HARNEY COUNTY: AN HISTORICAL INVENTORY

BY ROYAL JACKSON and JENNIFER LEE

HISTORIC PRESERVATION
OREGON STATE PARKS
1115 COMMERCIAL ST NE
Salem, Oregon 97310

HARNEY COUNTY: AN HISTORICAL INVENTORY

By

Royal G. Jackson

and

Jennifer A. Lee

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INTRODUCTION

The story of Harney County unfolds as a dramatic interplay of historical figures struggling to cope with a harsh environment. Indians, emigrants, fur trappers, cattlemen, sheepmen, merchants, and other settlers have contributed to this record of past human events. The County's history has paralleled and been a part of the broader sweep of history in Eastern Oregon and the northwest region. Its distinctiveness derives from its unique blend of people and their adaptation to the land.

The historical mosaic is replete with people, places, and events which have been the primary shapers of the Harney County story. Among these are such notable names as Peter Skene Ogden, John Devine, Sarah Winnemucca, Chief Egan, Peter French, Bill Hanley, Henry Miller, George Smyth, George McGowan, Charles Voegtly, Nathan Brown, and others. Harney County place names reflect the vitality and descriptive powers of hardy settlers adapting to a diverse and demanding environment. Some paid tribute to the nobler aspirations of man such as Burns, named for the poet Robert Burns. Others portrayed the less noble facet of human nature such as Whorehouse Meadow and Gouge Eye. Voltage represented one man's dream of power, and Follyfarm chronicled the vicissitudes of dry land farming. Some names were precisely descriptive such as The Narrows, Roaring Springs Ranch, Rattlesnake Creek, and Baby's Grave. Others were contractions of words such as Somerange and Frenchglen. The "P" Ranch, Lawen, Crane, Wagontire, Whitehorse Ranch, Sod House Ranch, Alvord Ranch, Ragtown, Fields, Denio, and many other places have played a role in the historic fabric of the County's history. All in some way represent the common heritage.

A perusal of historical sources of Harney County history surfaces certain signal events that have left their indelible impression upon the collective consciousness. These, when taken in sum, constitute the sinews of the historical framework. In Harney County history there are a few such developments that have significantly impacted the historical development of the region.

The arrival of the fur trappers to the Harney Basin early in the 1800's was a significant first step in terms of Euro-American penetration of the region. The 1845 Meek Cutoff Trail and the Blue Bucket Mine episode are widely recorded events that tie Harney County to the larger Oregon Trail story. John Devine's arrival around 1868 and the establishment of the Whitehorse Ranch launched a period of flamboyant cattle barons and empires.

During the mid-1860's several military posts were established, making a short and not very distinguished period in the military history of the area. Camps Alvord,Currey, Harney, C. F. Smith, and Wright briefly came into being, but it was only Camp Harney that played a noteworthy role. The Bannock War of 1878 signaled the end of overt hostilities with Indians in the area.

In 1889 Harney County became officially detached from Grant County, thus achieving recognition and status as a new political subdivision. It was to be 1892, however, before Burns became the official county seat, marking the beginning of the demise of Harney City.

The murder of Pete French in 1897 marked the end of one cattle empire and the rise of another. Such names as Miller, Lux, Brown, Hanley, and French dominated the events of this era. By 1916 the railroad was completed to Crane, thus greatly expanding the County's transportation system. Its completion into Burns in 1924 furthered the ascendancy of Burns and the demise of Crane as the economic center of the area.

The construction of the Edward Hines Lumber Co. facilities during the early part of the Depression (1929) was of great economic importance to the County. The CCC camps that were established during the same period played a part in ameliorating poor working conditions and left physical evidence of their works as well.

Establishment of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and the implementation of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 greatly altered ways of working and living in Harney County. Elimination of the open range had widespread implications for the livestock industry and the Basque sheepherders in particular.

These then are a few of the more obvious events that have had a significant impact on the area's history. There are many other individual and group actions that could be mentioned to provide a complete portrait of events. All of these people, places, and events are a small fragment of a much larger story.

Purpose and Methodology

In June of 1976 the two researchers of this study undertook the task of completing an initial inventory of the historic sites in Harney County, Oregon. Royal Jackson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Resource Recreation Management at Oregon State University, and Jennifer Lee was a student in that department fulfilling an internship requirement. The study was initiated at the request of the Harney County Historical Society and partially supported through a "701" Planning Grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The "701" HUD Planning Grant was administered by the Harney County Planning Office in Burns, Oregon.

The purpose of the investigation was to make a preliminary survey of the historic sites in the 10,000-square-mile County in order to establish a data base for historic resources. These historic resources were to be documented with black and white photographs, classified according to a rating system, and arranged within a thematic structure. A secondary objective was the preparation of a slide-tape on Harney County history for use by the Harney County Historical Society.

From a base of operations in Burns, field data were collected throughout the County from June 18 to October 1, 1976. Examination of primary and secondary sources continued from the summer of 1976 through December 1977. Sources of information included: personal interviews; published materials; personal letters; official local, state, and federal documents; private scrapbooks and photographic albums; oral history tapes and transcripts as well as other audio-visual materials; and on-site visitations. Particularly useful were sources found in the Harney County Library in Burns, U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management materials, the more than 200 personal interviews conducted, and materials available through the Oregon State University Library system. Private scrapbooks and photograph albums provided information that would have been otherwise unavailable. Historical information supplied by officials at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge was indispensable to completion of the study.

The research procedure was as follows:

(1) Identification of a potential historic site or sites in a given area of the County through consultation with County residents and through analyzing primary and secondary sources.

(2) A field visitation to inspect the site, take measurements and photographs, and evaluate for historical integrity. This on-site visit was often carried out with the aid of a local resident who was familiar with the particular site under study.

(3) Preparation of a written summary incorporating all available information obtained through the various sources mentioned.

(4) A review of the written summary with one or more of the informants to check for accuracy and omissions.

(5) Revision of the summary to include informants' suggestions as well as to include new information that was obtained elsewhere.

(6) Periodic revisions to incorporate new information surfaced during the data collection process on related sites.

(7) A final review by selected members of the Harney County Historical Society of all information compiled for each of the sites. At this point in the procedure, Marcus Hines, Pauline Brayman, and Wally Welcome read all or portions of the total inventory. Their revisions were subsequently incorporated into the final draft of the historic sites inventory.

Each site was evaluated and classified on the basis of its historical significance and integrity. Designations were high, medium, or low for each of these categories. Integrity was much easier to determine in that on-site inspection revealed the general condition of the structure or site. A structure rated "high" on integrity was one which was structurally sound, had received regular maintenance, and still had the original unaltered historic fabric intact. "Medium" indicated that the structure was beginning to show deterioration, such as the roof or flooring, but that it continued as a structurally sound building. A rating of "low" was assigned to historic sites that were in a partial or total state of collapse or were ruins with little more than foundations remaining.

Evaluation for historical significance classification was more difficult because it required more subjective considerations to be weighed. In general, the following criteria were applied:

(1) Association with events that have made a contribution to the broad sweep of Harney County history;

(2) Association with the lives of persons significant in the region's history;

(3) Distinctive characteristics of a type, method, or period of construction.

The evaluation criteria used by Region 6 of the U.S. Forest Service seemed particularly appropriate and were applied to this study. These were:

(1) Factors appropriate for all cultural resources:

(a) Is it unique? (Is it the only one left, only one ever made, only one known?)

(b) Is it representative: (Is it one of a group of similar resources in an area? Does it represent a past way of life?)

(c) Is it over 50 years old?

(d) Is it associated with a known person or event?

(e) Does it have integrity? (Has the setting been altered?)

(2) Factors appropriate especially for historical resources:

(a) Does it relate to an historical theme? (The Fur Trade, The Oregon Trail, etc.)

(b) Is it associated with a particular event or person? (The first ranger station, a battle, a well-known cattleman, etc.)

(c) Is it usable or adaptable for use?

(d) Does it have distinctive features (engineering or architectural, etc.)?

A thematic framework was adapted from that used by the National Park Service and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. One hundred and two sites were inventoried and categorized as follows:

Theme	Number of Sites
1. The Fur Trade	1
2. The Oregon Trail	2
3. The Mining Frontier	1
4. The Cattlemen's Empire and Agriculture	26
5. Commerce and Industry	20
6. Transportation and Communication	14
7. Education	2
8. Natural Science and Medicine	2
9. Architecture	3
10. Religion	1
11. Social and Humanitarian Movements	3
12. Political and Military Affairs	7
13. Cultural Immigration	1
14. Travel and Recreation	5
15. Conservation and Natural Resources	2
16. Other	12

1. THE FUR TRADE

1.1 Sod House Site

Township 26S, Range 31E, Section 35
Present Owner: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

The only remains of the original 15-foot square structure that provided the name for a school, ranch, and lane is a low rock wall located near a spring where the headquarters for the Malheur National Refuge is situated today. The Sod House derives its historical significance from being the area's first permanent structure. It was constructed by two sets of brothers, the Stengers and Chapmans. Several sources pinpoint the date of its construction as 1862, but recent research by a local historian refutes this date (Welcome, 1976). Welcome believes that Chapman did not come into the area until 1871 and that Stenger would have been only 10 years of age in 1862.

In this period trappers were beginning to penetrate the Harney Basin to exploit the abundant fur resources and the Sod House came to be used as an overnight shelter for some of these travelers. The structure was constructed of willows and thick sod cut nearby and well represented the typical architectural style of homes built on the prairies during this era. Peter and Lewis Stenger and the Chapmans, John and Henry, built the structure during a winter trapping expedition on Malheur Lake and the Donner and Blitzen River.

Although it was used only a short period as a residence, its distinctive name has been applied to the general district, Sod House Ranch, Sod House School, and Sod House Lane. The Refuge has erected a stone bearing a plaque containing historical information. A post office was eventually established at Sod House Spring and named after the man living at the site, Mr. Springer. Springer Post Office was later moved to The Narrows in either 1889 or 1892. A man named Hembree was the first postmaster at The Narrows. Hembree had moved to The Narrows in 1891 and kept this post office for six years, when in 1897 Charles Haines became postmaster.

Rating:
Significance: High. Remains as one of the earliest structures in Harney County.
Integrity: Low. Only the foundation remains.

2. THE OREGON TRAIL

2.1 Meek Cutoff Trail

Exact route unknown
Present Owner: Multiple Ownership

One of the most often recounted events in Harney County's early history is the lost wagon train led by Stephan H. Meek. Stephan Meek hired on as a wagon scout in 1845 on the largest wagon train to depart from Independence and St. Joseph, Missouri, bound for the Oregon country. One source indicated that the group would double Oregon's population, bringing it to approximately 6,000 people. Meek was to receive $5.00 per wagon according to one source, while another notes that he received $1.00 per wagon and board.

When the wagon train arrived to the Malheur River on the well-marked Oregon Trail, Meek convinced a group that he knew a more direct route into the Willamette Valley that would not require going through the Blue Mountains. Approximately 1,500 people including about 200 families along with 800 oxen, 2300 cattle, and over 1,000 goats split from the major group on August 24, 1845, under Meek's leadership. Another source states that it was 800 people and fewer livestock. The wagon had two well-regarded leaders in Captain T'Vault and John Hampton, and among the families were such early pioneer names as Riggs, Packwood, Tetherow, Bagley, Herron, Wilcox, Parker, and Statts.

In the last week of August, they went 20 miles up the Malheur River, climbed out of the canyon and by September 6th entered Harney Valley. The wagon train crossed the Silvies River and set up camp at the edge of Harney Lake where Indians stole ten horses and an infant died from whooping cough. Gradually it became evident that the group was lost and ultimately 45 days were consumed in aimless wandering in hardship and despair. Meek was accused of intentionally misleading the group to allow them to be murdered by the Indians, and general panic prevailed. The harsh desert environment in the region around Iron Mountain and Wagontire Mountain instilled such hopelessness that many believed the whole group would perish. Stephan Meek was forced to flee to save his life, and the expedition broke into various smaller parties, each attempting to find the correct route westward. The pioneers spent only ten days in the Harney Basin, but it was with a great sense of relief when they gained the headwaters of the Crooked River under the leadership of T'Vault, and eventually arrived to the Deschutes River near present day Bend.

During the desperate wanderings one group camped one night near a dry gulch which yielded some interesting rocks which were carried away by the pioneers. Later examination revealed that the rocks contained gold, and a legend about the Blue Bucket Mine was launched, named after the bucket used to transport gold. The Blue Bucket Mine has been sought by numerous expeditions since its discovery in 1845, but few could remember its location and no authenticated find has been reported although many rumors have circulated since that time.

The majority of the "lost wagon train" ultimately reached The Dalles safely, but an undetermined number were left buried along the ill-fated trail. Several diaries have been preserved of this episode, but the exact route continues to be somewhat clouded. Some think that as many as fifty people died, and all sources agree that it was one of the more unusual chapters in the story of the Oregon Trail.

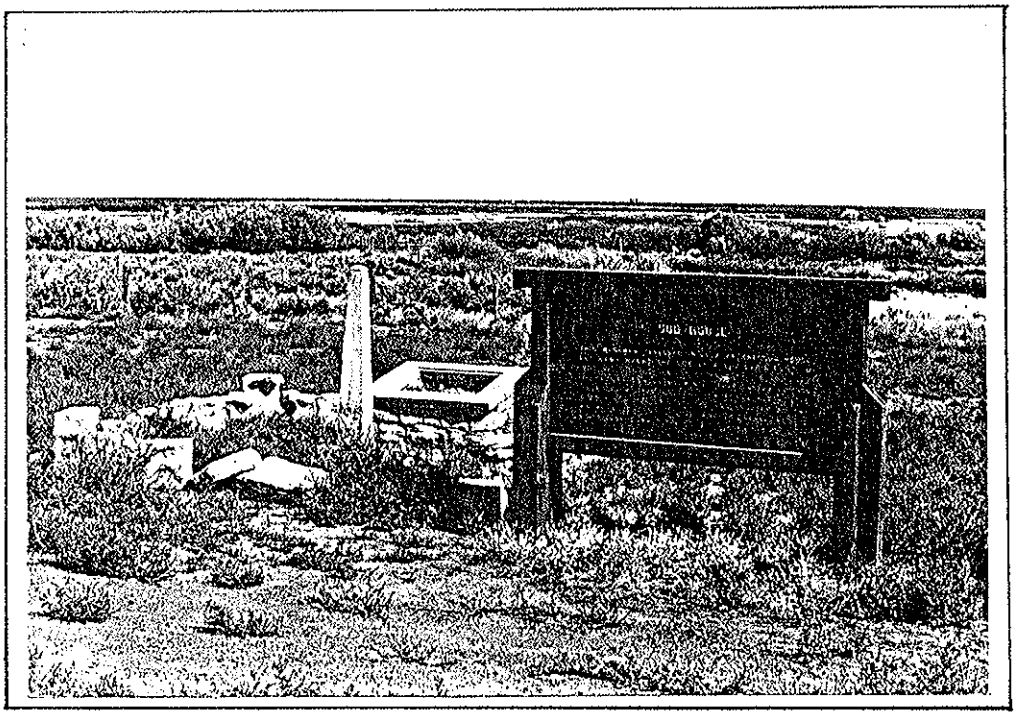
Rating:
Significance: High. Relates to the Oregon Trail in Harney County and the Blue Bucket Mine legend.
Integrity: Low. Exact route is unknown.

2.2 Theodosia Miller Elliott Grave Site

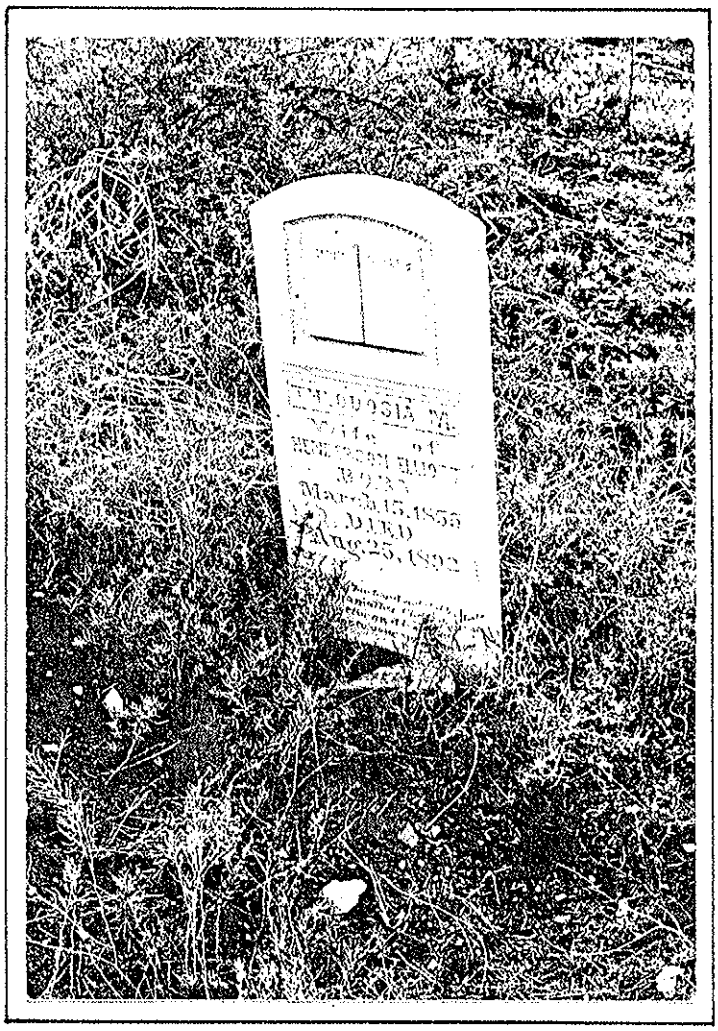
Township 26, Range 31
Present Owner: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

Just inside the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge boundary adjoining the townsite of The Narrows one-fourth mile north of the buildings is a small fenced parcel of land containing two graves. Theodosia Miller Elliott was the wife of Henderson Elliott, an 1853 Elliott Route pioneer. Next to this grave is a marker with no name that is thought to be the stone for a child of a family named Reineman. Both Mrs. Elliott and the Reineman child were residents of The Narrows. The Elliotts moved to The Narrows from the Willamette Valley and homesteaded north of the town in 1890. He later sold the property to A. H. McKenzie. The Elliott gravestone records that Theodosia was born March 5, 1855, and died August 25, 1892. Henderson Elliott died in Burns about 1916. In 1967 corpsmen from the Malheur Job Corps Center set the Elliott gravestone in concrete and fenced the site.

Rating:
Significance: Low. Little information about the grave could be found.
Integrity: High. Gravesite is fenced, and stone is in good condition.



1.1 Sod House Site



2.2 Theodosia Miller Elliott Grave Site

3. THE MINING FRONTIER

3.1 Rose Valley Borax Company

Township 37S, Range 35E, Section 14-15

The activities of the Rose Valley Borax Company represent one of the more colorful episodes in the history of the mining frontier in eastern Oregon. From 1898 to 1907 borax was commercially mined on the surface in the Alvord Valley two miles south of Alvord Lake near Hot Lake. Charles Taylor, a Central Pacific Railroad employee, came to eastern Oregon because he had heard of extensive "alkalai" deposits in the Alvord Valley from an itinerant ranch hand in Nevada. Another railroad employee, John M. Fulton, had been operating a borax mine in Nevada since 1883, and he investigated the possibilities of an Oregon operation with Taylor.

The partners negotiated with a local rancher, Robert Doan, for the purchase of Hot Lake and the surrounding 3,000 acres which were located approximately seven miles northeast of Fields. The reputed sale price was $7,000 which was thought by Doan to be very favorable because he saw little value to the alkali fields which he had owned for many years. The mining operation was set up and a chemist named Christian S. Ollgard was transferred from the Nevada mine to oversee the endeavor. Mining was begun under the name of "Twenty Mule Team Borax Company," but Fulton and Taylor unfortunately did not think it necessary to register the name with the Copyright Office, an omission that caused them to lose the distinctive appellation to another company. The Pacific Coast Borax Company, a firm doing business in California, registered the same name in 1898 and the ensuing litigation resulted in a judgment in favor of the California firm and against the Oregon-based company. Thereafter, Taylor and Fulton called their company the Rose Valley Borax Company for the wild roses that grow around springs in the Alvord Valley.

About 30 Chinese laborers were obtained from a Nevada employment agency, and production was begun on a seven-day-a-week schedule. The refining operation to obtain boric acid crystals required a boiling process in two steel tanks filled with heated water from Hot Lake. The finished product was bagged in 90-pound sacks and shipped by jerk-line mule team to Winnemucca, a trip of seven days one way. On the return trip the freighters brought mail and supplies to the Chinese laborers and Mr. Ollgard and his family. Carl Ollgard, the chemist's son, would then usually carry the mail for other settlers in the region over to the Scubes Ranch where it was retrieved. Later Mrs. Scubes was to become the Postmaster in the area.

As many as 20 to 24 mules pulled these heavily laden wagons to the Central Pacific Railroad railhead in Winnemucca where the cargo was transferred for shipment to Chicago and other cities. As much as 10,000 pounds a day were produced during good years. The process for obtaining the borate minerals ultimately created a fuel shortage in the area and contributed to the cessation of operations. Ollgard devised a process whereby the ulexite type borate minerals were reduced using two steel boiling tanks filled with the 97-degree water from Hot Lake.

These were heated with sagebrush fires and stirred so that the raw borate minerals and sulphuric acid could go into solution. The mixture was tended by the Chinese laborers who poured it into galvanized crystallizing tanks of 1,200 gallons each. The refined boric acid would crystallize in four to six days and then be collected from the sides of the tanks, to be rinsed and placed in piles on the ground to dry. The produce was bagged after this and made ready for transporting.

During this period of development the Alvord Valley was very sparsely populated, and the Rose Valley Borax Company was a major hub of activity. The average crew was 25 to 30 Chinese laborers who were paid $1.50 per day and received living quarters in the sod houses that were constructed for this purpose. The number of dwellings is not known, but early photographs show only a few structures, and some of these may have been used for storage. The laborers worked seven days a week, but were granted time off for celebrating the Chinese New Year. The only other employee in addition to the Ollgard family was a blacksmith, and one source indicated that he was a bachelor.

In 1902 the company was purchased by Christian Ollgard, but transportation problems coupled with the declining quality of mineral deposits caused the Rose Valley Borax Company to close in 1907. Taylor and Fulton had re-invested very little of their earnings back into capital equipment, and Ollgard was initially faced with considerable maintenance to ensure continued production. Also the growing scarcity of nearby sagebrush to fuel the fires used in the refining process contributed to the suspension of operations by 1907. One source noted that the chemist was able to reprocess the tailings left from earlier mining and generate some profits.

The rusting remains of the boiling tanks and a deteriorating sod house are the only man-made remains in evidence around Hot Lake today. It is thought that the sod houses were the storage cellars for food. After operations were suspended, visitors often searched the general area for "Chinese tea bottles" which were flask-like in appearance. The Rose Valley Borax Company's operations were a unique chapter in the history of Harney County.

Rating
Significance: Medium. An interesting episode in Harney County history.
Integrity: Medium. Sod house structures and vats remaining, but deteriorating.

4. THE CATTLEMEN'S EMPIRE AND AGRICULTURE

4.1 Alvord Ranch

Township 34S, Range 34E, Section 3
Present Owner: Davis, Inc.

Located at the base of towering Steens Mountain and on the edge of the Alvord Desert, Alvord Ranch is one of the oldest and best operated ranches in all of Harney County. The ranch still plays a significant role in Harney County's range and cattle industry with its 200,000 acres and large numbers of livestock. The founder of Alvord Ranch was a unique historic figure in the early history of the area as well. The energetic John Devine came into what is now Harney County in 1868 or 1869 with the intent to enter the livestock business in the rich eastern Oregon country. With financial backing from a wealthy Sacramento butcher named Todhunter, Devine and his crew of buckaroos trailed cattle from California into the Whitehorse Creek area and established a base of operations that was to become the Whitehorse Ranch. This ranch on the east side of Steens Mountain occupied the old site of Camp C. F. Smith which had been abandoned in 1869. With this beginning Devine was to develop a cattle empire that was the precursor of the legendary cattlemen to come.

As Devine's operations expanded, other ranches were acquired until there were three ranches in southeastern Oregon and one in northwestern Nevada. The Alvord Ranch was one of these, it being located about 69 miles southeast of the present town of Burns. The ranch was well supplied with water from the creeks flowing off the nearby Steens Mountain, and the natural setting is spectacular, although there is no record that Todhunter and Devine considered this in their selection of a site.

Devine's influence was great in the Harney Basin until the catastrophic winter of 1889-90, when more than 75% of his stock died, which was also the misfortune of most of the other area's ranchers. Carcasses were strewn over the countryside marking the demise of Devine's empire and the rise of Henry Miller, another Californian, who bought all of his holdings. Miller's Pacific Livestock Company became known as "perhaps the strongest on this coast if not the strongest in the world" (Oliphant, p. 192). Todhunter retired from the cattle business, and Devine was given the Alvord by Miller.

Devine's arrogance and general manner caused unfriendly relations between Miller and him as well as with the men. Devine assembled a large variety of animals at the ranch:

> ...at the time of his death this ranch was completely stocked with beautiful purebred cattle and horses. He also established on the Alvord Ranch a herd of elk in an enclosed park, and fenced one side of Steens Mountain as a preserve for deer, quail, and other wildlife, and very seldom allowed anyone to hunt therein. He loved his cattle, he loved his horses, he loved his dogs, he loved all of the deer and elk within this enclosure...(Brimlow, p. 176)

Tall poplar trees still stand today, shading the ranch buildings and providing a comfortable ambience for Devine's gracious way of life. He often dressed in the attire of a Spanish don with bolero jacket, tight trousers and Spanish broad brim hat. He knew good horses and loved to race them, and he was well thought of as a gracious host who knew good wines and foods.

After Devine's death, John Gilcrest, a faithful employee and superintendent of the PLS in northern Nevada and eastern Oregon, came to manage the Alvord Ranch. Mrs. Gilcrest and the three children joined him later on the secluded ranch. Since there was no telephone, school, church, or doctor at or near the ranch, travel over long distances was necessary for these functions. The ranch complex and the immediate surroundings became a small community in itself with the supervisor's family and the various crew members and other hired help. The complex included a bunkhouse, laundry house, root cellar, smokehouse, store house, barn, blacksmith shop, cow barn, and a one-room school built in 1903. Aside from the Gilcrest residence, the most prominent structure was the red three-story barn built to house Devine's purebred horses.

The Gilcrest home was a comfortable white home with a formal front porch and a veranda. Evelyn Gilcrest, one of the daughters, recalled the home as having eight rooms--living room, dining room, large kitchen, five bedrooms, and a large stone fireplace. Water was hand carried in for domestic use, lighting was by kerosene lamps, and cooking was done on stoves heated by sagebrush. A picture taken in 1925, before a fire demolished the structure, shows a large white house that must have been elegant for its day and by the standards of homes built on the remote ranches.

The historic Alvord Ranch has changed hands several times before the present owner acquired the property. Not much is written of the people who occupied it during this period, but Mrs. Leilani Davis, wife of the present manager, is presently (1976) writing a history of the ranch, and this void should be shortly filled. According to Mrs. Davis, the general succession of title has been as follows: Frank and Mary Clerf rented it in 1909; it was transferred to the Land and Lifestock Inc. in 1924; John Pogue purchased the property in 1944; Pogue sold it to Robert Wilson in 1963; and Tom and Nemina Davis acquired it in 1970 and have owned it since that time. The Davises manage the ranch for a corporation, of which they are a part.

Some changes are evident since the legendary Devine days of operation. Modern conveniences such as plumbing and electricity have been installed to ease the rigors of rural living. The original barn and residence both burned down and have been replaced by new structures. Other structures have been added including modern homes for the ranch employees. The only buildings of historical significance are the rock store house and the granary, built by John Devine in the 1870's and still used today. The rock cabins for ranch hands and the "chow hall" are picturesque but are not thought to date as early as the granary and storeroom.

The Alvord Ranch, ever a popular stopover for the traveller following the much used unpaved route along the base of Steens Mountain, continues to occupy its unique historical niche in Harney County history.

Rating
Significance: High. Occupies a central role in Harney County history.
Integrity: High. Continues as a working ranch with several original structures in use.

4.2 Alvord Ranch Storage Building

Township 34S, Range 34E, Section 3
Present Owner: Davis, Inc.

The Alvord Ranch's location necessitated long-term purchasing and storing of supplies to avoid difficult and costly trips to Burns. The rectangular stone building that is presently located across from the "chow hall" served as a center for storage of a myriad of goods and services. It was constructed during the early years of the Ranch when Devine still operated in the area, and is well remembered by Evelyn Gilcrest, a daughter of a superintendent, who wrote of her experiences at the Alvord Ranch in 1902. She described the structure as being the only locked building on the ranch because:

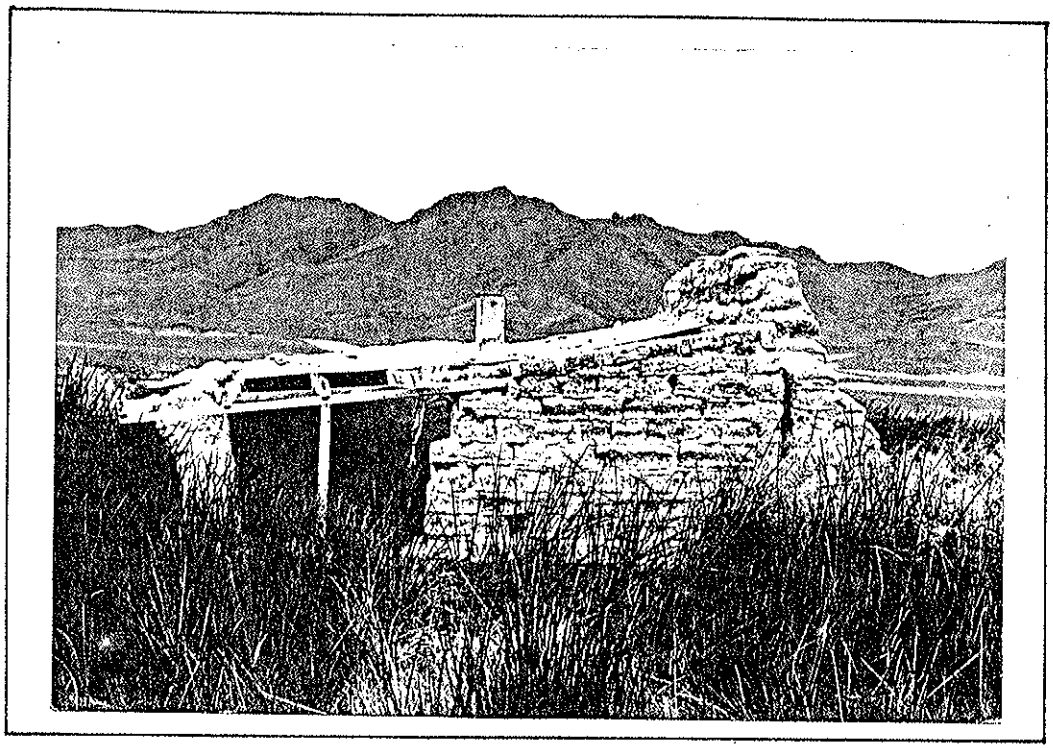
> ...since the extracts have a high alcoholic content, they were a temptation to the men to use as a highly potent though uniquely flavored substitute for whiskey (Gilcrest, p. 316).

At the turn of the century, supplies were replenished every six months, and a common sight was wagons pulled up to the storage building where men unloaded sacks of beans, rice, sugar, barrels of coffee, oatmeal, cornmeal, spices, and other common staples used at that time. The storeroom has two smaller rooms, one which opened into a yard and served as the milk room. Revolving racks had been built for the pans for the milk from which cream was produced. The other room was used for the freshly butchered meat as recalled by Gilcrest, "there would be a side or two of beef and usually fresh pork" (p. 316). The tools of the butcher were evident including the chopping block, saws, cleavers and knives.

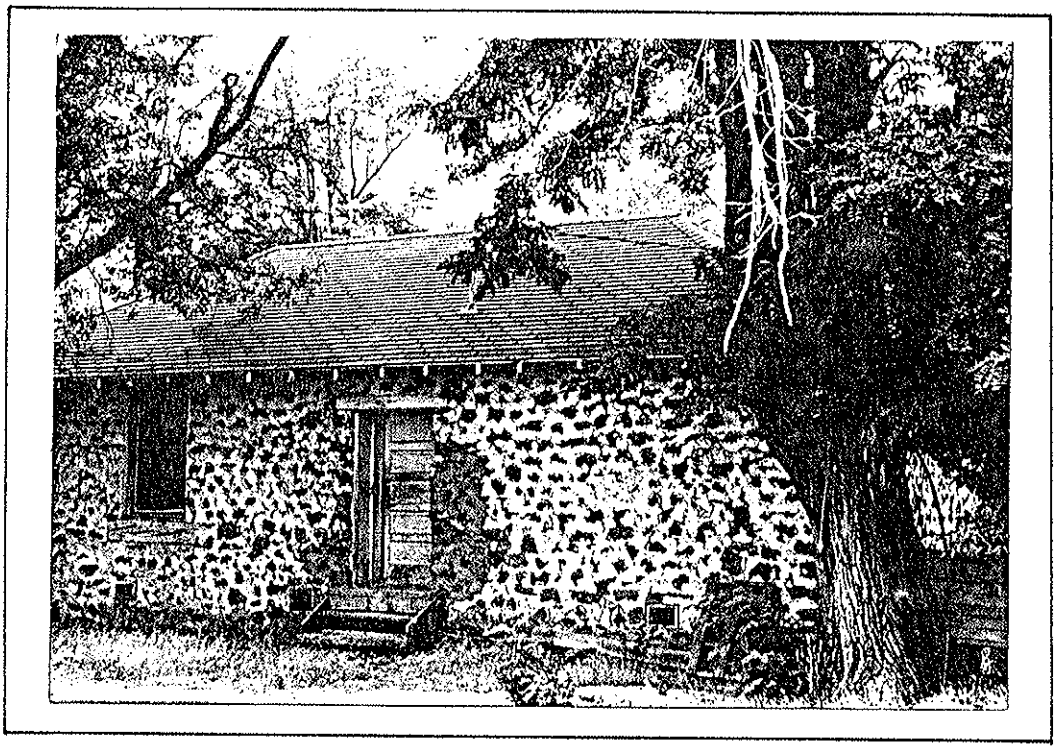
Today the building is still used for general storage purposes, but the improved roads and better transportation have lessened the need for such large-scale buying and storage of staples. The building is constructed of mixed rubble and measures about 40' by 21'. The two-foot thick mortered stone walls still give the appearance of a solidly functional structure that continues in use. The building faces east and is located on the slope of a small rise which provides a two-story effect when viewed from the side. One door and one window are found on the front side, and small grilled openings about one foot from ground level provide ventilation for the basement. The hip roof has wooden shingles that are in good condition and doubtlessly not original.

Today the dining hall and pantry across from the storage building provide most of the functions that the structure originally served. The old dusty much-used meat hooks still hang in the building and are reminiscent of an earlier day in the history of Alvord Ranch.

Rating
Significance: High. The structure was an important cog in the working of the ranch.
Integrity: High.



3.1 Rose Valley Borax Company



4.2 Alvord Ranch Storage Building

4.3 Alvord Ranch Granary

Township 34S, Range 34E, Section 3
Present Owner: Davis, Inc.

The Alvord Ranch Granary, which has been in continuous use since John Devine's days, appears to be in excellent condition. The structure, which measures 52' by 28½' and faces southeast, sets apart from the other ranch buildings with the spectacular Steens Mountain as a backdrop. The walls were constructed of what might be termed "mixed rubble" including volcanic and sedimentary rocks. The most prominent feature of the front of the granary is the large wooden door measuring 5' by 6'10" set in the middle of the front wall. The rectangular stone building has a wooden loading platform on the front that extends partially on a side wall. It may be of more recent construction than the building itself. Three sides have ventilating windows, and the east and west portions of the hip roof contain small cupolas through which goods could be passed. The roof has wooden shingles which almost certainly are not the original roofing material from Devine's period of ownership. The granary continues to serve a function in the Alvord Ranch livestock operation, and the soundness of the structure would indicate that many years are remaining in the building's life.

Rating
Significance: High. The structure was important in the ranch operation and has been in continuous use.
Integrity: High.

4.4 Brenton Cabin

Township 31S, Range 30E, Section 25
Present Owner: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

Martin H. Brenton's name is associated with the early development of Harney County as a homesteader, successful business man, friend of Pete French, and in connection with the Harney Lake Sand Gap. Brenton was an Englishman who homesteaded 160 acres of meadowland in the late 1880's on property that is now within the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. He received a patent on April 23, 1890, but shortly thereafter in November of the same year he sold two tracts to his friend, Pete French. French, the legendary cattleman, was actively acquiring lands for his famous "P" Ranch during this period. In June 1881 Brenton reportedly opened the sand reef between Malheur and Harney Lakes through forming a connecting trench with the toe of his boot. This act was to have far-reaching implications for the determination of boundary lines at a later date in Harney County history.

After leaving his homestead, Brenton opened a livery and feed stable in Burns, the White Front Livery Stable, and prospered. One story is told of Brenton leaving town for a short period and forgetting to lock the safe in his business. On his return he found that one of his employees had noted the safe door open and had closed it securing the $24,000 in cash that was deposited there. This sum of money in cash was considered to be a large amount at the turn of the

century in Burns. Martin Brenton was a good friend of Pete French and it was Brenton and French's brother, Burt, who accompanied the cattle baron's body to Baker City after his untimely death.

The Brenton Cabin is a single room structure which during the heyday of the "P" Ranch served as a major wintering camp in the Blitzen Valley. It was constructed of lumber hauled from Fort Bidwell, California, although it would seem that a more accessible source of lumber would have surely been available closer. Its measurements are about 15' by 12'. Walls are board and batten, and the roof is covered with wood shingles. A contract has been awarded to restore the structure to its original condition. The Brenton Cabin is representative of the colorful days of the cattle barons in Harney County, and it merits preservation.

Rating
Significance: Medium. Exemplifies line camps used in early ranching operations.
Integrity: Medium.

4.5 Brenton Willow Corral

Township 31S, Range 30E, Section 35
Present Owner: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

A structure made of the most available and native materials is quite often far superior to that constructed from something outside of the immediate environment. The Brenton Willow Corral is a good example of this principle with its thick walls of willows held together with the split juniper logs in stockade fashion. The willows, cut green and meticulously laced horizontally through the juniper framework and held in place with rawhide or wire, create a corral that is suitable for many kinds of stock. The structure is strong, provides a good windbreak, and on some ranches may substitute for a barn where necessary.

Brenton Willow Corral was built with Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) labor as a part of the federal government's projects to increase employment in the post-Depression period. The corral was constructed under the supervision of Matt Morgan in 1935 and 1936. It represents a type of construction more prevalent in an earlier day of the livestock industry in Harney County.

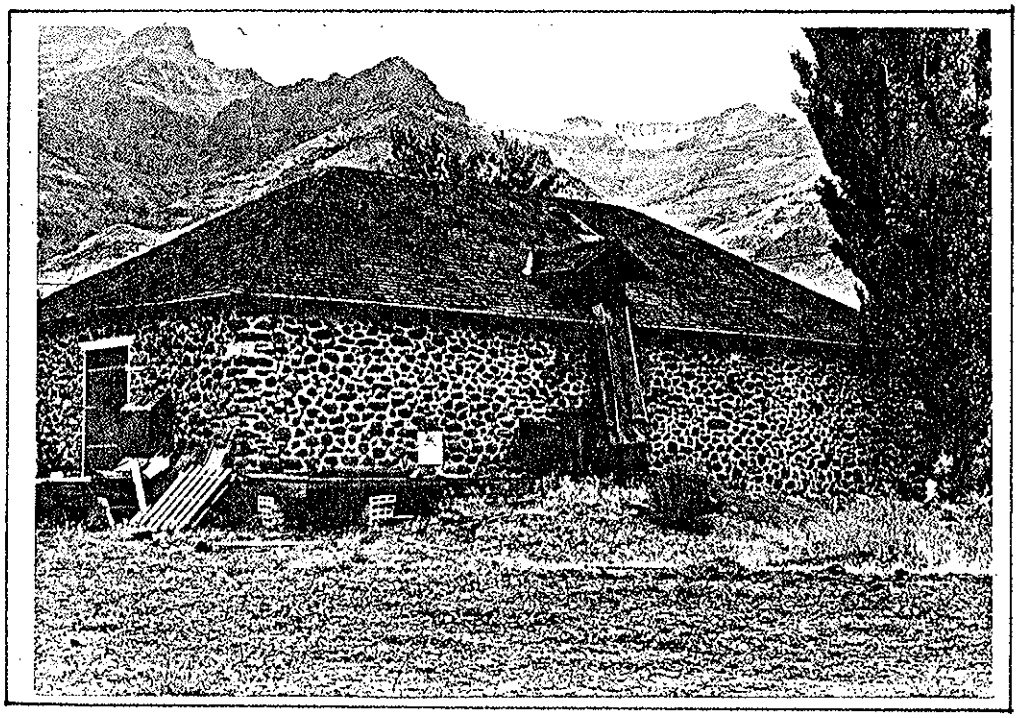
Individuals holding permits to run cattle on the Refuge have utilized the corral in the past. Personnel of the refuge have formulated plans to interpret this structure and the Brenton Cabin as they associate well.

Rating
Significance: Medium. An example of CCC work in Harney County.
Integrity: Medium.

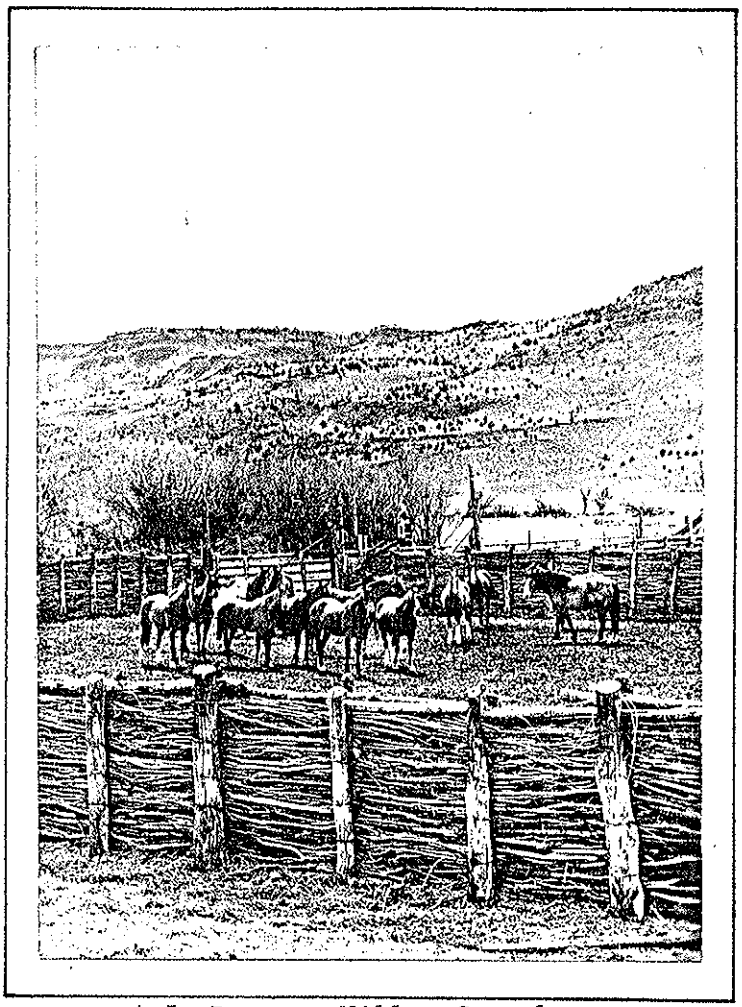
4.6 Clemens Barn

Township 22S, Range 31E, Section 9
Present Owner: C. W. Clemens

A tribute to Peter Clemens written in 1902 described him as:



4.3 Alvord Ranch Granary



4.5 Brenton Willow Corral

> ...one of the most prominent men of Harney County, a heavy property owner, a leading stockman, and withal a gentleman of ability, and who has wrought out his present large holding by reason of his industry, thrift, and wise management in the affairs of business. (West. Hist. Pub. Co., p. 713).

Clemens was born in Foraine, France, on July 5, 1850. His family came first to America, then to Canada, and returned to the U.S. where they settled in Menominee County, Michigan. In 1865 Peter Clemens travelled by ocean vessel from New York via Cape Horn to San Francisco. In California Clemens practiced a variety of occupations. Among them was the brick layer's trade. Not being a man to settle and stay for long in one place, he travelled for several years engaging in mining and construction trades in the course of his travels. In the years following his arrival to California, his sense of restlessness successively took him to British Columbia, Alaska, Seattle, South America, San Francisco, Seattle, South Dakota, Tuscarora, Nevada, and finally, to Harney County in 1879.

Clemens worked at the White Horse Ranch for a time in constructing various structures at the ranch. The famous White Horse Ranch Barn was one such project, as is evidenced today by the inscription of his name on the barn's interior. He finally settled on a homestead on December 7, 1882, six miles north of Burns, and established a ranching operation that has continued in the same family into the present. He married Jennie Thomas and reared three children: Peter Clay, Calvin, and Glen.

Peter died in 1920, leaving his property to his wife and three sons. Jennie later remarried Charles Cronin, and the couple moved to the ranch. The Cronins worked the operation until Jennie's death in 1926. From that time on, Charles would live on the old homestead only occasionally. In 1938, Cronin sold the ranch to C. W. (Buck) and Bessie Clemens. Today their son and his family live and manage the Clemens ranch.

The barn that plays such a key role in any livestock operation was built for Peter Clemens by Ray Smith in 1898. Smith was noted in the general area as a builder of some merit, and his structures are still seen throughout the County. A description of the Clemens ranch in 1902 mentions the barn:

> He has been eminently successful, for at the present time he has fifteen hundred acres of fine land, a good house, barn, corralls[sic], and all the improvements needed on a first class stock and hay ranch, besides large bunches of cattle and horses. (West. Hist. Pub. Co., p. 713).

The original barn frame has no nails as wooden pegs were used. The lumber was brought from the McKinney Mill that was then located at the foot of Bald Mountain. The frame was constructed of logs that were hand-hewn to 12-foot long by 12-inch size. The original roof had wooden shingles, but re-roofing has been performed twice. One by sixes and one by twelves were used for board and batten on the first roofing job, and in 1975 a metal corrugated roof was installed.

The structure, which is in excellent condition, measures 60 by 60 feet. In the middle of the barn is located a hay mow for hay storage during winter.

Both sides of the structure have mangers to tie work horses, where as many as 16 horses can be tied on a side at a time. A steel track is located in the comb of the roof, and a Jackson Fork in the mow is still in working condition. The fork was used to lift hay into the mow where as much as 100 tons could be stored at one time. Today the barn is primarily used for calving in cold weather and for general storage of machinery.

Rating
Significance: Medium. Owned by one of the early prominent ranchers in Harney County.
Integrity: Medium. Original structure remains intact, but a modern roof has been installed.

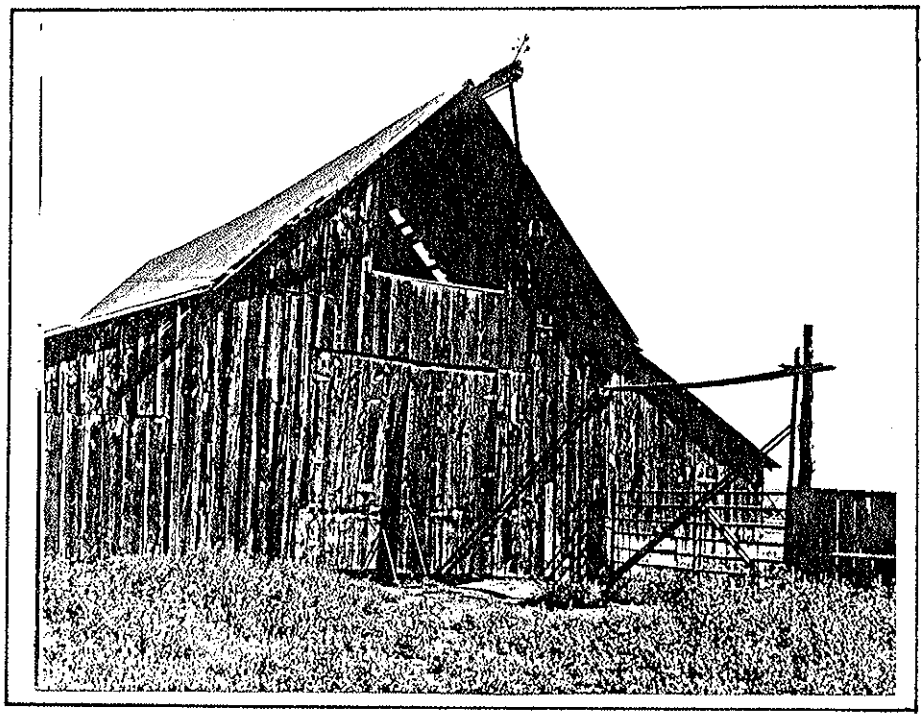
4.7 Diamond Ranch Barn

Township 29S, Range 32E, Section 29
Present Owner: Jenkins Ranches, Inc.

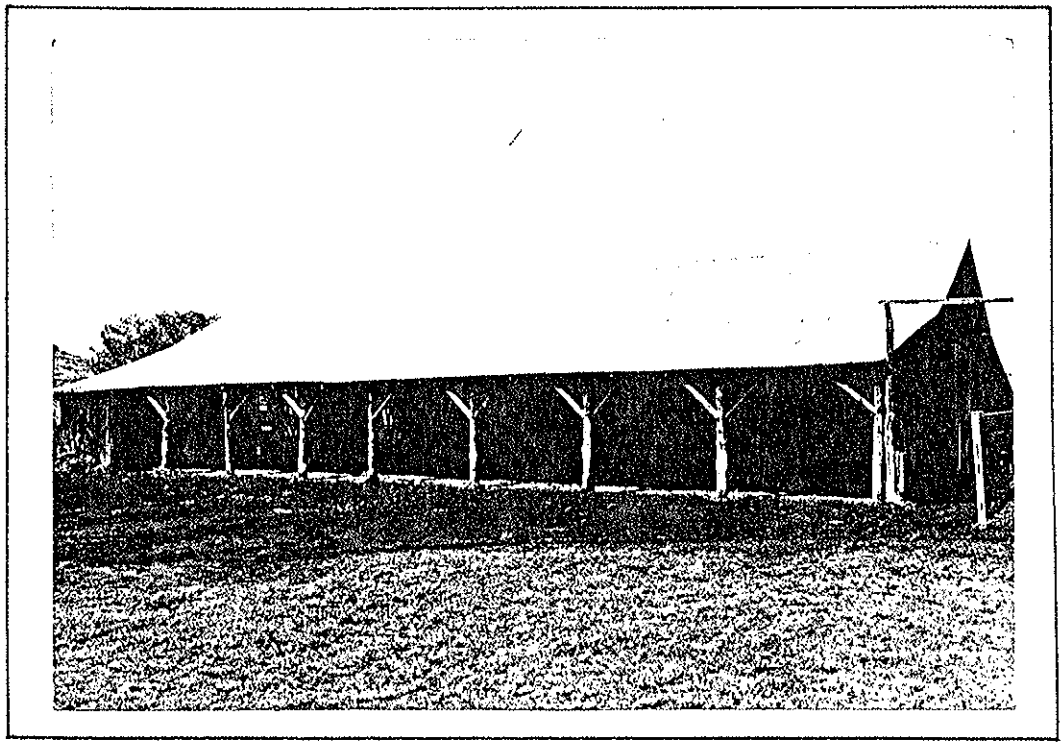
An imposing barn, a sandstone cellar, a wooden shed and giant poplars are the remaining evidence at the Diamond Ranch from the days when it was one of the sub-headquarters for the French-Glenn livestock operations. The barn's approximate dimensions are 55 by 75 feet with a center span about 20 feet from the ground. The roof slopes from the center span to about 7 or 8 feet. The barn frame is the original infrastructure erected by French's work crews in the 1870's or early 1880's. The square nails that were commonly used in construction in that era can still be seen throughout the barn. The original roof had cedar shakes, but the roof and south wall were covered with aluminum corrogated sheeting in the early 1940's by the owners, Tom and Richard Jenkins. There are large doors on the north and south ends and the eastern side of the structure is open, exposing the finely constructed feeding stalls made of quaking aspen. Like many of the structures built under the direction of Pete French, the barn reflects sound craftsmanship and continues a useful life in the livestock operation of Jenkins Ranches, Inc. The aluminum sheeting has given the barn a more contemporary appearance, but careful inspection reveals the original structure erected in the nineteenth century.

