

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Cahill-Nordstrom Farm

other names/site number Big Bend Farm

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

street & number 85926 Cahill Road not for publication

city or town Clatskanie vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Clatsop code _____ zip code 97016

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer _____ Date _____

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8		buildings
		site
1		structure
		object
9	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

OTHER

NO STYLE

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: concrete, stone, wood

walls: wood

roof: wood, metal

other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

Summary Paragraph

The Cahill-Nordstrom Farm, also known as Big Bend Farm, is located at 89526 Cahill Road, about three miles west of the hamlet of Birkenfeld, in Clatsop County, Oregon. Situated within the inner bend of an oxbow in the Nehalem River (hence the name Big Bend Farm), the house and outbuildings are sited at the narrowest point of the river's bend, within agricultural fields bound on the west, north, and east sides by the curving river. The buildings are arranged irregularly, with the house positioned on a slight knoll overlooking the outbuildings and farmyard slightly below, to the north. The nominated area is composed of approximately 8.3 acres that includes nine (9) contributing features: the 1897 shop, 1911 barn, 1914 bungalow residence, circa 1925 granary, circa 1940 pump house, the circa-1956 machine shed, woodshed, gas shed, and the pre-1956 corral. An historic-period apple tree, Black walnut, and large, old, Bigleaf maple tree, which was a traditional neighborhood meeting place, are also included in the nominated area. This extant collection of buildings and features spans a period of over sixty years, exhibiting many of the various stages of development of the 140-year-old Century Farm. All of the contributing features retain sufficient historical integrity to convey their period of construction and their historic functions. There are no non-contributing features within the nominated area boundary.¹ The arrangement of built and natural features and their relationships to each other has not changed since the mid-1950s. Overall, the farmstead retains integrity in all areas (location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association), and is an excellent example of a turn-of-the-century farm in the northwestern portion of the state.

Narrative Description

Setting and Landscape

The Cahill-Nordstrom farm is located in a rural, relatively undeveloped section of far eastern Clatsop County where the nearest town, Birkenfeld (Columbia County), is about three miles to the east. The region's topography consists of rolling hills with areas of open farmland interspersed with vast wooded areas. The Cahill-Nordstrom farm is situated within a large oxbow bend in the Nehalem River that is marked by open farmland to the north and forest land to the south (Figures 1-3). The original 160-acre Cahill homestead encompassed acreage within the oxbow of the river as well as some land west of the river; the current owner's holding amounts to 37.16 acres.

The farm buildings and features are arranged somewhat haphazardly (e.g. there is no discernible order or shape to the arrangement), with all buildings located within the oxbow, the house overlooking the agricultural buildings, structures, and fields to the northeast (Figures 5-7).

Residence (1914 / Contributing)

The 1½-story Cahill-Nordstrom residence was built in 1914 by local builder and Finnish immigrant John Larson in the Craftsman mode with some subtle, latent Queen Anne details (Photos 1 and 2; Figures 26-28, 34, and 35). The 1,643-square-foot, wood-framed house rests on a board-formed, poured-concrete foundation, and measures about 33' wide by 37' deep. The house is clad in shiplap siding with a

¹ A 1918 bungalow is situated adjacent to the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm at 85924 Cahill Road, and is historically associated with the Cahill and Nordstrom families and the farm. It is located on a separate tax lot and under separate ownership, and therefore is not included in this nomination (see Figures 5 and 6).

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combination of square and delicate fish-scale shingling in the gable ends. Fenestration is regular and consists of one-over-one double-hung wood sash arranged singly and in pairs with simple board trim. A squared oriel window with a tripartite set of one-over-one double-hung wood sash is situated at the southern corner of the east elevation, lighting the dining room. On the upper level, shed dormers are placed at the center of the east and west roof slopes, and display paired one-over-one double-hung sash.

Typical of the period and style, the front-gable roof has open eaves, exposed rafter tails and decorative knee braces at the gable ends and on the shed dormers, which are centrally arranged, one on each of the east and west roof slopes. The original wood shingle roofing has been replaced with corrugated sheet metal. A single, deteriorated red brick chimney rises from the center of the roof at the ridge.

