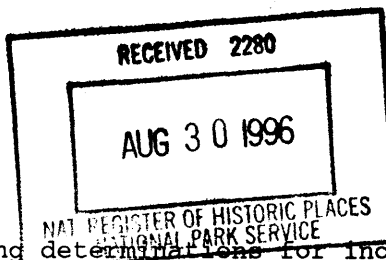


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Stange, August J., House

other names/site number Stange Manor

2. Location

street & number 1612 Walnut Street not for publication N/A  
city or town La Grande vicinity N/A  
state Oregon code OR county Union code 061  
zip code 97850

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

James Hamrick  
Signature of certifying official Deputy SHPO

August 26, 1996  
Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   3   Page   1  

---

**STANGE, AUGUST J., HOUSE (1924-1925)**

1612 Walnut Street

La Grande, Union County, Oregon

**COMMENTS OF THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

The commodious Georgian Colonial-style house built for August J. Stange, president and general manager of the Mt. Emily Lumber Company in La Grande, Oregon, was completed in 1925 from a design by leading local architect Charles B. Miller. With its generous landscaped lot of three quarters of an acre, it was the showplace of the west hill section, a residential subdivision which afforded its residents a view of downtown La Grande and the Grande Ronde Vally spreading out to the east.

The house is composed as a two story, side-gabled main volume measuring 37 x 59 feet in ground plan. It rests on a full basement on concrete footings, and its longitudinal axis is north to south so that the principal facade faces downslope to give the front rooms command of the view. Gable ends are pedimented, with roundels, and the central entrance bays of either long facade are marked by a bowed Doric portico with pedimented window bay above on the east and a rectangular porte cochère with coupled Doric columns on the rear, or west. Both porches are intact with original wrought iron deck balustrades.

Centered on the north end of the main block is a subordinate 15 x 24-foot, two-story sunroom and bed chamber wing with pedimented gable. On the south end, is a 6 x 20-foot single-story breakfast room and porch wing. The building is clad with wide beveled cedar siding, and exterior cornices, including the raking cornices of pediments, are detailed with consoles.

The building's essential symmetry is characteristic of later phases of the revival of Colonial architectural fashion, as are the various porches giving onto terrace and driveway. Foundation plantings enhance the bilateral formality of the composition. Fenestration varies from full-length casements to double-hung window sash having multi-pane top lights. On the east front, arched dormers break the roofline on either side of the central bay. The distinctive feature of the west face is the pair of tall outside chimneys which rise straight from the foundation as massive vertical shafts on opposite sides of the porte cochère. The north flue vents the living room and upstairs sitting room fireplaces, and the south flue is for the heating plant. A secondary feature contributing to the significance of the property is a three-car garage located at the south end of the driveway skirting the west face of the house. The garage is finished with cedar siding and arched dormers echoing those of the main volume. Behind the garage, a non-historic storage

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 3 Page 2

shed was sited near the foundation of the original greenhouse. The detached shed is counted a non-contributing feature.

The building's interior is organized around a bisecting entry hall of which the principal feature is an open-string geometric staircase with landing over an entry vestibule with radiused corners. The living room takes up the entire north end of the main block on the ground story. The diningroom is to the south of the hall, fronting the kitchen and pantry. Colonial and Adamesque motifs are seen in exterior detail work, such as keystone roundels and garlanded semi-circular pediments over French windows. Such motifs are carried to the interior in the form of elaborate cornice moldings, built-in shell-backed China cabinets, and classical chimneypieces incorporating a rinceau frieze and acanthus leaf capitals in cast stone and carved Adamesque gouge work, garlands and urns.

The Stange House meets National Register Criterion C as the outstanding, finely-crafted local example of architecture in the Colonial style. It is exceptionally well preserved and historically significant as perhaps the first major commission of the local architect Charles B. Miller (1888-1960). The nomination provides welcome details on Miller, a Missouri native whose career in La Grande opened three or four years after his arrival in 1916. Miller was licensed in 1919 and served on the State Board of Architect Examiners from 1922 to 1927, the period during which the Stange House was completed. It is thought that Miller was responsible for nearly all of the finer houses in La Grande that were erected in the period 1920-1936. He was the designer of the Sacajawea Inn and Annex for Julius Roesch in 1927-1930. The original volume of the hotel was pulled down in 1970. The Annex recently was nominated to the National Register. Miller relocated his practice to Pendleton in 1937.

Under Criterion B, the house is significant to La Grande in the area of industry as the place most immediately associated with August J. Stange (1879-1967), who occupied it from the time of its construction to 1962. The householder, a native of Racine, Wisconsin, was the younger son of German-born industrialist August H. Stange, who operated a large sash and door factory from timber supplied from company-held tracts in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Father and son, together, came to Oregon in 1912 to acquire tracts of pine in the Blue Mountains of Union County. With the exception of a hiatus during the First World War, August J. Stange made his career thereafter in Oregon, where he managed the Mt. Emily Timber Company which was reorganized for manufacturing in 1925, the year the house on Walnut street was completed. It was at this time that Stange became the president and general manager of the Mt. Emily Lumber Company, which became a leading contributor to local economy. In 1927, Stange's pine mill was characterized as the largest and most up-to-date plant of its kind in eastern Oregon. The

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   3   Page   3  

---

operation made the transition from railroad logging to trucks in 1932 and continued to meet its payroll through the Great Depression. The company was managed by its founder until it was sold in 1955. The mill is presently occupied by Boise Cascade Company.

The historic period of significance of the house is drawn to 1946 to reflect the significant figure's period of occupation while at his peak as an industrialist and civic leader. His wife, the former Priscilla Ellis, whom he had married in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1905, died the year after his death, in 1968. The couple had left the house in 1962. Anne Stange Decker, the couple's surviving daughter, presently resides in La Grande, though not at the address of the nominated property.



=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Hotel

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial/ Georgian

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

roof Shingle

walls Weatherboard

other Brick

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Stange, August J., House  
Union, Oregon

The Stange residence is significant architecturally as the finest example of a Colonial Revival residence in Union County, Oregon. The elegant two story house is located at 1612 Walnut Street and was designed and constructed for lumberman August J. Stange in 1924 and 1925. August J. Stange was president of Mt. Emily Lumber Company, which at the time of its construction was the largest lumber mill in Eastern Oregon. The finely crafted rectangular home features a two story sun room with step-down roof and double pairs of French doors flanking the Greek Doric columns which support a semi-circular deck. Arched dormer windows accentuate the symmetry of the east-facing home, while two massive brick chimneys set off the porte cochere of the west entrance. The pedimental gable ends each contain a leaded glass window. The interior features the original light fixtures, including a cut-glass chandelier. A decorative terra cotta fountain graces the first floor sun room and the fireplace mantels contain intricate renaissance motifs. Cedar lined closets, quarter-sawn oak floors and birds-eye pine paneling are features unique to the house. The residence is in good condition and the current owners plan to restore the home to its period look.