The Diamond Ranch played a central historical role in the days of the cattlemen's empires,and the barn served its purpose well in the general ranch operations on a day-to-day basis. The original corrals were constructed by French at the time the barn was built, but these have since been replaced. They were of the stockade type with juniper posts placed upright close together and bound together by horizontal poles tied with rawhide. Also, the French corrals were much larger than the present ones. It was from these corrals in 1878 that French and his buckaroos first received word that the Paiutes and Bannocks were rapidly approaching with hostile intentions. French and his crew hurriedly grouped the ranch's workers, provided saddle horses and made good their escape. Shortly thereafter the famous episode occurred in which the Chinese cook, who was unaccustomed to riding, fell from his horse and was subsequently scalped while trying to hide under a bridge. The Diamond Ranch barn has undoubtedly witnessed much history in its long life.

Rating
Significance: High. An integral part in the French-Glenn livestock operation.
Integrity: Medium. Modern roof detracts from integrity.



4.6 Clemens Barn



4.7 Diamond Ranch Barn

4.8 Diamond Ranch Cellar

Township 29S, Range 32 E, Section 35
Present Owner: Jenkins Ranches, Inc.

The sandstone cellar remaining on the Diamond Ranch dates from the time the ranch was established in the 1870's. Pete French bought A. H. Robie's holdings in 1878, and the cellar was probably in existence at that time. It was built to provide a frost-free environment for the considerable store of vegetables, fruits, and other staples needed to feed the crews running the Pete French sub-headquarters at Diamond. The original structure had a cement floor, but this was removed by the Jenkins brothers in later years in order to place their foods on the ground. This method of storage was considered by the brothers to be superior to storage of foods on cement. It was used until about ten years ago (1966) for food storage, and since then has been vacant except for a pump house which has been installed in the eastern part of the cellar.

The structure is divided into two compartments. The room, which now functions as a pumphouse and power plant, was closest to the original residence and therefore the storage unit for a wide variety of dairy products. The residence itself has since been demolished by fire. There are windows on the south and west sides and doors on the east and north walls. The walls are about two and one-half feet thick, consisting of a double row of sandstone mortared with mud. There are three pine timbers (6 by 10 inches) supporting the earth-covered roof and pine boards supporting the earth. The dimensions of the cellar are about 17 by 30 feet. The roof is badly deteriorated, but the walls appear to be structurally sound. The Diamond Ranch cellar remains as a good example of the general type of storage unit constructed during this period of settlement in Harney County. Since this method of food storage is little used today, these stone cellars, which were so much a part of everyday life and an integral component in early ranches, are fast disappearing from the eastern Oregon landscape.

Rating
Significance: High.
Integrity: Low. Roof is badly deteriorating.

4.9 Double "O" Ranch

Township 26S, Range 28E, Section 36
Present Owner: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

One of the notable ranches that commands a significant place in the history of the livestock industry in Harney County is the famous Double "O" Ranch. In 1875, two wealthy Californians, James A. Hardin and Amos W. Riley, founded the ranch 35 miles southwest of Burns and west of Harney Lake. Hardin and Riley also had cattle interests in Nevada and California, where they spent most of their time. A man named Tennessee Murphy was appointed the foreman of their vast Oregon holdings and the Double "O" Ranch became a thriving cattle operation in a short time.

Shortly after the ranch was founded, the ranch operations were temporarily suspended when the Bannocks and the Paiutes joined forces to rampage across the countryside in what became known as the Bannock War in 1878. The uprising only lasted about two months during which many settlers sought refuge in Camp Harney.

Some of the structures at the Double "O" Ranch were burned, but they were rebuilt shortly thereafter and the total operation was not greatly affected.

The Riley and Hardin operation continued to prosper. One study stated that the absentee landlords owned the third largest ranch in Harney County near the end of the 19th century:

> In 1889 and 1900, the French-Glenn Livestock Company, and Riley and Hardin together possessed 64.3% of all cattle recorded in the county. (Piccolo, p. 119)

At about this time an enterprising man from Jacksonville was learning the livestock business in Harney with his two brothers. Bill Hanley, who was considered a "city fellow" by some, came a generation later than other great cattle kings, but his reputation was to ultimately parallel the most famous. The three Hanley brothers gradually bought up the land from settlers who gave up and left the arid high desert. Bill's brothers, John and Ed, eventually left eastern Oregon, and Bill Hanley acquired their holdings in the Bell A Ranch. Hanley's first large transaction occurred in 1903 when he purchased the Double "O" from Riley and Hardin, paying about $6.00 an acre for about 16,000 acres in all.

The "OO" Ranch operated smoothly under the management of Hanley and became widely known in the area. By the early 1900's the central buildings included the cookhouse, storehouse, blacksmith shop, long barns, willow corrals, saddle shed, washroom, bunkhouse, and the white house which served as the manager's residence. Fifteen to twenty buckaroos were hired to operate the ranch with the number up to about 75 "hands" during haying season. Over 70 horses and mules were regularly needed to perform all necessary work. The town nearest the ranch, The Narrows, became an important social and commercial node for those working at the Double "O". It became a central source of supplies, but more importantly for the hard-working and often lonely buckaroos, it provided much desired entertainment and socializing. Many long-time Harney County residents vividly recall the lively dances and other events that took place at The Narrows.

Bill Hanley was an energetic and thoughtful man who was a leading citizen of the county in his day. He was respected widely and even known by some as "the sage of Harney County," whether said in humor or not is not clear. Hanley was an avid conservationist, which was unusual for the period, and enforced such measures as not allowing hunting on Double "O" property. He was influential in civic affairs and even ran for a national office, the U.S. Senate, in 1912. His bid was unsuccessful.

The Hanley holdings were greatest in about 1912 when he possessed over 20,000 acres. Among them were the Bell A Ranch and the "OO". On September 15, 1933, Hanley fell ill and died, and his passing was mourned by his wife Clara and the many friends he had made during his lifetime. One newspaper article published at the time and titled, "His Last Ride," characterized him as follows:

> Quaint philosophy and golden thoughts always made him the center of human circles, whether in the gathering of the lowly or in the mansions and social circles of the wealthy and powerful.

Clara Hanley was a competent manager of the Hanley estate, and she continued working actively in all aspects of the business. This was not a new role for Mrs. Hanley in that she had participated wholeheartedly with her husband during the intense years of building up the holdings. By 1942, however, Mrs. Hanley decided to sell some of the acreage to the federal government for inclusion into

the present Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. For $7 and $8 per acre she sold 14,751 acres of the Double "O" Ranch.

Today not much is left of the original ranching operation that was so widely known in southeastern Oregon. The blacksmith shop, a log house, and a cellar are the only original buildings remaining on the headquarters site of the ranch. The Refuge personnel have formulated plans for an interpretive historical display that will tell the public about the remaining buildings and some of the famous ranch's history.

Rating
Significance: High. One of the major ranches in Harney County history.
Integrity: Medium. Only a few of the original structures remain of the ranch.

4.10 Double "O" Blacksmith Shop

Township 26S, Range 28E, Section 36
Present Owner: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

An essential facility on all early ranches was the blacksmith shop. The ranching operation of Riley and Hardin in 1875 was no exception. The Double "O" Blacksmith Shop along with the Loghouse and a cellar are the only remaining buildings from the original period when the ranch was being established. The original buildings were destroyed during the brief Bannock Indian War in 1878 but were rebuilt very shortly thereafter. These buildings date from that period.

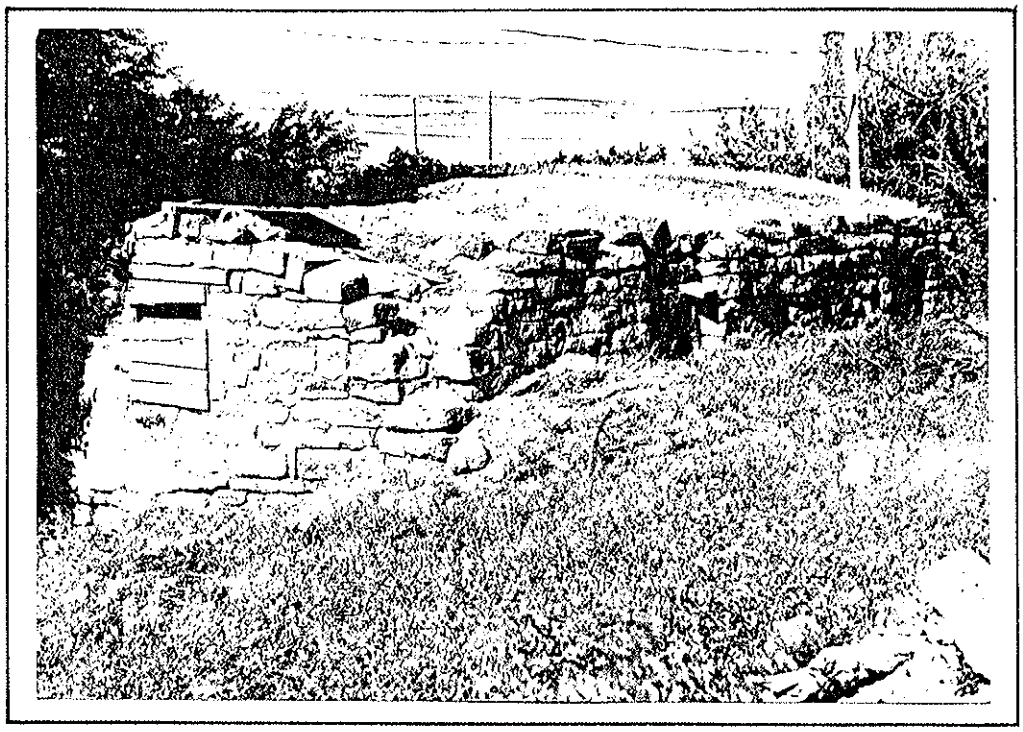
The activities within the Blacksmith Shop were doubtlessly those performed on all early ranching and farming operations. Repairing horse-drawn mowers, working with the forge, pounding out red-hot metal on the anvils, shaping horseshoes, fixing harnesses and similar tasks made up the routines followed in the Blacksmith Shop.

The structure is approximately 18 feet by 12 feet, has a board roof and floor, and walls constructed of logs. There was no foundation laid when the building was erected and this, as well as other degenerative elements, is causing considerable deterioration. The log ends were shaped to interlock, thus creating a sturdy building. Each log has been hand-hewn square and had a dovetail joint sawn or axed into the end. The walls were chinked with mortar and then batten strips were nailed over the cracks, producing a rough appearing but functional structure. Rusting traps have more recently been hung on the exterior walls creating additional interest in the building's appearance. The board roof can be seen to sag badly and the entire structure requires stabilization or restoration in the near future to avoid collapse.

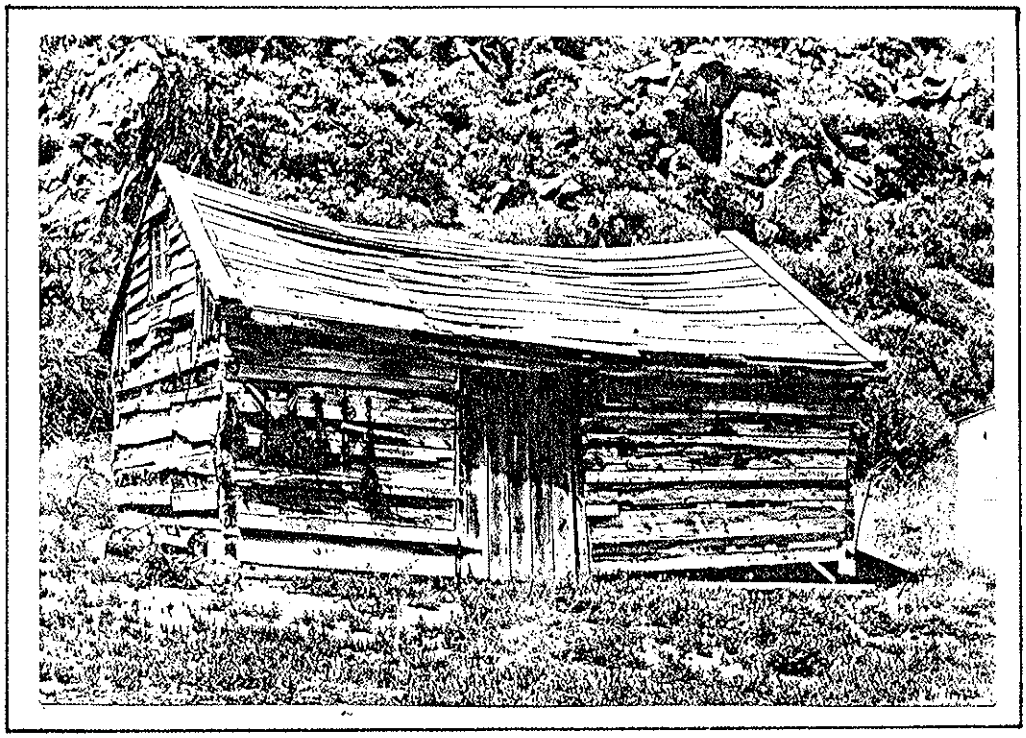
Rating
Significance: High.
Integrity: Medium. Serious deterioration is occurring.

4.11 Double "O" Loghouse

Township 26S, Range 28E, Section 36
Present Owner: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge



4.8 Diamond Ranch Cellar



4.10 Double "O" Blacksmith Shop

Like the Double "O" Blacksmith Shop, the Loghouse was constructed after the destruction brought about by the rampaging Bannock and Paiute Indians in 1878. Few specific facts could be located regarding the structure, but many stories exist that associate a Chinese cook with the building. One source indicates that the cook who prepared meals for the Hanley crews had his living quarters in one portion of the building.

The structure measures approximately 24 feet by 17 feet and is constructed in a rectangle. The roof is of wood shingle, now badly deteriorated, and the walls are made of hand-hewn square logs. Like the Blacksmith Shop, the ends of the logs have been shaped in a dovetail joint that creates a very sturdy structure. If the logs were originally chinked, as they probably were, no evidence now exists of this. Overall, the building reflects its age. Stabilization and/or restoration should be undertaken soon to forestall further deterioration. The lack of a foundation has been one source of deterioration in that the walls are allowed to shift and sag. The floor is dirt, but it is not known whether this was the original floor. Personnel at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge have indicated that there are plans to develop an interpretive program that would tell the story of Hanley's famous Double "O" Ranch and give specific information on the use of these particular ranch buildings. Restoration is also being considered.

Rating
Significance: High.
Integrity: Medium. Serious deterioration is occurring.

4.12 Follyfarm

Township 29S, Range 37E, Section 17
Present Owner: Vivian Pollack

J. H. Neal, an independent surveyer and engineer in Harney County since the 1880's, came to Sunrise Valley and built a cabin in 1905. His attempt to grow crops in the desolate country by use of an ingenious irrigation system was characterized as pure "folly" by those who did not comprehend improved irrigation methods. Appropriately, the town was named Follyfarm in 1909 when the post office was established.

Neal located his farm approximately 70 miles southeast of Burns in the shadow of the northeast end of the Steens Mountain. He and his wife and daughters claimed 320 acres of land under the Desert Land Claims Act. Neal had a dream to build dikes all over Sunrise Valley to irrigate his lands, and someday even bore through the mountain for additional water. His elaborate dike system, built with the use of a fresno, did extend about 7 to 8 miles throughout the valley, but he never could finance the water tunnel through the mountain. Thirteen other settlers joined the Neals in Sunrise Valley, building their own homes and supporting a blacksmith shop, general store, livery, granary, and primary school at the Neal townsite. Freight wagons would bring supplies to Follyfarm from Ontario and travelers could stay at the Neals for 25¢ a night.

After Neal retired in 1914 and sold the land to his son-in-law, William Renwick, the town was declining. Homesteaders left for better jobs and opportunities. Two brothers, the Pollacks, started constructing another town two miles east of the Neal farm, a "new Follyfarm," in Malheur County. By 1919

they had moved buildings from the older homesteads to their land. By 1929 the post office was also moved there.

The Neal site continued, though, to be managed by his descendents, three Renwick grandchildren, Jim, Bill, and George. In 1937, George bought out his brothers and lived on the ranch until he was struck with polio in the 1950's. He finally sold the Follyfarm property to the Pollacks in 1958.

Today all that remains of Neal's "folly" is the one-room school, woven willow corrals, half of the barn, two granaries, chicken coop, and a cement trough. Only shallow depressions remain of the Neal irrigation dikes.

Rating
Significance: Medium. One of the many early settlements in Harney County.
Integrity: Low. Structures are delapidated, but some of the original dikes can be seen.

4.13 Jones House

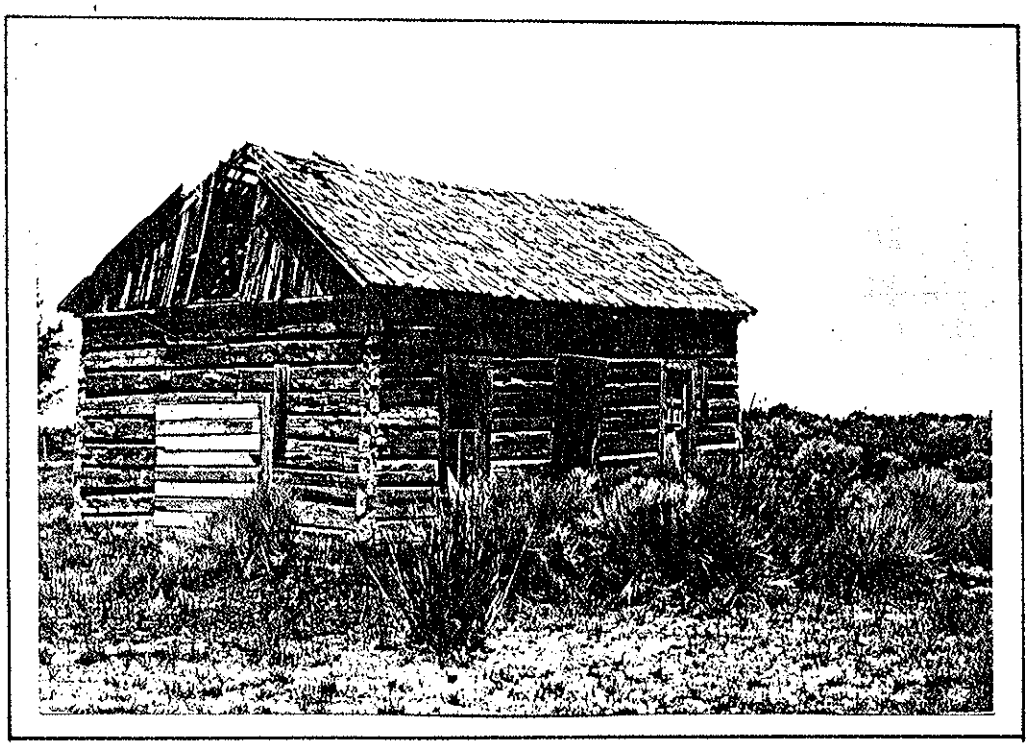
Address: Urizer Ranch, Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Cecilia Urizer

Charles Jones came to Burns with his wife Jenny after working as a foreman for John Devine on the Alvord Ranch. In 1885 the Jones' had a son named Alan. In 1896, Charles Jones passed away and Jenny purchased a ranch near Burns in 1901 from Milo Cushing. In 1908 Mrs. Jones decided to build a house and therefore contracted with Claude Brown, a local builder who undertook the job. Brown's name was later to be discovered on some interior wall boards during a remodeling project carried out by the Urizers. The cost was about $2400, and the lumber was hauled from the Harney area with a team of horses.

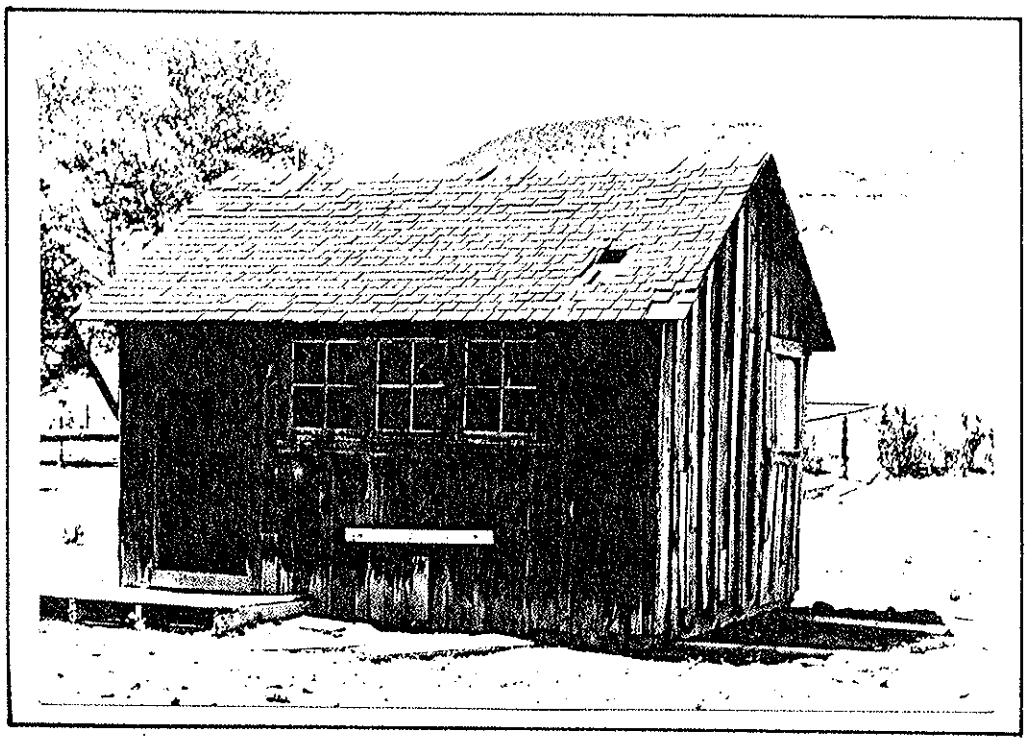
After the house and other buildings were completed, Mrs. Jones and her son operated a dairy, providing milk and milk products to the surrounding area. A familiar sight in that time, according to a long-time Harney County informant, was the Jones' milk wagon making its rounds in competition with another entrepreneur in the milk business named Hibbard. Jones and Hibbard were the two primary dairies at that time.

About 1926 the house was sold to Don Hurlburt who occupied it until the mid-thirties when ownership of the ranch passed into the hands of a loan company for non-payment of a contract. In 1937 Felix and Cecilia Urizer purchased the property and operated it as a ranch although they did not immediately occupy the house. In 1926 the Urizers, a local Basque family, had purchased the Star Hotel in Burns and they continued to operate this establishment until about 1946. After selling the hotel to Tom Zabala, they moved with their three children, Julio, Gilbert, and Francisco, to the ranch. The Urizers have operated the ranch continuously since that time. At present Mrs. Cecilia Urizer, Gilbert Urizer, and several Basque men who have worked on the ranch occupy the home.

There has been some minor interior decoration, but the exterior remains essentially the same as its original design. A small cupola on the roof was removed about 1954. The structure was originally painted white with light blue trim rather than the present green trim. It has been



4.11 Double "O" Loghouse



4.12 Follyfarm

re-roofed three times, the most recent being in 1976. A bathroom was added in 1946. The structure contains seven bedrooms, one bathroom, a living room, kitchen, basement, and stone storage area adjoining the rear.

The verticality of the structure, particularly as seen in the gables and windows, suggests a Victorian influence, although the dominant effect is asymmetrical and ecclectic. The different roof lines contribute to this effect. The gables have a broken pediment and double hung windows. The porch, which wraps around the front of the house, has a turned ballustrade.

Several other structures on the Urizer Ranch warrent attention from an historical point of view. An impressive barn in its original form dominates the landscape when seen from afar, a blacksmith shop stands as originally constructed, and a livestock scale which is claimed to be "the oldest in Harney County that still operates" is on the property.

Rating
Significance: Low
Integrity: Medium. A few alterations have been made.

4.14 Jones Blacksmith Shop

Address: Urizer Ranch, Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Cecilia Urizer

A small but essential building in its time is the Blacksmith Shop that sits between the Urizer house and the massive barn. This small structure measures 13 1/2 by 14 feet, has a pitched roof with original cedar shingles, and is held together with square nails. It is constructed of 1 by 16 feet pine boards and is supported by a partial rock foundation. The roof reaches a maximum height of about 20 feet and slopes to a height of 12 feet on the sides. The building is structurally sound, even though it was last used about 1942. The roof reflects the most neglect. The shop was once painted red, as was the barn, and it is the residue of this treatment long ago that continues to be seen today.

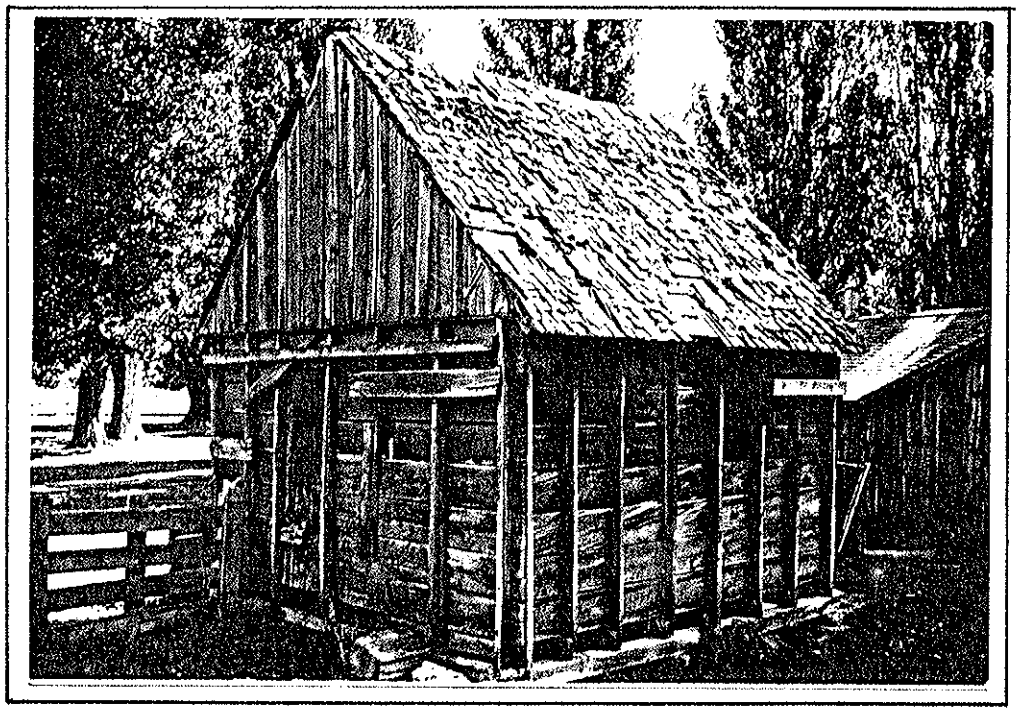
The Blacksmith Shop, whether formally designated or known by some other name, was a key component in all farming and ranching operations in early Harney County. Without easy access to contemporary technology and equipment common on farms and ranches today, the Blacksmith Shop provided the setting for mundane maintenance activities as well as more demanding solutions to mechanical problems. The aging but durable structure that still houses a forge today on the Urizer Ranch is a good example of buildings built for blacksmithing activity in Harney County.

Rating
Significance: Low.
Integrity: Low.

4.15 Jones Barn

Address: Urizer Ranch, Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Cecilia Urizer

4.13 Jones House



4.14 Jones Blacksmith Shop

The large impressive barn on the Urizer Ranch, which is a common landmark to the passing motorist on the nearby highway, was built at the same time as the house, that is about 1908. It was also constructed by Claude Brown and well represents the type of barn that was seen on eastern Oregon farms and ranches during the early part of this century. The broadly sloping gabled roof is adorned with a cupola which lends distinctiveness to the structure. The building measures 48 1/2 feet on the south side by 40 1/2 feet in length. It has five doors on the north and south sides, respectively, two of these on each side being of the large type associated with barns. The roof is about 35 feet at the center span and slopes to about 12 feet on the sides. It was last roofed about 1940 with cedar shingles which are now showing wear. The walls are of board and batten construction and they display the remains of a coat of red paint applied about 1948. The weathering process has considerably faded the exposed surfaces. The barn has been utilized in characteristic ways over its lifetime, providing space for hay storage, milking stations, animal stalls, feeding pens, etc. Structurally it is in good condition and stands as a good example of barns dating from its time of construction.

Rating
Significance: Low.
Integrity: High. Structure is well maintained and still in use.

4.16 Jones Livestock Scales

Address: Urizer Ranch, Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Cecilia Urizer

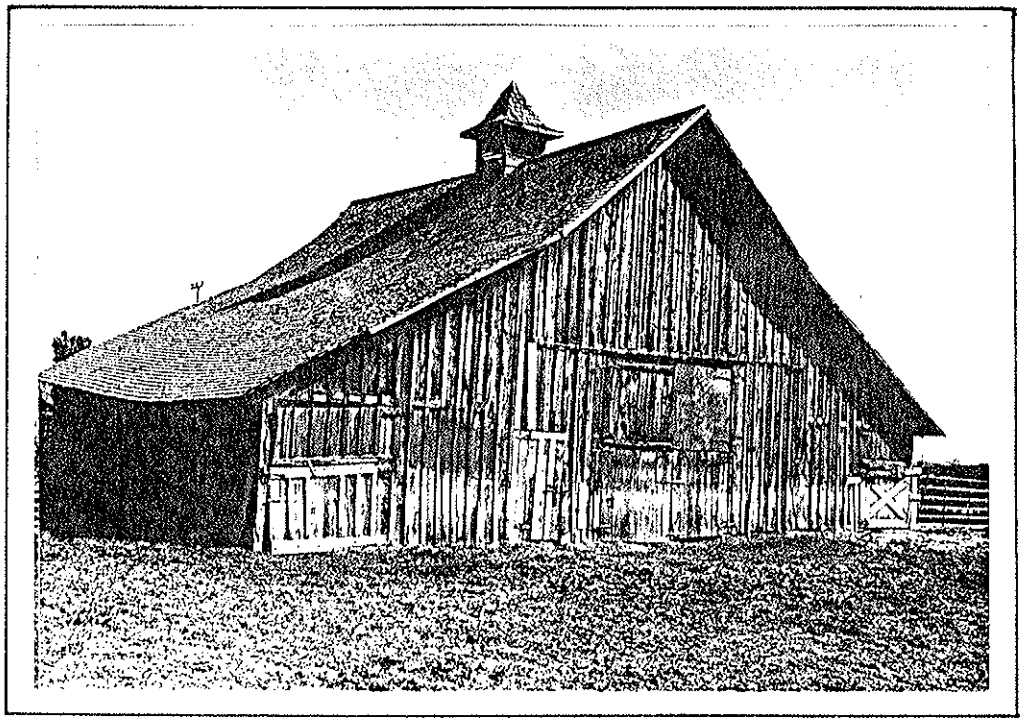
An important component of the livestock operation is the eventual transfer of stock from seller to buyer, and this procedure often requires weighing the animals. The Urizer Ranch possesses a scale which continues to operate perfectly in spite of its age. The scale, which is of the "pit" type, is thought to have once been used at the Union Pacific Stock Yards and brought to its present site by Alan Jones. A couple of well-known manufacturers of scales were Fairbanks-Morris and Moline, the latter being the maker of this particular scale. The scale was last inspected in 1956. The proof of this certification of accuracy is a decal which can still be seen.

The scale is covered by an open-sided stucture containing a shingled and pitched roof. Livestock are herded onto the weighing platform, weighed, and removed through the opposite end of the small enclosure. Although the scale is no longer used, it remains in excellent condition and provides a good example of this important dimension of the livestock industry.

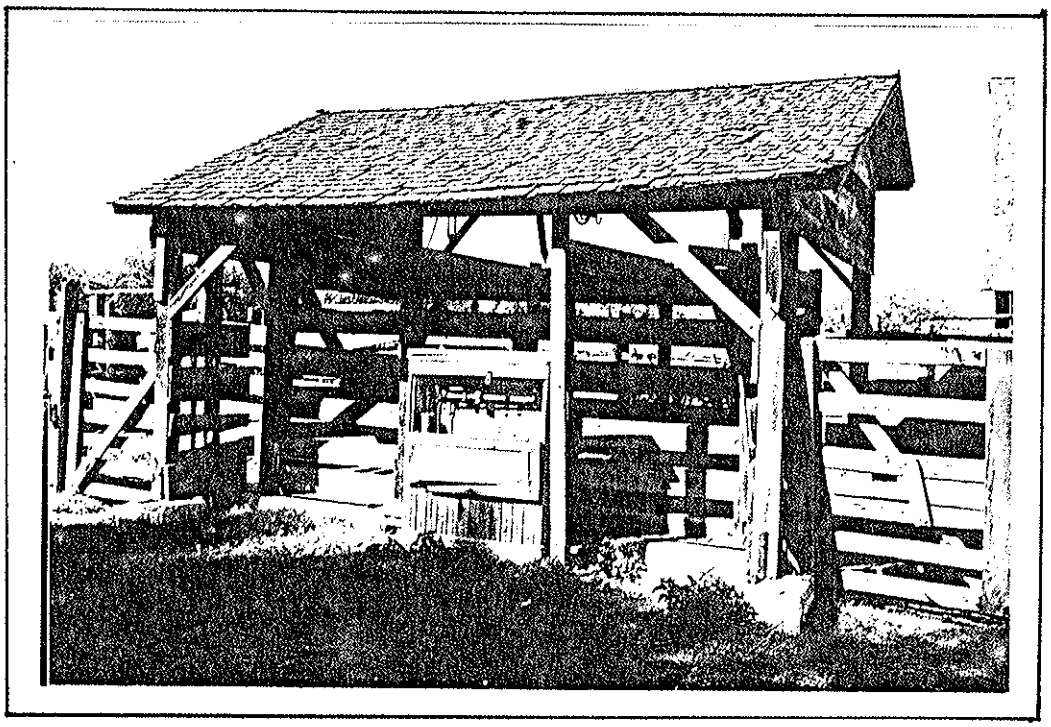
Rating
Significance: Low
Integrity: High. Still in working order today.

4.17 "P" Ranch

Township 31S, Range 30E, Section 6
Present Owner: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge



4.15 Jones Barn



4.16 Jones Livestock Scales

Peter French and the widely known "P" Ranch have played a dominant role in Harney County history since 1872 when the "P" Ranch was established as the headquarters for the French-Glenn Livestock Co. In June of that year French entered the Blitzen River Valley with 1200 head of cattle, 20 saddle horses, wagons, supplies, and six Mexican vaqueros. This central location at the head of the Blitzen Valley came to be the headquarters for a ranch empire that extended 250 miles by 70 miles, which was ruled over with feudal sovereignty, and was often in conflict with advancing waves of homesteaders.

French was the son-in-law of Dr. Hugh Glenn whose daughter was regarded as a city-bred socialite who never desired to live at the "P" Ranch. The famous White House, which was designed in the image of one of the Glenn family homes, was to serve as the home base of the largest and best-known cattle empire in the Pacific Northwest. The French-Glenn Livestock Co. controlled more than 100,000 acres, 30,000 head of cattle, and 3,000 horses and mules. Its range land extended from the Blitzen River to Harney Lake with over 500 miles of wire fence. The "P" Ranch holdings were built up over a period from 1872 until 1897 through purchases from settlers, land distribution programs for the state and federal government such as the Swamp Act, outright possession, and other techniques. Substations of the "P" Ranch were developed at Buena Vista, Diamond, Riddle Ranch, Barton Lake, and Sod House. Some writers believe that French's cattle operation was perhaps the best managed and balanced empire ever assembled in the West.

Peter French's place in Western history was already well established by December 26, 1897, when he met an untimely death by Ed Oliver, a disgruntled homesteader. Following his death, the ranch passed through many ownerships including Estate Builders, Henry J. Corbett of Portland, the Eastern Oregon Livestock Co. with Louis Swift as principal stockholder, and the Federal government. Portions of the huge holdings were purchased by Gill Cattle Co. of Exeter, California, Allied Properties, and several other interests.

Today the original "P" Ranch headquarters is located on the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The only remains of the stately White House which French so carefully constructed for his bride is a free standing chimney of red brick which was not destroyed in a fire in 1947. Other landmarks of historical significance are the old willow fences, the long barn and the old beef wheel. The fences and barn date from about 1886. The barn is 150 feet by 50 feet, with juniper post supports, board walls, wood shingle roof and dirt floor. The height in the middle of the barn is about 30 feet. The historic assessment of the man who founded the "P" Ranch continues even today in Harney County with both detractors and supporters in vociferous abundance.

Rating
Significance: High. The famous headquarters for the French-Glenn livestock operations.
Integrity: Medium. Only some of the original structures remain.

4.18 Pete French Round Barn

Township 28S, Range 33E, Section 21.
Present Owner: Oregon Historical Society

One of the better known Harney County historic sites representative of the colorful era of the cattle and land barons is the Peter French Round Barn located on the Round Barn Ranch, also called Barton Lake Ranch in Happy Valley. The unique building was one of three such structures designed by French for breaking horses in the winter months. The other two round barns at the "P" Ranch and Three-Mile Ranch are no longer in existence. The enormity of the "P" Ranch cattle operation required a continual supply of horses, therefore it was necessary to break horses daily. One source states that French had over several thousand horses on his various ranches.

The exact date of construction is not agreed upon, but it was completed sometime during the late 1870's or early 1880's. One source definitely states that the date was 1883, but there is some difference of opinion. The Round Barn is 100 feet in diameter with a sixty-foot circular lava corral inside. The rock was hauled to the location from a site about 8 miles distant. Sources disagree with regard to the twelve juniper posts that support the roof. One states that these unusually tall junipers were cut by either the Fort Bidwell sawmill in California or at the Robie Mill north of Burns. Another believes that they originated from near Krumbo Creek or from the end of Riddle Mountain. Both sites today contain trees of this size. The barn has three entrances, the largest facing north. From the outside wall it is 15 feet to the stone wall which is 18 inches thick. There are 14 windows in the stone work, each being 3 feet by 2 feet. The center pole is 35 feet high and the roof slopes to 8 feet on the sides. The roof was reshingled in 1918, a task that required over 50,000 shingles to cover the gently sloping dome.

T. E. and R. J. Jenkins, long-time ranchers, donated the Round Barn to the Oregon Historical Society in 1967, although the deed was officially recorded in 1969. Included in the gift were 1 1/2 acres of land and an easement over the property to guarantee road access. The roof was again reshingled in 1969 at a cost of $14,000 and the unique structure is presently in excellent condition. The Jenkins brothers had used the barn for grain and equipment storage for many years, but vandalism and increasing theft ended this practice several years before it was donated.

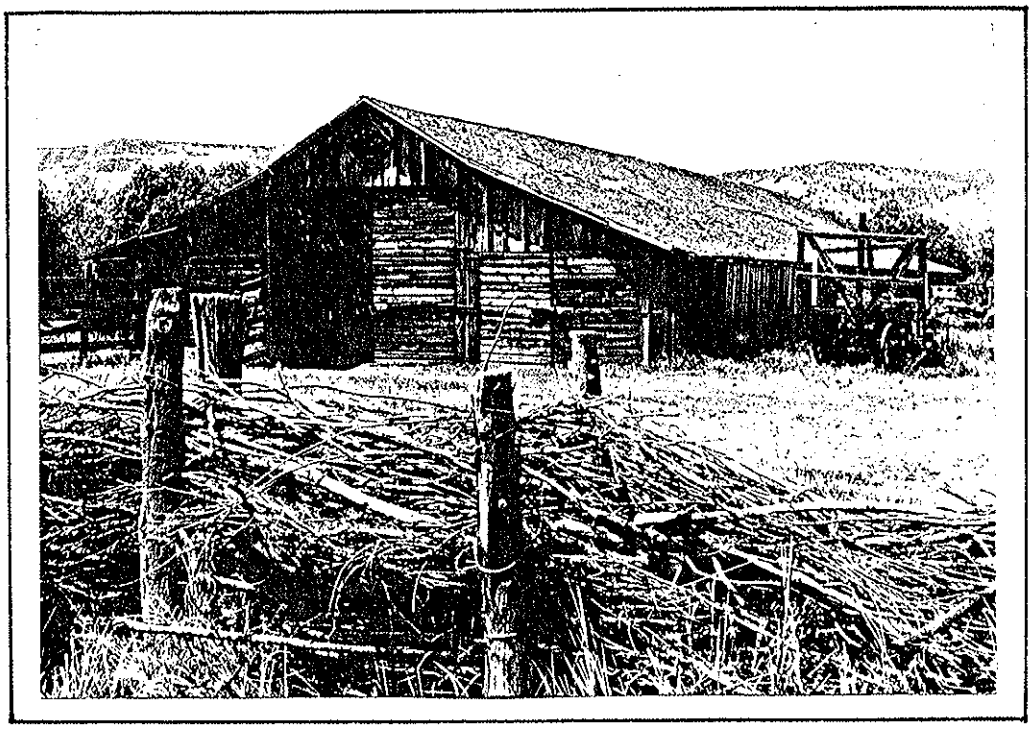
The Pete French Round Barn remains as a tribute to French's effective livestock operation and to his vision as an ingenious innovator. At least one local rancher, however, points out that horses that are broken inside a building do not always respond in the same manner when ridden outside. There is no record that this was a great problem for the "P" Ranch buckaroos.

Rating
Significance: High. One of the most noteworthy structures in Harney County.
Integrity: High. In excellent condition.

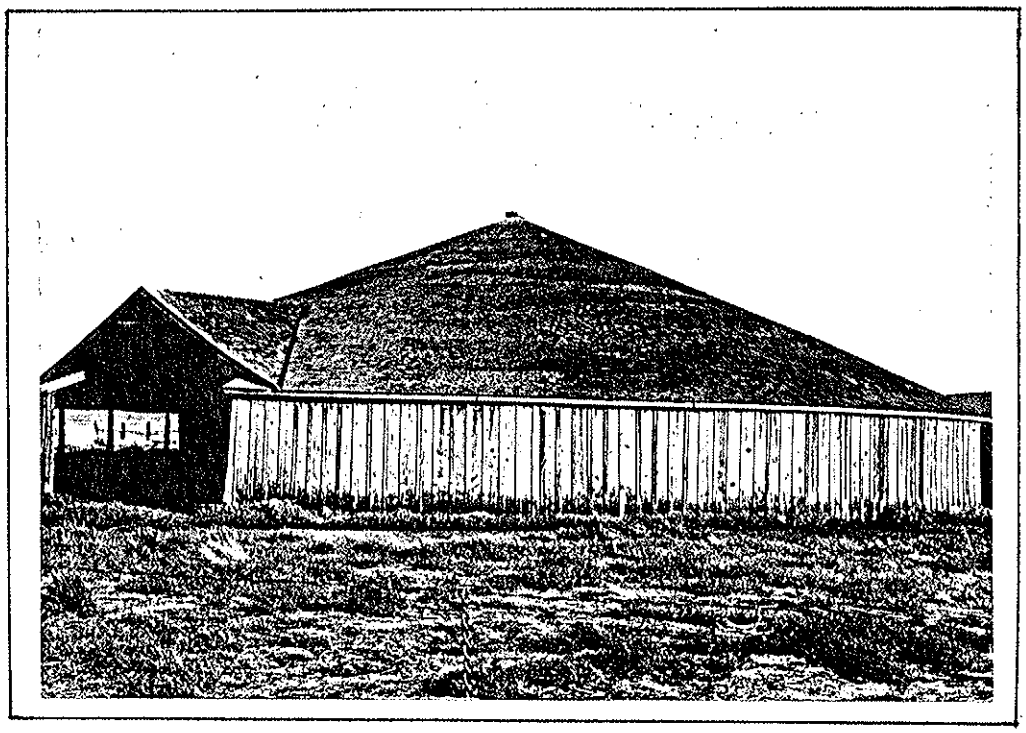
4.19 Pete French Murder Site not on map

Township 27S, Range 32E
Present Owner: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

Pete French captured the public imagination in death as he had in life, when on December 26, 1897, he was killed by Ed Oliver, a disgruntled homesteader. French returned to Burns from a business trip to Chicago on Christmas Day of 1897. He drove to the Sod House Ranch where he spent the night after a



4.17 "P" Ranch



4.18 Pete French Round Barn

Christmas party with some of the crew and their children. The following morning he decided to replace the ill Chino Berdugo (the town of Berdugo was named after this Mexican buckeroo) as boss of a cattle drive. On opening a gate and riding through to lead the slow-moving cattle into Wright's field, Ed Oliver suddenly rode out of a swale at full gallop and charged toward French. Their horses clashed together and in the ensuing fray, Oliver shot French in the head, killing him instantly. French was unarmed except for a willow stick which he had been using to move cattle along. The crewwere too shocked to pursue the fleeing Oliver, although another reason may have been they were unarmed. French's body was left where it fell and covered with saddle blankets until that night when Andrea Littrell, who lived at the Sod House Ranch, placed a tent over the corpse. The body was later moved by the coroner to the second floor of the Brown Building in Burns where an autopsy was performed.

Oliver was subsequently tried in a celebrated court case and was acquitted. The precise spot where the murder occurred is not known, although a juniper post was once placed in the ground to mark the site. This post has since rotted and disappeared and there continues to be a discussion among local history buffs as to the true location. The event is significant in historical context in that the famed French empire never again completely dominated the eastern Oregon livestock industry. The Refuge plans to build an interpretive path and exhibit at the site.

Rating
Significance: High.
Integrity: Medium. Exact site unmarked.

4.20 PLS Headquarters

Address: 626 N. Buena Vista, Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Blanch McWilliams

In early December of 1896 spectators saw two freighters with forty horses and mules struggling to move a heavy and cumbersome burden through the ice and snow with the aid of a capstan. The Pacific Livestock Company (PLS) headquarters was being moved from its original location in the declining town of Harney City to the thriving new county seat at Burns in order to be closer to its land holdings. The January 13, 1897, edition of the local Burns newspaper described the PLS structure as, "quite an elegant addition for Burns."

The Pacific Livestock Company controlled by Miller and Lux was one of the largest livestock operations in Harney County at that time. In 1887 the Burns East Oregon Herald described the PLS as:

> ...perhaps the strongest on this coast if not the strongest in the world. Their dominions extend from Grant County, Oregon, to the Southern confines of California. They can travel hundreds of miles from here in a southerly direction and camp every night on their freeholds. (Oliphant, p. 192)

Henry Miller is said to have owned more than 4.5 million acres of land and it was from this headquarters in Burns that he periodically administered his vast holdings. Miller died in 1916 and the company business operations were moved to the Island Ranch. The building was purchased by Ike Holland, a bookkeeper for the PLS, for $4,500 in 1917. The headquarters provided a spacious residence

for Holland's family with its seven bedrooms upstairs and the kitchen, dining room, bathroom and living room on the main floor. At one time Mrs. Holland provided room and board for school teachers for $32.50 a month.

After Mr. and Mrs. Holland died, their daughter Gladys acquired the house, and she resided in it until 1968. Blanch McWilliams, a friend, shared the spacious home with Gladys Holland until Gladys' death in 1968 at which time Mrs. McWilliams inherited the property. Today Mrs. McWilliams retains only a small apartment for herself and rents the remainder of the large dwelling to tenants.

The PLS Headquarters was constructed for functional purposes with almost no attention given to decoration. Two gables rise in from a plain hip roof and windows are mostly tall, plain, and double-hung. The porch is built into the house, and it is here that virtually the only adornment occurs. Modified square columns frame the main entry as well as the small secondary entry way on the south side of the structure. The two brick chimneys exhibit stylized cap pieces. The wooden building is painted grey and trimmed in white, and in the summer of 1976 a new composition shingle roof was installed.

The old PLS Headquarters building provides historic evidence of the early colorful period of cattle empires in the Harney County country.

Rating
Significance: High. Headquarters for famous Henry Miller ranching operation.
Integrity: Medium. Some alterations have been made.

4.21 "71" Bar Ranch

Township 22S, Range 26E, Section 30
Present Owner: Jean and Carl Mayo

The "71" Bar Ranch, named for its date of establishment in the last century (1871), is one of the few ranches left in the county that has been held continually in the same family for over 100 years. Located at the historic site of the former Camp Currey (abandoned in 1866), the ranch was established by two hardworking brothers.

In 1871, William Carroll Cecil and Logan Cecil from Prineville were trailing their horses and mules towards Grimes, California, looking for good grazing land. Not only was this oasis used by the military in earlier years, but before the white man ever came into the valley it is thought the Indians used the verdant grasslands in this area. This site was called Indian Springs at one time.

The two men probably owned about 640 acres. According to one of their descendants, Carrol and Logan probably originally "squatted" on this land. At that time land was in such abundance and free for use that many felt there was no need to purchase property that incurred taxes. The brothers built a log cabin in 1871 and used it as their headquarters. Later the two brothers married the daughters of A. D. Bedell, a homesteader who lived near the Cecil Ranch. Unfortunately, their cabin burned in 1890 and another house, now part of the kitchen of the contemporary residence, was constructed by the two families.

At times throughout their partnership the brothers separated. Logan would move to the land in Grimes, California, and Carroll would remain at Currey Springs.

Carroll and his wife Ollie had four children: Homer, James, Louise, and Viva, all of whom grew up on the ranch. By 1917 the family found it no longer economically feasible to sell horses and mules. As the use of automobiles and machines increased, the need for mules and horses decreased. Reluctantly, the family turned to cattle raising as a livelihood.

After Carroll Cecil died leaving no will, the Cecil Ranch was bought by the second oldest son James. James "Pat" Cecil married a Willamette Valley woman, Jessie Bibee, in 1915, and they had two children, Jim and Jean. The Cecils continued ranching and added more land and stock to their holdings.

When the Great Depression of the 1930's hit the country, the family had to mortgage their lands, as many others did too, and move to Burns to find jobs. While in Burns, the daughter Jean met and married Carl Mayo in 1939. The family paid back all the loans on the "71" Bar, and Jean and Carl moved back to the ranch in 1941.

Today the Mayo Ranch still uses the "71" brand and has added even more property and stock to the operation. Jean and Carl still manage the ranch with the help of their son Mark and his wife. It is their hope that the ranch will indefinitely remain within the family and continue its significance in Harney County history.

Rating
Significance: High. One of the few ranches in Harney County continuously operated by one family for 100 years.
Integrity: Low. Little remains of the original structures.

4.22 Sod House Ranch

Township 27S, Range 31E, Section 3
Present Owner: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

The 10-acre site known today as the Sod House Ranch is situated on the lower Blitzen Valley within the boundaries of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge about 35 miles south of Burns. This famous ranch was one of the sub-headquarters for the French-Glenn cattle operation that dominated eastern Oregon's livestock industry during the colorful period of cattlemen empires in the 1880's. The Sod House Ranch is one of the oldest and best preserved ranches in eastern Oregon, containing twelve of the original structures as well as fences and corrals dating from the 1880's and 1890's.

A. H. Robie was an early enterprising entrepreneur whose name occurs often in the historical literature dealing with Harney County. Robie owned a couple of sawmills northeast of Burns from which lumber was supplied to construct many early buildings including those in Fort Harney and some of the structures at Pete French's ranch. Robie was also innovative in acquiring public lands as reflected in his understanding and expertise with state and federal programs to distribute "swamp and overflow lands." With several partners he formed the Oregon and Nevada Livestock Growers Association and through the Swamp Act of 1860 managed to acquire about one-seventh of all the lands available. On September 3,

1877, Pete French purchased 43,360 acres from Robie and the Association. Another source believes that the acreage purchased was 42,300. This area was known as the Diamond Swamp and the price was $1.00 per acre. Included in the Blitzen Valley portion was the tract where the Sod House Ranch was built a few years later.

At first the ranch was a temporary buckaroo camp with canvas tents, but gradually permanent structures were built. Some of these were: (1) a large barn 120 feet long and 50 feet wide for feeding livestock and milking cows, (2) an equipment shed that became a residence for the noted ranch foreman Emanual Clark and his family, (3) a shed barn which was razed in the 1930's, (4) a windmill that became a distinctive landmark for the ranch, functioning for over 30 years, (5) a main residence built around 1890 and still standing and being used as a living quarters, (6) an office, (7) a stone cellar, (8) a two-story bunkhouse for the buckaroos, still in existence, (9) a blacksmith shop used by the CCC workers in the 1930's that burned in the 1940's, (10) a harness shed now gone, (11) a carriage shed which still remains and was converted to a garage in the 1920's, (12) and a beef wheel in good condition that was dismantled and stored at the Refuge. One of the several cottonwood trees surrounding the residence was planted in 1892 by Clark and has reached a circumference of 18 feet, 6 inches, creating much needed shade in summer months.

The first couple to live on the Sod House Ranch were Nimrod and Sarilda Comegys, who had first homesteaded in eastern Oregon at the Rocky Ford in 1886.

