

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 30 1975
DATE ENTERED OCT 29 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

King (Isaac) House and Barn

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Philomath

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First - Rep. Wendall Wyatt

STATE

Oregon

CODE

41

COUNTY

Benton

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Norman Chambers

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1

CITY, TOWN

Philomath

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oregon 97370

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Benton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Corvallis

Oregon 97730

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE

1970

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Oregon State Highway Division

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Oregon 97310

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Isaac King House and Barn are situated in the heart of King's Valley in Benton County, one-eighth of a mile off State Highway 223. The house is attributed to William M. Pitman, a local carpenter-builder who was responsible for the construction of several distinctive houses in the area, and it is thought to have been built between 1850 and 1856. Detailed in the Classical Revival style, the one and a half story house faces south and is rectangular in plan, measuring about 25 x 45 feet.

The high-pitched shingled gable roof has a boxed cornice with returns and a 12 inch frieze. Siding is five inch weather boards with plain corner boards. The distinctive architrave cornice detail that eliminated the need for pilaster caps is similar to the neighboring James Watson House also attributed to Pitman. The bed and cymatium moldings are a handsome cyma-recta shape. The King house, like the Watson house, is of box or plank construction with "feathering," a 1/2 by 1 1/2 inch strip driven down grooves between the 1 7/8 inch thick planks. The sills are hewn 12 inches square. The windows have slightly projecting lintels, plain sides, and lugsills. The original double-hung sash contained six lights over six, though the lower sash now contains a single pane of glass. Some of the windows have been altered.

A centered chimney straddles the roof ridge. There are two more recent chimneys at the east end, one straddling the ridge inside the wall, and one outside the wall which penetrates the north gable cornice. There is also a one-story addition at the east end of the house. It has a gabled roof of lesser slope than that on the main part of the house, and has had an ell added to the south side of it. The addition has weatherboard siding and a box cornice of smaller scale than that on the main part of the house. There is a recessed porch on the north side of the addition. The existing porch on the main part of the house, which runs along the south and west sides, is an addition dating from 1926. It replaced an earlier Palladian type, the pilasters of which remain on the facade. The interior, including built-in cabinetry, is intact. The house is currently unoccupied.

The Isaac King Barn was built in the late 1840s and is one of the oldest extant barns in the state. It is a rare, side drive thru, single lean-to type, and has a heavy hand hewn frame. Partitions have been added along with corresponding windows, and a layer of horizontal siding. Despite these alterations the barn remains intact structurally and shows no sign of deterioration.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Isaac King house, designed and built by William Pitman, is representative of the quality of early architecture in Oregon. Only one other house attributed to Pitman is extant, that being the James Watson house, also in King's Valley.

Isaac King was born in Madison County, Ohio in 1819, one of nine children. In 1845 the King family, headed by Nahum King, for whom King's Valley is named, left St. Joseph, Missouri in a train of 64 wagons bound for Oregon. The Kings were persuaded to take Meek's Cutoff, a proposed alternative route through the high desert country of Eastern Oregon. This party, which has since become known as the "lost" wagon train spent a great deal of time lost and looking for water, and suffered much hardship and grief. Isaac's brother John and his family had died previously while crossing the plains, and his married sister, Mrs. Rowland Chambers, died before the survivors of this ill-fated train straggled into The Dalles in the fall of 1845. Gold was discovered somewhere along the route and the Chambers Leadsbove, the location of which is known, is one of the landmarks associated with the legendary "Lost Blue Bucket Mine," the search for which continues to this day.

The family wintered at Lafayette, and after extensive exploration of the new country, decided to settle with a number of others in an unclaimed valley on a loop of the Luckiamute River northwest of Marysville (now Corvallis). Land was marked off in Donation Land Claim sections and lots drawn to determine who would receive which parcel. Only Rowland Chambers, a miller, was allowed to select his land to meet his site requirements. The first three land ownership entries in Benton County records are Nahum King, James Watson, and Isaac King. Many of the original settlers were interrelated by blood or marriage, and Nahum King came to be regarded as the valley patriarch. Isaac King was married to Almeda J. on March of 1847. Isaac King began farming in 1845-46. The Isaac King Farm was one of the earliest in Benton County and the King family was well known for early cattle breeding. The barn, the largest of the farming related structures, still survives. John Ridgeway, Isaac King, and James Watson built many barns in the area possibly including the Isaac King Barn.¹

William M. Pitman was born in Hamilton County, Ohio January 12, 1827, and at the age of 13 began an apprenticeship in the carpenter's trade, which occupation he followed along with farming most of his life. In 1851 Pitman started to cross the plains to California but on arrival in Salt Lake City

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fagan, David D., History of Benton County, Oregon (Portland: A. G. Walling, 1885) pp. 324, 325, 287, 524.

Corning, Howard McKinley, Dictionary of Oregon History, (Portland: Binforde and Mort, 1956), p. 134.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 0	4 6 6 0 7 5	4 9 4 6 1 0 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paul B. Hartwig/D. W. Powers III/ Gregg Olson, State Historic Preservation Staff

ORGANIZATION

Oregon State Highway Division

DATE

August 13, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

State Highway Building

TELEPHONE

(503) 378-6118

CITY OR TOWN

Salem

STATE

Oregon 97310

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

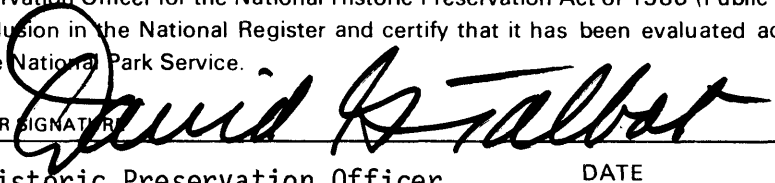
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL XX

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 10/29/75

ATTEST:



DATE 10/21/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED	SEP 30 1975
DATE ENTERED	OCT 28 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

KING (ISAAC) HOUSE AND BARN

2. Location (continued)

The Isaac King house is located in the SW 1/4 Sec. 28, T. 10S., R. 6. W. of the Willamette Meridian, in Benton County, Oregon.

