

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88001114

Date Listed: 7/22/88

C. E. Moyer Nurseries
Property Name

Winston
County

OR
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Linda McClelland
Signature of the Keeper

7/22/88
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

This property is under private ownership.
This property is classified as a "district," not "buildings" and "site" as checked on the form.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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JUN 20 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Moyer, C. E., Nurseries Property
other names/site number Wildwood Nursery

2. Location

street & number 8374 Old Highway 99 South N/A not for publication
city, town Winston X vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Douglas code 019 zip code 97496

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>2</u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>5</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date June 16, 1988
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. 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:) _____

Linda McClelland 7/22/88
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/horticultural facility/nursery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/horticultural facility/nursery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Early 20th Century Movements/Craftsman

vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls wood/weatherborad

board and batten

roof wood/shingle

other metal/corrugated tin

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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The full extent of the C. E. Moyer Nurseries property is 14.5 acres-- situated just beyond the southern city limits of Winston, in Douglas County, Oregon. It is Lot No. 15 of Plat "A" of Miller's-Dillard Subdivision, surveyed and platted in 1920 when owned by S. C. and Jennie Miller. The property is bounded by the old Pacific Highway, or Highway 99, on the West boundary; at the time the property was purchased by C. E. Moyer in 1921, this was the main north-south transportation route through western Oregon and remained so until the completion of the Interstate Highway 5 in the 1960s. The South Umpqua River, flowing eastward at this point, forms the northern boundary. The proposed historic area covers 3.8 acres from the northwest corner of the property 550' on the river (north) side, 167' on the east side, 701' on the south side, and 400' on the west side. This area includes the outstanding historical features, botanical and man-made, of the property. It is all in the 100-year flood plain of the South Umpqua River. Owing to the richness of the soil and available irrigation, this area has long been under commercial agricultural cultivation and continues to be so at the present time.

A mature grove of native myrtlewood trees along the river bank forms a dramatic and beautiful background for the Moyer Nurseries property. The myrtlewood trees provide a stabilizing band varying in width from 125' to 140' along the river bank and reach a height of approximately 60'. Under the canopy of the trees, little underbrush survives, providing a park-like setting in the deep shade. Many of the myrtle trees grow in clumps; one such group has nine trunks and measures 27' in circumference. A wisteria planted by Mr. Moyer many years ago has grown to the full height of the myrtle trees and when blossoming in the spring creates a beautiful "waterfall" effect in the trees.

The remainder of the flat landscape is punctuated by over two dozen trees planted by Mr. Moyer. Now mature and reaching to heights of 60 to 70 feet, these trees, some exotic and some native, are a reminder of Mr. Moyer's widespread interest in botany and horticulture.

In 1964 a major flood covered all the property with two feet of water. Most shrubs and plantings smaller than mature trees were destroyed or damaged. At this time the holly orchards adjacent to the historical area were removed because of extensive flood damage.

South of the water tower a large planting of unusual bamboo flourishes. Several outstanding trees are planted nearby including a cork oak reportedly planted by Luther Burbank in the early 1920s. Other unusual trees in this area are a butterfly magnolia and an Oriental true fir. Large trees on the front of the property include a large clump type Cedars of Lebanon, a sweet gum, a Coast redwood, and a red horse-chestnut.

Most open areas are filled with nursery stock much the same as in Mr. Moyer's day. The effect is one of walking through a pleasant, if rather well-filled garden. A narrow road runs along the north side of the property to the rear.

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Original buildings sited on the property are arranged in a loose row at the edge of the myrtlewood trees and bordering the road to the rear of the property. On the north side of the road the first structure is a small cottage measuring 16' by 28'. The building has a low-pitched gable roof covered with wood shingles with a north-south axis; it has open eaves with braces, and is sided with narrow horizontal weatherboards. Windows in the east (front) elevation are double-hung sash. Those in end elevations are set horizontally. There is one brick chimney and a small porch on the east elevation. The interior is divided into two rooms. This early cottage was the home of the hired man and was later used for storage. After renovation, the present owner plans to use the building as a display area for Moyer memorabilia.

Directly east of the cottage is a rectangular concrete fish pond measuring 8' by 13'. Behind the pond are two mature trees, the more unusual an elephant ear magnolia, quite rare in this area. A dawn redwood, a deciduous variety of evergreen, grows in the drive turn-around directly south of the pond.

The Moyer home is located directly east of the Dawn redwood; it is a modest, gable-roofed house with Craftsman characteristics in gabled porch and overhanging eaves. It measures 36' by 40' and is composed of a two-story central volume with lean-to, or shed additions the length of east and west elevations. Siding is board and batten; windows are one-over-one double-hung sash, multi-paned on the second story. The house has a corrugated metal roof and one brick chimney. The interior of the house is divided into a living room, dining room, kitchen, bath, and bedroom on the first floor, and two bedrooms on the second floor. The house is in good condition.

Two of the original three rough animal shelters are located east of the house and on the north side of the road.

About 100' east of the house and on the south side of the road is the landmark architectural feature of the property, a 60' high water tower with a 600 gallon redwood tank at the top. The water tower measures 12' by 15'. It is sided with board and batten siding to a height of 15'; an open system of cross braces supports the tower to within six or eight' of the top. Board and batten siding encloses the top portion where the tank is situated. The water tower has a floored area about eight' from the ground; a ladder goes to the water tank atop the tower which is covered by a hipped roof. The water tower is in fair condition.

The old lath house begins just east of the water tower and extends about 210' east; it varies in width from 25' to 40'. Some of the lath house is in use and some is in poor condition.

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In 1964 a large, rectangular building measuring 24' by 65' was constructed by then-owner Marvyn Pearson. The building houses the nursery office on the ground floor and residential quarters on the second floor. The house is located in the center of the nursery. It features a low-pitched gable roof with a north-south axis, plywood siding, aluminum windows, and a large, exterior chimney. Partially supported by the house are numerous trellises sheltering the nursery stock.