Several changes in ownership have occurred including the Blitzen Valley Land Co., Eastern Oregon Livestock Co., and the federal government which purchased the ranch in 1935 to be included in the Malheur Migratory Bird Refuge. During the 1930's considerable work was performed by the CCC crews on fences, buildings, corrals, and irrigation ditches. Today haying and grazing privileges on Sod House Ranch lands are leased to several permit holders. The ranch as it stands today contains many well-preserved remnants of an earlier era of the cattle industry. It is also well remembered as the ranch where Pete French stayed the night before he was killed by Ed Oliver on December 26, 1897. The Sod House Ranch was nominated for the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

Rating

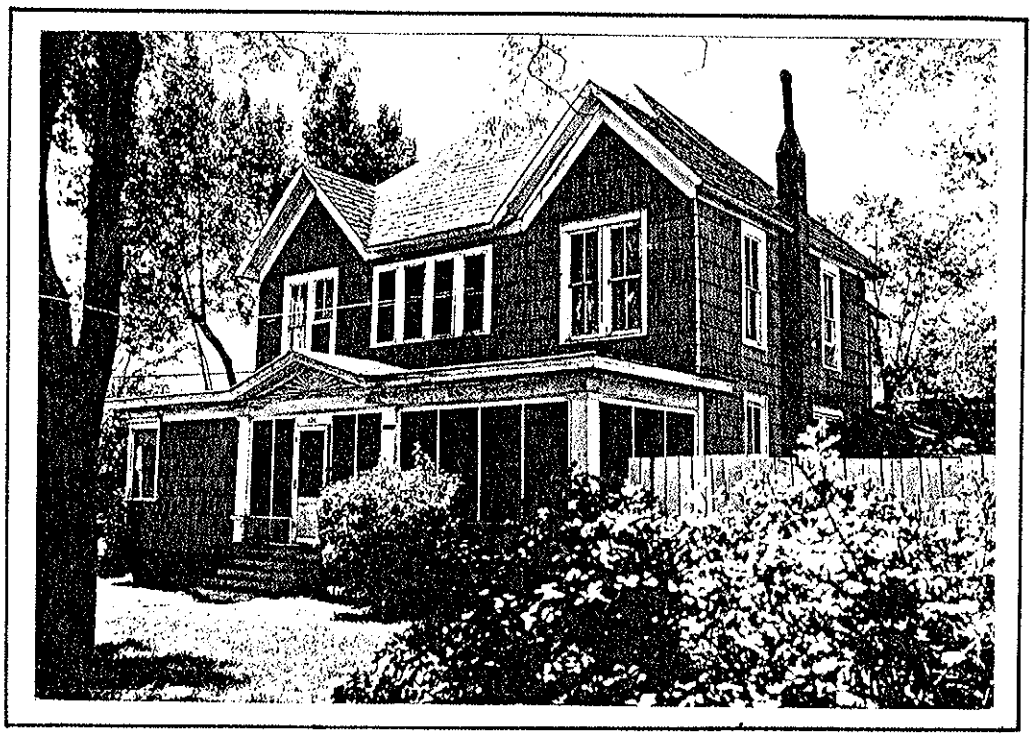
Significance: High. Important in its relationship to the French-Glenn cattle operation.

Integrity: High. Many of the original structures remain. Deterioration is evident.

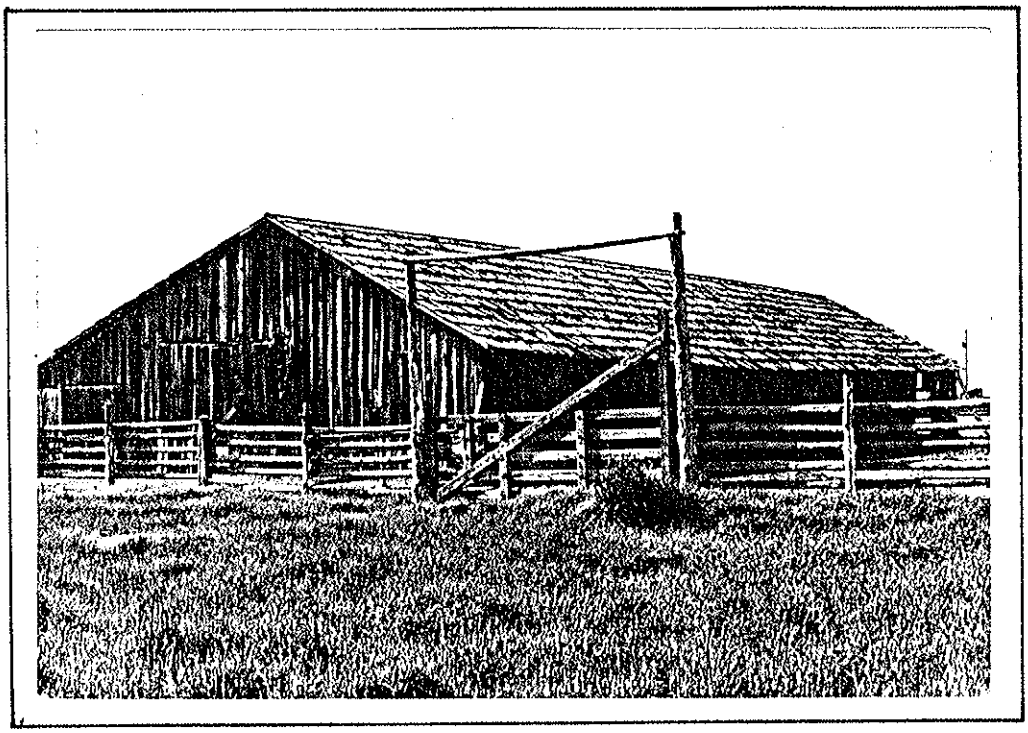
4.23 Sod House Ranch Barn

Township 27S, Range 31E, Section 3
Present Owner: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

The main barn on the Sod House Ranch reflects the general thoroughness and efficiency of Pete French's cattle operation. The barn was constructed in the 1880's shortly after the Ranch was acquired from A. H. Robie and Associates. The dimensions of the structure are 120 feet long and 50 feet wide with a center span of 28-30 feet. French had feed racks installed on each end of the barn in order to facilitate feeding and milking of cows on one end (west) and provisions for horses on the opposite side (east).



4.20 PLS Headquarters



4.2 3 Sod House Ranch Barn

Many of the structures that were built during this era were made of materials from Robie's Mill, and the barn is no exception. A. H. Robie, who operated a mill on Rattlesnake Creek, 50 miles north of Burns, supplied the juniper posts, split juniper slabs, and ponderosa beams and boards. French may have owned the mill at the time of the construction as he had purchased a mill previous to this date. The barn was designed with a wide aisle running down the center portion which was used until the 1920's, according to one source, for the storage of wild hay for the horses. Structurally, the barn is in good condition, although leaning somewhat to the east. The roof of pine shakes is badly deteriorating and in need of replacement. These shakes were installed in 1939 by work crews from the CCC. The double doors on the northern and southern ends of the barn are in need of repair. According to the report of a National Park Service historical architect, Lauren Huffman, the main barn's eastern lean will accelerate unless preventative measures are taken soon. He recommends careful recording of the progression of this movement and consultation with a structural engineer should it need to be arrested. Other recommendations deal with devising an effective fire suppression system, separation of livestock and visitors, and conservation of historic leather tack hanging in the barn.

Rating
Significance: High.
Integrity: High. Well-maintained structure.

4.24 Sod House Ranch Cellar

Township 27S, Range 31E, Section 3
Present Owner: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

One of the more distinctive structures at the Sod House Ranch is the two-room stone Cellar. The Cellar was built in 1900, as is clearly evidenced on the front of the structure above the door where the date appears carved in stone. Also prominently displayed is the French-Glenn brand carved in the soft sedimentary rock along with figures, dates, and initials of past ranch employees. The stone was quarried from the "Chalk Hills" to the west, according to one source, and brought to the construction site. The building measures 34'6" by 19'7" and is about 9 feet high at the center span. The roof drops to about 6 1/2 feet and is supported by three pine log beams running the length of the structure. The roof, now badly deteriorated, was earthen which provided good insulation conducive to frost-free storage of goods. Ceiling openings were provided for air circulation inside the building. The walls were laid in two rows with mud poured in between as mortar. Each room has an outside door, and windows are located on two sides.

The Sod House Ranch operation required copious supplies of food and the Cellar was a central component in meal planning and preparation. Large quantities of rice, dried fruit, dairy products, cured beef, sausage, bacon, ham, and numerous other staples were secured within the Cellar's protective confines. The Cellar was an essential part of most early day ranching and farming operations and the one at Sod House Ranch was no exception. If the nomination of the Sod House Ranch to the National Register of Historic Places is approved, the Cellar will surely receive early restoration attention to halt further deterioration. The moisture entering between the rows of stone will continue to cause slumpage, according to an assessment made by an historical architect.

Rating

Significance: High.
Integrity: Medium. Preservation measures are needed.

4.25 Whitehorse Ranch

Township 37S, Range 3~~8~~6E, Section 12
Present Owner: Roy E. Naftzger

Whitehorse Ranch commands a distinctive place in Harney County history. It was established more than 100 years ago and is considered to be the first ranch in the Harney country. The vast spread encompasses land between the Steens Mountain to the southeast, the Trout Creek and Buckskin Ranges to the southwest, and the Sheepheads to the northeast.

In August of 1868 the adventurous ex-Virginian John S. Devine brought with him from California a few vaqueros, a cook and supply wagon and about 2,500 head of cattle. Devine's undertaking was financed by a wealthy butcher from Sacramento named W. B. Todhunter. It was Devine's intent to occupy the abandoned military post, Camp Smith, and convert it and the surrounding countryside into a prosperous ranching operation. With the help of such notable cowhands as Juan Redon, who was lauded by his peers as the "best cowboy of them all," Devine successfully pursued his goals, ultimately expanding his holdings to include the Alvord, Mann Lake, Juniper, and Island Ranches, as well as the venerable Whitehorse Ranch which came to be widely known.

John Devine was noted for being overly assertive both in dress and personal comportment. He often wore gaudy clothes, sometimes dressing as a Spanish don and treating his employees with an imperial air. He had an eye for a good horse, however, and it is thought that the distinctive ranch name was derived from a white horse of which he was particularly fond. Another legend attributes the appellation to a spirited white horse that roamed free throughout the surrounding meadows. The figure of a white horse still sits today atop the large distinctive red barn which Devine had built for his race horses. He also enjoyed raising fighting cocks, and a wooden fighting cock today turns in the wind on top of the old sod blacksmith shop nearby.

By 1882, the Devine-Todhunter partnership is thought to have owned over 20,000 head of stock, but a series of untimely weather extremes greatly reduced their holdings in the following years. The harsh winter of 1887 killed thousands of cattle and the subsequent two years were extremely dry, thus compounding the losses. Todhunter decided to retire from the livestock business in 1889 and the partnership was forced to mortgage the enterprize to another rising cattle baron.

At nearly the same time that Devine was building his cattle empire, another Californian was laying the foundations for his livestock operation that was to also become legendary in eastern Oregon history. Henry Miller was a German who had an exceptional business sense, a trade as a butcher, and organizational genius. He rose with nothing but his wits to be a man who had "a million acres of land, a million head of cattle." It was his prosperous corporation that gained control of Devine's holdings, although he left Devine as the manager of the Whitehorse Ranch. Devine's haughty airs and uncooperative mood quickly created problems and he was transferred to the Alvord Ranch where he lived until his death in 1901.

Miller's Pacific Livestock Company (PLS) continued to profitably operate the Whitehorse Ranch, and it in fact came to be regarded as "the Jewel" of all his vast holdings. The ranch's fine summer, winter, and spring ranges were envied by many lesser livestock operators who had less resources. When Henry Miller died in 1916, his managerial acumen could not be replaced, and the Whitehorse Ranch, as well as other holdings, were neglected over a period of time.

In 1945, the owner of the Mann Lake Ranch, Paul C. Stewart, bought the Whitehorse Ranch from the Miller Corporation and moved his wife and two daughters with him to live at the famous headquarters of the former livestock empire. The ranch was located 170 miles from the nearest doctor, 50 miles from a readily available source of groceries, and there was, of course, no telephone or mail service. The Stewarts had many improvements to make to rejuvenate the ranch to its former level. The original granary was transformed into offices, a new residence was constructed in 1946 or 1947 after the original adobe one collapsed; the bunk house, foreman's residence, and sheds and barn were all repaired. A series of wells were drilled, and the collapsed long barn was razed. The original sod blacksmith shop was retained and continues in service today. During the period when the Stewarts owned and managed the ranch, three to five families and two to three buckaroos lived there on a permanent basis.

The ranch once again changed hands in 1961 when the Stewarts decided to retire from active ranching. The property was sold to Roy E. Naftzer, a Californian who owns the approximately 68,000 acres today and continues to operate the business. The ownership of the Whitehorse Ranch appears to have completed the full circle, having been founded by an interprizing Californian and now returning to the possession of another Californian. The Whitehorse Ranch's niche in Harney County history was reaffirmed on August 23, 1969, when the Naftzger family celebrated its 100th anniversary. Over 800 guests attended from near and far to commemorate John Devine's historic headquarters.

Rating

Significance: High. First ranch established in Harney County.
Integrity: High. Several original structures remain in good condition.

4.26 Whitehorse Barn

Township 37S, Range 38E, Section 12
Present Owner: Roy E. Naftzger

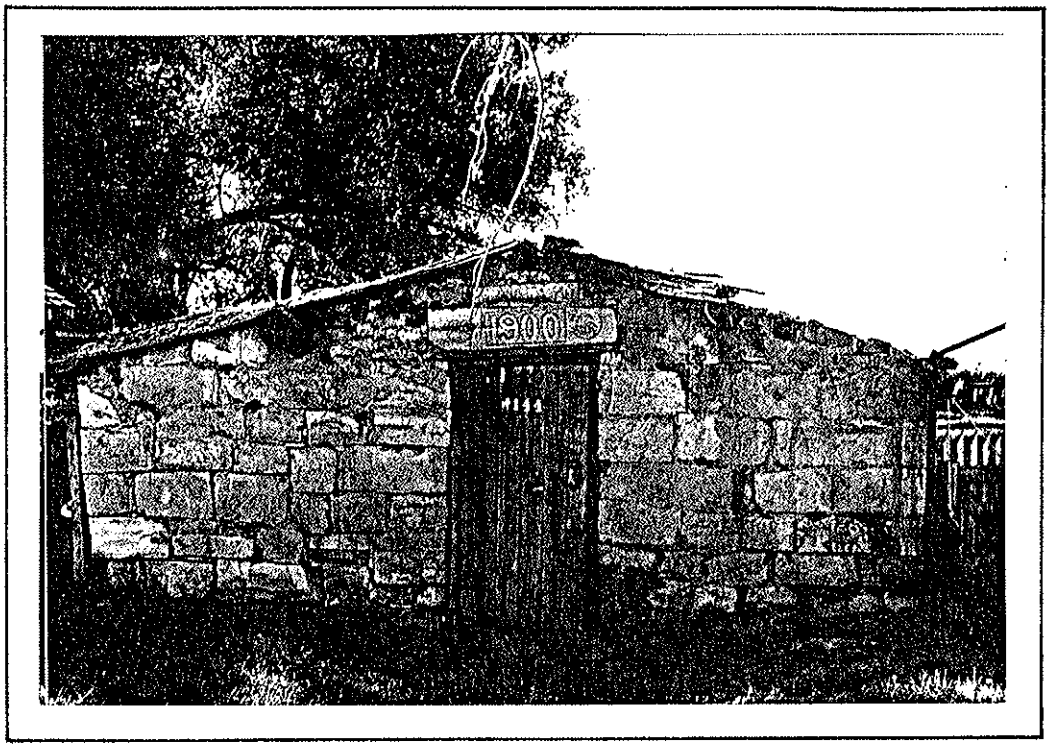
On arriving to the main entrance of the Whitehorse Ranch, the distinctive building that has become the hallmark of the historic livestock operation confronts the visitor. The imposing red and white Barn is easily identified by the symbolic white wooden horse that adorns the cupola. The Barn stands as a testament to the first cattle baron to operate in the Harney country. John Devine came to the site of abandoned Fort Smith in the late 1860's and had this structure as well as many others constructed to house his livestock operation. One source states that it was constructed by Pete Clemens in 1879 and that the builder's name is still inscribed inside the Barn.

The structure has almost certainly been modified over the years since its construction to accommodate changing needs on the ranch. Devine was a horse fancier who stabled his race horses at one time in the building. More recently it has been utilized for the typical functions necessary to operating a ranch. It contains the usual stalls, mangers, feeding troughs, and storage area found in similar structures. The original beams that underpin the structure measure 8 x 8 and are reinforced by steel bars and turnbuckles. The height to the center of the Barn is about 25 feet.

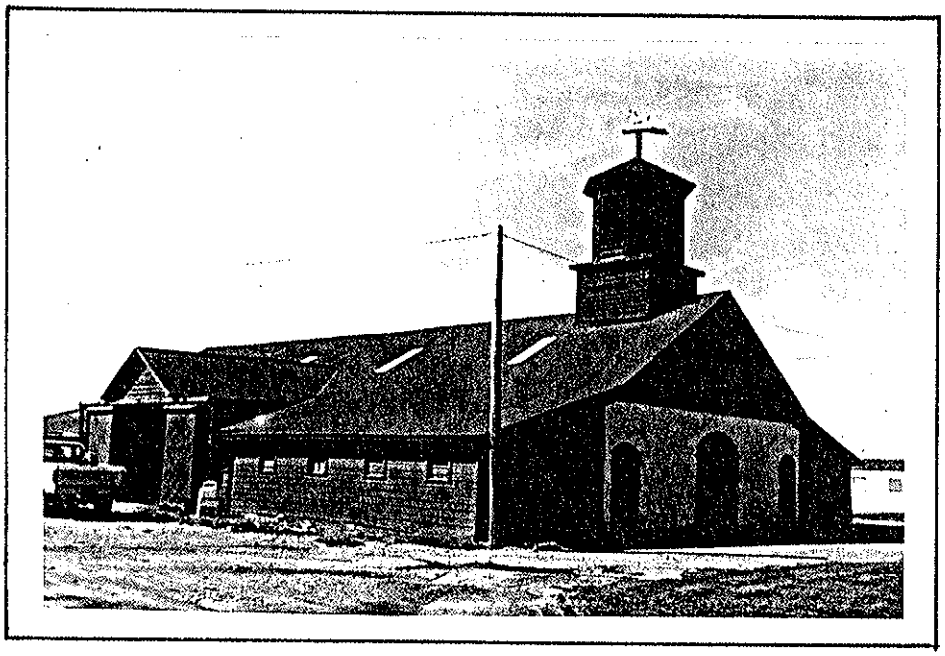
The Barn front which is painted white, faces east, and measures 101 x 75 feet. The inner walls which are believed to have been built by Pete Clemens are stone and painted white. This inner portion measures 42'9" by 18'. The east side, or the front of the building, contains four small doors and a larger double door that measures 8' by about 10'. The north and south sides of the structure contain large sliding doors. These north and south wings were added after the original construction. The roof is corrugated metal.

The Barn is used today in the diverse ways for which such a structure is needed in the comtemporary ranching operation. It has been well maintained in recent years and shows promise of enduring another 100 years with normal use and maintenance.

Rating
Significance: High.
Integrity: High. Some modifications made, but the original structure remains intact.



4.24 Sod House Ranch Cellar



4.26 Whitehorse Barn

5. COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

5.1 Andrews

Township 35S, Range 33E, Section 34

"Of all rough places, this town of Wildhorse takes the cake. Here we dressed gun wounds, knife wounds and broken heads," writes Eugenia Hibbard Skiens in her 1914 diary. Eugenia travelled with her father who was the first dentist in Harney County, and his practice often included much that is now considered outside the normal practice of dentistry. The town of Andrews, which is still called "Wildhorse" by a few oldtimers, is located at the eastern base of the Steens Mountain, 117 miles south of Burns. The town was once the meeting place for ranchers, sheepherders, travelers, and others scattered over the vast region near the Steens Mountain. The hotel and saloons provided much-desired entertainment for the lonely buckaroo or sheepherder, and everybody enjoyed the socializing that occurred around the general store and post office.

The first man thought to have settled in this region southwest of the Alvord Desert was Peter Andrews in 1890. He is said to have lived in a stone house about two miles from the present town, and he is given credit for having named the valley and the town. A post office was established in 1890, but records are not clear as to whether Mr. Andrews became the first postmaster. The town came into being and prospered from its strategic location on one of the major transportation corridors from Vale to Winnemucca.

A well-known enterprize in Wildhorse was the hotel and saloon established by members of the pioneer family, the Smyths. In 1897 John and George Smyth and their families came from the town of Diamond and settled near Peter Andrews' place. It was John Smyth's father and grandfather who had been killed by Indians during the Bannock uprising in 1878. One source stated that George Smyth was dissatisfied with the name Wildhorse, and he renamed the town in honor of the first inhabitant, Peter Andrews. This name was subsequently registered with the postal authorities and the name change became permanent.

As the area was settled with ranchers and farmers, the town prospered although only twenty people lived in the town at one time. Its services, however, reached out to a much larger clientele as distances were great and transportation limited. The Smyth store became the place where supplies were obtained and mail distributed. During the most active years of Andrews, from approximately 1898 to 1918, many gala and exciting events occurred. Rodeos, horse races, foot races, dances, charvaris, midnight suppers and other socializing took place in the town that was attended by people who lived miles around. As occurred in many similar frontier towns, excessively boisterous behavior was not uncommon. After one such revelry, the Smyth Hotel caught fire and burned in 1924. The hotel was owned by a Basque family at that time, and the family well remembers the disasterous conflagration. Shortly after this event, the Urizers family sold what was left of their holdings and moved to Burns where they purchased the Star Hotel from Chino Berdugo.

As transportation improved and better roads were constructed, Andrews began to decline. Travelers could extend their range and fewer stopping points were necessary. In addition, the sheepherders and their flocks were disappearing from

Steens Mountain because of several factors that brought about the decline of the sheep industry in Harney County. Stricter immigration laws affecting the Basque herders, as well as the advent of the Taylor Grazing Act, significantly impacted the sheep industry. Also, many men and women who left the area during World Wars I and II never returned to eastern Oregon, choosing instead to pursue their fortunes elsewhere.

Today Andrews consists of two residences, a school, and about four other structures. About seven students attended Andrews School in 1974. Recently, the rock remnants of the stone Smyth Hotel were removed by Andrew Shull, one of the oldest residents of Andrews. Andrew and Margie Shull continue to reside in a structure that served as a dance hall during the heyday of Andrews. One of the most distinctive remaining buildings is the picturesque saloon that was long ago boarded up, but continues to attract the occasional amateur photographer in search of rustic subjects.

Rating
Significance: Medium. One of the many towns that developed on the south-north transportation route.
Integrity: Medium. Several of the early structures still remain.

5.2 Beckley Townsite

Township 33S, Range 30E, Section 33, 34
Present Owner: Rex Clemens

A modern farming operation presently occupies the original townsite of Beckley. The small town was located about five miles south of Catlow and three miles north of Blitzen in the Catlow Valley. In 1911, Charles D. Beckley started his general store to serve the larger community of homesteaders and other settlers attempting to make a living on the high desert. A post office was added in 1912 and the settlement even had a school which at one time had about ten children enrolled. Later, the school was moved to the closest town, Blitzen, where it continued in service. In terms of structures on the Beckley townsite in addition to the store and post office, there were some homes, barns, and other smaller buildings.

The town probably never had more than about ten people in it at one time. However, like other similar hamlets in the region, it served a wider community of settlers. For example, one long-time Catlow Valley resident reports that during an election year in either 1917 or 1918, over 500 men came to Beckley from the surrounding district to cast their votes. The informant's father, Dave Crow (who made the famous ride to Winnemucca to carry the news of the French murder) had one of the few automobiles in the area, and he made repeated trips throughout the day to transport voters to Beckley. Another source relates that after checking the poll books for Catlow Valley, he found that thirty-eight voters cast their ballots to vote during this time. By the mid-twenties the last inhabitants had left Beckley, and the post office was discontinued on February 23, 1926. Nothing remains today of the small town in the Catlow Valley.

Rating
Significance: Low. The community was short-lived.
Integrity: Low. Little or nothing remains of the settlement.

5.3 Berdugo Townsite

Township 3~~2~~5, Range 30E, Section 21 or 22

The small settlement named Berdugo was located four miles west of Blitzen in the Catlow Valley. The town was named for Joaquin "Chino" Berdugo, a Mexican vaquero for the famous cattle baron, Pete French. A post office was established in the town on August 17, 1915, with Rita Kiphart as the postmaster. After most of the homesteaders left the area, Berdugo Post Office was closed on September 29, 1917, and moved to Blitzen.

Berdugo, like Beckley, Blitzen, Ragtown, Rieckan's Corner, and similar small settlements in this part of the Catlow Valley, was abandoned due to the combination of factors causing the decline of many such communities. Most were never more than a few structures usually including a general store and a few residences and other buildings. The lack of success with dry-land farming, improved transportation, and other economic factors contributed to the decline of many small settlements and the concomitant ascendancy of larger trading and service centers such as Burns. The only evidence of Berdugo today is a rock house foundation located on a by-passed route that is rapidly being reclaimed by the sagebrush.

Rating
Significance: Low. One of many settlements that developed in the Catlow Valley.
Integrity: Low. Only foundations remain today.

5.4 Blitzen Townsite

Township 34S, Range 31E, Section 21 or 22

The ageing remains of Blitzen stand today as a classic example of the western ghost town that has long since been given over to the ravages of nature and souvenir hunters. Decaying buildings linger silent and empty redolent of earlier and more prosperous times in the Catlow Valley.

The name Blitzen was derived from the Donner and Blitzen River which gained its distinctive name from Captain George B. Currey in 1864. Currey crossed the stream during a military expedition and being impressed by the thunder storm then underway, he designated it with the German name for thunder and lightening. Popular usage has shortened the unwieldy name to Blitzen.

Before the advent of all-weather roads and dependable transportation, many small settlements usually existed in a region to meet the demand for necessary supplies to cope with rural living. Small hamlets sprung up in the Catlow Valley in the late 1800's and continued into the twentieth century. One such settlement that served as a source of groceries, dry goods, mail delivery, and other services was the town of Blitzen. One source has records that show Blitzen was granted a post office on April 27, 1888, and another source believes the post office was established in 1915. A local historian believes that a man named Stewart became the first postmaster of the town. Stewart opened one of the first,

if not the first, store in Blitzen and developed a substantial clientele. After a period he rented the store to a man who was locally known as "Dirty Paws" Smyth who gained his nickname from the habit of sticking his dirty hands into the candy jars. Eventually "Dirty Paws" relinguished the store to Stewart who rented it to Robert Bradeen.

Many other structures were constructed in the little town of Blitzen including a school, saloon, another store, residences, and other buildings and improvements. The Bradeen family continued to operate the general store during the 1930's, well adapting their commercial operation to local conditions. For example, at one time during this period the rabbit population became so numerous that it became a menace to the range land. The county offered a rabbit bounty of five cents per pair of ears in an effort to reduce the exploding population. The Bradeen store allowed its clients to purchase goods and make payment with rabbit ears, which were valued at four and a half cents for this purpose. Later the problem was solved when an epidemic of tulareamia, a rabbit disease, greatly reduced their numbers.

Many factors combined to bring about the demise of such towns as Blitzen, Beckley, Ragtown, and others in the region. The failure of dry-land farming, droughts, improved transportation systems, and changes in the sheep and cattle industries were a few of these agents of change. Eventually the residents of Blitzen drifted away to pursue better opportunities elsewhere until the town was abandoned. The post office was closed on February 2, 1943. Howard Anderson purchased the property where the town was located. The half-dozen or so structures that now remain are in varying states of deterioration, and the only activity now seen at the townsite is the occasional visitor interested in Harney County history or the souvenir seeker who seems to be dismantling the town a board at a time.

Rating
Significance: Low. One of the many small towns in the Catlow Valley that was abandoned.
Integrity: Medium. Many of the original structures standing, although in deteriorating conditions.

5.5 Brown Building

Address: Broadway St., Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Alfred Brown

The Brown Building is considered to be the oldest permanent commercial building in Burns, having been constructed in 1896 for Nathan Brown, a pioneer businessman. Nathan Brown was born in Germany in 1835 and came to the U.S. at the age of 35, where he engaged in a number of business endeavors in several cities. In 1852 he moved to San Francisco, then to Oregon City for a few years, followed by a period in Walla Walla, Washington, where he had a general merchandise store. He returned to San Francisco and operated a clothing store until 1883 when he sold all of his business interests and came to Burns, Oregon.

In 1884 he established a general merchandise store under the name of N. Brown and Sons, taking sons Benjamin and Leon in as partners. This business was moved into the Brown Building when it was completed in 1896. This two-story

structure became the location of a general merchandise business operated by the Brown family well into the 1930's. The upper floor was leased to the I.O.O.F. Lodge of Burns and at one time to the U.S. Land Office. Many other enterprizes have occupied the building subsequent to the 1930's, one of which was Station KRNS, a Burns radio station. The court house for the county was once temporarily housed in the Brown Building in the 1930's while the present County Court House was under construction. The upper floor is no longer used. One source reports that it was the location where Pete French's body was taken after his fatal shooting in 1897.

Alfred Brown, a grandson of Nathan Brown, continues to own the building and use one portion for the Alfred Brown Real Estate Office. The lower floor has been partitioned into several smaller offices. At present High Desert Sounds, a record store, occupies the south side, while Alfred Brown operates from the north side of the structure.

The Brown Building was a structure obviously built for strength, but with seeming little attention to detail. The building almost takes on the appearance of a storage or warehouse with totally functional purpose. The six windows are tall and narrow, thus lacking the look of strength in the thin sill blocks made of native stone. The facade is very flat and smooth, but of native stone and the remainder is constructed of rubble and left unfinished. The sides and rear of the building were not dressed up to please the viewer. The only seeming decoration is in the cornice application at the top. The large sized stone blocks set in a regular pattern would seem to copy the dental molding often seen in Georgian style architecture. The structure measures 52 1/2 (front) by 60 1/2 feet. The utilitarian purposes for which it was intended have probably been well served. The lower portion of the front has been plastered, probably at the time that the remodeling occurred in the lower section to partition offices. The exposed exterior wall has been plastered as well.

Nathan Brown was an important pioneer businessman in Harney County who was involved in many commercial endeavors. For example, the inauguration of the first flour mill in Harney County was done by Nathan in 1892. The 40 to 50 barrel-per-day flour mill was financed by a $3000 subscription solicited among the county's residents. He also owned several tracts of land that were used for the production of hay and grain. The firm of N. Brown and Sons, along with other pioneer businessmen such as C. H. Voegtly, played an essential role in providing early settlers with the necessary materials to cope with a demanding environment.

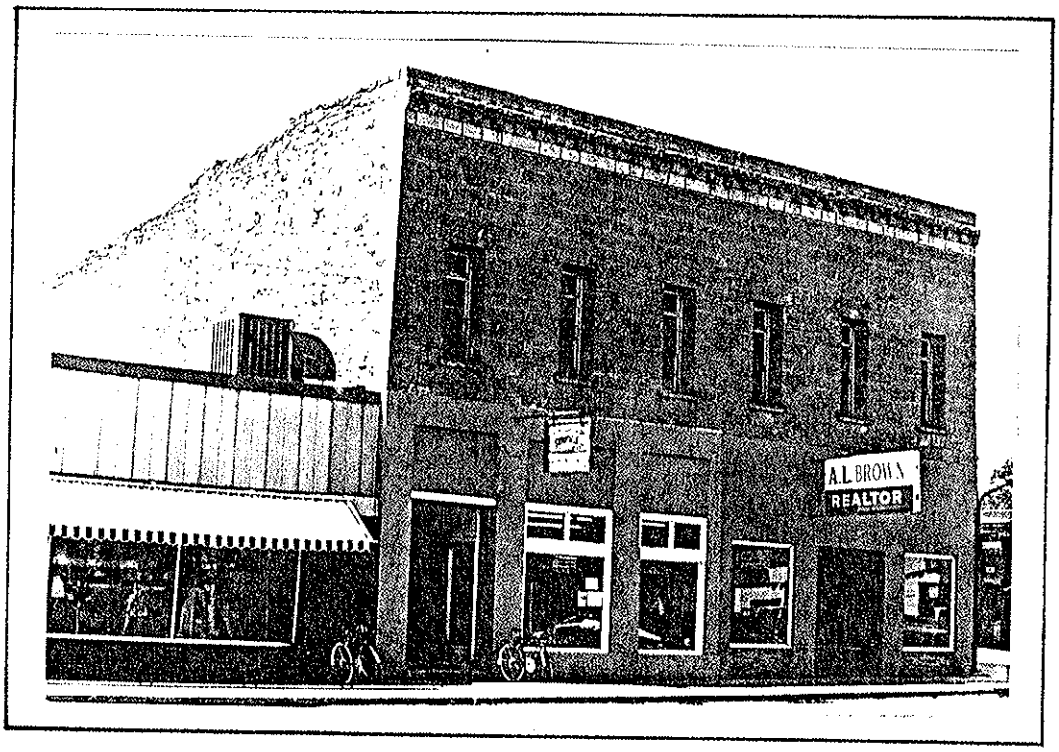
Rating
Significance: High. Integral part of the commercial and industrial history of Harney County.
Integrity: Medium. Some interior remodeling has occurred.

5.6 Burns Garage

Address: 188 N. Broadway, Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Ray Weeks

With wary optimism that the horseless carriage would increase in use, Archie McGowan (his father, George McGowan, is noted for naming the town of Burns after the poet Robert Burns) established the first garage in Burns in 1910.

5.4 Blitzen Townsite



5.5 Brown Building

The new garage occupied the old Robbins wooden store building on Broadway and West Jefferson. With the help of his father-in-law, Harry Smith, the two sought buyers for their new Fords. Unfortunately banks would not finance the new-fangled machines. Therefore, before the factory would deliver the merchandise, McGowan and Smith had to sell the cars first in order to pay them. The first year the salesmen sold four Model T's. In the early years the shipment of automobiles had to come by barge from Portland and down the Columbia River 85 miles to The Dalles. Drivers were hired to bring the cars along bumpy, primitive roads 275 miles to Burns. When the autos finally arrived, the dealers would have to teach the new owners to drive.

Sometimes these enthusiastic salesmen would stay at ranches up to five days trying to convince the ranchers to purchase the four- to five-hundred-dollar vehicles. To encourage smoother riding of the autos, the innovative Smith graveled the street in front of their establishment with it becoming the first graveled section in Burns. By 1915 the County Court, with the support of Harry Smith, graded a modern-type road to the Silver Creek settlements.

In 1920 a stone structure was constructed south of the old wooden building. It was used for storage of cars. In January of 1923 a devasting fire gutted the stone building, even destroying some of the new cars. Fortunately, the fire was prevented from touching the flammable wooden building by the stone walls. The stone building was restored and in use again soon after the fire. This time a map of Oregon, with Harney County accentuated, adorned the front facade of the building. By 1927 McGowan had another 50' by 50' addition built to accommodate the growing business. A large rock fireplace was included in the construction. Clients would come from all over Harney County to have their cars serviced and enjoy the cheery fire and amiable company. The garage even stayed open 24 hours a day for the patrons and was guarded by a watchman whose primary duty was to prevent the outbreak of fire. The wooden structure was used until 1927 when it was moved to another location to be used for other purposes.

Burns Garage was incorporated in 1918, and today the president is Ray Weeks, a member since 1929. The garage enjoys several noteworthy distinctions. It is the second oldest Ford dealership (1910) on the west coast (William Hughson Ford dealership in San Francisco is the oldest) and is also the longest continuously run Standard Oil (1910) and Firestone dealership (1918) in the west. Ray Weeks assumed full control in 1957 when the industrious Archie McGowan passed away.

Today the building includes a 100-by 200-foot area including a covered showroom, service center, garage, and administrative building. Interesting to many is the interior of the office building, built in 1927. The corporation acquired the tellers' counter and two safes from the First National Bank when the establishment went broke during the Depression in 1933. Outside, the garage operates one of the few remaining curbside gasoline pumps in the country. In the earlier years the gasoline was brought in five-gallon containers by a Model T truck and trailer from the railroad head in Crane. Today the company continues to operate the 18-year-old pumps, selling over 400 gallons of gasoline a day, year round. The only remnant from the 1910 building is the 50 by 30 feet walls of native rock in the garage. It reaches a height of 30 feet.

The Burns Garage has the unique distinction of being the longest operated business establishment under the same name in Burns.

Rating
Significance: High. Integral part of the commercial and industrial history of the County.
Integrity: Medium. Several modifications to the structure have been made since it was built.

5.7 Burns Power Company

Address: 308 E. Monroe, Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Walter and Virginia McEwen

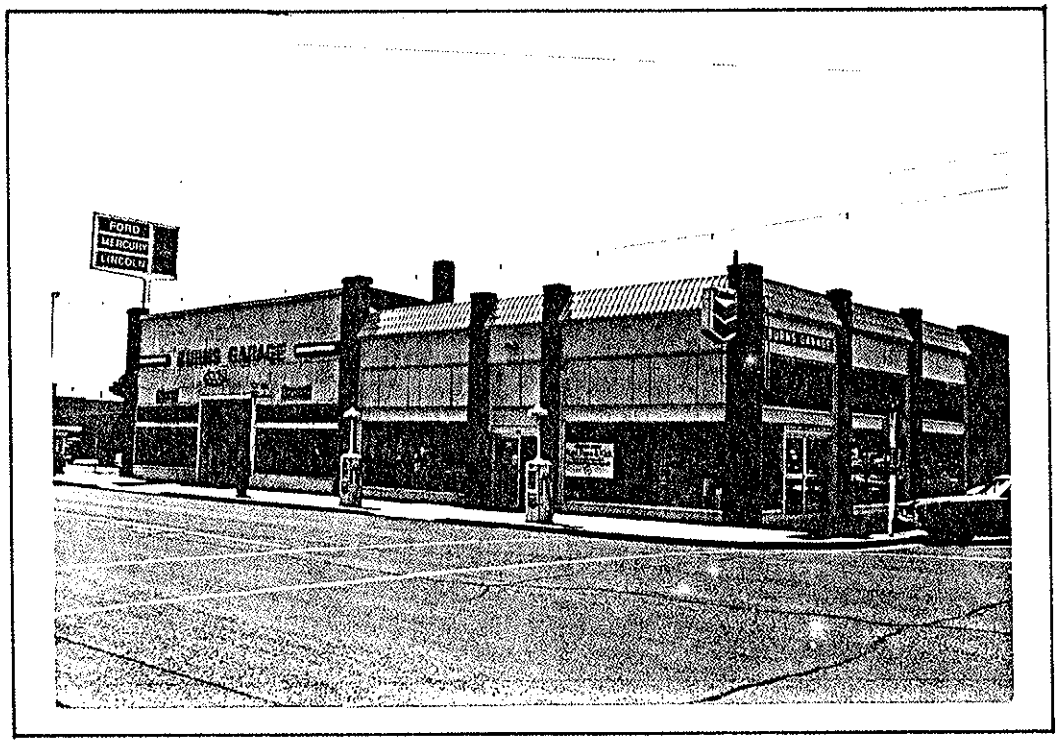
The first franchise for an electric and light power plant in Burns was granted on January 8, 1902, to F. N. Averill of Portland, Oregon. The source of power was the McGowan-Stenger Dam on the Silvies River. An employee of the First National Bank of Burns named N. U. Carpenter subsequently bought the franchise and erected a plant and lines. A plant was built on land owned by Dr. Horton. Arthur Horton, the doctor's brother and an electrician, came from California to take charge of the operation. The plant was operated for a few years, then moved to a place northeast of Burns to what is known as the Sweek Dam site. This operated for a few years and then was eliminated and the site dismantled.

Another franchise for the provision of electricity was granted to James D. Fellows and Associates in August of 1911. Fellows constructed a power plant at the rapids of Emigrant Creek twenty-five miles northwest of Burns, but the venture failed without ever providing any electricity. It was a persistent problem to provide uninterrupted service to the Burns community, because as one old-timer stated, difficulties resulted from "too high or too low water-flow" or by "fish clogging the infernal driving, churning apparatus" (Brimlow, p. 26).

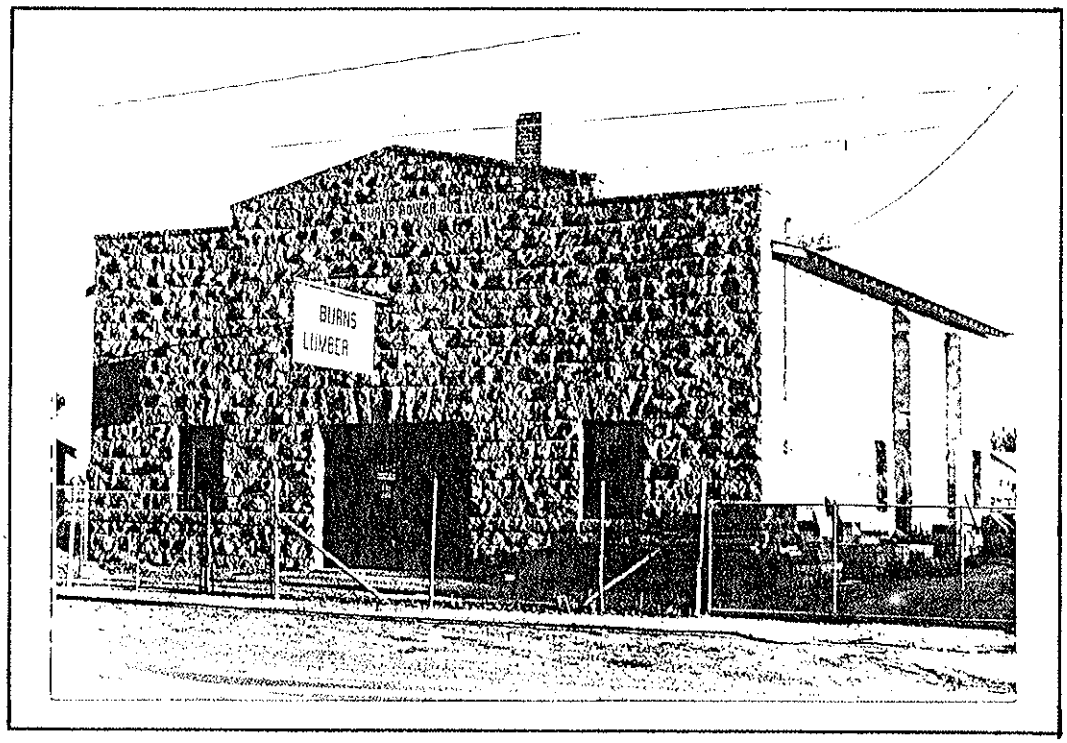
In May of 1924 Hodge and Letson installed a diesel engine plant in a large stone building for that purpose, and the Burns Power Company was born, although a franchise was not offically granted in that name until October 28, 1925. This source of power continued until the Edward Hines Lumber Mill began to furnish power to the city of Burns. The People's West Coast Hydroelectric Corporation succeeded the Burns Power Company in 1929. In July of 1949, the California-Pacific Utilities Company became the local provider of electricity.

The Burns Power Company building was sold to Walter and Virginia McEwen on February 18, 1971, and has continued in their ownership since that time. A fire damaged the interior of the building in 1972. At various times it has been vacant and has also been used for storage. The stone block building has 2,610 square feet, no basement, and is about 20 feet high. The facade was inscribed with the company's name and the date of construction, which can still be seen today. The most recent use of the building has been by the Burns Lumber Co. whose sign continues to hang from the front. The architectural qualities most salient suggest functionality, sturdiness, and simplicity. The rectangular design is typical of industrial buildings. The front of the building was constructed of stone block giving it a finished appearance, while the walls are what is described as "rubble."

Rating
Significance. Medium. The structure played a role in the development of commerce and industry in Burns.
Integrity: Medium. The exterior has been modified very little, but the interior has been altered.



5.6 Burns Garage



5.7 Burns Power Company

5.8 Crane

Township 25S, Range 34E, Section 7

There was exciting news in the Burns Times-Herald on July 11, 1916:

> Hundreds of Harney County people were anxious to take a ride on a train in Harney County. One man aboard was taking his first ride in 33 years.

The arrival of the railroad to Crane in 1916 was a momentous occasion for it brought with it, in most citizens' opinions, guaranteed prosperity and growth for Crane. Many oldtimers still remember the feeling of great expectation and high hopes as the train engine for the Oregon Shortline Railroad came whistling into town to be greeted by throngs of well-wishers.

Early postal records show that Crane's first post office was established June 10, 1895, with Henry C. Turner as the first postmaster. The town was named after Crane Creek and Crane Creek Gap located near the town site. For undetermined reasons, the post office was discontinued on June 30, 1903. The town grew steadily in the late 1800's and into the twentieth century under the impetus of the railroad and other factors. Much commercial activity accrued to Crane from Burns and the surrounding County area as goods and supplies of every description were freighted to and from the railroad. The post office was re-established on October 11, 1916, to accommodate much of the anticipated and actual growth in the Crane area.

At the town's zenith it supported five restaurants, four hotels, two general merchandise stores, a dance hall, a newspaper, bank, and a movie theater. Numerous residences were built in the townsite, and Crane was taking on the appearance of a thriving settlement. At about the same time that the railroad was completed into Crane, many Burns residents were attempting to rally public support to have the railroad line extended into the County seat. Timber, among other regional products, was growing in importance, and it was believed that a railhead in Burns was essential.

Finally, after much discussion and effort, the Fred Herrick Lumber Company and the Union Pacific Railroad completed laying of the tracks into Burns in 1924. In 1929 Hines Lumber Co. established its primary operations on the edge of Burns and the town's ascendance in social and economic affairs was guaranteed. The town of Hines became the official legal entity where the plant was established, but the overall economic effect on the area was dramatic.

Gradually, the town of Crane began to decline due to a combination of events, primary being the extension of the railroad into Burns and the loss of its uniqueness as the only railhead in the county. In addition, a series of fires caused serious damage to the structures of the town. In 1930 the west side of Main Street burned, and all but three buildings were demolished. In 1938 a fire that started in a service station garage burned most of the buildings on the east side of the main street. The fires were difficult to contain because there was no available city water at that time.

In 1923 a County-supported boarding school was established to provide secondary education to the area's residents. Due to the vastness of Harney County, there were many families who lived in remote places, making a daily bus trip to a high school unfeasible. Ranch families from as far as 138 miles enrolled their children in this boarding school. The main building of the school burned in 1967 and has been replaced with a more modern structure.

Today there is little left in Crane to indicate its once unique position in the transportation network of the County. Only a few of the original buildings survive, and close scrutiny of the main street will result in discovering remnants of sidewalk, foundations, abandoned cellars, and other artifacts. The major structures remaining, in addition to Crane Union High School, are the Crane Store, a portion of the railroad station, an old red brick movie theater that now serves as a Mormon church, and various residences.

Rating
Significance: High. One of the major settlements in Harney County but has declined in importance in recent years.
Integrity: Low. Not many of the original structures remain.

5.9 Denio

Township 41S, Range 35E, Section 20

Aaron Denio was born in Illinois in 1824 and emigrated to California in 1860. For the next 25 years he was active in milling, farming, and mining in California and Nevada, after which he decided in 1885 to relocate to the southern edge of Oregon. At age 61 Denio and his wife came from Paradise Valley and established a station and hotel which came to bear his name. Denio was regarded as a pioneer in the Paradise Valley area of Nevada where he had been in numerous confrontations with hostile Indians and had raised a large family, most of whom had already left home by 1885.

In addition to operating a stage station and hotel, Aaron Denio served as the postmaster for seven years. A description of Denio's enterprise written in 1905 was as follows:

> The station buildings are on the Oregon side. The hotel is a 2-story structure, the first story being adobe and has a mud roof. The place looks thrifty and well kept. Mr. Denio is very pleasant and cordial and so is Mrs. Denio (Bragg, p. 46).

Ultimately, Denio and his wife retired, leased the property to J. S. Peterson, and moved to a little house just north of the stage station. Aaron Denio died in 1907. Just as Denio was the dominant figure on the Oregon side of Denio, the Schubner brothers were the primary entrepeneurs on the Nevada side. Mose and Sol Schubner operated a thriving merchandizing business that furnished supplies for the sheepmen and cattlemen of Humboldt County in Nevada and those in southern Oregon as well. Mining was also an important economic activity in this region, and inhabitants on both sides of Denio were often involved in mining of gold, silver, and copper.

After the death of Aaron Denio in 1907, his son, L. F. Denio, continued to reside in the area and operate a small ranch just below Denio in Nevada, which he leased from his mother. Over the years the Nevada side of Denio gradually became dominant for undetermined reasons, and the citizens petitioned the U.S. federal government to have the post office, which had been established about 1888, moved to the Nevada side. After a great deal of discussion the decision was finally made to allow the transfer, and the citizens on the Oregon side moved most of their structures across the state line into Nevada. Many loaded their small dwellings and other buildings on skids and simply pulled them the one-half mile to relocate in Nevada.

Denio, which is located in a flat-bottomed valley about 150 miles south of Burns, almost does not exist today in Oregon. One deteriorating wood structure remains a short distance from the state line, long since abandoned and conveying a certain sense of dejection. Almost directly on the state line in Oregon stands a sod house which is referred to by Denio residents as the "Indian shack" or "village." Transient Indians have periodically occupied the house over the years, and it reflects considerable neglect. The structure measures 16 by 15 1/2 feet, has windows on the south, west, and north sides, and has one door that opens to the west. It has a slightly pitched earthen covered roof supported by juniper poles about 8 feet in length. The sod house is rapidly disintegrating from the natural elements. Some speculate that this small house is all that remains of the original Aaron Denio home, but this is unclear and not well supported by historical records.

Rating
Significance: Medium. One of the principal stops on the north to south transportation route.
Integrity: Low. Little remains of Denio, Oregon.

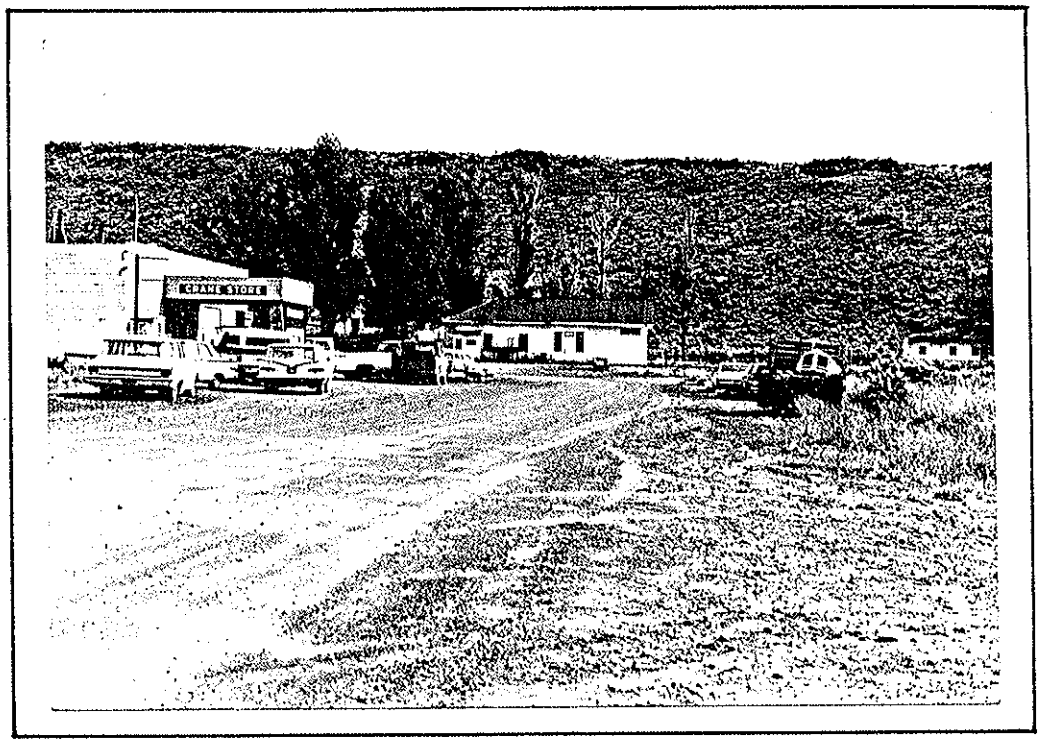
5.10 Diamond

Township 29S, Range 33E, Section 32

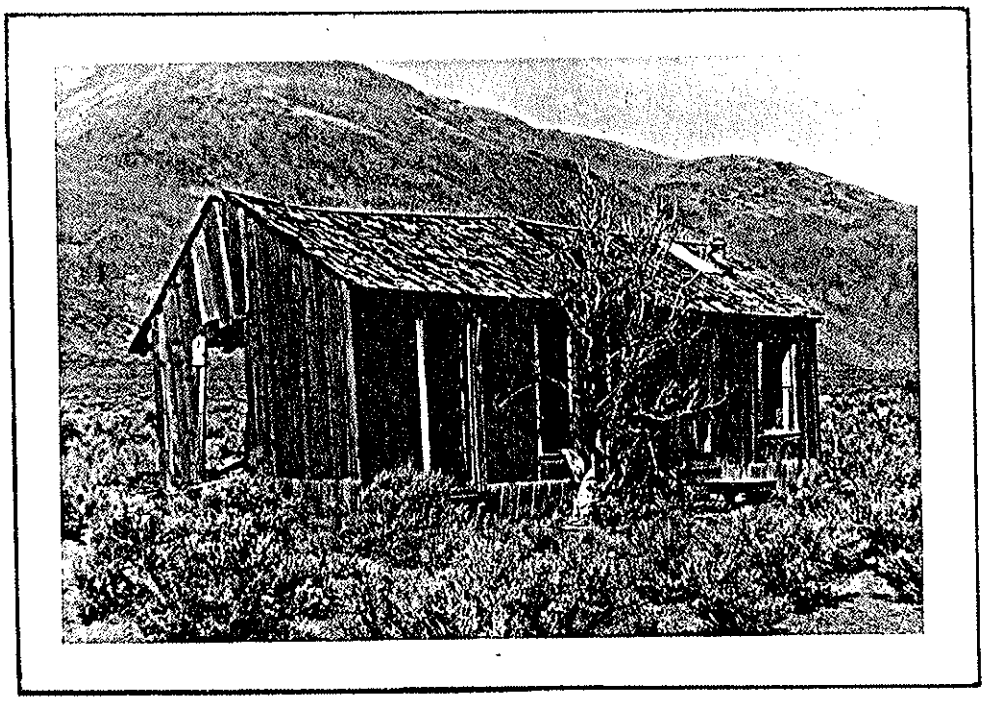
Diamond, a town whose name is derived from the historic Mace McCoy Ranch located nearby, stands almost deserted today. Empty structures remind many longtime Harney County residents of a more prosperous and bustling yesteryear when Diamond was a hub of activity. It is thought that Mrs. Dolly Kiger named the town in 1874 as well as the craters located northwest of the town after the diamond-shaped brand used by the McCoy Ranch.

