# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

# 1. Name

1

historic	Wesely, Joseph, Ho	ouse and Barn	Numbe	er of contributin	g resources: 3
and or common	Same		Number of	<u>non-contributin</u>	g resources: 1
2. Loca	ation				
street & number	38712 Highway 226		~	<u>N/</u>	A not for publication
city, town	Scio	N/A vicinity	y of		
state	Oregon cod	<b>le</b> 41	county	Linn	<b>code</b> 019
3. Clas	sification				
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public both Public Acquisition N/Ain process N/Abeing considered	Status X_ occupied unoccupied work in pro Accessible _X_ yes: restric yes: unrest no	d . ogress . cted .	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	<pre>museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:</pre>
4. Own	er of Prope	rty			
name	Donald M. Rhodewal	t & Janice K.	Samish		
street & number	38712 Highway 226				
city, town	Scio	<u>N/A</u> vicinity	y of	state	Oregon 97374
5. Loca	ation of Leg	al Descri	iption		
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.	Linn Cou	nty Court	house	
street & number		PO Box 10	00		
city, town		Albany		state	Oregon 97321
6. Repi	resentation	in Existi	ing Su	rveys	
	Statewide Inventory Properties		this property	been determined elig	ible? yes _X no
Jate	1985			federal state	county local
depository for su	irvey records	State Histor	ic Preserv	vation Office, 52	5 Trade Street SE
city, town		Salem		state	Oregon 97310

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# 7. Description

Condition        X excellent       deteriorated         good       ruins         fair       unexposed	Check one X unaltered altered	Check one X original site moved dateN/A
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#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Joseph Wesely House and Barn, constructed in 1913 on the outskirts of Scio, in Linn County, Oregon, are finely crafted wood-frame buildings which retain a high degree of original interior and exterior integrity. The house, constructed in the Craftsman style with Colonial Revival details, presents elaborately modeled elevations capped by a complex network of intersecting roof forms. The barn, compatible in style, reflects the same excellence in craftsmanship as the house. The nominated property is located approximately two tenths of a mile south of Scio on the west side of Highway 226. Situated on the northwest corner of the intersection of Highway 226 and Gilkey Road, the house presents its principal facade to the east, fronting Highway 226.

In July of 1909, Joseph Francis Wesely, a prominent merchant in the town of Scio, purchased from T. B. Prospal, 5.93 acres of land adjacent to the southern edge of town for 326.14.1 In 1913, under the direction of Wesely, T. B. Prospal then built a large and elaborate house with accompanying barn on this land for 13,000.00.2 In 1920, a garage was added to the property by the owner, Joseph Wesely.<sup>3</sup> Each of the three buildings is a contributing feature of the historic ensemble. Together they remain to this day prominent landmarks in the rolling farmland south of Scio.

The house was constructed in nine months with the hand-picked, knot-free interior wood being transported from Washington State. Hardware and light fixtures were selected, purchased, and hand-carried from Portland, Oregon by Wesely.<sup>5</sup>

The two and one-half story house is 5,600 square feet in size, has thirteen rooms, full basement, and a full attic. The exterior with its large porches, columns, bays, and dormers presents a striking appearance topped by the elaborate many-leveled roof system of flared roof lines and eaves seeming to appear from every possible angle, even presenting a slightly Oriental appearance from the west. The overall appearance, however, is one of order.

The barn, notable in its own right, is two-storied and features flat, jigsaw cut trim in the gable and dormer ends, an arched window in the front, two windows on a canted axis, an arched window on the south facade, and is topped by a square louvered cupola.

The garage reflects Joseph Wesely's skill as a carpenter. The architectural detail of the garage has been closely matched to that of the house and includes a flared hip roof, exposed rafters, and a shed-roofed dormer.

A workshop, west of the house, is a non-historic, non-contributing addition of 1963. The location was originally the site of a water supply system for the house which contained a water tank and pumping system.<sup>6</sup> However, this system disappeared long ago. A large work counter in the workshop is a momento from Wesely's grocery store.