The Moyer Nurseries property was subdivided by owners S. C. and Jennie Dillard Miller in 1920. In 1921 C. E. and Mary Moyer bought the 14.5 acre plot with the deed recorded in 1925, Vol. 87, pages 33 and 34 of the Deed Book, Douglas County Court House.

In 1962 the property was sold to Mervyn Pearson.

In 1978 the property was sold to David Weilbrenner and Howell Thatcher. Following some brief changes in ownership, the property is now under the sole ownership of David Weilbrenner.

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C. E. Moyer Nurseries Planting Key, Native and Exotic Trees

1 - sweet gum	liquidamber styraciflua
2 - cedar of Lebanon	cedrus libani
3 - coast redwood	sequoia sempervirens
4 - horse chestnut	aesculus hippocastanum
5 - Spanish fir	abies pinsapo
6 - Colorado blue spruce	picea pungens
7 - blue Atlas cedar	cedrus atlantica
8 - locust	robinia pseudoacacia
9 - golden locust	gleditsia (horticulture variety)
10 - beech	fagus sylvatica
11 - dawn redwood	metasequoia glyptostroboides
12 - Sierra redwood	sequoiadendron gigantea
13 - wisteria	wisteria
14 - magnolia	magnolia macrophylla
15 - cutleaf birch	betula alba
16 - cutleaf birch	betula alba
17 - incense cedar	libocedrus decurrens
18 - coast redwood	sequoia sempervirens
19 - deodar cedar	cedrus deodara
20 - scarlet oak	quercus coccinea
21 - pin oak	quercus palustris
22 - cork oak	quercus suber
23 - magnolia	magnolia grandiflora
24 - star magnolia	magnolia stellata
25 - Sierra redwood	sequoiadendron gigantea
26 - Oriental true fir	*
27 - cutleaf birch	betula alba
28 - Chinese Empress	paulownia tomentosa
29 - native myrtlewood grove	umbellularia Californica

* may be abies homolepis (nikko fir, Japan)
or cunninghamia lanceolata (Chinese fir)

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/horticulture

Period of Significance

1921-1925

Significant Dates

1925

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Clarence E. Moyer

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The 14 1/2-acre parcel historically developed by Clarence E. Moyer (1871-1969) for nursery purposes from 1921 onward is located on the south bank of the South Umpqua River at the crossing of old Highway 99 on the southern outskirts of Winston in Douglas County, Oregon.

The nominated area of 3.8 acres is the operational and administrative core of the nurseries, an area described by a survey ordered by Moyer in 1952 possibly with the idea of a future park or arboretum in mind. As many as 20 native and exotic specimen trees were planted by the nurseryman in the core area. Moyer's association with the property ended when he sold the place in 1962. Narrowly interpreted, the historic period of significance extends to 1925, when the market, to which Moyer had introduced a new commercially successful variety of prune, reached its peak.

The property is locally significant under Criteria A and B in the area of horticulture. It was at his nursery in Douglas County that Moyer propagated three new camellias, an azalea and a new variety of Nandina, and developed a walnut resistant to frost. And it was here, above all, he developed the prune variety which bears his name and which contributed substantially to the agricultural economy of Douglas County even after 1925.

Still the center of a commercial nursery, the nominated area of 3.8 acres encompasses a variety of features, both structural and botanical, including 1) a helper's shack, 2) the Moyer cottage, 3) a water tower, 4) the lath house--all built between 1921 and 1925, and 5) a non-historic office and residence built in 1964, after the property's sale. It is this administrative and residential core, interspersed with specimen trees and nursery stock, which is the Douglas County property most importantly associated with the work of Clarence Moyer.

Among the mature native and exotic specimens planted from seed or nursery stock by Moyer in the core area are birch, redwood, fir, spruce, locust, beech, cedar, sweet gum, chestnut, Chinese Empress, and magnolia trees. The backdrop for the horticultural array is a grove of native myrtle trees bordering the

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository:

Douglas County Museum, Roseburg

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 3.8 acres Roseburg, Oregon 1:62500

UTM References

A 110 4662000 4773150
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The nominated area is located in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 28, Township 28S, Range 6W, Willamette Meridian, in Douglas County, Oregon. It lies on the east (south) bank of the South Umpqua River south of the city limits of Winston and is identified as a 3.8-acre surveyed parcel at the NW corner of Lot 15, Plat A, Miller's-Dillard Sub-division at said location. It is more particularly described as follows.

See continuation sheet

The nominated area of 3.8 acres encompasses the administrative/operational core of the
Boundary Justification nurseries developed by Clarence E. Moyer (1871-1969) from 1921 onward. It was here that Moyer propagated the variety of prune which bears his name and contributed so substantially to Douglas County's agricultural economy. Structural features contributing to the significance of the nominated area are the Moyer House, a helper's shack, lath house, and a water tank tower, all built before 1925. A sizeable, two-story residence/office building of 1964 post-dates Moyer's sale of the property and is not a contributing feature. Included in the nominated See continuation sheet area is the grove of myrtles bordering the river bank which was maintained by the nurseryman as a visual backdrop.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marianne Kadas

organization N/A date August 1987

street & number 690 Laurel telephone (503) 459-2651

city or town Sutherlin state Oregon zip code 97479

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river. The open areas are filled with nursery stock, and the whole is connected by a central east-west gravel driveway and a grid of subsidiary lanes. The water tower, consisting of a 600-gallon redwood tank on a structural framework 60 feet in height and sided with boards and battens, has been made picturesque by the climbing vines which cover it.