SITE

The Stange residence is located at the corner of Walnut Street and Spring Avenue in Block Ten of Romig's Addition to La Grande, Oregon. The house sits approximately 105 feet westward from Walnut Street and is centered between the North and South boundaries of the property. The .786 acre site gently slopes to the east and is bounded to the west by Alder Street and to the south by a border of shrubs. An asphalt driveway provides access to both the garage and west entrance from Spring Avenue. Black walnut trees line the parking strip between the sidewalk and Walnut Street, and small crab apple trees are placed along the strip on the Spring avenue side. A dense planting of juniper bushes divides the lawn from the entire east sidewalk and continues for approximately 75 feet west along the north side. A rose garden adjacent to a concrete patio is screened to the east by a row of arborvitae trees. A three car garage is located near the southwest corner of the house, and there is a greenhouse foundation on its south side. A detached storage shed is not hist. An inlaid brick walkway runs directly south from the sidewalk, then curves to meet the eastern entrance of the house.

EXTERIOR

The house was described by the architect as a Colonial house featuring delicate Georgian detail and strong Federalist form. It is two stories high with a full basement and essentially rectangular in shape. The overall dimensions of the first floor measure 59 foot (north-south) by 37 foot (east-west), with the addition of a 15 foot (north-south) by 24 foot (east-west) sun room centered on the north elevation of the house. A six foot (north-south) by 20 foot (east-west) breakfast room-porch section is located on the south elevation of the house and aligns with the west wall. The residence is covered with shiplap boxing, overlaid with beveled cedar siding. The gabled roof is sheathed with composition shingles. Pedimental gable ends on the north and south elevations each feature a three-foot slightly oval window with a leaded glass hexagonal design. Two arched dormer windows with symmetrical multi-paned panels that follow the arched design are placed on the east side of the roof, one each centered between the front entrance and the north and south ends of the building. The four windows of the east facade upper story are double hung sash (two that are six over one, two that are ten over one). The main portion of the eastern facade has a strict symmetrical design with a semi-circular entry porch flanked by four large pairs of French doors. The doors are topped with arched wood panels detailed in 1/2 inch wood appliqué reminiscent of the French renaissance. The porch is supported on six Greek-proportioned Doric columns and the deck above is edged with a lacy wrought iron fence with four decorative spindles. A bank of symmetrical multi-paned windows divided into three sections overlooks the observation deck. The massive nine-paneled door is framed by two five-paneled sidelights.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Stange, August J., House  
Union, Oregon

Two brick chimneys with corbelled caps flank the porte cochere on the west facade. One of the chimneys services the heating boiler and the other the large living room and upstairs fireplaces. The porte cochere is rectangular in shape and is supported by four Doric columns. The west entrance glass multi-paned door is centered between the columns. The double hung windows feature the same divided light panels in the upper sash as those on the east facade. Three side-by-side sections of divided windows overlook the rectangular balcony atop the porte cochere. Wrought iron railing with spindle posts top the balcony. The 24 foot by 15 foot sun room extends from the main building on the north side. The two story extension features a step down roof and cornices that bisect the first and second story. The two inch by twelve inch modillions that support the cornices every two feet on center around the entire roof, pediments, and porch of the house are featured under the bisecting cornices as well. Panels of delicate casement windows line the upper and lower floors of the sun room, and their partial multi-paned design duplicates the look of the double hung windows throughout the rest of the house. The south side of the house continues the light airy theme of this colonial design with two sets of French windows overlooking the patio from the breakfast room. Another balcony is sited over the patio and is accessed from above by a glass paneled door.

The foundation is of poured in place concrete footings and basement walls.

A three-car garage is sited south-west of the house and was designed with arched dormer windows and the identical cedar siding to complement the look of the home.

INTERIOR

ENTRANCE AND STAIRWAY

The outer door centered in the east facade leads into a rectangular vestibule with a stair to the right leading into the basement. Through the vestibule lies the foyer in the main hall that bisects the house north and south. It is warmly lit by an original bronze chandelier. A large winding staircase leads eastward from the foyer to the second floor, with a landing that overlooks the east elevation observation deck. The beautifully designed balusters are of turned maple topped with a three inch by three inch shaped solid mahogany rail which gracefully winds its way to the second floor.

DINING ROOM

Through arched French doors to the south of the foyer is the dining room. Two pairs of French doors on the east wall overlook the broad expanse of lawn that slopes toward Walnut Street. Two recessed shelf areas with an arched shell design flank the southern window. Elaborate plaster mold cornices with integrated wood picture molding are featured in this room. An original cut-glass chandelier is centered in the room.

PANTRY/KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM/PORCH

Through the door to the west lies the pantry with custom, glass-doored shelves. A portion of the wall between the pantry and kitchen was removed, as well as the swinging doors, and a large counter installed in the mid-1980's. The kitchen features maple flooring and a large range area with a five feet square range hood. The original range has been replaced with one built-in electric stove and one gas range. The original six-door ice box has been converted to electricity and is serviced by a compressor in the basement. The original fir cupboards remain and include a metal-lined knife drawer. Counter tops have been replaced with tile and a dishwasher added. A small glassed-in porch leads from the south end of the kitchen. Through the pantry to the south is a cozy breakfast room with French windows overlooking the patio and rose garden.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Stange, August J., House  
Union, Oregon

LIVING ROOM

Through an archway to the north of the foyer lies the living room. This spacious room contains two recessed arched glass-fronted book cases on the north wall and a larger version on the south wall. This was originally designed for an early style radio set, and shelves for its massive batteries lie below in the basement. A seven foot pre-cast stone mantel on the west wall depicts delicate cherubs intertwined with leaf scroll. A built-in grate allows ashes to drop to the basement for convenient disposal. Dentil molding integrated with wood picture molding accents the nine foot ceiling.

SUN ROOM

Directly through plate glass French doors to the north of the living room is the sun room. Bench seats line the east and west wall, artfully concealing the diminutive heating radiator beneath them. Light floods the room through the multi-paned and solid glass casement windows. A decorative terra cotta tile fountain features a colorful tropical flora and fauna design. An aqua, fish-shaped spout provides the outlet for the still-functioning fountain. Leaf molding crowns the room.

A half bath, small study and coat closets adjacent to the main hall on the west side of the house complete the downstairs.

SECOND FLOOR

The rooms on the second floor lead off from a central hall at the top of the stairs. To the south lies the guest bedroom with a private bath. The original maid's chamber on the southwest corner contains two rooms and a bath, with a private staircase leading directly to the kitchen, and access to the south balcony. Directly to the north of the maid's room is another bedroom with its own bath and access to the sitting room. A seven foot fireplace dominates the sitting room, with its intricately cut flora fascia of Italian renaissance motif. The hall to the north leads directly into the master bedroom, which has a full bathroom containing a tub, shower and footbath. Earth-toned Italian tile complements the original ceramic fixtures. Located atop the first floor sun room and illuminated by the same full banks of casement windows are two small sleeping rooms which are accessed through either the master bedroom or sitting room. All wardrobes and closets are fully lined with aromatic Tennessee cedar, adding fine detail to the elegant home.

