

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 96000983

Date Listed: 9/6/96

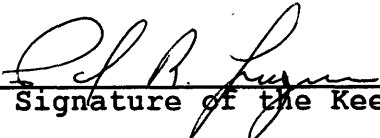
Vinsonhaler Blacksmith Shop
Property Name

Malheur
County

Oregon
State

Nyssa MPS
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.


Signature of the Keeper

9.6.96
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

The correct areas of significance are: Commerce, Industry, Agriculture, and Architecture. [Architecture was inadvertently left off the original cover form.]

This material was confirmed with Elisabeth Potter of the OR SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

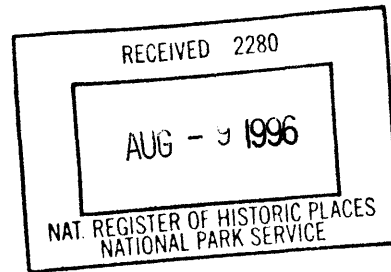
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Property Name: Vinsonhaler Blacksmith Shop
County and State: Malheur County, Oregon
Name of Multiple Property Listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources of Nyssa, Oregon

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets. (NPS 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Vinsonhaler Blacksmith Shop
other names/site number:

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: 122 Good Avenue
not for publication N/A
city or town: Nyssa vicinity N/A
state: Oregon code: OR county: Malheur code: 045
zip code: 97913

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Janna Hancock

August 5, 1996

Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO

Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

X 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):

Cal B. Ferguson 9.6.96

lc Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|------------|
| <u> 2 </u> | <u> </u> | buildings |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | sites |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | structures |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | objects |
| <u> 2 </u> | <u> </u> | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Historic and Architectural Resources of Nyssa, Oregon

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/Trade Sub: Specialty Shop - blacksmith shop

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: private shop

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other : Vernacular - Industrial

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: concrete

roof: composition shingles

walls: concrete to height of window sills with brick at upper walls of shop;
brick at garage

other: wood frame false front at south facade above brick and wood frame gable end at
north facade of shop;

wood frame gable ends at north and south facades of garage

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

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8. Statement of Significance

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

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

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

Vinsonhale Blacksmith Shop

Malheur County, OR

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

- Agriculture
- Commerce
- Industry

Period of Significance: 1938 - 1945

Significant Dates: N/A

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

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: unknown

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: 0.11 acres

Nyssa, Oregon-Idaho 1:24000

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

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|-------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 11 | 500500 | 4857900 | 3 | _____ | _____ |
| 2 | _____ | _____ | _____ | 4 | _____ | _____ |

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Donna Hartmans
 organization: Arrow Rock Architects
 date: November 1995
 street & number: 711 Wyndemere Drive
 telephone: 208 - 344 - 3722
 city or town: Boise state: ID zip code: 83702

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: Delos Vinsonhaler
 street & number: 215 N. 4th Street
 telephone: 503 - 372 - 3471
 city or town: Nyssa state: Oregon zip code: 97913

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 listing, 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 of any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

name of property: Vinsonhaler Blacksmith Shop
county and State: Malheur County, Oregon
name of multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural
Resources of Nyssa, Oregon

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SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Vinsonhaler Blacksmith Shop was built between 1911 and 1938. The associated garage to the north was probably built at a later date - in the 1930s or 1940s. Both buildings are one story vernacular structures in Nyssa, OR located two blocks west of the railroad - industrial corridor of the town.

SITE

The Vinsonhaler Blacksmith Shop is located in the Original Townsite of Nyssa on the north side of the 100 block of Good Avenue near the northeast corner of South Second Street. The site includes the blacksmith shop building and a two car garage/storage building at the alley to the north of the shop.

STRUCTURE

The Vinsonhaler Blacksmith shop is approximately thirty feet wide from east to west and fifty feet long from north to south. It is one story in height. The cast in place concrete at the lower walls extends to the height of the window sills. The brick, in a running bond at the upper walls, extends to the eaves of the wood frame roof and the wood frame false front on the south facade. The window lintels are concrete.