A low masonry wall bordering the front yard, two very large, split-leaf, weeping birch trees, a small, octagonal-shaped, concrete fish pond, and a glider swing moved by the Wesely family from their former home in Scio to this location are all original features that remain, adding to the integrity of the property.7

JOSEPH WESELY HOUSE

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The Joseph Wesely House has passed through five families: Joseph and Rose Wesely, 1913-1951, Glenn and Alvilda Eastman, 1951-1960, David and Marie Cardwell, 1960-1976, Herman and Suzann Carlson, 1976-1984, and Janice Samish and Donald Rhodewalt, 1984 to the present.

#### House Exterior

The impressive exterior presents a gambrel roof, the long axis of which runs north and south, having a full second story incorporated into the steeper, lower slope of the gambrel. There is varied hipped roof massing on diverse lower planes in the rear. The house is a balloon-framed, clapboard-sided structure and rests on a rusticated concrete block foundation. All roof ridges are metal capped and are terminated at gable peaks with pommel-type finials.

The east, or front elevation, features a primary cross-gable with cornice returns, flared, enclosed eaves, a fixed, one-light window and fishscale wood shingles. A secondary lower cross-gable has cornice returns, flared, enclosed eaves and variegated shinglework forming a lozenge pattern. Prominent are three tripartite window groupings with leaded glass panes above single lower panes in double-hung wooden sash at the second story and three ground story bay windows distinguished by leaded glass top lights.

A full-width porch is supported by rusticated cement block piers that hold clusters of three wooden columns with flat, tapered sides. Foundation grill work and a solid railing separate the piers. A hip roof covers the porch and features a central temple-fronted section at the porch steps. The date 1913 is displayed in the porch pediment. The front door is a fixed pane of beveled glass with beveled glass top and side lights.

The north elevation is distinguished by cornice returns at the gable ends, flared, enclosed eaves, and imbricated wood shingles surrounding a fixed, four-light attic window. A balustrade frames the deck of a single-story polygonal bay window. Single and paired double-hung windows are placed in an asymmetrical manner elsewhere in the wall plane. A hip-roofed side porch has latticed panels joined to flat-sided, tapered columns that sit upon solid railings. A balustrade, (a recent addition by the present owners, but made architecturally compatible by duplicating the deck railings), surrounds a grade-level concrete deck which holds the original hand water pump and steps leading to the porch.

The rear, or west elevation features a fixed, four-light window in the cross gable end with its cornice returns and imbricated shinglework. At the second story, an exterior door leads onto the deck of a single-story projection. A hip-roofed cantilevered bay with paired, double-hung window sash lights the hip-roofed kitchen wing. A hip-roofed dormer with flared eaves and a two-light window lends an Oriental appearance to the western exposure. An interior brick chimney also is evident. The south elevation is organized much like the north, the second story being contained within the gable end with its cornice returns and variegated siding. The attic window is a fixed four-light window. The single-story polygonal bay is detailed precisely like that of the north elevation, and the second story oriel window has a tripartite, or Palladian arrangement with leaded glass in the upper sash. A small square window on the ground story is turned on point to present a diamond-shaped opening.

#### House Interior

The house interior is consistent with the exterior, showing quality, knot-free woodwork, cabinetwork, and fine finishing detail overall.

The interior reflects a strong Craftsman influence that presents itself immediately upon entering the house. The walls of the impressibly large entry hall are lined with a combination of fine fir wainscotting and tapered wood columns rising to the ten-foot ceilings, providing an open, airy feeling to an otherwise heavy, wood medium. The entry hall is lighted by a simple but elegant brass drop-lamp with its original fluted, frosted, glass shades. The entry hall provides access to the parlor, sitting room, dining room, maid's room and to the second floor by ascending a beautifully fashioned staircase of turned balustrades and decorative newel panels.

The Craftsman influence is very strongly felt in the dining room with its elaborate use of five-foot, three-inch wainscotting, topped by a plate rail, box-beams on the ceiling that are placed in a geometric configuration with radial sections, and a built-in, glass-fronted, and mirrored china cabinet. The room is further enhanced by the fir flooring with an inlay of wood which runs normal to the rest of the flooring, accentuating the center portion. The large, brass, five-globe drop-lamp still retains its original pressed and frosted shades. Entry to the walk-through pantry and on into the kitchen is obtained by passing through a heavy, swinging door.