8. Significance (continued)

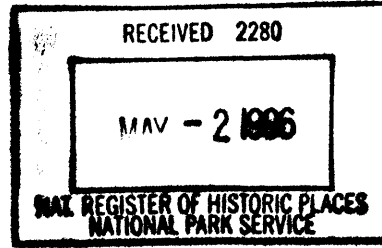
altered his course for Oregon and in May of that year took up residence in Benton County. He lived in King's Valley, constructing several houses, until 1871 at which time he moved to Corvallis where he built a sash and door factory in 1874. Pitman is credited with having sawn the first plank of lumber in Benton County at the mill of Hartless & Matzger in 1851.

1. Interview with Professor Philip Dole, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Space, Style, and Structure, "Farmhouses and Barns of the Willamette Valley," Philip Dole.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional 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: King, Isaac House and Barn (NRIS #75001579)

other names/site number: Chambers House

1. Location

street & number adjacent to 37963 State Route 223 not for publication N/A
city or town Philomath vicinity X
state Oregon code OR county Benton code 003
zip code 97370

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (X See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Handwritten Signature]

Signature of certifying official Deputy SHPO Date April 22, 1996

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 3 Page 1

KING, ISAAC, HOUSE AND BARN (c. 1855)

37963 Highway 223

Philomath vicinity, Benton County, Oregon

NRIS #75001579

Listing date: 10-29-75

COMMENTS OF THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

The Isaac King House and Barn of about 1855 in rural Benton County was listed in the National Register with a setting of five acres in 1975. Because the National Register application relating to this property is among those in need of updating to reflect substantial change in condition, and because no precise boundary description was provided in the initial application, the property became the object of a re-documentation project under auspices of the University of Oregon graduate program in historic preservation.

This documentation is submitted to the Keeper of the National Register for acceptance as "Additional Documentation" for the listing record. Ownership of the property remains unchanged from the time of listing in 1975. With the consent of the owner, Norman Chambers, the present documentation was carried out to provide: 1) current photographs illustrating the rapidly deteriorating state of the house, 2) concise descriptions of the house and barn, and 3) a precise boundary description for the five-acre listed area. Despite the diminishing structural coherence of the house, the State Historic Preservation Office did not recommend removal from listings when the matter was duly scheduled for review by the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation on February 15, 1996. Since the barn is intact and the house is yet capable of conveying something of the quality of its materials and exceptional workmanship, its removal will not be called for unless or until those qualities are irretrievably lost. The State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation determined unanimously that the property continues to meet criteria of the National Register.

Located on one of the earliest donation land claims in Benton County, at the heart of Kings Valley, the Isaac King House originally was listed in the National Register under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a fine, intact example of farmhouse design in the Classic Revival style by the outstanding Benton County carpenter-builder, William M. Pitman. The King House and the house of neighboring land claimant James Watson, also built by Pitman, represent the

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Continuation Sheet**Section number 3 Page 2

resourcefulness of skilled carpenters in applying Classic Revival principles and vocabulary on the frontier. The house has not been occupied in the last 40 years. Notwithstanding the grievous state of its deterioration, the house still has the capacity to provide information about construction materials, techniques, and surface finishes of the Territorial period.

As originally constructed about 1855, the King House was a one and a half story farmhouse of feathered box, or plank construction in which the primary material is Douglas fir and the framing system is hand-hewn. It measures 28 x 44 feet in ground plan and rests on a fieldstone foundation. The long axis of the end gable plan runs west to east, with the principal entry in the west end. It is clad with horizontal weatherboards. Under shelter of the original Classical portico, the facade was not weatherboarded but embellished with battens and Doric pilasters. This treatment and the boxed cornice with returns, the 20-inch wide, unadorned frieze boards, and bilateral symmetry of exterior elevations generally, are hallmarks of the Classic Revival style. The King House is one of only five examples of the style remaining in Benton County.

Today, the entire south half of the roof has failed, and the resulting exposure to wet climate has caused sections of floor and walls to weaken and settle in turn. Nevertheless, intact elements of the interior, such as original four-panel doors, built-in cabinetry, and simple, well-crafted trim, attest to the quality of workmanship. The main entry gives into a south front parlor, which is balanced on the north side by a parlor bed chamber and enclosed stairhall. The chimney, which straddled the roof ridge near the center of the house, originally vented a double fireplace which served the parlor and the living room behind it. The chimneypiece was modified as a single fireplace for the living room. Most of the alterations were carried out about 1926. They included replacing the original portico, which had an upper deck and railing, with a verandah having tapered square columns and weatherboard railing to encircle north, west and south sides of the house. Six-over-six double-hung windows were replaced with one-over-one assemblies, and an attachment was added to the east gable end.

Student-preparer Paul Falsetto provides a valuable description of the structural and enclosure systems of the house, and he points out that examples of the painstaking feathering technique in box construction of Oregon's Territorial period are now rarely to be seen. William Pitman was apprenticed as a carpenter in his native Ohio and emigrated to Oregon in 1851. By 1875, he was operating a sash and door factory in Corvallis.

The names of Isaac King and his father, Nahum, are noted in the annals of overland migration, as father and son who were, with their neighbor James Watson, the original land claimants in Benton County. They were in one of the early wagon trains of Oregon Trail immigrants, having

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 3 Page 3

crossed in 1845 and followed the ill-chosen Meek Cut-off on which their party suffered fatality and privation before arriving at The Dalles.

The Isaac King barn was erected around the same time as the house as a timber-frame, side-opening, four-bay threshing barn. It has been remodeled as a dairy barn, but its hewn frame is still visible in the loft. The barn is located at a remove to the south. It is oriented with its long axis north to south, at a right angle to the main axis of the house.

