

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Windischar's General Blacksmith Shop

and/or common Weissenfels' Blacksmith Shop

2. Location

street & number 110 Sheridan St. ___ not for publication

city, town Mt. Angel ___ vicinity of congressional district 2nd

state Oregon code 41 county Marion code 047

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name See continuation sheet

street & number

city, town ___ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marion County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Salem state Oregon 97301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The blacksmith shop built for John Windischar (the variant spelling of the name is Windishar) in the agricultural community of Mt. Angel in Oregon's Willamette Valley some time between 1902 and 1905 was enlarged in 1922 by the addition of a barn building and a 13-foot connecting section to the rear. The building faces south, fronting on Sheridan Street.

The original frame building with longitudinal shingled gable roof and "boom town" front is clad with horizontal tongue and groove boards and measures 16x32'. Facade organization is simple and formal, with a single window bay fitted with double-hung window sash with six over six lights on either side of a central sliding door, which is sheltered, at present, by a tin canopy. Side walls are pierced by similar windows, grouped in pairs, and by a single-leaf door and sliding door on the east elevation. Exterior cover of all doors is diagonal tongue and groove boards. On the west elevation is a small office lean-to addition with board and batten siding and windows similar to those of the shop. An unadorned brick chimney for the forge breaks the west slope of the shop roof at the place where the office is joined to the shop. In 1922, the shop's long-time proprietor, Louis Weissenfels, moved from the adjoining lot a barn of undetermined age into alignment with the rear of the shop. The barn section, measuring approximately 16x20' and clad with vertical boards, was joined to the shop by a 13-foot, gable-roofed connecting section with horizontal siding. Windows and a sliding door to match the established pattern were added to this rear addition, which functioned as the automotive shop. The foundation is post and sill construction. Interior walls are unfinished throughout, and framework and studs are exposed. An interesting example of growth of a modest commercial-industrial building by accretion, the blacksmith shop has been idle since Louis Weissenfels' retirement in November, 1979. It is in dilapidated but recoverable condition, as the framework is sound, and the Weissenfels heirs have under consideration a plan to stabilize and repair the building for partial commercial use and as an exhibit-in-place.

Following is an inventory of equipment--all in operating condition--contained in the shop. The function of each item in the smithing process is given.

Equipment which was in place when the shop was taken over by the Weissenfels brothers in 1919 and which is still in situ:

- 1) brick forge and chimney -- coal-burning; located on west side of building, near center.
- 2) blower (1902 patent) -- acted as bellows for forge; originally turned by crank, adapted to electric motor in 1919; located (stored) in office.
- 3) anvil -- lightweight, horseshoeing anvil located in storage (replaced in 1920).

Equipment in the shop which is run by electric motor and belt pulley and line shaft power supply system:

- 4) 3 hp electric motor -- located on platform suspended over door in office; supplies the power for pulley and shaft system in shop.

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Windischar's General Blacksmith Shop

Continuation sheet

Item number

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Page 1

Gertrude Aman
13717 Downs Rd.
Mt. Angel, OR 97362

Mary Lou Bartosz
770 Glen Creek Rd. NW
Salem, OR 97304

Helen Ehli
1337 Redwood Dr. NW
Salem, OR 97304

Life Estate: Louis Weissenfels
Mt. Angel Towers, Apt. 15A
Mt. Angel, OR 97362

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

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DATE ENTERED	NOV 7 1980

Windischar's Blacksmith Shop

CONTINUATION SHEET

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- 5) trip hammer (1908 patent) -- spring-action hammer with ability to strike hot metal swiftly and with consistent pressure; varied speed (number of hits per minute) controlled by pressure on curved rod pedal; purchased used in 1921; located about five feet southwest of forge.
- 6) emery wheel -- motorized, heavy filing wheel; located on west wall, just south of office door; used for shaping, minor trimming.
- 7) blacksmith's drill -- metal drill with varied bits; located about five feet south of trip hammer; used to drill bolt holes (e.g, for wagon tongue hitch).
- 8) metal lathe -- located on east wall, 2-3' south of door; used for shaping, honing metal to "true" round; used with both solid and hollow rods (e.g, wagonwheel shafts and axle).
- 9) sandstone wheel -- large grinding wheel made of mined sandstone; located on small porch, directly north of office; used to sharpen axes, scythes--had finer grain than an emery wheel so was used for things that had to be sharp.
- 10) belt sander -- devised by Weissenfels on a stand with two pulleys and belt; originally located just south of trip hammer, is now stored in southeast corner of shop.