The Craftsman influence is again felt in the sitting room with its brick fireplace topped by a mirrored overmantle and green ceramic tiled hearth. Four-foot wainscotting, extended window seat and a beltcourse further accent the room. An elaborate brass ceiling drop-lamp hangs from a plaster medallion.

The parlor, not as elaborate as the dining room and sitting rooms, contains a four-foot wainscotting and looks out onto the front of the property through a large three-window bay. A quietly ornate brass drop-lamp is used here.

The maid's room is unpretentious and is tucked away out of the normal flow of traffic. The builder, however, has provided a large walk-in closet for the comfort of the maid staying at the house.

The lower bath still retains its original fixtures including an impressive six-foot bathtub with claw feet.

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

JOSEPH WESELY HOUSE

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The kitchen is large and has been modernized to some degree by previous owners. However, the ambience reflects an earlier time by the design of the appropriately styled cabinetwork and the use, by the present owners, of antique major appliances. A functional dumbwaiter (from kitchen to basement) and a large, built-in cupboard are still in use. The kitchen enters into the pantry with its own built-in cupboards and drawers.

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Although simple in design, the upstairs bedrooms (three) still suggest quiet elegance. The master bed chamber opens onto a large sitting room with its own very large walk-in closet. An elaborate brass drop-lamp hangs from the nine-foot ceiling.

A turned, balustraded balcony follows the upper landing into the bath with its original fixtures. A walk-in linen closet in the hall and a larger unfinished storage room with window seat, used by the Wesely children as a play room, complete the upstairs.<sup>8</sup>

Unusual features are the brass water spigots installed in both the upper bath and downstairs entry hall by the builder. These were for connection to water hoses - for fighting fires.

Fir was used comprehensively on all exposed wood surfaces: wainscotting, floors, cupboards, doors, moldings, etc. All walls are finished in a rough plaster coat. The original brass door knobs, plates, and drawer pulls are still in use.

#### Barn Exterior

Located behind, or to the west of the house, the barn, which is small by ordinary farming standards, was used to provide shelter for the farm animals of the Wesely family. These according to Frances (Wesely) Miller and Angeline (Wesely) Palmer included some one or two cows, two horses, a hundred chickens, a pig, and pigeons.<sup>9</sup> The barn also was built in 1913.

It is a ship-lapped, two-story structure with a gambrel roof, the long axis of which runs north and south, and is topped by a square, louvered cupola that originally held a weather vane. A gambrel roofed dormer containing an arched four-light window and a flat jigsaw-cut trim in the apex projects from the center of the eastern facing roof. Single-story wings to the east and south are hip-roofed.

Large double doors are centered in the first level northern elevation which also contains two, small, fixed, four-light windows. A single sliding door and immediately above, swinging double doors with diagonal stick work gives access to the hay loft.

A large sliding door and four-over-four, double-hung sash dominates the single-story eastern elevation.

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The western elevation has two small, fixed windows, a small manure removal hatch, and an entry way at the southern end.

The southern elevation is composed of the south wing which is a simple structure open on the east end and containing a doorway on the west end. This area was originally used as a chicken pen by the Weselys. Above the southern wing on the second level are two fixed, four-light windows on a canted, forty-five degree axis to the right and left of an arched, four-light window. Flat jigsaw-cut trim is used in the apex of the southern eave. Corner boards are, in addition, used throughout.

#### Barn Interior

The first floor level is divided into three areas which, with the exception of the missing feed bins, is in near original condition. The second level (loft) still contains the original hay carrier trolley, hay carrier fork, and carrier rail.

#### Garage

To the north of the house, next to Highway 226, is the single-car garage designed and built by Joseph Wesely in 1920. It is architecturally compatible with the house through its clapboard siding, hipped roof with flared eaves and shed-roofed dormer. It has exposed rafter ends, narrow tongue and groove interior finish, and the original vertically folding doors. As a visually compatible feature built by the original owner in the period of significance, the garage contributes to the historic ensemble.