A boundary for 5.05 acres of the farmstead nucleus [550 x 400 feet] has been described to *exclude* a modern residence northeasterly of the house but to encompass the assumed site of the land claimant's original log pen immediately east of the house. Also included in the listed area, in addition to the house and barn, are the historic apple and pear orchards immediately to the south and east of the house, respectively. The nominated area as now defined encompasses seven non-historic, non-contributing outbuildings serving as a poultry house, granary, milkhouse, storage and loafing sheds, a small animal barn, and a hay barn.

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): _____

Additional Documentation Accepted

Edson A. Beall 6.3.96
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u>7</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
_____	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE storage

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub: _____
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19th CENTURY/Greek Revival
(Classical Revival)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
roof shingle
walls weatherboard

other brick
wood

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

X See continuation sheets

8. Statement of Significance

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

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance CA. 1855

Significant Dates CA. 1855

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Pitman, William M.

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

See continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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: University of Oregon, Eugene

Oregon State University, Corvallis

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property five acres, more or less (5.05) Corvallis, Oregon 1:62500

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing
<u>10</u>	<u>466,150</u>	<u>4,946,100</u>

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 Paul M. Falsetto

organization _____

date 9/22/95

street & number 2154 w. 16th way telephone (503) 342-5498

city or town Eugene state OR zip code 97402

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Norman Chambers

street & number _____ telephone (503)754-9523

city or town _____ state OR zip code _____

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

King, Issac House
Benton County, Oregon

7. Description

Summary

The Isaac King House, located in the heart of King's Valley in Benton County, is a one-and-a-half story wood plank farmhouse built circa 1855. The house exhibits pioneer building techniques in the Classical Revival style, popular in Oregon in the 1850s and 1860s, that predated readily available standard materials. The ingenuity of pioneer architect/builder William Pitman is evident in the design and layout of the house and its Classically inspired detailing. Rectangular in plan at approximately 28 x 44 feet in dimension, the King House is oriented with its gables facing east and west. It employs the box construction technique using feathered 2" thick Douglas Fir planks. Foundation sills, floor beams and girders are all hand-hewn, and roof sheathing is waney-edged. The 12" x 12" hand-hewn sills rest on a fieldstone foundation and are notched to accept the fir wall planks. The siding is horizontal weatherboard, with the exception found on the main facade, where beveled battens are used in conjunction with the structural plank wall. The rather steep pitch of the gable shingled roof is unusual for Classical Revival houses, and was done probably to allow for more generous second story rooms. The roof is defined by a boxed cornice with eave returns and a twenty inch frieze board.

The Isaac King House expresses integrity in terms of design, setting, workmanship, and feeling. It is one of only five Classical Revival houses left in Benton County, though unfortunately it is in very poor physical condition due to neglect and weather. The south-facing half of the roof has failed, and the ensuing water damage has caused walls and floors to sink. The interior contains intact elements, such as original doors and built-in cabinetry, but in general is in poor condition. The house has been unoccupied for at least forty years.

Located within the nominated site are two other contributing resources, namely the Isaac King barn and a pear and apple orchard. The Barn as originally constructed is a timber-frame, side-opening, four-bay threshing barn probably constructed in the 1850's. The orchard is best represented by an exceptionally large Pear tree located to the east of the King House.

The seven non-contributing buildings include a poultry house, a granary, a milkhouse, an unidentified building currently used for storage, a loafing shed, a small animal barn, and a hay barn. These buildings are considered non-contributing because they were not present during the period of significance and do not relate to the documented significance of the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

King, Issac House
Benton County, Oregon

Site

The complete property is a portion of Isaac King's original Donation Land Claim and contains 228.5 acres. It is located one-eighth of a mile east off of State Route 223 (King's Valley Highway), approximately one-tenth mile south of the intersection of Hoskin's Road and King's Valley Highway. The surrounding countryside's low, rolling hills with stands of second and third growth Douglas Fir supports farming and cattle grazing. The property itself is zoned Exclusive Farm Use, and today is employed^{no} mainly in the raising of cattle. The nominated property is an area of less than five acres, and includes the King House, a barn, two orchards and seven non-contributing buildings^s. The house is the second residence on this site, replacing a log house that was sited immediately to the east. Located to the north is the modern house, built in the 1940s. The pear orchard is located to the east of the King House, and the apple orchard to the south.

King House Structural and Enclosure Systems

The foundation is comprised of dry set fieldstones that support 12" x 12" hand-hewn sills. Spanning the narrow dimension of the house on the first floor are 2" x 8" rough sawn joists placed 24" on center, as well as four 10" x 10" hand hewn floor beams. Two of these beams are located under the east and west walls, with the remaining two located approximately 16'-0" from each of these walls. Both joists and beams fit into a notched 12" x 12" hand-hewn girder. The girders are located under the east-west partition walls. The flooring is 1" thick tongue and groove, with widths ranging from 6-1/4" to 7-1/2". The second floor construction system is similar to the first floor in configuration, with 2" x 8" rough sawn joists placed 24" on center, but this time using four 8" x 8" hewn beams aligned over the 10" x 10" first floor beams. The 2" x 8" joists are not continuous, and are notched where they rest upon the east-west partition walls. This floor is also covered with a tongue and groove decking. Ceiling joists for the second floor are of two types: 2" x 8"s for the east bedroom and 3" x 4"s for the west bedroom, with only a single 2" x 8". This discrepancy possibly suggests that the builders ran out of standard joists by the time they began framing the west bedroom.