The post office in the Diamond area has been moved many times since its first establishment in 1887. A. T. Clark established the first post office in his store on April 23, 1887, approximately three miles west of the present town of Diamond. For unknown reasons it was subsequently moved to Diamond where it was housed in a new structure constructed by Marion Horton and George Smyth in about 1897. One source indicates that the post office has had over seventeen postmasters and assistant postmasters.

At the turn of the century Diamond was growing into a major merchandising outlet for ranchers, sheepmen, and travelers. It was a common sight to observe



5.8 Crane



5.9 Denio

camptenders making large purchases in Diamond to restock the solitary sheep-herders who spent their lives with the sheep. Often the herders as well as camptenders spent days and sometimes weeks at the Diamond Hotel during periodic rest periods. The two stores in Diamond were centers of much activity, and of course the saloon, with its special charm for people accustomed to solitary living, attracted many clients. At its zenith Diamond had a population of about fifty people.

"Old Man Clark," as he was known by his friends, died in the 1890's. Marion Horton assumed the postmaster's duties as well as managed a store in Diamond. Clark's general store became a popular meeting spot for people dropping in to pick up mail, shopping for supplies, and general socializing with the area's residents.

Around 1907 a stone building was erected by Charlie Hawkins, a local stone mason, and the post office was moved to the new structure. A second story was added using the wood from the old Horton store. Claude Smyth constructed another store across the steet from the stone building and Diamond began to grow. Lumber for Smyth's building was taken from Coon Town in Happy Valley. The post office was subsequently moved to the new Smyth store where it remained for a period. Later an electrical fire demolished Smyth's business building.

The stone building constructed by Charlie Hawkins came to serve, in addition to being a store and post office, as a community meeting place and dance hall. In the early decades of the twentieth century it became a common occurrence for the residents in the surrounding area to gather on a weekly basis for lively fiddle music, John Barleycorn, and occasional fisticuffs. In the early 1920's the top portion of the stone building, which was constructed of wood, burned, leaving only the ground floor which continued in use. It was once again used as a store and post office. The building was purchased to be used as a Grange Hall and general community center and continued in this capacity until a local resident, Rex Clemens, donated in 1973 a modern metal building for the same purposes.

Over a period of general decline Diamond began to lose its prominence as a center of social and economic activities. More fires occurred, eliminating other structures, fewer travelers passed through the town because of improved transportation networks, the sheep industry was greatly reduced by various factors and other events contributed to the decline of the town.

In about 1961, an old school was moved by Ben Pearson into Diamond from two miles west of town, to be used as a residence by Bernice Pearson. The post office was moved into the old school building, and Marie and Louise Moore performed the postal duties for the community.

All that remains of the once active and thriving town of Diamond is the old hotel, which no longer rents rooms but serves as a residence, the abandoned stone community hall, the empty school building, a stone cellar, and two residences. One of the homes, the McWilliams residence, occupies the Old Dean Horton homestead. Dean Morton was the brother of Marion Horton. The Horton bunkhouse, barn, and sod cellar still remain on the property. The ubiquitous poplar trees, which are over 100 years old, shade the McWilliams home and mark on the horizon the remains of the historic village of Diamond.

Rating
Significance: Medium. Was a social and commercial center for farming and ranching activities.
Integrity: Medium. Some of the original structures remain standing.

5.11 Diamond Hotel

Township 29S, Range 33E, Section 32
Present Owner: Mrs. Brookshire

One of the remaining structures in Diamond that has played a significant role in the town's history is the two-story blue Diamond Hotel. Its spacious lobby, now the living room in a private residence, has witnessed the coming and going of the area's residents since its construction in about 1898. In addition to providing lodging and meals to the guests, it has often served as a meeting place after social gatherings in Diamond. A not uncommon event was to schedule the customary midnight supper in connection with the town dances. These occasions were festive events planned and prepared by the whole community as a pot-luck supper and a mid-point in the evening's revelry.

Marion Horton constructed the Diamond Hotel just before the turn of the century to serve the travelling public, and at the same time erected his own home adjacent to the inn. Mr. and Mrs. Horton and the two children operated the hotel for a time, then sold the property to Sid Comegys. Mr. Comegys, being an enterprising man who recognized business opportunity, decided to add a saloon to the hotel in 1913. This addition provided additional interest to the hotel for many, and business was good as the clientele enjoyed the general saloon ambience and the opportunity to drink and gamble.

The hotel was again transferred to another owner when Anne Haines, whose husband had a store in the town of Narrows, traded land in that area for the property. She and her family moved to the Diamond Hotel in about 1916 and Sid Comegys relocated elsewhere. To the consternation of some local patrons, Mrs. Haines tore down the saloon, thus discontinuing its operation.

In 1919 the property again changed hands when Mrs. Haines sold out to Steve Seweard. Seweard, his wife Grace and his two sons, managed the establishment profitably and the inn became widely known for its good service and accommodations. Meals were prepared and served family style for 25¢ per person and tidy rooms were offered for $1.00 a night. One teacher is known to have lived at the hotel for the winter, but the more usual customer was the sheepherder, camptender, bachelor, cowhand, occasional traveler, and similar people.

As time went on the Seweards decided to end their marriage, and Grace subsequently married Claude Smyth. Grace and Claude Smyth leased the hotel to Rye and Nora Smyth in 1935 who continued its operation for five more years. For unknown reasons the hotel was closed in about 1940 and remained empty until 1947 when Nora Smyth's mother, Ella Smith, bought the property. Mrs. Smith occupied the old hotel, using it as her residence until she sold it to Russell Arnold and his wife. Russell and Leona Arnold moved into the Diamond Hotel building in 1960 or 1961. They constructed another structure where the saloon stood. The Brookshire residence still has the large front room that received the stream of guests who stayed at the hotel over the years. The rock cellar originally built by Marion Horton by the kitchen is still in existence today. The grand old

two-story Diamond Hotel with its eight to ten guest rooms continues to stand in Diamond today, but it no longer serves the traveling public as an inn.

Rating
Significance: Medium.
Integrity: Medium. Some changes have been made to the building.

5.12 Drewsey

Township 20S, Range 35E, Section 36

An early settlement that became one of the major towns for the sparsely populated Harney County was Drewsey. Drewsey is located in the valley of the middle fork of the Malheur River and in 1883, the year of its founding, it was still part of Grant County. In that year what was to become Drewsey was established on a quarter section of land homesteaded by Abner Robbins and Elmer E. Perrington. Early records indicate, however, that Joseph Lamb was the earliest settler in the locality, coming in 1877. Robbins and Perrington started a general mercantile business in a 10- by 12-foot box-like structure and in the following years more commercial enterprises rapidly followed to serve the growing community. A post office was established in 1883, followed by a blacksmith shop, saloon, hotel and livery stable in 1884. By 1886 about 60 settlers with their families had chosen this locale 40 miles northeast of present day Burns and close to Drinkwater Pass. The opening of the Malheur Indian Reservation to settlement provided the impetus for attracting people to the general area that became a center of livestock and agricultural activity.

Like many historical events in Oregon there is not agreement about the origin of this town's name, or even whether Gouge Eye was once the official designation as many sources contend. According to most chroniclers of Oregon history, the town was once named Gouge Eye after the method of resolving disputes. Castolia Drinkwater, a long-time Drewsey resident and member of a pioneer family, stoutly maintains that the colorful appelation never was more than a nickname. Sources do agree that Robbins applied for and was granted a post office in 1883, and that postal authorities were unenthusiastic about such an official designator. The name Drewsey was chosen to compliment a rancher's daughter, Drusey Miller, according to another source. The spelling was changed to Drewsey by the U.S. Post Office and the name has been applied ever since. Another interpretation holds that Pennington, Robbin's partner, had a sweetheart named Drewsey in Maine, and that he wanted to dedicate the town in her memory. Either interpretation speaks highly of the romantic proclivities of the town's founders.

With the passage of time Drewsey could boast a physician (Dr. W. L. Mardsen), several general stores, a saloon "with a high porch, making it very easy for the buckaroos to dismount and remount, its ceiling shot full of holes when the boys in a festive mood tried out their pistols" (Brimlow, p. 164), and numerous other enterprises. Other businesses included a livery stable, several hotels (Bartlett Hotel and City Hotel), and a grist mill designed to run on water power. Over a period of time there was erected a school, city hall, barber shop, firehouse, jail, meat market, drug store, bordello, and even a church (Presbyterian) to minister to the spiritual needs of a community which took its original name from combative resolution of conflict. At one time the population reached approximately 150 persons, but by 1970 it had dwindled to about 40.

Electricity came to Drewsey during World War II when the first light bulb was turned on Christmas Eve, 1942. Original plans called for a power program subsidized by the federal government, but finally Idaho Power Co. was selected to undertake the electrification program which was an extension from Harper, Oregon.

The most notable structures left in the town today are the Odd Fellows Hall, an abandoned Catholic Church, Porter-Sitz Store, a one-room jail, a tavern, and a garage where the post office is presently located. Other structures used for residences, storage, or standing empty occupy the town. A small school continues to operate, a rodeo grounds provides entertainment and a practice place for all manner of buckaroo skills, but it is the Porter-Sitz Store that provides the central node of commercial and social activity.

The Porter-Sitz Store is a direct descendent of the original structure and the business has changed hands numerous times. It is presently owned by Castolia Drinkwater, the town's oldest resident and most respected source of local history. The store is a general merchandise business in the best tradition of its predecessor, vending an enormous range of hardware, groceries, dry goods, and other necessary items for rural life. One source termed it, "the most general store in Oregon." Another center of socialization is the tavern owned by Gary Cronin, who recently (1976) purchased the Odd Fellows Hall with plans to raze the structure in order to construct a restaurant on the site. An aging wooden bell tower about 25 feet in height with its bell in place is a reminder of an earlier period when the hand-drawn, hand-pumped fire wagon was summoned to action. The tower sets next to the Odd Fellows Hall, but no longer is used since the distinctive fire wagon was taken to Pendleton several years ago.

The town of Drewsey continues to survive and provide residents of the area with needed services, although the larger town of Burns has ascended in commercial importance. The town once known as Gouge Eye certainly retains its important place in the urban history of Harney County.

Rating
Significance: High. One of the major settlements in eastern Harney County.
Integrity: Medium. Several of the original buildings remain.

5.13 First National Bank of Burns

Address: 398 N. Broadway, Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: F. H. and Kay Garland

The First National Bank in Burns was originally located across the street from its present site on Broadway St. The structure now occupies the corner of Broadway and Washington Streets. The bank was constructed in 1902 and served the growing Burns and Harney County area until it went into receivership during the Great Depression. The bank closed its doors on July 5, 1932.

Official court house records show that the building belonged to the First National Bank of Burns until February 13, 1934. From 1934 until June 22, 1943, U. S. and Iva L. Hackney owned the property. A. A. Bardwell became the owner in 1943 and continued until August 8, 1974. On Mr. Bardwell's death the building, which had been used to house his business, the Harney County Abstract and Title, was transferred to his son and daughter. William F. Bardwell and Geraldine

Kaiser held the property less than a year, then sold it to F.H. Bardwell and Kay Garland who are the present owners. The Garlands had been renting the old bank since about 1964 for their enterprise, the Harney County Insurance Agency and the Garland Realty.

The structure measures 45 by 26 feet and is about 30 feet high. The brick and plastered building has been remodeled several times, but continues to retain a distinctive exterior bank appearance. Two large display windows face onto Broadway on the east side, and the north side has three and one-half windows. Today the interior has been partitioned into three offices, a restroom, storage room. The original bank vault is still in the building.

Like so many businesses large and small during the chaotic 1930's, the First National Bank of Burns fell victim to financial insolvency and did not survive the era. The building, however, continues to serve a role in the commerce of Harney County.

Rating
Significance: Medium. For less than half the structure's lifetime, it served as a bank and held other businesses most of the time.
Integrity: Medium. Interior has been remodeled and partitioned.

5.14 Lawen Townsite

Township 25S, Range 32.5E, Section 5
Present Owner: Louise and James H. Banberry

Several original structures, scattered foundation stones, rusting pieces of metal and sagebrush presently occupy the original Lawen townsite on the northern side of Malheur lake. This settlement which served a general neighborhood from Island Ranch to Albritton came into being about 1887. By 1900 the census listed 27 persons, but at its peak the town attained a population of about 100 people. Many of the early settlers were considered to be squatters by the Pacific Livestock Co., which claimed the land under the Swamp Act of 1860. Among the buildings at Lawen were a saloon and dancehall, livery stable, drug store, blacksmith shop, hotel, two stores, a doctor's office (the widely known woman doctor, Dr. Illand), and school house. One source reports that a "house of ill repute" also existed in the town, but there is not agreement on this point among informants.

Oregon Geographic Names states that Lawen was probably named for Henry Lauen an early settler in the area. The change in spelling is thought to have come about through an early error that was repeated over time. U.S. postal records show that a post office was established at Lawen on June 24, 1891. One source noted that the early community north of Malheur Lake and around Saddle Butte was called "Del Norte." This nomenclature suggests a Spanish or Mexican influence in the area, possibly from the few but highly regarded Mexican buckaroos who came to Oregon. The population fluctuated somewhat, particularly during the six school months, but by 1920 when the road was rerouted past Lawen there very few people left. The Lawen Store, which presently constitutes Lawen, and its post office was moved in 1929 to its present location (see "Lawen"). Lawen School with a few alterations remains in the original Lawen townsite about as it was originally placed when it was moved from a site 2 1/2 miles to the south during

the earlier period of settlement. The last inhabitant left in 1950, but his house which is now used as a shed remains on the Banberry property.

Rating
Significance: High. One of the principal early settlements in Harney County.
Integrity: Low. Mostly foundations remain now on the townsite.

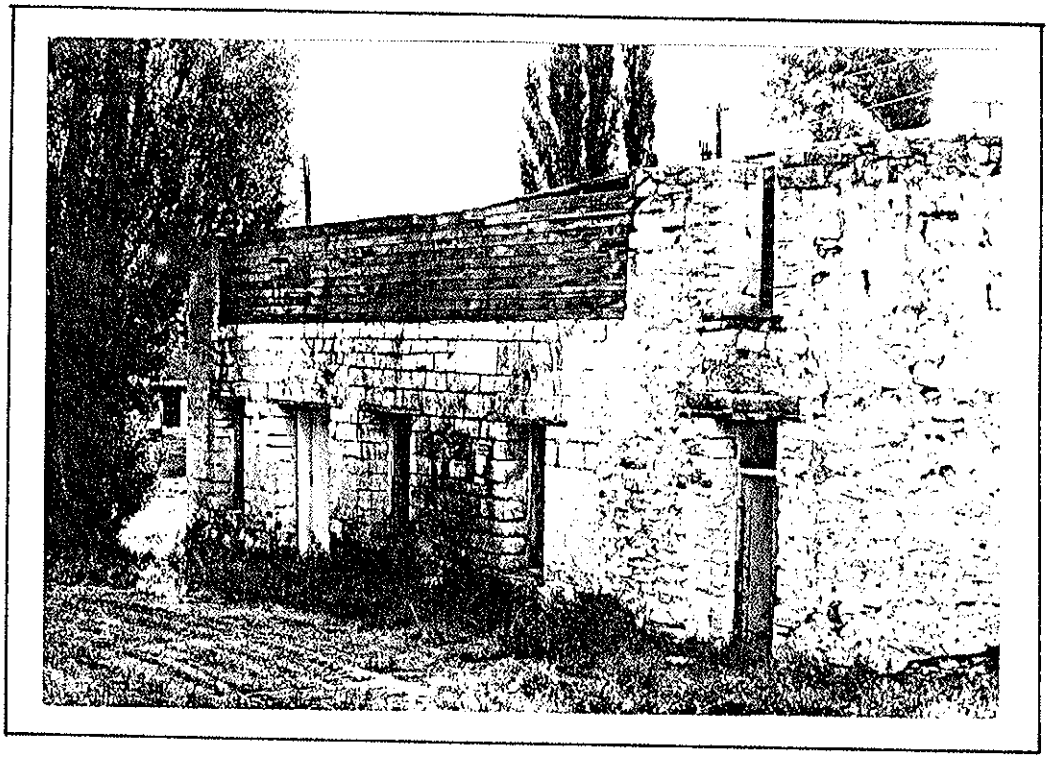
5.15 Lawen

Township 25S, Range 32.5E, Section 5
Address: Lawen, Oregon

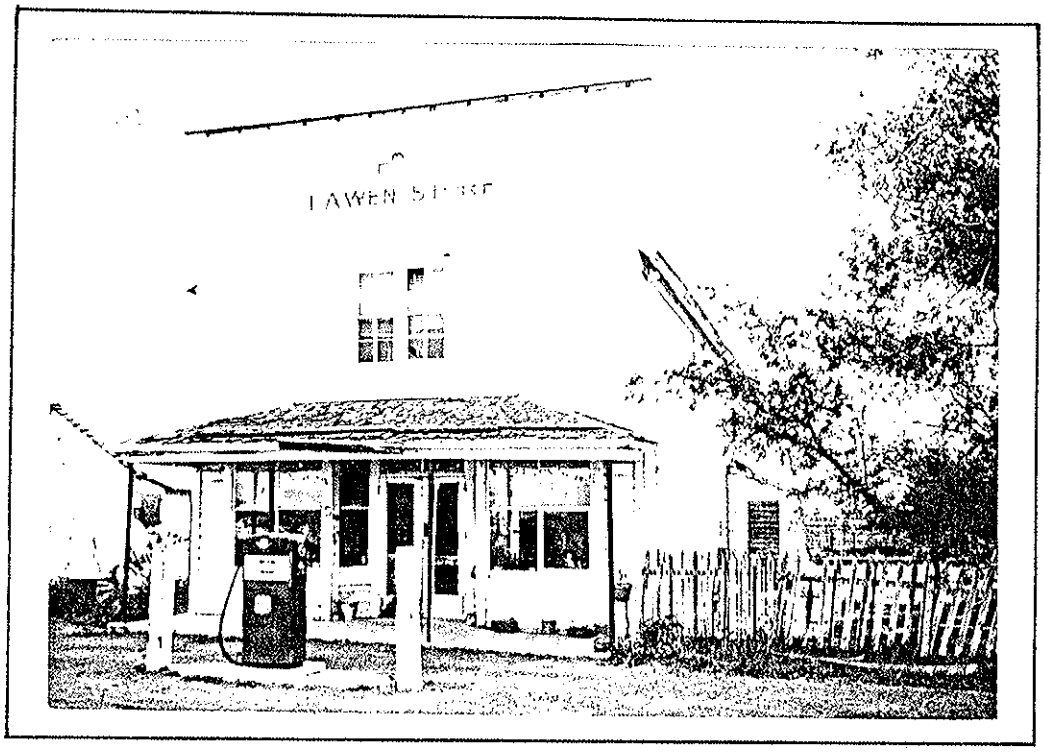
Lawen Store is the only building at the site that is now designated Lawen (see "Lawen Townsite"). U.S. Post Office records show that a post office was established at Lawen on June 24, 1891, but it is doubtful that Lawen Store was then in existence. It is presently the post office for Lawen. Sources do not agree on the construction date, but one believes that it was 1896 and that the builder was P. H. Gray. Harry Carry was thought to be the first owner, and there have been many other proprietors since then. The store originally stood on the old Lawen townsite approximately one mile distant, but was moved to its present location in 1929 to relocate on the newly constructed highway. The town of Lawen had already declined by that date. The building was moved with a team of horses without damaging or altering the original structure. The only change since its construction has been the addition of a small living area that was added to the back portion sometime before 1946. In 1946 the present owner Dorothy Carson and her now deceased husband Ted Carson purchased the store from Margaret Banberry. Mrs. Banberry had acquired the property from Star or Jim Buckland.

Over the years the Lawen Store has been a social and commercial node for the surrounding community. As a community resource it has proved its worth in serving as a meeting place for Sunday school sessions as well as raucous charvaris. The store's upper floor is a large open room which has resounded to lively fiddle music and social activity typical of an earlier era. The Women's Community Club would prepare food for a social event, local musicians provided their services free, and people from the outlying areas eagerly arrived and threw themselves into the general merriment. The unbridled exuberance coupled with an evening with "John Barleycorn" often culminated in brawling and conflict. Bill Catterson's charvari about 1948 was memorable for the number of revelers knocked down the stairs and the general brawling that occurred. After this occasion the owners, Ted and Dorothy Carson, decided to discontinue these social gatherings in Lawen Store. The lower story has been used as a general store in an earlier period, but today mostly vends candy and refreshments. The shopper now prefers to drive to Burns for large purchases, and the primary function for Lawen Store is that of dispensing mail. Lawen's post office serves about 25 ranching families. The store still sells gasoline from a pump located immediately in front of the building. The store continues to be an important gathering place for residents of the surrounding area who stop for their mail and to exchange news and pleasantries.

The original part of the structure is 24 feet wide and 50 feet long (exclusive of the living area added more recently). The shingled roof is pitched, being about 30 feet at the center span and sloping down to 22 feet. It was last



5.10 Diamond



5.15 Lawen

painted about 10 to 12 years ago, and the exterior reflects general neglect. Lawen Store's distinctive false front continues to be a significant landmark in the Lawen area even though its function as a social and commercial center has declined with the general loss of population.

Rating
Significance: High. Probably the only building remaining from what was Lawen.
Integrity: High. Still a functioning store with very few changes. An addition has been constructed on the rear of the building.

5.16 The Narrows

Township 26S, Range 31E, Section 26
Present Owner: Pat Church

Like many Oregon geographic names The Narrows derives its distinctiveness from the physical characteristics of the area in which the small community was located. A narrow channel connecting Malheur and Harney Lakes provides the only point of crossing when the lakes are full. Albert Hembree settled at the site in 1889, starting a business that included both a hotel and general store. The post office was transferred from Springer to The Narrows in 1892. Hembree operated the post office until 1897 at which time he closed his general store and allowed Charles A. Haines to take over operation of the post office. Hembree continued operating the hotel. Charles and Fred Haines opened their store in 1892 and began to build a clientele from the larger dispersed community of ranchers, farmers, travelers, and others. Five years later Charles bought Fred's interest in the store and continued the business.

During the winter of 1892-1893 the bridge was constructed at The Narrows. In 1942 another bridge was constructed, and it continues in service today. The original abutments of the earlier bridge can still be seen. The community that came to be known as The Narrows became a node of social and commercial activity by the first decade of the twentieth century. It had at one time two hotels, three saloons, a garage, a school, a post office, two livery stables, a restaurant, the largest general store for miles around, and a dance hall that attracted patrons from the far outlying districts. The community, which even had a doctor, began to decline in the late 1920's and 1930's and was abandoned in the 1940's. The ascendance of Burns as a commercial center contributed to the decline, but other forces were important as well. Other developments were the same as those that affected many Harney County villages, that is, droughts, grasshopper plagues, general lack of success with dry land farming, and the advent of better transportation.

Charley Haines, who was one of the better known inhabitants of The Narrows, died in 1916 leaving an estate of $365,000. The limestone remains of the storage portion of the general store, the stone one-room structure now called the "jail," and a wooden structure used as a school are the only remains of the village. The building thought to be a jail was actually a storage room built by Charley Haines for the purpose of storing flammable goods. The wooden building was used as a home by Charley Haines. It was used as a school several years after his death in 1916. A two-grave cemetary exists about 75 yards from the "jail," inside the refuge, and other graves are found on the ridge above the townsite.

Rating
Significance: High. Its unique geographic position between Malheur and Harney Lakes made it an important settlement.
Integrity: Medium. Several early structures remain, but these are rapidly deteriorating.

5.17 Ragtown Townsite

Township 32S, Range 30E,
Present Owner: Taft Miller

In 1911, some innovative, determined homesteaders, lacking building materials in the desert environment to make solid homes, erected temporary tents about five miles south of Rock Creek Ranch in the Catlow Valley. This collection of tents was appropriately known as Ragtown.

One of the pioneer women of Ragtown recalls the strenuous trip to the new home. She relates that there were twelve people in her party with hacks and schooners holding the camping gear and hay for the horses. She remembers she and others having to walk almost the entire distance of 100 miles from Bend cross-country to the future townsite.

That summer and fall of their arrival, the men first dug pits 7 or 8 feet deep, being slightly smaller than the tents. The tents were fastened down over the holes and wood-burning cook stoves were installed. One woman remembers the canvas homes as being quite comfortable and warm. These hardy people also constructed several barns made of rabbit wire, posts, and packed sagebrush. Their second project was the digging of a well. It became a necessity for the nearest well water had to be hauled three miles.

In the summer of 1912 (another source quotes the date as 1915) a post office called Berdugo was established nearby. Also built was a schoolhouse. The town's size was reflected in the elementary school enrollment of 21 students. The third summer in Ragtown a branch of the Harney County High School was constructed and had twelve pupils attend the first year.

As the town grew more prosperous, many settlers began to build homes of native stone to replace the tents. Also, some families hauled lumber from Riverside, Oregon, to build their homes. Doc Tullock and his wife Mable lived about one-half mile west of the schoolhouse in Ragtown. He not only was a trained medical doctor but also served as a veterinarian and lawyer for the small community.

A noted author of Pacific Northwest novels, Anne Shannon Monroe, paid a two-week visit to Ragtown. She eventually wrote about the town in a novel called Happy Valley. Some Ragtown inhabitants feel the book is mostly fictitious.

A popular tradition in Ragtown during the winter months, as in most small towns in Harney County, were the dances. Every two weeks whole families would gather together at the schoolhouse and dance until daylight with local banjo, guitar, violin, and piano music as background. The wives would prepare dishes of food they would bring, and at midnight dancers, musicians, and children would convivially eat the varieties of food which they brought. Sleepy children would be covered by quilts while their elders would dance endlessly.

Ragtown declined and finally was abandoned completely during the 1920's. World War I drew many of the young people away to join the services, and year after year of devastating droughts caused too many hardships for the farmers. All that remains of the unique town is part of a sagebrush barn and chicken coop and part of a rock pathway.

Rating
Significance: Low. One of many settlements that sprang up in the Catlow Valley and subsequently declined.
Integrity: Low. Only foundations remain.

5.18 Somerange

Township 34S, Range 32.5E, Section 1

In the early 1920's settlers on the western slope of Steens Mountain petitioned for the establishment of a post office, with the suggestion that it be called Steens in honor of the mountain nearby. Postal authorities, for unknown reasons, declined to accept this name, but accepted "Somerange" which was derived from the words "summer range." Stockmen used this area for their summer feeding grounds.

Somerange post office was established December 19, 1923, with Robert W. Bradeen of Blitzen being appointed the first postmaster. A small store or supply camp was maintained during summer months on Steens Mountain by the Bradeen family which operated under the business name of Bradeen Brothers. The Bradeens were merchants in the Catlow Valley, but their summer enterprise prospered because thousands of head of livestock were regularly moved through the area, and the concomitant needs generated in livestock management provided ample business opportunities. During the winter months when the livestock were at lower elevations, the store did not operate.

Changes in the immigration laws which affected the availability of Basque sheepherders, the advent of the Taylor Grazing Act, and other developments combined to drastically reduce the numbers of sheep that once found summer feeding grounds on the mountain. In 1926 the Bradeens decided to abandon the store, therefore Somerange post office was moved to a location a little to the west of the "P" Ranch. Robert Bradeen died, and Jesse L. Bradeen became postmaster on June 30, 1930. On October 1, 1930, the Somerange name was dropped in favor of Frenchglen, and the post office continues to operate in the community of Frenchglen today.

Rating
Significance: Low. Short-lived commercial establishment.
Integrity: Low. Little remains.

5.19 Voegtly Building

Address: 307 N. Broadway, Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Raymond and Mrs. Voegtly

Charles H. Voegtly, one of seventeen children of a Swiss emigrant who settled in Pennsylvania in 1807, came to Burns in 1886. The journey from Pennsylvania was carried out over a period with sojourns in San Francisco, Portland, and The Dalles, Oregon. On arrival to Burns, Voegtly engaged in the livestock business and owned productive hay land on a site now within the city limits. This area which became known as Voegtly Field also contains the original Voegtly family dwelling today. Voegtly, a trained machinist who apprenticed as a youth in Pittsburg, was naturally interested in hardware. The Voegtly hardware business was started in 1891 on a site just to the north of the present Voegtly Building on Broadway Street.

Harry Smith was contracted to construct a building for the family enterprise in 1899 and completed the structure the same year. Using his own kiln, Smith manufactured all of the red bricks needed to construct the two-story business building, which contains 2,250 square feet on each floor or a total of 4,500 square feet in all. Smith was the first mason to construct fireproof, permanent structures in Burns. He is responsible for building the Masonic Building as well as several other remaining structures in Burns. The original construction cost was less than $8,000, which in contemporary terms would seem to be an insignificant amount for 4,500 square feet.

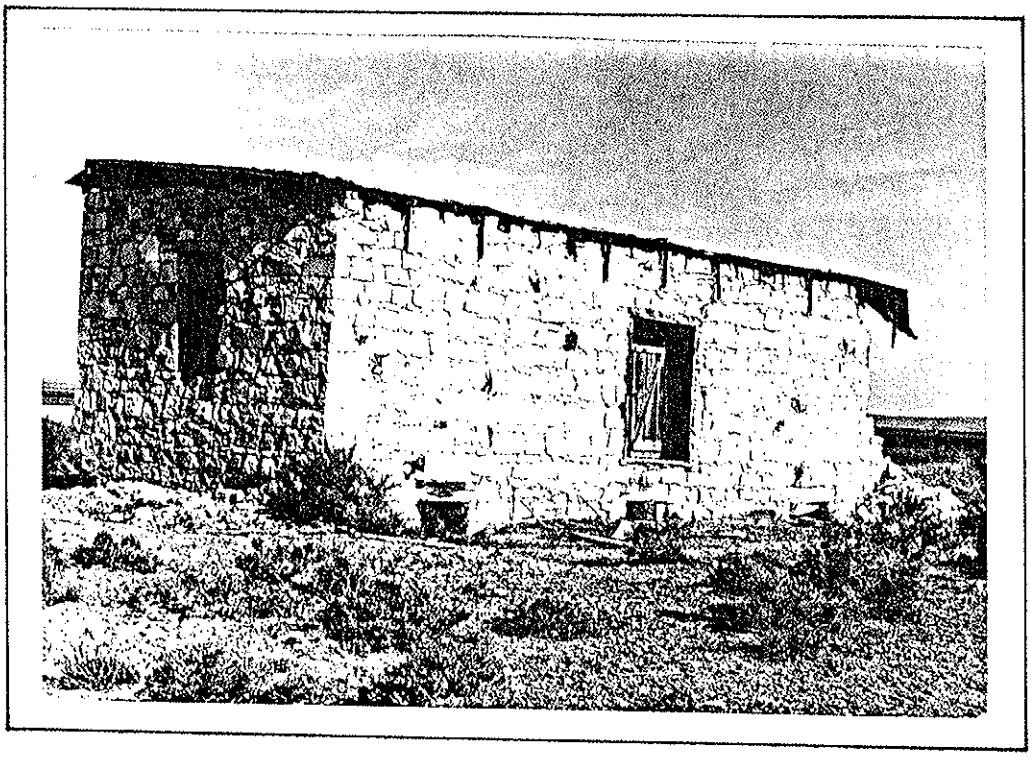
In 1902 Charles Voegtly took a partner into the firm, Charles E. Kenyon, and for a period did business under the name of Voegtly and Kenyon. A letterhead from an early piece of correspondence well documents the firm's comprehensive scope:

> Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Hardware, Tinware, Crockery, Cuttery, Revolvers, Ammunition, Guns, Pumps, Machine Oils, Etc.

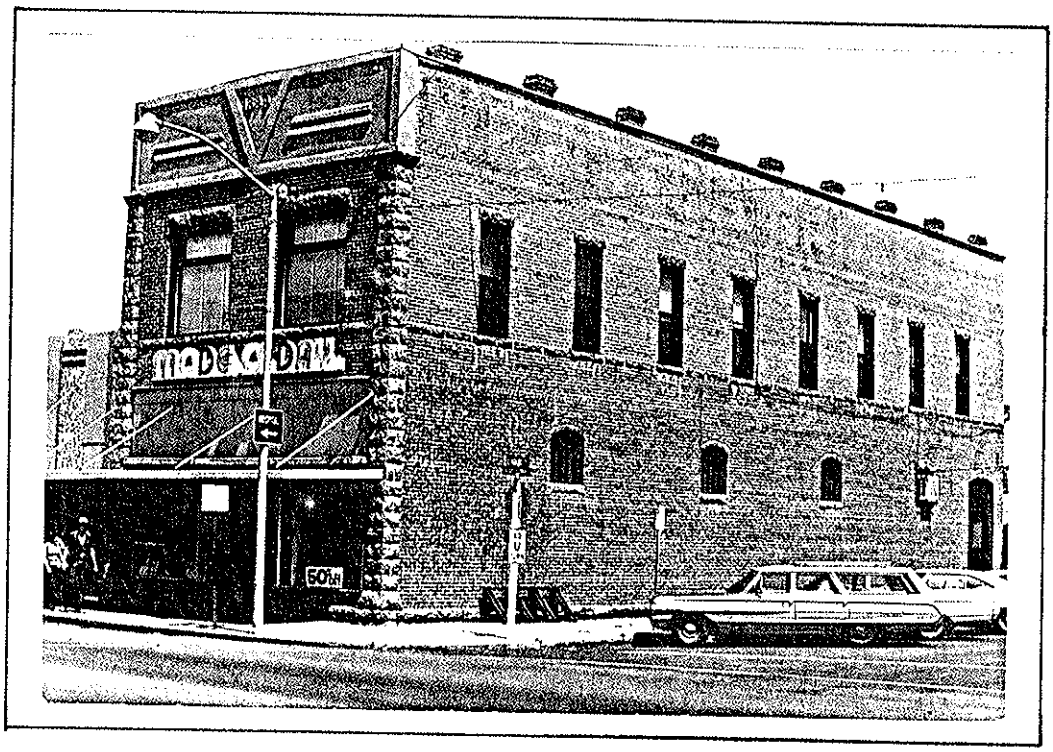
Another source points out that the store had a "complete stock of hardware, paints, oils, stoves, doors, windows, sash, tinware, and all that is handled in the trade," and additionally, "...the firm has one of the finest tin and repair shops in the entire community" (West. Hist. Pub. Co., p. 703).

The wooden structure next door to the Voegtly Building, which formerly housed the store, was totally destroyed by fire in 1912, but the brick structure was undamaged. It was speculated that the building which was owned and utilized by Voegtly as a warehouse was destroyed through the work of an arsonist. Charles Voegtly operated a hardware business from 1891 until 1929 when he sold it to a Mr. Lakin from Bend, who continued with Bend Hardware Co. until 1934. The building was vacated in that year, but was again leased in 1934 to an individual who did business under the name of Wenzel Grocery. It was sandblasted prior to Mr. Wenzel's occupation. The grocery store was continuously operated until 1970 when the present women's apparel store, Mode-O-Day, occupied the building. The faded word "Hardware," which was painted on the north wall in 1899 by Fred Black, can still be seen today.

The interior has been redecorated and remodeled on numerous occasions, but the major alterations were those relating to the installation of modern wiring, plumbing, and heating. In 1923 plumbing was installed, and in 1926 electrical wiring eliminated the need for acetylene gas which had been the source of illumination. A hand-operated elevator, the first in Burns, was completed in 1912 and improved access to the upper floor.



5.16 The Narrows



5.19 Voegtly Building

The second floor of the Voegtly Building has served as a business location for a wide variety of enterprises over the years. Among its uses has been space for the Masonic Order; a telephone office; offices for Biggs and Biggs, attorneys at law, and Foley and Hodler, another law partnership; a beauty parlor; law offices for William Bardwell; a weather bureau; a chiropractor's office; and, finally, the upper floor was converted to apartments about 1951. The Building is the second oldest major commercial building in Burns, predated by the Brown Building which was constructed in 1896.

The Building reflects a balance of stone, brick, and decorative fenestration. The base course is of heavy native stone used to ensure that the foundation not only appears strong but indeed possesses strength. The west facade or front is framed on each side by a corner pillar of native stone hand hewn to fit. These also emphasize strength and rise to just under the facia plate, showing a date and random design of stucco over brick. Early photographs of the building display a slightly different facade without the stucco. All of the windows are carried by a large sill stone and protected on the second story by a stone lintel and on the first floor by a curved double row of brick in a slight arch. The front and south side are broken by a rock divider section running at the second story window sill level. This divider provides a visual break in the brick pattern as it rises from foundation to the simple cornice moulding at the top.

The nine chimneys at the top of the south wall provide a break in the horizon along the top of the structure and correspond to the spaces between the eight second-story windows. The four windows on the first story match up with the spaces between every other window on the second story. This type of balance in structural openings probably has its roots in Europe. Four of the chimneys were used for heating, and the remaining five were either vents or placed there for decorative balance. The careful attention to all aspects of the structure--sides, front, top, corners--reflects a striving for architectual balance on the part of the designer builder.

During its period of operation in early Burns, the Voegtly Hardware Store was the principal supplier of all manner of town, farm, and ranch goods for Harney County settlers. The six-horse jerk-line team pulling a wagon loaded with hardware supply was a common sight in front of this early town landmark. As in all turn-of-the-century photographs of downtown Burns, the Voegtly Building today continues to occupy a dominant place in the cityscape.

Rating

Significance: High. A building that has been in the center of the business community since its construction.

Integrity: Medium. The interior has been remodeled. The exterior remains the same except for the slight facade alteration.

5.20 Voegtly House

Present Owner: S. and K. Woyak

Nicholas Voegtly, C. H. Voegtly's father, came to Burns in the 1880's and purchased 160 acres of land from George McGowan, the early settler known for naming the town. Shortly thereafter Nicholas Voegtly returned to Pittsburg and died, leaving his estate to thirteen heirs. In addition to the Burns property Voegtly owned other properties in Pennsylvania, and it was these in which most interest was shown by the heirs, except for C. H. Voegtly. Charles traded all of his interest in the estate for the 160-acre ranch in the remote Oregon country. This was satisfactory for all heirs except one uncle named Jack who persisted in demanding his share of the Oregon property. A judge finally resolved the issue by awarding Uncle Jack six acres in one corner of the 160 acres.

C. H. arrived to Burns in 1886 and occupied the Voegtly Ranch on land that was to become a significant part of downtown Burns. The six acres awarded to the uncle were never utilized, and in 1938 Raymond Voegtly, son of Charles Voegtly, purchased the acreage at a Sheriff's auction to pay for back taxes. Charles Voegtly married twice in his life, his first wife being Mary Tupker who gave birth to Nicholas H. and Flora. Mary died in 1900 and C. H. married Luella Williams and two children resulted from this union: Charles Raymond and Frank L.

In 1907 Charles decided to construct a family home on the property that was to become known as Voegtly Field. Accordingly, he hired Claude Brown and his father and Billy White to build the dwelling. The site originally had three structures, one a log cabin and the others, small rooms constructed of boards. These had been connected in such a way as to form a small modest three-room dwelling which was razed when the new construction was begun.

When the railroad was extended from Crane into Burns in 1924, the railroad depot was located in the middle of the Voegtly property. The line proceeded diagonally through the 160 acres which over a period of time were sold to various interests. From 1929 until 1971 lots were sold from the original acreage, ultimately leaving only the ten lots that presently make up the property upon which the Voegtly House stands.

The House was occupied by the Voegtly family until 1937 when Raymond and his wife moved to live on the second floor of the Voegtly Building on Broadway Street. In 1938 Roy McGee purchased the home, and he in turn sold it to Charlie and Kathereen Schroeder in 1943. Charlie Schroeder died about 1945 and his widow subsequently married S. Woyak, and the two have lived in the dwelling since that date.

The Voegtly House reflects some obvious Georgian and Colonial influence with its porch pillars and dentil moulding ringing the entire house under the first-story eves. All eves are boxed and finished, decorative jigsaw coutouts adorn major eve tops in sunburst motifs, and all windows are topped with wood cornices. Jigsaw cutouts also adorn the bay window eve, and the gable roof is lined with small dentil moulding. Walls have lap siding, and covering the roof are tin shingles which are original and have been painted numerous times. Ray Smith hand-turned all of the spindles and columns used on the porch. The House was originally cream color, was once painted red, and is presently white with a red roof. There was no fireplace built into the house in 1907, but Schroeder installed one during his occupation. There are three chimneys which vented the wood stoves first used for heating. The House now has baseboard hot water heating. There was no plumbing originally except for a kitchen sink, although some

modification was made in the teens by the Voegtlys. The bathroom had a zinc bathtub into which heated water was poured for the periodic baths. A septic tank, toilet, and porcelain bathtub were installed about 1919. Connection into the city sewer was made in the 1930's. The House had its own source of water with the well in the cellar, and there was a windmill as well. About 1929 Raymond Voegtly dug out a basement.

A stone milk house, as it was called by the original occupants, adjoins the House. During the early period of its occupation, the Voegtly family had five milk cows, and this structure was used to store the dairy products. This structure was not built at the same time as the House, but was added not long afterwards.

Few pioneer families have been as notably interwoven into early Burns history as the Voegtlys. The Voegtly hardware enterprise served the community for over 35 years, and the Voegtly Building today continues as a significant landmark in the commercial district of the town. Until recently Raymond Voegtly was active in the business life of Burns, and his career has included a stint as Mayor of the city. Much of the town has grown up around and included the 160 acres originally owned by Nicholas Voegtly. Contemporary city maps indicate the Voegtly Addition as part of the city's platted area. The Voegtly House remains very close to its original design and has been maintained in good condition. The ten lots upon which the House sits lends an impression of a large estate, and the mature trees and well-maintained appearance contribute to a claim for an historical niche in Burns' history.

Rating
Significance: Medium. Home of a prominent family in Burns.
Integrity: High. Well maintained, with some alterations.

6. TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

6.1 Alberson Townsite

Township 30S, Range 36E, Section 31
Present Owner: United States Government

The site that is still identified on some maps as Alberson is located on the northeast end of Steens Mountain. William Alberson and his wife and their ten children settled near the south end of Juniper Lake near Follyfarm Road and established a freight stop sometime around the turn of the century. The family had previously operated a way station at Miranda Lane where a small hotel and stable were maintained to serve the travelling public. Mrs. Alberson cooked meals for which weary and hungry travellers paid $1.25, and an additional $.25 was charged to care for the horses. Mr. Alberson often entertained guests by playing his fiddle.

After moving to Alberson from Miranda Lane, a post office was established on September 20, 1907, in conjunction with the family business. Eventually a rock structure which remains today was constructed, as well as a wooden house, a hotel, and a saloon. One source believes the materials used in the buildings at Alberson were furnished by the Pacific Livestock Company (PLS). A long rectangular wood and stone structure that appears to have been a stable also exists on the site today. Some confusion existed among sources consulted with regard to the number of structures at Alberson, particularly concerning the number of saloons. An orchard of apple, peach, and plum trees was planted at the location, and eventually other settlers made Alberson their home.

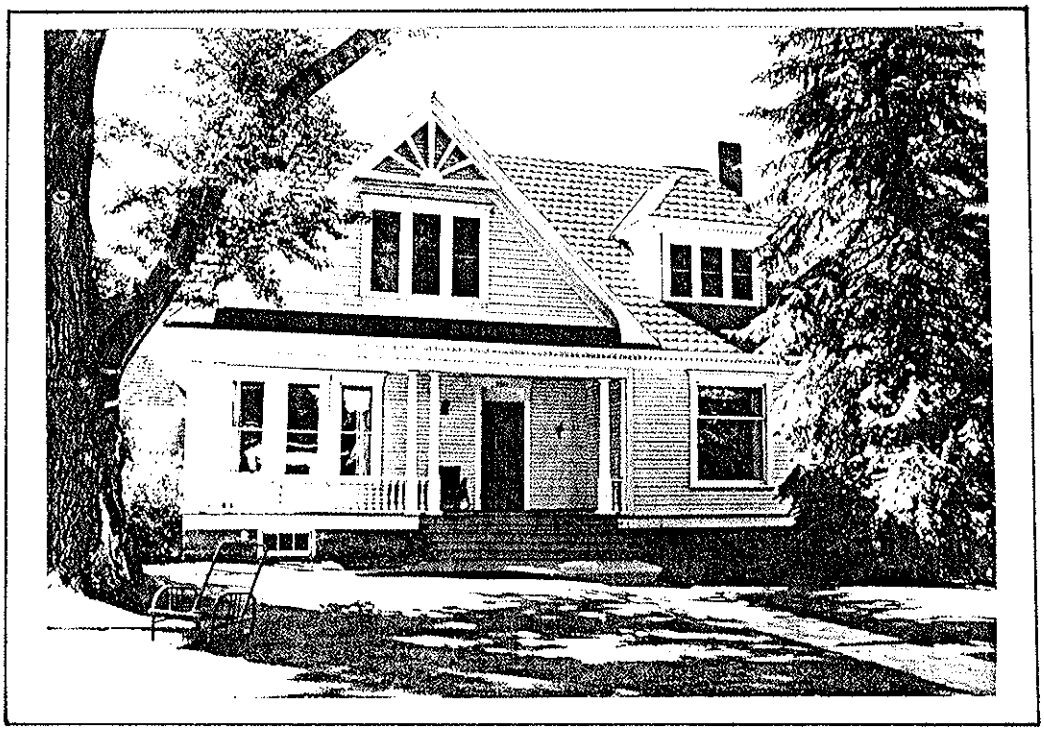
One source stated that with the advent of Prohibition, Alberson moved his home four miles north of the site, since the saloon business could not be legally continued. At this location he attempted to capitalize on the new motorized transportation by installing gasoline pumps for the autos that were beginning to frequent the area.

Little could be found that gave information on the whereabouts of the Albersons after the Depression settled over the country. One source noted that the Albersons left for parts unknown. Oregon Geographic Names states that the town of Alberson was moved several times during this period. Postal records indicate that the Alberson post office was closed September 29, 1930. This date probably marks the end of Alberson as a townsite.

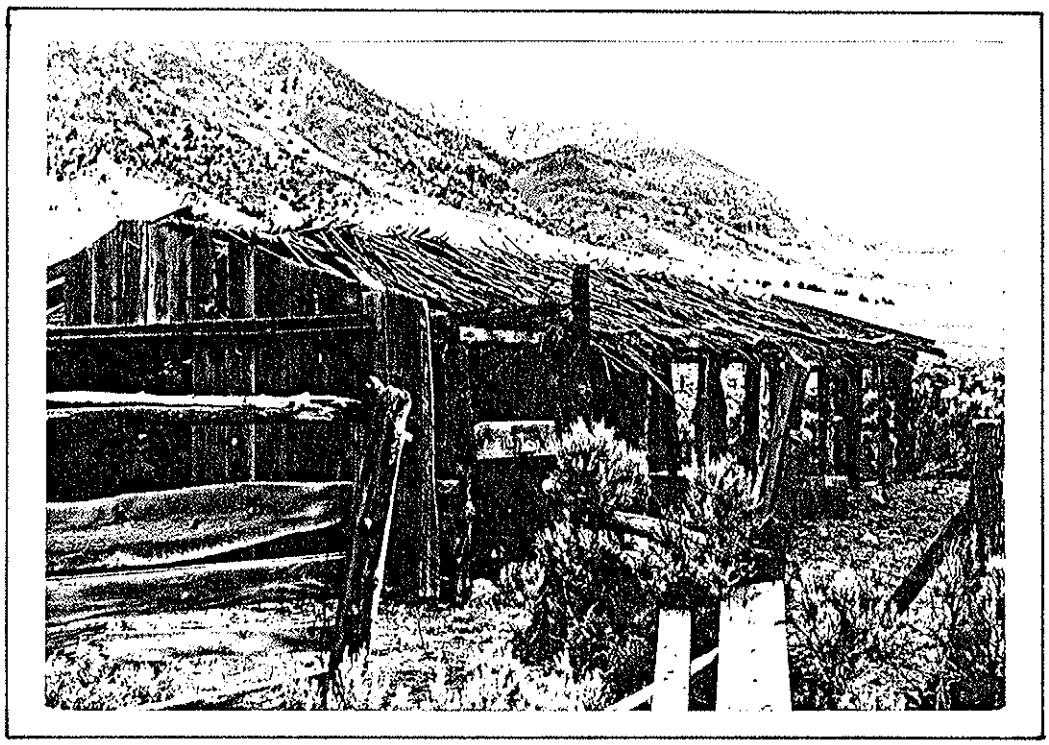
Rating
Significance: Medium. A settlement that figured in a major transportation route in Harney County.
Integrity: Low. Only two structures in deteriorating condition remain today.

6.2 Albritton Townsite

Township 25S, Range 32.5E, Section 12
Present Owner: Mrs. Clarette Nunley, Jenkins Ranches, Marie Fritz



5.20 Voegtly House



6.1 Alberson Townsite

T. C. Albritton, an optimistic developer from the midwest, platted a townsite for more than sixty lots in anticipation that it would be at the junction of two rail lines. He understood railroads extending from Adel to Albritton and from Burns to Albritton would be constructed.

Albritton and his brother had homesteaded at the northwest base of Saddle Butte between Crane and Burns in 1910. Twenty other settlers joined the Albrittons and constructed a twenty-room hotel, dining room, store, kitchen, school (later moved to Voltage), livery stable, and a barbershop that also served as a dancehall. Travellers would stop at Albritton to rest.

Unfortunately for Albritton, a dispute ensued over which railroad company should own the land the government had granted to the railroads. The results were disastrous for the town. The line from Adel was abandoned and the Union Pacific line from Crane to Burns bypassed the town completely. In addition, the road from Crane to Burns extended 1.5 miles north of Albritton, missing the town completely. The last residents of Albritton left discouraged in about 1921 or 1922, according to one source. Another historian believes the town was abandoned in 1927. A fire consumed the remaining structures so that all that remains today are the rock foundations of the hotel.

Rating
Significance: Low. The settlement existed a very short period.
Integrity: Low. Only foundations remain today.

6.3 Burns-Canyon City Road

Address: Harney County, Oregon
Present Owner: Multiple ownership

A major transportation route over which much commercial activity occurred during the late 1800's and early 1900's was the Burns to Canyon City Road. This route linked the two county seats together, thus it was heavily used during this period. Because of the difficult terrain over which these early roads passed, stages and freighters were forced to stop every 15 to 20 miles to rest and water horse teams. The first stop on Burns to Canyon City route ordinarily was at Coal Springs. From Coal Springs the road continued northward into the Trout Creek area where many stages and freighters stopped at Cross's Ranch for refreshment. From there the road continued into the Silvies Valley on the east side where it intersected another road that led to Harney City. Many stopped at the Bennett Ranch to water horses again, then journey on through Soda Flats. From Bennett's Ranch the route continued into Bear Valley and to a site that is now the town of Seneca, but at that time was the location of the ranches of Southworth and Lincoln. The road continued on over Canyon Grade on the east side of Canyon Creek and crossed the creek onward toward Canyon City.

Though rigorous and time-consuming compared to today's fast pace of travel, the freighters and stages were an integral part of a community's growth and contact with the outside world.