The house is situated on a slight rise, fronting south onto Highway 202/Nehalem Highway. The original full-width front porch deteriorated beyond repair and has been removed. The off-center front door opening is boarded over, and is flanked by one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows with simple, flat-board trim with architrave moulding. The rear of the house faces north with a view over the farm and outbuildings, which are arranged in the shallow valley below. A full-width, single-story projection with corner porches and a central interior pantry area and a small bathroom originally spanned the north (rear) elevation (Figures 8, 35; Photo 2). The basement area below was used as a root cellar, canning storage, and cold storage. This rear extension was recently removed due to its deteriorated condition.

The interior of the house, while in poor condition, retains a high degree of historical integrity in terms of original design, materials, and workmanship; apart from the removal of the front porch and rear projection, little appears to have changed in its 108-year-life. The dwelling originally consisted of six rooms downstairs, and three bedrooms and a storage room upstairs arranged around a center stair hall.

The 1,092-square-foot main floor includes a parlor, dining room, kitchen, master bedroom, and formerly included a pantry and bathroom (Figure 8). Floors throughout the house are naturally finished fir with baseboards. The five-panel interior doors are trimmed with flat board surrounds with fillet and moulded casing cap or architrave trim. Similar trim is applied to the one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows. Ceilings are or were surfaced with muslin and wallpaper, some of which has fallen or been removed.

Generally, walls are planked with horizontal boards covered with muslin and wallpaper, although each of the downstairs rooms is finished slightly differently. The parlor walls are covered in a type of fiber wallboard arranged in large panels with narrow battens at the seams.² In the dining room, walls display board-and-batten wainscot with a narrow plate rail and muslin and wallpaper above; an oriel window with a window seat is situated on the east wall. The kitchen is similarly trimmed, with painted board-and-batten wainscoting along the north, west, and south walls, and built-in cabinetry, sink, and wall cupboards along the east wall. There is a pass-through pantry or china cupboard in the south wall separating the kitchen and dining room. The downstairs bedroom is the simplest in terms of wall treatment, with only muslin and wallpaper over plank boards, and no baseboard.³

Upstairs, the 550-square-foot space is composed of three bedrooms and a smaller storage room, two rooms on each side of a central stair hall (Figure 9). As with the downstairs, floors are naturally finished fir, with slightly narrower baseboards than those applied on the main floor. The horizontal wood-planked walls are (or were) covered in muslin and wallpaper, or in some cases the wallpaper was glued directly to the wood boards. Window and door trim matches that of the first floor, with flat board, fillet, and moulded cap detailing. The staircase itself is enclosed, with an open rail along either side of the opening on the second floor landing. The balustrade consists of simple one-inch-square balusters set at 45-degrees

² This material is thinner than homasote, and appears to be Beaver Board or something similar.

³ Prior to its removal, the bathroom walls were finished with vertical V-groove wainscoting, originally with muslin and wallpaper above. Bathroom fixtures, including a claw-foot bathtub, wall-mount sink, and toilet remain in the house.

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with a slightly chamfered rail. The two square newel posts at the top of the stair display compound moulded caps.

The house was plumbed by 1937 and had electricity by 1939.⁴ Prior to that, one of the Nordstrom relatives recalls that “[i]n the early days, water was in a water tower by Andrew and Mary’s house to provide running water by gravity feed. I recall them getting water from a tiny creek that ran down the hill from the other side of the road, there must have been a pipe from the creek” (Figure 32).⁵ Before electricity came to the area, lighting consisted of an acetylene system and then kerosene lamps.

Despite its condition, the house retains a high degree of historical integrity, with nearly all original details and many original or historic finishes present, though in varying states of condition. The missing features, namely the front porch and rear projection and porches, are well-documented (both in photographs and in living memory), with sufficient information available to accurately guide any future restoration effort.

Barn (1911 / Contributing)

The large, rectangular, end-opening barn was built in 1911, and measures 60 feet long by 56 feet wide, and approximately 60 feet in height (Figure 10; Photos 7-12). Attached to the northwest end of the main barn volume is an unusual enclosed, drive-through hay shed that extends 15 feet beyond the northwestern wall of the main volume of the barn, extending the total length of the central portion of the barn to 75 feet. Originally built on a wood and stone pier foundation, the pier system had been repaired using concrete at an unknown date.⁶ The foundation was further updated in a 2017 restoration effort and now consists of wood posts and beams resting on concrete piers.

