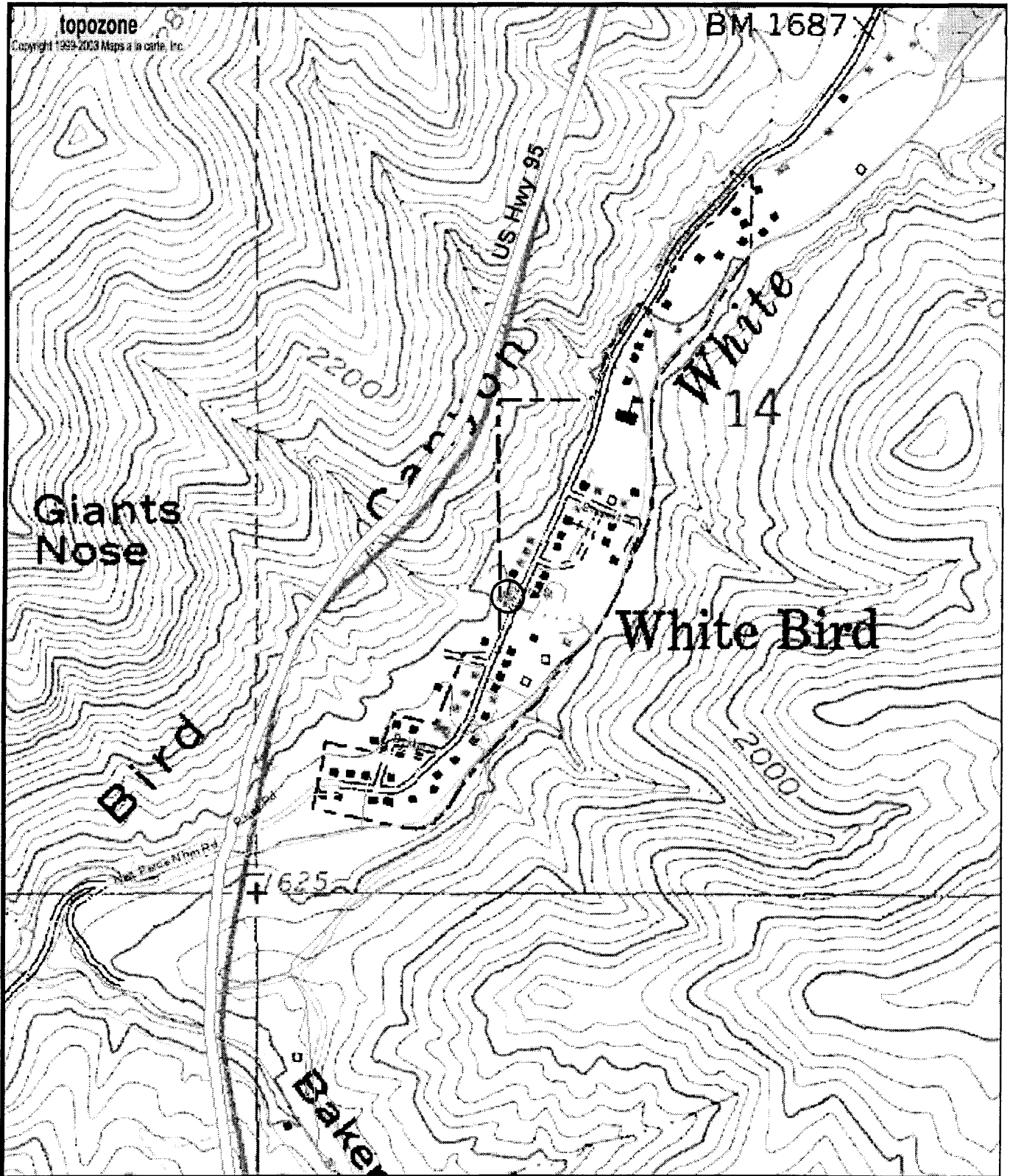
**CORR. APR. 1929**

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Not to Scale



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Map center is UTM 11 554420E 5067635N (NAD27)  
**White Bird** quadrangle - Elevation 1,594.6 ft / 486.0 m (USGS NED)  
 Projection is UTM Zone 11 NAD83 Datum