Rating
Significance: High. A major transportation route leading to and from Burns.
Integrity: Medium.

6.4 Coon Town

Township 28S, Range 33E, Section 23
Present Owner: Allen Otley

The jolly, red-cheeked fellow with the full beard drew people from all over Happy Valley to hear his stories and accept his warm hospitality. Sylvester "Coon" Smith was an effusive man who homesteaded 160 acres at the lower end of Happy Valley in 1884. With the help of his wife and two children, Harry and Carrie, he operated a ranch as well as a store and saloon. Travellers would stop at what came to be known as Coon Town and stay with the Smiths in their guest rooms in the upstairs of the two-story residence. One source holds that it was Mr. Smith's penchant for racoon stories that earned him the nickname of "Coon," although there are other explanations as well.

Mrs. Smith died a few years after the birth of her last child, and was followed by Coon in 1923. A local rancher named Darius "Rye" Smith acquired the property in 1926 when payment was not met on the mortgage. By 1928, few travelers were frequenting the once favored stop, as the road was relocated bypassing Coon Town. In an earlier day when Coon Town thrived, travellers would find a store, saloon, blacksmith shop, a two-story residence, cellar, barn and pig pens at the location. Coon managed a post office on the site, but it was called Smith. It lasted from March 2, 1895, to February 1, 1901. With the years of abandonment, the Smith Ranch has deteriorated from a once popular stopover and meeting place to a few abandoned structures. The remains of a stone building still stand, and the collapsed remnants of the cellar are easily identifiable. The building which housed the store and saloon was constructed of stone blocks and measures 18 by 35 feet, with a roof about 13 feet in height. It presently consists of five rooms.

Rating
Significance: Low. Played a small part in the history of transporation in Harney County.
Integrity: Low. Only the house is left standing.

6.5 Harney Lake Sand Gap

Township 26/27S, Range 31E
Present Owner: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

The Harney Lake Sand Gap had an important role in the history of Harney County even before settlers moved into the Harney Basin in numbers. The site consists of a channel gap through a large sand reef on the eastern side of Harney Lake. Its importance stems from it being the only route for travelers going northward who did not wish to go all the way around Malheur and Harney Lakes. Over the years the dunes appear to have periodically opened and closed the gap.

Peter Skeen Ogden, an early fur-trapper who travelled into eastern Oregon harvesting the abundant fur supply, crossed the reef in 1826. There is evidence that Captain Currey's party found the gap impassable in 1864 and was forced to skirt the edge of the lakes to arrive in the area where the future town of Burns was to stand. During the 1878 Indian uprising, Pete French and several others crossed the reef while in flight from pursuers on their way to Ft. Harney. As the cattle industry developed in the 1870's, it became common to drive cattle over the reef to avoid the trip around the lakes.

The fluctuations in this unique natural area have been the subject of much discussion by local residents. Giles French points out that until 1881, Malheur Lake had no outlet and remained full in the summer until lowered by evaporation. One popularly held viewpoint is that a buckaroo for Peter French was on the reef between the two lakes one day when the Malheur Lake reached the top of the sand barrier. Martin H. Brenton claimed to have kicked some sand with his boot, creating a small opening through which the water coursed westward into Harney Lake. This action, according to Brenton, caused Malheur Lake to start flowing into Harney Lake, thus lowering the level of Malheur Lake. This effect, however the cause is explained, is significant in that lowering the lake by just one foot exposed more than 10,000 acres of land. Contained in this development were the seeds for innumerable disputes regarding riparian rights. Others point out that the advent of irrigation on a large scale lowered the water level of Malheur Lake. The result of more dry land appearing between the water and the surveyed meander line was to have a profound impact on Pete French's cattle operations as time went on. Whether Brenton's toe opened the channel or not, the opening connecting Malheur and Harney Lakes has existed ever since.

Rating
Signficance: High. Important part in the transportation history in Harney County.
Integrity: High. Still exists today.

6.6 Harriman Townsite

Township 25S, Range 33E, Section 2
Present Owner: Harney County

Great expectations were held for the small town that sprung up on the southeast side of Warm Springs Butte in Harney County. H. Denman, a doctor who owned the land upon which the town of Harriman was founded, anticipated that the Oregon Short Line Railroad would pass by the town, thus creating a bustling commercial center. He named the settlement after Edward H. Harriman, the widely known railroad magnate who exercised enormous power in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

At its peak the town included the Denman Hotel, a store, warehouse, restaurant, barbershop, school house, and doctor's office. The population at this time was thought to be around twenty persons, but this declined as it became known that the railroad would not be constructed near the town. The residents of Harriman began to move away, and about 1927 the townsite was completely abandoned. The Hotel was moved to Crane, and the school house was moved to the Lyle Hill Ranch in 1936 to be used as a residence. Walter McEwen now owns the structure. Today no other structures are remaining on the Harriman townsite. The town's history represents the boom psychology characteristic of the early railroad building era.

Rating
Significance: Low. The town was short-lived, never becoming a viable settlement.
Integrity: Low. Nothing exists today.

6.7 Miranda Lane

Township 33S, Range 34E

Miranda Lane was a stage and freight stop between Mann Lake and Alvord Ranch on the much travelled Denio-to-Burns road. It was located at the base of Steens Mountain on Mosquito Creek around 1901. W. Alberson, who eventually moved his business establishment three times, constructed a two-story, five-room house and a barn to serve the travelling public. One source states that the structures were erected by the Pacific Livestock Company, while another holds that it was Alberson.

The traveller could pay about $.25 for overnight lodging and meals and an additional $.25 for feeding and care of his horse. The cost was $.25 for each horse cared for at the station. The stop carried the "lane" designation because the station was located between two fenced properties, thus creating a land through which frieght and other traffic could pass. The lane went through land owned by Miller and Lux and property owned by John Devine. The Devine property was leased to Miller and Lux. A man of Mexican descent named Frank Miranda purchased the station from Alberson and continued the operation with the aid of his rotund wife who was noted for her culinary expertize. Miranda had been a buckaroo on several nearby ranches. Evelyn Gilcrest, whose father was the general manager of the Miller and Lux cattle ranches in Oregon and Nevada, stayed for a period at this station.

The venture was never very successful and by the 1920's motor vehicles were becoming more common, thus extending the range of the traveller and creating less need for frequent way stations. Bu the mid-20's Miranda Lane was already fading as a stop. The land was acquired by the Pacific Livestock Company and, in later years, the structures were used for a storage depot for supplies. A few trees remain today at the site, but no other evidence exists of the one-time stage and freight station on the Burns-to-Denio road.

Rating
Significance: Medium. A link in the transportation route in southeastern Harney County.
Integrity: Only a few trees remain on the site.

6.8 Ontario-Burns Road

Present Owner: Multiple ownership

Transportation networks were the sinews of the largely rural society and economy in early day Harney County. Stage routes were both a response to a known need in a given service area as well as generators of new settlement patterns. The same causal relationship can be observed in contemporary transportation systems. The Ontario to Burns Road was one major component of a larger network operating on the eastern side of the County during the late 1890's and early 1900's. Most of the freight coming into Burns came from Huntington or Ontario. This transportation network required periodic way stations along the

route approximately every 25 miles. This pattern reflected the normal range for horses pulling wagons ladden with goods and passengers over difficult terrain, often in inclement weather. Freighters and their horse teams could not be expected to endure more than 18 to 20 hours of rigorous travel; therefore, overnight accommodations and horse changes were imperative at regular intervals. The traveler was expected to continue non-stop to his destination, with rest stops, but the freighters had accommodations along the route where they could bunk.

Stage coaches usually had three seats, with the driver occupying one, and the other seats regularly shared by other passengers. The remaining two seats held about three persons each; therefore, a full passenger load would usually be about eight persons. Wagons were open, and the passenger's exposure to the elements was considered to be a part of the experience. One early innovator developed a coal-fired foot-warmer, but the norm was for each person to bundle up against the bitter cold. The journey from Ontario to Burns took approximately forty hours, depending on conditions.

Stage coaches usually hauled passengers and mail, while freight wagons conveyed wagon loads of goods of every description. A contractor would own all of the horses on a given route, thereby facilitating the regular team changes that were necessary to keep the stage rolling on a continuous basis. The normal team consisted of two to four horses, with more being added in mud or snow as necessary. The freighters normally operated on their own contracting to haul freight from point to point. The early stage coaches were called "hacks," and their drivers were greatly admired as individuals holding positions of considerable authority and responsibility. Their horses got the very best in care at the stage stops because of their central role in the system.

The Ontario-Burns Road consisted of stage stops and horse change stations that included, in the early 1900's, from east to west: Ontario, O'Neil's Hot Springs, Kate Phoefpian, Dick Scott's at Beulah, Stallard, Williams, George Gates on Stinkingwater Creek, George Buchanan, Harney City, and Burns. The George Buchanan stop was later shifted to Joe Buchanan's place (his brother's), just east of present day Buchanan.

Some of these stations were just for changing horse teams, such as O'Neil's Hot Spring, Arnold, and Williams stops. The mail contracts provided a steady income for the stage operator, but it was the passengers and freight that generated the extra revenue. The modern day east-west transportation network follows some of the old route, but many of the old stops were by-passed, leaving a heritage of an early colorful period in Harney County history (See "Stallard Stage Stop").

Rating
Significance: High. One of the central transportation corridors in Harney County.
Integrity: Medium.

6.9 Riecken's Corner

Township 32S, Range 31W, Section 30
Present Owner: Merril Glenn

Riecken's Corner was once located at the junction of three stage lines in the Catlow Valley. Riecken owned a store at a point where the lines intersected with one going south toward Beckley, a second north toward Jack Mountain, and the third west to the Rock Creek Ranch. These lines served the general vicinity of Crane to Catlow, Sageview, Beckley, and Blitzen. One source believes the Catlow post office was located in the Riecken home. Riecken's Corner only consisted of a store and post office, and by 1916 even this structure was gone from the site. Nothing remains today of this one-time stage stop.

Rating
Significance: Low. Existed a very short time.
Integrity: Low. Nothing remains today.

6.10 Rock Ford

Township 28S, Range 31E, Section 22
Present Owner: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

Bridges now have made Rock Ford unnecessary, but in an earlier period this rocky shelf in the Blitzen River provided an essential function for Indians, cattlemen, settlers, and other travellers. This site, located near Rattlesnake Butte and Busse Dam in the Refuge, was probably long used by the Indians prior to the entrance of Euro-Americans into the Harney Basin. One source believes that Captain George B. Currey crossed the Blitzen River at this natural point in 1864. A local historian disagrees. Early cattlemen used it to move cattle from the west side of the valley through to Malheur Lake. It served as a link between Ontario and Fort Bidwell in California in that transportation network. During the 1878 Bannock War the main body of Bannocks and Paiutes passed north of Happy Valley and used Rock Ford to cross the Blitzen River on their way northward to Silver Creek on their pillaging expedition. One source points out that although the ford made the crossing possible, there were still several sloughs to be negotiated in the direction of Saddle Butte. Probably Rock Ford's greatest use and significance stems not from the infrequent noted party that used this natural facility, but rather the regular passage of the ordinary traveler in route to some unheralded destination. The road is no longer visible, but when the water is clear, wheel ruts can still be seen. Many Indian artifacts have been found in this area, indicating a frequent Indian presence.

Rating
Significance: High. Rock Ford has played a significant part in the transportation history of Harney County.
Integrity: Medium. Wheel ruts still visible.

6.11 Stallard Stage Stop

Township 20S, Range 36E
Present Owner: Agnes Stallard

Lorenzo Stallard, born November 6, 1858, came to the eastern part of Harney County in 1884 and homesteaded 160 acres. He later purchased several nearby parcels, and ultimately came to own approximately 1500 acres upon which he raised cattle. Stallard's property, four miles east of Drewsey, came to be located on one of the major transportation routes in the 1800's, linking Burns and

Ontario. The Ontario-Burns Road consisted of a series of stage stops and horse change stations that included at one time the following locations, east to west: Ontario, O'Neil's Hot Springs, Kate Phoefpian, Arnold, Dick Scott's at Beulah, Stallard, Williams, George Gates on Stinkingwater Creek, George Buchanan (later moved to Joe Buchanan's, his brother's, at a site four miles away), Harney City, and Burns.

The Stallard Stage Stop, one-fourth of a mile east of Otis Creek, was in operation by 1906 and was providing freighters and passengers with much needed respite from their journey. Velfa Richardson, step-daughter of the proprietor, tells of an enormous table serving fourteen at a setting that often had to be set twice to accommodate all travellers. Meals were $.25 for freighters and $.50 for "drummers," i.e., travelling salesmen who frequented the establishment. Drummers expected and received special treatment, such as special cuts of meat and other privileges. Overnight accommodations were available in the bunkhouse for drivers only. The passengers were expected to travel continuously.

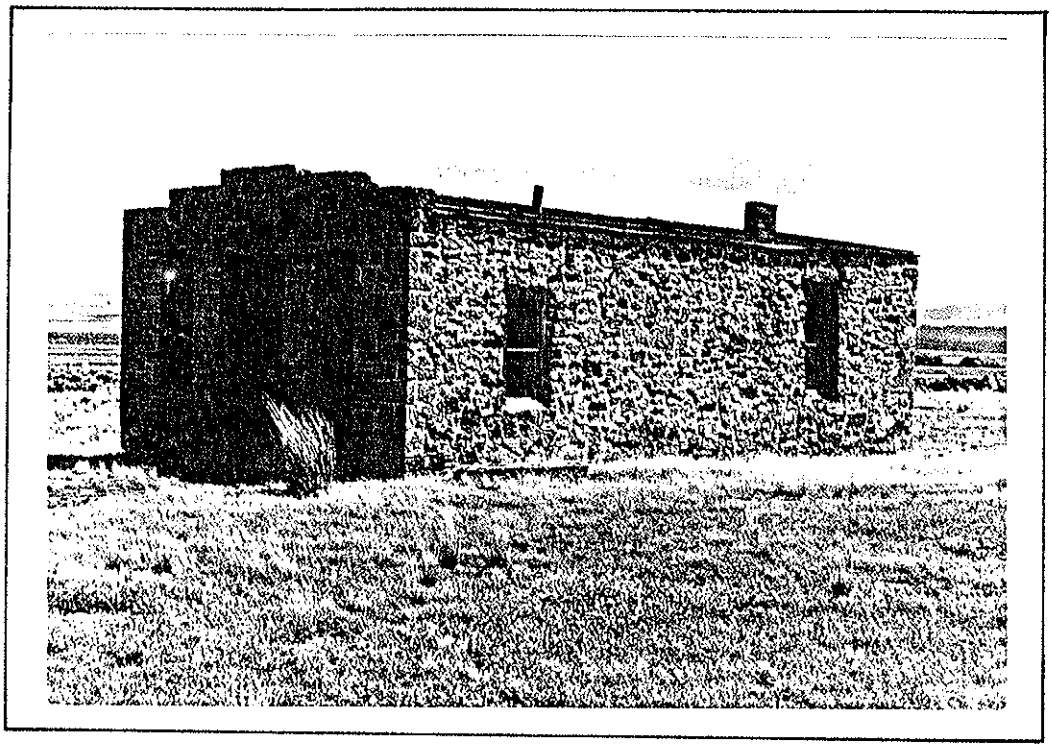
During some periods, two stages daily operated from both east and west. Once every six months a trip was made to Ontario to obtain provisions to operate the station. The Stallard Stage Stop ceased functioning as a stop on the freight line about 1913, when the advent of motorized vehicles lengthened the range for connecting points on the line. The Stallards continued to operate the property as a ranch, however, and the Ontario-Burns route was the major transportation link for east and west traffic until about 1935 when a new highway was constructed.

Lorenzo Stallard died September 10, 1923. Today there are six buildings on the old stage stop site, only one or two of which survive from the period when it was a station. The old Stallard homestead house constructed about 1884 continues to dominate the landscape with its formidable two-story frame of hand-hewn pine logs. The mud chinking that once helped keep the structure weather-tight is gone, and the building has not been used in many years. Originally a porch existed on one side, but this has been removed and during the 1900's the lower portion was used as a chicken house. The upper story was a depository for many stored items over the years since it ceased to be the family home. The building is about 20 feet high at the center beam, dropping to about 15 feet on the sides. The width and length are approximately 18 and 20 feet, respectively, and the cedar shingled roof has long needed repairs as evidenced by numerous holes. The log frame appears to be structurally sound, but the interior shows considerable neglect from its years as a storage building. The Stallard Stage Stop provides visible evidence of an earlier period in Harney County when the movement of freight, passengers, and mail was dependent on the accommodations and other services found at the stations spaced at intervals along the major routes.

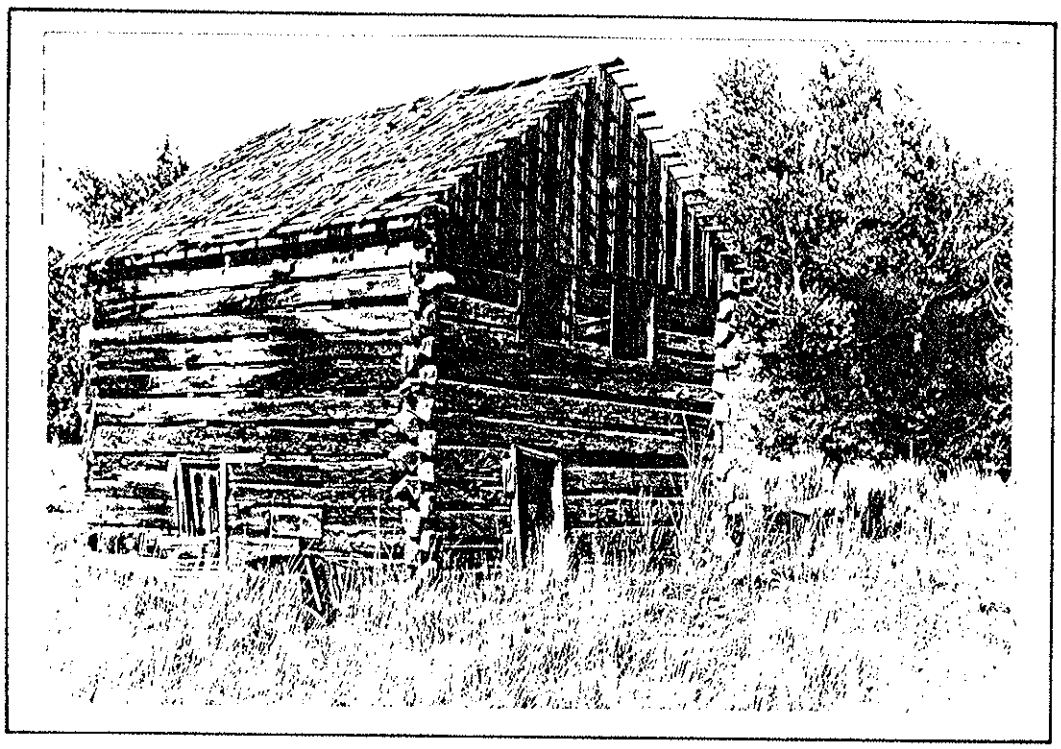
Rating
Significance: Medium. Representative of stage stops in early Harney County history.
Integrity: Medium. Several structures remain intact.

6.12 Tudor Barn

Township 31S, Range 35E
Present Owner: Vivian Pollock



6.4 Coon Town



6.11 Stallard Stage Stop

Hugh and Agnes Tudor disagreed about whether a new house or a barn should be built on their property. Mr. Tudor's viewpoint prevailed so Tudor Barn was constructed to serve as a freight stop for haulers moving goods from Vale and Venator to the Burns and Crane area. Mrs. Tudor thought that a higher priority would have been a larger home to replace the 10- x 12-foot rock house that served as the family's principal dwelling. The barn was constructed. The roof was blown off in a storm, and Agnes Tudor left for an undisclosed period of time. The business adventure was never very successful because it was undertaken in the post World War I era (early 1920's) just at a time when the horse-drawn wagons were being replaced by motorized freight haulers. The barn is located about one mile south of Juniper Lake at the base of the northern end of the Steens Mountain. The low-lying rock walls mortared with sand and lime, naturally landscaped with the ubiquitous sagebrush, mark the remains of Hugh Tudor's freight stop.

There are four artesian wells near the site. Hugh Tudor subsequently sold the property and moved to Crooked Creek in Malheur County where he established a ranch of 800 acres.

Rating
Significance: Medium. Typical of early stage stops.
Integrity: Low. Only the remnants of some rock walls remain.

6.13 Voltage

Township 26S, Range 32E, Section 31
Present Owner: John and Georgia Crow

Walter C. Botsford, the first postmaster and founder of a small settlement named Voltage, decided on the place name because of his interest and plans for electrical development. Botsford, an electrician, believed that the Donner and Blitzen River had the generating potential to supply electricity to the entire Harney Valley. His dream was not realized, but a post office was established August 28, 1908, to serve a wider community of homesteaders and other settlers who were participants in the land boom era in Catlow Valley. The land appeared to newcomers, many of whom were from the mid-west and east, as rock-free and potentially productive. A severe drought period and other vicissitudes of dry-land farming were to ultimately take their toll, but the small town at its zenith had a store, post office, and school, the latter having an enrollment at one time as high as twenty-five pupils. There were probably never more than fifteen families spread over the larger area served by the town.

Voltage was a mail distribution point for Catlow Valley, being situated just south of Malheur Lake on several stage routes through the vicinity. Parcel post was promoted by these early day postmasters because cancellations were the basis of their post office income. One source reports regular stages that contained two wagons and six-horse teams that were incapable of handling the high demand for parcel post service. This system, however, also provided the opportunity and motivation for falsification of postal records, resulting in more than a few charges of fraud. A Mrs. Alfred Marshall, who with her husband operated the Voltage post office from 1918 to 1936, was arrested and tried for this form of illegal activity. The post office was closed in 1936 and the last inhabitants

departed in 1937, adding Voltage to the list of small communities in Catlow Valley that met their demise through the combination of social, economic, and political forces impacting Eastern Oregon in the twenties and thirties. Nothing remains of the townsite today except a wooden water trough.

Rating
Significance: Low. Was not a major settlement.
Integrity. Low. Almost nothing remains.

6.14 Willamette Valley Cascade Mountain Military Road

Present Owner: Multiple Ownership

Among the early attempts on the part of the state and federal government to facilitate the development of Oregon was an act passed by Congress on July 5, 1866, which read in part as follows:

> That there be and hereby is, granted to the state of Oregon, to aid in the construction of a military wagon road from Albany, Oregon, by way of Canyon City and the most feasible pass in the Cascade range of mountains, to the eastern boundary of the state, alternative sections of public lands, designated by odd numbers, 3 sections per mile, to be selected within 6 miles of said road...
>
> (West. Hist. Pub. Co., p. 643)

The route selected and laid out during the years from 1864 to 1867 ran from the east side of the Cascade Mountains near Black Butte to Camp Polk, through present-day Prineville and Paulina, south to Camp Currey on Silver Creek, east to Camp Harney, and on through Crane, Crowley, and Harper to Fort Boise. The original contract to provide public lands in exchange for construction of the road became the subject of much controversy, and was described as follows:

> By the operation of this legislation the Willamette Valley and Cascade Mountain Wagon Road Company secured about 900,000 acres of the public domain. No greater wrong was ever perpetuated upon the general public of Oregon than resulted from these unwise acts of the national and state governments and the perfidy of the company.
>
> (West. Hist. Pub. Co., p. 644)

The road was never constructed according to the standards spelled out in the legislation, particularly in the eastern part of the state. In some cases, rather than proceeding by the most direct route the company circuitously wound about in a section to secure the best lands, staking a route with markers rather than actually constructing a road. Litigation resulted when it became obvious that the company had not fulfilled its contract, but by incompetence and oversight on the part of the state and federal governments, the lands were retained. During the legal proceedings the governor of Oregon issued documents, the first on April 11, 1868, and the last on June 24, 1871, certifying that the road was completed in all respects. On March 2, 1889, the Congress directed the Attorney General to bring suit against the Willamette Valley and Cascade Mountain Wagon Road Company, "to determine the question with the terms of the granting act" (West. Hist. Pub. Co., p. 645). Judge Gilbert rendered a verdict in favor of the defendents, Alexander Weill and David Cahn, in 1892, largely on the basis of the

certificates issued by the governor of Oregon. Thus the citizens who had sought redress through the Secretary of the Interior and the courts lost their bid to have the land patents of the road company cancelled.

Some regarded this outcome as one of the larger land frauds to be perpetrated in Oregon in a period when circumvention and outright criminal manipulation of land distribution programs were prevalent. In many cases the road simply followed an existing trail, and in other locations it meandered throughout the sagebrush, following a route that no traveller would want to follow. Nevertheless, all 487 miles of the Willamette Valley Cascade Mountain Military Road were certified completed.

Rating

Significance: High. Important in Harney County transportation history, and representative of land frauds in Oregon history.

Integrity: Medium.

7. EDUCATION

7.1 Suntex School

Township 23S, Range 26E, Section 14
Present Owner: Harney County

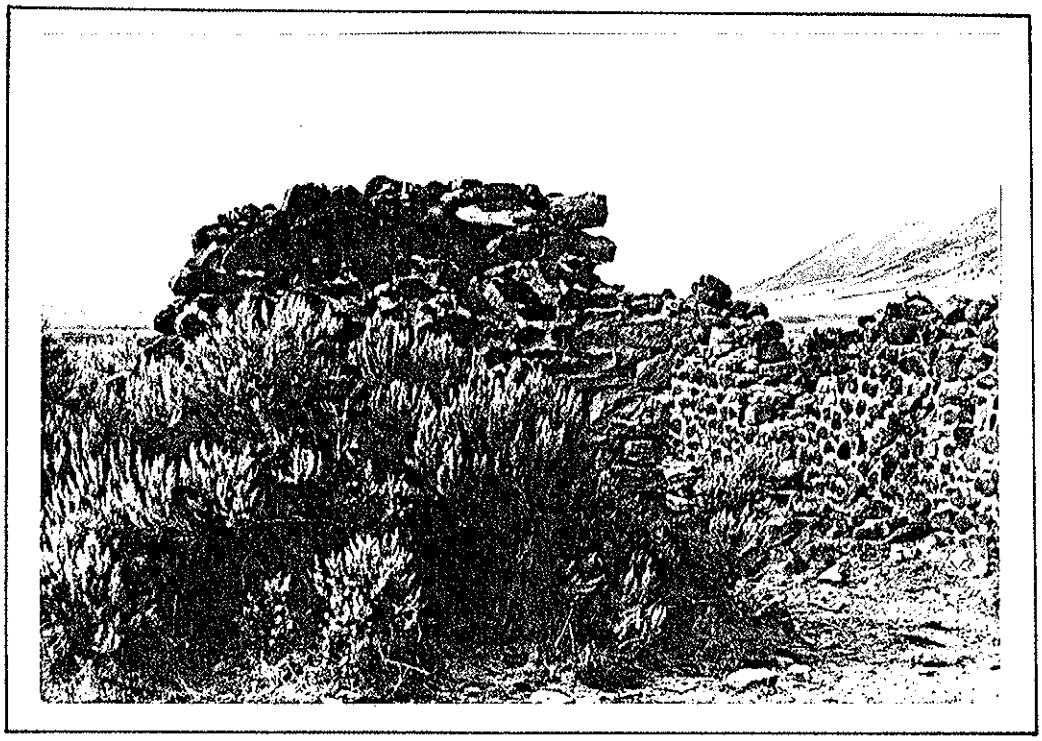
The one-room school in the Silver Creek area northwest of Burns was once called Riley School in memory of Amos Riley, a cattleman who ranched in the area in the late 1800's. As was the custom in that time the community school was constructed by the settlers whose children attended. One notable individual who helped was Thomas Jefferson Shields, who was to become the first judge in Harney County. The large one-room structure housed approximately twenty-five children in the first eight grades of instruction. It was the custom that the teacher lived in the area with various families in order to augment his or her meager earnings.

A typical school day saw the teacher walking or riding horseback to arrive early in order to build a fire in the pot-belly stove to bring warmth to the chilled building. The stove sat in the middle of the room and was liberally supplied with juniper logs and other available wood. Students arrived and took seats at individual desks. They awaited their class's turn to come to the front of the room to sit on the recitation bench and recite the lessons for the day. Children had to buy their own books, and a slate and slate pencil were used rather than paper. At the time paper was expensive and difficult to obtain. The teacher had a home-made desk in the front of the room from which he or she taught lessons, took roll, maintained order, and dispensed justice on a regular basis. Students and teacher ate lunch together and shared the same drinking ladle from the water bucket in the back of the room. Teacher and students alike were probably gratified to see the school day come to an end.

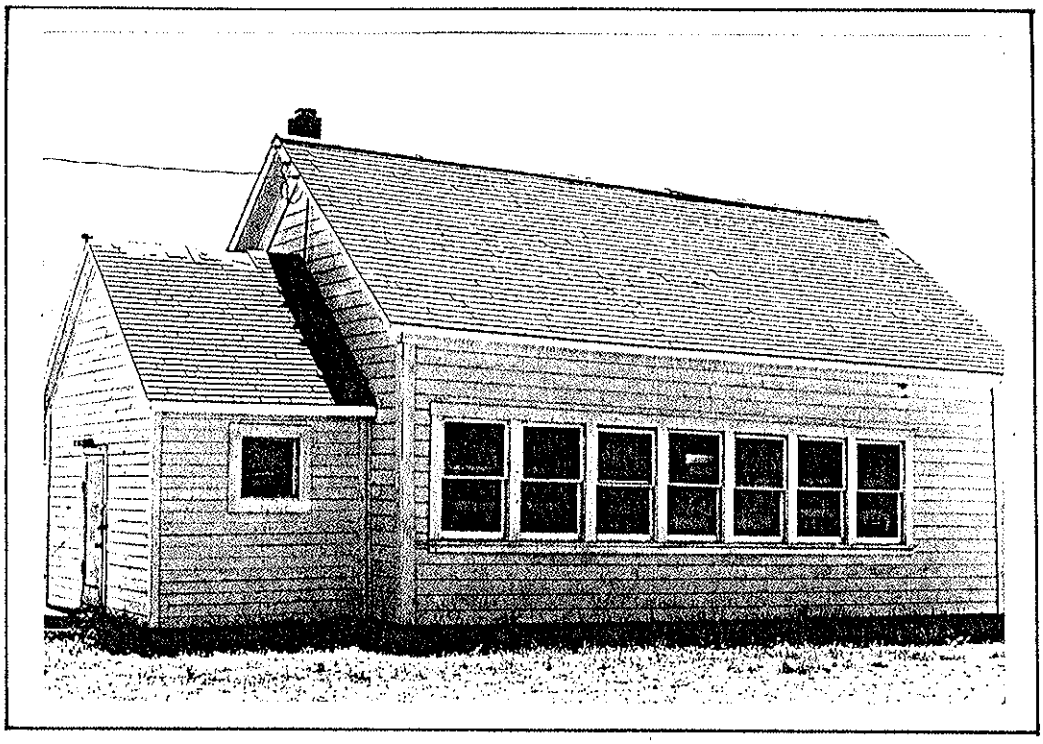
On February 7, 1916, a new post office was established in the Silver Creek area, and for reasons unknown to contemporary residents, the name selected was Suntex. W. F. Sturges of Scio, Oregon, was selected as the first postmaster. The name Suntex does not seem to have any local significance which may indicate the postal authorities selected it as is believed by one source. Thereafter, the name of the school was also changed to Suntex and has been known by that designator since that time.

After graduating from Suntex School, some pupils relocated to Burns, sometimes with one or more of their parents or guardians, in order to complete their high school education. By 1958 the Silver Creek population had outgrown the one-room building, and a new building was constructed in close proximity. The original structure has been used for a variety of purposes, including an indoor exercise area and for general storage.

The building is structurally very sound and with normal care should continue many years as a useful edifice. The wooden building is a rectangle with a small anteroom attached to one end. It has a wood shingle roof that is pitched and is in good condition. One side of the structure contains a bank of seven double-hung windows. The exterior finish is white. The simplicity of design and lack of ornamentation are typical for such structures, and well indicate the functional and utilitarian purposes for which the building was intended.



6.12 Tudor Barn



7.1 Suntex School

Rating
Significance: High. Representative of early one-room schools.
Integrity: High. Structure remains very close to original construction.

7.2 Lawen School

Present Owner: Harney County
Address: Lawen, Oregon

There were originally three school houses in the vicinity of Lawen, but over time these have been moved about so that only one continues in use as a school. Children of the settlers of this bustling town on the edge of Malheur Lake attended Otley School, Ruh School, or Campbell School. These were named for the property owners which immediately adjoined the structures. Otley School was sold to Wayne Johnson in 1946 or 1947; Ruh School was taken to Island Ranch by Ted Gray and used as a hay camp; and Campbell School is the present Lawen School.

Lawen School was moved from its original site about 2 1/2 miles to the south. The structure was expanded about 1955 when restrooms were added and again in 1970 when its present design was completed. The original building is thought to have been in existence as early as 1904 when it housed grades one through eight. M. C. Rigby was the teacher in 1906. Students who wished to continue beyond the eighth grade went to the boarding school at Crane, Oregon, which still operates today as a boarding school.

Local schools in the early days were the meeting places for many community activities, and Lawen School was no exception. Local residents today remember the charvaris, Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas parties, dances, club meetings, and other social functions that occurred at the school. The school was the logical place for voting and this tradition has continued into the present with all local, county, state, and federal election activity being carried out in the structure.

The original bell hangs in the building, and a teacher's desk over 100 years old is still used daily. Many social activities in the Lawen area continue to be scheduled in Lawen School, but much of the social and economic activity has now shifted to Burns. Two teachers presently teach about nineteen pupils through the eighth grade. The building is painted white, is of frame construction, and has a composition shingle roof. A portion of the older part of the roof still has wood shingles. The structure measures about 24 by 50 feet and is in good physical condition. The foundation is of cinder blocks which were set in place in more recent times. The additions to the structure have resulted in an "L" building with a gabled roof. A small porch covers the front entryway, and a belfry containing the original school bell sits atop and on the front gable of the roof.

Rating
Significance: Medium. It held a central role in the community's activities.
Integrity: Medium. Structure has been altered and several additions have been made.

8. NATURAL SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

8.1 Hibbard House

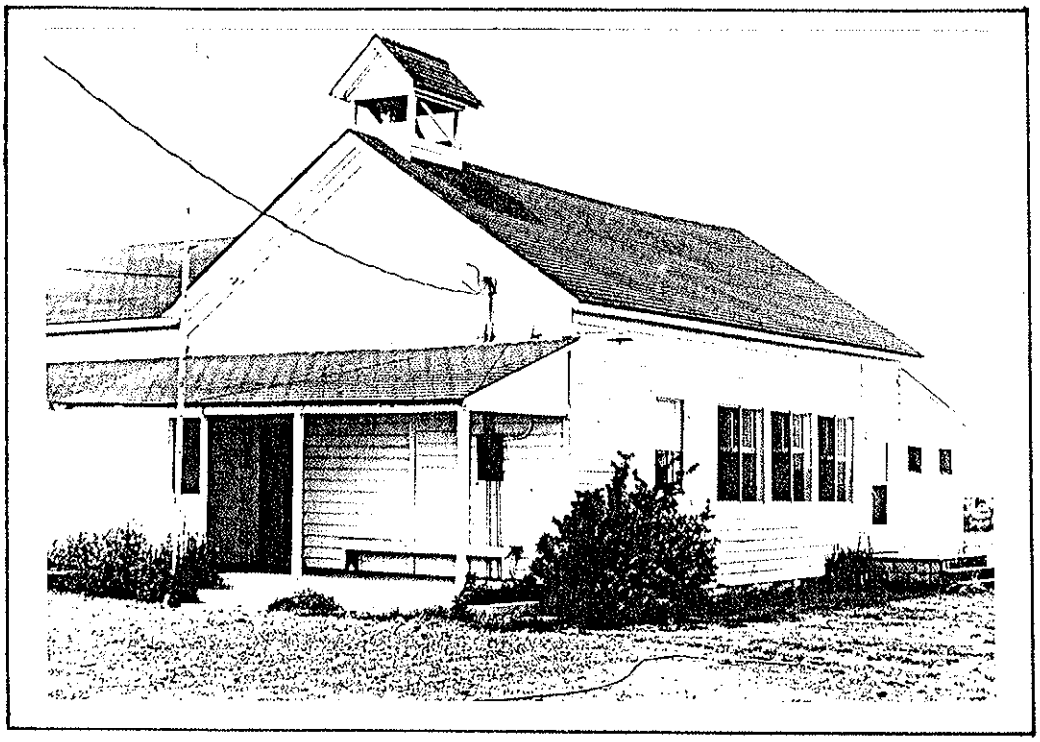
Address: 1002 N. Alvord St., Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Orville W. Corbett, Jr.

One of the first dentists in Harney County arrived in 1899 seeking a dry climate to ameliorate the tuberculosis from which he suffered. Dr. L. E. Hibbard had established a dental practice in Portland by 1890, even though he had not completed formal education in the profession. There were no dental schools in Portland at that time so Hibbard worked with another dentist until he acquired the requisite skills to begin on his own. In 1894 he married Ina Maud Works, a 16-year-old bookkeeper for Meir and Frank Store. They moved to Harney County in 1899, settling first in Sunset Valley.

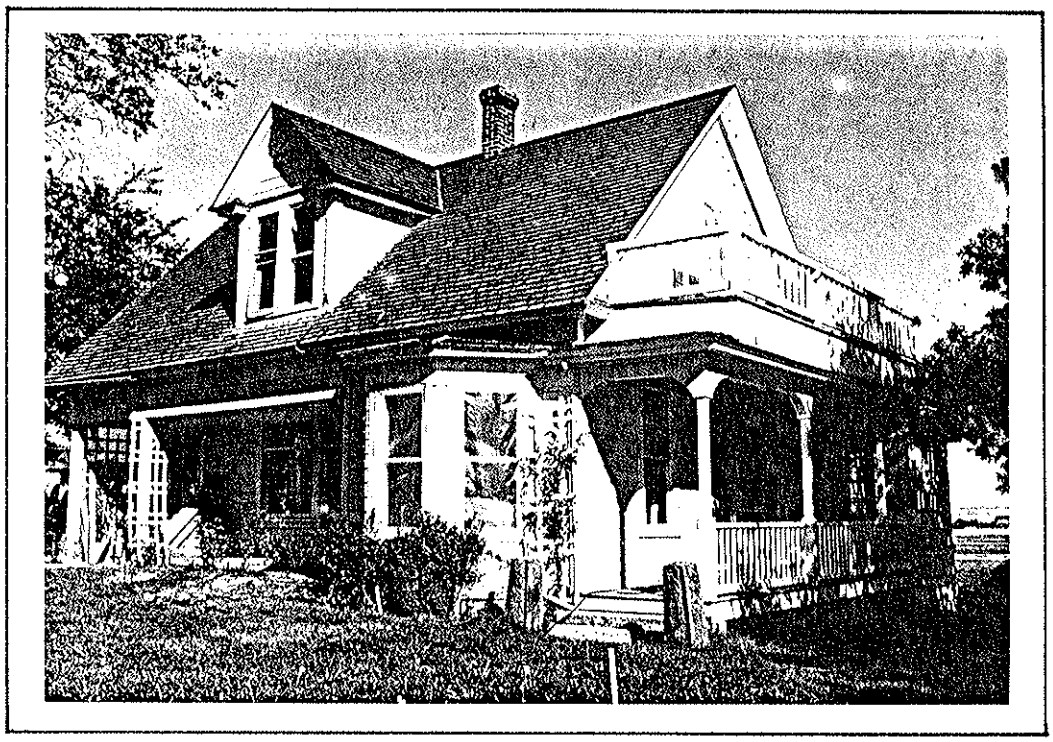
After homesteading a place for his family, Dr. Hibbard began to develop his practice through taking his services to the outlying ranching areas. His travels took him as far as Denio and into Nevada on occasion. He was a well-known figure at such noted ranches as the White Horse Ranch and other settlements along the Burns to Denio route. His daughter recorded in her diary in 1914 the events of one of his trips on which she accompanied him. He purchased a new Model T Ford for $634 from Archie McGowan and Harry Smith of the Burns Garage. Prior to that date his travelling was done with wagon and horse team. His route included Drewsey, Follyfarm, Alberson, Andrews, Mann Lake Ranch, Alvord Ranch, Fields, White Horse Ranch, Denio, the P Ranch, and many other lesser known outlying homesteads and settlements. In addition to practicing dentistry, Dr. Hibbard was often called upon to perform veterinary functions on the various ranches.

The Hibbard House was constructed on a rocky overlook on the edge of the growing Burns community in 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Hibbard had eight children: Roberta, Eugenia, King Llewellyn, Hazel, Hal, Francis, George, and Virginia. Llewellyn was also to become a dentist and assume his father's long established practice in Burns. Ultimately three generations of Hibbards practiced dentistry, although the grandson Carrol Hibbard did not remain in Burns, choosing instead to practice in Portland. Tragedy struck the Hibbard family in 1932 when George, aged 19, was paralyzed from the neck down in a swimming accident. George was to live as a quadraplegic with his family until 1976 when he died at the age of 62. Ina Hibbard died in 1935, and she was followed by her husband in 1941.

The Hibbard House was deeded to George, and in 1943 Eugenia Hibbard Skiens, Poleman Skeins, and their two children Doris and Eugene moved in to care for the invalid. George Hibbard became widely known for his optimism and adaptation to his debilitating condition. Special equipment of many types was installed to enable him to better cope with his physical limitation. George kept a guest book signed by thousands of well-wishers, travelled widely to visit friends and relatives, and pursued many hobbies. George deeded the house to Mr. and Mrs. Skiens who held it until Mrs. Skeins died in 1973 at which time it reverted to George. Mr. Skiens died in 1951. About 1968 another of Dr. Hibbard's daughters, Francis Hibbard Luttrell came from Boise to help out with George's care, and she lived in the house as well. Her husband had died earlier. After George Hibbard's death in 1976, the house was sold to the present owner, Orville Corbett, Jr.



7.2 Lawen School



8.1 Hibbard House

The rectangular house originally had, on the first floor, a parlor, two bedrooms, a kitchen, den, and by 1920, a bathroom on both floors. Upstairs there were three bedrooms and a large landing that led into each of the rooms. There were fireplaces on both floors. A partial basement was constructed for the storage of food and for the cement water cistern. A windmill once existed on the property, but it was gone by 1940. A porch extends along the east side of the house on both floors.

There have been a number of modifications of the structure over the years since its construction in 1904. The house was built around an existing two-room dwelling and the remains of this first structure have been recently exposed in a renovation. Indoor plumbing was installed about 1920. The kitchen was remodeled and an addition was put on the back of the house sometime during the late thirties. The stairway was altered at that time so that it did not enter the kitchen. The front door was relocated around 1954. A special room with a rounded bay window made of immovable French doors was constructed in 1937 for George Hibbard. This room, which was partially built over an existing porch, offers the viewer an expansive northeasterly vista of the surrounding countryside. It was here that George spent the majority of the hours in reading, telephoning friends, and pursuing his varied hobbies.

Today the house is undergoing a major remodeling project to prepare it for occupation by the Corbett family. "Cork" Corbett contracted with an architect for a complete remodeling plan for the interior. Modern wiring, plumbing, and installation of insulation are among the improvements planned. A section constructed off the kitchen in the late thirties is being removed, thus restoring the exterior of the house closer to the original plan. The bay window off the parlor on the south side will remain as will most other significant exterior features. The wood-shingled pitched roof was once painted green, and this color remains. The house's original color was probably light yellow, but it has more recently been painted white.

Rating
Significance: Medium. The home of one of the earliest dentists in Harney County.
Integrity: Medium. Some remodeling has occurred.

8.2 Hibbard Dentist Office

Address: Harney County Fair Grounds, Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Harney County Fair Association

The office of one of the first dentists in Harney County is today located on the Harney County Fair Grounds and is used during fair season for administrative purposes. Dr. L. E. Hibbard was known not only in Burns where he maintained an office, but throughout the entire county. Evelyn Gilcrest, an early resident of Alvord Ranch, describes this pioneer dentist:

> Frontier dentistry was as interesting as frontier medical care. We were, of course, very fortunate to have had any dentistry available. Dr. Hibbard, whose office was in Burns, made the rounds of all ranches once a year. He brought with him in his buggy a dental chair which was set up in our living room where he had fairly good northeast light. He had the tools to clean and fill and pull, if necessary, the teeth of all of us. All of the cowboys who wished came in one by one, although

> usually only if they had to have teeth pulled. Routine preventive dental care was not considered as important as it is now. Often he stayed a week or so, a welcome guest at each ranch in turn.
> (Gilcrest, p. 339)

Hibbard had the office constructed around 1900 and used it until about 1937. It was originally located just east of the Jordan Building on Washington Street. His son Llewellyn also became a dentist and continued his father's practice in the same structure until 1960 when he moved into a new clinic. For a short period the building was used by an attorney named Mogan, but the office was finally moved to the fair grounds in 1975 where it remains today.

Most old timers in Burns and Harney County today can remember the experience of waiting in the small reception room that contained an exhibit case full of birds' eggs. Dr. Hibbard was a bird fancier who was one of the prime movers in the establishment of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Hibbard also was known for raising pheasants in the many pens he constructed around his residence. The interesting collection of bird eggs was ultimately donated to the Harney County Historical Museum where they can still be seen today.

The structure measures 20 1/2 by 22 1/2 feet and is about 24 feet high. It has a false front typical of its era and is a frame building with lap siding. There are two windows on the east and west side, respectively, and a door on the south or front side of the structure as well as the north or back wall. The roof is pitched and covered with corrugated tin which is not the original roofing. The structure is painted white and has a small porch over the entry way on the south side. A portion of the porch steps appears to be of recent construction. The floor plan consists of four small rooms. A single chimney protrudes from the roof, and the foundation is cinderblock, which was obviously added when the building was moved to its present location. Structurally, it appears to be in excellent condition.

<u>Rating</u>
Significance: High. One of the first dentist offices in Harney County.
Integrity: Medium. Moved from its original site. However, integrity of the structure remains high.

9. ARCHITECTURE

9.1 Duncan Cabin

Township 20S, Range 36E
Present Owner: Lee and Gladys Williams

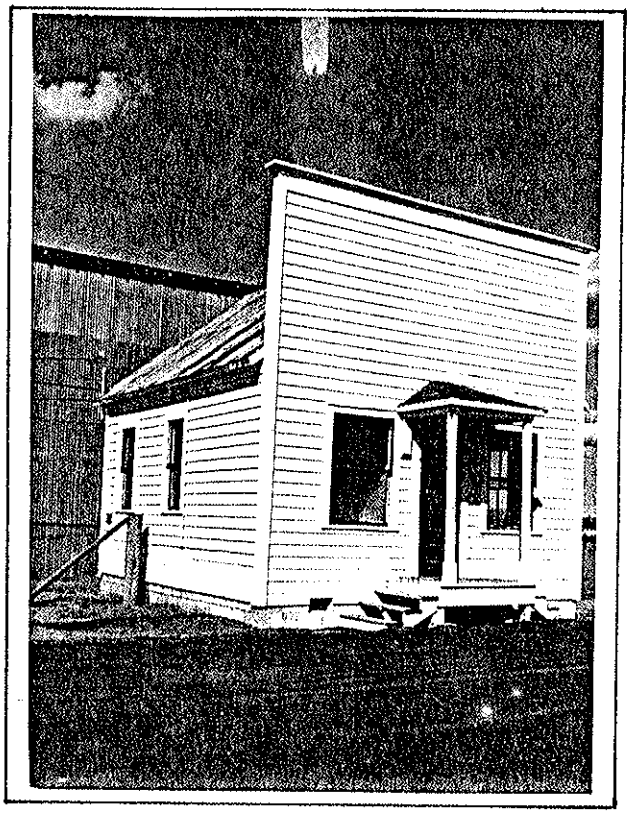
Ed Duncan homesteaded 120 acres four miles east of Drewsey under the Timber Act in 1880 or 1881 and completed his cabin by the end of 1881. In order to qualify for the land Duncan planted several species of trees that still exist today on the property, now owned by Lee and Gladys Williams. These are large poplars, box elders, silver poplars, and black willows, many of which reached enormous size. Duncan, a bachelor homesteader, was the first Grand Noble of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows' Lodge in Drewsey. The Drewsey Lodge met in the impressive Odd Fellows Hall constructed in 1900 and still standing in the town today.

Ed Duncan sold his property to Hiram A. Williams in 1895 who lived in the cabin for only one year, dying in 1896. Another home was built within a few yards of the cabin, where Sylvester Williams, son of Hiram, lived until 1900 when he married and moved a short distance away but retained ownership of the property. The cabin was moved about fifteen yards to its present location in about 1906 or 1907 and native rock chimney was not replaced on the new site. The structure was used for a bunkhouse until 1940 and from then to the present as a storage building.

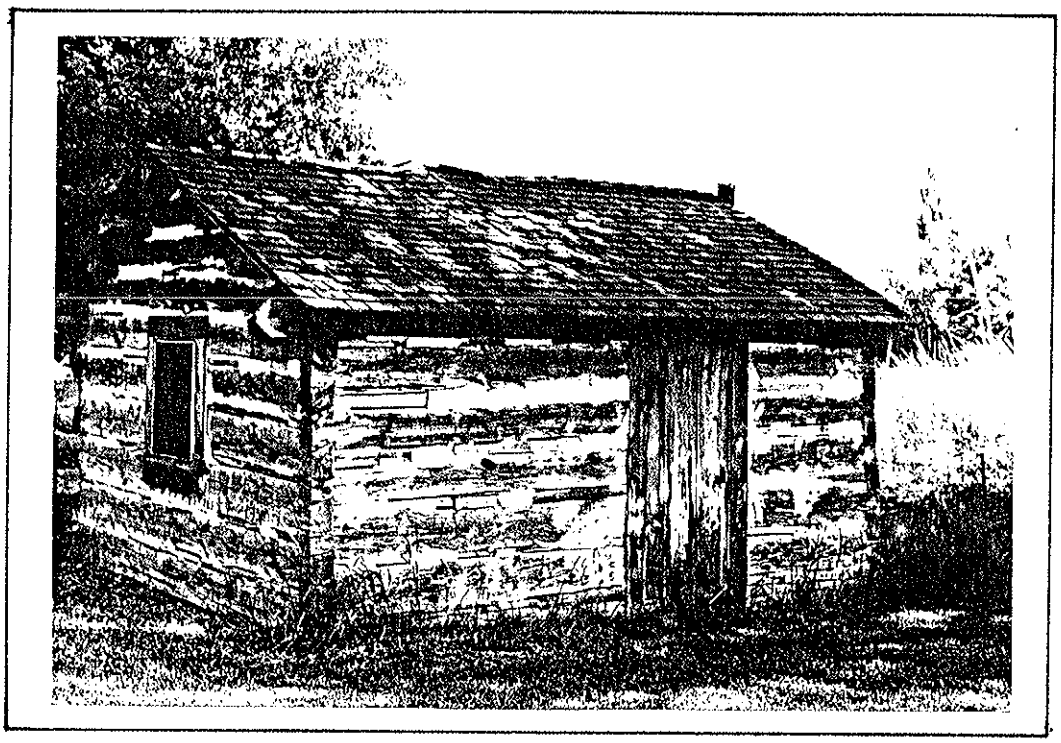
The cabin is a one-room structure about 13 by 14 feet in size, made of hewn pine logs cut in the nearby Blue Mountains. The roof is pitched, being about 10 feet at the center cross beam. It was originally shingled with tamarack, then western larch shakes and more recently Lee Williams, grandson of Hiram Williams, installed cedar shingles. The walls are chinked with a lime and mud mixture, and the exposed chinked surfaces are covered with V-shaped boards attached with nails. The original covering boards were attached with square-headed nails. Mud was originally used for mortar, but was replaced by lime when Williams restored the cabin in the late 1940's. There is a wooden door on the east side (front) and west side (back) and a small window on the north wall. The original floor was rough 1- by 12-inch boards, which have been replaced with pine tongue and grooved 4-inch flooring. The interior walls have been faced with knotty pine boards.

The condition of the Ed Duncan cabin is excellent and if the rock chimney had been replaced, the cabin would be a very special replica of the type of dwelling constructed during the early homestead era in the 1880's in Harney County. The cabin and property have continued in the same family's ownership since 1895.

Rating
Significance: Medium. Typical of an early settler's dwelling.
Integrity: High. Structure in excellent condition, but has been moved from original site.



8.2 Hibbard Dentist Office



9.1 Duncan Cabin

9.2 Howser Cabin

Township 22S, Range 32E, Section 26
Present Owner: Mrs. Garrett Titus

In 1849 Stephen A. Howser shared the dream of many of his friends who left for the fabled west to find gold and otherwise make their fortunes. Howser died before he could achieve his goal, so his wife Sallie took their five children and eventually settled in Yuba, California. Andrew W. Howser, a son who had been born in Warsaw, Missouri, on October 19, 1837, grew to manhood in Yuba, married Hannah Kuster, and then decided to head north to seek his own land and fortune.