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF BLACKSMITH SHOP

The south facade facing Good Avenue presents a wood false front which rises above the height of the gable roof. The false front is lower on the each end and steps to a higher center section. The signage at the false front reads "BRYAN VINSONHALER" which is painted in black lettering in a gentle arch. Beneath this name is painted a blacksmiths anvil. Below the anvil is the word "SMITH" in larger lettering. A photo from the late

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

name of property: Vinsonhaler Blacksmith Shop
county and State: Malheur County, Oregon
name of multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural
Resources of Nyssa, Oregon

1940s displays the name in the same location with "BLACKSMITHING" beneath and the words "WELDING and HARDFACING" at the bottom.

The south entrance of the shop is a pair of large swinging doors which reach the top of the brick, approximately ten feet. The doors are covered with corrugated metal siding. The late 1940s photo depicts the doors as wood with cross bracing at the top and bottom of each door. Three strap hinges per door extend half the width of each door. These entrance doors are offset to the left with a triple set of windows to the right. The windows are arranged with a large 6/6 double hung window in the middle and a 4/4 double hung window at each side.

The east and west facades have four pairs of symmetrically arranged 6/6 double hung windows.

The north facade has shiplap siding at the gable end. The north entrance aligns with the south entrance, this being a pair of large swinging doors which are wood with cross bracing at the top and bottom. The left door has had a smaller passage doorway cut into it. To the left of the doors is a pair of 6/6 double hung windows.

The roof has exposed rafter ends and is finished with composition shingles. Two brick chimneys are located at the east wall. Each chimney is corbeled. The south chimney has a tall metal stovepipe with guy wires.

INTERIOR OF BLACKSMITH SHOP

The interior of the building is one large shop space. The floor is concrete and the ceiling is open to the roof structure. The space has not been used for blacksmithing since the mid 1960s. At that time all the tools and equipment were sold. The following list represents the tools and equipment that were used in the business: Trip hammer for forging plowshares, two or three anvils, a forge, an iron shear, two vises, a drill press, a thread cutting machine, an emery wheel, an ironworker for bending steel, two welders - one arc welder, one acetylene welder - work benches, and an iron rack for material storage. Vehicles and equipment could be moved into the shop from either the north or south doorways. The tools and work area were located along the east wall. The existing chimneys

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

name of property: Vinsonhaler Blacksmith Shop
county and State: Malheur County, Oregon
name of multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural
Resources of Nyssa, Oregon

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were not used to exhaust the forge. A larger metal stack was used and has since been removed.¹

EXTERIOR OF GARAGE

The garage is approximately twenty feet by twenty feet and one story in height. The floor is concrete. The lower eighteen inches of the walls are concrete, the upper walls are constructed of brick in a Flemish bond pattern. The brick construction suggests that of a rowlock cavity wall with the coursing of the bricks in alternating shiners and rowlocks. The gable roof has exposed rafter ends and is covered with corrugated metal roofing. The gable ends are finished with wood shingles. A stovepipe punctuates the roof at the west side.

The north facade has two pairs of swinging doors for vehicular entry. Each door has three vertical panels at the bottom with 3/3 fixed panes of glass above which have been boarded over from the inside. The east and west each have one 3/3 fixed window centered in the wall. The south facade has one window offset to the right and a passage door at the left corner. Both the door and window have metal awnings for shade.

Stylistically, the garage appears to have been built at a later date than the blacksmith shop. The brick pattern and care in its construction lends itself to other similar 1930s and 1940s era residential structures in the surrounding neighborhood that display the same masonry construction. The building was used as a dwelling as indicated on the 1949 Sanborn map. Bryan Vinsonhaler and his wife lived in the structure for a few years according to his son, Delos Vinsonhaler. The building is now used for storage.²

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

name of property: Vinsonhaler Blacksmith Shop
county and State: Malheur County, Oregon
name of multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural
Resources of Nyssa, Oregon

The Vinsonhaler Blacksmith Shop is locally significant under Criteria A and C. The business was dependent upon the success of the sugar beet industry in the late 1930s and contributes to the development of this industry in Nyssa and Malheur County. The business catered to the needs of the area's farmers; the welding and repairing of farm equipment, and construction of beet beds. Located in the Original Townsite of Nyssa and constructed between 1911 and 1938, the blacksmith building represents the agricultural boom that the area experienced during the second half of the 1930s and early 1940s. To meet Criteria C, the building portrays a vernacular character in its construction and its function as a blacksmith shop.