BASEMENT

A full stair winds to the basement under the main foyer stair, granting access to a full finished basement. The hall on the north end contains a 15 foot by 22 foot raised maple floored stage complete with footlights. Unique blue pine paneling lines the walls, and rare birds-eye pine covers the stage area walls. The original flooring in the hall is oak, as elsewhere in the house, and the room was used for dancing. The south end of the basement originally contained a vegetable room, laundry, sawdust-fueled furnace and three cedar-lined storage rooms. The storage and vegetable rooms have been converted into an office and bedrooms. A hydraulic dumb waiter for supplying wood to the living room fireplace remains in place, but is non-functioning. The original motor for the central vacuum system, a design far ahead of its time, is still functioning, but the system lacks the hoses needed for use. The heating system consists of a two pipe steam system with the large boiler room located under the west drive through. This area is framed with steel beams and reinforced concrete slabs. The heat from this room is designed to keep snow melted from the entry above. The plumbing for each of the six bathrooms is separate to allow for individual shut off.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

Stange, August J., House  
Union, Oregon

ALTERATIONS

The Stange residence remains virtually unchanged from its original design. Only the foundation remains of the original greenhouse, and a storage shed, which was originally located on the southern half of the block, has been placed behind the garage. A concrete slab patio was added to the south side at some time during the 1960's. The rose garden was enlarged at the same time. Badly deteriorated trellises were photo-documented before their removal and some have been rebuilt. Wooden shutters which flanked all of the double hung windows were removed at some time in the past and not replaced. The concrete driveway was covered with asphalt due to spalling. In the interior, a wall that separated the kitchen from the pantry was partially removed. The range was replaced with two built-in stoves, one electric and one gas, and the stove counter-top extended into the pantry area. Swinging doors that separated the pantry from the kitchen and the breakfast room have been removed. Three basement storage rooms have been revised to produce a den, bedroom and closet. One non-load bearing wall was removed in the modification. Most of the oak flooring of the house has been carpeted and none of the original wall paper remains.

RESTORATION

The current owners plan to restore the residence using historic photographs, the original blueprints and physical evidence. Wall paper designs will be returned to those of the period and restoration of the quarter-sawn oak flooring is planned. The greenhouse will be rebuilt, as well as the remaining trellises. Water seepage into the basement will be remedied and the handling of roof water reestablished. The driveway, sidewalks and retaining walls will be reconditioned or rebuilt. All alterations will be accomplished with the greatest of sensitivity to the superb original design.

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

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

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

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

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Industry  
Architecture  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1924-1946

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1924-1925

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Stange, August J.

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Miller, Charles B.

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Stange, August J., House  
Union, Oregon

SUMMARY

The residence built for August J. Stange in 1925 in the historic town of La Grande, Oregon, is proposed for nomination under Criterion B and Criterion C. It is the finest example of the Colonial residential style in the area, having been designed by the prominent architect, Charles B. Miller. The home is most importantly associated with August J. Stange, who was president of the family-owned Mt. Emily Lumber Company and was long active in civic affairs.

The Stange house is situated on one half of an entire city block, in close proximity to the western wall of the Grande Ronde Valley. The gently sloping lot provides for an impressive view of La Grande and the magnificent Wallowa Mountains to the east. The house is symmetrical in design. The east entrance is dominated by a semi-circular porch supported by Greek proportioned Doric columns. On the west side, two red brick chimneys flank the porte cochere, adding to the symmetry. Detailed French doors topped by arched panels are accentuated by the arched dormer windows situated in the gable roof. Supreme craftsmanship and detail are exhibited throughout the house, and it continues to be an architectural showplace.

The house is in good condition and, excluding the kitchen and basement remodel, has undergone only minor cosmetic changes since it was constructed.

August J. Stange (1879-1967) lived in the home from its completion in 1925 until 1962, at which time it was sold to David C. Baum, former legislator and prominent businessman. Mr. Stange played an important role in the history of the community by bringing the Mt. Emily Lumber Company to La Grande, and also worked tirelessly for numerous civic organizations.

AUGUST JOHN STANGE

The Stange residence, a delicate Georgian Colonial mansion completed in 1925, is significant under Criterion B for its association with lumberman August J. Stange. August J. Stange, who was known as "Augie" to friends and relatives, was born in Racine, Wisconsin on 20 October, 1879. He was one of six children born to August H. and Emily Miller Stange.<sup>1</sup> August H. Stange was a German immigrant who had built up his own sash and door manufacturing business in Wisconsin, and by 1900 was the largest producer of stock doors and windows in the world. To ensure a continued supply of timber for his business, August H. Stange bought large tracts of forested land in both Wisconsin and Minnesota. In 1912, he set his sights further west and, after receiving favorable reports about timber stands in Union County, came to Oregon with his younger son, August J.. After purchasing scattered blocks of pine totaling nearly one billion board feet, the elder Stange left his son to manage the new holdings, now incorporated under the name of the Mt. Emily Timber Company.<sup>2</sup>

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin, August J. Stange had taken his place in the family business, joining his older brother and brothers-in-law. On 1 February, 1905, August married Priscilla Ellis of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1907, he became Vice President and General Manager of the Union Land Company of Merrill, Wisconsin. Always a keen outdoorsman, August J. Stange was eager to explore the Pacific Northwest and gladly stayed to consolidate the new timber holdings in Oregon.

The younger August moved into a house on the corner of Fourth Street and Washington Avenue in La Grande with his wife Priscilla and two young daughters, Anne and Jane. He remained as overseer of the company's Oregon operations until the start of World War One, when he was recalled to Wisconsin.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Stange, August J., House  
Union, Oregon

August J. Stange never forgot the pristine beauty of the Grande Ronde Valley and the rugged Blue Mountains, and believed the west would soon be foremost in the nation's lumber supply. He urged the family owned company to open a mill in the area. In September of 1921, he returned once more to La Grande, and this time the move was permanent.<sup>3</sup> August Stange began immediately to involve himself in the community, and was elected vice president of U.S. National Bank within a month.<sup>4</sup> In July of 1923, upon the recommendation of August J. Stange, the decision was finally reached to construct a mill in La Grande. The excitement this announcement generated warranted a two-inch headline in the La Grande Evening Observer.<sup>5</sup>

Timber was the first industry in Union County, beginning with a water-powered sawmill built in 1862 at Oro Dell, northwest of present-day La Grande.<sup>6</sup> Lumber mills continued to flourish, fed by the lush pine stands of the nearby Blue Mountains. In 1906, railroad lines were built from Perry into the Starkey area by the Grande Ronde Lumber Company, replacing the old river driving method of logging.<sup>7</sup>

The Mt. Emily Timber Company became the Mt. Emily Lumber Company and the mill was completed in 1925. Logging for the mill was started on Five Points Creek near Hilgard, some ten miles from La Grande. In 1926, the company bought the Grande Ronde Lumber Company holdings, plus two other large tracts, and by 1928 its holding extended from the top of Mt. Emily to the Sheep Ranch some 38 miles up the Grande Ronde River. At its height, Mt. Emily Lumber Company had almost 50 miles of private railroad track and owned two geared locomotives.<sup>8</sup>

During the first years of its existence, the Mt. Emily Lumber Company contributed enormously to the economy of La Grande. In 1927, it was the largest, most modern pine mill in Eastern Oregon, employing 565 men, with a payroll of \$752,000. As president of the company, August J. Stange was directly responsible for the plant and was always seeking to improve conditions. His was the first local timber operation to make the transition from rails to trucks in 1932. A sash and door company similar to that in Wisconsin was proposed, but was scrapped due to the Depression.<sup>9</sup>

August Stange was proud of his adopted community and remained involved in civic and business activities throughout his life. When the local Y. M. C. A. was faced with bankruptcy in 1923, August personally paid the debt owed. On another occasion, he canceled a note that he held against the country club, inspiring other members to follow suit.<sup>10</sup> August Stange was on the board of directors for the La Grande Building and Loan Association, was a lifetime member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, 1928 Eminent Commander of the Eastern Oregon Chapter of Knights Templar and 1941 Worshipful Master of La Grande Lodge, A.F. & A.M., No. 41. In 1946, August Stange served as the Grand High Priest of the Royal Arch Masons for the State of Oregon.<sup>11</sup> He was a member of the Presbyterian Church and paid for the impressive bell tower. August Stange was a generous man and on numerous occasions paid the admission for all the children at the movie theater on a Saturday afternoon. He was an avid gardener, golfer and duck hunter and even raised his own live decoys on duck ponds adjacent to the home he built on Walnut Street.<sup>12</sup>