Howser settled one mile southwest from the town of Harney, Oregon, near Coffee Pot Creek and took out a homestead of 240 acres. At that location the Howsers built their home, raised their family, and participated in the civic affairs of Harney. The couple were to raise eight children in all: Lola, Mary, Sarah, Emma, Thom, Stephen, Susie, and Ella.

The distinctive log cabin that was commenced in 1882 to hold the Howser brood well represents the type of pioneer dwelling of the period. The cabin is about 14 by 20 feet, constructed of hand-hewn pine logs and chinked with mud. The roof of the two-story structure is about 18 feet in height. The upstairs contains two bedrooms and there are two rooms on the ground floor as well as a kitchen and cellar attached to the back portion of the structure. Heat was provided by a native rock fireplace on the first floor.

In 1921 the Howsers moved away from their home after Andrew died. From about 1921 until 1929 the dwelling was occupied by another family, but they also vacated, and by 1931 the back kitchen, cellar, and porch had collapsed and were removed. According to one source, the Howser cabin has been unoccupied since 1929, but there is some uncertainty about this.

Rating
Significance: Medium. Typical of an early dwelling that housed a large pioneer family.
Integrity: Medium. Some alterations have been made, but the structure is in good condition.

9.3 Stanclift Cabin

Township 23S, Range 31E, Section 6
Present Owner: Eggleston

The Stanclift Cabin remains today as one of the few relatively unaltered dwellings in Harney County that has been lived in continuously since its construction in the late 1870's or 1880's. Not much is known of its early inhabitants. One source mentions that during the Indian uprising in 1878, many people sought protection in the Stanclift Cabin.

The first concrete record of the dwelling is dated December 5, 1884, when George Stanclift filed for the property with the U. S. Government. Stanclift was thought to have run a mill nearby. He built his cabin of hand-hewn logs on what used to be the main road to Ontario. Some speculate that Stanclift might have built three similar homes in the Burns area.

Stanclift transferred the property to Lena Harkey on June 15, 1907. She is thought to have added the back bedroom and kitchen to the home. Her family owned the log cabin until it was sold to H. R. Christenson on October 1, 1942. Three years later John P. Fay on December 27, 1945, bought the property from Christenson. Fay was probably the individual who covered the inside wall with sheet rock and wall paper. A. A. Bardwell purchased the property from John P. Fay on October 31, 1947. After Bardwell's death it went to his widow, but Mrs. Bardwell's son, Daryl Eggleston, and his wife have lived in the home since 1952. He purchased the dwelling from his mother in 1972.

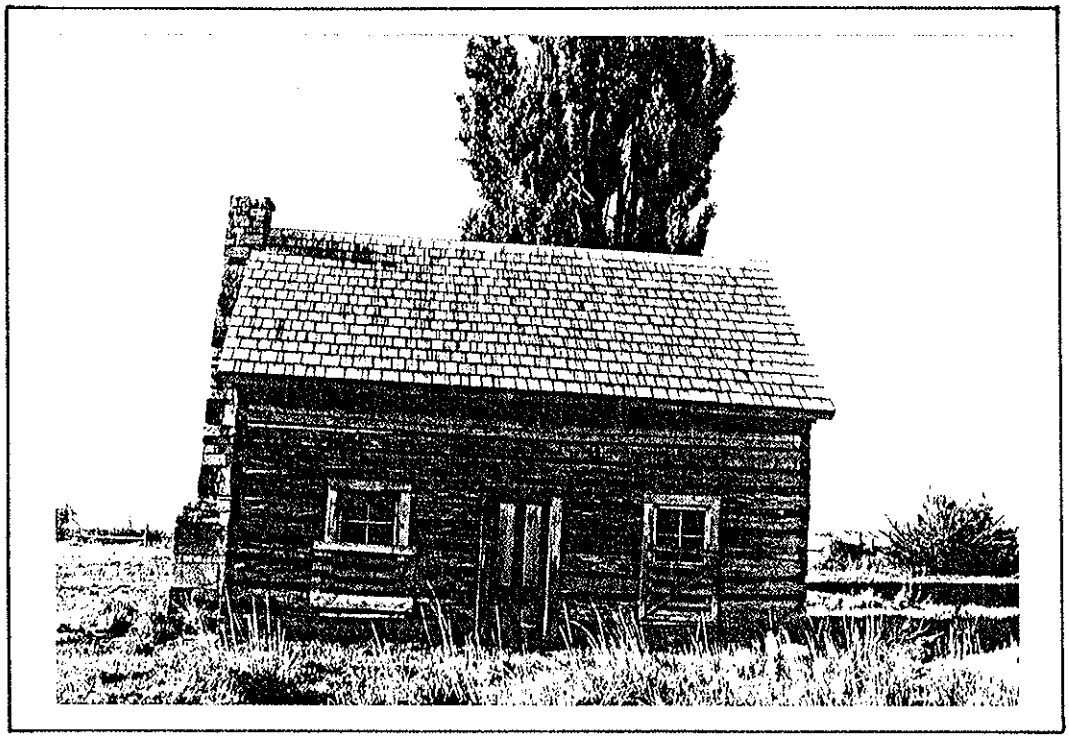
The original cabin, a 23- by 18-foot hand-hewn pine log structure, had two rooms. At one time there was a rock chimney on the north side, but it has been removed and replaced by two windows. No nails were used to construct the home, and between the 12-inch square logs is a cement-type caulking. Originally the wood structure was set on rocks, but a new solid foundation was installed in 1974. It is covered today with a shingle roof. The interior has been changed. A bathroom and bedroom had been added in the 1950's on the south side of the structure when the plumbing was also installed.

The Stanclift Cabin still stands today, a sturdy dwelling from the days of the first pioneers.

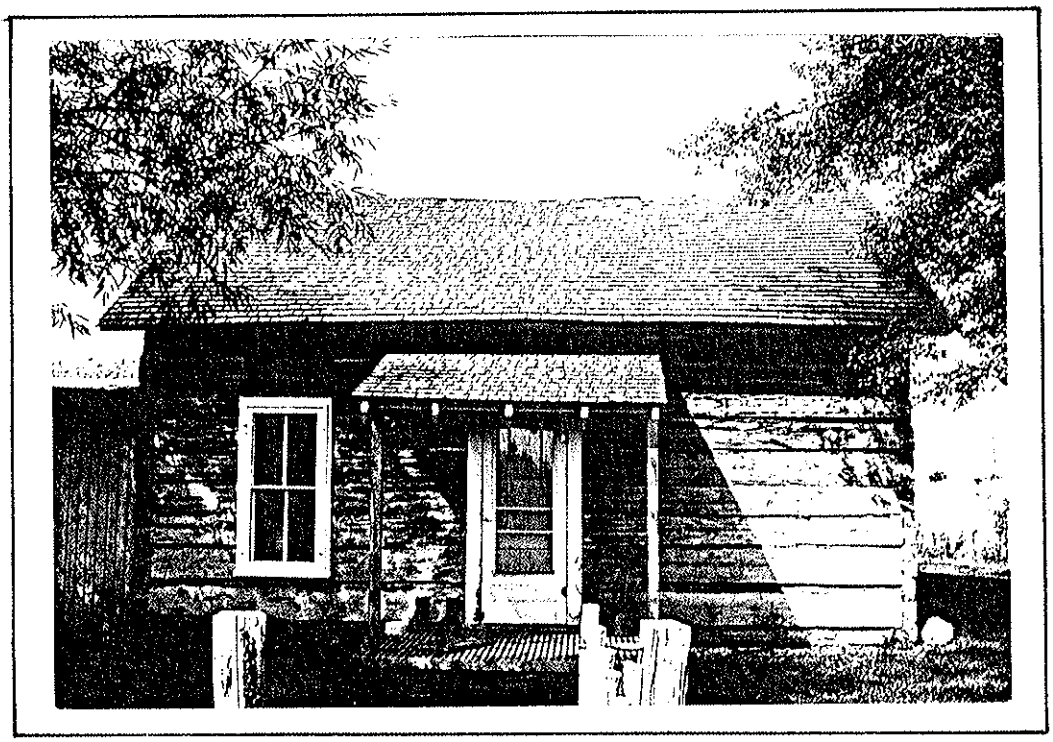
Rating

Significance: High. One of the few structures in the county continuously inhabited since its construction in the late 1800's.

Integrity: Medium. Some remodeling has occurred.



9.2 Howser Cabin



9.3 Stanclift Cabin

10. RELIGIOUS

10.1 Christian Science Church

Address: 190 West "A" Street, Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Christian Science Church

Mrs. Sarah D. Hill was probably the first person to introduce the Christian Science religion to the Burns community. In 1889 she brought to Burns a copy of Science and Health With A Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy, the Church's primary religious book. Mrs. Hill was a Christian Scientist, and it was through her early efforts that interest in the faith began to grow. By September 1898 services were regularly being held in the home of Emma Witzel. As more followers were attracted, services were held in various homes throughout the town, but it was becoming evident that a more permanent hall was needed. About 1899 the First Christian Science Society of Burns was officially organized, and a hall was leased and remodeled at an unknown location in Burns. Services were announced in the Christian Science Journal of Boston for this early church.

At some point during this early period the church split into two factions: The First Christian Science Society of Burns and the First Church of Christ, Scientist. In 1906 the two churches were united once again, but in the spring of 1908 the congregation met and voted by a majority of its members to disorganize and disband. Therefore, from 1908 to 1914 no official Christian Science organization existed in Burns, although services were held a portion of that time in the homes of individuals. On April 2, 1914, a group of nine charter members met and decided to organize the present Christian Science Society, which met in a room in the Hissner Building. By April 15th of the same year a free reading room had been established, but on August 30, 1914, a fire destroyed the room and almost all of the Church's possessions. Reverend Dr. Benson, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church, offered his church for the Society's services, and the Church's activities were continued there until January 16, 1916, when a move was made to the present building on "A" Street.

The Church, which was free from all indebtedness, was dedicated on March 10, 1918, and has continuously operated at that location until the present day. Church records show that a Mr. H. L. and Mattie A. Brisco executed an affidavit in September 1917, testifying that the First Church of Christ, Scientist, no longer exists having been disbanded on March 12, 1908.

Sources do not agree about the origin of the building. Some long-time members have heard that it was originally a saloon operated by Tom Jenkins. According to this version, it originally cost $75 and $50 was spent in moving it to the present location. Another source believes that it was donated by a man named Charlie Bedell. Most church members agree that the exact origin of the building is not known, but it is a matter of record that the present building was dedicated in 1918, and that it remains very close to its original construction. The small entry room on the southeast corner appears to have been added to the original large rectangular room. It measures 42 1/2 by 20 1/2 feet and is about 12 feet high at the center span. The pitched roof until recently was covered with cedar shingles, this being altered within the past three years when composition shingles were installed. The structure has ship-lap siding, two windows

each on the west and east walls of the large room, and two doors near the southeast corner. Some Georgian influence can be seen in the exaggerated dental moulding blocks under the eves of the small porch and front section of the building. Decorative barge boards on the gable are supported by small functional brackets that serve a decorative purpose as well. The structure has unboxed eves, a brick chimney near the front of the large room, decorative glass pane work on some of the windows, and is painted white throughout.

Churches in early western settlements were a significant cultural force, often being the hub of social as well as spiritual life on the advancing frontier. The Christian Science Church has never commanded a disproportionately large following among the many churches in Burns, but since 1918 it has continuously served the community consistent with its unique teachings.

Rating
Significance: Medium. Has played a role in the religious life of Burns.
Integrity: High. Relatively unaltered.

11. SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN MOVEMENTS

11.1 Burns Odd Fellows Hall

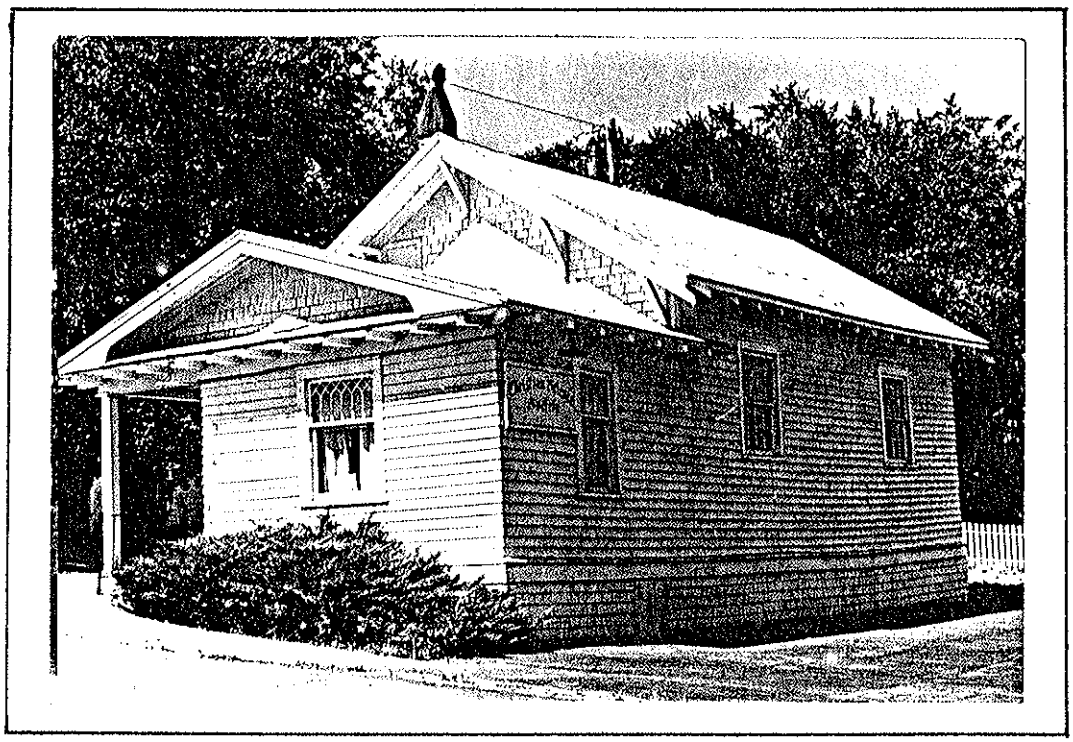
Address: 348 N. Broadway, Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Odd Fellows

The Odd Fellows Building on Broadway Street takes its place with early structures that have been important in the commercial and social life of Burns. The structure was built of native stone in 1909 by two contractors, Jim Sheppard and Frank Wiseman. It measures 51 1/2 feet in width and stands about 45 feet in height. Four double windows are equally spaced across the front, and the three interlocking rings symbolizing the Independent Order of Odd Fellows are engraved in stone near the center front of the top floor. The upper floor has been continually used for lodge activities as well as space for legal offices over the years. After a fire, all of the attorney offices were removed sometime during the 1940's. The large hall that constitutes the upper story has served as the location for dances, a meeting room, benefits of many types, banquets, and similar activities.

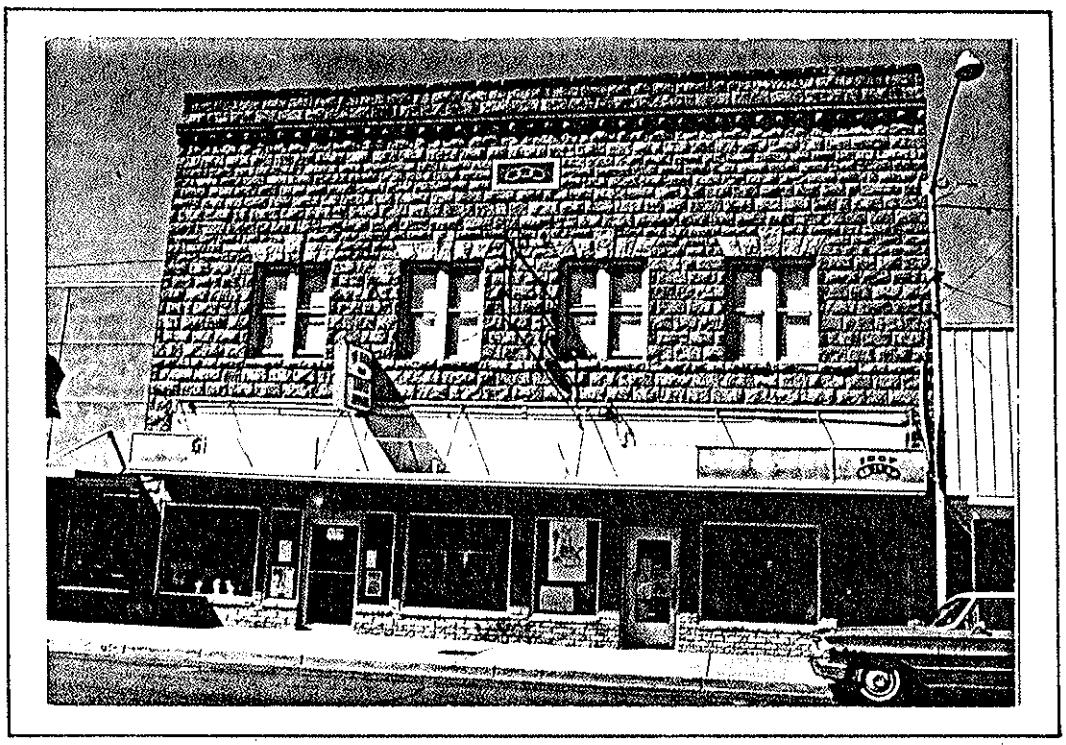
The lower story has been divided into two sections, and a large variety of commercial establishments has occupied this office space over the years. The Burns Commercial Club, which was comparable to the present-day Chamber of Commerce in purpose, was an early occupant of the south side of the lower floor. Many community activities emanated from this office, and during World War I patriotic programs were a regular event. The second Harney County Pioneer Association meeting was held in the Commercial Club's offices in 1917. For a period of time after the Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland, Oregon, in 1905, exhibits were stored in this side of the building. The many stuffed elk, deer, birds, and other wildlife were kept in the Burns Commercial Club's office until finally moved to the old Citizens Business College Building.

The Burns Commercial Club moved out in about 1920, and a dance hall was established in the office space. It continued to be a dance hall until 1923 when the Palace Pool Hall, the predecessor of the present-day Palace Cafe, was opened. The Palace Pool Hall remained until 1930 when the building where the restaurant and bar are presently housed was constructed. Harry Smith, Jr., the son of Harry Smith, Sr., the well-known building contractor in early Burns, was the owner of the Palace. On the same side with the pool hall was also a barber shop operated by Dick Simmons who stayed until 1927. The pool tables were in the back, and the small barber shop used the front portion. In 1927 Pat McNamanee took over the space used by the barber shop and established a restaurant. The Palace Pool Hall continued to operate with these small enterprises in the same section of the Odd Fellows Building. Bogard bought out the Palace operation from Harry Smith, Jr., in 1925, and it was Bogard who subsequently constructed the present Palace business structure.

In 1930, after the Palace Pool Hall relocated, a grocery store was established in the entire south side, because by this date the restaurant was no longer operating. Vic Marshall opened a store with a business name of Vic's Cash Store, or one very close to this in wording. By July 1, 1933, Vic's was no longer functioning as a business and Charlie Schroeder put in Charlie's Market. Charlie's Market operated at this address until about 1962 when Bob Salladay and his wife opened a



10.1 Christian Science Church



11.1 Burns Odd Fellows Hall

gift shop. They sold appliances, televisions, gifts, and related sundry items until 1969 when Ruth Miller established the apparel shop that now occupies that side of the Odd Fellows Building. The Heather Shop, a ladies apparel business, was sold to the present owner by Ruth Miller, but the business name continued. This rather complicated chronology completes the occupation of the south side of the building from the date of construction in 1910 until 1976. The north section of the ground floor has not experienced such variety and its history can be easily recounted.

In 1910 the Clevenger Mortuary was begun on the north side, and this venture continued successfully until 1931 when Sandy's Shoe Shop was moved into the commercial space. Mark "Sandy" Anderson sold this business in 1963 to Duane Dickenson, and Dickenson continued operating the business until 1969, when it was sold to Richard Sly in 1972 and the name was changed to its present one, Burns Boot Shop. Burns Boot Shop operates today in the north side of the Odd Fellows Building.

Rating
Significance: High. Has been one of the centers of social life in Burns.
Integrity: Medium. Remodeling has occurred on both floors.

11.2 Drewsey Odd Fellows Hall

Address: Drewsey, Oregon
Present Owner: Gary Cronin

The impressive two-storied, false-fronted, aging but venerable Odd Fellows Hall that dominates the townscape in Drewsey has survived 76 years. It now faces an uncertain future. The building was erected in 1900 when Drewsey was a bustling town in Harney County. It has principally served as the meeting place for the Drewsey Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) and its affiliate, the Rebeccas, but this should not imply a somber or formal history for the building. It was completed in 1900 with help donated by community members and completely paid for when a huge celebration was staged for which admission of $5 per person was charged. This was a significant sum in the early 1900's. The proceeds from this initial gathering paid all outstanding bills, and the Hall was launched on a vigorous period of community service. The lower portion, consisting of one large room, was the setting for raucous dances and other social occasions up to about fifteen years ago. As many as 400 or 500 revelers, sometimes attending in shifts, would come to a dance at the Odd Fellows Hall to delight to fiddle music and take part in spirited dancing. On periodic occasions throughout the evening many dancers disappeared outside to reappear in a short time fortified with "spirits" and increased gusto. The social lubricant provided the basis for much exuberant behavior, often resulting in fights and other altercations. These social happenings provided release and entertainment for hard-working people coping with a demanding and sometimes harsh environment.

The top story of the building contains an ante room, the lodge hall itself, and an area formerly used for a kitchen. Two windows face onto the main street from the front of the second story. The fraternal organizations met here and conducted their various activities. The Drewsey Lodge of IOOF had a membership of about 50 to 60 members at its peak, but by 1966 the national organization had revoked its charter due to lack of membership, signaling the end of this organized group in Drewsey.

At one period in the building's history in the early 1900's, Brown's General Merchandise Store occupied a part of the bottom floor, but the enterprise was short-lived at this location. The building was originally painted white in 1900 and has not been repainted since the initial coat. Physically, the structure can be described as a two-story wooden (pine) frame building about 24 to 26 feet wide and about 30 feet high. Ceilings in the rooms are approximately 9 to 10 feet high. The foundation is of rock, and it was originally piped for gas lights (probably carbide). In December of 1942, the structure was wired for electricity at the same time that Idaho Power Company brought electricity to the general Drewsey area. No rest rooms were constructed inside the Hall. The custom in 1900 was to provide an outhouse.

The Odd Fellows Hall was recently sold (1976) by the Grand Lodge of IOOF in Portland to Gary Cronin, owner of the tavern in Drewsey. Unsubstantiated reports indicate the new owner plans to raze the building to make way for a restaurant on the site. The materials in the building would be utilized in the new establishment according to the same source. Although the Hall today has a decided lean to the north and its conditions reflect general neglect, it remains as a monument to a more prosperous Drewsey, and a period when community halls played a vital social role in small rural towns over the entire west.

Rating
Significance: High. Was the major center for social activities in Drewsey for many years.
Integrity: Medium. Structure is showing signs of deterioration.

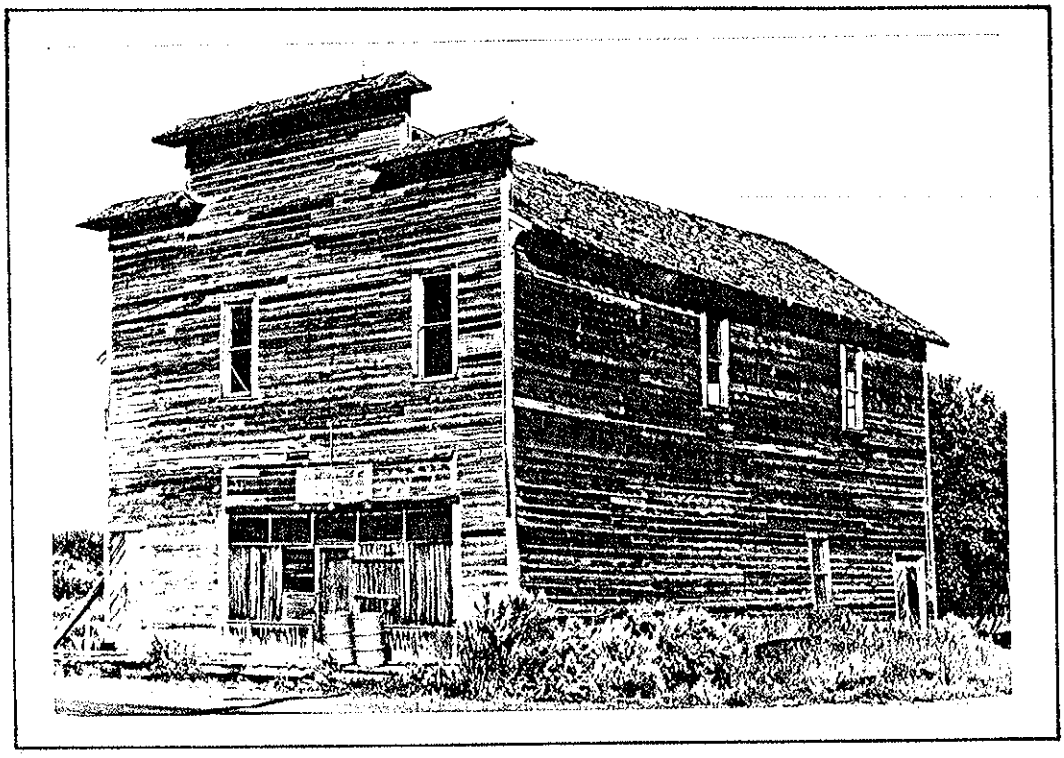
11.3 Masonic Building

Address: 406 N. Broadway, Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Masonic Order

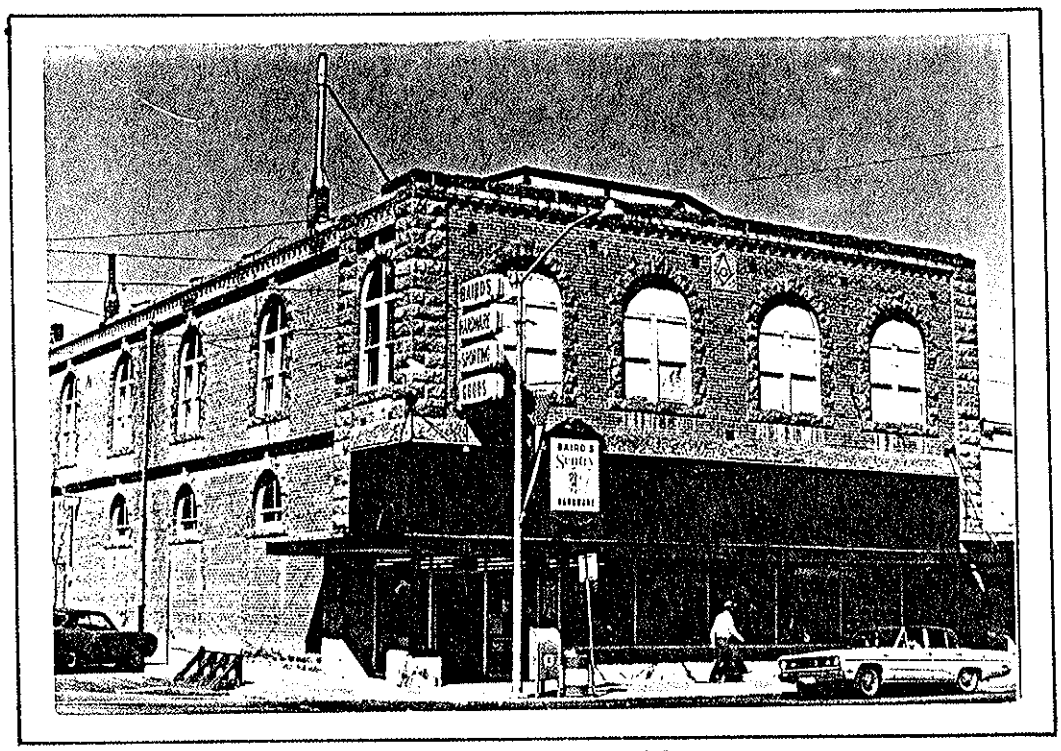
An early structure significant in the commercial and cultural life of Burns has been the Masonic Building located on the primary business street in the town on the corner at 406 N. Broadway. The distinctive red brick building with the arched stone-lined windows has been a landmark for sixty-six years, having been constructed in 1910. The contractor, Harry Smith, was a well-known builder who constructed many of the early structures in the town of Burns.

The original plan for the building included a ground floor which was to be leased for commercial activity and a second floor for the use of the Masonic Order's activities. Also included, however, in the upper floor were offices which were leased to various legal firms over the years. Among the lawyers who occupied this space were Herman Von Schmaltz and Charlie H. Leonard. The Masonic Order finally decided to eliminate the law offices in order to enlarge their quarters. A kitchen was also installed in the southern part of the upper floor. Three or four years after its construction wooden braces, which can still be seen today from the street, were installed to strengthen the structure. This extensive wooden scaffolding was constructed by George Raycraft.

The first occupant of the first floor was the Isaac Schwartz General Merchandise Store which moved into the building the same year it was completed in 1910. This business was moved from across the street where it was established



11.2 Drewsey Odd Fellows Hall



11.3 Masonic Building

earlier. Schwartz went out of business in 1918 and Irving Geer occupied one-half of the bottom floor with Geer Hardware. Geer had operated a business operations at that location. Mrs. Schwartz had continued to occupy one side of the building's first floor until her husband died in 1919. A Mrs. Millar operated the Schwatz Millinery Shop from 1919 to 1921. The store was finally sold to Ella Luckey in 1921. She occupied the building space until 1925, whereupon she moved out. A year later three entrepreneurs established a Chevrolet dealership at the location. Grover Jamison, Allie Dillard, and Ernest Musick established Dillard Chevrolet on the south side of the lower floor. At this time Geer Hardware continued on the north side and was to remain at that location until 1931. The owners of the new automobile agency decided that display windows were needed to exhibit their merchandise; therefore, an opening was cut through the brick wall on the building's south. The window space was subsequently filled with brick, and the outline can still be seen today.

During the latter part of 1929 or 1930 Dillard Chevrolet discontinued business operations, and Corbett Drug moved in during December of 1930. Corbett's pharmacy business had been operating in the Clemens Building. Geer ceased operating his hardware store in 1931, and the north side of the building was vacant for a few years until 1934. In that year C. E. Dillman opened Dillman Hardware which operated until the fall of 1945 when the business was sold to James Harris and Hale Baird.

The building measures 100 by 52 and is approximately 50 feet high. It contains six windows on the south upper floor and three half windows on the lower floor on the same side. The front of the building contains four of the distinctive arched windows framed with native stone. The building is an attractive combination of native stone and brick. All corners are framed with structural corner pilasters. Ultra decorative dentil moulding adorn the top and support cornice moulding. This moulding provides a finished look to the top of the structure. The framing stones of the windows have been alternated in size to produce a pattern that terminates with a larger key stone at the top center.

Rating

Significance: High. Has been significant in the commercial and social life of Burns.

Integrity: Medium. Remodeling has occurred to accommodate the various businesses.

12. POLITICAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

12.1 Camp Alvord

Among the several Civil War period camps that were established in Harney County was Camp Alvord, about which little information remains. Sources do not even agree on the date of its founding or exact location. McArthur in Oregon Geographic Names states that it was founded in June of 1864 in what is now called the Alvord Valley at the east base of Steens Mountain. This editor also lists the camp as being in Malheur County, which is counter to local belief. Another source pinpoints September 5, 1865, and places the camp on Horse Creek near Andrews. On August 18, 1864, Captain George B. Currey of the First Oregon Cavalry described it in a letter to H. C. Gibbs, Governor of Oregon:

> "Camp Alvord is located about 300 miles south of southeast from The Dalles in the midst of the finest grass valley I have seen since I left the broad prairies of the Mississippi Valley."
>
> (The Alvord Ranch and Its History)

One local informant stated that there were at least three different Camp Alvords in separate locations, but the available records do not support this. According to McArthur, Lieutenant J. A. Waymire and his troops of the First Oregon Volunteer Cavalry had camped on the site early in 1864 during an engagement with the Indians. The rifle-pits dug by Waymire's troops were found by Captain George B. Currey of the same regiment in June of the same year (1864), and he selected the location for a camp he named Camp Alvord. Additional earth-works in the form of a star were put in place, but no record of permanent structures is found. Currey named the camp for Brigadier-General Benjamin Alvord of the U. S. Army who was in command of the Department of Oregon from 1861 to 1865. Alvord was widely known in the Pacific Northwest during this period for his military service against the Indians.

The military camp was abandoned less than a year later, and again there is a difference of opinion as to the date this occurred. One source states May 25, 1866, and another holds that it was in June of 1866. Most sources agree that the troops were moved to a new camp that was established on Whitehorse Creek, which was named Camp C. F. Smith. The location of the new camp was described by one source as being north of Quinn River Mountain. It is generally agreed that the Whitehorse Ranch occupies the general locale of Camp C. F. Smith today.

Camp Alvord seems to have led a short and relatively undistinguished life if the paucity of information is any indication of its importance.

Rating
Significance: Medium. The camp was very short lived.
Integrity: Low. Nothing remains today.

12.2 Camp Currey

Township 22S, Range 26E, Section 30
Address: "71" Bar Ranch
Present Owner: Carl and Jean Mayo

Camp Currey was named for Colonel George B. Currey, an officer of the First Oregon Volunteer Cavalry, who became commander of the Columbia District on the death of General Wright. The camp was a temporary installation established at Indian Springs on what is now known as Silver Creek, about forty-five miles from Camp Harney. The camp was never very important militarily in Harney County and in fact did not have a formally declared reservation at the time of its abandonment. It operated about nine months, being abandoned in May of 1866. During this period it was occupied by several military units as follows:

September 30, 1865:	Companies D and I, 4th California Infantry Detachment of Company E, 1st Washington Territorial Infantry Detachment of Company K, 1st Oregon Infantry
November 30, 1865:	2nd Battalion, 14th U.S. Infantry Company K, 1st Oregon Infantry

Camp Currey was commanded on September 30, 1865, by Captain L. S. Scott, Company D, 4th California Infantry. On November 30, 1865, a new commander assumed the post, 1st Lieutenant Frank W. Perry of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 14th U.S. Infantry. Commander Perry continued in command until the post was abandoned in May of 1866.

The century-old "71" Bar Ranch occupies the site of the military camp today. J. C. Cecil recalled in 1943 that over the years the family had dug up foundation stones of about forty cabins which had made up the camp. He thought that the cabins were about 10 by 12 feet and probably constructed of hewn logs. An excavation exists on the hillside behind the ranch buildings that may have been used as a cellar or storehouse. Cecil remembered at least three graves that existed in back of the camp. Indian Springs had long been used by the Indians in the arid high desert country when the whites arrived to Harney County. A major east-west artery for transportation also passed by the Springs during the period of pioneer settlement in Harney County. Nothing remains today of Camp Currey.

Rating
Significance: Medium. Operated less than a year.
Integrity: Low. Little evidence remains from the Camp.

12.3 Camp Harney

Township 22S, Range 32.5, Section 18
Present Owner: Hanson

Camp Harney was established in response to white settlers' need for protection against marauding Paiute Indians. The nearest military camp was Camp Warner, located 130 miles away. Camp Harney was situated on Rattlesnake Creek, sixteen miles east of Burns on August 16, 1867, and covered 640 acres of land. The post was sheltered from winter storms by a steep eastern ridge and was located along the major route from Canyon City. Fertile land along the valley floor provided vegetables and grains for the men.

The first post office in Harney County country was established on August 10, 1874, at the camp. Over the years of its existence the post was renamed four times. Its first name was "Camp on Rattlesnake Creek," then renamed to "Camp Steele," and later to "Camp Crook." Finally the official title of the post became "Camp Harney," honoring the famous Major-General W. S. Harney.

The garrison was built of logs and poles from the A. H. Robie portable sawmill on the fork of Coffee Pot Creek. Robie provided the timber for many settlers' homes in the early days of Harney County. There was never a stockade built, but the camp did consist of twenty-five buildings including the headquarters, barracks, quarters for officers and married men, hospital, storage house, and two large stables.

Sarah Winnemuca, an educated Paiute Indian, would periodically live at the camp acting as peace maker, interpreter, and intermediary between the Indians and the United States Government.

The inhabitants of Camp Harney numbered no more than fifty men, and routine soldiering was the norm. The population increased to three hundred soldiers in 1878 as defense against possible attacks by the Pauite and Bannock Indians. By this year, the Indians, reacting to white intrusion and destruction of their activities and lands, joined forces to oppose the white people. Many settlers from all over the county came to Camp Harney during the uprising.

Camp Harney was never under direct seige by the Indians, but it was thought to have served its purpose during the war. Part of it had burned earlier in 1878, and the remainder gradually fell into disrepair. By June 13, 1880, the camp was officially disbanded by the U. S. Government. All the bodies of the soldiers buried at the camp were transferred to the Presidio in San Francisco. A fenced enclosure near the old Camp Harney site is thought by some to contain soldier graves, but many local historians doubt this.

Many of the settlers who sought protection under the wing of the military post during the Bannock War remained in the Rattlesnake Creek Valley. They used the lumber and other building materials from the abandoned buildings to construct homes for themselves. Consequently, only one mile from the old Camp Harney site the thriving town of Harney sprung up.

Today there is no evidence of the military camp remaining. The ranchers' fields of grass cover all evidence of bygone military activity. The demise of the camp paralleled the end of hostile Indian activity in Harney County, and not since the Bannock War of 1878 has the dominant position of Euro-Americans been challenged.

Rating
Significance: High. Played a part in the early settlement of Harney County. Was significant in the Bannock War.
Integrity: Low. Little remains today.

12.4 Camp C. F. Smith

Township 37S, Range 38E, Section 12

With the evacuation of Camp Alvord in June 1866 the troops were moved to a new location on Whitehorse Creek north of Quinn River Mountain where a new camp was established. The post-Civil War period in the Harney country was notable for frequent hostile Indian activity which necessitated military operations to protect the white advance. One of the functions of Camp C. F. Smith was to provide protection for the Oregon Central Military Road which would pass old Camp Alvord and Camp C. F. Smith, then go eastward to the Idaho line. Grants were subsequently made to the Willamette Valley and Cascade Mountain Wagon Road Company to complete a road from Albany eastward to Idaho within five years.

The camp is thought to have been named for Major-General Charles Ferguson Smith, who was an officer in the regular army. It was abandoned on November 9, 1869, leaving little record of noteworthy activity. John Devine, the earliest cattle baron to establish operations in the Harney country, chose the abandoned fort site for his headquarters which became known as the Whitehorse Ranch. Devine's famous ranch continues to operate at the same location today and is widely known throughout the region. A short distance from the ranch is located a sign erected by the Malheur Historical Society which briefly describes the significance of the site. Several scattered graves are also to be seen, one of which reads, "William Bunyard, January 13, 1874-November 1, 1897." The primary historical significance of Camp C. F. Smith stems from its abandoned site being occupied by John Devine and the subsequent role of Devine's cattle empire.

Rating
Significance: Medium. Significance stems primarily from its association with the Whitehorse Ranch.
Integrity: Low. Only a few graves remain.

12.5 Camp Wright

Township 25S, Range 32E, Section 5 or 6

In 1865 the Civil War was drawing to a long anticipated close, therefore little attention was directed to events in the remote western part of the U. S. Events important to the military history of Harney County were occurring at the same approximate time with little fanfare. Captain L. L. Williams of Company H of the First Oregon Volunteer Infantry was active in the Silvies River area with a troop of 23 or 24 men. As the early settlers were moving into the Oregon country, some conflict was occurring with the Indians, therefore a military presence became necessary. Captain Williams's orders directed him to move into the "Selvie River" area and make camp. On October 3, 1865, he selected a site near the east end of a promontory on the north side where he established a permanent camp and gave it the name of Camp Wright. The camp was about one-fourth of a mile from the end of the point. The name was chosen to honor the Brigadier-General George Wright who was in command of the Department of the Pacific. Wright later drowned in the vessel "Brother Jonathan" which sunk off the California coast.

The military camp, like the few others established in Harney County, operated only a short time and was never very significant in the total sweep of history in the region. Camp Wright was abandoned in April of 1866 and the buildings were burned, according to one source, by the warring Chief Whaweveh, a brother of the famous Chief Paulina. Major-General George Steele, the Commander of the Department

of the Columbia, later recommended that the camp be re-established. Apparently his recommendation was not followed, and the camp ceased to exist as the remaining structures were destroyed. The camp was never substantially fortified.

Later the site where Camp Wright was located was acquired by the Island Ranch. Today nothing remains of the camp.

Rating
Significance: Medium. Was not important in the military history of the region.
Integrity: Low. Nothing remains on the site today.

12.6 Harney Townsite

Township 22S, Range 32E, Section 24
Present Owner: Mr. Verley

Anticipation of Indian attacks drove many settlers from all over the county to seek protection with the military post at Camp Harney in the latter years of the 1870's. As fear of Indians abated, the fort was gradually abandoned by soldiers, and the settlers began to use much of the lumber from the encampment to construct new homes for themselves. Located about one mile from Camp Harney and sixteen miles east of Burns on the Rattlesnake Creek, Thomas Bain began the first business establishment at Harney City in 1885. By then many homes were already evident in the new town.

At the same time that Harney County was created from Grant County by an act of the state legislature in 1889, Harney City was also designated as the temporary county seat. The legislature directed the voters to vote on the permanent county seat in the next June 1890 election. Even though Burns had a majority by six votes, the Harney City residents contested the decision and took the issue to the Supreme Court. Harney City did not want to surrender the official county records. Consequently, after the election several brazen Burns inhabitants handled the situation their own way. Several individuals rode to Harney and, while the town slept, took the documents to Burns. The court finally confirmed the election results in 1892 in favor of Burns. There is still some debate today by Harney City descendants as to whether Burns should have been the county seat of Harney County.

By 1900 Harney City had grown to support three saloons, a post office, dancehall, two mercantile stores, a church, jail, and two hotels. Later a first-year junior high school was established. There was such avid rivalry between saloon owners by 1912 that two saloon proprietors, Buckland and Clay, called a shoot-out down main street against their competitor Stroud. Stoud lost the battle and was shot many times until dead.

Harney City slowly deteriorated as the political and commercial focus of the County shifted to its rival neighbor, Burns. Most commercial establishments could no longer continue as the town's population slowly drifted away, many relocating in Burns. Fred Haines' General Merchandise Store was the last business to operate in Harney City. When it closed, much of the merchandise was simply left standing on the shelves behind locked doors. The city buildings were gradually torn down and used for construction elsewhere, firewood, and other purposes. Jack Devitt bought the lots from various owners, and he ultimately sold the entire town to a Mr. Verley. All that is left today of the once thriving community of

Harney City is the Fred Haines' barn, a home that continues to be occupied by a rancher, and the cemetary. Harney City's place in Harney County history is assured because of its role in the county seat controversy. It was also one of the earliest settlements in the county and thereby occupies a special historical niche.

Rating
Significance: High. Significant in the political history of the county.
Integrity: Low. Only a few structures remain of the townsite.

12.7 Shields House

Township 23S, Ranch 27E, Section 30
Present Owner: Zola Shields

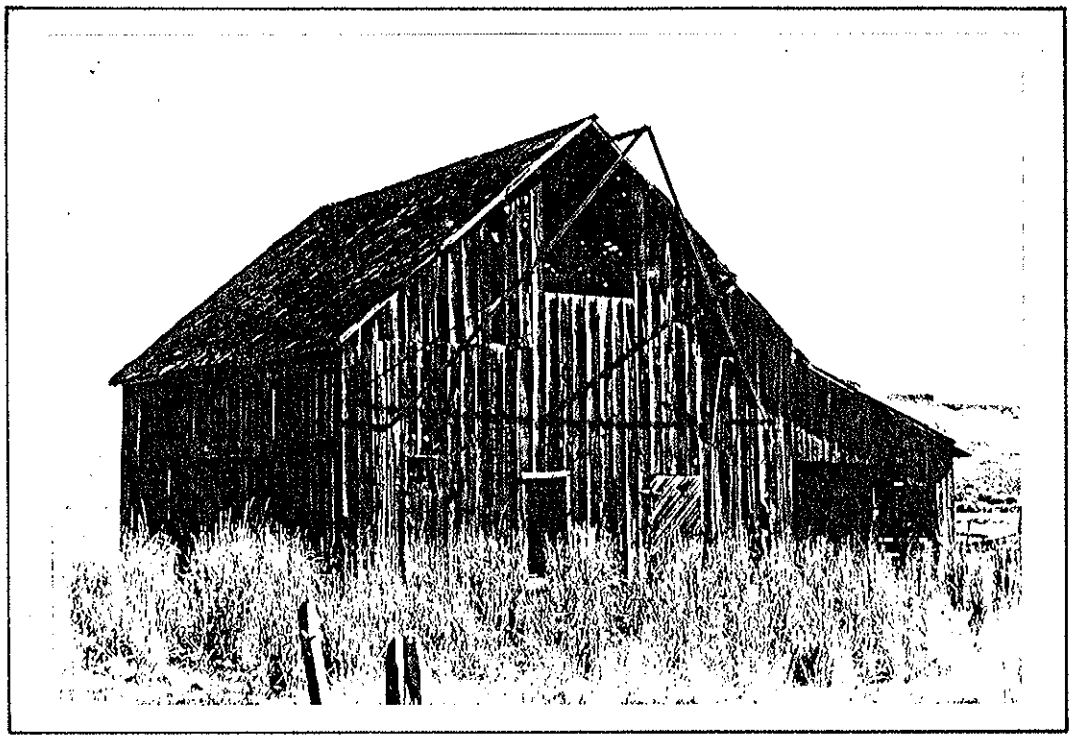
Thomas Jefferson Shields' first introduction to the Pacific Northwest was in 1852 at the age of three when he came with his parents from Missouri and settled in Linn County, Oregon. When he matured, he and six other young men formed a partnership in dairy production, and all partners moved to the Harney County area in 1881. Once the business was established, each partner would take a turn at transporting 400 pounds of butter to Canyon City where they sold their merchandise to miners for 40¢ a pound.

T. J. Shields settled a homestead in 1882 with his wife Julia in Silver Creek Valley about three miles northwest from present-day Riley. As was the custom among settlers at the time, Shields built a two-room log home for his family. The logs came from the mountains north of the site, and the flooring for the dwelling was obtained from a mill near Fort Harney. The Shields, who had married in 1880, eventually had six children. By 1890 the family had outgrown the cabin, necessitating the building of a larger home. Their second home was constructed of milled lumber and square nails. It sits about an eighth of a mile from their original dwelling.

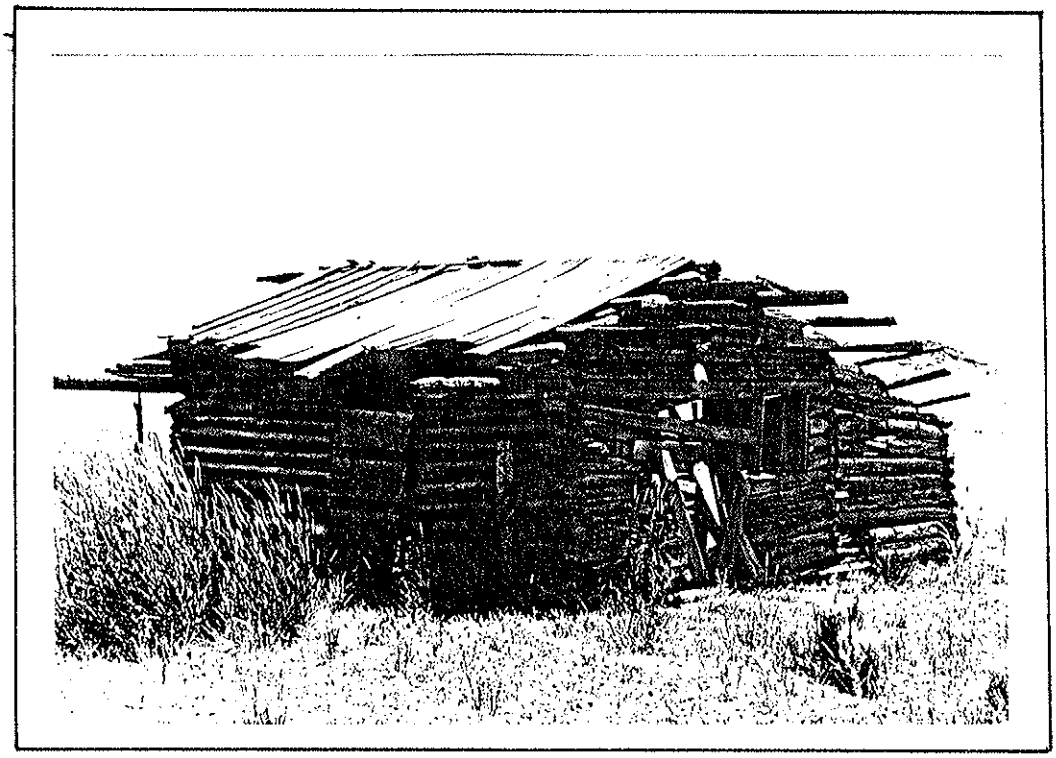
A well-respected citizen, Thomas Jefferson Shields, became Harney County's first County Judge in 1889 when Harney was separated from Grant County. He refused a second term even though, as one source described him, he was a man with "... sterling qualities of integrity, impartiality, justice and keen perception, which rendered his regime one of excellent administration of justice." Later in 1897 Shields served at the famous trial of Ed Olivier, the man who killed Pete French. The Honorable Judge Shields passed away at the age of 93 on January 7, 1943, and was buried in the Silver Creek cemetary near the family home.

The original Shields' log house still stands today, partially collapsed and very weather-worn. Historically significant for being the home of the first judge of Harney County, rejuvenation of the structure is necessary in the near future or it will disintegrate.

Rating
Significance: High. The home of the first judge in Harney County.
Integrity: Low. Structurally unsound.



12.6 Harney Townsite



12.7 Shields House

13. CULTURAL IMMIGRATION

13.1 Star Hotel

Address: 537 N. Alder, Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Pedro Zabala

Perhaps the oldest and undoubtedly the most important ethnic institution found among the Basques of the American West is the hotel or boarding house. Hotels owned and operated by and for Basques came to constitute a network of ethnic establishments which provided a host of services and functions for the newly arrived immigrant as well as for the long-term resident. The confused and lonely newcomer who just arrived from the old country would encounter familiar language and cultural ambience, employment information, help in dealing with legal problems, and support in coping with the multitude of other overwhelming obstacles facing him. For the already established Basque, the hotel provided essential recreation and socialization and a setting which renewed his ethnic identity.

In some areas such as San Francisco a Basque hotel district developed that catered to the needs of the Basque population that was continually moving through this key entry point. Hotels were places to eat, sleep, meet newly arrived countrymen, get married, honeymoon, do business, play handball, drink and play cards, dance, and even borrow money. The hotel offered the opportunity for Basques of different provinces and countries to better know one another. It was more cosmopolitan in make-up than had been the small village from which most came. Thus, the Vizcayan Basque who came from a Spanish Basque province often came to know a French Basque.

Founders of hotels tended to be Basques who after a number of years of herding sheep decided to settle down and remain permanently in the U. S. The commercial endeavor was usually a family operation requiring unrelenting labor from all members of the family. Since the hotel was mostly dependent upon the sheep industry, the owner's knowledge of sheep was indispensable. The Basque who successfully made the transition from herder to owning his own sheep outfit found the hotel ideal for conducting business on his infrequent trips to town. The nomadic herder had in his chosen hotel an address for mail and the closest thing he could call home. Perhaps the single most important ingredient of the successful hotel was the owner's ability to serve as a confidant for his client in dealing with the Anglo world. Thus in dealing with the local doctor, lawyer, or banker, the hotel keeper intervened to protect his client's interests.

The Basques have played a unique and colorful role in the development of the American West and Harney County has shared in this history. A vigorous people who have spread over much of the New World, Basques came to eastern Oregon in connection with the sheep industry. The itinerant herder trailing his band of sheep came to be a familiar sight on the ranges of Harney County from about 1870 until the mid-1930's. Some claimed that by 1901 there were as many as 200,000 sheep annually on Steens Mountain and Basques, along with Irish, Scotch, and others tended these flocks. A drought and depression in the 1930's as well as the Taylor Grazing Act were to bring an end to the sheep industry in Harney County, but it was a colorful era.

Over the years the Basque sheepmen regularly came to Burns for business and pleasure, and several hotels at different times have been centers for their activities. The Commercial Hotel, Plaza Hotel, and Star Hotel were significant contributers to the Basque hotel tradition at different periods in the County's history. The Star Hotel, which is no longer officially a hotel, is the oldest building in this group.