#### Notable Landscape Features

In front of the house, adjacent to the road, a low masonry wall borders the front yard. Constructed of rusticated concrete blocks, the wall, which is original, features a metal pipe top rail and masonry gate posts capped by large masonry spheres. Original gates have been removed. Two large birch trees are located in front of the house and are contemporaneous with the house. A large horse chestnut tree is located behind the house. Other landscaping features include a small masonry pond in the front yard (not currently used), and a lawn swing. The lawn swing, which consists of a metal frame and wooden seats, is notable since the same swing can be seen in an early photograph of the house, and is the original glider the Wesely girls used as small children.<sup>10</sup> A pump is located adjacent to the house on the north, next to the kitchen door. A row of arbor vitaes acts as a border between the house and Gilkey Road today. This border originally consisted of roses.

#### Alterations

Exterior alterations to the house have been minimal and were done for the most part by the original owner, Joseph Wesely. The railings atop window bays on both the north and south elevations and the rail on the rear deck were at some point

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removed by Wesely. It could be presumed that they were badly rotted and needed repair and Wesely had neither the time or money to go ahead with the repairs. The present owners had the railings reproduced through the careful measurements from in old photographs. A reproduced railing was also installed on the rear deck, although no historic photograph exists of the north elevation.<sup>11</sup>

The original wood shingle roof has been replaced with an architecturally-styled composition roof that simulates wood shingles. The metal hips and ridges with pommel finials were appropriately reproduced on the basis of historic photographs. The garage roof was also done in this manner.

Although the original kitchen cabinets have been removed and newer and more extensive cabinetwork added, the integrity of the kitchen is still early 20th century with the use of a c. 1920 stove and refrigerator and the careful use of other dated kitchen accoutrements. Originally, the maid's room had access to the bath through a doorway, but an old leak from the second-story deck directly above this doorway resulted in wood rot requiring the subsequent door removal and additional ceiling reinforcement in this area. In addition, a reproduced tin ceiling was installed by the current owners to repair the damaged plaster ceiling, a common and inexpensive method of repair from c. 1895-1915.<sup>12</sup>

During a storm in 1962, the southern portion of the barn was badly damaged.<sup>13</sup> The owner at that time, David Cardwell, performed a functional repair and closed out the upper facade, thus eliminating three windows. In 1985, the present owners, aided by the old photographs, scaled the window sizes and location and had the windows rebuilt and installed in their original locations. The south wing was torn down in 1961 and remains to be restored. A tin roof has replaced the original wood shingle roof. The present owners plan to replace this roof with the same architectural composition shingles as used on the house and garage.

#### Footnotes

- 1 Deed of Record. No. 11257, Thomas B. Prospal and wife, Albany, Oregon, July 27, 1909.
- <sup>2</sup> Miller, Frances (Wesely). Personal communication, April 21, 1985.
- <sup>3</sup> Miller, Frances (Wesely). Personal communication, April 21, 1985.
- 4 <u>Santiam News</u>, Scio, Oregon, February 27, 1913. Santiam News, Scio, Oregon, November 6, 1913.
- <sup>5</sup> Santiam News, Scio, Oregon, September 11, 1913.
- <sup>6</sup> Miller, Frances (Wesely). Personal communication, March 12, 1985.
- <sup>7</sup> Scio Tribune, Scio, Oregon, October 10, 1985.

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Continuati	JOSEPH WESELY HOUSE on sheet AND BARN	Item number		Page	7
8	Miller, Frances (Wesely).	Personal communication	, April	21, 1985.	
9	Miller, Frances (Wesely).	Personal communication	, April	21, 1985	
10	Miller, Frances (Wesely). Palmer, Angeline (Wesely).				
11	Miller, Frances (Wesely). Palmer, Angeline (Wesely).				
12	The Old House Journal New	Compendium, 1983. Page	342.		
10					