The Winston-Dillard area was early established as a fruit growing section of southern Douglas County. The Winston and Agee families planted their prune orchards as early as 1878. When Clarence Moyer came to the area in 1921, he was the county's first nurseryman. The site for his enterprise was carefully chosen for ease of access to the newly completed Pacific Highway connecting points north and south. His specialties were stone fruit trees, walnuts, holly and ornamental shrubs, but his work encompassed the landscaping of residential grounds in many parts of southern Oregon and experimental field work and plant breeding as well as growing stock for wholesale and commercial markets across the country. He supplied the commercial bulb market from a 50-acre field nursery in Lower Garden Valley, near Roseburg.

The prune variety which Moyer developed on the outskirts of Winston produced a larger, sweeter fruit than the standard Italian prune, and it became a staple of local economy. In 1925 prunes were the largest single fruit crop in Douglas County. This peak was followed by a declining market owing in part to over production.

In 1928 Moyer was elected president of the Oregon State Horticultural Society, and later in his career, in the 1950s, he was many times honored for his contributions to Oregon horticulture and his work in organizing and promoting professional societies in the field.

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CLARENCE E. MOYER

During the years 1921-1962 Southern Douglas County was home to a remarkable horticulturist-botanist, Clarence E. Moyer, owner of the C. E. Moyer Nurseries property. Although he was 50 years old when he came to Oregon, many of Mr. Moyer's achievements were ahead of him, namely the propagation of three new camellias and an azalea, propagation of an outstanding new variety of nandina, an ornamental shrub, development of a frost-resistant walnut, and perhaps his most lasting contribution to agriculture, the propagation of the Moyer prune, a new and in some ways, superior variety of prune. His nursery is still maintained as a business and the many native and exotic trees he planted stand in testimony of his love of plants.

Agriculture has been an important part of the Southern Douglas County economy for many years and the property Mr. Moyer bought for his nursery was in an area long known for agricultural products. Ideal soil conditions and water for irrigation were two important factors present in this flood plain area of the South Umpqua River.

The Dillard area, where the Moyer Nurseries property is located, is named for early pioneer John Dillard. John Dillard was born in Kentucky in 1813, moved to Missouri as a young boy, and came overland to Oregon in 1850, settling in the Southern Douglas County area.

As early as 1879-80 John Dillard grew between 16 and 18 thousand bushels of wheat which sold for \$1.00 a bushel. Melons, including such varieties as Alabama Sweets, Thunderbolt, and Holburt's Honey were grown commercially in the 1890s and shipped by train to Portland. In 1903 seven or eight acres of strawberries were planted near Dillard by G. B. Laurence. The first shipment of berries to Portland was in 1906 with the strawberries selling for 45¢ a box. The Winston and Agee prune orchards at Dillard were planted in 1878.¹

Clarence E. Moyer was born in Tama City, Iowa, in 1871, the eldest of five children. At an early age, he moved with his family to Nebraska where he attended public school until he was 16. Moyer became a cowboy and while riding the range, he developed an interest in plants. He returned to school at Fremont, Nebraska, then attended Nebraska Wesleyan University, studying horticulture.

¹Douglas County Museum files, Roseburg, Oregon

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After completing his schooling he worked as a horticultural inspector in Boulder, Colorado. There he met and married Mary Stewart. Four years later he became manager of a demonstration and experiment station at Twin Falls, Idaho, where a large acreage of desert was being brought under irrigation.

Later Moyer moved to California to work for a nationally-known nurserymen, George Roeding. He operated his own nursery at Riverside, California, for seven years before moving to Oregon in 1921.²

Clarence Moyer was Douglas County's first nurserymen, and the property he selected for his nursery was ideally situated, bordered on the west by the Pacific Highway, completed in 1919, and now called Highway 99, and the South Umpqua River on the north. He immediately began an active business specializing in fruit trees and diversifying into such products as holly, daffodils, and ornamental shrubs. The early 1920s were an era of optimism and growth in this region and as the premier nurseryman in the area, Mr. Moyer enjoyed a prosperous business and his influence on the beautification of newly-planted yards and grounds was welcomed. His work covered many areas: plants for commercial sale, plants grown for wholesale cutting, i.e. holly, test work for USDA, landscaping, and experimental field work and plant breeding. All of these activities were closely supervised and in many cases, carried out by Mr. Moyer himself, and they show a great regard for the basic relationship of plant, soil, climate, and care.

In 1922, as a young boy of 14, John Robertson, now a resident of Myrtle Creek and retired, went to work for Mr. Moyer. In an interview, Mr. Robertson shared some memories of his work there:

"Mr. Moyer was very careful about the soil and practised soil conservation; he used a "green fertilizer", vetch, for soil enrichment, and to insure good seed, he always bought it from Boulder, Colorado. Rows of watermelon were eight feet apart, cantaloupe, six feet, and the ground was completely covered with vines. He sold seedlings of prunes, pears, peaches, and apricots. The peaches were sprouted from seeds and prune stock was grafted or budded onto peach roots which were hardier. Fruit trees, walnuts, and melons were irrigated with a flume system. Some produce was grown to be sold locally. Mr. Moyer preferred to use horses rather than a tractor for field work".³

Mr. Moyer also had a 50-acre field nursery in Lower Garden Valley near Roseburg, Oregon. There he propagated fruit and nut trees, roses and grapes for the sale stock, grew King Alfred daffodils for cut flowers, and the Soleildo narcissus for the bulb market.⁴

² Portland Oregon Journal, Northwest Living Magazine. June 17, 1956, Portland, Oregon

³ Interview, John W. Robertson, March, 1987

⁴ Telephone interview, Levi Gourley, Douglas County Museum

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For many years Mr. Moyer grew large quantities of holly, packing and shipping it all over the United States. From the Dec. 13, 1952 edition of the Roseburg News-Review:

"C. E. Moyer, Winston-Dillard nurseryman whose products find a sale all over the United States, is pictured against a background of holly. One might say he is snowed under with holly, inasmuch as he and his crew are working late into the nights packaging this vivid Christmas decoration for shipment - mostly to the Midwest and East. The clipings are given a hormone dip which keeps the leaves from tarnishing, packaged wet in foil tissue and paper cartons, then shipped by fast freight truck, parcel post, or express. The holly arrives at its destination fresh, crisp, and glistening. His nursery trees are not yet mature, yet he ships out between three and four tons of holly per season".⁵