August remained active in the mill and managed to keep it open throughout the Depression, despite pressure from company board members in Wisconsin. In 1955, the mill was sold to Valsetz Lumber. A Boise Cascade lumber mill now occupies the site and original building of the Mt. Emily Lumber Company, continuing the vision of August Stange as a supplier of lumber. August and Priscilla Stange continued to live on Walnut Street until 1962 when upkeep on the 8,000 square foot home became unmanageable. Even after the house was sold to David C. Baum, August continued to return daily for several weeks to make sure the place he had so lovingly built was properly cared for. August J. Stange died 10 February, 1967, and Priscilla A. Stange on 7 October, 1968, and both are buried in Hillcrest Cemetery, La Grande, Oregon.<sup>13</sup>

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Stange, August J., House  
Union, OregonTHE TOWN OF LA GRANDE

Immigrants began making the long trek to the fabled Willamette Valley in 1843. Passing through the area that is now called the Grande Ronde Valley, these travelers were awed by its beauty and lush grassland. Their determination to reach the Willamette and the inability to get needed supplies, however, caused these settlers to continue passing through the area for nearly twenty years.<sup>14</sup> In 1861, several families established a settlement on the western edge of the valley in the vicinity that is now called Mt. Glenn. The next year, a number of them moved south to the emigrant campground area and the settlement continued to grow, aided in part by the 1862 discovery of gold in Auburn in nearby Baker County. Daniel Chaplin platted a town on land that he had claimed in 1862, and a post office under the name La Grande was established. On 18 December, 1865, the town was incorporated.<sup>15</sup> With the coming of the railroad in 1884, a section of land totaling 105 acres was donated by Daniel Chaplin along the rail line to facilitate establishment of a division point. Chaplin and C. H. Prescott platted this new section, now known as Chaplin's Addition, creating a "new" town that soon eclipsed the original colony approximately 1.4 mile to the south.

By the 1920's, when August J. Stange built the Stange house and the Mt. Emily Lumber Company mill, La Grande was prosperous and growing. In 1926, it was the largest city in Eastern Oregon, with a population of over 11,000. Timber companies and the railroad were the major industries, and together with other businesses in town generated a payroll of over \$4,000,000.<sup>16</sup> Between 1920 and 1926, more than 400 new buildings were constructed, including the Stange house and most of the other fine historic homes in town. Two fine hotels, the Sacajawea and the La Grande Hotel, were constructed in 1927<sup>17</sup> A Normal School was built in 1929.

The timber industry, which was the backbone of La Grande's economy, was hit hard by the Depression. The board feet of lumber harvested dropped from a high of 72,740,000 in 1929 to a low of 12,860,000 in 1934.<sup>18</sup> Throughout this downshift in the economy, August Stange fought to keep Mt. Emily Lumber Company open. Though La Grande survived the Depression, the prosperity of the 1920's has never been matched.

The present town of La Grande is located in Union County on the western edge of the Grande Ronde Valley. It is approximately 51 miles southeast of Pendleton and 40 miles north of Baker City. The town lies to the south of both the Grande Ronde river and Interstate 84. It is bisected by the Union Pacific Railroad line, which still maintains a major transfer site there, including an historic train station. The Normal School became the current Eastern Oregon State College, the only four-year State College in Eastern Oregon. The city benefits from its position on the historic Oregon Trail and as a central tourist location for the surrounding Wallowa, Elkhorn and Blue Mountains.

HISTORY OF THE SITE

On 15 February, 1879, Benjamin W. Grandy filed for a quarter section homestead on the west side of the Grande Ronde Valley, described as SE<sup>4</sup> Sec6 T3S R38E.<sup>19</sup> A portion of this section was sold to James K. Romig on 25 May, 1889, with the express intention that this area be developed and became known as the Romig's Addition to La Grande.<sup>20</sup> The twelve lots of Block 10 were divided and sold on speculation beginning in 1890 and changed hands more than a dozen times. In April of 1923, August J. Stange bought all twelve lots of Block 10 in anticipation of building a home. Lots 1,2,3 and 10,11,12 were acquired from Roscoe West, lots 4,5,6 from R. G. Forrester, lots 7 and 8 from Florence Bacon and lot 9 from F. E. Rohan.<sup>21</sup> Minimal improvements were added that year and in 1924, construction was begun on the 8,000 square foot Colonial residence designed by architect Charles Miller. In addition to the grand home that was

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

Stange, August J., House  
Union, Oregon

completed in 1925, a tennis court, horse stables, duck pond and fountains occupied the southern half of the block. After his children were grown, August Stange began to sell off this portion of the block in four sections. On 12 December, 1936, portions of lots 8 and 9 were sold to Fred and Madge Kiddle, and on 26 October, 1938, lot 7 and the remainder of lot 8 were sold to Byron and Lena Tillotson. A portion of both lots 4 and 5 were sold on 20 January, 1940 to Clarence and Frances Cannon and the last section, lot 6 and the remainder of lot 5 were sold to Walter and Gladys Foster on 6 July 1942.<sup>22</sup> Except for a two foot strip conveyed to the city of La Grande for the widening of Alder Street in 1973, the boundaries of the property have remained unchanged since the sale of the southern half of the block.

On 1 February, 1962, August J. and Priscilla A. Stange sold the property known as the north one hundred fifty seven (157) feet of Block Ten (10) of Romig's Addition to La Grande, Union County, Oregon to David C. and M. Jeanette Baum. David and Jeanette Baum in turn sold the property to Larry D. and Linda D. Fuller on 27 June, 1977. Stephan L. and Lynn Gail Hart acquired the property from the Fullers on 9 September, 1986. They were the first to develop the house into a bed and breakfast and remodeled the kitchen to accommodate larger groups. The Harts divided their interest with Gene A. and Bernadine Curry on 1 June, 1992 and both parties sold the property on 2 September, 1992 to James Patrick and Marjorie McClure, the current owners of the August J. Stange house.<sup>23</sup>

THE STANGE RESIDENCE

The Stange house, located at 1612 Walnut Street, La Grande, Oregon, is also significant under Criterion C for its architectural integrity and distinctive characteristics. Built in 1924 and 1925 for lumberman August J. Stange, the house is flawless in design and was constructed using the finest materials available. The Colonial residence incorporates Georgian detailing with a strong Federalist form, and is the best example of this style in Union County. The detail of design is evident throughout, from the delicate arch-topped French doors which gracefully balance the strongly stated Doric columns of the east facade, to the intricate wrought iron railing framing the balconies. The narrow casement windows of the sun room perfectly complement the double hung windows throughout the rest of the house. The interior details are equally impressive and sensitively designed. Plate glass, arched French doors between the foyer and dining room set the tone for the arched doorways and glass fronted bookcases of the spacious living room.

Construction on the house was begun in 1924 and completed in 1925, based on tax assessment records.<sup>24</sup> In the 31 August, 1927 "Progress Edition" of the La Grande Evening Observer, the house was described as "one of the most attractive residence buildings in Eastern Oregon." Its prominence as one of the finest homes in the area has not waned in the ensuing years.