13 The Scio Tribune, Scio, Oregon, October 18, 1962.

# 8. Significance

1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications	community planning     conservation     economics     education     engineering     exploration/settlement	military music philosophy	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1913	Builder/Architect T.	B. Prospal, builder	

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Joseph Wesely House, located on the southern outskirts of the small farming community of Scio, in Linn County, Oregon, was built in 1913 and is nominated with an area of 3.83 acres to encompass associated pasture land and two historic outbuildings: a barn (1913) and garage (1920). The house is Register-eligible under criterion "c" as an exceptionally well-preserved and locally distinctive example of Craftsman architecture in the Colonial Revival vein. The contemporaneous gambrel-roofed barn is noteworthy for its comparatively modest scale and decorative features which some have suggested are earmarks of the operation of a hobbyist instead of a full-time farmer. Indeed, although they were built in a rural setting, the house, auto garage and masonry wall bordering the front property line are not remote from the Scio town center and reflect the lifestyle of a propserous merchant-farmer.

Joseph Wesely (1873-1951), a New York native of Czechoslovakian heritage, settled in the Willamette Valley in the company of his uncles in 1898. After initial involvement with the flax industry, at Scio and later in Salem, Joseph returned to Scio and engaged in a partnership with his brother John in a general merchandise store. After several years, the business was divided with John becoming owner of the stock of dry goods and Joseph becoming a grocer. Beginning in about 1917, Joseph Wesely also served as local express agent. From 1913 onward, Wesely operated his small-scale farm in addition to his concerns in town. He and his wife, the former Rose Sticha, raised three children in their suburban farmhouse. Wesely retired in 1945 but occupied the property until his death in 1951.

The nominated property also may be considered noteworthy as the most extensive and best-preserved property associated with the Wesely clan, including Joseph's uncles and brothers, which inspired a Czechoslovakian settlement phenomenon in the Scio vicinity. It was reported in 1938 that the local Czech community consisted of 200 families and was the largest such "colony" on the West Coast. The Charles Wesely House still stands in Scio, for example, and while it too is a vernacular version of Colonial Revival architecture by local builder T. B. Prospal, it is less grand than the house of his brother Joseph. The latter reflects the status and prosperity attained by an industrious businessman of rural Linn County in the early years of the 20th Century.

Joseph Francis Wesely was born in New York City, New York in 1873. One of fifteen children, he was the son of John and Frances (Young) Wesely, natives of Bohemia. Wesely's early education was in the district schools of Kansas where he would eventually teach school for seven years after earning his way through school clerking in a grocery store. He was a well educated man of marked linguistic ability, speaking fluently in the Bohemian, German, and English languages.<sup>1</sup>

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Acreage or i	nominated property	3.83	~~		
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state	N/A	code	county		code
state	N/A	code	county		code
11. F	orm Prepa	ared By	<u></u>		
ame/title		Rhodewalt and	Janice K. Sa	mish	
organization	N/A			date	December 11, 1985
treet & num	ber 38712 High	way 226		telephor	e (503) 394-2052
	Scio			state	Oregon 97374
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Wesely, in company with his uncles and seeking a new location for their relatives and friends, came to the Willamette Valley in 1898. Impressed with the fertile land in the Scio area, they decided to stay, thus establishing the beginning of the Czech colonization of the Scio region that was to grow to include some 200 families by the 1930s.<sup>2</sup>

The Wesely clan was the first of Czech nationality in the Scio community, which was to become the largest Czech settlement area on the Pacific Coast and one of the largest in the United States. Joseph Wesely and his brothers owned leading business concerns in Scio. In 1902, Wesely entered into partnership with his brother John, establishing a general merchandising store known as Wesely Bros.<sup>3</sup> This association was maintained for four years until the business was divided. Joseph Wesely's brother became the owner of the stock of dry goods, while Joseph Wesely took over the grocery establishment to be known as Wesely's Grocery, which he operated until 1945.<sup>4</sup> In addition, Joseph Wesely's brother Charles owned a hardware and implement business.

