

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



946

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 WILLIAM & NANNIE NAUCKE HOUSE

other names/site number "Kerbyville Museum," Stith-Naucke House [See Section 8]

2. Location

street & number 24195 Redwood Highway not for publication

city or town Kerby vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Josephine code 033 zip code 97531

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

James Hamrick

Deputy SHPO

June 25, 1999

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

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): _____

Edson H. Beall

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

8/5/99

WILLIAM & NANNIE NAUCKE HOUSE
Name of Property

Josephine County, Oregon
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	5	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
3	5	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

none

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic; Single Dwelling

Domestic; Secondary Structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture; Museum

Social: Clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

19th Century: Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Brick

walls Wood; Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other _____

Narrative Description

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

Please see attached 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.)

Property is:

- 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Exploration/Settlement
- Social History
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

1883-1924

Significant Dates

1883-1924

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository:

Josephine County Courthouse

WILLIAM & NANNIE NAUCKE HOUSE
Name of Property

Josephine County, Oregon
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 3.92 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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

B / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / /

D / / / / / / / / / /

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 George Kramer, M.S.

organization Historic Preservation Consultant date 1-February-1999

street & number 386 North Laurel telephone (541)-482-9504

city or town Ashland state Oregon zip code 97520-1154

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 Illinois Valley Federated Woman's Club [Sandra Hare, President]

street & number P.O. Box 1546 telephone (541) 592-5252

city or town Cave Junction state Oregon zip code 97523

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.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Naucke, William & Nannie, House, Kerby, Josephine County, Oregon

NAUCKE, WILLIAM & NANNIE, HOUSE (1883)

24195 Redwood Highway
Kerby, Josephine County

COMMENTS OF THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE:

The William and Nannie Naucke House, completed c.1883, is a two-story wood frame Late 19th Century Vernacular style dwelling located in Kerby. The Naucke family lived here until the 1920s. Since 1959 it has served as the primary element of the "Kerbyville Museum" complex and has been preserved to interpret a typical 19th-century house in the Illinois Valley area. Kerby is about 28 miles southwest of Grants Pass, and 2-1/2 miles north of Cave Junction. It is located in a small valley surrounded by steep slopes of the Klamath Mountains. The Naucke house is located on almost four acres and is surrounded by various historic and support structures used by the museum. There are large oak trees and a expansive lawn used for social gatherings. A paved lot with circular access is adjacent to the highway.

This two-story house is of wood frame construction with drop or novelty siding and cornerboards. The restrained decorative detailing includes pedimented window heads and a bay window on the south side. The windows are two-over-two double hung wood sash. One of the most distinctive features is the two-story full length front porch supported by square columns with a screened in area at the second level. Several published reports indicate that the second story of the front porch was added or enclosed in 1916 under the direction of the second owner, Tom Hutton. On the lower level is another screened porch off of the kitchen area. There is a one-story open shed/barn/garage structure attached to the rear of the house.

When the house was converted to museum use in 1959, few changes were made to the house. The primary alteration was the addition of a wheelchair ramp (date unknown), located beneath the connecting canopy that joins the Naucke House and the "annex" is built of wood and painted to match the front porch.

The front entrance is just off center and incorporates a 15-light wood and glass door that appears original. The house was built in the hall-parlor plan, popular during the mid to late 19th century in the West. There is a central stairway and "hall" area on one side with the formal "parlor" on the other. The central stairway is simply designed and displays the craftsmanship of early builders in the area. Light fixtures, lath and plaster walls and ceiling, plank flooring (covered with carpet), baseboards, door and window moldings, multi-paneled doors, and hardware appear to the original to the house. The kitchen contains wood wainscot, a non-original wood stove, and a pantry area behind a "Dutch" door, where wood shelves display various kitchen implements.

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Naucke, William & Nannie, House, Kerby, Josephine County, Oregon

The upstairs has two bedrooms on either side of the stairway, and a small room over the kitchen currently called the "sewing room". The detailing of the woodwork is less ornate, typical treatment for the second, more private spaces. As on the first level, most of the features appear to be original.

The other buildings on the site include the Grimmet School, a one-story log structure built in 1898 and relocated to this site in 1961. It is considered non-contributing. The Taylor Creek Mines Cabin, built in 1933 and moved to the museum in 1981, is also non-contributing. The Naucke Barn or "Shop", built c.1883, was apparently erected along with the main house. Two large sets of swinging wooden doors open into the interior which is being used to interpret an early blacksmith shop. It is a contributing structure. The covered implement shed, built in 1976, and the Museum building, built in 1964, and a small shed, built in 1959, are non-historic non-contributing. The caretaker's residence (mobile home) is movable and not counted.

The Naucke house is significant for its association with the early history of Josephine County and is the best and earliest identified example of its architectural type in the vicinity. The town of Kerbyville developed on what had been the Kerby Ranch in 1852-53, and was at one time the county seat. Kerby was the major trading center of the Illinois Valley through the 1860s-70s. The coming of the railroad in 1883 to Grants Pass impacted the development of Kerby, but it continued as a focal point in the Illinois Valley through the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1916 Kerby had a population of 215 people and was the fourth largest community in Josephine County. The town's economy was noted for "general farming, dairying, livestock raising, and lumbering. With the rise in popularity of the automobile, Main Street became a major "highway" between Grants Pass and northern California. Today, Kerby retains a small commercial and service-oriented core along the Redwood Highway and a few timber-related manufacturing plants and residences. The Kerbyville Museum plays an important role in the area's growing tourism.

William and Nannie Naucke arrived in the 1850s as part of the gold boom and were living in Kerby by 1860. William, a candymaker by trade, owned and operated the Naucke Store, one of the more prominent dry goods and general mercantile establishments in Kerby. He was also active in county politics and served as Kerby's postmaster. The Nauckes built this house by 1883 and William lived here until 1894 when he died and left the estate to Nannie. The 1900 census record documents the 68-year old Nannie as head of the household with "property rent" as her primary source of income. Nannie died in 1906 and the property was inherited by their daughter, Delia and her husband J. Frank Stith (known as Frank).

Frank was born in Indiana, lived in Montana and moved to Kerby after his marriage to Delia. He became a partner in the reorganized "Stith and Naucke" store with his brother-in-law, Theodore (known as Biz).

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Naucke, William & Nannie, House, Kerby, Josephine County, Oregon

He was also involved in mining operations and acted as Kerby's postmaster. He died in 1920. Delia moved to Seattle in 1923, and the other Naucke heirs sold the home. Several private owners occupied the house until it was purchased by the Illinois Valley Federated Woman's Club in 1958.

There are only two other known 19th century resources in Kerby: The Grimmet School, moved to the site in 1959, and the IOOF Hall, built in 1876. The William and Nannie Naucke house is believed to be the oldest standing structure in the community and the one best associated with its early history.

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William & Nannie Naucke House, Kerby, OR

The William and Nannie Naucke House, completed c1883, is a two story wood frame vernacular dwelling located in the town of Kerby, Oregon. Owned by the Naucke family and serving as their residence until the 1920s, since 1959 the Naucke House has served as the primary element of the "Kerbyville Museum" complex. Preserved to interpret a typical 19th century residential setting in southern Oregon's Illinois Valley area, the William and Nannie Naucke House retains very high integrity in design, materials, and workmanship. The Naucke House accurately and effectively conveys the associations for which it is significant.

LOCATION & SETTING:

The Naucke House is located in the unincorporated town of Kerby, in Josephine County, Oregon. The entire 3.92 acre nominated parcel is designated as 24195 Redwood Highway and is shown on Josephine County Assessors, Plat 38-8-9-12 as Tax Lots 1000 and 1100, owned by the Illinois Valley Federated Woman's Club.

Kerby, established in 1853, is a small linear community located in the Illinois Valley. Grants Pass, the Josephine County seat and largest city, is located approximately 28 miles to the northeast on Highway 199. Cave Junction, the county's only other incorporated city, is located about 2½ miles south, and serves as the gateway to the Oregon Caves National Monument. Kerby lies in a valley surrounded by the steep slopes of the Klamath Mountains. The town's commercial and residential uses are almost entirely located along the corridor of the Redwood Highway [U. S. 199] that bisects the town from east to west.