THE STANGE FAMILY

August J. Stange was married to Priscilla Ann Ellis on 1 February, 1905. Priscilla was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on 1 June, 1882 to Robert W. and Mary Ann Lloyd Ellis. August and Priscilla Stange had two children, Marian Anne and Jane Priscilla. The girls were teenagers when they moved into the Stange house. Anne was an avid tennis player and experienced horsewoman, hence the construction of the tennis court and horse stables. Jane had an interest in dance and presented programs on the stage in the basement. In 1933, Anne Stange married George Decker, who later was Secretary/Treasurer for Mt. Emily Lumber Company. While living in California, Anne Stange Decker met Bing Crosby through her lifelong association with golf. At one time, Bing Crosby was a guest at the Stange house and sang on the basement stage. Anne Stange Decker currently lives in La Grande, Oregon. Jane Stange married Ford T. Palmer and died in 1950's.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

Stange, August J., House  
Union, Oregon

Charles B. Miller, Architect

According to the original blueprints, the Stange house was designed by La Grande Architect, Charles B. Miller. The home was one of Charles Miller's early designs and may have been his first major residential commission.

Charles Benjamin Miller was born 21 October, 1888 in Tina, Carroll County, Missouri. He moved to La Grande, Oregon in 1916. It has not been determined where Miller studied his chosen profession or under whom he received his training. He was licensed to practice architecture in Oregon on 23 August, 1919, and beginning in 1920, his name appeared in local directories as Charles B. Miller, Architect. His office was on the second floor of the La Grande National Bank Building, later the First National Bank, which was located at 1215 Adams Avenue, Room 11. His residence, a handsome and very sleek bungalow of his own design, was located at 603 Penn. He was a member of A. I. A., was active in his profession, and served on the Oregon State Board of Architect Examiners from 1922 to 1927.

Miller was an accomplished architect whose works compare very favorably with that of his urban contemporaries. His designs were notable for good proportions, quiet elegance, structural integrity and great attention to detail and finish. He succeeded La Grande's first architect, Calvin Thornton, who died in 1909, and was responsible for nearly all of the finer homes built in La Grande between 1920 and 1936. He was comfortable with all the derivative styles of the period and his more eclectic designs, combining elements from more than one style, were esthetically satisfying. In 1925, Charles Miller wrote a weekly column for the La Grande Evening Observer, in which he discussed all aspects of architectural design. Miller was described as having "designed most of the better building developments in recent years."<sup>25</sup>

Miller was equally at home with larger projects. The elegant brick Presbyterian Church (1924), which is situated on a triangular block between Washington, Spring and Sixth Streets, featured an indirect lighting system and an innovative multi-purpose design. His designs for Julius Roesch's Sacajawea Inn (1927, demolished 1970) and Roesch Building (1930) look forward and were very modern for the time. Other currently known examples of Miller's commercial architecture in La Grande include the former La Grande Observer building and the Blue Mountain Creamery building, a surprisingly light and airy composition in reinforced concrete and glass (1929, demolished c. 1965). The J. C. Penney building (1930) and the complete replacement of the Star Theater, resulting in a Spanish-style facade (1930), are two other major works. The theater was renamed the Granada, a name it still bears, but Miller's work has been superseded by later remodelings.

In 1937, Charles Miller moved to Pendleton, where he continued in practice. His structures, found throughout the area, included some of the leading school and commercial buildings as well as numerous residences. He continued in active practice until his death at age 71 on 2 January, 1960. Charles Miller was handicapped to some extent by illness during the last few months of his life. A son, Donald Miller, was professionally associated with him in Pendleton for many years before relocating in Bellevue, Washington. It has not been determined whether any files of Miller's records or drawings have survived.<sup>26</sup>



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 6

Stange, August J., House  
Union, Oregon

- <sup>1</sup> Hillcrest Cemetery Grave Markers.
- <sup>2</sup> La Grande Evening Observer, 12 January, 1924, p. 7.
- <sup>3</sup> Observer, 6 September, 1921, p. 1.
- <sup>4</sup> Observer, 5 October, 1921, p. 1.
- <sup>5</sup> Observer, 18 July, 1923, p. 1.
- <sup>6</sup> Lee C. Johnson, A Brief History of Union County, Oregon, La Grande, OR: 1948., p. 19.
- <sup>7</sup> Bernal D. Hug, History of Union County, La Grande, OR: Eastern Oregon Review, 1961., p. 135.
- <sup>8</sup> Bruce Morehead, "History of Mt. Emily Lumber Company", unpublished.
- <sup>9</sup> Observer, 31 August, 1927, Sec.5, p. 1.
- <sup>10</sup> Observer, 13 December, 1923; 4 April, 1922, p. 1.
- <sup>11</sup> Observer, 11 February, 1967, p. 1.
- <sup>12</sup> Interview with Anne Stange Decker, 12 October, 1995.
- <sup>13</sup> Hillcrest Cemetery Burial Records.
- <sup>14</sup> Hug, History of Union County, p. 87.
- <sup>15</sup> Johnson, Brief History, pp. 12,18,23.
- <sup>16</sup> Observer, 31 August, 1927, sec. 2, p. 1; 5 September 1925, p. 1.
- <sup>17</sup> Observer 23 November, 1926, p. 5.
- <sup>18</sup> Bob Bourhill, ed., History of Oregon's Timber Harvests and/or Lumber Productions: 1849 to 1992, Salem, OR: Oregon Dept. of Forestry, 1994, p. 97.
- <sup>19</sup> Union County Deed of Records, Book 76, p. 152.
- <sup>20</sup> Deed Book M, p. 550.
- <sup>21</sup> Deed Book 78, pp. 26,82,93,107.
- <sup>22</sup> Deed Books 97, p. 334; 100, p. 421; 101, p. 46; 104, p. 116.
- <sup>23</sup> Deed Book 146, p. 449; Deed Records-Microfilm, 69694, 126725, 141262, 1430008.
- <sup>24</sup> Tax and Assessment Roll Books, 1924, p. 44 1925, p. 40.
- <sup>25</sup> Observer, 27 April, 1925, p. 5.
- <sup>26</sup> John W. Evans, 806 Main Avenue, La Grande, Oregon, 97850-2231.

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property .786 La Grande, Oregon 1:24000

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>11</u>	<u>413500</u>	<u>5019610</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>					

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.)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Stange, August J., House  
Union, Oregon

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bourhill, Bob, History of Oregon's Timber Harvests and/or Lumber Production: 1849 to 1992, Salem, OR : Oregon Department of Forestry, 1994

Decker, Anne Stange, La Grande, Oregon. Interview 12 October, 1995 by D. Snook.

Evans, John W. 806 Main Avenue, La Grande Oregon. Interview 5 February, 1996 by D. Snook.

Hug, Bernal D., History of Union County, La Grande, OR : Eastern Oregon Review, 1961.

Johnson, Lee C., A Brief History of Union County, Oregon, La Grande, OR : No publisher, 1948.

La Grande Evening Observer, La Grande, Oregon. 1921-1927.

Morehead, Bruce, "History of Mt. Emily Lumber Company". Unpublished brief in possession of Patrick McClure, 1612 Walnut Street, La Grande.

Union County Courthouse. Office of Deeds and Records, 1100 L Ave., La Grande, Oregon.