The feathered box construction method employs Douglas Fir planks of 1-13/16" to 2" thicknesses and widths averaging around 11", tightly joined with 1" x 1/2" splines. These planks are capped on the eave ends with a notched 1-1/2" x 5-1/2" top plate. Corner joints are made by butting the

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plank walls. On the gables ends, most of the planks end at the first floor height except for a few that are used as nailers for the siding and frieze board. The exterior cladding is 6" horizontal weatherboard with a 4-1/2" exposure, except on a portion of the main facade where board and beveled batten is used. The weatherboard is placed over 1/2" thick furring strips, and butts the 6" wide corner boards. The cornice is a defining feature of the exterior, and sits atop a twenty inch frieze board. Both the crown and bed molding use cyma recta curves of almost equal height.

The roof is constructed of 3" x 4" rough sawn rafters at a 12:12 pitch, meeting at the peak with no ridge board. Each rafter is placed in line with a joist, and are sheathed with 1" thick waney-edged boards. Cedar shingles complete the roofing system.

Exterior

The King House contains many prevalent elements characteristic of the Classical Revival style, including building shape, proportion, a bilateral symmetrical facade and exterior woodwork detail. All of these characteristics find expression on the main facade. On that facade the upstairs window is located in the middle of the gable, directly over the front door. The lower two windows are symmetrically situated on each side of the front door. Two 8-1/2" wide pilasters are placed three feet in from each corner. In-between these pilasters is where the structural plank wall is exposed, the seams covered with beveled battens. The capitals of the pilasters are built up out of layers of hand cut molding that incorporates modified cyma reversa curves.

The current shed-roofed verandah and its weatherboarded railing runs the length of the north, west and south elevations, and dates from ca. 1926. The west elevation porch roof is supported by four constructed square columns with a slight taper, the outside two placed in alignment with the pilasters. The original porch on the west elevation supported a roof with square, classical columns that matched the pilasters. The roof was flat, providing a balcony for the second story west bedroom. Cutouts for the handrails are still evident in the eave returns, as is the patch that transformed the second story door into a window.

Due to alterations dating from about the 1920s, fenestration is no longer symmetrical on the north and south elevations. Windows are now mostly one-over-one double hung sash, with typical finished openings measuring 2'-9" x 6'-0", and set in simple board architraves. The windows of

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the middle room on the north elevation are doubled, and appear to have been lowered at the time the ceiling height was reduced. The window configurations for this house were originally six-over-six double hung sash, with 1-1/4" stile, 2" bottom rail and 10" x 16" lights.

The main chimney straddles the ridge of the roof, very near the center of the house. Since the fireplaces were placed south of the ridge, the chimney slants north until it meets the ridge. A second, hung chimney that vented the kitchen stove was also centered on the ridge, located approximately three feet from the east gable. The Classical Revival style's demand for symmetry influenced this chimney's placement directly in front of the upstairs east bedroom's window, itself placed in the center of the gable. A third, more recent chimney was placed outside of the house and attached to the east gable end, just north of the back door.

Interior

The entry door on the main facade opens directly into the parlor. The parlor is square in plan and maintains its original window opening sizes and locations. It provides direct access to the parlor bedroom, which mimics the parlor with its square plan and is located at the northwest corner of the house. The stairhall immediately to the east of the parlor bedroom allows access to both the parlor and the middle room. The living room is located east of the parlor and is connected by a doorway. Two back-to-back fireplaces once served the living room and the parlor. A bedroom, now converted into a bathroom, is located to the east of the living room. The house's kitchen is found in its northeast corner, and connects to both the living room and middle room.

The interior woodwork is simple in its detail, yet elegantly crafted and very much characteristic of 1850s Classic Revival. The interior walls are vertical, splined plank partitions. These walls, along with the inner face of the exterior plank walls and the ceiling were hand-planed and painted. Eleven inch baseboards and a beveled room cornice adorn each room. Three doors, located between the parlor and stairhall, the stairhall and middle bedroom, and the middle bedroom and kitchen, are original and still include their 5-part hinge hardware. They are unmoulded four-panel doors with a raised inner panel. In both the parlor and the middle bedroom are located cupboards, each 20" deep, 6'-0" high by 4'-6" wide, complete with beveled molding. The doors for the parlor cupboard express their intent for public display by their four-panel construction, while the more private

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middle bedroom cupboard doors are only two-paneled.

The boxed staircase begins its accent with two winders before meeting a door, constructed of two vertical panels complete with rimlock and white porcelain knob. Beyond the door the stairs continue up, making a quarter-turn through the use of 4 winders. It terminates in a short hallway bounded to the south by the location of the fireplace chimney. The upstairs consists of the east and west bedrooms. Interior walls and ceiling are covered with a 3/4" thick tongue and groove board with widths ranging from 8-1/2" to 9-1/2". The east bedroom still has its original door, as does its closet. The west bedroom has maintained only its two closet doors. One of these closets was referred to at one time as a "secret room", and provides access to the chimney and back of the fireplace.

Alterations

The East elevation is missing its distinctive eave detail and return. A one story addition was relocated to this elevation ca. 1927. This addition, which appears to date from the later part of the 19th century, has horizontal drop siding and a box cornice of a smaller scale than the main house. It itself has been added onto at the south, as well as receiving a recessed porch on its north side. The north, west and east porches of the house are alterations that date from ca. 1926.

The original double fireplace was altered through the removal of the parlor fireplace and hearth. The chimney was rebuilt with the removed brick from the parlor fireplace.

As previously mentioned, all original six-over-six windows have been replaced, mostly with one-over-one sashes. The living room's window was replaced with a 6' x 4'-7" picture window. It appears that the living room door, which opens onto the south-facing verandah, was originally a window. The kitchen also had its original window replaced with a picture window, 3' x 5' in size. The middle room's single window was converted into two side-by-side one-over-one windows. Their openings were lower, probably at the same time the ceiling height was lowered in the 1920s

The middle room, kitchen and living room have had fiberboard placed over their original plank walls to accommodate the installation of electrical services.