Located on the east side of the Redwood Highway, the William and Nannie Naucke is the central focus of the tree-shaded Kerbyville Museum Complex. As described in detail below, the house is surrounded by the various historic and support structures that hold the exhibits of the museum. Large oak trees and a huge expansive lawn used for social gatherings add to the historic character and feeling of the site. A paved lot with circular access is immediately adjacent to the highway and provides parking for museum patrons. [Please see the attached site map]

Surrounding uses in Kerby include a large mill site directly across the highway, with smaller residential and commercial uses such as gift stores, taverns lining the roadbed to both the north and south. "Downtown Kerby" consisting a small cluster of late 19th and early 20th

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William & Nannie Naucke House, Kerby, OR

century commercial and residential buildings, is located approximately ¼ mile north of the museum complex.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

EXTERIOR:

The Stith-Naucke House is a two story wood-frame dwelling in the vernacular I-house tradition. Essentially "T-Shaped" in plan, the front, two story gable volume is augmented by a rear perpendicular gable volume, offset to the south. A large screened porch off the kitchen is nested below a shed roof. An open gabled volume, possibly an early garage, storage shed or other service feature, extends the main volume at the extreme rear.

The Naucke House sits upon a perimeter brick foundation, built in December 1980 and replicating the original element which had deteriorated beyond repair. As built, the projecting front porch was supported by a post and pier foundation but this too was replaced with the present brick foundation, also in 1980. (*Illinois Valley News*, 25-Dec-1980)

While the original roof of the Naucke House was probably wood shingle or shake, the present roof is a three-tab asphalt shingle, in a gray/green mottled pattern, installed in January 1999.. Two decorative brick chimneys rise from the main volume, each with an early appearing sheet metal caps.

The exterior of the Naucke House is clad with 6" wide horizontal wood coved siding. Wood sash windows with 2/2 double hung lights and narrow muntins, simple side trim and decorative head casings or "crowns" all remain. Matching windows are found on the rear projecting gable indicating original or early construction. Additional exterior trim includes narrow corner boards, a plain wide board frieze below the eaves and a boxed soffit, all typical details of the vernacular form in southern Oregon during the late 19th century.

The front, west-facing, elevation of the house is composed of a full-width two story porch with boxed 8" x 8" support posts that rise from the tongue and groove floorboards. The upper story porch is screened, and has been at least since the 1950s if not earlier. Window and door trim on both levels is as previously described with early appearing wood and glass doors on both

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William & Nannie Naucke House, Kerby, OR

levels. A wooden sign reading "Stith-Naucke House — Built 1871" is mounted on the second floor rim, centered on the west elevation.¹

On the south elevation of the main volume there is a three sided projecting bay with three 1/1 wood-sash double hung windows. Above the windows are decorative panels with diagonally placed bead board creating a chevron-type design broken by the vertical trim of the bay. The lower portion of the bay window is sided as is the main house, matching in all particulars and indicating either original construction or a very careful later addition, certainly within the historic period.

The rear open storage shed is framed with RS 2x4 walls and roof joists and appears to be of early construction, matching the main volume in siding profile and other details. A large open doorway on the north elevation is covered with wire mesh, allowing the contents of the building to be seen from outside. Flooring here is of a wide planks. The exact historic nature or use of this room, or what changes were made to accommodate the change to museum use, remain uncertain.

INTERIOR: FIRST FLOOR

Roughly centered on the full width porch, the primary entry door of the Naucke House is a 15-high wood and glass door that appears original. Typical of the "I-House" form, the main volume is divided into two rooms by a central stairwell/chimney core. The "hall," or entry room, is to the right while the more elaborate "parlor" is to the left, with a brick fireplace and wood mantle. Early light fixtures remain in both rooms, which also retain the original 9'-5" lath and plaster ceilings. Flooring is wood plank, covered with carpeting. High (10") baseboards, door and window molding, multi-panel doors, hardware and other elements all appear to be original to the house.

Access to the kitchen is via an open doorway at the rear of the stairwell. A large rectangle, the kitchen is dominated by an early, though not original, wood stove. A bank of wooden cabinets lines the south wall, above the simple galvanized metal sink. Wooden wainscot, 36" high, lines the perimeter. To the rear a small pantry area is now visible behind a half, or "Dutch" door,

¹ As noted in Section 8, neither this name or construction date accurately describe the house or its historic development as now documented in this nomination.

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William & Nannie Naucke House, Kerby, OR

that prohibits public access.² Here finishes are simple, with wooden shelves displaying various kitchen implements.

Just to the left of the door from the front volume is what was historically used as a bathroom. While retaining an early claw foot bathtub and other fixtures, this space is non-functional. Construction indicates that this space was created outside the original volume after the home's construction, with exterior siding forming the western wall and substandard construction. This space may have originally served as part of a secondary access into the kitchen wing.³ A simple screened porch, set below a single-story shed roof, completes the obviously original portions of the main floor. With wood floors, clapboard "balustrade" and beadboard ceiling, this area is largely unaltered from its presumed original design. A large door to the rear provides interior access to the "storage" volume at the rear of the building. This space is unfinished, with open roof joists and framed walls. The northern wall, common with the main house, is sided in unpainted horizontal wood, matching that of the main volume and perhaps indicating this to be an area of original construction.

A central feature of the Naucke House is the simple yet elegant open stair flight that leads to the upper floor from within the "hall." Built in the scale and style associated with Oregon's early vernacular buildings, the balustrade of the 30" wide flight begins on the first floor with a gentled chamfered 4x4 newel and continues with closely spaced 1x1 balusters to the ceiling. The wood stairs, with bull nose tread ends showing on the stringer, are presently covered in carpet.

Two small closets are nested beneath the stairwell, one opening into each of the main rooms of the main volume. In the "parlor" the closet is dominated by a propane-fired heating system with a single vent opening into the parlor and front room. Presumed to date from the museum conversion, this is only fixed source of heat in the building beyond the wood stove.

INTERIOR: UPPER FLOOR

The stairwell ends in a narrow hallway and the opening is rimmed by a railing that matches the balustrade. Rounded and pegged miter corners of the top cap, and other detailing speak to the high integrity of this feature.

² What appears to be the upper half of this door, presumably cut following conversion to the museum, is located in an upstairs closet.

³ These variations are obvious on the exterior as well.

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William & Nannie Naucke House, Kerby, OR

Towards the front of the central hallway, a 15-light door provides access to the second floor porch. Two bedrooms are located on either side, both with large original closet spaces. A small room over the kitchen, currently called the "sewing room" after the artifacts on display and a fourth bedroom in the rear, complete the uses of the upper story. Detailing here is typically similar but less elaborate than at the main floor public spaces. Less detailed baseboards, door and window surrounds, multi-panel wood doors, hardware, and other elements all appear original. Walls are generally lath and plaster although some drywall replacement is evident on a minimal scale. Ceiling height is 9'-0" and original wood plank floor, almost universally covered with carpeting, is present throughout.

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS:

Other than obvious from construction detail and mentioned above, there is little indication and even less documentation regarding any substantive changes or alterations to the Naucke House outside the historic period. The primary focus of the 1958-59 conversion to museum use, a documented in the minutes of the Illinois Valley Federated Woman's Club, appears to have been largely limited to paint, wallpaper, and general cleaning and minimal repair. An undated wheelchair ramp, located beneath the connecting canopy that joins the Naucke House and the "annex" is built of wood and painted to match the front porch.

Several published reports state that that the second story of the front porch was added or enclosed in 1916 under the direction of "second owner Tom Hutton" and this story is accordingly often repeated as part of the history of the Naucke House.⁴ However all available historic information, as well as construction detailing, support the contention that the porch was either original or a very early addition. (See Photo #1) While many 19th century vernacular residences in southern Oregon do in fact have a single story front porch, many also boast the more elaborate two story form of the Naucke House.⁵ No matter, whether original or a later addition, the present two story screened in porch clearly was built during the period of significance and is entirely compatible with the vernacular design of the Naucke House.

⁴ Like many of the stories regarding the house, the 1916 porch enclosure is often repeated in both the *Courier* and *Illinois Valley News*. See also Beckham, *State of Oregon Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings*, 1976. Hutton, as noted in Section 8, was actually the third owner of the Naucke House, acquiring title in 1924.

⁵ See, for example, the Smith-Terrill House, in Talent, Oregon or the Wolf Creek Tavern, in Wolf Creek.

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William & Nannie Naucke House, Kerby, OR

Other modifications have undoubtedly occurred to the Naucke House since its completion, including those associated with both interior plumbing (and the creation of the first floor bath) and electrification. In general, however, the Naucke House retains a very high degree of integrity and there is no evidence, built or archival, of any major change to the structure that detracts from its original appearance or character.