The barn is framed with large split-cedar columns and posts, hand-hewn beams and other members, and horizontal and diagonal bracing of dimensional sawn lumber. Some of the hand-hewn framing elements have notching that does not correlate to their current placement or purpose; they appear to have been repurposed from an older building, but this has not been substantiated. As with many of the buildings on the farm, the exterior vertical board siding was sawn from wood that was harvested and milled on site. The gable roof is framed with circular-sawn dimensional lumber and was originally covered with hand-split cedar shakes painted forest green, about one-third of which remain beneath the new metal roofing. The barn originally had a cupola that has been removed.

The interior of the barn consists of four, 15-foot-wide bays and three aisles. The wider central aisle, formerly with wood flooring that has been removed, is flanked by narrower, wood-floored aisles to the north and south used historically as cow stands, as evidenced by the lines of wood stanchions worn smooth by generations of cows. A separator room for milk processing is located at the west end of the southern aisle. The central aisle or hay mow, which is open to the peak of the gable roof, was used for open storage of loose hay until the 1970s; baled hay is now stored in this space. The full-height hay shed—an expanded version of a hay hood—is formed by the extension of the gable roof approximately fifteen feet beyond the main volume of the barn. This unusual feature, with wagon doors on its north and south sides, allowed wagons loaded with hay drive into an enclosed space while loose hay was unloaded into the barn via the hay fork attached to the ridge beam.

On the southeast gable end, the barn has two smaller doors into each aisle and a large central door that was added circa 1960. On the northwest side there are smaller doors into the aisles, as well as the large

⁴ Celena Kathan, personal communication with author, March 2022. Information provided by family members Nancy Sullivan and Phyllis Van Winkle.

⁵ Kate Nordstrom Larsen, “A Brief History of the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm,” unpublished manuscript, August 2016, 7.

⁶ The stones for the barn’s original foundation piers came from the Nehalem River and remain on site. There is some conjecture that they were part of the foundation for the original 1875 house. Celena Kathan, personal communication with author, March 2022.

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double-leaf doors on the north and south walls of the hay shed. Hardware consists of metal tracks and a mix of metal and leather door hinges and latches, many being modern period replacements and some of which are either original or from the historic period. Windows are limited to four small, square openings along the north side wall and two on the south, one of which retains a six-pane sash.

The barn underwent restorative work in 2017 at which time the deteriorated west end of the barn and the hay shed were restored, and the building foundation, sections of exterior siding, and roof structure and roofing were repaired or replaced in-kind. The historic stone and older concrete foundation piers were replaced with concrete, and missing or damaged wood siding was replaced in-kind. The older (1985) metal roofing was removed and replaced, retaining a large section of original painted wood shingles that had been preserved beneath the subsequent metal roofing.

Granary (c 1925 / Contributing)

The granary building is situated about 435 feet north of the house and some 165 feet northwest of the barn (Figures 6 and 7; Photo 13). The building measures about 28' by 16' with a 28' by 14' shed attached to the northwest side, and is set on a wood and stone pier foundation. The balloon-framing supports double walls, the exterior of which are clad in circular-sawn vertical boards with horizontal shiplap in the gable ends. There are openings on three walls: a one-over-one double-hung sash window on the southern end wall, a window opening with no sash in the east side wall, and a door in the north end wall. The gable roof is composed of sawn 2"x4" rafters, skip sheathing, and wood shingle roofing. The shed roof has a lower pitch, and is covered in corrugated metal.

Inside, the flooring consists of tongue-and-groove boards, and the interior walls are lined with horizontal shiplap on the long walls, and horizontal boards set flush on the gable end walls. An International Harvester grain grinder, used to grind oats for cattle feed, remains in place inside. Although deteriorated, the granary building appears to retain a high degree of historical integrity, with few significant alterations evident. The construction methods and materials support a construction date of the 1920s or early 1930s.

Machine Shed (c 1956 / Contributing)

The four-bay machine shed is located about fifty feet northwest of the barn. It is approximately 50' long by 25' deep, and has an open, approximately 14-foot shed addition on the northwest end (Figures 6 and 7; Photo 14). The building's foundation appears to be wood with stone or concrete piers. Its structural makeup consists of large hewn and sawn posts with sawn horizontal beams and top plates let into the posts, and diagonal support bracing throughout. The building is closed on three sides with circular-sawn vertical boards; the north side has four variably sized bays that are open and accessible, though all are gated to prevent cattle from entering. The asymmetrical side-gable roof has a longer slope on the rear (south) side, and a shorter-sloped front (north) side. This building was constructed on or very near the site of the earlier barn that was torn down or dismantled about the time the machine shed was constructed in the early- to mid-1950s. The machine shed retains a high degree of integrity and is in good condition.