Condition

The King house is in an extremely deteriorated condition due to neglect, as its been unoccupied for at least forty years. The south-facing

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half of the roof has almost completely failed, and fallen through the second floor and down to the first floor. The ensuing water damage has caused the walls and first floor to sink, encouraging termite infestation. The north and south porch roofs have also collapsed.

The Issac King House could well be considered a Criterion D resource. It has the ability to yield important information on the building systems and Territorial life-style of Benton County, specifically in the areas of paints and surface finishes, construction processes and materials, and trim, cabinet, window and door work.

The Isaac King Barn

The 1850's timber-framed barn is four bays in length. The posts and tie beams or girts of each of the five bents are composed of hewn timbers with mortise and tenon joinery. The roof consists of rough sawn rafters, hewn longitudinal purlins, and waney-edged sheathing. A set of squared diagonals are tenoned into the upper surface of each bent and support the purlins. The rafters rest on a hewn plate. The timber-framed construction is still visible in the loft, even though the barn was remodeled in the 20th century, apparently to serve as a dairy barn. The original spatial organization of the barn has been altered to accommodate metal stanchions for dairy cows. Consistent with the recommendations for dairy barns in the early 20th century, windows were added to the barn for ventilation and a concrete floor replaced the original wood floor. The barn was also resided with a horizontal rabbeted siding which apparently covers the original vertical boards of varying length.

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8. Significance

The King House, built ca. 1855, meets National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as one of the five Classical Revival style farmhouses remaining in Benton County. These examples exhibit the resourcefulness and originality of Oregon pioneer-era carpenter/builders in their interpretation of this style without a readily accessible supply of building materials. The King House employed the method of feathered box construction that was common in the 1850s and 1860s and known both for its strength and durability as well as its economic use of materials.¹ The feathering technique required a great amount of skill in the working and fitting of the wood pieces. Existing historic houses of this construction type from the Territorial period are quite rare. The importance of the King House was recognized in 1975 when it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

A young Isaac King and his family were members of one of the earliest groups to cross the Oregon Trail, arriving in Oregon in 1845 from St. Joseph, Missouri. They took the ill-fated Meek's cutoff, a proposed shortcut that instead caused the party to get lost, with several family members dying as a result.² The King family, lead by father Nahum King, was one of the three initial families to settle in Benton County in the valley that bears their name. Isaac owned one of the first farms in Benton County, c.1846-47, and made early and important contributions to the development of farming and ranching in the County. In the fall of 1866, King died from a single gunshot wound. It was not conclusively determined if it was suicide, an accidental discharge or possibly even murder.³

The house passed to his wife Almeda King, and was eventually sold by court order in 1875, with the proceeds distributed amongst the 8 heirs. One of those heirs, Britton Wood, bought the house back in 1877. It stayed in the Wood family until 1899, when it was claimed by a mortgage company due to lack of payment. Lincoln Allen purchased the house in 1902, and under his ownership it was remodeled in the 1920s.⁴ The current owner is Norman Chambers, who gained the property through inheritance.

The King House is the work of pioneer architect/builder William Pitman, whose work was outstanding among that of his contemporaries for its quality, proportions, handwork and sophistication of layout. Born in Hamilton County, Ohio in 1827, Pitman apprenticed as a carpenter at the age of 13. In the spring of 1851 he headed west, spending time in Salt Lake City

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before finally settling in Benton County. In 1851 he sawed the county's first plank of lumber at the mill of Hartless and Matzger. After working for many years as a architect/builder, Pitman later moved to Corvallis, where he started a sash and door factory in 1875.⁵

Each of the known examples of Pitman's houses present a great variety of plans and forms. He designed and built the James Watson House in 1852, located nearby to the Isaac King House and the subject of a 1930s Historic American Building Survey recordation. The Watson House shares with the King House a Classical Revival style, feathered box construction, a large frieze board and the same choice of siding, but expresses quite a different floorplan. Pitman's other work in Benton County includes the Roland Chambers and Lucius Norton houses, as well as buildings for Fort Hoskins. In Polk County, Pitman designed and built the John Eakins Lyle house and the Polk County Courthouse.

The Isaac King barn is contemporaneous with the Isaac King House and is a good example of timber-framed barn construction. Timber-framed barns dating to the Pioneer era are becoming rare in Benton County. Although altered, the King barn exemplifies evolutionary changes which typically occurred in the 20th century when some farmers adapted pioneer era barns to more contemporary uses instead of building new structures.

1. Dole, Philip, Space, Style, and Structure: Building in Northwest America, ed. Thomas Vaughan. (Portland, Oregon: Oregon Historical Society, 1974), 98.
2. 1974 King (Issac) House and Barn National Register Nomination.
3. Wirfs, Charlotte L., " Back When in Benton County - Part 12: Issac King's Family," Benton Bulletin, 1 October 1980.
4. Boyce, Lois M., ed. Oregon Pioneer Remembrances - Vol.1: A Collection of Mark Phinney's W.P.A. Survey Records. (Portland, Oregon: Boyce-Wheeler Publishing, 1983), "Interview: Mr. & Mrs. Townsend".
5. Fagan, David D., History of Benton County. (Portland, Oregon: A.G. Walling, 1885), 442.