Equipment in the shop which is electrically-powered, but not by belt pulley and line shaft system:

- 11) acetylene welder -- lit, gas torch purchased about 1923; located on east wall, north of sliding door; originally the gas was supplied by a carbide generator, but it developed a leak and was replaced by rented oxygen and acetylene tanks; used for some welding, mostly for cutting.
- 12) carbide generator -- burned calcium carbide to produce gas for acetylene torch; located in northwest corner of building; used until it developed a leak.
- 13) electric arc welder -- motor/generator, with current control, ground wire and welding clamp; located directly north of acetylene welder on east wall; purchased about 1930-1935 and is still used; used for welding of smaller items than could be forged with hammers, was much faster than the acetylene welder.

Equipment in shop, mechanical:

- 14) iron cutter -- leveraged scissors; located just northeast of coal bin; used to cut strips of iron into smaller lengths.

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Windischar's Blacksmith Shop

CONTINUATION SHEET

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- 15) iron twister -- clamp and screw set-up on metal table; located just south of the trip hammer; used to twist forge-hot rods (square or round), usually for decorative pieces; devised by L. Weissenfels.
 - 16) iron bender -- clamp and lever set-up on small metal table (with iron twister); located just south of trip hammer; used to bend strips of hot iron into more exact angles than could be done with a hammer.
- Other equipment:
- 17) iron cone -- movable, 3' high cone; used for curving iron strips and for testing the roundness of an iron ring.
 - 18) wagon wheel brace -- movable; small wooden steel with metal post set in the center; used to brace a wagon wheel while mending, and testing for "true circle" in core and on rim.
 - 19) tilt table -- adjustable, flat metal surface mounted on a metal pedestal; movable; used when hot-facing plow shears, can be adjusted to all angles.
 - 20) horse-shoeing kit -- portable wooden stand with wooden tray on bottom and revolving metal tray on top for storing nails, includes hoof rasp, leather chaps and hammers; movable; used when shoeing horses, often used as traveling kit when going to local farms.
 - 21) anvil -- large, mounted on block of wood; located between the forge and the trip hammer; replaced the lightweight anvil in shop in 1920; used to hammer forge-hot iron on.
 - 22) wood-burning stove -- large metal barrel with hinged lid, connected to chimney by metal pipe; located about 4' east of the forge; used to burn wood scraps and for extra warmth in the winter.
 - 23) wagon wheels -- two, recently mended; movable.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1902-1905 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Windischar's General Blacksmith Shop was in operation in the Willamette Valley agricultural community of Mt. Angel by 1905, having been developed on a parcel at the center of town acquired for the purpose by John Windischar (variant spelling is Windishar) in 1902. The shop was acquired by Anton and Louis Weissenfels in 1919 and subsequently enlarged to accommodate the transition from horse-drawn conveyances to motor car. In 1926, Louis Weissenfels became the sole owner and it was Weissenfels who was the shop's long-time proprietor. He worked at his trade regularly until his retirement in November of 1979. The equipment--all in place and in operating condition--reflects conservative up-dating of traditional technology and the gradual change in work orders from horse-shoeing and repair of tie rods for the local cannery; sharpening plow shears and grader blades, to general farm equipment repair. The property is significant to Mt. Angel and to the state as one of the rare examples wherein an early 20th century industrial process, as well as its housing, is intact. Only one other historic blacksmith shop with early equipment is known to have survived in Western Oregon. The latter is located at Glencoe, in Washington County, and its capacity to demonstrate the complete process with original equipment is undocumented to date.