Landscaping was another Moyer activity. One of his landscaping projects was the Chauncey and Anna Brewer house, built in Medford in 1930 and designed by Frank C. Clark. Quoting from the National Register nomination of the Brewer house prepared in 1982 by Kay Atwood:

"Landscaping was done by Clarence E. Moyer, known and honored throughout the state for his achievements in horticulture".⁶

Much of Clarence Moyer's time was spent conducting experimental work and plant breeding in the field of stone fruits, nuts, and ornamentals. For many years he worked closely with the USDA in testing chestnut varieties and hybrid walnuts. In the nut field, Mr. Moyer developed the Moyer walnut, a cross between the Franquette and the Northern California Black walnut. This walnut has good resistance to frost damage.

The Red Nandina propagated by Mr. Moyer is a popular variety which turns a bright red in the fall. It enjoyed a popularity on the East Coast as well as locally and is still a good-selling nursery item.

Three new camellias were propagated by Mr. Moyer; they are Umpqua Chief with a striking red and white flower; Umpqua Red, a solid red, well-formed camellia, and the Moyer White, popular because a white camellia was very unusual at the time. Many of the plants are still growing in local gardens.

The Moyer prune has a mysterious background; it is the result of a "sport" or chance mutation. The location of the original tree is not known; rumors place

⁵ Roseburg News-Review, Dec. 13, 1952. Roseburg, Oregon

⁶ National Register Nomination, Kay Atwood. Douglas County Museum

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it "out near Reston" or "possibly in the Azalea area". Mr. Moyer's contribution was the propagation of the new variety which was larger, sweeter, and had a thinner, more delicate skin than the then very popular commercially grown Italian prune. Propagation was accomplished by budding twigs onto peach root stock. Mr. Moyer planted the first trial orchard of the Moyer prune on the Sam and Mary Moore farm near Round Prairie.⁷

In a newspaper interview J. D. Vertrees, former county extension agent, said of Mr. Moyer:

"Much of his work was valuable but it has been forgotten and ignored by later generations".⁸

Of perhaps equal but different importance was Mr. Moyer's influence on landscaping in the area. He was known as a somewhat eccentric person, much preferring to sell to people he knew would take care of his plants, and not selling if he thought a plant would be carelessly treated. His feeling of respect for plants and their care, along with his freely-given advice, were factors encouraging all who came to his nursery to choose carefully and take care of plants once planted. Countless yards and gardens owe their survival to Mr. Moyer's regard for plants and his admonishments to their owners.

Quoting from a newspaper interview with Mrs. George Lenci, frequent visitor to the Moyer nursery:

"He took such great care of his nursery. He always tried to grow things that they said could't be grown here. He took great pride in his work".⁹

Shortly after Mr. Moyer's death at the age of 98 in 1969, the Douglas County Commissioners made an offer to the then-owner of the land to purchase a portion of the Moyer property for a public park and arboretum. The offer, however, was turned down.¹⁰

In his recently published book, Land of the Umpqua, Stephen Dow Beckham refers to Mr. Moyer: (after the 1919 high in prune prices), "Clarence E. Moyer, developer of the Dillard Nursery in 1921, responded by diversifying his stock: holly, the Moyer Walnut, the Moyer Prune, daffodils, and other plant products sustained his important nursery business."¹¹

⁷ Telephone interview, Levi Gourley, Douglas County Museum

⁸ Roseburg News-Review, March 14, 1968. Roseburg, Oregon

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Beckham, Stephen Dow. Land of the Umpqua, a History of Douglas County, Oregon. Commissioners of Douglas County, Oregon. 1986. p. 212

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Honors came to Clarence Moyer from his fellow horticulturists. In 1928 he was elected president of the Oregon State Horticultural Society and in 1952 he was made an honorary life member of the Oregon Association of Nurserymen. In 1956 he received the Oregon Federation of Garden Club's Annual Contemporary Horticultural Award for 1956. The presentation reads as follows:

For outstanding work in the development of stone fruits, nuts and ornamental material in the Oregon Country.

For his further efforts in the development and propagation of new and improved forms of horticultural material.

For his activities in the formation and promotion of nursery and horticultural organizations that have advanced horticulture in the Northwest.

For the continuing inspiration that his life and work give flower lovers and horticulturists.

This certificate of recognition and honor is awarded on this 12th day of June, 1956, to C. E. Moyer.¹¹

In 1956 an Oregon State professor of agriculture paid this outstanding tribute to Mr. Moyer's contribution to horticulture:

"It has been my privilege to know Mr. Moyer more than 30 years.

During this time I have always been impressed with his intense interest in horticulture and by his constant endeavor to enrich the horticulture of this region.

Above all else, however, I have been impressed with Mr. Moyer's sincerity and integrity. When call upon to give advice or council on horticultural matters, he has always given unbiased opinions, regardless of how his answers might affect him financially".¹²

Clarence Moyer's legacy of forty-one years lives on today in the nursery studded by beautifully-spaced, carefully chosen trees; by the many, many plants sold and given to local residents and cherished by them; and by the prune bearing his name, a long-time favorite in and beyond Douglas County.

¹² Portland Oregon Journal, Northwest Living Magazine, June 17, 1956, Portland, Oregon

¹³ Roseburg News-Review, March 14, 1968, Roseburg, Oregon

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THE PRUNE INDUSTRY IN DOUGLAS COUNTY

The prune industry began in Douglas County over 100 years ago with the planting of orchards in the south county area, Myrtle Creek, Canyonville, and Dillard in 1877. The first trees were obtained from nurseries in the Willamette Valley and included both the Italian prune, a large, tart, thick-skinned variety, and the sweet petite prune. Early trees were budded or grafted onto plum roots. There was a second large planting in 1888 in the Umpqua, Oakland, and Melrose areas. At this time, trees were also grafted onto peach or almond roots.