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Wirfs, Charlotte L. "Back When in Benton County - Part 12: Isaac King's Family," Benton Bulletin, 1 October 1980

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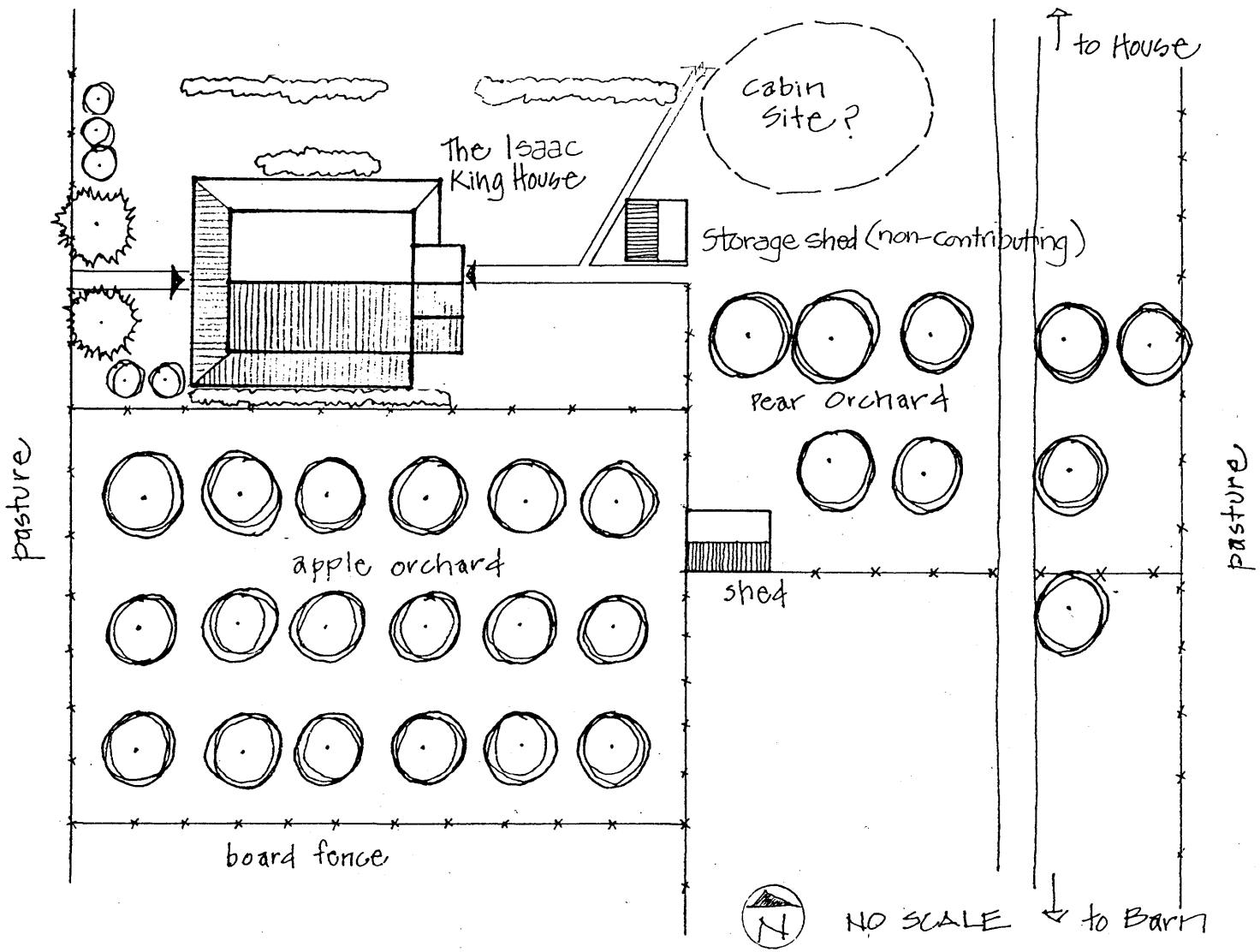
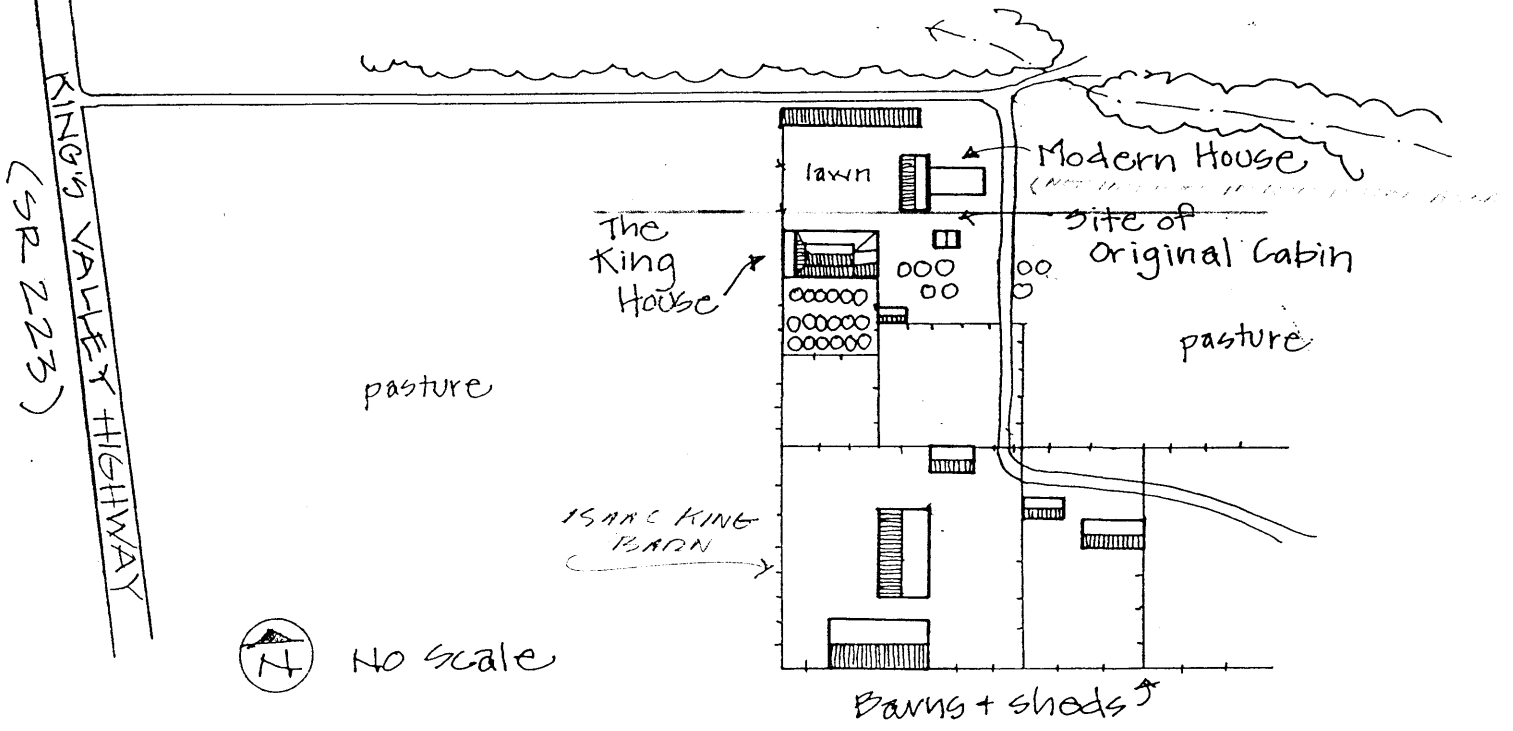
10. Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point that is 1,650 feet south of the northwest corner of the Isaac King Donation Land Claim and 2,050 feet east of the west claim line, proceed east 550 feet to Woods Creek. Then proceed south 400 feet, west 550 feet, thence north 400 feet to the point of beginning.