Shop (1897, moved 1940s / Contributing)

The small approximately 14' by 18' shop was originally the kitchen wing of the earlier 1897, upright-and-wing house. Sometime in the 1940s, the two volumes of the house were separated and the kitchen wing was moved its current location and re-purposed as a shop (Figures 6, 7, 21 and 22; Photos 15 and 16).⁷ The shop building rests directly on the ground with no discernible foundation piers. Walls are box

⁷ The main part of the old house remained in place until the late 1950s, when it was moved across the road south of the house and used to house calves being weaned. The old woodshed, which used to sit near the northeast corner of the current house, was also moved across the road and up the hill at that time. Larsen, "A Brief History...", 4; Celena Kathan, personal communication with author, email 11/11/2020.

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constructed with rough, circular-sawn vertical boards and no other exterior surfacing. There are doors on the east and west gable ends and one on the north wall; two of the doors are original to the 1897 construction, as suggested by the four-panel design that was typical of the late-nineteenth century. The west gable-end opening, which currently includes a door, served as the passage into the original house. The north side doorway originally led to a side working or kitchen porch, and the east gable-end opening originally housed a window. On the south wall is an original four-over-four double-hung wood sash window. The gable roof has four courses of wood shingles covered with newer metal roofing.

The interior of the shop is fitted with rudimentary shelving and work benches, and the old forge, drill press, table saw, and other shop items are still present. The structural components of the building, including walls and ceiling joists, are exposed, but walls continue to show remnants of wallpaper finish applied directly to the vertical boards. Although altered from its original construction, most obviously through its separation from the upright portion of the house around 1940, architecturally the shop does not reflect a 1940s construction date; it retains the visible characteristics of its 1897 date through the box-constructed walls, original doors and windows, and remnants of interior finishes and more strongly expresses the earlier date. The shop retains fair integrity and condition.

Pumphouse (c 1940 / Contributing)

Sited immediately southeast of the shop, the pumphouse has a small footprint of approximately 9' by 10' (Figures 6 and 7; Photo 15). Its poured concrete foundation rises approximately 18 inches above grade, upon which sits the wood-framed double walls clad in circular-sawn horizontal boards with vertical boards on the interior. The front-gable roof has a broad overhang, and is covered in wood shingles. A four-panel door is centered on the east end wall, and may have been re-purposed from the adjacent shop building. This building appears to retain good integrity and is in good condition, and remains in use for all the water needs of the nearby Francis and Helen Larson Nordstrom house at 85924 Cahill Road (Figures 6 and 7).⁸

Woodshed (c. 1956 / Contributing)

The woodshed is situated near Cahill Road about 135 feet east of the barn, and was originally associated with the Francis and Helen Larson Nordstrom house—the former teacher's residence, known as the Teacherage—that was moved to the property in about 1940.⁸ The two-bay woodshed building measures approximately 14 feet by 18 feet, and its construction characteristics suggest it is likely close in construction date to the c. 1956 machine shed, although the exact date of construction is not known (Figures 6 and 7; Photo 17). The structure consists of round posts with sawn and round horizontal members with diagonal bracing. The building is open on the south side, with the west, north, and east walls covered in circular-sawn boards set vertically. A wide doorway on the west end wall is visible but has been blocked closed. The simple roof structure of 2"x4" rafters with widely spaced skip sheathing is covered with sheet metal.

Gas Shed (c. 1956 / Contributing)

About 12 feet south of the woodshed is the small gas shed building, which is about 16 feet by 20 feet in size and was also originally associated with the nearby Francis and Helen Nordstrom house (Figures 6 and 7; Photo 17). Simply constructed of dimensional lumber, the gas shed has walls clad in vertical

⁸ The 1918 Francis and Helen Larson Nordstrom house (former Teacherage) sits on a tax lot separate from the other buildings associated with the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm. Francis Nordstrom was the son of Andrew and Mary Nordstrom, and Helen Larson Nordstrom was the daughter of local carpenter John Larson, who built the extant Cahill-Nordstrom house and barn that are subjects of this nomination. Their house has been inextricably tied to the history and operation of the farm since the 1940s, and the Woodshed and Gas Shed were built for use by the occupants of that house. Because of this association, and the fact that they are located on the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm tax lot, both outbuildings are being counted as "Contributing" resources in this nomination.