It is not known exactly when the blacksmith shop and garage were constructed. The manner in which the cast in place concrete was used on the shop building would align its construction date with two other early concrete structures in the Original Townsite: the Hotel Western, c. 1904 - 1906, and the Blacksmith/Green Lantern Saloon, c. 1906 - 1909. However the shop building is not shown on the 1911 Sanborn Map, which means it was of a later date than the other two buildings.

It is known that in 1938 J. C. Olsen of Buhl, Idaho purchased the property.³ Mr. Olsen was a blacksmith and apparently operated the business with two others until the mid 1940s.⁴ In 1944 the property was purchased by Bryan W. Vinsonhaler from Frank Coats, J. C. Olsen, and Joseph D. Smith. Transferred with the property were "all tools, machinery and equipment...all of such property being in or used in connection with the blacksmithing business now being conducted on the said described premises."⁵

Information concerning Frank Coats and Joseph D. Smith is not known. Bryan Vinsonhaler had been a blacksmith previously in Kansas and Colorado before World War II and pursued the blacksmith business upon moving to Nyssa after the war. He stayed in business until his retirement in the mid 1960s when he sold all the tools and equipment.⁶

The blacksmith business was supported by the agricultural economy of the area. Mr. Vinsonhaler primarily repaired and welded farm equipment. A major portion of his business was the construction of beet beds which were attached to truck beds and used during the harvesting and transporting of sugar beets. On the truck, the sides of the beet beds would fold down to unload the tubers at dumping locations along railroad sidings or

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

name of property: Vinsonhaler Blacksmith Shop
county and State: Malheur County, Oregon
name of multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural
Resources of Nyssa, Oregon

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at the sugar beet factory. This type of unloading device was superseded in the early 1970s by hydraulic hoists with a rear dumping mechanism which later evolved into a conveyor - ejector type apparatus that became useful for harvesting and transporting a variety of agricultural products, thus making the use of the beet beds obsolete.

The Vinsonhaler Blacksmith Shop and garage are significant under Criterion C as examples of vernacular buildings. The shop's masonry construction and open interior space lend this building to its small scale blacksmithing operation. The shop portrays the industrial function that utilized the entire interior space for welding and forging purposes. The movement of vehicles and equipment through the large doors at either end of the building and the placement of the large east and west windows contribute to the overall industrial feeling of this structure. The building has not evolved significantly in its function as a specialty shop in the commercial - industrial realm of Nyssa, OR.

The garage, now an accessory building to the shop, at one time represented the proximity and relationship of the owner's dwelling to the business. In the depression era of the 1930s and early 1940s it was probably economically convenient for the owner to live next to the business until the business thrived and dwelling in another location was feasible. The masonry construction of the garage is interesting and bears the mark of craftsmanship found in other residences in Nyssa, while at the same time it is an unusual statement for this commercial setting.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

name of property: Vinsonhaler Blacksmith Shop
county and State: Malheur County, Oregon
name of multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural
Resources of Nyssa, Oregon

Malheur Country History, Volumes I & II. Published by Malheur Country Historical Society, Malheur County, OR, Printed by Taylor Publishing Co., Dallas, TX, 1988.

Sanborn Map 1949, on file at Oregon State University, Kerr Library, Corvallis, OR.

Schneider, Henry. "Out of the Past," Gate City Journal. While Mr. Schneider was City Manager of Nyssa, Oregon, he researched the City Council Minutes and wrote a series of articles celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the incorporation of Nyssa. The weekly column began 5 January 1978 and ran for forty consecutive weeks.

Vinsonhaler, Delos, son of Bryan Vinsonhaler and current owner of the property. Telephone interview by author, 23 October 1995 and 8 November 1995.