The original proprietor, John Windischar (Windishar) sold the shop at the outbreak of the First World War and removed to Portland to work in the shipyards. His successor failed and sold much of Windischar's equipment to recoup his losses. In November of 1919, Anton and Louis Weissenfels acquired the business and revived it. Typical jobs in the early years were shoeing horses and mules used to pull the delivery wagons of the Mt. Angel Creamery; repairing wagons, repairing and sharpening plow shears and grader blades used in road construction; and repairing tie rods for the local cannery. In 1926, Anton Weissenfels sold his interest in the business to his brother, Louis. It was Louis Weissenfels who operated the shop throughout most of its history--precisely sixty years, in fact, from November 1919 to November 1979.

Initially, all the welding done at this shop was forge welding. About 1923, acetylene welding was introduced. Electric welding, added in the early 1930s, was a much faster process. All three methods still may be demonstrated in the shop. With the advent of motorized transport and large farm machinery, the demand for traditional blacksmithing services lessened and other demands occurred. In the Post War era, custom-made hoes and general repair work--especially on farm equipment--became the mainstay of the business.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one (50x100', more or less)

Quadrangle name Silverton, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	0	5	1	6	0	9	0	4	9	9	0	3	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The east one-half of Lots 7 and 8, Palmer's Second Addition, Mt. Angel, Marion County, Oregon. Marion County Tax Lot No. 90900-240.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Lou Bartosz, with assistance by Nancy Lahto

organization _____ date May 1980

street & number 770 Glen Creek Rd. NW telephone 503/364-6608

city or town Salem state Oregon 97304

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title Deputy SHPO

date August 22, 1980

For HCERS use only

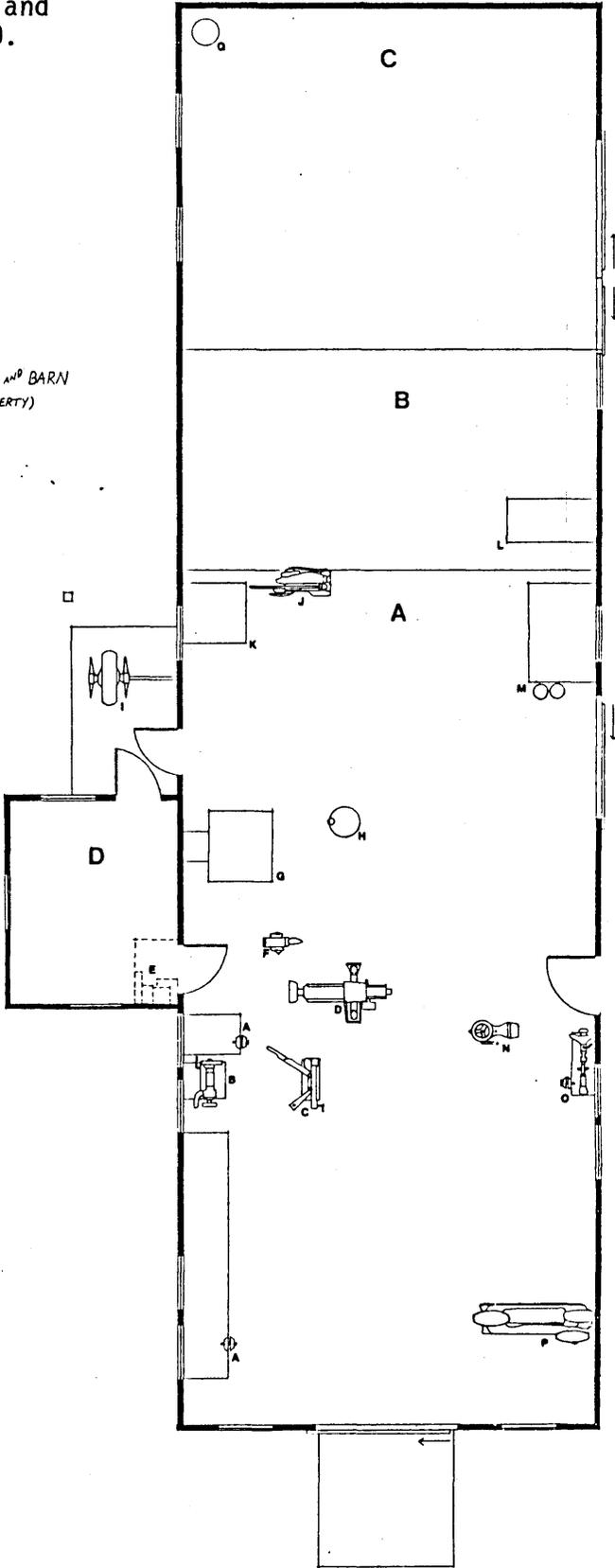
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature] date 11/7/80
Keeper of the National Register