Prunes were sold as "dried prunes" and were grown and processed as follows: orchards, several acres in area, were planted with trees spaced 16 or 30 feet apart in either a triangle or square pattern. Typically, a small tree, or "whip" was planted. If possible the trees were irrigated the first year to give them a good start; they were generally not irrigated later. Orchards were cultivated and trees trimmed regularly. After growing for six years, the tree usually produced enough fruit to begin harvest.

Prunes ripen in the early fall and are harvested as fast as they ripen. In the early part of the century the prune crop was usually harvested with hired, local labor. "Shakers" were employed to shake the trees, branch by branch, with a long pole with a hook on the end. The prune pickers, usually women and children, were not far behind, and generally on hands and knees picked up the ripe, fallen prunes, filling bushel boxes which were then taken to the dryer.

Many prune growers had their own dryers, employing one of two drying principles; one system was built with tunnels using a natural draft system and wood for a heat source; the other type was the dehydrater with a fan system using crude oil for a heat source. About 18 to 36 hours were required to dry the prunes after which they could be stored at room temperature for several months. Beginning in the 1920s, some prunes were sold to canneries for canning.

Prunes were raised in every county west of the Cascades in Oregon and in 1910 Douglas County held more than 20% of the market. Prunes were sold by two methods, directly to the packer or by co-operative marketing, and there were at least eight different firms to sell prunes to in the county. Selling directly to the packer, the grower received his money at once; selling through a co-op meant a much longer wait for payment since prunes were marketed as the demand dictated. Prune prices fluctuated wildly from three to four cents per pound to a top price in 1919 of 22½ cents per pound. At this time the cost to produce was three & ½ to four cents per pound. The years from 1915 to 1925 saw the peak of prune production and prices in Douglas County; in 1925 prunes accounted for the largest single fruit crop. The decline in the prune industry resulted from over-production and the deteriorating quality of the dried prunes offered on eastern markets.

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By 1926 prices were falling and production fell from 22,000,000 pounds produced to 15,000,000 in 1934. Acreage fell from 10,000 acres in 1934 to 3,500 in 1944. In the 1940s instabilities in the weather, disease, supply of pickers, and lack of dryer space combined to further depress the prune industry. In 1945 because of inadequate local labor forces, men from the Conscientious Objectors camp in Elkton were called in to help with the harvest. By 1955 even though only about 200,000 out of 1,000,000 trees remained under cultivation, the crop was valued at \$387,000 and was still the most important horticultural crop in Douglas County.

Prune production continued to decline during the 1960s when the prune crop was valued at \$181,000 in 1960 and \$127,000 in 1966. In 1969 the crop was valued at \$84,000 with 1,265 acres harvested. After 1970 crop values are given for the general classification "tree fruits and nuts". Total value for these crops in 1973 was \$1,260,000.

Prunes are still grown in Douglas County and are the county's biggest tree crop. Sunray Orchards, a processing plant operating on Gazley Road near Canyonville, is the second largest handler of prunes in Oregon, buying prunes from all over Douglas County and as far north as Salem. Sunray operates from its main plant and four contracted dryers. After the prunes are dried they are processed and distributed by Sunray; processing consists of sizing, grading, cleansing, inspecting and packaging.

From the November 18, 1986 Roseburg News Review:

"Four types of prunes are grown in Oregon. They are Italian, Brooks, Date, and Moyer. The Italian is a naturally tart prune and it makes up the majority of Douglas County's crop. The Moyer prune runs a close second and it is the favorite of most people. The sweet, large and meaty prune was developed in Douglas County."

The Sunray plant has the capacity to process about 1,000,000 pounds of prunes per year; in 1986 it processed only 450,000 pounds because early rains damaged much of the crop. From ten to 20 people are employed from September through December in the processing plant. Advertising and marketing are still problem areas for the Oregon prune industry; however, prunes continue to be an important fruit crop in Douglas County.

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Continuation Sheet

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" " March 14, 1968
" " November 18, 1986

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Gourley, Levi. Douglas County Museum Files. Mr. Gourley worked for
Mr. Moyer in the 1930s and again after World War II starting in 1946-47.

Robertson, John W. March, 1987. Mr. Robertson worked for Mr. Moyer
from 1922 to 1930.

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Doris and Gerald Bacon, comments and information regarding the prune in-
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Lee Hunt, tree identification. Mr. Hunt is a forester with graduate work
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U. S. Forest Service for 30 years.

Molly and George Lenci, map and photograph.

Joan Stephens, map work.

Janet R. Lundeen, Registered Professional Land Surveyor, metes and bounds
description of nominated area, September 4, 1987.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