Wohlcke, John, Ontario, OR. Mr. Wohlcke's grandparents resided next to J. C. Olsen in Nyssa, OR in the 1940s and 1950s. Mr. Wohlcke recalls Mr. Olsen's blacksmithing hobby after he retired and sold the business. Telephone interview, 13 November 1995.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photos Page 1 name of property: Vinsonhaler Blacksmith Shop
county and State: Malheur County, Oregon
name of multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural
Resources of Nyssa, Oregon

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Common Information

- 1) Vinsonhaler Blacksmith Shop
- 2) Malheur County, OR
- 3) Photographer: Donna Hartmans, except 5 of 5
- 4) Date of Photo: October 1995, except 5 of 5
- 5) Negatives: Arrow Rock Architects, 711 Wyndemere Drive, Boise, ID 83702, except 5 of 5

PHOTO LIST

- 6) South facade of blacksmith shop
- 7) 1 of 5

- 6) South and East facades of blacksmith shop
- 7) 2 of 5

- 6) North facade of blacksmith shop
- 7) 3 of 5

- 6) North and west facades of garage and north facade of blacksmith shop
- 7) 4 of 5

- 1) Photographer: unknown
- 4) Date: c. late 1940s
- 6) Looking northeast at north side of the 100 block of Good Avenue
- 7) 5 of 5

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

name of property: Vinsonhaler Blacksmith Shop
county and State: Malheur County, Oregon
name of multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural
Resources of Nyssa, Oregon

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VERBAL DESCRIPTION

The nominated area is located in SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 32, Township 19 S, Range 47 E Boise Meridian in the City of Nyssa, Oregon. It is identified as Lot 12 and the west half of lot 13 of Block 11 of the Original Townsite of Nyssa, Oregon. Otherwise: Tax Lot 1300.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated area includes the property measuring approximately 50' x 100' occupied by the building known as Vinsonhaler Blacksmith Shop and the small two car garage/storage building to the north at the alley.

¶

¹ Delos Vinsonhaler of Nyssa, OR, son of Bryan Vinsonhaler and current owner of property, telephone interview by author 08 November 1995.

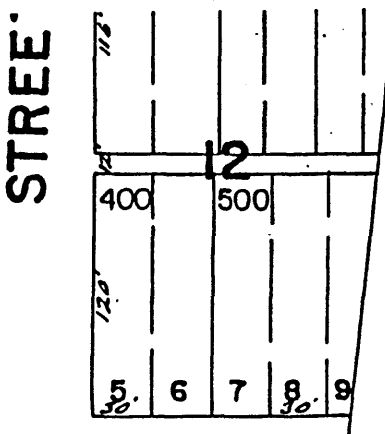
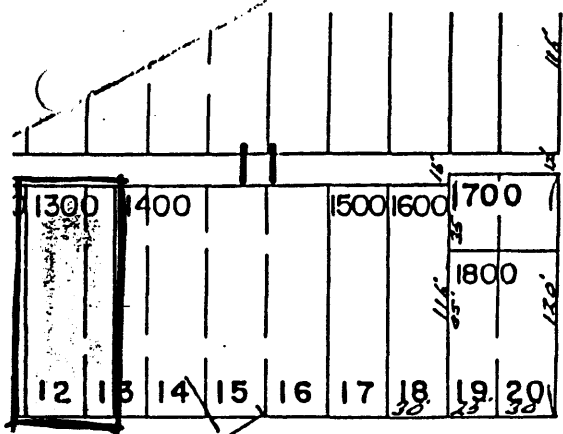
² Ibid.

³ Deed Book # 44, page 355, Malheur County Courthouse, Vale, OR.

⁴ John Wohlcke of Ontario, OR. Mr Wohlcke's grandparents resided next to Mr. Olsen in Nyssa, OR in the 1940s and 1950s. Mr. Wohlcke recalls Mr. Olsen's blacksmithing hobby after he sold the business and retired. Telephone interview by author, 13 November 1995.

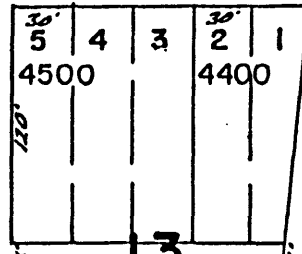
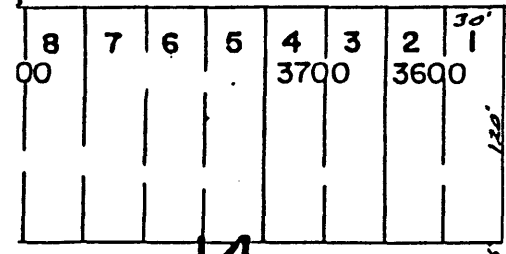
⁵ Deed # 31948 on file at Malheur County Courthouse, Vale, OR