----- Office of Tax Assessor, La Grande, Oregon.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

Stange, August J., House  
Union, Oregon

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commencing at the northeast corner of Block Ten (10), Romig's Addition to La Grande, Union County, Oregon, and running thence west along the north line of said block a distance of 218 feet to the east line of Alder Street; thence south along the east line of Alder Street a distance of 157 feet; thence east 218 feet to the east line of said Block Ten (10); thence north 157 feet to the point of beginning. Being otherwise described as the north 157 feet of Block Ten (10) of Romig's Addition to La Grande, Oregon, except the west two feet thereof conveyed to the city of La Grande for widening of Alder Street. Deed Record 143008, Union County Office of Deeds and Records, La Grande, Oregon.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated area encompasses the entire urban tax lot 16400 (218 x 157 feet) occupied by the Stange house from 1924 onward.

=====  
11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title Dyan E. Snook

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 26 February, 1996

street & number 2201 Cedar Street telephone (541) 963-4723

city or town La Grande, Oregon state OR zip code 97850

=====  
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.)

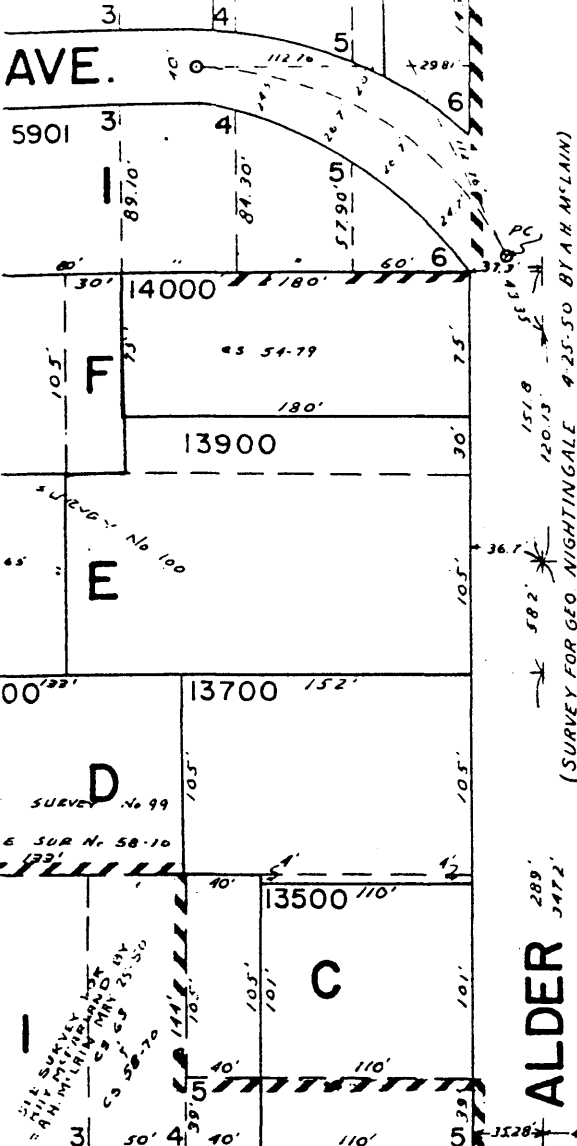
name James Patrick and Marjorie McClure

Street & number 1612 Walnut Street telephone (541) 963-2400

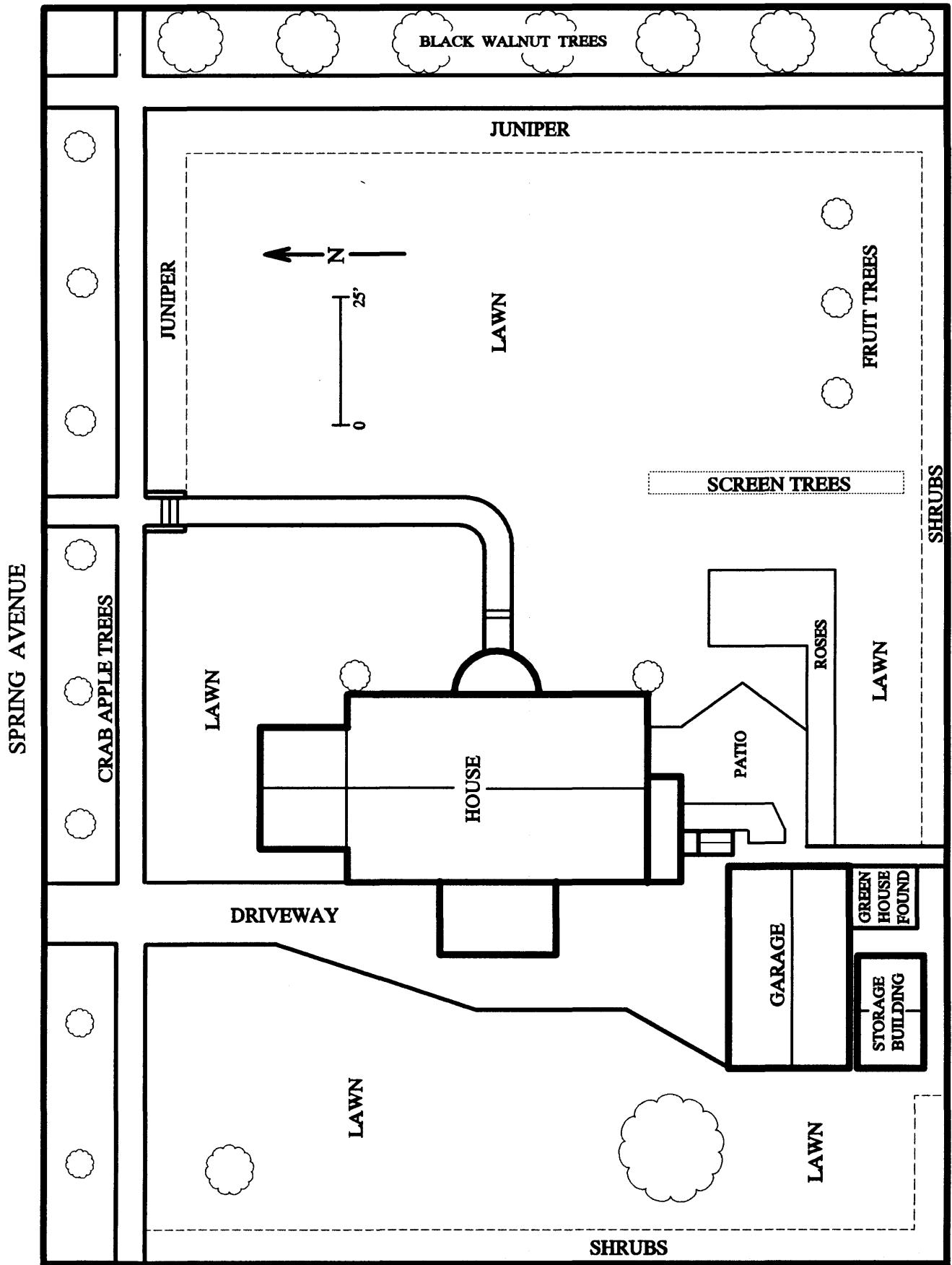
city or town La Grande state OR zip code 97850

=====  
Paper 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.