RELATED BUILDINGS

In the years following the 1959 conversion to museum use, the grounds of the Naucke were further developed to interpret the history of southern Oregon. The Kerbyville Museum Complex located on the nominated area today includes six structures and several landscape features of note in addition to the Naucke House itself. These are;

1. Grimmett [Sucker Creek] School, 1898: A small one-story log structure originally erected on Sucker Creek, this building was used near the site of Grayback Forest Camp. In 1961 the school was relocated to its present site and reassembled under the direction of Cecil Hathaway, a retired U. S. Forest Service employee. (*Courier*, 18-May-1960, A10:1-4) The Grimmett School is located below a pole-framed canopy that provides some additional protection from weather. While possibly of significance on its own merits, the Grimmett School reflects different associations than the Naucke House and is counted as compatible *non-contributing* in Section 5.
2. Taylor Creek Miners Cabin, 1933: Built on the "Keep Off" mining claim on Taylor Creek, this shingle-clad wood-frame cabin was relocated to its present site at the Museum in 1981 with assistance from the U. S. Navy Seabees. "The cabin is one of the last that truly reflects the mining era [and] was built by a miner using nearby incense cedar during the Great Depression in 1933." (*Courier*, 23-Nov-1981)) While possibly of significance on its own merits, the Taylor Creek Miners Cabin reflects different associations than the Naucke House and is counted as compatible *non-contributing* building in Section 5."
3. Naucke Barn or "Shop," c1883: A 36' x 33' wood frame building made of large vertical plank construction, the barn at the rear of the Naucke House was apparently erected along with the main house and dates from the Naucke period of ownership. The building has a wood plank floor a wood shingle

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William & Nannie Naucke House, Kerby, OR

extended gable roof. Two large sets of swinging wooden doors provide access to the interior, which is used to interpret an early blacksmith shop and holds tools and equipment related to both that and other industrial uses. To the rear two small shed roofed spaces hold additional exhibits, including one of the earliest printing presses in Josephine County. The two large sets of swinging doors reportedly erected during the original ownership period but is otherwise undated at present. Built during the Naucke period of ownership, the barn is counted as a *contributing* historic building in Section 5.

4. Covered Implement Shed, 1976: This long (20' x 150') narrow structure is a wood-framed gable cover over a concrete slab that protects various equipment related to farming, logging and mining activities, including early threshers, wagons and similar items. It is counted as a *non-historic non-contributing* building in Section 5.
5. Museum Building, 1964: Designed by Grants Pass architect H. E. Mackie and built by Marsh Construction of Grants Pass, this large single story concrete block building was located south of the Naucke House and is the major exhibits and office building of the Kerbyville Museum. Covering 7600 square feet and including shop and storage areas and now signed as the main museum building, this structure was originally known as the "annex" or "addition." (*Courier*, 19-Nov-1964) The Museum Building is counted as a *non-historic non contributing* building in Section 5.
6. Caretakers Residence, n.d.: A single wide mobile home is located at the rear of the Naucke Barn, providing living quarters for an on-site caretaker. A moveable structure, the substantially shielded caretaker's residence only minimally detracts from the character of the site. It is *not counted* in Section 5.
7. Rock House [Centennial Information Bldg], 1959: A small (10' x 14') wood frame building with a gable roof, the "Rock House" was originally built for use by Josephine County in connection with the 1959 Oregon Centennial. The building is sided with 12" wide "pecky" cedar, laid horizontally. At the end of the Centennial events, the building was offered to the Woman's Club.

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William & Nannie Naucke House, Kerby, OR

Letter read; Judge Lathrop gave us the Centennial Information Building and offered to move it for us to the museum grounds. Mrs. Richard Tompkin moved it forwarded our thanks to him for so doing. Decided to place it between the Museum and shop. (Woman's Club Minutes, 9-Oct-1959)

Used to house the Museum's collection of minerals, the Rock House is considered as a non-contributing structure in Section 5.

8. Grounds: The Naucke House is set within an expansive lawn with several huge, mature, oak trees, a grape arbor, and other plantings that add to its character and from within create a strong connection in setting to the original residential use of the site.. Individual objects are present as a result of the museum use, notably the flag pole in the front and the pathway system that leads to the various outdoor exhibits. A "Drilling Rock," is set in the concrete just outside the Rock House, between the Naucke House and barn. Peppered with holes, The rock is an artifact of a miners contest that was held at the 1908 4th of July celebration in Takilma, Oregon. "The rock measured 19½" through and the contestants had to drill through to qualify for the winner." (Courier, 28-March-1963) Rediscovered in the underbrush by Hugh White and recognized by Johnny Vallen, the drilling rock was moved to the Museum in 1963. The simply landscaped grounds and large trees of the Naucke House are counted as a *contributing site* in Section 5.

THE VERNACULAR FARMHOUSE:

Stylistically, the William and Nannie Naucke House is an example of the vernacular farmhouse form that was common in Oregon during the latter 19th century. Largely based on traditional buildings forms, this type is typically categorized by interior floorplan and room arrangement, with the result that the Naucke House is best identified as an "I-House" variant of the vernacular form. First used to describe folk housing in the middle south, in southern Oregon "...the typical I-House is a side-facing gable, with a ridge parallel to the street, one room deep, and one to two stories high. Siding is almost universally horizontal, most commonly weatherboard. The central entry door may be located under a

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small canopy or a front porch, often hipped, may extend the length of the facade....A gable or partial hipped rear wing, generally the kitchen area, often extends the structure to the rear." (Kramer, 1994:57) Vernacular dwellings, while often incorporating modest stylistic elements of the Greek, Classical, or Gothic Revival styles are generally simply built, without any major stylistic character. Except as affected by changed building technologies and the availability of materials, vernacular dwellings were constructed throughout southern Oregon from 1850s and 1860s all the way into the early 20th century.

Within this framework, the Naucke House represents a regionally significant example of the vernacular I-House type, being one of the larger and best preserved of such structures in Josephine County. Its full two-story porch, use of coved siding rather than weatherboard, and bay window, while more elaborate than the common vernacular dwellings of the region, speak to the influence and comparative economic status of the Naucke family, and remain firmly within the vernacular idiom.

SUMMARY:

More than 100 years old, the vernacular William and Nannie Naucke House retains extremely high integrity, being virtually unchanged in design, use of materials and workmanship. On its original site, the building admirably relates the feelings and associations for which it is significant under eligibility Criteria A and C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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William & Nannie Naucke House, Kerby, OR

The William and Nannie Naucke House, completed c1883, is a two story wood frame vernacular farmhouse located in Kerby, Oregon. Long the home of the prominent Naucke and related Stith families, the house is significant for its associations with the early history of Josephine County and is the best and earliest identified example of its architectural type in the vicinity. The Naucke House was converted into a museum in honor of Oregon's Centennial in 1959 and continues today as the focal point of the Kerbyville Museum complex. The William and Nannie Naucke House is nominated under criteria "A" and "C" for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

CONTEXT: THE TOWN OF KERBY

Throughout much of the 19th century, the Josephine County economy was almost entirely dependent on the production of gold. In 1851-52 gold discoveries in the area surrounding first Waldo (or Sailors Diggins), and then later Althouse, provided a lasting boom that brought hundreds of miners into the rugged Illinois Valley. Waldo itself developed into a moderately substantial town, providing services and supplies for the surrounding mining region. After January 1856, when Josephine County was formed out of lands previously included in Jackson County, Waldo was named the interim county seat, pending the outcome of the next election.

Further to the northeast, by 1852-53 the town of Kerbyville developed on what had been the Kerby (or Kerbey) Ranch, operated by James Kerby. (Bancroft, 1889:713, McArthur, 1982:411) In the election of 1856 to determine the new county seat Kerbyville replaced Waldo as the seat of Josephine County. Later that same year Daniel Holton, a physician, purchased the majority of the townsite and petitioned the Oregon Legislature to rename the town "Napoleon," an action that was approved in 1858. (Or Laws, 1858-91, as cited in Bancroft, 1889:714)

This was either because of the association of the name of the county and the Empress Josephine, or because Holton was an admirer of Napoleon III. The new name did not prove popular and an effort was made to get a bill through the next legislature to adopt the old name. (McArthur, 1982:410)¹

¹ Josephine County was not, of course, named for the Empress Josephine, but rather for Josephine Rollins, daughter of the discoverer of gold on the creek that was also named for her. (Bancroft, 1889:713).