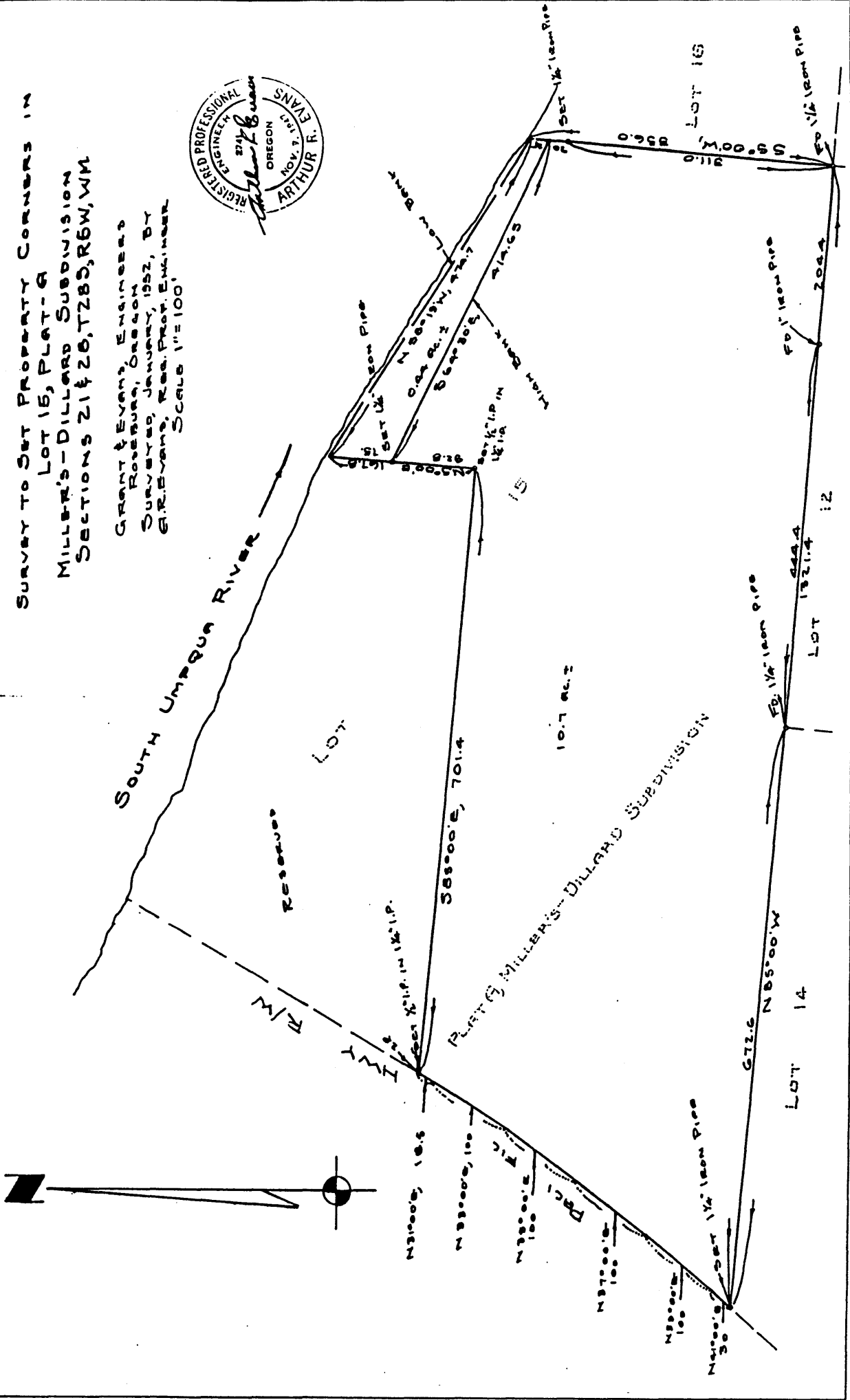
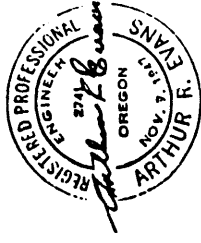
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C. E. MOYER NURSERIES PROPERTY

Beginning at a point which bears N36°07'41"E 448.01 ft. from the southwest corner of Lot 15 of Miller's Dillard Subdivision Plat A as platted and recorded in Volume 5 Page 46 of the Douglas County plat records: Thence S85°00'E 701.4 ft; thence N5°00'E 350 ft. more or less to the centerline of the South Umpqua River; thence northwesterly along said centerline 550 ft. more or less to its intersection with the easterly right-of-way of Hwy. 99; thence southwesterly along said right-of-way to the point of beginning, all in Sections 21 and 28 of Township 28 South, Range 6 West of the Willamette Meridian.

SURVEY TO SET PROPERTY CORNERS IN
LOT 15, PLAT-G
MILLER'S-DILLARD SUBDIVISION
SECTIONS 21 & 26, T28S, R6W, W1M

GRANT & EVANS, ENGINEERS
ROSEBURG, OREGON
SURVEYED, JANUARY, 1952, BY
G.R. EVANS, REG. PROF. ENGINEER
SCALE 1"=100'