WALNUT STREET

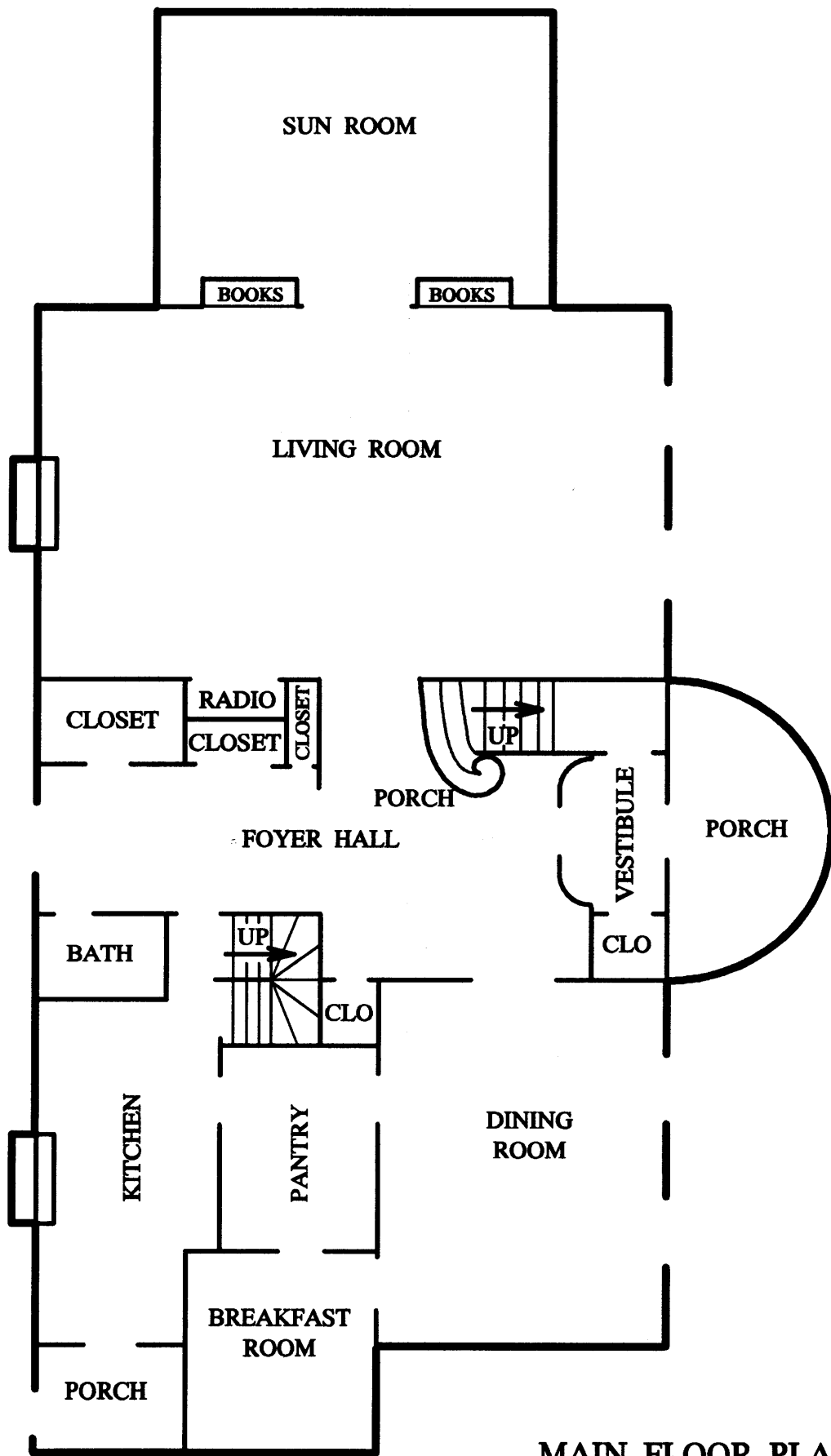


SITE PLAN  
STANGE, AUGUST J. HOUSE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON

ALDER STREET

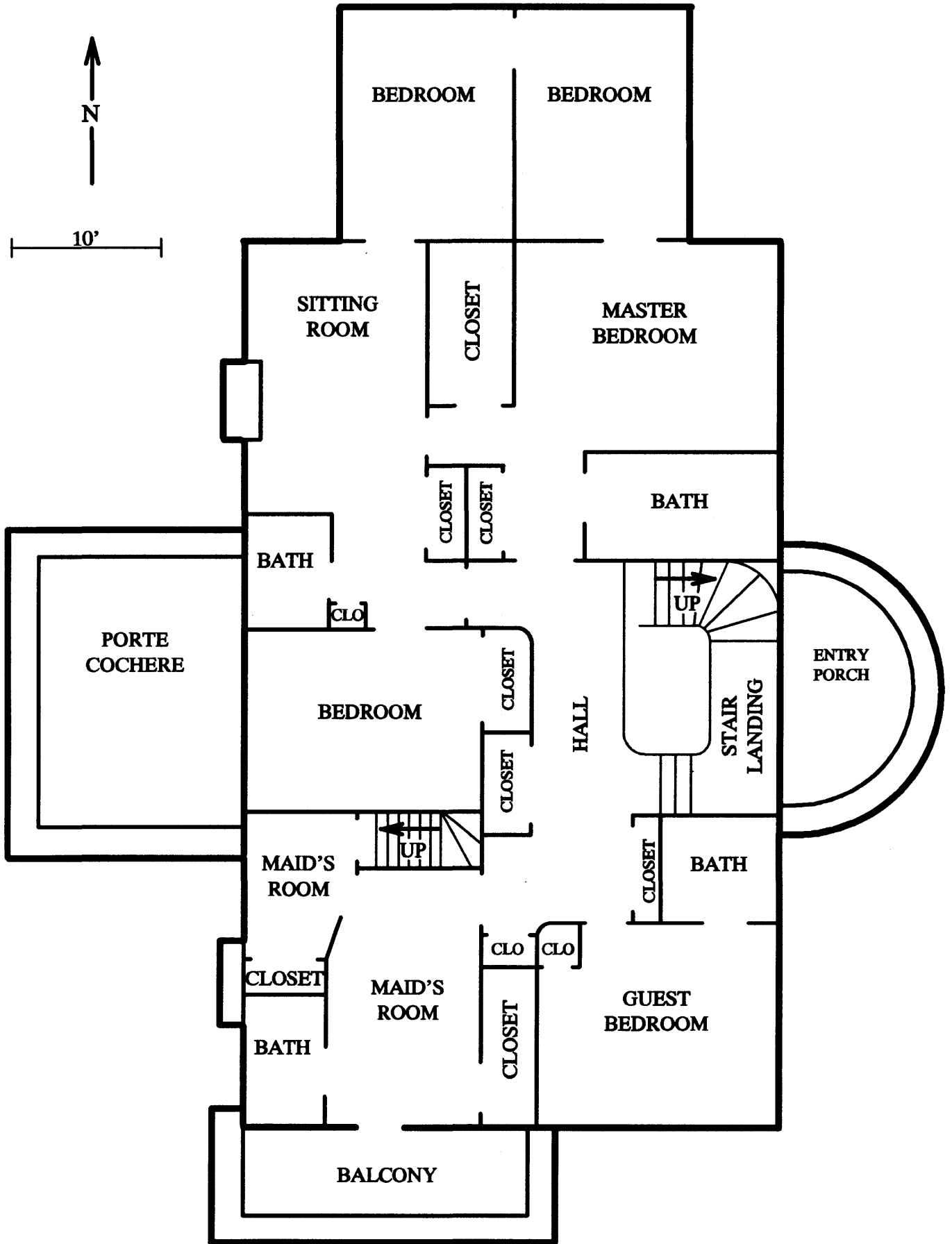


10'