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Although the 1860 effort failed, by 1861 the name "Kerbyville" remained in common use and it was under that name that the community was generally known throughout the 1870s.² By the early 1880s the name "Kerby" was in use, at least according to the local newspapers, and eventually that became the formal name of the community.³

In 1858 Kerbyville was reported as "improving rapidly and being the liveliest town of its size in the state" As the seat of local government, Kerby developed into the major trading center of the Illinois Valley and grew along with Josephine County throughout the 1860s and 1870s. "The new town became a commercial center of importance, and retains a standing as such...At present the village contains the county buildings, store of general merchandise, kept by *Naucke* and De Lamatter, respectively, a hotel...a livery stable, and two saloons." (Walling, 1884:453, emphasis added)

Though buoyed by its position as county seat and its transportation access on the Oregon-California Coast stage line connecting southern Oregon to the important port at Crescent City, California, Kerby remained an unattractive destination when railroad lines first began to extend into the region. Having reached Roseburg in late 1872, the Oregon and California Railroad stalled its construction program as the result of both financial difficulties and the steep grades of the Rogue-Umpqua divide. In 1883, the reorganized company again began building track to the south, with the ultimate goal of a direct rail link to California. Josephine County, sparsely populated and mountainous, was an unlikely candidate for any portion of the main line.

In December 1883 the first passenger train in the region's history pulled into the new city of Grants Pass, built on the flat valley land of western Jackson County. Faced with isolation from the main line, Josephine County's leaders Grants Pass and subsequently, by act of the Oregon legislature, the boundary of Josephine County was shifted to the east, to encompass Grants Pass and its all important railroad Depot. In February 1885 "A Bill for an Act to Relocate the County Seat of Josephine County, Oregon" was introduced in the

² Further confusing the issue, at least one prominent history of the region, published in 1884, consistent spells the communities name as "Kirbyville." (Walling, 1884:444-)

³ As McArthur points out, the history of the area post office, established as "Kerby" in 1856, remained constant throughout the period and still operates under the town's original name. (McArthur, 1982:410-11)

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Legislative Assembly that called for a special election on the first Monday of June 1885. Section 7 of the bill stated;

If the legal voters of said county of Josephine change the location of the county seat from Kerbyville to some other point in said county, then in that case, on January first thereafter, all county business, together with all holdings of all courts of record...shall be transacted and held at the new county seat..." (*Courier*, 29-May-1885, 3:3)

While a number of communities, presumably including Kerbyville, campaigned as to the logic of their serving or remaining, as county seat, the result of the election was never much in doubt. One proponent of centrally located Wilderville, in boasting of that community's benefits, found it appropriate to point out that "...the fact [that] Grant's Pass is a rich railroad town, does not necessarily argue that all of Josephine County must do homage to this presumptuous new comer!" (M. S. Dean, 1885) However, as might have been expected, since its population was equal to that of the rest of the county, in January 1886 newcomer Grants Pass officially became the Josephine County seat, ending Kerby's thirty-years as the focus of county government. "The last term of the circuit court held in Kerbyville was in November 1885." (Hill, 1976:99)⁴

Despite the loss of the county seat Kerby, while certainly diminished, survived. Eclipsed by Grants Pass in both population and regional import, Kerby continued in its traditional role as the focal point of the Illinois Valley throughout the late 19th century and into the first half of the 20th century. "By 1910 stages pulled by four horse teams had been replaced by the new automobile stages. Two cylinder Internationals, four cylinder Cadillacs and Model T Ford touring cars made the trip Grants Pass over dusty roads." (Pfefferle, 1977:107) In 1916 Kerby had a population of 215 people and was the fourth largest community in Josephine county. The daily stage still ran to both Grants Pass and Crescent City, California and the town's economy was noted for "...general farming, dairying, livestock raising, and lumbering [with] two saw mills [and a] creamery." (Chapman, 1915:174)⁵

⁴ The changing name of the community results in a certain inconsistency that remains even today, as the town is popularly referred as both "Kerby" and "Kerbyville." The post office, it should be noted, has uninterruptedly remained "Kerby" since its inception. (McArthur, 1982:412)

⁵ Grants Pass was Josephine County's largest city with a population of 5,000 followed by Galice (300) and Merlin (300).

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William & Nannie Naucke House, Kerby, OR

With the rise in popularity of the automobile, the level if dusty stage road that served as Kerby's Main Street soon became a major "highway" between Grants Pass and northern California. "We covered the forty miles out of Grants Pass with little hint of the road terrors we expected to encounter..."(Murphy, 1917:185) Beginning in 1922, promotion of the route as the "Redwood Highway" brought increased tourism and improved quality. Officially "opened" in Fall 1926, at least one available source credits the highway as being only "improved," meaning graded and maintained but still not paved, as late as 1928⁶ Today, renamed U. S. Highway 199, the main route through the Illinois Valley continues to run directly through the middle of the Kirby townsite.

In 1940, historian documenting Oregon for the Works Progress Administration wrote that Kerby had a population of just 40 people. "Kerby was an important trading center and placer mining camp in the early Oregon gold rush ...[but] of its many saloons, brothels, and stores, only a few sagging buildings remain. An OLD HOUSE with a balcony and columns was a stagecoach stop..." (WPA, 1940:360, emphasis as in original)⁷

Kerby's importance in the Illinois Valley area declined after WWII with the establishment of Cave Junction, which incorporated as Josephine County's second city in 1948. Improvements to the Redwood Highway, along with the development of more powerful and reliable automobiles and trucks, eased access to Grants Pass and Medford, and further reduced the market for Kerby's merchants. Today, Kerby retains a small commercial and service-oriented core along the Redwood Highway and a few timber-related manufacturing plants as well as its residential uses. The Kerbyville Museum plays a major role in the area's growing tourism industry.

WILLIAM AND NANNIE NAUCKE

The original owners and occupants of the Naucke House were William A. and Nannie [Neist] Naucke and their family. The elder Nauckes arrived in Oregon from Prussia, probably in the 1850s as a part of the gold boom, and were living in Kerby by 1860 when

⁶ See the *Grants Pass Courier*, October 1926, for opening announcements of the "new" Redwood Highway. The National Automobile Club's *California Motor Guide* documents the condition of the highway in 1928.

⁷ This reference to the Naucke House, while incorrect in claiming the house was a stage stop, documents that even by this time only a few of Kerby's 19th century structure's remained standing.

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William & Nannie Naucke House, Kerby, OR

they are documented in the Josephine County census. Nannie and William had five children; Delia (b. 1863 in Kerby),⁸ Oscar, (b1864, in Portland), Natalie (b1865 in California), Theodore (b. 1869 in Kerby), and Alfred (b. 1871, in Kerby). The birthplaces of the children indicate the family moved back and forth from Kerby before returning for good in the late 1860s.⁹

William Naucke "was a candymaker by trade, but...in Kerby, went into the store business." (*Courier*, 3-April-1935) He operated the Naucke Store, one of the more prominent dry goods and general mercantile establishments in Kerby, becoming well known and influential in Josephine County during the late 19th century. While continuing to operate the store, Naucke became active in politics and was elected county treasurer in the 1870s, holding the post for 14 years. He apparently chose not to seek re-election in 1885-6, when the county government moved from Kerby to Grants Pass. For a very short period, from June 23, 1884 until November 18, 1884, William Naucke served as Kerby's postmaster. (Helbock, 1969:100)

Although they had previously lived in the Kerby area, according to most sources William Naucke purchased "half" of a 160 acre donation land claim from Kerby's founder Daniel S. Holton in the early 1870s, and thereby became one of the largest landowners in Kerby.¹⁰ In 1877 William and Nannie purchased a lots 1-2-7-8 of Block 4 in the Town of Kerby, a parcel which is included in the nominated property, for \$5.00 at public tax auction. (JCD 4:462) Three years later, in May 1880, Sheriff Simon Messinger executed a Tax Deed to Naucke, stating that "...said Wm. Naucke did on October 13, 1877, pay said sum and more than two years have elapsed and redemption has been made..." and formally transferred the property. (JoCty Abstract, 2) Sometime thereafter, Naucke had a dwelling built on the site and the structure was clearly standing by 1883, based on increased values reflected in Naucke's tax assessment.¹¹ In 1886 Naucke obtained a Quit Claim Deed from Josephine

⁸ "Delia" was born Otilie Sophia, according to family sources and is so named in William Naucke's will. "Delia" was apparently a nickname. (Naucke Will, 1893)

⁹ The 1867 San Francisco city directory reports the entire Naucke family residing at Bush and Scott Streets. (Wuss, letter to the Author, September 1998) Mrs. Dorothy Wuss, of San Jose, is the great grand-daughter of William and Nannie Naucke, via her grandfather, Oscar Frederick Naucke.