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boards, and a shed roof covered in wood shingles. A collapsing roof that appears to have once connected the gas and woodshed buildings remains. The date of the gas shed is unknown, but like the woodshed and machine shed, it also appears to date to the mid-1950s.

Corral and Loading Chute (Pre-1956 / Contributing)

The corral is located adjacent to the woodshed, and includes a loading chute along Cahill Road (Figures 6 and 7; Photo 18). Large sections of the corral have been repaired or replaced, but its location, configuration, size, some material, and function remain as historically conceived. Apart from material repairs, it appears to remain little changed since the mid-twentieth century.

Landscape Features

Historically the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm had all of the expected landscape features of a subsistence farm. As described by one of Francis and Helen Larson Nordstrom's children,

We had a large vegetable garden 44 by 88 feet by the river, so it would be easy to irrigate. There were 3 apple trees near the barn, walnut trees near the old house and a larger orchard on the hill on the other side of the highway with more apple and pear trees. My grandparents Andrew and Mary [Nordstrom] had plum, cherry, peach and many berry bushes near their home also.⁹

Remaining historic elements near the house include some small plantings (iris, daffodils, columbine, and snowdrops), a large holly bush, several Damson plum trees, and a Black walnut tree. One of the apple trees—a "Northern Spy"—is the last remaining of the three that appear in aerial photographs just east of the barn, and may date to the pre-1900 period (Figures 6 and 7; Photo 18). A large Bigleaf maple tree, which also appears to pre-date 1900, is located north of the house and outbuildings in the hay field near Cahill Road, and was known as a gathering place for the neighborhood during summer celebrations such as the 4th of July.¹⁰

Alterations and Missing, Replaced, or Repurposed Features

The Cahill-Nordstrom Farm has been a working farm since 1875, during which time some changes have been made to accommodate the needs of the families and farm/ranch operations (it remains a working farm rented out to local ranchers). With the exception of recent removal of the porches from the house due to deterioration, and rehabilitation of the barn, nearly all changes on the farm that are visible today took place during the historic period of significance.

The front porch and rear section of the house were both deteriorated to the point of collapse, and were removed in the last five years. Numerous historical photographs of the front porch, and several of the rear extension, provide excellent documentation and sufficient guidance for accurate reconstruction, which is a goal of the property owner. The barn underwent a careful rehabilitation effort in 2018 in which the foundation was repaired and reinforced, some siding was replaced in-kind, the hay shed was repaired and re-sided, and the roof repaired and new metal roofing installed (leaving some of the original cedar shingles in place underneath).

As with many working farms, changes to the arrangement and sometimes the function of buildings, and shifts in spatial arrangements, pastures, and fencing occurred as needed for the ongoing operation of

⁹ Larsen, "A Brief History..." 7.

¹⁰ Celena Kathan, personal communication with author, Summer 2020.

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the farm. Most of these changes occurred by the mid-twentieth century, and little has changed since then.

Changes made between the earliest years of occupancy in the mid-1870s through the present day include the following:

Original cabin - No known remnant of the original 1875 cabin on this property remains, and the specific historical location of the building is not currently known.

1896 house - No known remnant of this second house on the Cahill property is known to remain.

1897 house - The third residence on the Cahill property, the 1897 upright-and-wing house stood at a location east of the current house until the 1940s (Figures 21 and 22).¹¹ The two volumes (the upright and the kitchen wing) were separated; the kitchen wing was moved to its current location and re-purposed for use as the shop building (described above), and the upright section moved south across Highway 202 in the mid-1950s.¹² The upright section no longer stands.

First barn - The first barn, possibly built in the 1890s, (visible in several historic images) stood west of the current barn until circa 1956 when it was dismantled (Figures 23, 25, 27, and 30). It is believed that some of the material from that barn was used in the construction of the Machine Shed (see description above) and perhaps some of the other mid-twentieth century outbuildings on the property.

Garage - A single-car garage stood to the west of the house and was accessed from the Nehalem Highway/Highway 202 (Figure 27). It remained in place until the 1950s when it was dismantled.¹³

Woodshed - A large woodshed was located near the northeast corner of the 1914 bungalow and was moved across the road along with the upright section of the old house in about 1958 (Figure 28).¹⁴ Its condition is not currently known.