The Star Hotel building was constructed in about 1916 and used as a maternity house for some years. Chino Berdugo, a local buckaroo of Mexican descent, purchased and remodeled the dwelling which he converted to a rooming house. He subsequently sold it to Felix and Cecilia Urizer in 1926. The Urizers, who were Basque, had previously operated a hotel in Andrews, Oregon. They established the Star Hotel and operated it for a Basque clientele from 1926 until 1947 when it was sold to Tom Zabala. In 1957 Tom Zabala sold the hotel to his brother, Pedro, who continues as the owner today. Although Pedro Zabala no longer manages the residence as a hotel, it continues to be one center of Basque social life in Burns. Distinctive Basque cuisine is offered to guests on Sundays, as well as other days, and card games of Moose and Tute are played with regularity. Another hotel in Burns that continues in the same tradition is the Plaza Hotel where Basques often gather for social purposes. Since many Basques in Burns and Harney County now work in occupations other than those connected with the sheep industry, the functions of the Basque hotel are somewhat different.

The building that was formerly called the Star Hotel has six bedrooms and a bath upstairs and three bedrooms, bath, living room, and kitchen on the ground floor. Except for the addition of the kitchen and some interior redecoration, the structure remains very close to its design in 1926. A screened porch is attached to the front of the white two-story, wood building.

Rating
Significance: High. Representative of the Basque subculture in the County.
Integrity: Medium. Remodeling has occurred.

14. TRAVEL AND RECREATION

14.1 Andrews Saloon

Township 35S, Range 33E, Section 34
Present Owner: Wildhorse Ranch, Inc.

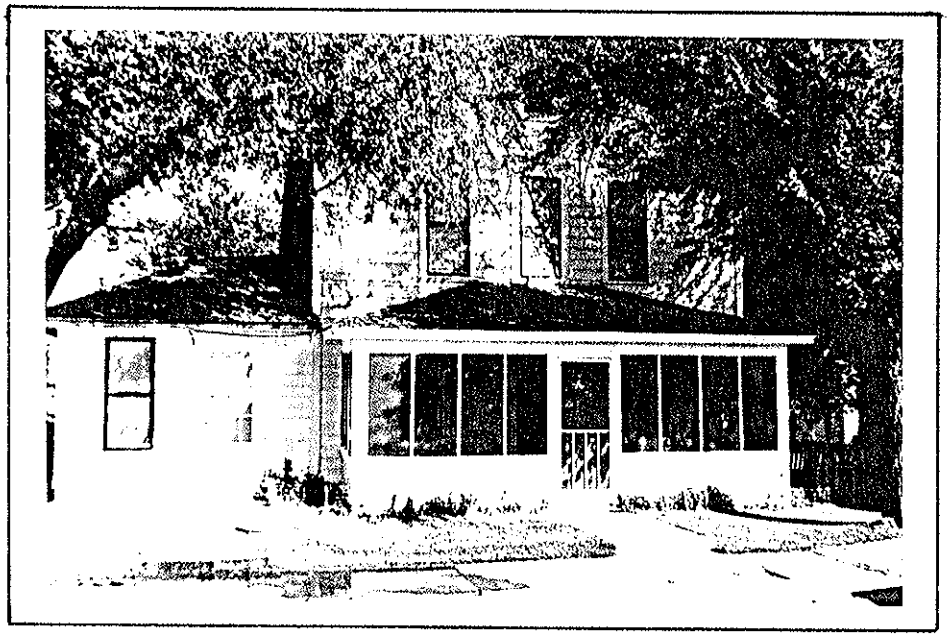
A gathering place for cowboys and sheepherders alike, the Saloon at Andrews served many functions. The exact name of the establishment could not be determined, but it is likely that it was locally known simply as "the Saloon." The business was established by the pioneers, George Smyth and his brother John T. Smyth in about 1896 or 1897. Located 117 miles south of Burns at the eastern base of the Steens Mountain, the establishment came to be known as a place where a lonely man could always find company. Many Basque sheepherders frequented the Saloon on their occasional trips off the mountain to relax away from their flocks. Drinking and card playing were probably the primary past-times with an occasional opportunity to dance at some special occasion.

Since Andrews was on a major artery for transportation going north and south throughout Harney County, travelers were constantly dropping in at the Saloon for respite from the dusty road. Contests of strength were held on both an organized and regular basis and informally as disputes broke out and were resolved. Many stories are told of violence, the most noteworthy being one episode in which a ranch hand had his throat slit by his opponent. The interior decor consisted of a wall-length mirror and copper railing. The railing was graced at each end by shiny spittoons which gradually lost their luster as customers aimed poorly and missed the opening, but hit the sides.

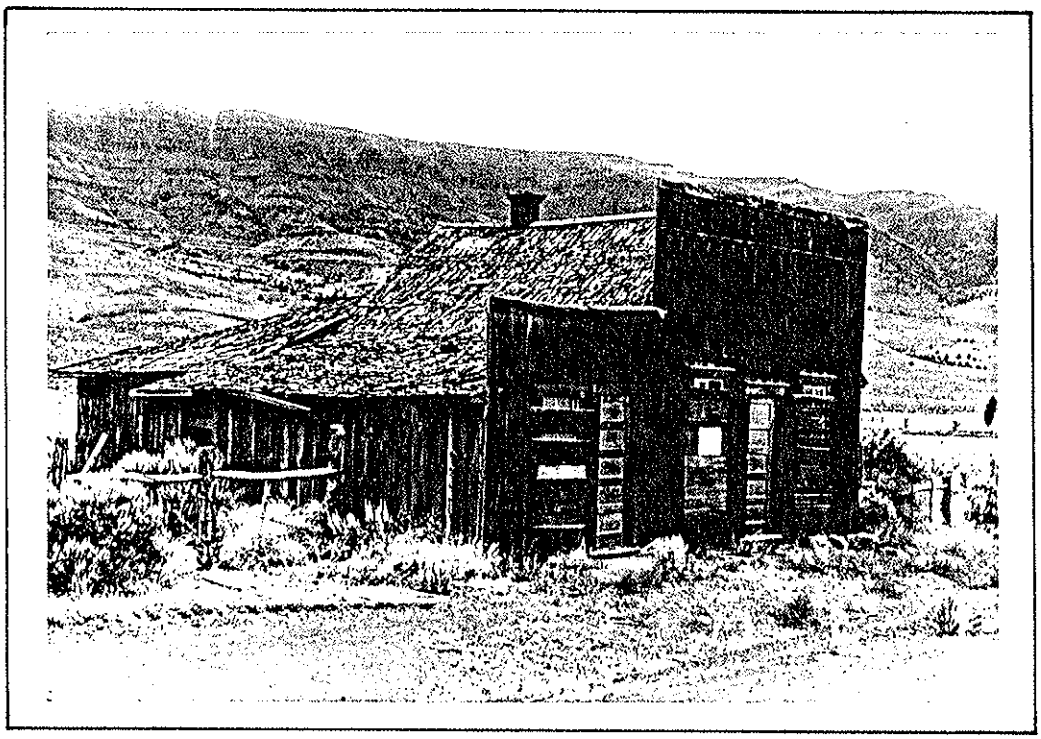
The Saloon was a multi-purpose facility for the small settlement of Andrews, and as such was often the location for activities not normally associated with a saloon. For example, occasionally circuit-riding ministers gathered together those wishing to worship in the saloon for church services. One local informant remembers when a travelling dentist came to the Saloon and set up for an afternoon's business. A shot of whiskey was a natural anesthetic, probably both before the painful extraction and afterwards for a pain-killer. Dr. Hibbard, one of the first dentists in Harney County, almost certainly stopped at Andrews sometime during his years of practice throughout the country.

There were other uses of the structure as well, including an occasional photographer who temporarily used the Saloon as his studio. After Prohibition became a reality, the Saloon could no longer sell whiskey, but it continued as a community center. Dances and community gatherings of all types were regularly scheduled in the building. Occasionally throughout the structure's history, it was even used as a temporary residence by various families in need.

For many years Andrew Shull, a long-time and contemporary resident of Andrews, owned the building and surrounding land. Shull sold it to his son Gregory Shull who subsequently sold it to the Wildhorse Ranch, Inc., in 1974. The Shulls had used the structure primarily for general storage, and in more recent times it has not been used for anything. Windows are boarded up, the doors are locked and a sign warns the trespasser to stay way. The Andrews Saloon is a much photographed building, because of its distinctive false front and weathered board-on-



13.1 Star Hotel



14.1 Andrews Saloon

batten walls. It faces northeast and measures 35 by 28 1/2 feet. Its five small rooms which once saw much lively activity now only resound to the activity of the woodrats and other wildlife who have made it their residence.

Rating
Significance: Medium. Structure served as one of the centers of social functions in the Andrews community.
Integrity: Medium. Preventative maintenance is needed.

14.2 Ideal Theater

Address: 239 N. Broadway St., Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Frank Sr. and Frank Jr. Hickey

The Ideal Theater brought the drama of the silent screen and later the lively entertainment of the "talkies" to the cultural life of Burns. The building was constructed in 1926 by A. Combs to be used for silent pictures. In 1929 the Oasis Hall, a long room built originally for a dance hall near the present-day Copeland Lumber Co., got the first "talkies." In December of the same year the Ideal Theater installed the "Fox Movietone system" to present the sound motion pictures it began receiving. The system utilized by the Oasis Hall was known as "Warner Vitaphone."

The Ideal Theater operated continuously from 1926 until April 1963 at which time it was closed. Wilfred Racine and his wife Goldie (Combs' daughter) managed the theater as well as the Desert Theater which they built in 1949. About 1965 the Ideal Theater building was sold to Dwight Hinshaw but remained vacant or was used for storage. Hinshaw was owner of the Burns Times-Herald (since 1960) which was located at that time in the building presently occupied by Bradeen Brothers Realty. In 1966 the newspaper operations were relocated to the theater building where they continue today.

During its years of operation the Ideal Theater offered entertainment every night with a Sunday matinee on weekends. Occasionally a Saturday matinee was scheduled as well. During the Depression years the managers resorted to many different promotional schemes to increase attendance. Tuesday and Wednesday nights were designated "Pal Night" during which one paid admission provided for the entry of a friend, i.e., pal. This practice was initiated in 1931 and continued until about 1936. In 1936 there was a regular "Bank Night" in which the manager drew a number from among those submitted by those in attendance. The winner had to be present to win and the "jackpot" continued to build until a lucky recipient was identified.

The building measures 40 feet across the front and is approximately 30 feet high. In 1937 the interior was remodeled and lengthened by Racine after a fire occurred. The floor originally was sloped, but it has since been altered to accommodate the newspaper operation of the Burns Times-Herald. The structure is made of concrete and is plastered.

With the closing of the theater in 1953, the Desert Theater became the sole motion picture theater in the town of Burns, as it is today. A drive-in theater operated in the town for several years, but the screen was destroyed by wind and not replaced. The motion picture theater in American small towns has played a dominant role in the social life of the community. The Ideal Theater was no

exception and most long-time Harney County residents today can recall memorable evenings and matinees at the Ideal.

Rating
Significance: Medium. Once played a role in the social life of Burns.
Integrity: Low. Interior and exterior remodeling has occurred.

14.3 I and C Hotsprings

Township 24S, Range 33E, Section 34
Present Owner: Dick Arnold

The hot mineral waters welling up from these three springs have long been known and used by local residents for a variety of purposes. Located nine miles east of Lawen and three and one-half miles west of Crane, the steam from the hotsprings can be seen from Highway 78.

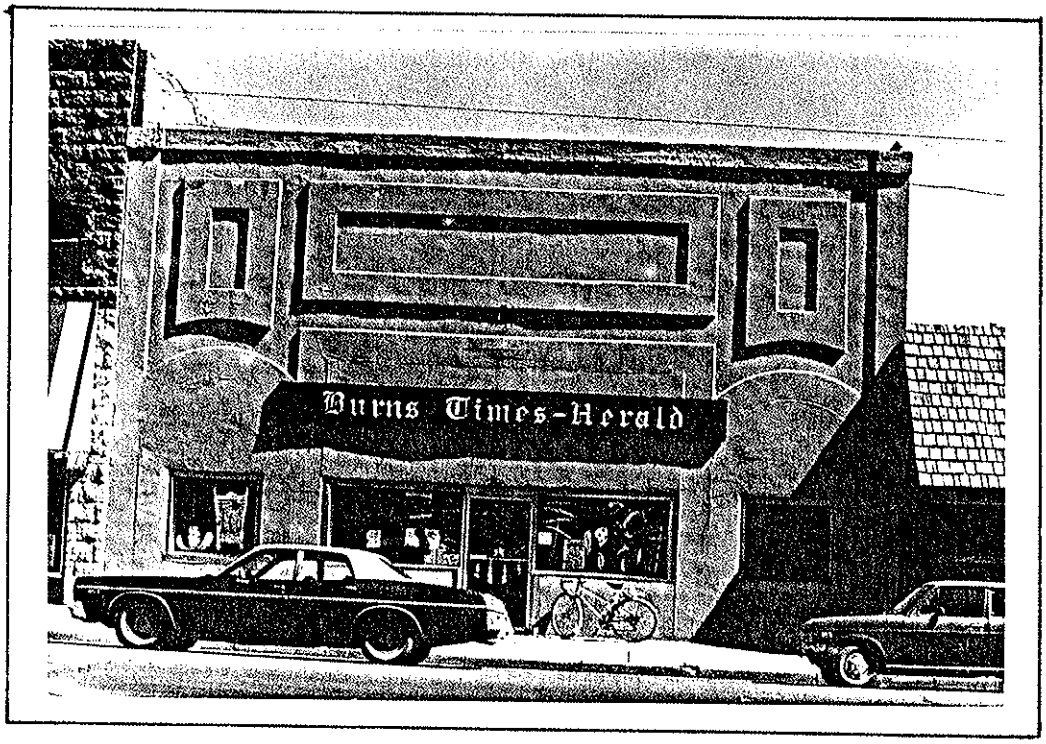
In the 1920's two enterprising individuals joined ideas and created a health spa and recreation site in order to capitalize on the popularity of this natural phenomenon. Ralph Catterson and Dr. Minnie Iland, a woman medical doctor from the east who had established a practice in the area, formed a partnership to initiate the resort. In a series of improvements they constructed a 30- by 60-foot cement swimming pool and piped water to the facility. In order for pleasure seekers to swim in the pool, however, the water had to be cooled 24 hours prior to using. A levee was constructed around the three springs confining the water to a small pond in order to facilitate pumping the water to the pool. A restaurant and dance hall were also erected and opened for business, and the complex, which became known as the I and C Hotsprings, became a hub of social activity. The wooden structures ultimately caught fire and were totally demolished. The resort buildings were not replaced by the owners.

The well-known hotsprings have been used for many purposes over the years by the local residents. Women at one time followed the custom of bringing their soiled clothes to the hotsprings to take advantage of the hot water for clothes washing. A wooden paddle washing machine was constructed by some innovative person and a clothes line was strung for drying. These too ultimately fell into disrepair and were abandoned.

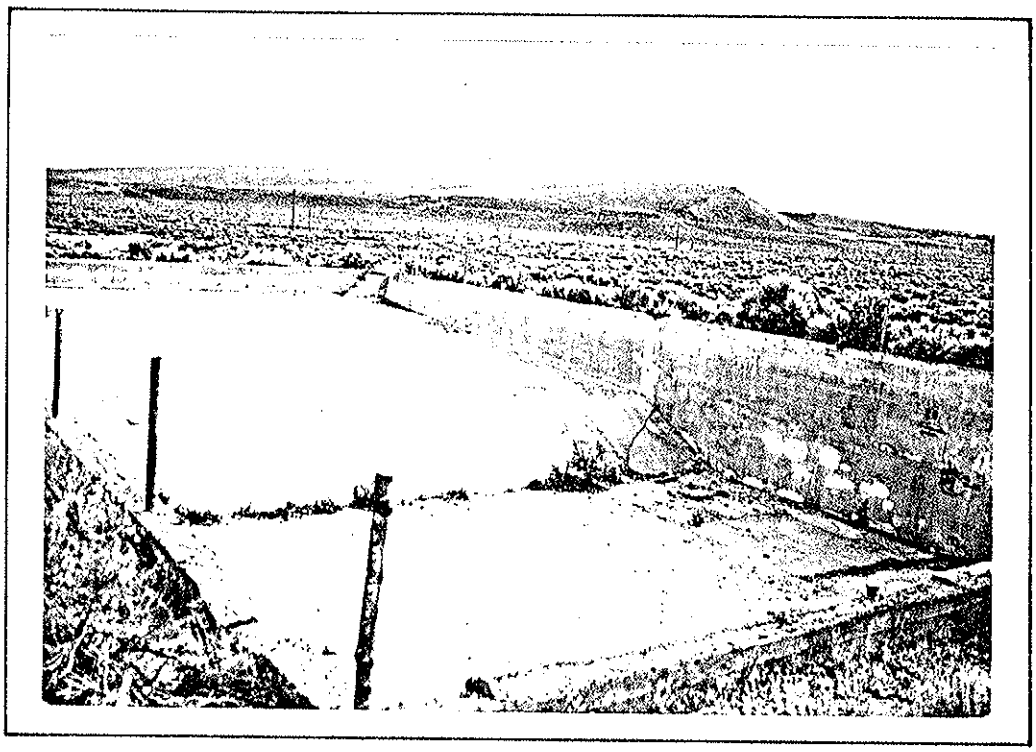
Another entrepreneur, Shorty Lasater, opened a gas station and small store at the site in the 1930's. This enterprise did not prosper, and it too joined the list of unsuccessful ventures at the hotsprings. There are no remains of Shorty's business at the site today.

At one time a twenty-foot-deep wooden structure was constructed into the water with a platform extending to the shore. It is thought that local ranchers used this structure to dip and scald their hogs in order to loosen the hair for removal. Part of this structure remains today, but it has little functionality because of its delapidated condition.

There are at least three separate stories of people having fallen into the scalding waters and drowning. One source recounted a night of boisterous drinking and dancing, after which a drunken reveler decided to take a swim and lost his life. Another believes that a woman committed suicide in the hotsprings.



14.2 Ideal Theater



14.3 I and C Hotsprings

Today, the ditches once used for directing water into the swimming pool are still used for cooling the water for the livestock to drink. The swimming pool which was once the occasion of much pleasure has deteriorated to the point of no longer holding water. The I and C Hotsprings have long intrigued the local residents, but with improved transportation and increased recreational opportunity elsewhere, its role has greatly decreased.

Rating
Significance: Low.
Integrity: Low.

14.4 Malheur Cave

Township 27S, Range 36E, Section 18
Present Owner: Masonic Order

An ominous aura suggestive of being lost with Tom Sawyer greets the spelunker on entering Malheur Cave. Located 51 miles southeast of Burns and 2.7 miles on a dirt road off Highway 78, the lava tube extends 3000 feet into the darkness. About 1700 feet down-cave the visitor encounters a lake which contains, among other objects, three sunken boats which are visible from the surface.

The cave has long been known to the residents of the surrounding area. In 1889 the cave was mentioned in an article in a Portland newspaper. In 1901 a Dr. Marsden discovered Indian arrowheads, stone knives, and other Indian artifacts in the cave. There are numerous legends about Indian occupation on an intermittant basis. One holds that a band of Pauites used the cave to escape capture by their enemies, the Bannocks. By 1928 white settlers were regularly using the site as a picnic ground. Among their activities were boating excursions on the lake, which probably accounts for the sunken boats. Rafts and rowboats of various designs were used for this activity, and many Harney County residents remember these exciting experiences.

At one time in the late 1800's the entrance was barricaded for reasons not presently known. Also, there was a wall about 75 yards from the mouth to deter visitors from entering the cave. There is no evidence of these structures today. In 1924 Carl Hubbs did extensive biological research on cave-adapted organisms in the 62° F environment. It is said that he almost drowned during the data collection period.

Today the cave visitor will note two 80-foot long wooden bleachers about 500 feet in from the entrance. These were erected by the Masonic Order of Burns which since 1938 has regularly used it for their annual meeting. Research continues on the cave's denizens and their environment through the Malheur Cave Research Project supported by the Malheur Field Station. Malheur Cave has, since its discovery, provided a certain focal point of interest and mystery. Its position as an interesting natural phenomena and a site where intriguing human activity has taken place would seem to be firmly esconced in Harney County history.

Rating
Significance: High. The cave has been an attraction since its discovery.
Integrity: Medium. Human impact is very evident.

14.5 Whorehouse Meadow

Township 32S, Range ~~35E~~ 33, Section 28
Present Owner: Bureau of Land Management

Whorehouse Meadow is a distinctive geographic name about which local residents and the BLM have had trouble agreeing. The colorful appellation identifies a grove of quaking aspens on the Steens Mountain where "the world's oldest profession" was practiced for a time during the 1920's and early 1930's. Prior to the Taylor Grazing Act in 1934 sheep and cattle could be grazed on the open range, and it was the custom for herders and buckaroos to move up onto Steens Mountain with their herds seeking summer range. Sensing an untapped market for their service, girls would set up in a pleasant grove about 1 1/2 miles from Fish Lake on the north Steens road. Some of the quaking aspen were felled, frames were fashioned for tent coverings, and business was conducted on a regular basis during the summer months. According to one source these women travelled from Vale, but another source stoutly maintains that they were girls from Riverside where they regularly worked in a saloon in the same line of business.

Stories are told of a local entrepreneur who owned the saloon in Riverside coming first to Riddle Creek with his female employees and establishing his temporary camp to serve passing herders. This site was located two miles from the head of Stonehouse Canyon on the north end of Steens Mountain. Quantities of whiskey and small amounts of food were vended in the makeshift canvas dwellings, along with the professional services of the ladies. After the majority of the customers had made their way farther up the mountain, the temporary business establishment was moved to the site now known as Whorehouse Meadow above Fish Lake. Many of the aspens exhibit the carved names of people who passed that way. One informant indicated that this activity only lasted a very few years, probably terminating by 1925.

In 1962 the Bureau of Land Management published a recreation map that eschewed the popular designation, using instead Naughty Girl Meadow. This was in deference to moralists who felt the original name to be inappropriate. By 1971 there was considerable opposition to this distortion in nomenclature. The BLM maps of that area today once again carry the more commonly known name of Whorehouse Meadow.

Rating
Significance: Medium. Represents a unique episode in the lifestock industry in Harney County.
Integrity: Medium. Some of the aspen artwork still exists.

15. CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

15.1 Allison Ranger Station

Township 19S, Range 26E, Section 15
Present Owner: U.S. Forest Service

In the early period of growth of the U.S. Forest Service, it was often necessary to establish isolated stations so that a few individuals could administer vast national forest lands. Quite often the task was custodial in nature with the primary purpose being to establish a U.S. Government presence in the area. The dwellings constructed for this purpose were primitive yet adequate for the purpose and times.

Allison Ranger Station in Ochoco National Forest is one of the few remaining stations of this category, and its history well reflects the place these isolated stations played. The cabin was constructed by E. W. "Ci" Donnelly who was the first ranger assigned to administer the Snow Mountain Ranger District in 1910-11. It served as the administrative headquarters and ranger residence from 1911 to 1935 at which time new facilities were constructed approximately 1/8 mile southwest of the original site. Ranger Donnelly administered approximately 200,000 acres of National Forest land from this headquarters. His duties included fire detection and suppression, trail development, regulation of grazing, and other similar duties required in the administration of the vast jurisdiction.

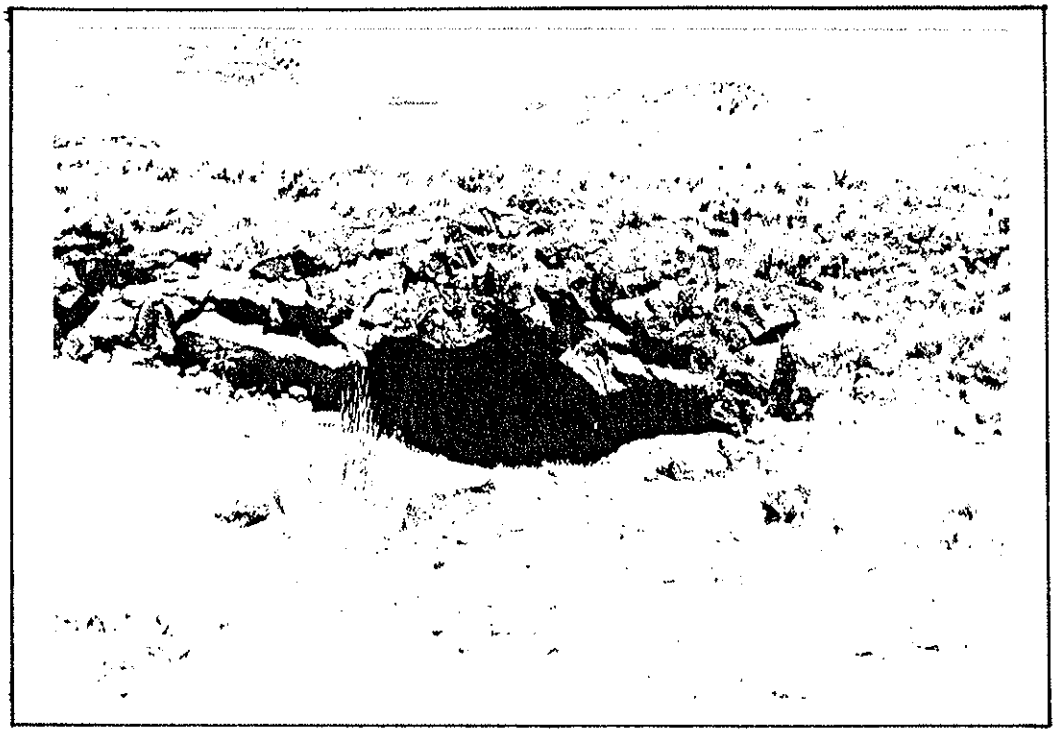
Rating
Significance: High. The structure was important in early forest management in Harney County.
Integrity: High. The structure has been altered very little.

15.2 Busse Dam

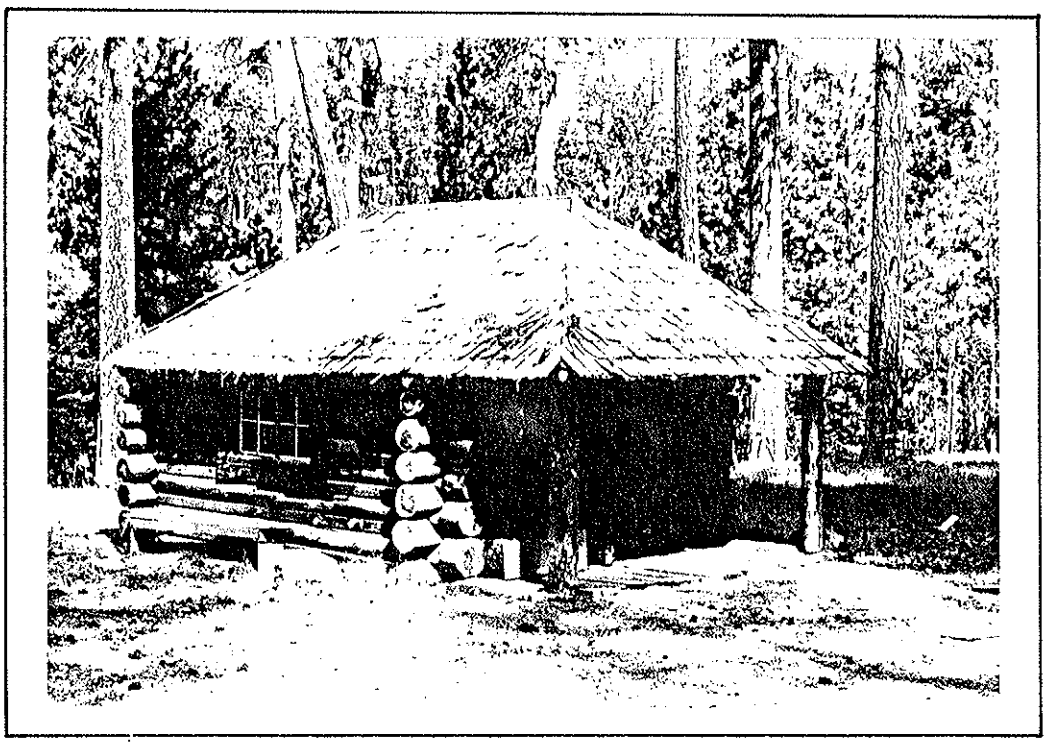
Township 28S, Range 31E, Section 22
Present Owner: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

Albert Busse homesteaded 160 acres of land south of the modern day Busse Dam in 1885 or 1886. "Old man Busse" was innovative enough to think of skidding rocks into the Blitzen River and creating a dam that would control the flow of water to irrigate his large garden. He grew vegetables and possibly watermelons that he sold to the freighters and transients crossing at Rock Ford. Rock Ford was the only place along the Blitzen between Malheur Lake and the "P" Ranch that could be negotiated by wagons at any time of the year. Fresh vegetables were always a welcome respite to travelers for fresh produce in the desert environment was scarce. Freighters would peddle Busse's potatoes and other vegetables along their route.

On December 30, 1899, Busse sold his property to the Pete French interests, F. C. Lusk, for between four and six thousand dollars. The Busses were fortunate for most other homesteaders were left broke and disenchanted after losing their money. He and his wife then moved to Corvallis in the Willamette Valley.



14.4 Malheur Cave



15.1 Allison Ranger Station

Today a modern structure constructed by the CCC in 1940 is used to control the waterflow through the Blitzen Valley. The Refuge can thus provide for waterfowl. At low water, the old Busse Dam rocks can still be seen today.

Rating
Significance: Medium. An early irrigation system in Harney County.
Integrity: Medium. Some rocks can still be seen at low water.

16. OTHER

16.1 Baby's Grave

Township 20S, Range 25E, Section 9
Present Owner: Ochoco National Forest

A grave site enclosed by a white picket fence approximately 4 by 6 feet in size identifies the widely known landmark, Baby's Grave. An informant named Wesley Street supplied the following information to researchers working for the U.S. Forest Service. A three-year-old daughter of Charlie Cruise died in the winter of 1891 and was buried at Gilcrest Mill. Over the years the site became known locally as Baby's Grave. At a later date a man named Gus Zogleman built the fence around the grave site, and Gale L. Luedaman, a guard for many years at the Buck Springs Guard Station, cared for the site. Luedaman painted and repaired the fence as needed and did general maintenance on the grave site.

Today Baby's Grave is widely used as a landmark in that portion of the forest, but there seems to be little knowledge of the individual buried there or the significance, if any, of the grave. The gravestone is simple enscribed "Baby."

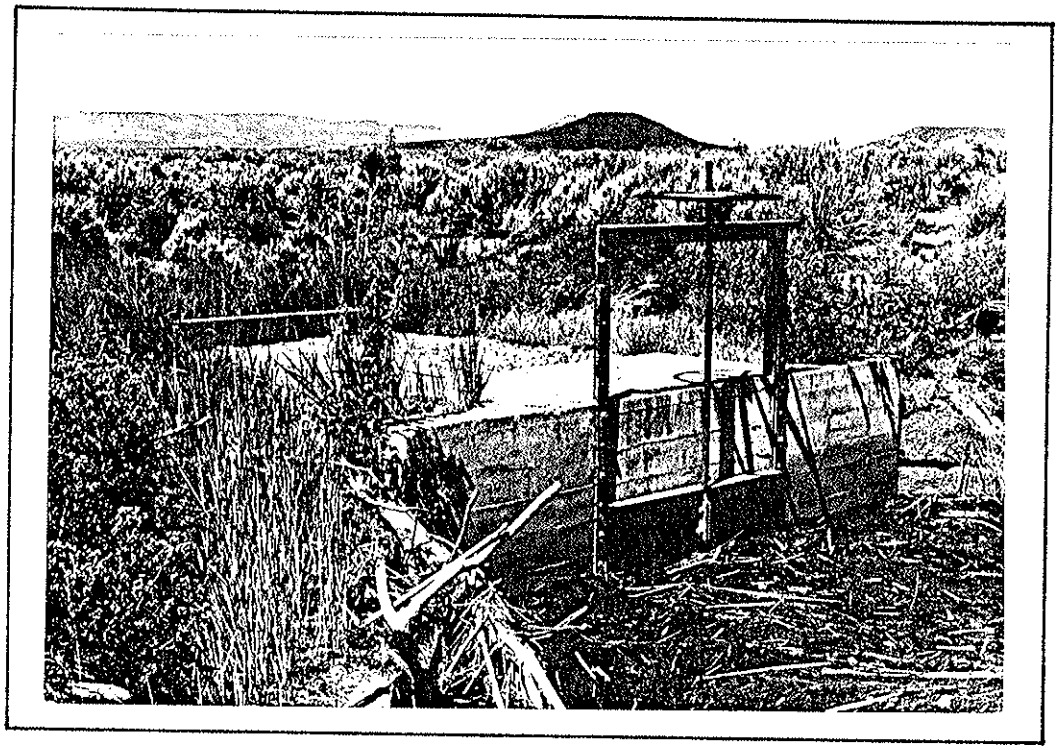
Rating
Significance: Low. Little is known about the site.
Integrity: Medium. The site has regularly been maintained.

16.2 Cheek House

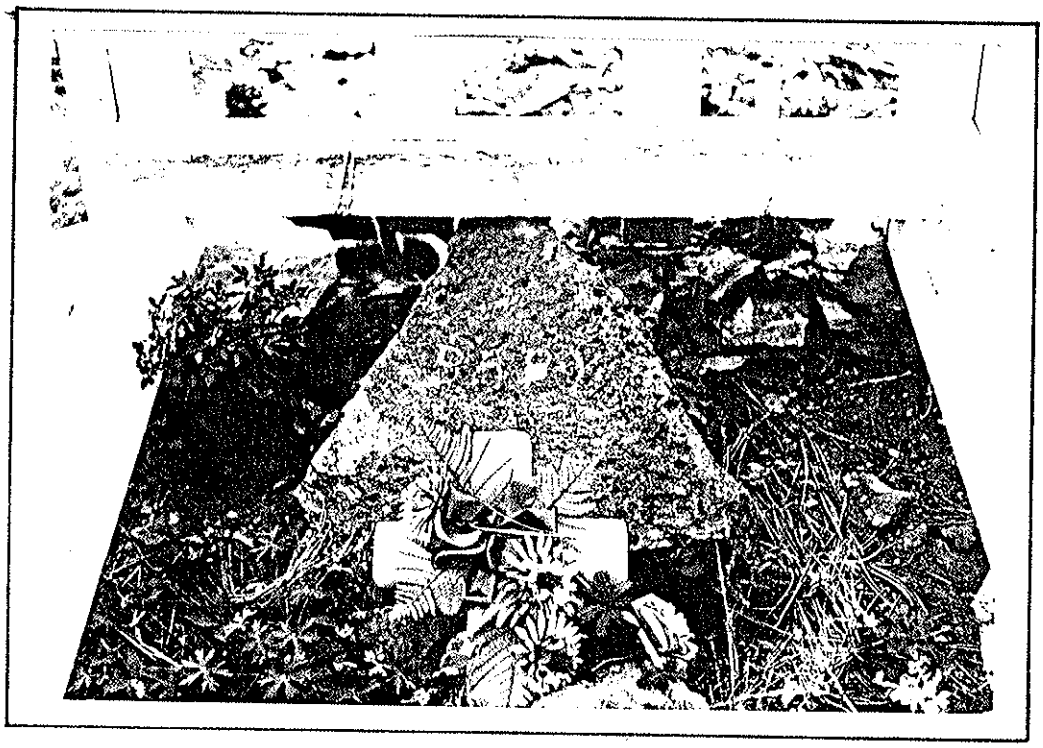
As one travels away from Crane along Highway 78, the stark shell of a two-story house becomes visible on the horizon. To arrive to the site's entrance one turns off the highway onto a dirt road which passes through a gate constructed of old metal bed posts. About one-eighth of a mile down the unpaved road is the dwelling that once was the home of W. B. Cheek and his family. The structure, which is located in Virginia Valley, has not been occupied by humans in many years and little is known about its history. Nearby the scattered rock remains of another structure are visible, but no other dwellings occupy the site.

It is believed that Cheek homesteaded the property in 1914, and the date of his departure could not be determined. The picturesque two-story home was built of pine wood and heated by a fireplace as evidenced by a typical native stone chimney that extends up one side of the building. It measures 16 by 24 feet and is about 18 feet high at the top of the pitched roof. Structurally the dwelling is in good condition although deterioration is accelerating. It has two large rooms on the ground floor and two rooms upstairs, all of which birds, woodrats, and other wild creatures have taken for their living quarters.

There are numerous deserted homes similar to the Cheek House throughout Eastern Oregon which are gradually being destroyed by the forces of nature, vandals, souvenir hunters, and other destructive elements. Individually and



15.2 Busse Dam



16.1 Baby's Grave

collectively, they are representative of an earlier time in Harney County when hard and hopeful settlers tried to make their fortunes dry-land farming or in other ways not in harmony with the harsh environment. The Cheek House attests to one man's aspirations and his ultimate decision to forsake that area and seek his fortunes elsewhere.

Rating
Significance: Low. Not much is known about the family.
Integrity: Low. The building is rapidly deteriorating.

16.3 Donegan House

Address: 860 N. Buena Vista, Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Leroy and Leveda Fowler

The structure that was known for years in Burns as the Donegan House was constructed in 1898 by James J. Donegan. Donegan was an early Harney County resident who worked as an accountant and also at one time operated a saloon in Burns. Mrs. Donegan was Margaret Smyth who, except for those born on the military camps, was the first white child to be born in Harney County. The Donegans lived in the home from its construction until 1964 when Pat Donegan, son of James and Margaret, died on March 6. Pat was a well-known figure in Burns who practiced law until his death. Several ownerships occurred thereafter, including: Gilbert Pruett in 1964, Joseph L. and Judith A. Smith in 1965, Investment Service in 1971, and finally the Fowlers who purchased it in 1975.

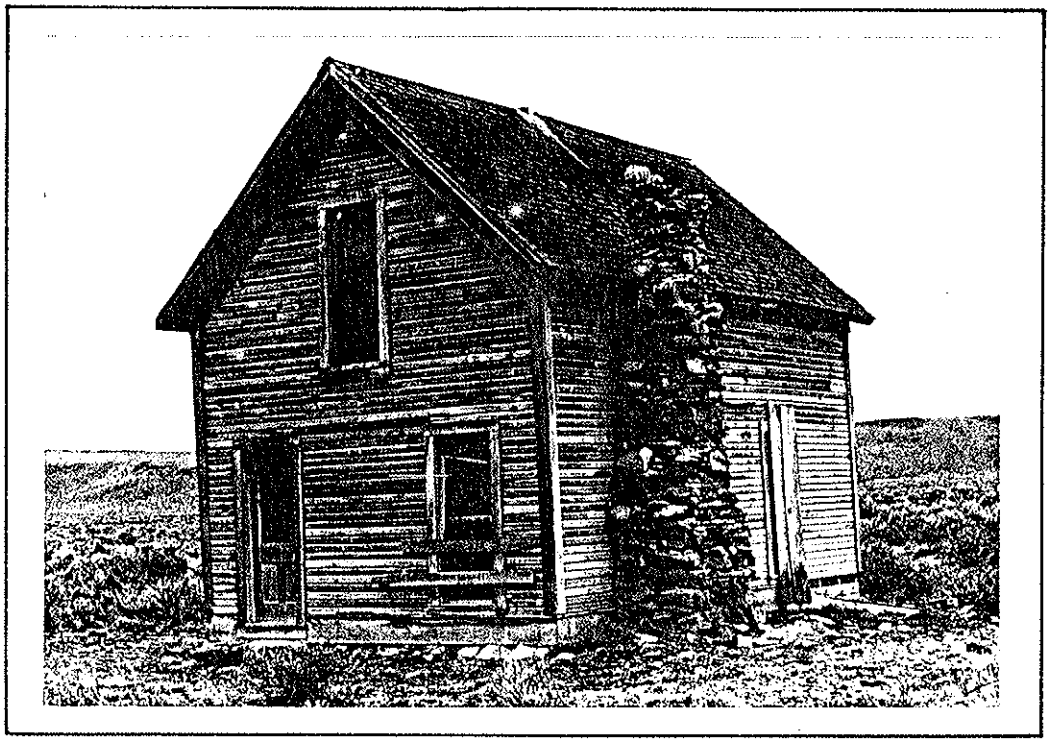
The Donegan House is a good example of late 1800 or early 1900 architecture in western America. The roof is a blend of hip and gable to form an overall line that is not too excessive and more pleasing than flat or plain hip. All eves are boxed, and the bay window is treated with modified Georgian dentil moulding. All corners are boxed with a vertical column type treatment ending in small decorative cornices which seem to lend support to the eve moulding boards. The small panes treatment of the original windows suggest a European origin. The house originally had a large porch to the right of the bay window that was typical of homes built during the turn-of-the-century period. The present owners, the Fowlers, have recently removed this portion of the structure.

The Donegan House takes its place among the few remaining homes in Burns of comparable age. At one time its condition deteriorated badly, and it has been repossessed at least once by a financial institution. The frame structure with lap siding has been recently repainted, and the exterior condition seems to be good. The composition shingles on the roof are showing some wear and may be in need of replacement within a few years.

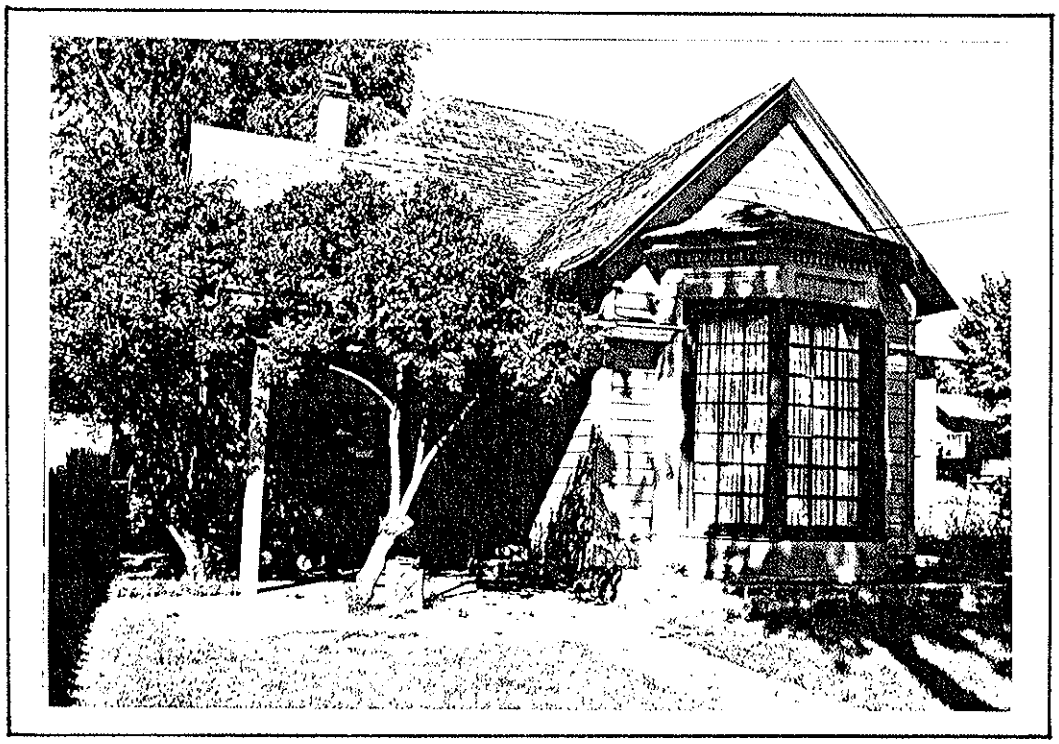
Rating
Significance: Medium. The house is a good example of turn-of-the-century architecture in Burns.
Integrity: Low. Interior and exterior remodeling has occurred.

16.4 Foley House

Address: 822 N. Buena Vista, Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Tim Doherty



16.2 Cheek House



16.3 Donegan House

An adventurous man named J. C. Foley headed west from his Wisconsin home in 1883. He was an experienced ranch hand who worked with John Devine's livestock operation, participating in the cattle drives from California. Devine ultimately merged his cattle empire with the Miller and Lux Company, and Foley worked as a superintendent for one of the company ranches for a time. He subsequently returned to Wisconsin, and in 1897 he met and married his wife, May Ellen Boylan, who accompanied him to the Harney County country in 1898.

Foley promised his new bride that he would build a home for her in Burns; therefore a builder named Ray Smith was contracted to design and construct the dwelling. Smith is known for having built several of the early homes in the Burns area, some of which continue to stand. The Foleys lived in a small house behind what is now the post office until November of 1898 when they moved into the dwelling. In the same year Foley established a blacksmith shop in the growing town of Burns.

The structure was constructed entirely of wood, and was the first house in Burns to have a stone foundation. Many tons of fill dirt were hauled to the site to ensure adequate drainage.

Mr. and Mrs. Foley reared four children in this home: Charles, Agnes, Theresa, and Jesse. The family often spent the three summer months on a ranch three miles north of town where Mr. Foley worked. The blacksmith shop was sold in 1905 to Luke Short and Foley then devoted his full energies to superintendent duties on the ranch. Because of the experience acquired while working with irrigation systems for the Miller and Lux Company, he was appointed as the first water master in Harney County.

J. C. Foley passed away in 1924, but his wife and four children continued living in the family home. Mrs. Foley was active in civic affairs and became well known for her community work. She was the first president of the Library Club in Burns and provided leadership for the Mothers Club as well. She died in 1941 and her heirs, the Foley children, subsequently sold the family home to Tim Doherty in 1943. Since 1943 the Doherty family has occupied the Foley home.

The Foley House was considered to be one of the finer homes during the early days when Burns was still a tiny, but growing community. At one time there were additional structures on the Foley property that covered approximately three-fourths of the block. To the northwest of the house was a large barn for horses, buggies, and milk cows. A windmill and well were taken out of use in 1927 when wiring and plumbing systems were upgraded. A stone cellar in the back of the house was used for food storage. A cistern that was situated atop the cellar provided the water storage for the home's plumbing.

Mr. Doherty has made many improvements and modifications to the two-story house since acquiring it in 1943. A porch that extended the full length along the front and east side of the house has been enclosed by Foley and converted to additional interior living space. The original back porch on the west side has been screened in and is used as a utility room. The second story contains an attic and one bedroom, and the first floor has five rooms. The ceilings have been lowered on the first floor, the kitchen remodeled, and insulation was installed in 1944 and 1950. In 1944 a Scotch mason was hired to construct the finely crafted two and one-half-foot stone wall that enclosed the front portion of the property.

The Foley House reflects many of the architectural qualities typical of late nineteenth-century homes in this region. The gabled two-storied structure has lap siding on exterior walls. On the front and south second-story side are arched windows sided by highly modified likenesses of columns that end in small decorative cornice pieces. These terminate in half round arches. The windows on the first floor are decorated with small cornice boards as well. The eves are boxed and finished, and the corners, especially on the bay window, have a small jigsaw-type decoration that reflects considerable craftsmanship. At the back on the second story there is a dormer providing window space for the back second-story bedroom. The roof is multi-pitched with many gabled straight lines running together at the peaks to provide an attractive display of sloping forms and planes.

Today the neat, well-maintained, attractive white house with grey trim stands as one of the more interesting of the early homes constructed in Burns around the turn of the century. It has been inhabited for almost seventy-nine years, and with continued care it should endure a similar period of occupation.

Rating
Significance: Medium. The home of an early business man in Burns.
Integrity: Medium. The structure has been altered some.

16.5 Hall Cave

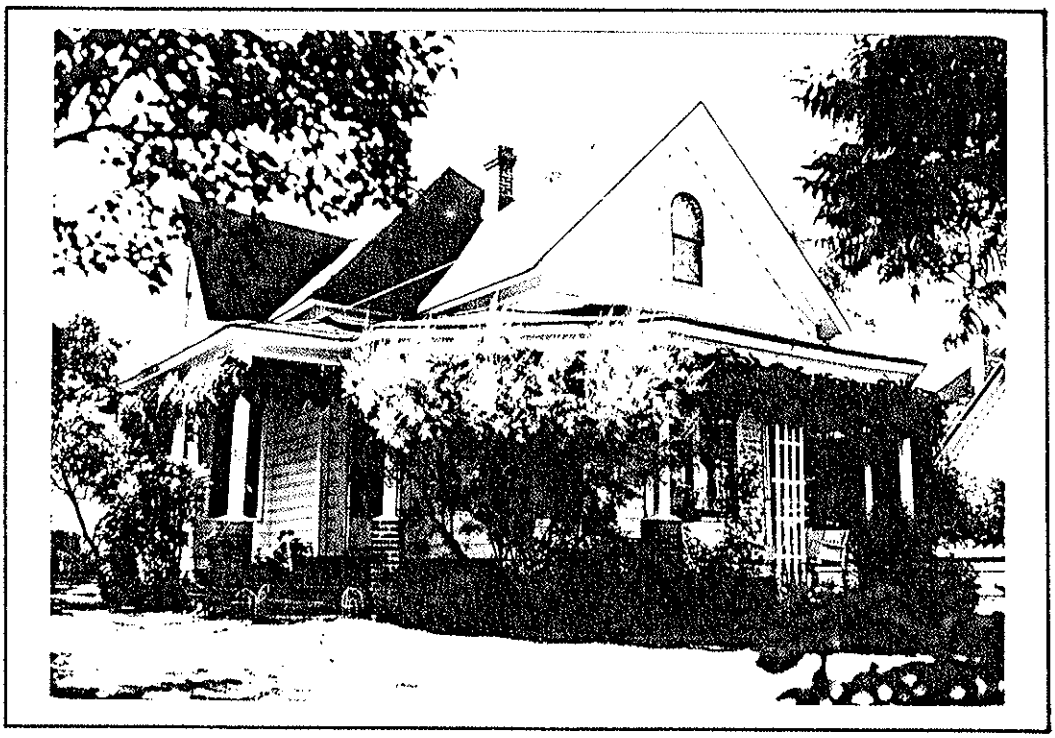
Township 20S, Range 35E, Section 15
Present Owner: Conly Marshall

Resorting to an abode used by ancient man, Otho and Rebecca Hall established their family in a cave six miles northwest of the town of Drewsey in about 1885. He built a lean-to kitchen over the terraced rock foundation adjoining the 14- by 24-foot cave and used the spring nearby for water. The family of eleven children used a wood stove set at the cave entrance for cooking and sat on a bench Otho had chiseled out of the inner cave wall. He also constructed a wooden floor to the cave. By the early 1900's Mr. and Mrs. Hall separated, and most of the eleven children had matured by that time and left home.

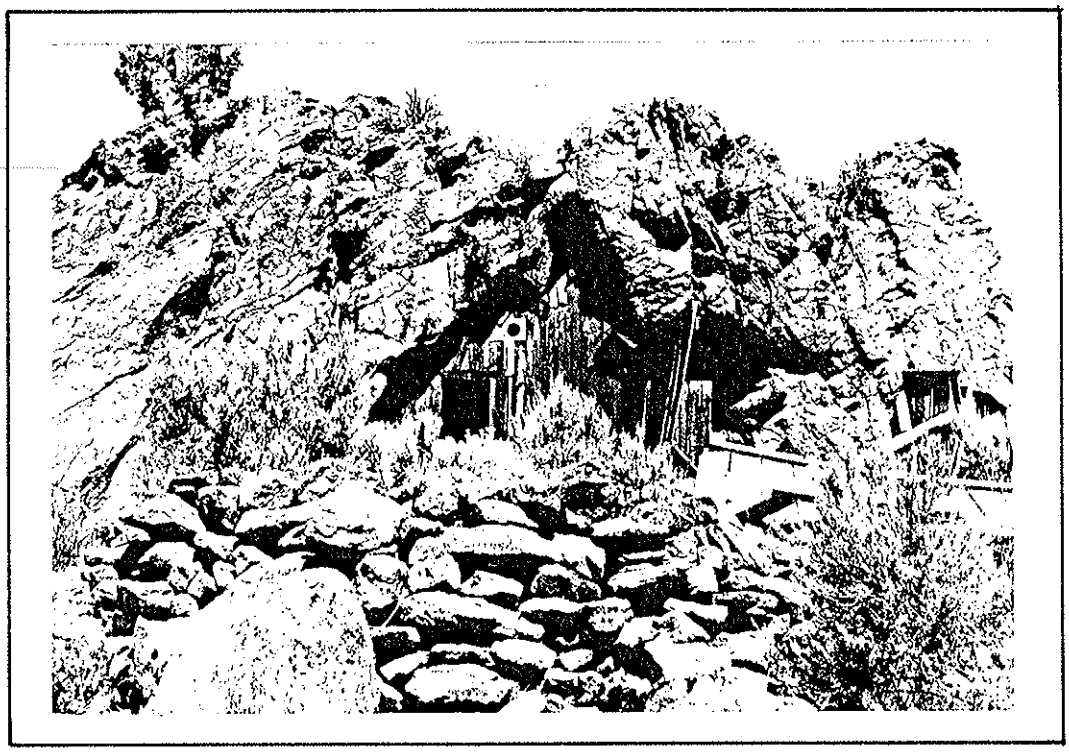
Otho vacationed in Albany, Oregon, met Charlotte Maxfield, and the two were married in 1903. He brought Charlotte back to his cave dwelling to begin another family. The couple had three children, Daisey (b. 1904), Lucey (b. 1906), and Otho Lindsey (b. 1909). The Halls barely fit three beds inside the cave to accommodate the family. Mrs. Hall grew an extensive garden of carrots, potatoes, onions, and watermelons, while Otho trapped rabbits, coyotes, and bobcats to sell the pelts in town. He also worked for wages on ranches close to the cave-home.