¹⁰ Varying sources date this occurrence at 1873-74 however the specific deed of transfer could not be located.

¹¹ See Josephine County Tax Assessment Rolls for the late 1870s through early 1880s period, as held in the collection of the Josephine County Historical Society. Naucke's 1883 assessment shows a \$400

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County and secured title to the remaining lots (3-4-5-6) to own all of Block 4 as well as considerable adjacent property lining both sides of the Kerbyville Ditch, outside the town site, and creating the outline of the nominated parcel.¹² It was likely as the result of this additional land purchase that Naucke choose to the fence his newly enlarged homestead.

Wm. Naucke is enclosing his farm adjoining town with a new picket fence. (*Courier*, 7-May-1886, 2:3)

William Naucke died in Kerby on 2-July-1894 and left the bulk of his \$28,000 estate to Nannie and the children. (Naucke Will, in JoCty Abstract, 5-12) Nannie Naucke, a year younger than her husband, remained in the family home with several of the couple's children. The 1900 Census documents the 68-year old Nannie as head of the household with "property rent" as her primary source of income. Others residing in the Naucke House according to that census include sons Alfred (age 28, a stage driver) and Theodore (age 31, who was then running the mercantile) daughter Delia (age 37) her husband J. F. Stith (age 38) and that couple's three daughters, ages two to seven. (Phillips, 1988) Nannie Naucke died on 5-December-1906 and the house passed to her heirs. (Dorothy Wuss, personal communication, 19-Sept-1998)

J. FRANK AND DELIA STITH

Although never actually acquiring individual title, the second major period of occupancy, beginning with the deaths of William and Nannie Naucke, is largely associated with their daughter Delia and her husband J. Frank Stith.¹³

James Frank Stith, known as Frank, was born in Indiana on 23-September-1862 and had established a homestead and was working as a carpenter in Terry, Montana until 1882. (McNeil, Letter to the Author, 23-Dec-1998)¹⁴

"improvement" on the subject property. Earlier reports cite these same records in support of Naucke's construction of the house as early as 1871, an inaccurate and unsupported date. There is no indication of any Naucke ownership of the nominated parcel prior to 1877.

¹² Naucke apparently occupied lands originally platted as streets in the Napoleon Town Plat and it was not until the 1970s, after Josephine County came into ownership, that these former right-of-ways were actually vacated and combined into the present tax lots. See

¹³ Prior to this nomination the house was generally known as the "Stith-Naucke House" although the origin of that name, or even the temporally incorrect order of association with the house, is unclear. The Stith's never owned or even occupied the subject property other than in joint tenancy with Delia's siblings and the surviving heirs of William and Nannie..

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When he came west he located in Josephine county and was employed in Grants Pass as a carpenter 31 years ago [1889] being engaged in his work with the Sugar Pine Door and Lumber Company. (*Courier*, Feb. 1920)¹⁵

In 1890 Stith moved to Kerby after his August marriage to Delia Naucke. "Kerbyville is extending congratulations to James F. Steele [sic] and Miss Delia S. Naucke, who were married last week at this place." (*Democratic Times*, 5-Sept-1890, 2:3) After marrying Delia, Frank Stith became a partner in the reorganized "Stith and Naucke" store with his brother-in-law Theodore, known as "Biz." Like William Naucke, Frank Stith was well-known in the county and active in various business dealings including investments in mining operations. In June 1896 he was appointed Kerby's postmaster, with the post office still located in the mercantile store. (Helbock, 1969:100) Stith retained this position until his death on 20-February-1920. (McNeal, personal communication with the Author, 22-December-1998)

In the death of Frank Stith the people of Josephine County, and especially of the Illinois Valley, have lost a citizen whose thought was from the upbuilding of his community, and who will be missed as few others citizens would be missed. He was a leader in enterprise, honest, straight-forward, and held the confidence of every one who knew him. (*Courier*, Feb 1920)

Although many published reports cite Frank Stith as the carpenter responsible for the Naucke House, contending that he and Delia fell in love during the process, this seems unlikely. While Stith was in fact a carpenter, all available documents indicate he did not arrive in Josephine County until after the house was built. And although Stith and Delia may have first met in some completely unrelated way it is possible, and indeed likely given the persistence of the story in family materials, that after arriving in Josephine County in the late 1880s, Stith undertook some sort of undocumented remodeling or addition to the Naucke home and in that way first encountered Delia. The "improved" value of the

¹⁴ Mrs. Doreen McNeal, of Seattle, is the great grand-daughter of William and Nannie Naucke, via her grandmother, Delia Naucke Stith.

¹⁵ This quotation and all similarly cited statements are from Stith's obituary, "James Frank Stith, of Kerby, died Saturday," as supplied to the Author by Doreen McNeil. While the specific source of this document was not located, it presumably was published in the *Grants Pass Courier* on Monday, 9-Feb-1920.

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subject property rose dramatically in 1891, supporting the possibility that Stith did in fact build some portion of the house..¹⁶

In 1923, following Frank Stith's death and Delia's related decision to move to Seattle to live with the couple's eldest daughter, she and the other Naucke heirs sold the family home and all its associated land to T. J. Shattuck and Ray Barrow ending both the original ownership and the period of significance. (JoCtyDeed 59:153)¹⁷ Delia Naucke died in Seattle in July 1939 and is buried next to Frank in Kerby's Laurel Cemetery. (Wuss Letter, 17-Sept-1985)

POST-NAUCKE OWNERSHIP

Ruth Pfefferle, documenting the recollections of Lloyd Stevenson, reports that in 1912 the Naucke House was the home of Tom Shattuck.

The Shattucks lived in the Naucke House which is now the old part of the museum...the post office was next and Frank Stith was the postmaster. Behind the post office was the Stith residence..." (Pfefferle, 1977:59)

Stevenson's recollections indicate that the Stiths and other Naucke heirs rented the house after Nannie's death and resided elsewhere in Kerby, although the family clearly retained ownership until 1923, as noted above.¹⁸ Shortly after Shattuck and Barrow purchased the property, it was promptly sold to Tom and Rena Hutton in 1924. (JCD 60:545)¹⁹ In November 1926 the Hutton sold to George Thrasher, subject to a \$2500 mortgage.

¹⁶ See Josephine County Assessment Records, (Josephine County Historical Society Collection). While listed at \$400 in 1883, no improved value is taxed for the next seven years. In 1891 the improved value on Naucke's lots in Kerby rises to \$1500.

¹⁷ The Naucke heirs included all Naucke's surviving children and Natalie's survivors, Rupert, Raymond and Florence Leonard.

¹⁸ Like much of the social history of the Naucke House, there is considerable uncertainty regarding whether or not Shattuck actually lived here or not. An undated clipping provided by Doreen McNeil, published in 1936 upon Delia's death, states she formerly resided "...at Kerby on the place now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Clay Ramsay..." supporting the theory that the Naucke's rented the subject property out after Nannie's passing. Another source refers to the Naucke House as the "Biz Naucke Home," indicating that while the Stiths may have lived elsewhere that Delia's brother continued to reside in the home after Nannie's death.

¹⁹ Various published reports state that Hutton purchased the property from the Naucke estate in 1916. This does not appear to be accurate.

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(JoCtyMortgage Records, 30:532-34) This was the first in a series of transfers, all to various relatives of Mr. Thrasher, who maintained ownership through 1943, or more than 20 years.²⁰

After leaving the Thrasher family, a series of various other private ownerships ended in 1958. The Illinois Valley Federated Woman's Club, having sold its first clubhouse in O'Brian, agreed to purchase the Naucke House from George and May Salvage.