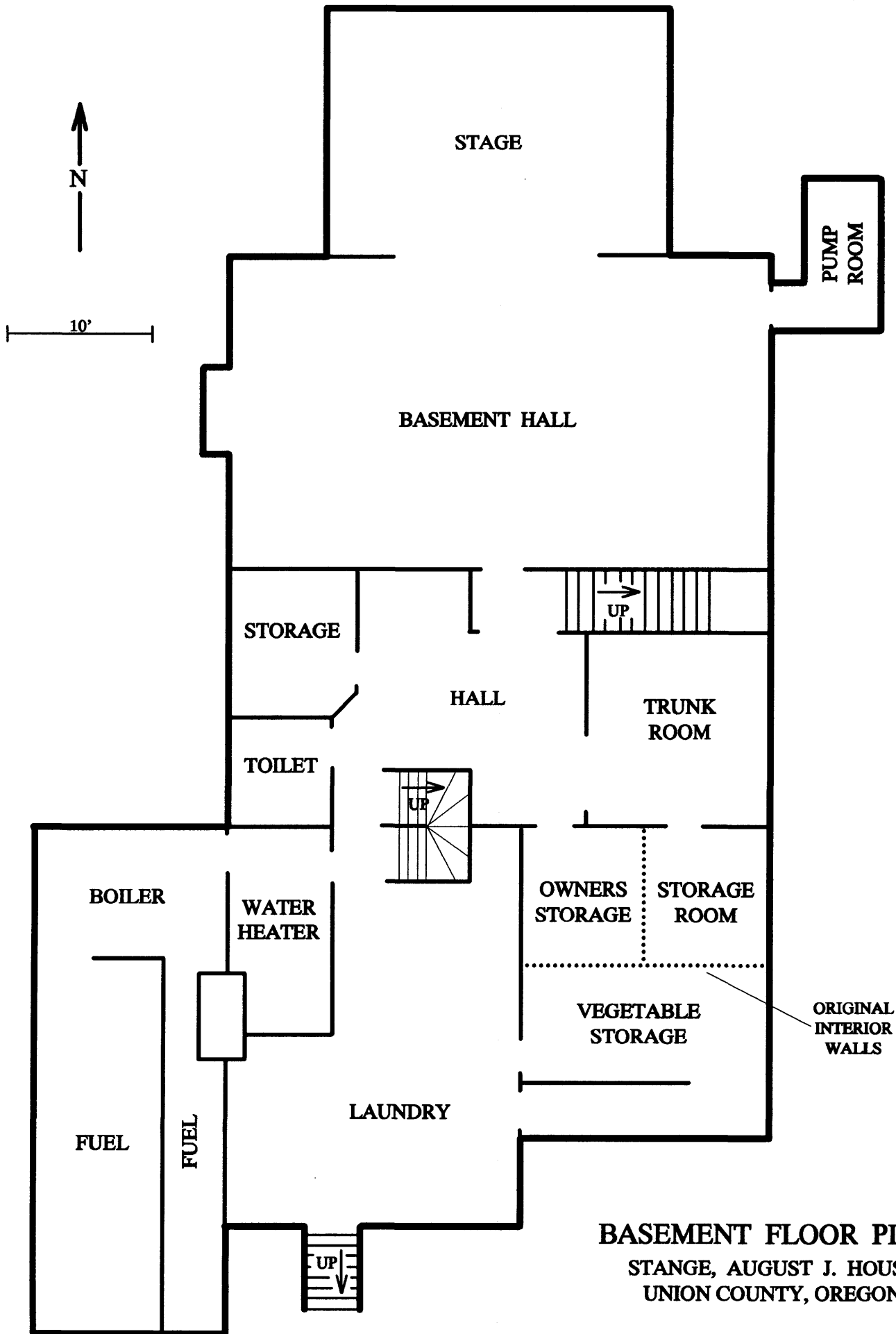


**MAIN FLOOR PLAN**  
STANGE, AUGUST J. HOUSE  
UNION COUNTY, OREGON





**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**  
**STANGE, AUGUST J. HOUSE**  
**UNION COUNTY, OREGON**



**BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN**  
 STANGE, AUGUST J. HOUSE  
 UNION COUNTY, OREGON

PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION  
 Stange, August J. House  
 La Grande, Union County, Oregon

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Photo Date</u>	<u>Photographer</u>	<u>Negative Holder</u>
1	La Grande, Oregon looking east down Spring Street. Stange House in center foreground.	Aug 1930	Unknown	McClure (Copy Neg)
2	East side of Stange house, looking westerly.	circa 1930	Unknown	Hill (Copy Neg)
3	West side of Stange house, looking southeast.	circa 1930	Unknown	Hill (Copy Neg)
4	August J. Stange	1944	Unknown	Hill (Copy Neg)
5	East side of Stange house, looking southwest.	Jul 92	Hill	Hill
6	East entrance detail, looking westerly.	Jan 96	McClure	McClure
7	Detail of arched wood panel above Dining Room and Living Room French doors on east side of house.	Feb 96	McClure	McClure
8	West side of Stange house, looking south-east. Partial view of garage on right.	Jan 96	McClure	McClure
9	West side of Stange house, looking north-east.			
10	West entrance detail, looking easterly.	Feb 96	McClure	McClure
11	South end of house, looking northerly.	Jan 96	McClure	McClure
12	North end of house, looking southeast.	Feb 96	McClure	McClure

PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION  
 Stange, August J. House  
 La Grande, Union County, Oregon

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Photo Date</u>	<u>Photographer</u>	<u>Negative Holder</u>
13	Garage modillion detail -- same modillions are used on house.	Feb 96	McClure	McClure
14	East entrance interior. Curtained door opens into east entrance vestibule. Dining room entrance doors on right. Looking east.	Feb 96	McClure	McClure
15	Dining Room recessed china shelves with shell design at top, looking south.	Feb 96	McClure	McClure
16	Main floor Foyer Hall, looking northerly into Living Room.	Feb 96	McClure	McClure
17	Living Room looking northerly. Arched doors cover bookshelves, square doors are entrance to Sun Room.			
18	Living Room fireplace, looking westerly.	Feb 96	McClure	McClure
19	Living Room plaster-mold cornice with dentals and wooden picture molding.	Feb 96	McClure	McClure
20	Sun Room ceramic tile fountain, looking northerly.	Feb 96	McClure	McClure
21	Detail of lower section of main stairway stair rail.	Feb 96	McClure	McClure
22	Second floor stair rail and balusters, looking easterly.	Feb 96	McClure	McClure
23	Second floor Sitting Room, looking northwest.	Feb 96	McClure	McClure

PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION  
Stange, August J. House  
La Grande, Union County, Oregon

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Photo Date</u>	<u>Photographer</u>	<u>Negative Holder</u>
24	Second floor Sitting Room fireplace, looking northwest.	Feb 96	McClure	McClure

The following individuals hold the negatives for the black & white pictures:

- "Hill"  
Frederick Hill  
400 Sunset  
La Grande, Oregon 97850
- "McClure"  
J. P. McClure  
1612 Walnut  
La Grande, Oregon 97850