The Halls suffered a tragedy in 1916 when Charlotte was attempting to fix the garden fence. She leaned to move a stone when the pistol she always carried for protection slipped from her holster. It exploded when it hit the ground, killing her instantly.

Hall, a lonely man after his wife's death, advertised in a mail order catalog for a new wife. One woman accepted his invitation, and they married in the fall of 1916. Unfortunately the marriage lasted only a few months. The three children were sent to a Portland children's home and Mr. Hall remained in the cave.



16.4 Foley House



16.5 Hall Cave

Otho sold his 160-acre homestead to Mr. Pipes and his wife, but the Pipes lived at the establishment only a short time. Otho and his daughter Lucey and son Lindsey returned again in 1920, renting the cave from the Pipes. The three Halls inhabited their favored home for three years then moved to Portland. Later Mr. Hall moved to Burns until his death in 1954. He lived to be 94 years old.

No one else has used the unique home since Otho left in 1923. The Pipes sold to Percy Davis. The property was purchased in 1961 by the Conly Marshall family. Sagebrush and shrubs have grown over the pathway leading to the cave dwelling. The wooden kitchen and floorboards have collapsed, and it is now only used as a home for numerous wood rats.

Rating
Significance: Low.
Integrity: Low.

16.6 Jenkins House

Township 28S, Range 34E, Section 14
Present Owner: Jenkins Ranch, Inc.

George M. Stancliff came into the Harney County country in the early 1890's and settled at the foot of Little Riddle Mountain. After a period he constructed a house and small barn and proved up on the 160 acres. On July 4, 1897, the property was deeded to another Stancliff who may have been his son. The deed records are unclear on this matter, only indicating that the property was transferred to another individual with the same surname.

In 1890 John R. Jenkins, a Welsh sheepherder who came to the U. S. in 1883, purchased the property from Stancliff. Jenkins had worked in the eastern United States as a coalminer, then migrated west and worked in Portland for a time. He eventually ended up in Harney County where he settled. John Jenkins and his wife Margaret used the initial 160 acres as a beginning and thereafter developed an extensive ranch. The Jenkins family built on to the existing house and barn, adding a wood shed and wash house, storage shed, bunk house, chicken house, pump house, blacksmith shop, smokehouse, long wagon shed, and even a one-room school house. Three children were raised on this sheep ranch: Tom, Richard, and Mary.

John Jenkins was an innovative man who could usually find solutions to the problems encountered in his ranch operations. He was the first in the area to devise a system to install indoor plumbing for the family. A 400-foot well was excavated and a 365-foot pipe was extended from the well to the house with a pump. This project was completed about 1914. Jenkins also dammed nearby Stancliff Creek and dug a ditch and tunnel directing the water for irrigation to his gardens and fields. A cement bulkhead with a headgate for controlling the water flow was also installed. The tunnel, which was completed in 1901, was shored up with juniper posts and extended over 400 feet in length. It was seven feet high and four and one-half feet wide.

By 1925 John Jenkins had purchased a house and property in Diamond Valley and left the two brothers Tom and Richard to operate the original livestock operation. The family residence and the bunkhouse became line camps for their sheepherders who intermittantly used them for overnight stops. As time passed in the

early part of this century, the brothers had more and more difficulty finding help with the sheep. Buckaroos generally disdained working with sheep, and because of the changes in the immigration laws in the 1920's, it became more difficult for Basque, Welsh, and Scottish herders to enter the U. S. People from these countries and areas had traditionally shown some affinity for this employment and had acquired a reputation for their expertise.

Because of these and other developments, by 1935 the Jenkins brothers had changed their operation from sheep to cattle raising, which proved more feasible. The buckaroos continued to use the ranch as an overnight stop until 1950 when the Jenkins home was completely abandoned. Some of the old ranch buildings had previously been razed and the lumber used for construction elsewhere. The little one-room school was moved three miles from the ranch to another location, and the smokehouse was taken to the Diamond Ranch.

The collapsed remnants of John Jenkin's ingenious tunnel remain and could still be used if the sides were shored up. The old "T"-shaped family residence still stands and is in relatively good condition, considering the neglect of maintenance. The two-story structure is made of pine, and it sits on a rock foundation as do all of the remaining buildings on the property. It has a cedar shingle pitched roof. Interior walls were once plastered with newspapers, many of which have been stripped off by souvenir hunters. Among them can still be found remnants of English, American, and Welsh newspapers, a few of which date back to the 1890's. When the residence was in use, it had a kitchen, dining room, living room, and two bedrooms on the second floor. In addition to the deserted home, there are other empty structures including the wash house, wood shed, store house, outhouse, and the collapsed pump house.

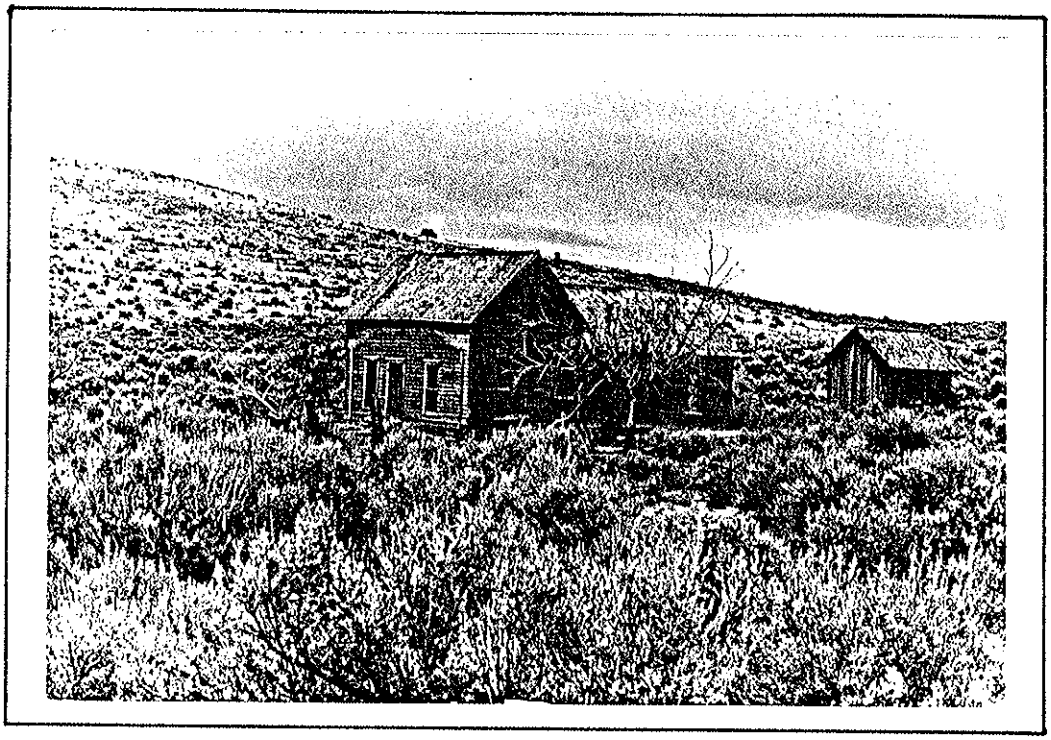
Rating
Significance: High. The family home of a major ranching family in Harney County.
Integrity: Low. Structures have been vandalized and badly deteriorated.

16.7 Mace House

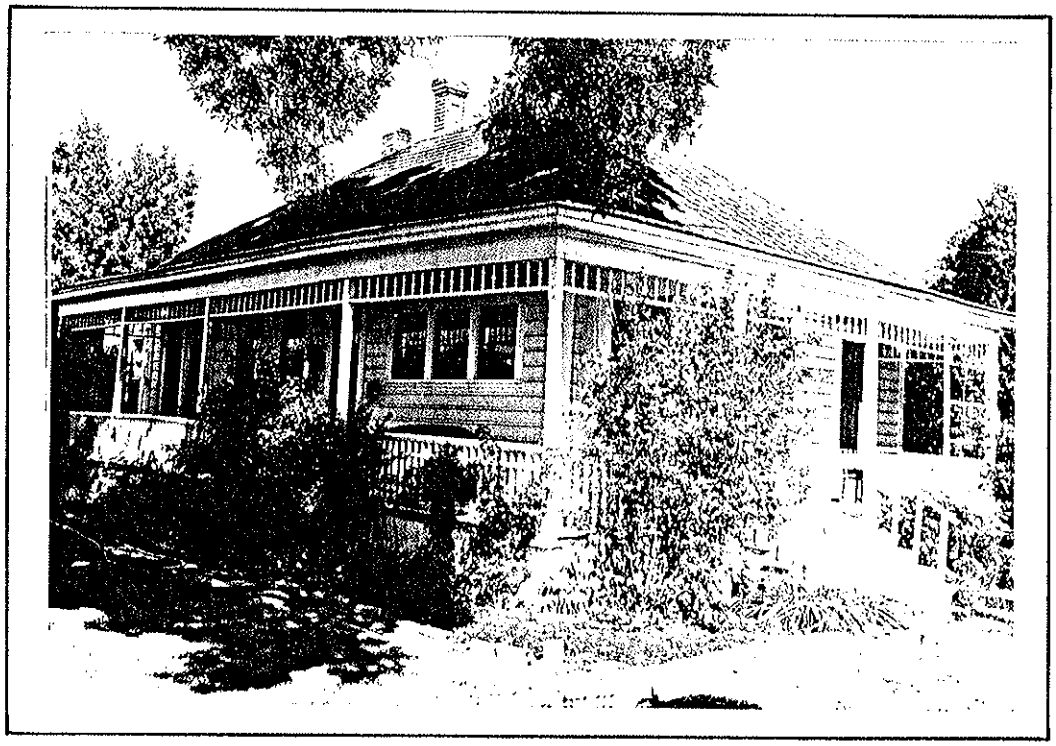
Address: 816 N. Court St., Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Vella McQueen

Mary Ellen and Homer Mace arrived from Jacksonville, Oregon, in 1883 and settled in Harney County where they established a ranch. As their two children, Vella and Chester, grew older, they decided to move the family to town in order to be close to school. A site was selected in Burns, the fastest growing town in the County, at the corner that became Court and "D" Streets. Lumber was hauled in from the Sayer Mill to construct the home that was to have two bedrooms, a kitchen, living room, and an attic. The customary cellar with two feet thick walls was constructed behind the house for cool storage of food. A well was dug and a windmill erected for a water supply for the family home. A barn was built for the buggies and saddle horses, along with a small shack where the Chinese cook lived. The home was completed and occupied in 1898, making a handsome addition to the growing Burns community.

Vella Mace, who was married in 1905, became the first accredited music teacher in Harney County where she became widely known. The talented woman also became known for designing homes and at least one commercial establishment, the Welcome Hotel. Homer Mace passed away in 1943 and was followed by Mary Ellen



16.6 Jenkins House



16.7 Mace House

Mace, his wife, in 1948. Vella McQueen subsequently inherited the home, and she continues to reside in it today (1977). Prominent in her living room is her beloved piano which many Harney County residents used to practice their music lessons.

The interior of the home has been modernized on several occasions since its construction in 1898. The home was originally lighted by kerosene lanterns. By 1912 the structure was wired for electricity. A modern bathroom complete with indoor plumbing has been added, and the kitchen was remodeled. A back porch and a back bedroom were added in 1905, and these are still heated by the original wood stove that was used for heating in the home. The exterior has not been altered other than the porch steps being redesigned to come off the southeast side. The storage cellar is in excellent condition and is still used by Mrs. McQueen. The pumphouse for the well still stands and is unused, but the windmill has long since been removed. The home is painted white as it originally was and trimmed with red.

The architecture of the Mace House might be described as "picturesque bungalow" or perhaps "cottage." The structure has a hip roof extending over the porch. The plain balustrade lends an elegant appearance to the porch on two sides. The decorative course below the porch lintel makes a smooth transition from the porch to the roof line. The wall siding is beaded and plain trim accents corners as well as the windows.

Rating
Significance: Medium. Still inhabited by a Mace descendant.
Integrity: Medium. Some interior remodeling has occurred.

16.8 Nettie McLaughlin Grave Site

Township 28S, Range 32E
Present Owner: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

A large stone enclosed by a fence just south of the Busse Dam site marks the Nettie McLaughlin grave site on the Refuge grounds. She was born on May 2, 1852, and died in June of 1887 at the age of 35 years. She was first married to a man named Brown in 1869 who had a homestead on the Blitzen, northeast of the grave site. After her husband died in 1876, she married the man for whom McLaughlin Slough was named. She only lived about one more year. Three children were born through her marriage to Brown.

Rating
Significance: Low. Relatively unknown pioneer woman.
Integrity: Medium.

16.9 Newell House

Township 25S, Ranch 31E, Section 30
Present Owner: Koeneman

At the foot of Dog Mountain amid the sagebrush and dust sits an impressive structure suggestive of the mythical "haunted house" so prevalent in mystery fiction. This abandoned home with the distinctive gables was constructed by

Charlie Newell and his wife at the turn of the century. Locally known as "Dog Mountain Castle," the home was fashioned after an admired castle in Germany. After its completion it was regarded as a showplace by Harney County residents.

Newell, who once was the County School Superintendent, made his living primarily through raising and selling horses to the government for military purposes. The land surrounding the home provided rich pasture land for his horses and his business prospered. Sundays often provided the opportunity to hold rodeos at the ranch and people from the surrounding area came from long distances to participate in the fun, eat food, and drink with their friends. The Newells and their eight children lived well in their distinctive home with the expansive view of the Harney range.

The advent of mechanized warfare by the end of World War I dramatically reduced the need for horses, and Newell's enterprise became less viable. The family ultimately abandoned the home and moved to Idaho.

The empty shell still stands its vigil over the sagebrush with its stone walls and high gables, a prominent feature on the landscape. A circular drive, now overgrown with weeds, shows some signs of regular visitors, and the interior of the house reflects the presence of vandals. The structure, which was built by Charlie Backus, could be termed "picturesque cottage" style with English and Gothic leanings. The lower walls are smooth-faced limestone on polygonal forward projecting rooms. The foundation is of rough cut stone. The side walls below the windows have some rough cut stone fill between smooth-face stone windows and corner quoining. The upper walls are steeply pitched, gabled attic spaces with gable faces, crowned by cross hatching lattice forward of the lapping horizontal boards. The upper walls have a heavy trim over the perimeter framing. The roof, which has exposed sheathing, is of cedar shingles.

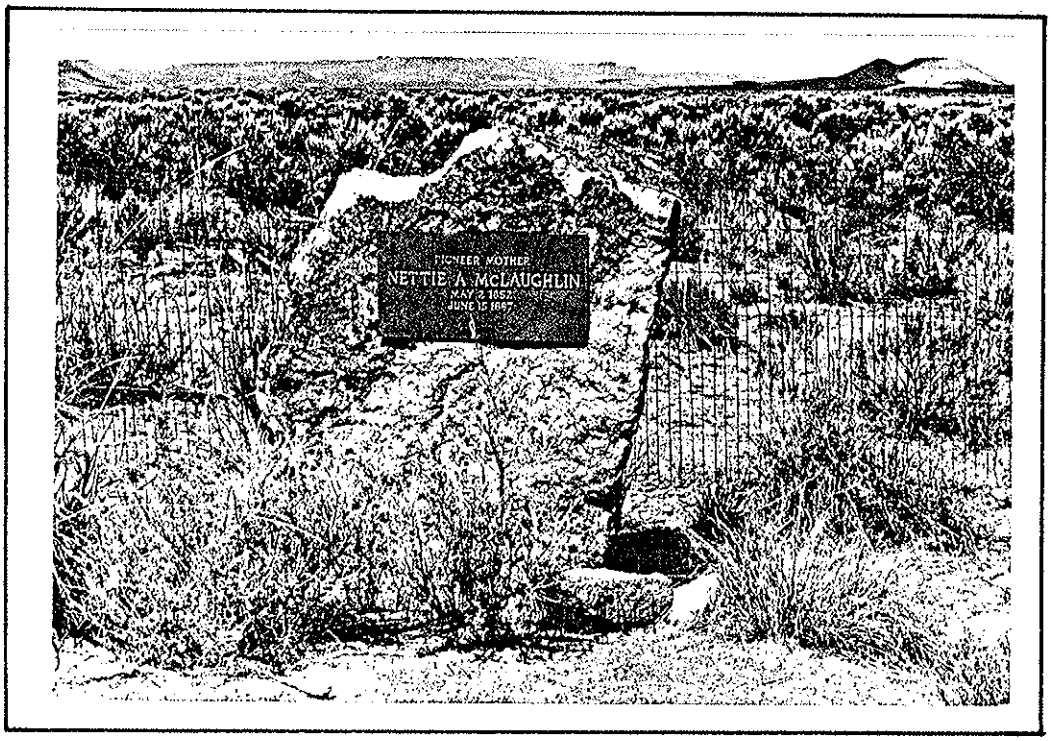
Rating
Significance: Medium. The house is widely known in Harney County.
Integrity: Medium. The distinctive house is rapidly deteriorating.

16.10 Schwartz House

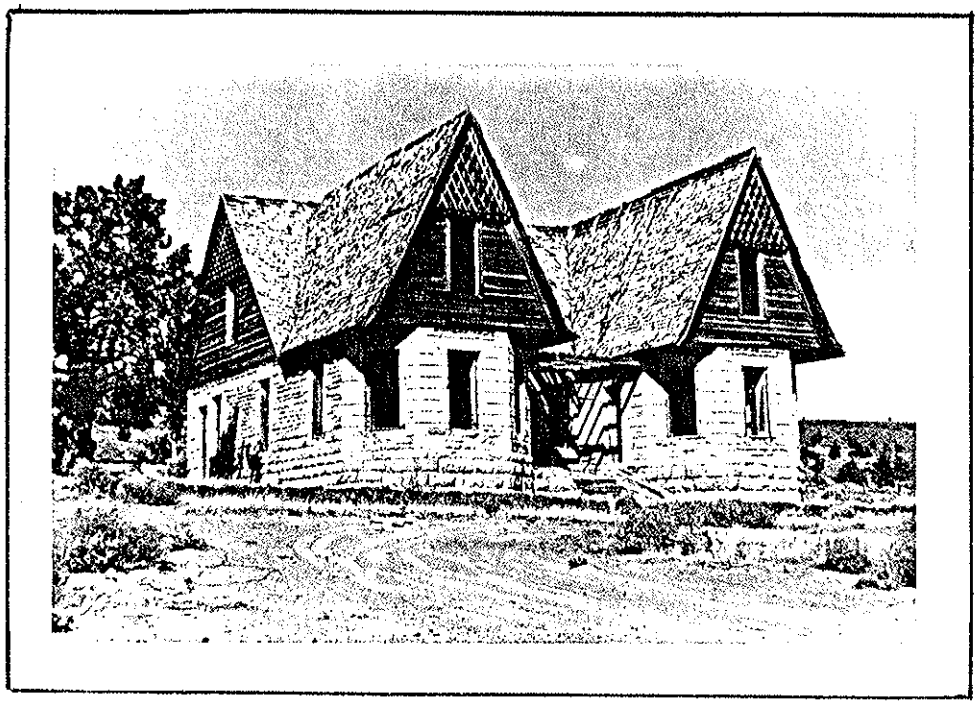
Address: 388 W. "D" Street, Burns, Oregon
Present Owner: Leo and Harriet James

The house built for Isaac Schwartz in 1901 was probably one of the city's finest homes in its time. I. Schwartz died in 1919, but his wife resided in the home until 1924. Mrs. Schwartz moved out and built another house one block north. From 1927 until 1958 C. B. McConnell owned the structure. Remodeling was done in 1927 and again in 1932, but the house was not significantly altered from its original plan. From about 1958 until 1968 it was occupied by various renters who leased the property from the McConnell estate, which was administered by Bill Cramer, an attorney.

Today the floor plan includes on the first floor a bedroom, large kitchen, bathroom, utility room, living room, and dining room. A large floor-to-ceiling china cupboard is a striking feature on the first floor. The second story has three bedrooms and a bath. There is a full attic that has not been developed. The pitched roof has wood shingles which are in need of replacement. The foundation is stone. There is no basement, and a stone fruit room exists off the back



16.8 Nettie McLaughlin Grave Site



16.9 Newell House

porch on the northeast corner. The bottom story was stuccoed by McConnell. There is no fireplace but a Franklin-type fireplace has been used in recent times.

The Schwartz House is an example of eclectic residential construction, combining many ideas including late nineteenth century "Backwoods Victorian." The gables vary in their size and style, projecting from the side of the wall in some places. The shingle treatment also varies in size and style. The main windows have a decorative pane treatment not found in many similar-aged homes in Oregon. This type of treatment is found in older Victorian houses and in some Federal Style residences. The dormer may have been an addition to the house. The eve end treatment is different, varying from plain shingle to a European half timber motif in the main eves over the entry way. The large screened porch is typical for its time, but it would be considered built-in rather than built-on.

Rating
Significance: Medium. One of the city's finest homes when it was built.
Integrity: Medium. Some alterations have been made.

16.11 Smyth House

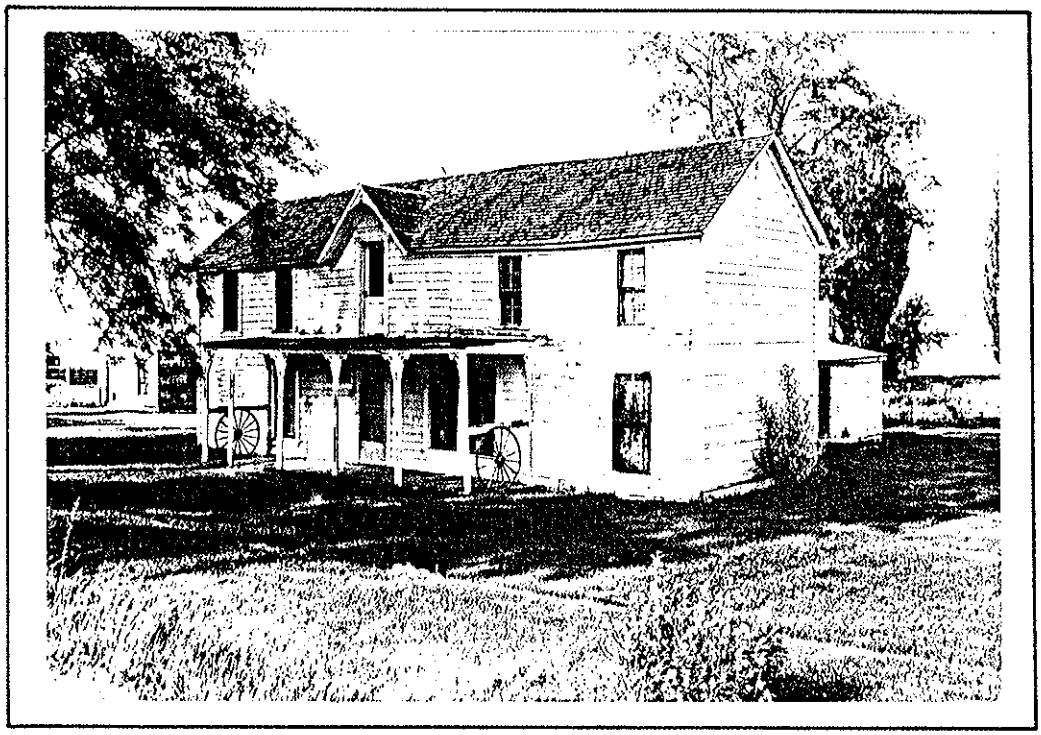
Address: Happy Valley
Township 29S, Range 33E, Section 11
Present Owner: Allen and Darrel Otley

George Smyth, his wife, and their seven children first saw the lush, tall grass of the Harney County country in 1854 when passing through on their way to the Willamette Valley. After nineteen years of herding sheep around Junction City, Oregon, Smyth decided to return to the high desert country. In June 1872 with several other families, the Smyths settled at a site known as Warm Springs, where the Hines Lumber Company is presently located. The winter was particularly severe that year and most of the livestock perished, causing Smyth to consider moving to another location. The following spring of 1973 the whole family relocated to Happy Valley where the Smyth family name became synonymous with the area. In the same year Margaret Louise Smyth, the grand-daughter of George Smyth and the daughter of John Smyth was born. She was the first white child to be born in what was to become Harney County. Another source holds that the first non-Indian child was born at Camp Harney prior to Margaret Smyth.

On their 160-acre homestead the Smyths built their original home which was one-half of a mile southeast of the present home. Disaster struck the family in 1878 when the Bannocks and Paiutes joined forces and launched a series of attacks that struck terror in the white settlements. Many fled to Camp Harney to seek protection from the depredations; among these were the Smyths. With the passage of several days Mr. George Smyth and his son John decided to return to the homestead to check on their livestock. They were attached by the marauding Indians while trapped in the family home and finally killed.

Although greatly saddened by the loss of the two family members, the remaining Smyths returned to the old homesite after the Indians were quelled. A new home was erected behind their original family home that had been burned during the Indian attack. Lumber was acquired from a lumber mill near Camp Harney for this second home, according to one source. Another source blieves that this

16.10 Schwartz House



16.11 Smyth House

second Smyth home was constructed of sod, but agreement does not exist on this point.

Darius "Rye" Smyth, one of the sons of deceased George Smyth, travelled to the Willamette Valley and married his past sweetheart Nellie Mynatte. In 1880 he returned to Happy Valley and took up residence with his bride in the old family home. In 1884 Rye built another larger residence, using materials from an old school house that had not been destroyed during the Indian attacks. The new family home was two stories, about 45 by 40 feet designed in a "T" configuration and contained a large stone chimney. A large porch and balcony adorned the second story. Nellie Smyth landscaped the yard with her favorite Willamette Valley red and yellow roses. The couple ultimately had five children who were reared on the ranch in this family home.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century the cattle baron Pete French was piecing together his land empire through various land acquisition techniques. One method was to systematically buy out the homesteaders in a given area until he had complete control. French followed this approach in the Diamond and Happy Valleys, but Smyth steadfastly refused to sell, thus the Smyth property continued as an enclave in the vast sea of French holdings. Smyth was the only pioneer in the Happy Valley area who resisted all blandishments.

Rye lived in the family home until his death in 1942, whereupon his nephew Gene Smyth and Corey Smyth occupied the residence. George continued living on the old homestead until the ranch was sold to Allen and Darrel Otley in 1971. Since 1971 no one has occupied the structure and some deterioration has occurred. The exterior of the house remains the same as when Rye's family occupied the structure with the exception of the removal of the stone chimney and fireplace. Also the porch on the second story became unstable and was subsequently removed.

This simple and relatively unadorned two-story wooden structure with pitched and shingled room is typical of the functional structures built during its period of construction. The low porch across part of the front of the home is supported by six delicate appearing columns which have some decoration at the point where they meet the porch. The exterior finish is white. Eight windows and two doors, one lower and one on the second floor, are on the front of the house.

The Smyths were an early pioneer family in Harney County who exemplified those qualities of hardiness and endurance so vital to settling an undeveloped and sometimes harsh land. As early contributers to the pioneer tradition, their historical role in Harney County is well assured. The Smyth family home, if it were to be preserved, would be an appropriate county historical site that would commemorate a significant early family.

Rating
Significance: High. The Smyth family played a prominent role in Harney County history.
Integrity: Medium. Some interior and exterior remodeling has occurred.

16.12 Withers House

Township 22S, Range 32.5E, Section 29
Present Owner: Harry Withers, Jr.

Price and Leona Withers came to southeastern Oregon from the Willamette Valley in 1886. They decided to settle down in what was to become Harney County, selecting the town of Harney where they established a general store. Harney at that time was a thriving community which was being touted as the prospective county seat for the sparsely populated area.

In 1889 the now famous decision was made to designate Burns rather than Harney as the county seat for the newly created Harney County. This event marked the beginning of a gradual decline in Harney and the concomitant rise of Burns as the social and commercial center of the County. A series of devastating fires, which were not uncommon in that time, swept through Harney, further contributing to the town's demise. Among the buildings damaged or destroyed in one such conflagration in 1895 was the general store operated by Withers. The Withers family decided to abandon the commercial operation and instead turned to ranching on land purchased near Harney.

Sometime prior to 1908 a builder was contracted to construct a new family home in Harney to be similar to several houses erected in Burns which Withers admired. By 1908 the home was completed, and the Withers family moved into one of the more prominent homes in the Harney area. The spacious two-story home became well known by the area residents because of the social gatherings hosted there.

Mr. and Mrs. Withers lived in the home for about ten years and then, upon retiring, they decided to return to the Willamette Valley. Harry Withers, Sr., their son, continued living in the home with his wife and the family they raised. By 1946 the family home was transferred to yet another generation of the Withers family, Harry Withers, Jr. He and his wife Nyria raised a family of four children, thus continuing the family tradition. Meanwhile the town of Harney was in continual decline due to a variety of disintegrative forces. Ultimately the town's structures were destroyed by vandals, fires, scavangers, and other causes. Burns, the former rival for the county seat and the winner of that contest, was increasingly the social and economic center for the County. By 1972 the last Withers family member had decided to cast his lot with Burns rather than Harney. The Withers home is one of the few structures remaining in the original Harney townsite area. It is still owned by Harry Withers, Jr., and leased to tenants.

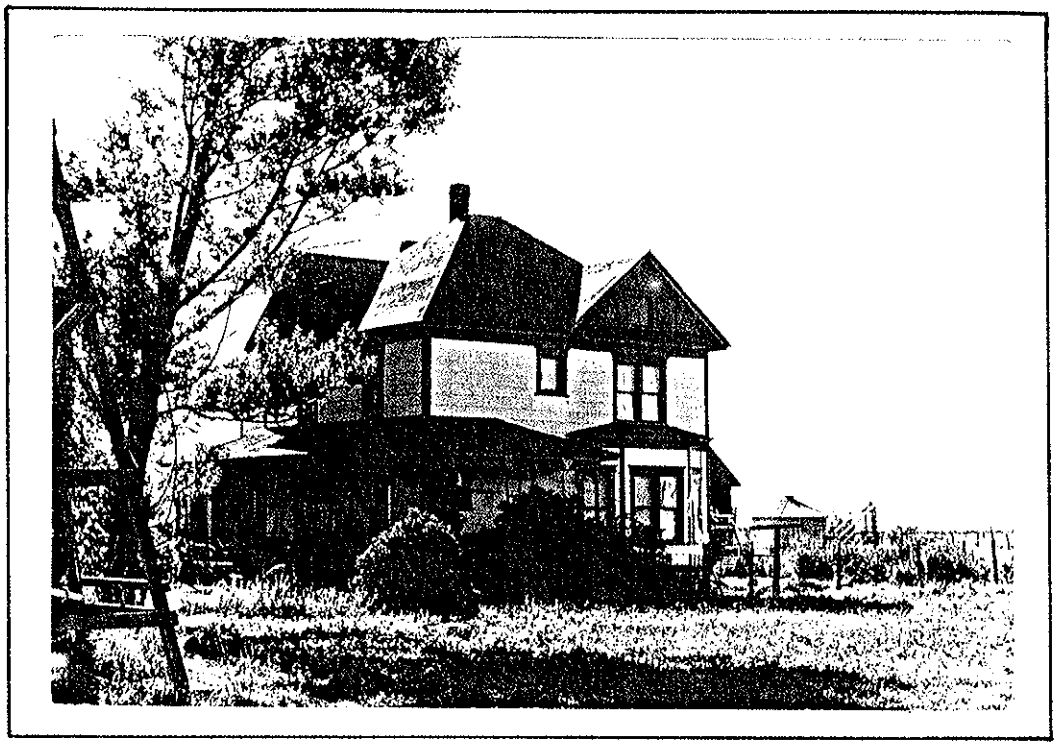
One source described the architectural style of the structure as "picturesque eclecticism," despite its basic square plan. The elements are freely mixed, representing several styles, and may be said to come from the nameless period in American architecture. The structure is a frame building with plain horizontal shingling. It has a high pitched hip roof with gables and horizontally banded windows. The roof has been reshingled once since its construction in 1908. The exterior design has not been altered from the original, although Harry Withers, Jr., did install new siding. The large porch that extends halfway around the house is supported by decorative columns. The floor plan includes four bedrooms and attic upstairs, and two bedrooms, a sitting room, kitchen, and two utility rooms on the main floor.

The Withers House has been maintained in good condition by its owners, and it will probably continue to be owned by the family in the future, according to one family spokesman. It stands as a reminder of an earlier, more prosperous period when Harney was a major urban center in Harney County.

Rating

Significance: High. The Withers family was significant in the early history of the town of Harney.

Integrity: Medium. The home was been altered some.



16.12 Withers House

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

A broadly conceived and comprehensive plan for the management of Harney County's cultural resources should be formulated with all possible haste. The forcefulness of this recommendation stems from the urgent nature of the problem. Many historic sites and structures are being irretrievably lost through neglect, vandalism, deterioration, and lack of knowledge of the importance of the historic resource. Harney County is rich in pre-historical and historical resources, but no systematic approach exists for the proper preservation of these. Many sites are located on private lands and their protection has been dependent on the efforts and interests of the owners. This has been very fortunate in many cases, such as the Peter French Round Barn which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places as a result of actions taken by local ranchers T. E. and R. J. Jenkins. Other important historic resources have been destroyed by disinterested individuals who viewed them as unimportant obstacles to progress.

Several major federal land-managing agencies administer lands that contain significant quantities of cultural resources. Officials at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge have long been interested in the preservation of sites located on Refuge lands. The Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service have recently been active in their efforts to identify important historic resources within their jurisdictions.

Legislation on the state and federal level has added additional impetus for preservation. Goal Five of the Land Conservation and Development Commission's statement of goals specifically deals with cultural resources. The Historic Preservation Act of 1966 mandates certain review procedures for all federally assisted programs. These and other requirements point up the necessity for a coordinated program of historic preservation.

The need for a comprehensive approach to the protection of the County's historic resources, therefore, is the single most urgent recommendation that is offered. The Harney County Historical Society would seem to be in a favorable position to formulate a plan with sufficient breadth and depth to adequately meet the challenge. Other recommendations and conclusions stemming from this research are as follows:

1. Completion of the historic sites inventory is the first step in the establishment of an historic resources data base for Harney County. One hundred and two sites were identified, researched, and documented with photographs. This represents a small percentage of the total potential sites that merit consideration for historical purposes. Appendix A lists additional sites that were identified during the data collection period. Many others could be added as further research is conducted.

2. An important next step in the protection of Harney County's cultural resources is the identification of sites for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. This register is the official list of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. Acceptance to the Register qualifies the property for Federal grants-in-aid and protection under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. A few obvious sites that merit further research for establishing their eligibility for the National Register are: White-

horse Ranch, Alvord Ranch, Sod House Ranch, PLS House, Drewsey Odd Fellows Hall, Lawen Store, and Rose Valley Borax Company. There are many others.

3. A review of the list of sites identified in this research reveals that the theme most represented was The Cattlemen's Empire and Agriculture. Twenty-six sites are included in this theme. This is not unusual given the predominance of these activities in the County's history. Future research should be directed toward identifying representative sites for other themes to provide a more balanced County register. The Mining Frontier, Religious, Cultural Immigration, Education, and Natural Science and Medicine are a few themes that should be considered for emphasis.

4. A related recommendation deals with the Transportation and Communication theme. The network of roads, stage stops, freight lines, and related sites should be carefully traced and documented before they are permanently lost. Many of the long-time Harney County residents who have first-hand knowledge of these sites are passing away and the exact locations may be lost. Transportation and communication played a central role in the development of the sparsely populated County.

5. Additional research emphasis should be placed on certain County regions and topics. For example, time did not permit adequate identification of sites in the lands administered by the National Forest system in the northern portion of the country. The Pueblo Mountains and the surrounding environs is another region that would yield much cultural resource information. In terms of specific topics that merit additional attention, the works of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in Harney County should be considered. Although the CCC does not meet the usual time criterion of fifty years used by the National Park Service, a decision was recently made by the National Park Service to extend preservation status to all those sites identified with the activities of this Depression-born federal agency. Pre-history or archaeological sites were purposefully excluded from this inventory. These sites require special attention to insure that they will not be destroyed by pot-hunters or by aimless destruction or deterioration. When adequate protection is available, however, these cultural resources should be included in the County inventory.

6. Future research to expand this preliminary historic resource data base should utilize oral history methodology to a greater extent. The existing oral history program under the direction of Pauline Brayman is an excellent source of information, but the findings should be better incorporated into the County's program of research. One recommendation would be to collect interviews on the basis of a topical or thematic framework. For example, a joint research project which was carried out in conjunction with this inventory was an oral history of Harney County Basques. This parallel research program provided a rich supplementary bank of information which correlated well with the primary research thrust. Similar approaches might be oral histories of transportation, religious activities, and the recreational life of Harney County. These projects would complement Mrs. Brayman's excellent program.

7. Recommendation Seven deals with historic site interpretation and public education about historic preservation. There are numerous approaches to the interpretation of historic resources that could be applied in Harney County. A publications program under the sponsorship of the Harney County Historical Society would do much to bring historical information to the visitor and generate revenues for historic preservation work. Publication of brochures, leaflets, pamphlets, guidebooks, catalogues, and related materials would generate interest in the history of the area. Materials could be published on general topics such as "A

Windshield Tour of Harney County's Historic Sites" or "A Walking Tour of Historic Homes in Burns." The walking tour that was prepared by Society members would be an example. Brochures might be topically oriented such as "Historic Ranches in Harney County" or 'The Basques of Harney County." Materials could be published on specific sites such as Sod House Ranch or the Drewsey Odd Fellows Hall. Publication of post cards taken from old historic photographs would provide the Harney County Museum with interest-generating materials for the museum visitor.

Historic photographic exhibits, living history demonstrations, exhibits of early farming equipment, and other similar activities would all serve to bring the region's history to the attention of the resident and visitor alike. A program of plaqueing historic sites and providing other historical sign information is another important device for furthering preservation work. Many free audio-visual materials are available at no cost or for a very nominal fee. The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a good source of information on all facets of historic preservation, publishes Films: Historic Preservation and Related Subjects. This catalog and similar publications available from other sources would provide materials for public education about the importance of historic preservation. (See Appendix B.) The Harney County Historical Society is already using history-oriented tours, which is another useful public education technique.

8. Finally, in order to launch a program of preserving the cultural heritage of Harney County, financial and technical support should be sought. On the state level the best single source of general information is the State Historic Preservation Office in the Parks and Recreation Branch of the Department of Transportation, located in Salem, Oregon. The State Historic Preservation Officer is charged with administering the federal grants-in-aid program in Oregon and maintaining the Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings. On the national level the National Trust for Historic Preservation is the primary organization dedicated to preserving the national heritage. The American Association for State and Local History has also been active through its publications program. Appendix C lists these and other organizations that may be of help.

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243. Personal Letter. John C. Scharff to Art S. King. February 24, 1969.

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259. U.S. Forest Service. Undated. "Historical Site Record: Baby's Grave." Burns, Oregon: Snow Mountain Ranger District.

260. U.S. Forest Service. Undated. "Historical Site Record: Camp Currey." Burns, Oregon: Snow Mountain Ranger District.

261. U.S. Forest Service. Undated. "Historical Site Record: Howard Valley and Trail." Burns, Oregon: Snow Mountain Ranger District.

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SOURCES CONSULTED

1.1 Sod House Site

3, 7, 134, 136, 202, 220, 236, 257

2.1 Meek Cutoff Trail

3, 6, 18, 67, 220

2.2 Theodosia Miller Elliott Grave Site

66, 103, 111, 112, 202, 244, 246

3.1 Rose Valley Borax Company

18, 44, 76, 81, 101, 120, 163, 222

4.1 Alvord Ranch

3, 12, 18, 36, 49, 53, 71, 79, 101, 116, 118, 163, 176, 214, 222

4.2 Alvord Ranch Storage Building

3, 12, 53, 101, 116, 118, 176, 222

4.3 Alvord Ranch Granary

3, 12, 53, 101, 116, 118, 176, 222

4.4 Brenton Cabin

3, 18, 24, 50, 134, 236

4.5 Brenton Willow Corral

3, 18, 24, 50, 134, 236

4.6 Clemens Barn

60, 105, 106, 239

4.7 Diamond Ranch Barn

3, 146, 147, 148, 149, 202, 205, 268

4.8 Diamond Ranch Cellar

3, 146, 147, 148, 149, 202, 205, 268

4.9 Double "O" Ranch

2, 3, 4, 13, 18, 23, 28, 50, 134, 146, 149, 205, 236

4.10 Double "O" Blacksmith Shop

3, 24, 50, 128, 134, 146, 149, 211, 236

4.11 Double "O" Loghouse

3, 24, 50, 128, 134, 146, 149, 211, 236

4.12 Follyfarm

20, 101, 176, 177, 182, 183, 202, 222, 249

4.13 Jones House

84, 85, 141, 193, 194, 202

4.14 Jones Blacksmith Shop

84, 85, 141, 193, 194, 202

4.15 Jones Barn

84, 85, 141, 193, 194, 202

4.16 Jones Livestock Scales

84, 85, 141, 193, 194

4.17 "P" Ranch

3, 9, 13, 14, 20, 28, 49, 50, 91, 111, 112, 134, 146, 149, 202, 233, 236, 238, 253

4.18 Pete French Round Barn

3, 18, 50, 146, 147, 149, 180, 202, 250, 251

4.19 Pete French Murder Site

14, 50, 136, 149, 202, 236, 257

4.20 PLS Headquarters

3, 23, 42, 72, 166, 202, 224, 225

4.21 "71" Bar Ranch

3, 48, 60, 161, 162, 205, 260

4.22 Sod House Ranch

3, 50, 134, 136, 191, 192, 202, 220, 236, 240, 255, 256, 257

4.23 Sod House Ranch Barn

3, 50, 134, 136, 191, 192, 202, 220, 236, 240, 255, 256, 257

4.24 Sod House Ranch Cellar

3, 50, 134, 136, 191, 192, 202, 220, 236, 240, 255, 256, 257

4.25 Whitehorse Ranch

3, 4, 18, 20, 23, 38, 71, 82, 105, 106, 111, 112, 125, 173, 190, 224, 225, 253

4.26 Whitehorse Ranch Barn

3, 4, 18, 20, 23, 38, 71, 82, 105, 106, 111, 112, 125, 173, 190, 224, 225, 253

5.1 Andrews

3, 20, 70, 101, 163, 176, 182, 183, 193, 194, 222, 245, 248, 252

5.2 Beckley Townsite

20, 97, 111, 112, 202, 248

5.3 Berdugo Townsite

20, 97, 111, 112, 193, 248

5.4 Blitzen Townsite

3, 20, 97, 111, 112, 176, 248

5.5 Brown Building

3, 60, 98, 100, 128, 198, 202, 205

5.6 Burns Garage

3, 29, 201, 202

5.7 Burns Power Company

3, 202, 232

5.8 Crane

3, 20, 43, 66, 92, 117, 121, 177, 203, 220, 248

5.9 Denio

2, 3, 20, 63, 83, 189, 226, 248

5.10 Diamond

20, 77, 90, 99, 140, 149, 166, 187, 202, 248

5.11 Diamond Hotel

77, 90, 99, 140, 149, 166, 187, 202

5.12 Drewsey

3, 20, 46, 52, 60, 109, 154, 178, 184, 204, 206, 220, 234, 248

5.13 First National Bank of Burns

133, 202, 230

5.14 Lawen Townsite

20, 60, 64, 86, 102, 105, 144, 151, 152, 168, 177, 195, 202, 220, 248

5.15 Lawen

20, 60, 64, 86, 102, 105, 144, 151, 152, 168, 177, 195, 202, 220

5.16 The Narrows

20, 103, 111, 112, 136, 149, 202, 220, 236, 237, 248

5.17 Ragtown Townsite

47, 97, 111, 112, 202, 248

5.18 Somerange

20, 97, 180, 248

5.19 Voegtly Building

3, 60, 128, 198, 202, 205, 266, 267

5.20 Voegtly House

3, 60, 128, 198, 202, 209, 266, 267

6.1 Alberson Townsite

3, 20, 101, 163, 166, 176, 177, 202, 222, 248

6.2 Albritton Townsite

3, 136, 144, 149, 186, 195, 202, 220, 248

6.3 Burns-Canyon City Road

95, 202, 206

6.4 Coon Town

146, 147, 149, 195, 202, 206

6.5 Harney Lake Sand Gap

14, 136, 146, 147, 149, 202, 205, 236

6.6 Harriman Townsite

20, 110, 144, 151, 195, 202, 220, 248

6.7 Miranda Lane

101, 163, 176, 177, 222, 242

6.8 Ontario-Burns Road

105, 149, 178, 202, 204, 206

6.9 Riecken's Corner

111, 112

6.10 Rock Ford

3, 136, 149, 202, 220, 236

6.11 Stallard Stage Stop

169, 178, 206

6.12 Tudor Burn

3, 101, 163, 176, 177, 222

6.13 Voltage

20, 111, 112, 136, 202, 220, 248

6.14 Willamette Valley Cascade Mountain Military Road

3, 60, 220

7.1 Suntex School

20, 162, 181, 205

7.2 Lawen School

86, 102, 151, 152, 168, 220

8.1 Hibbard House

53, 80, 98, 105, 107, 128, 172, 185, 202, 218, 219

8.2 Hibbard Dentist Office

53, 98, 105, 107, 128, 185, 202, 218, 219

9.1 Duncan Cabin

184, 204, 206

9.2 Howser Cabin

60, 69, 105, 106, 220

9.3 Stanclift Cabin

105, 106, 127

10.1 Christian Science Church

105, 128, 155, 156, 178, 223

11.1 Burns Odd Fellows Hall

3, 57, 202

11.2 Drewsey Odd Fellows Hall

52, 57, 109, 206, 234

11.3 Masonic Building

115, 128, 202, 205

12.1 Camp Alvord

3, 6, 18, 101, 163, 214, 222, 247

12.2 Camp Currey

3, 20, 48, 60, 122, 161, 162, 260

12.3 Camp Harney

3, 17, 20, 51, 122, 138, 139, 265

12.4 Camp C. F. Smith

3, 4, 18, 20, 60, 82, 101, 122, 125, 163, 214, 220, 222

12.5 Camp Wright

3, 37, 60, 98, 122, 202

12.6 Harney Townsite

3, 40, 54, 60, 105, 106, 178, 202, 220

12.7 Shields House

3, 60, 61, 181, 205

13.1 Star Hotel

3, 11, 18, 84, 126, 129, 135, 141, 157, 158, 159, 170, 171, 193, 194, 210, 211 212

14.1 Andrews Saloon

101, 153, 163, 176, 177, 182, 183, 218, 222

14.2 Ideal Theater

45, 202

14.3 I and C Hotsprings

68, 86, 92, 102, 111, 144, 186, 202

14.4 Malheur Cave

65, 115, 202, 215, 221

14.5 Whorehouse Meadow

20, 59, 124, 149, 202

15.1 Allison Ranger Station

93, 120, 161, 199, 202, 213, 258, 262

15.2 Busse Dam

136, 146, 147, 149, 202, 220, 236, 241, 243

16.1 Baby's Grave

161, 199, 202, 259, 262

16.2 Cheek House

177, 202, 220

16.3 Donegan House

101, 123, 128, 132, 172, 202, 222, 228

16.4 Foley House

123, 128, 172, 179, 202

16.5 Hall Cave

143, 160, 178, 184, 206, 220

16.6 Jenkins House

146, 147, 149, 202, 220

16.7 Mace House

3, 94, 165, 172, 202, 229

16.8 Nettie McLaughlin Grave Site

50, 149, 202, 236

16.9 Newell House

3, 62, 94, 124, 128, 149, 220

16.10 Schwartz House

128, 145, 172, 202

16.11 Smyth House

3, 18, 78, 90, 136, 140, 146, 149, 202

16.12 Withers House

60, 94, 105, 106, 207, 208, 222, 224, 225

APPENDIX A:

ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL HISTORIC SITES

1. Allen House
2. Anderson House
3. Anderson Townsite
4. Andrews Hotel
5. Bannock War
6. Basque Cairns
7. Bell A Ranch
8. "Blue Bucket Mine"
9. Buchanan
10. Burns
11. Catlow Townsite
12. CCC sites
13. Commercial Hotel
14. Culp House
15. Delintment Camp
16. Del Norte Townsite
17. Diamond Craters
18. Double "00" Cellar
19. Drewsey Jail
20. Dunnean
21. Eagle Tower (MNWR)
22. Egli Townsite
23. Evergreen Townsite
24. Fields
25. Frenchglen Hotel
26. Frenchglen Store and Post Office
27. Frenchglen Garage and Service Station
28. Gap Ranch
29. Gilgrist Mill
30. Gilsons Mill
31. Hines Lumber Co.
32. Hines
33. Horton Mill
34. Howard Trail
35. Idol Townsite
36. Indian Peeled Trees
37. Jacks Camp
38. La Mu Townsite
39. Loma Townsite
40. Malheur Indian Reservation
41. Miller House
42. Mule Townsite
43. Oakley Townsite
44. Oregon and Northwest Railroad Co. Water Tower
45. Oroville Townsite
46. "P" Ranch "White House" Site
47. "P" Ranch Landmark
48. "P" Ranch Beef Wheel
49. Page House
50. Pete French Rock Wall

51. Plaza Hotel
52. Ponderosa Ranch
53. Princeton Townsite
54. E.B. Reed House
55. Rest Townsite
56. Riddle Ranch
57. Riley Townsite
58. Robie Mills
59. Roaring Springs Ranch
60. Sageview Townsite
61. Smith House
62. Shirk Townsite
63. Smith Townsite
64. Sod House Bunkhouse
65. Sod House Residence
66. Tannery on 9 Mile Slough
67. The Lake Townsite
68. Thorne Mill
69. Tiara Townsite
70. Van Townsite
71. Venator Townsite
72. Wagontire Townsite
73. Waverly Townsite
74. Winnemucca Wagon Road

APPENDIX B:

SELECTED REFERENCES FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Alderson, William T. and Shirley P. Low. 1976. Interpretation of Historic Sites. The American Association for State and Local History. Nashville.

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APPENDIX C:

SELECTED SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1522 K Street N.W.
Suite 430
Washington, D.C.

Agricultural History Society
U.S. Department of Agriculture
500 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

American Anthropological Association
1703 New Hampshire Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

American Association of Museums
2233 Wisconsin Avenue N.W.
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20007

American Association for State and Local History
1315 Eighth Avenue
South Nashville, TN 37203

American Historical Association
400 A Street S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

American Institute of Maintenance
710 West Wilson Avenue
Glendale, CA 91209

American Institute of Planners
1176 Massachusetts Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Association for Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums
Smithsonian Institute
12th and Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20256

The Association for Preservation Technology
Box 2487, Station D
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5W6, Canada

Friends of Cast Iron Architecture
44 West 9th Street
New York, New York 10011

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

Interagency Archaeological Services
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
P.O. Box 5700
San Francisco, CA 94101

National Council on the Humanities
806 15th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506

National Endowment for the Arts
One McPherson Square
Washington, D.C. 20506

National Trust for Historic Preservation
740-748 Jackson Place N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

Oregon Committee for the Humanities
1633 S.W. Park
Portland, OR 97201

Oregon Historical Society
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
300 State Highway Building
Salem, OR 97310

Pacific Northwest Regional Office
National Park Service
4th and Pike Building
Seattle, WA 98101

Pioneer American Society
620 South Washington Street
Falls Church, VA 22406

Society of Architectural Historians
1700 Walnut Street
Room 716
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Society for the History of Technology
Sears Library
Room 554
Cleveland, OH 44106

APPENDIX D:

INFORMATION NEEDED ON INVENTORIED SITES

2.2	Theodosia Miller Elliott Grave Site	section
3.1	Rose Valley Borax Company	ownership
4.19	Pete French Murder Site	section
5.3	Berdugo Townsite	ownership
5.4	Blitzen Townsite	ownership
5.9	Denio	ownership
5.17	Ragtown	section
5.18	Somerange	ownership
5.20	Voegtly House	address
6.5	Harney Lake Sand Gap	section
6.7	Miranda Lane	section, ownership
6.11	Stallard Stage Stop	section
6.12	Tudor Barn	section
9.1	Duncan Cabin	section
12.1	Camp Alvord	section, ownership
12.4	Camp C. F. Smith	ownership
12.5	Camp Wright	ownership