Final [price] by Mr. Salvage ... for the house and grounds, \$6,000, voted and passed to buy. We will try to get some of the emergency fund to fix up our building to use as a hospitality house during the centennial, as well as a place to put our old pieces ..for museum.²¹

In December Ruth Rausch, writing for the *Grants Pass Courier*, reported that "The old *Stith-Naucke* House, one time show place of Kerbyville, has been purchased by the Illinois Valley Federated Women's (sic) Club for the purpose of establishing a Josephine County Historical Museum. Work will begin the first of January to restore all the grandeur and dignity that is its birthright." (*Courier*, 18-December-1958, emphasis added)²²

THE KERBYVILLE MUSEUM

Valentine's Day 1959 marked the 100th anniversary of Oregon's admission to the union. A 100-day period from June 10 to September 17, coinciding with the Oregon Centennial Exposition," the largest fair on the West Coast since the Golden Gate Exposition in 1940, was designated statewide for hundreds of celebrations honoring the event. (Brooks, 1961:544) The Illinois Valley Federated Woman's Club transformation of the Naucke

²⁰ Thrasher purchased the property from the Huttons via Josephine County Deed 63:146. Subsequent documented transfers of the entire nominated area are to Mrs. Thrasher's parents, Jesse B. and Elena Barnett, (1929, 68:146), to Mrs. Barnett's brother, Guy Fedderly (1938, 87:500) and finally to Mrs. Thrasher's sister (Fedderly's niece), in 1942, JCD 96:563. (Mrs. Virginia Steimer, personal communication with the Author, 22-December-1998). Mrs. Steimer is the daughter of George Thrasher.

²¹ History of the O'Brien Woman's Club 1940-1961, November 14, 1958.

²² This is the earliest known to the "Stith-Naucke House" under that name and may be the original source of this non-historically accurate usage. Rausch also reports the previous owner as Mr. "Savage," a longtime Josephine County family name. It is not clear which name is accurate but Salvage, as used by the Woman's Club is assumed to be, since Mrs. May Salvage was a member of the organization.

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House and its re-opening as a museum was a major focus of the centennial events in Josephine County.

Present plans are for the building to be renovated and prepared in time for the Centennial observance this summer...Members of the [Woman's Club] are prepared to alternate in serving as hostesses...during the 100-day celebration. (*Courier*, 18-Dec-1958.)

The Kerbyville Museum was formally opened in August-1959.

...More than one hundred, undeterred by the ninety-plus heat, signed the guest book on the spacious front porch of the beautiful old home built in the 1890s (*sic*) and recently completely renovated and made ready for this day..." (*Courier*, 25-August-1959)

Dr. A. N. Collman, president of the Josephine County Historical Society, "...opened the meeting by paying tribute to all the loyal workers, men and women, who had made this day possible. Other dignitaries and speakers included County Judge Lathrop, Martha, Claire and Mary Hanely, of the Southern Oregon Historical Society, Waldo Alcorn, of the Del Norte County Historical Society, 91-year old Kitty Gray, an Illinois Valley pioneer, and Mrs. Earl Boyd, president of the Illinois Valley Federated Woman's Club. Amos Voorheis, publisher of the Grants Pass Courier, closed the presentation by noting the "...the fine work done, the beauty of the building and its surroundings, and the excellent way in which the fine articles donated to the museum were displayed." (*Courier*, 25-August-1959, 10:18)

The Museum operation continued under the Women's Club until 1961 when the Naucke House and its grounds were transferred to Josephine County, which assumed responsibility for its management. (*Courier*, 27-January-1961) Continuing its uninterrupted operation as a museum, in 1998 the Illinois Valley Federated Woman's Club resumed ownership of the property. It is now operated on a volunteer basis by the Kerbyville Museum Board.

OTHER 19TH CENTURY HISTORIC RESOURCES IN KERBY, OREGON

Although Kerby is one of the oldest communities in Josephine County, only a few 19th century resources have been documented in the community. Historic and cultural resources in Kerby and Josephine County were first surveyed to any degree in 1976 by Stephen Dow Beckham, under contract to the State Historic Preservation Office. In

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addition to his documentation of the Naucke House, Beckham recorded two other 19th century resources in Kerby, the "Sucker Creek" or "Grimmet" School building, built in 1898 and moved to the museum complex site in 1959 as an element of the establishment of the Kerbyville Museum, and the IOOF Hall, reportedly built in 1876.²³

In 1983 historic Kay Atwood, under contract to the Josephine County Planning Department, undertook a comprehensive survey of historic resources in the county. This document recorded four sites in Kerby; the Frank Floyd House (c1910), the Masonic Temple (1907), the Cabax Mill Site (c1945) and the original site of the Kerby Courthouse.

While there are almost certainly other structures in Kerby that remain from its 19th century heyday, the William and Nannie Naucke is to be the oldest standing structure in the community and the one best associated with its early history.

SUMMARY:

The William and Nannie Naucke House, completed c1883, is a two-story, wood frame vernacular farmhouse in the former Josephine County seat community of Kerby. Long the home of the prominent Naucke and related Stith families, the house is significant for its role in the history of the Kerby area and that community's 19th century prominence as governmental and economic hub of Josephine County. The Naucke House remains the best and earliest identified example of its architectural type in the vicinity and may well be the oldest standing structure in Kerby. Although converted into a museum in honor of Oregon's Centennial in 1959, the William and Nannie Naucke House retains very high integrity to its historic appearance and effectively and accurately conveys both its original design and the associations for which it is significant. The Naucke House is proposed for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion "A" for its association with the development of Kerby and Josephine County, Oregon, and under criterion and "C" as the best and earliest known example of a 19th century vernacular dwelling in the study area.

²³ The construction date of the IOOF Hall (SHPO No. 13) appears to be incorrect and more likely relates to the establishment of the Kerby Lodge rather than the construction of this structure. The present building was dedicated in 1886 and at that time described as "...the new Odd Fellows building.." (*Courier*, 14-May-1886, 2:3)

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NOTE: The early history of the Naucke House, especially the details of the lives of William and Nannie Naucke and their children, is largely undocumented. This nomination benefits substantially from the memories, clippings, and entirely helpful assistance of members of both the Naucke and Stith families, most especially Mrs. Dorothy Wuss and Mrs. Doreen McNeil.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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William & Nannie Naucke House, Kerby, OR

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nominated parcel includes all of tax lots 1000 and 1100 as shown on Josephine County Assessors Plat 38-8-9-12, which includes Lots 1-8, Block 4, of the Original Town of Kerby, plus the related portion of Tax Lot 1100 lies on the opposite side of the Kerbyville Ditch. The nominated parcel encompasses a total area of 3.92. acres, as located at 24195 Redwood Highway, in the town of Kerby, Josephine County, Oregon.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated parcel includes all the Town of Kerby [Napoleon] property associated with Naucke House as purchased by William and Nannie Naucke in 1877 and 1880 and owned by the family through 1923, plus those lands consisting of vacated streets in the Town of Napoleon plat that are within the pertinent tax lots and were used by the Nauckes but only formally incorporated into the property by the Josephine County Commissioners in the 1970s. The nominated parcels represent the all Town of Kerby lands historically associated with the Naucke House and its surviving outbuildings throughout the historic period of significance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section Number: PHOTOGRAPHS Page: 1 William & Nannie Naucke House, Kerby, OR

1. Historic View: Naucke House, West [Primary] Elevation
Looking: East, over early fencing, from road
Photographer: Unknown
Date of Photograph: c1909
Negative: Courtesy of Mrs. Dorothy Wuss [Naucke Family]
2. Historic View: Naucke House, South [Side] Elevation
Looking: North, from location of 1964 annex
Photographer: Unknown
Date of Photograph: c1930
Negative: Courtesy of Mrs. Virginia Stierner
3. Historic View: Kerbyville Museum, West [Primary] Elevation
Looking: East, from parking area
Photographer: Unknown
Date of Photograph: c1960
Negative: Collection of the Kerbyville Museum
4. Current View: Naucke House, West [Primary] Elevation
Looking: East, from Parking area
Photographer: G. Kramer
Date of Photograph: August 1998
Negative: Collection of the Photographer
5. Current View: Naucke House, North [Side] Elevation
Looking: South, from "Equipment" Shed
Photographer: G. Kramer
Date of Photograph: August 1998
Negative: Collection of the Photographer
6. Current View: Naucke House. NW View [Note rear "shed" & kitchen porch]
Looking: Southeast, from lawn
Photographer: G. Kramer
Date of Photograph: August 1998
Negative: Collection of the Photographer