⁶ Delos Vinsonhaler



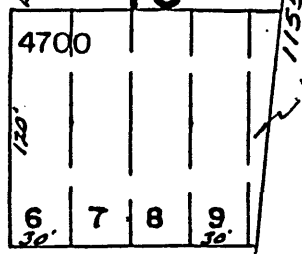
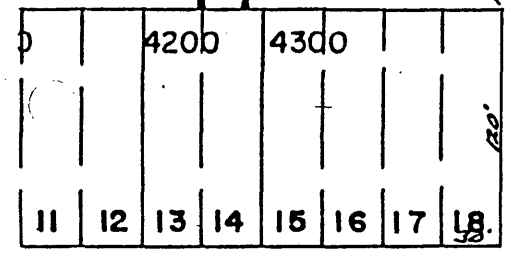
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AVENUE



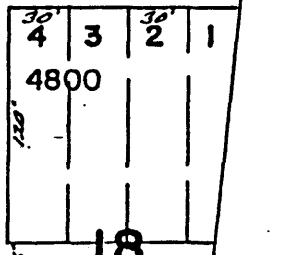
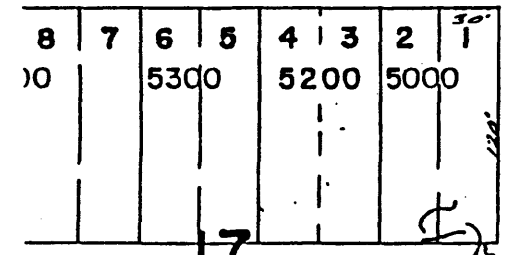
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Bliss
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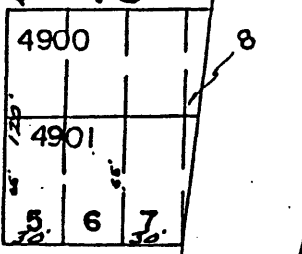
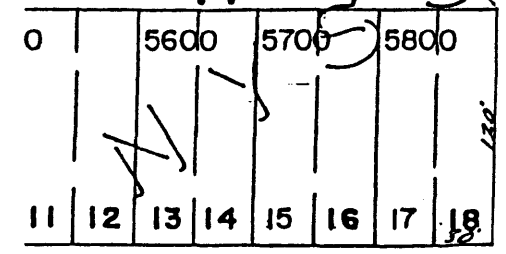


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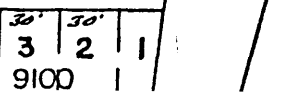
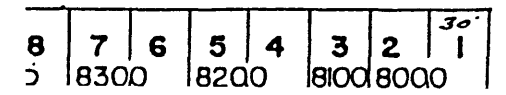
AVENUE



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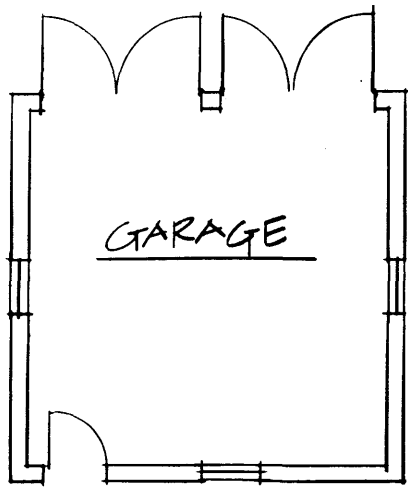
AVENUE



Union Pacific RAILROAD
 Compliments of
 LAND TITLE
 This sketch is furnished
 to assist in property location.