[Signature] date 11-4-80
Att: _____

From: Kotz, Ellen, and Carmi Weingrod, "Windischar's Blacksmith Shop, Mt. Angel, Oregon: A Documentation and Proposal for Future Use," University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts, June, 1980.

- A ORIGINAL SHOP
- B 13' SPAN BETWEEN SHOP AND BARN
- C BARN (WAS ORIGINALLY ON PROPERTY)
- D OFFICE



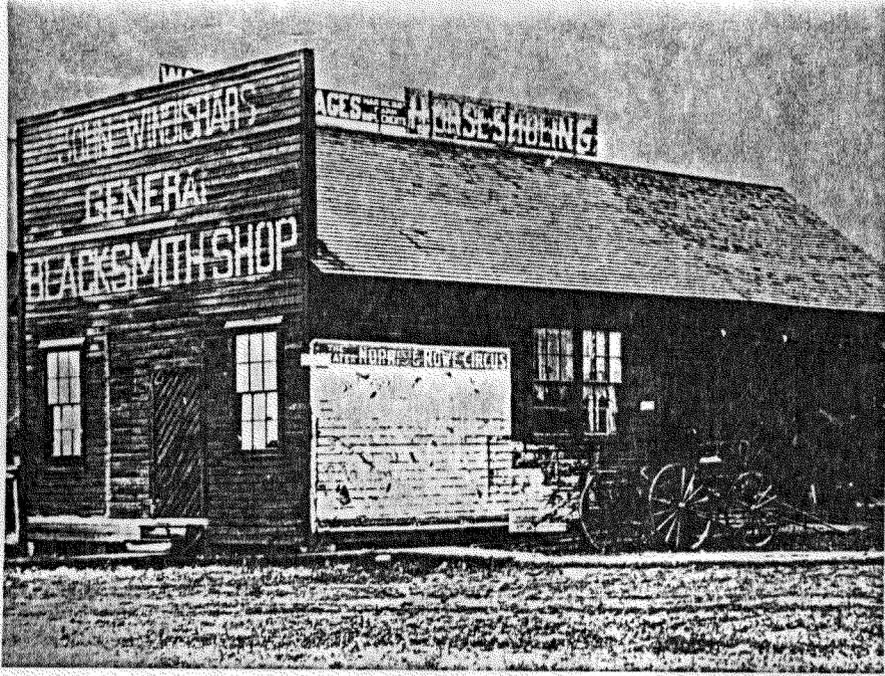
- A WORK BENCH WITH VICE
- B EMORY WHEEL
- C IRON BENDER
- D TRIP HAMMER
- E MOTOR
- F ANVIL
- G FORGE
- H WOOD STOVE
- I SANDSTONE WHEEL
- J IRON CUTTER
- K COAL BIN
- L ELECTRIC ARC WELDER
- M ACETYLENE AND BENCH
- N DRILL
- O METAL LATHE
- P BELT SANDER
- Q CARBIDE GENERATOR

WINDISCHAR'S BLACKSMITH SHOP MT. ANGEL, OREGON
FLOOR PLAN WITH TOOLS

(DRAWING CORRECTED FOR UNTRUE WALLS) $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'$



SEP 2 1980



Windischar's General Blacksmith Shop
Mt. Angel, Marion County, Oregon
Historic view from:
Mt. Angel Magazine, 1909.