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

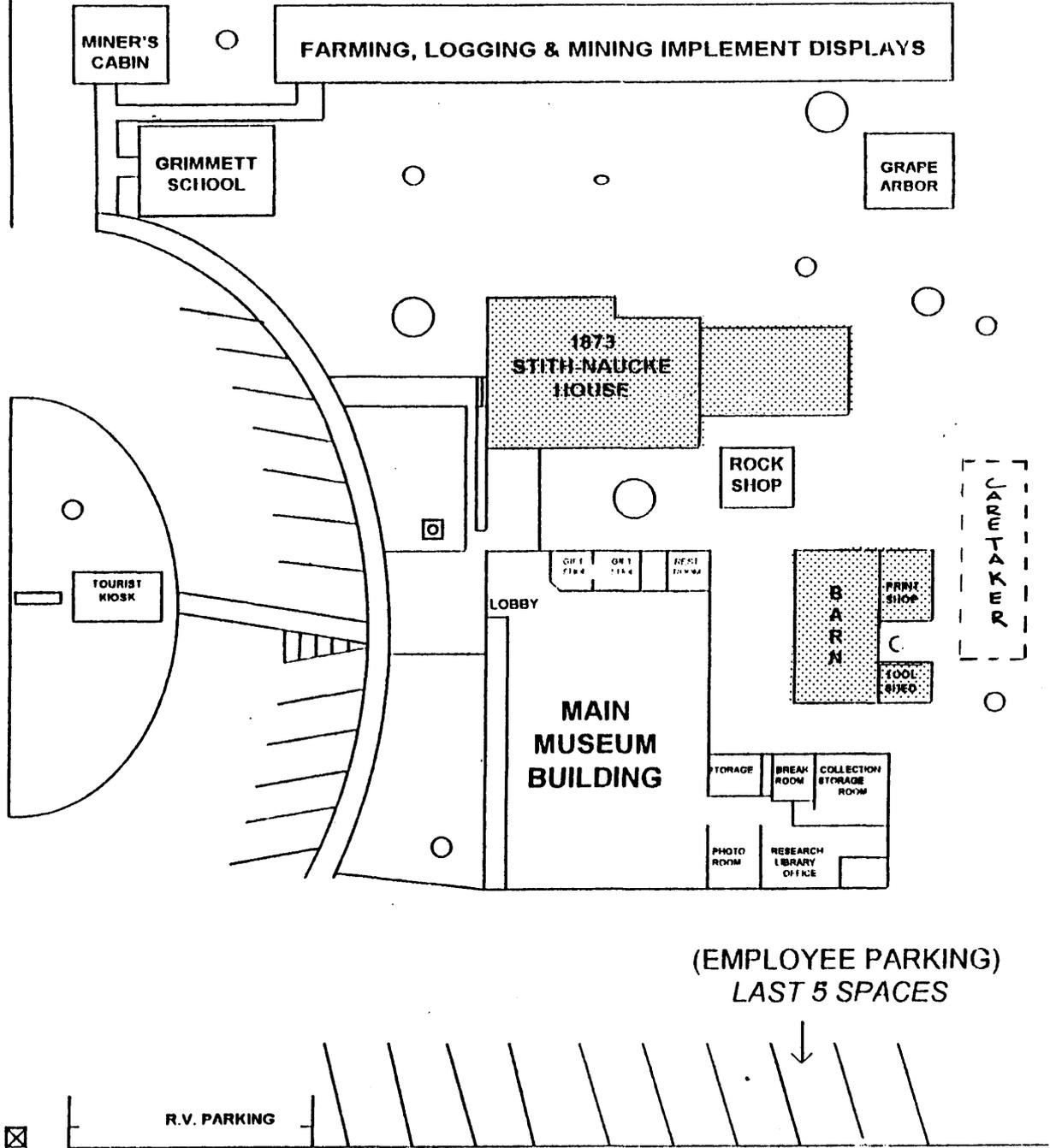
Section Number: PHOTOGRAPHS Page: 2 William & Nannie Naucke House, Kerby, OR

7. Current Interior: Entryway
Looking: East
Photographer: G. Kramer
Date of Photograph: January 1999
Negative: Collection of the Photographer

8. Current Interior: Second floor Bedroom
Looking: NE
Photographer: G. Kramer
Date of Photograph: August 1998
Negative: Collection of the Photographer

9. Current View: Naucke Barn
Looking: SE
Photographer: G. Kramer
Date of Photograph: August 1998
Negative: Collection of the Photographer

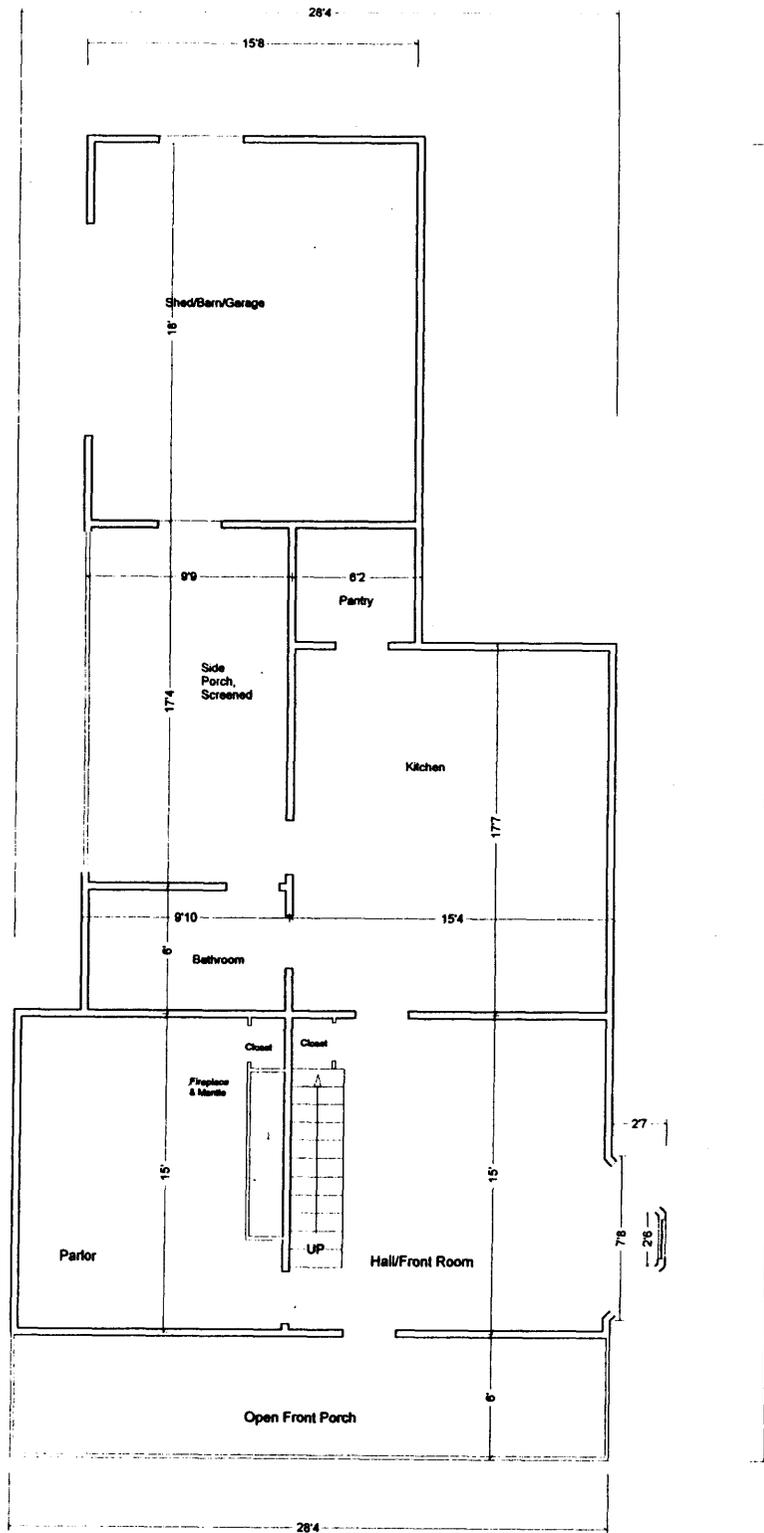
REDWOOD HIGHWAY
U.S. HWY. 199



KERBYVILLE MUSEUM COMPLEX
[NAUCKE HOUSE]
39-8W-9, ASSESSORS PLAT 12, LOTS 1000 & 1100
KERBY, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON