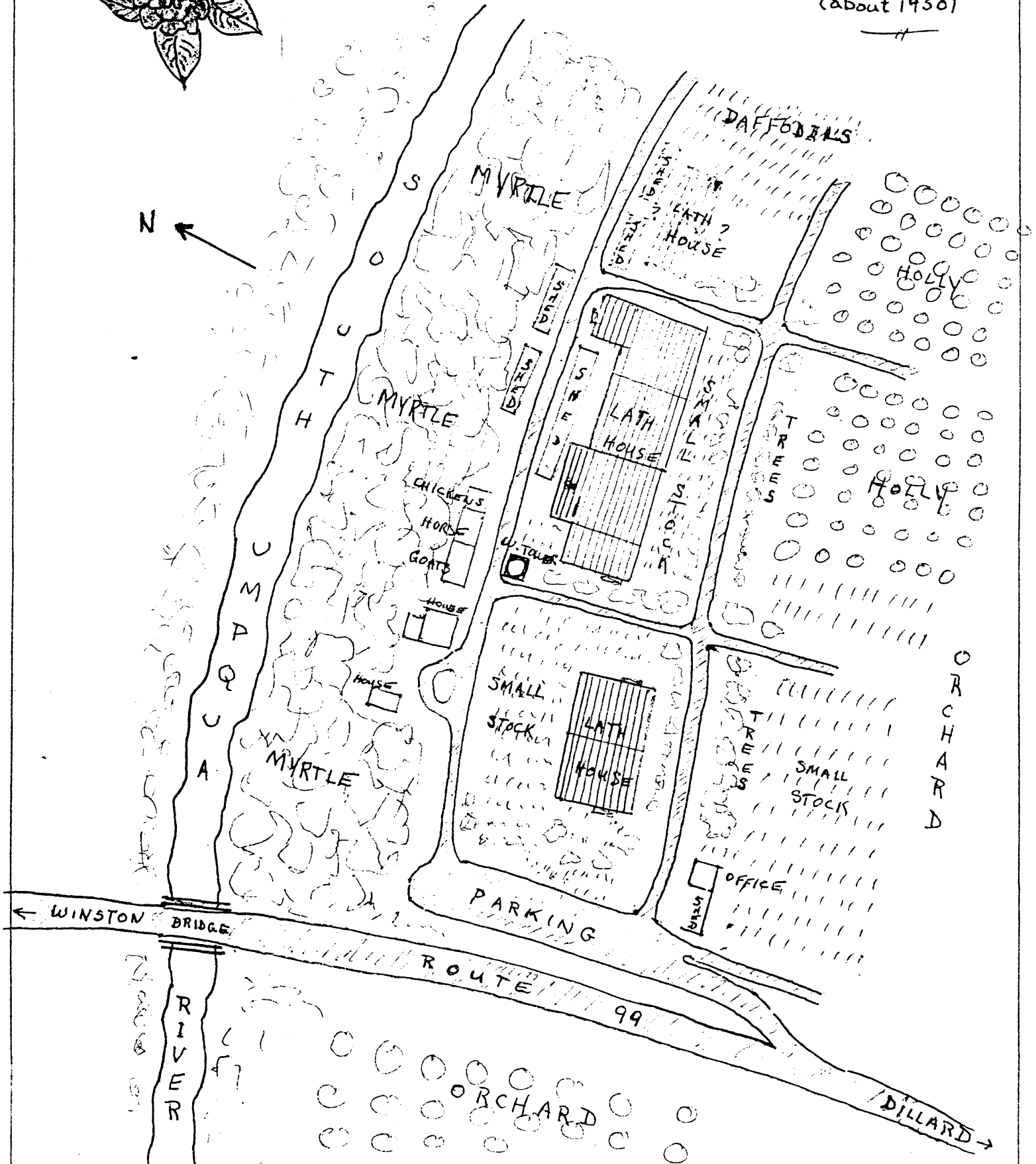
C.S. 90/393 WLOYK Daryl Fay MOYER

C. E. MOYER NURSERIES
Winston-Dillard area
Douglas County, Oregon
Plot Map REDUCED IN SCALE

C.E. MOYER - NURSERIES

WINSTON - OREGON

(about 1950)



C. E. MOYER NURSERIES
WINSTON-DILLARD AREA
DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON
1987

LEGEND

- A. SMALL COTTAGE 16' X 28'
- B. MOYER RESIDENCE 36' X 40'
- C. WATER TOWER 12' X 15'
- D. PRESENT OFFICE 24' X 65'
- E. LATH HOUSE

1 THRU 29 TREES

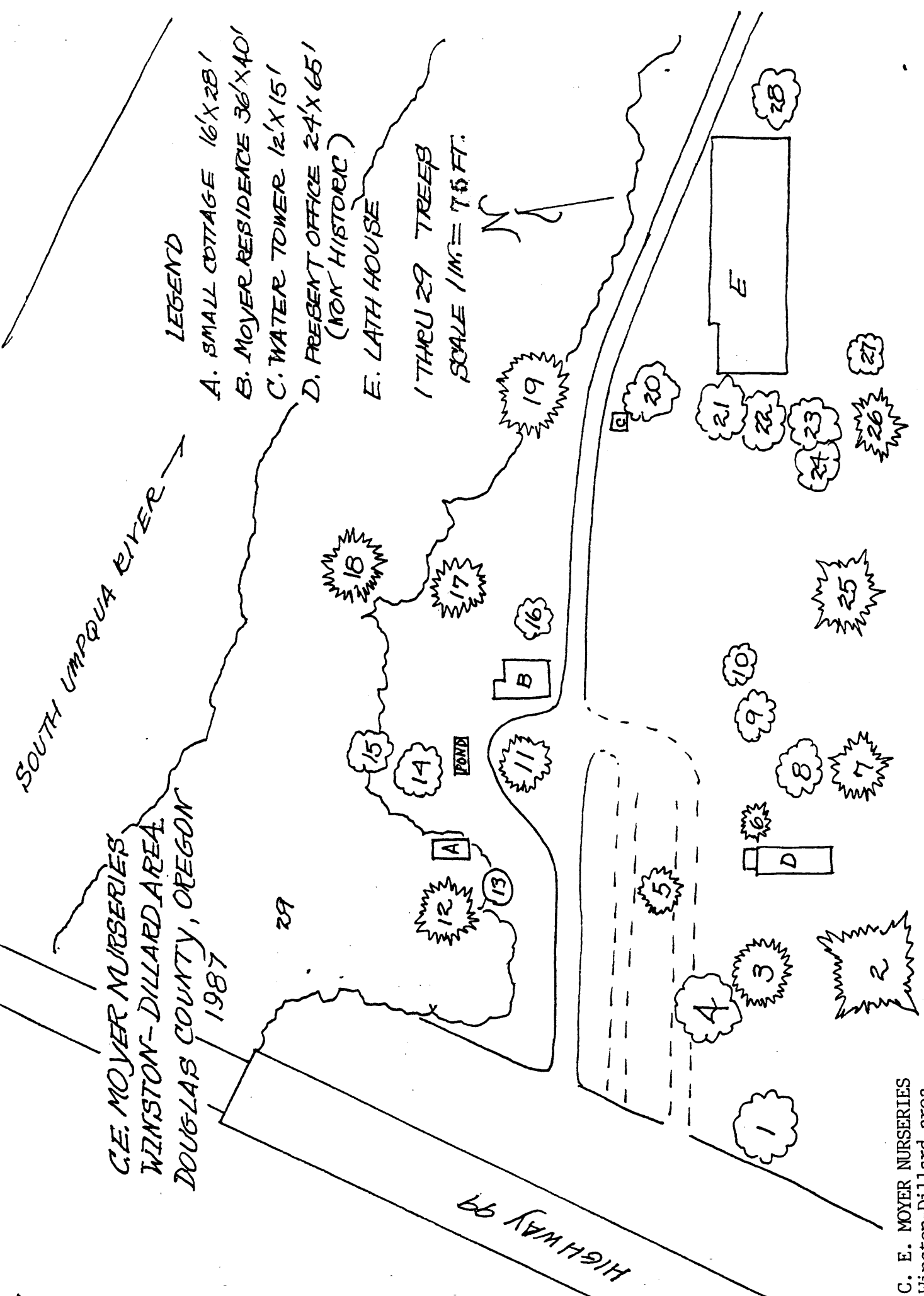
SCALE 1" = 75 FT.