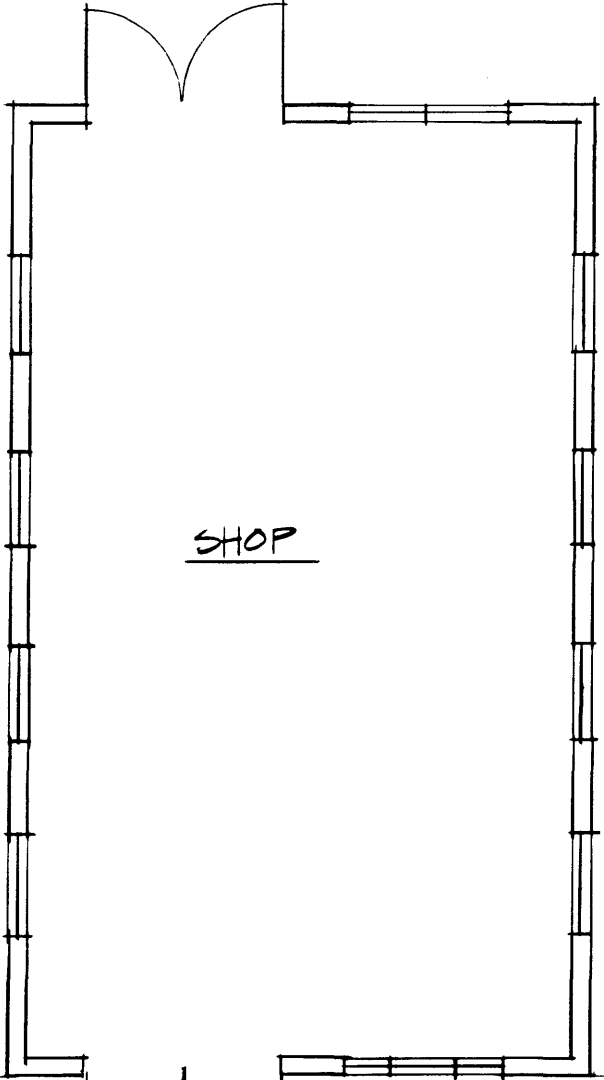
4 OF 5

ALLEY



GARAGE

3 OF 5



SHOP



2 OF 5

GOOD AVE.

1 OF 5

VINSONHALER BLACKSMITH SHOP

1" = 10'-0"



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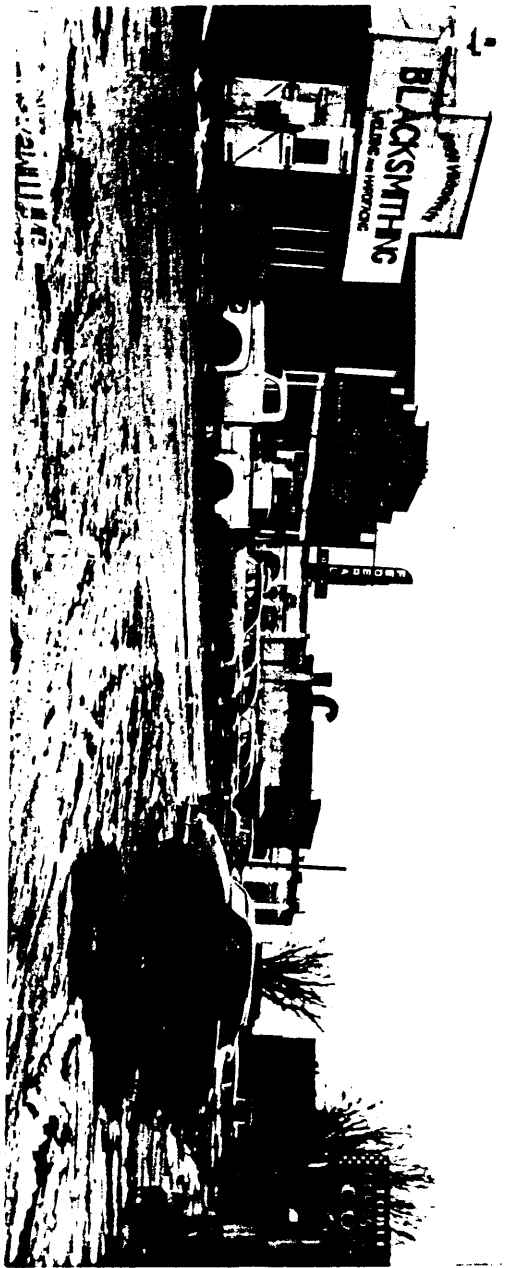


PHOTO 5 OF 5
D. WHITE 1940S

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photo