Joseph Wesely held the position of local express agent and also took a prominent part in the affairs of his community. For five years he served as city treasurer, while for thirteen years he acted as school clerk, public education always receiving his support. His fraternal connections were with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Knights of Phythias, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In addition to his business and civic duties, Wesely maintained a photography studio in the upper story of his grocery store, providing photographs of historical importance today.<sup>5</sup>

In 1908, Wesely was married to Rose L. Sticha and they became the parents of four children: Maximillian (deceased), Frances (Wesely) Miller, Ageline (Wesely) Palmer, and Stanley, who died in 1913.

Joseph Wesely led a busy, active, and useful life, employing every opportunity to advance. His eventual prosperity was the direct outcome of persistency of purpose and unduanted energy. He was a public spirited and progressive citizen, whose worth won him the high regard of all who knew him.

The house reflects the social status of Joseph Wesely in the community during the period when his business prospered. Although originally built in a rural setting, the house, small decorative barn, auto garage, and masonry wall are cosmopolitan in feeling, reflecting the lifestyle of a merchant rather than a full-time farmer.

Based on a comparison with other properties currently listed in the Linn County Historic Resources Inventory (1982) and the Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties in Linn County (1976), the Joseph Wesely House is stylistically distinctive. It is one of very few houses in Linn County outside of the county seat to exhibit features of Colonial Revival-influenced Craftsman style architecture. It is comparable only to the Charles Wesely House in Scio, which was owned by Joseph's brother and supposedly built by the same local builder, T. B. Prospal.6 However, as part of a small farm ensemble, the Joseph Wesely property is clearly superior in scope.

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

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#### Footnotes

- 1 Wesely, Joseph F. History of Oregon, Vol. II, Pioneer Historical Publishing Co., 1922.
- 2 Maxwell, Ben. "Oregon Czechs Are Contented." Oregon Journal, Portland, Oregon, October 1, 1983.
- 3 Santaim News, Scio, Oregon, May 16, 1902.
- 4 The Scio Tribune, Scio, Oregon, September 13, 1945.
- 5 Miller, Frances (Wesely). Personal communication, April 21, 1985.
- 6 Linn County Planning and Building Department. Personal communication, April 26, 1985.

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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	JOSEPH WESELY	HOUSE		
Continuation sheet	AND BARN	Item number	. 9	Page 1

Carey, Charles H., <u>History of Oregon</u>. Vol. II, Chicago, Portland. Pioneer Historical Publishing Co., 1922.

Polk, R. L., Polk's Linn County Directory 1913, Albany, Oregon. R. L. Polk Company, 1913.

Labine, Clem and Carolyn Flaherty, eds. <u>The Old-House Journal Compendium</u>. Woodstock, New York, The Overlook Press, <u>1980</u>.

Maxwell, Ben, "Oregon Czechs are Contented," Oregon Journal, October 1, 1938.

Santiam News

5-16-02 3-27-13 9-11-13 11-6-13

Scio Tribune

9-13-45 10-18-62 10-10-85

Linn County Deeds of Record, Linn County Courthouse, Albany.

Staff report, HR-9-84/85, Joseph Wesely House, prepared for Linn County Historic Resource Commission by the Linn County Planning Department, April 25, 1985.

NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)				OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87
United States National Park	<b>Department of the lu</b> Service	nterior		For NPS use only
	Register of Hi Momination		es	received date entered
	JOSEPH WESELY HOUSE			
Continuation sheet	AND BARN	Item number	10	Page 2

Beginning at the Northeast corner of the South one-half of Lot 1, in Goin's Land Plat to Scio, in Linn County, Oregon; thence Westerly along the North line of the South half of Lot 1, 324.88 feet, more or less, to the Northeast corner of that parcel described in deed recorded in Volume 12, page 368, Linn County Microfilm Records; thence South  $0^{\circ}$  09' West 559.68 feet to the South line of Lot 1, thence Easterly along said South line, 334.78 feet, more or less, to the Southeast corner of said Lot 1; thence Northerly along the East line of Lot 1, 565.62 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning. Except therefrom that property lying within the limits of roads and highways.





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Scale: 1/8"= 11.0" D. Ehodewalt 11/18/81



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SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" D. Rhodewa H 11/18/85