SOUTH UMPQUA RIVER

29

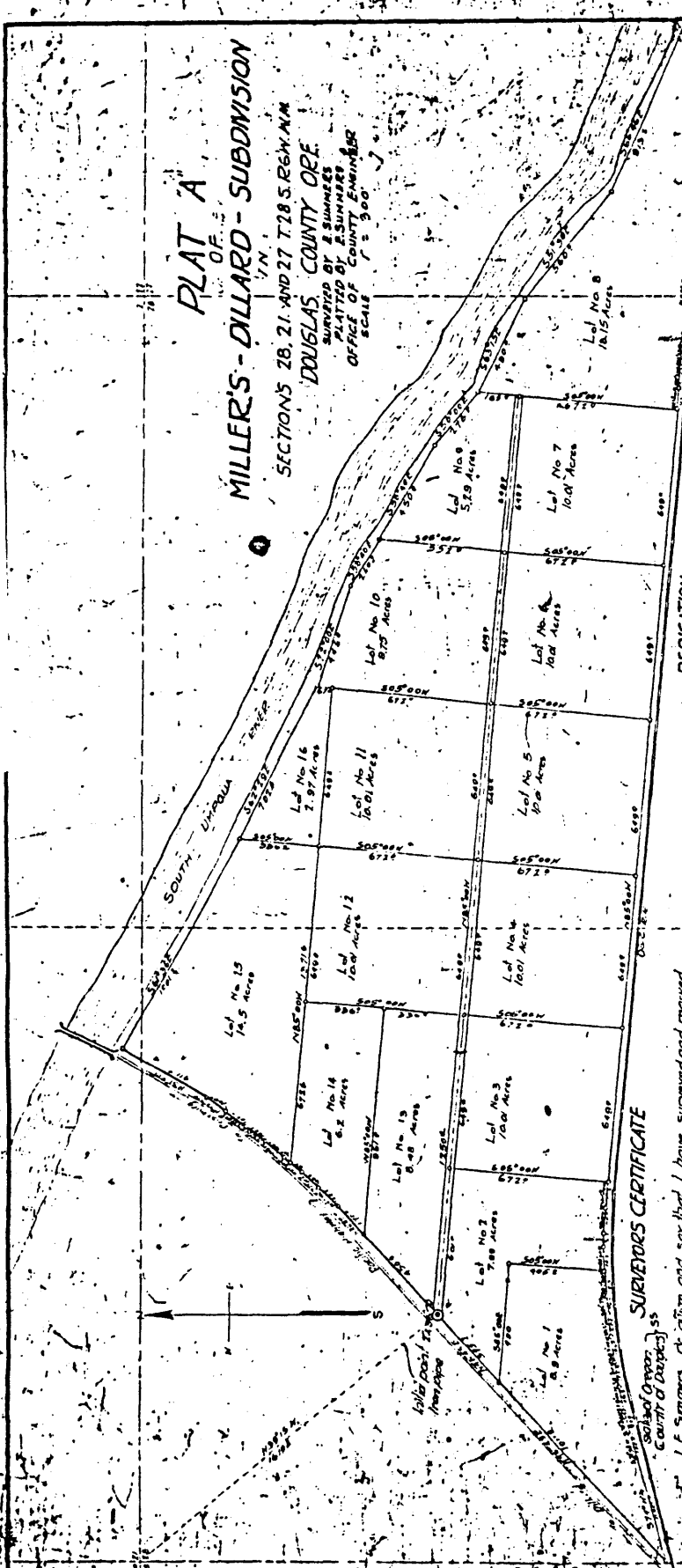
HIGHWAY 99



C. E. MOYER NURSERIES
Winston-Dillard area
Douglas County, Oregon
Historical area map
Trees and buildings

PLAT A
MILLER'S - DILLARD - SUBDIVISION
 V.N. 11
 SECTIONS 28, 21, AND 27 T.18 S. R.66 W.4 M

DOUGLAS COUNTY ORE
 SURVISED BY E. SUMMERS
 PLATTED BY E. SUMMERS
 OFFICE OF COUNTY ENGINEERS
 SCALE 1" = 300'



SURVEYORS CERTIFICATE

I, E. Summers do hereby certify that I have surveyed and marked with proper monuments the Leland Shuman on this acreage... (The text continues with a detailed list of bearings and distances for each lot, such as 'Lot No. 1 1.00 Acres', 'Lot No. 2 7.00 Acres', etc.)

DEDICATION

State of Oregon)
 County of Douglas)
 I, J. H. Summers, County Engineer, do hereby certify that the above described road is a public road and is dedicated to the public use of the County of Douglas, Oregon.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On this 24th day of April, 1920, before me appeared J. H. Summers and his wife each to my personal knowledge, and did each claim that after signed the above certificate of Dedication a true and correct copy of the same was filed in the office of the County Engineer of Douglas County, Oregon.

In Testimony Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.
 E. Summers
 County Engineer

Approved: _____ 1920
 J. H. Summers
 County Assessor