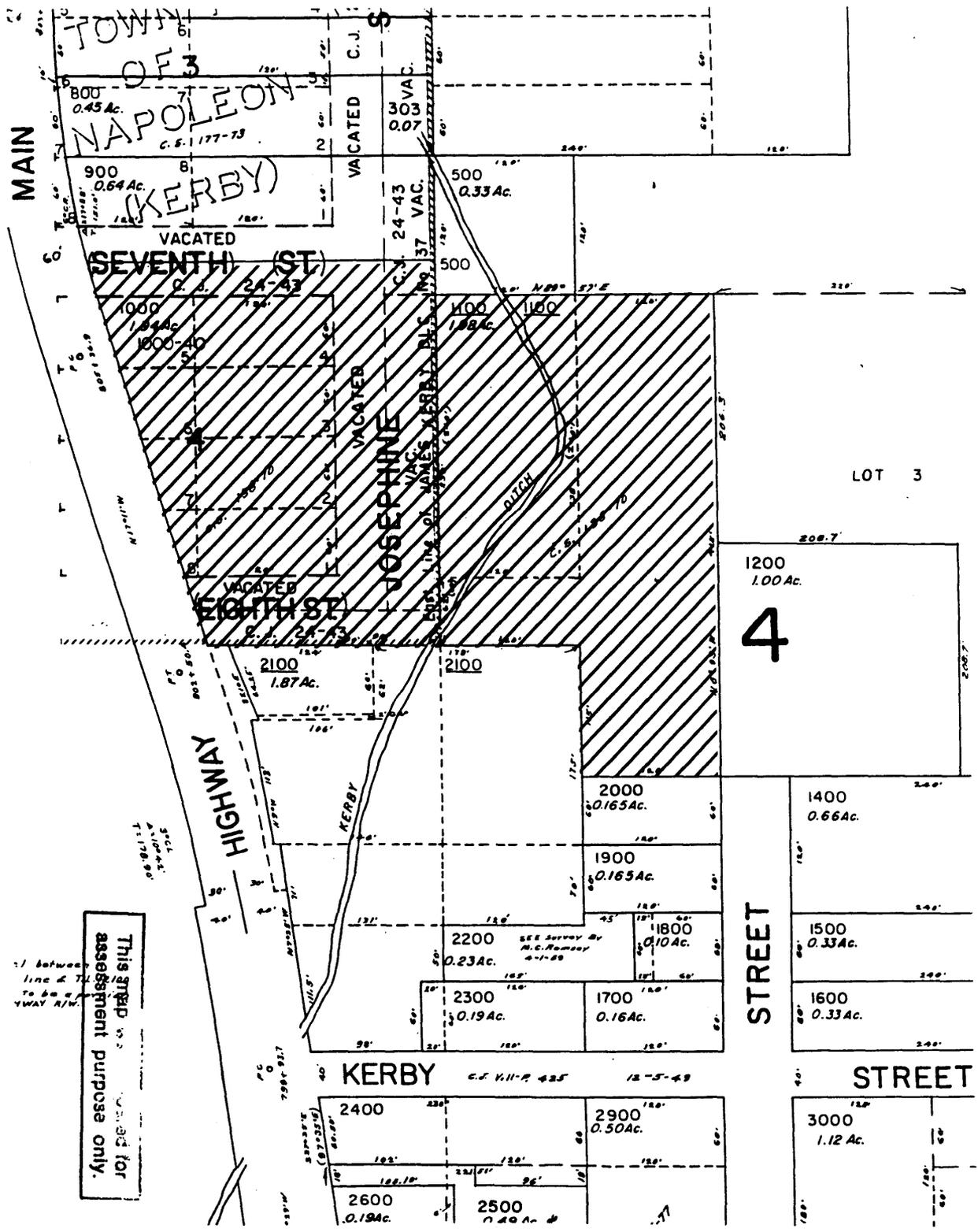
SITE MAP

from Kerbyville Museum



WILLIAM & NANNIE NAUCKE HOUSE
 24195 Redwood Hwy
 KERBY, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON

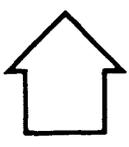
 FIRST FLOOR PLAN
approximate dimensions only

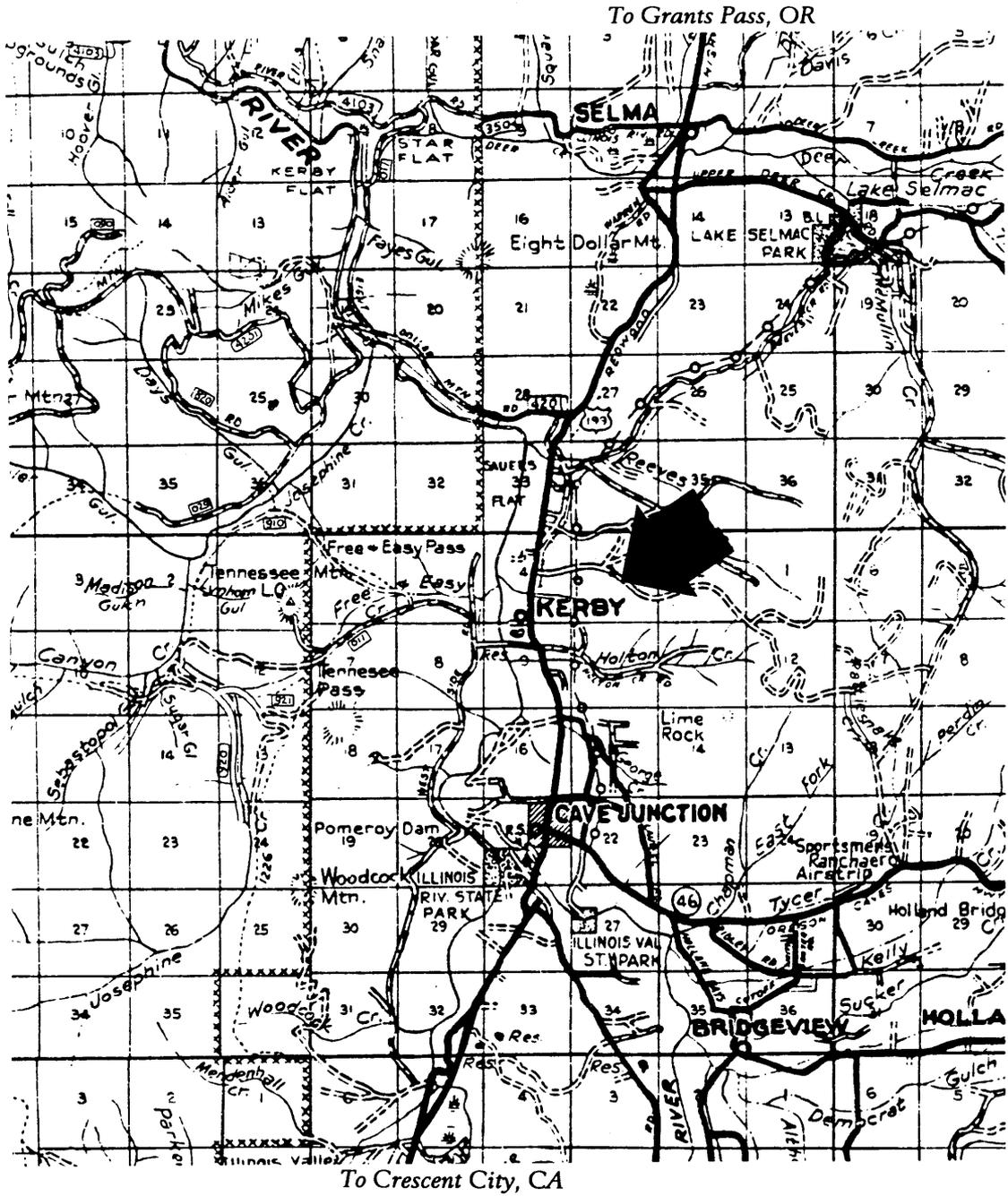


KERBYVILLE MUSEUM COMPLEX
[NAUCKE HOUSE]
 39-8W-9, ASSESSORS PLAT 12, LOTS 1000 & 1100
 KERBY, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON

TAX ASSESSOR'S PLAT

nominated area shown in gray





KERBYVILLE MUSEUM COMPLEX
 [NAUCKE HOUSE]
 39-8W-9, ASSESSORS PLAT 12, LOTS 1000 & 1100
 KERBY, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON

VICINITY MAP
from Metzker's Map of Josephine County