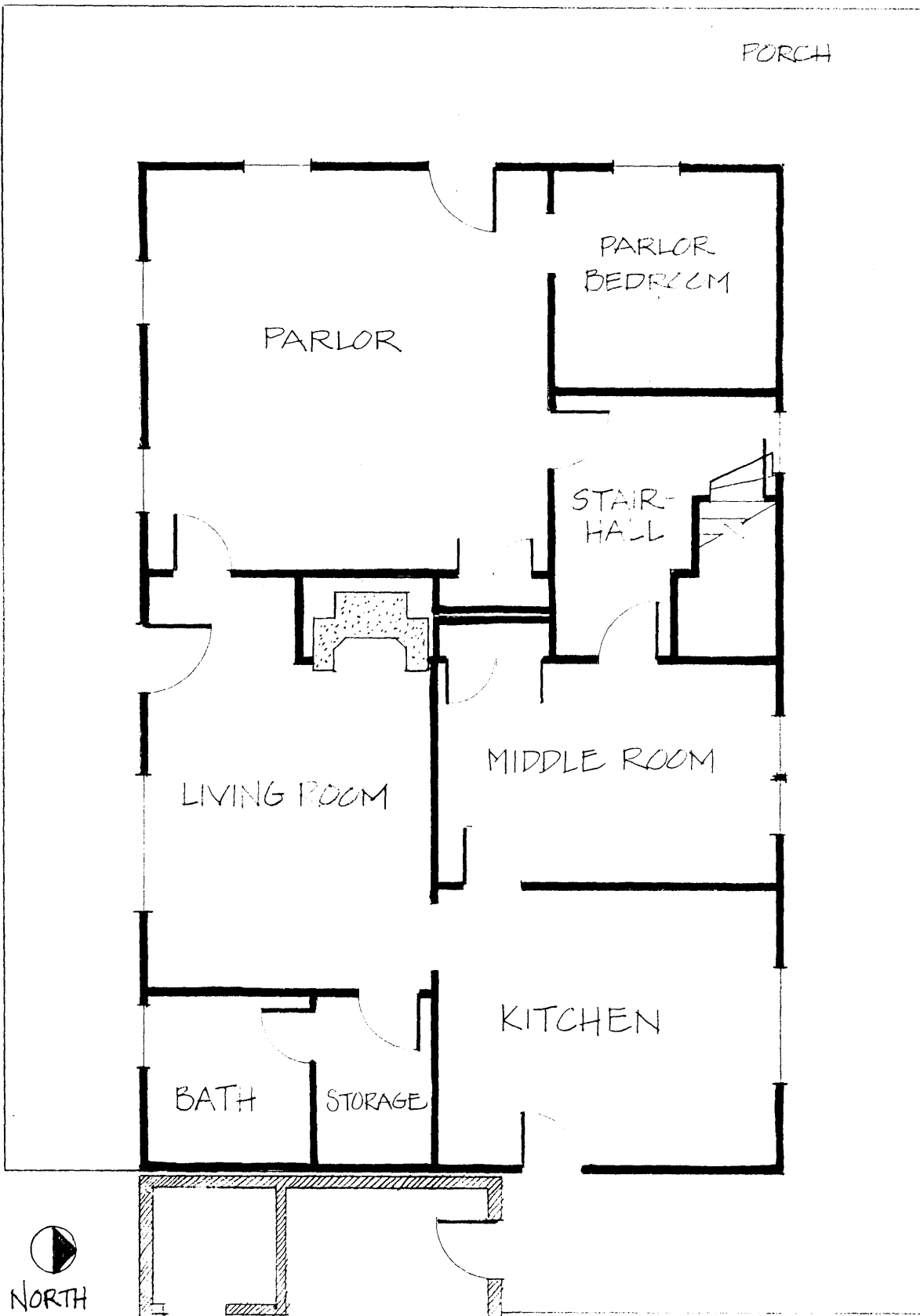
10. Boundary Justification

The nominated area of 5.05 acres is the historic nucleus of the farm developed and occupied by Isaac King. The boundary was drawn to encompass the Isaac King house, barn and orchards which together visually reflect the pioneer development of this farmstead. The north boundary line was drawn to exclude a house built on the property in 1946 since this building is not historically associated with the King property and does not contribute to the historic significance of the property. The area thus described includes seven non-historic, non-contributing features, as follows: poultry house, granary, milkhouse, storage shed, loafing shed, small animal barn, and hay barn.

ISAAC KING HOUSE - SITE



drawn by KATHY SCHUTT 1985



PORCH

PARLOR
BEDROOM

PARLOR

STAIR-
HALL

LIVING ROOM

MIDDLE ROOM

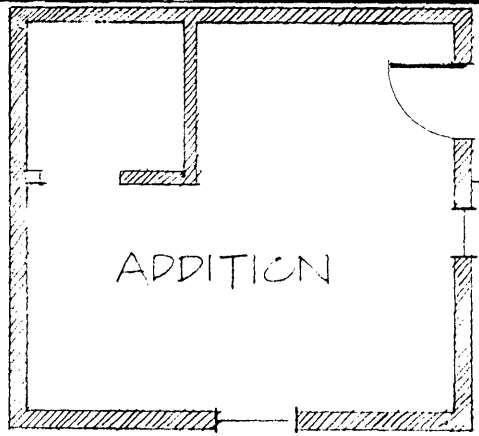
KITCHEN

BATH

STORAGE



NORTH

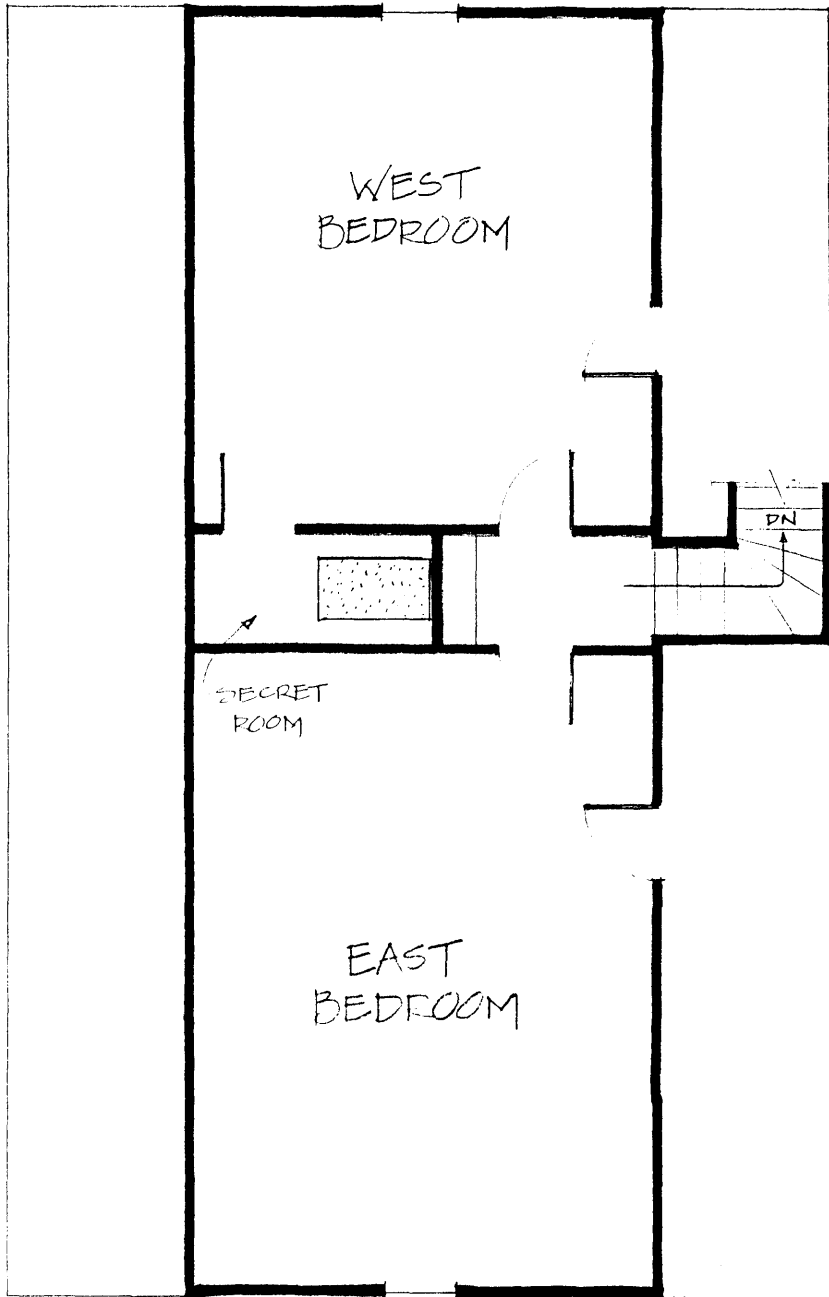


ADDITION

FIRST FLOOR

NO SCALE

ISAACKINGHOUSE



SECOND FLOOR

ISAAC KING HOUSE
C.A. 1855

DRAWN BY PAUL M. FALSETTO - 1975

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Section Photographs Page 1

King, Issac House
Benton County, Oregon

The following information is the same for all of the photographs that are listed below (#1 - #13):

Property name: King, Isaac House
Property location: Vicinity of Philomath, Benton County, Oregon
Photographer: Paul M. Falsetto
Photograph date: April 15, 1995
Location of negatives: Paul Falsetto
2154 w.16th way
Eugene, OR 97402

- #1. Southeast view - Site with house
- #2. Southwest view - northeast corner
- #3. North view - south elevation
- #4. Southeast view - northwest corner
- #5. East view - west facade (front)
- #6. Northeast view - west facade, eave return
- #7. East view - west facade, window and pilaster
- #8. East view - west facade, pilaster capital
- #9. Interior, east view - parlor
- #10. Interior, south view - parlor
- #11. Interior, west view - west bedroom
- #12. Interior - 4 panel door, stairhall/middle room
- #13. Interior - detail: box construction and spline
- #14. Isaac King Barn
- #15. Pear Tree