Chicken house - A small chicken house and pen was located west of the garage, near the road, and was used for raising chicks. This building was removed in the early 1950s.¹⁵

Chicken coop - A shed-roofed chicken coop was located just west of the shop building until after the 1970s (Figure 7). Several other small coops were located around the property near the houses at various times; none survive (Figure 24).

Outhouse - An outhouse stood northeast of the house, north of the woodshed. Its date of removal is not known.

Bridge - A wooden bridge crossed the gully separating the house and house yard from the barn yard to the north. "There were 2 bridges. The original one was wide and flat so you could drive across it. It was there in the early 1900s but it disappeared before I was born and replaced with a foot bridge" (Figures 7, 24, and 25). The footbridge remained in place until sometime after 1962.¹⁶

Conclusion

The Cahill-Nordstrom Farm retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association from its 1897-1956 period of significance. The remaining buildings' relationships to each other and to the broader landscape are also intact. Each of the nine contributing features of the farm retain the level of integrity necessary to convey their periods of

¹¹ Larsen, "A Brief History...", 7; Celena Kathan, personal communication with author, email 11/11/2020.

¹² Celena Kathan, personal communication with author, email 11/11/2020.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Celena Kathan, personal communication with author, email 11/11/2020.

¹⁶ Ibid.

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construction, architectural style and significance, and/or historic function, and collectively they illustrate the variety and number of buildings and features that were typical—and essential—on a late nineteenth and early twentieth-century farm.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agriculture

Architecture

Period of Significance

1897- 1956 (Farm)

1911 (Barn)

Significant Dates

1897 - construction of early house (now shop)

1911 - construction of barn

1914 - construction of current house

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

N/A

Architect/Builder

John Larson, builder (house and barn)

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Period of Significance (justification)

The Cahill-Nordstrom farm has been in continuous ownership of the Cahill and Nordstrom families since its establishment in 1875. Because no above-ground resources from the earliest period are known to remain on the property, the period of significance under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture is 1897 to 1956, encompassing the dates of the oldest and the most recent extant built features. The opening date of 1897 reflects the construction date of the shop (originally the kitchen wing of the 1897 farmhouse, moved to its current location in the 1940s). The 1956 closing date is the approximate construction date of the machine shed, the most recent of the historic-period structures on the farm.

For the barn, the period of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture is the date of its construction, 1911.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The 1897-1956 Cahill-Nordstrom Farm is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Agriculture as an excellent example of “a surviving complex of farm buildings that reflect rural farm life in [the Nehalem Valley] in the first half of the twentieth century.”^{xvii} The farm has historical associations with the settlement and agricultural development of this portion of Clatsop County, Oregon, and with locally based agricultural endeavors in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Cahill and Nordstrom families, among the first to settle in the area, intermarried in 1903, and the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm remains in the hands of the family. The grouping itself, composed of nine contributing features in addition to various landscape elements, is relatively rare in its comprehensive representation of the various needs, functions, and flexible evolution of a late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century farm. Although deteriorated, the 1914 house retains a reasonable degree of historical integrity, displaying many of the exterior and most of the interior features of its original design. The 1911 barn is a particularly interesting and unusual example, with its full-height, drive-through hay shed. The period of significance for the farm, 1897 to 1956, corresponds to the dates of construction of the earliest building (the 1897 shop that was moved to its current site in the 1940s) and the most recent of the historic-period buildings (the circa-1956 machine shed). The approximately 8.3-acre nominated area contains nine contributing features ranging in age from 1897 to 1956, including the 1914 residence, the 1911 barn, the 1897 shop, the circa 1925 granary, a circa 1940 pumphouse, and the circa-1956 machine shed, woodshed, gas house, and corral. Additionally, the undated but historic-period apple tree, large Bigleaf maple, and Black walnut trees contribute to the overall character and historical narrative of the site. There are no non-contributing features included in the nominated area. In aggregate, the farm group retains integrity in all areas (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association), and the various buildings readily illustrate their individual architectural style, period of significance, and/or function.

The Cahill-Nordstrom barn is also eligible under Criterion C as an unusual and well-preserved example of its period and type, with the large hay shed a very rare feature, perhaps unique, on barns in western Oregon. The period of significance for the barn under Criterion C is the year of its construction, 1911. Apart from the recent restoration work and the removal of the small cupola, the barn remains largely unchanged from its original form, and retains integrity in all areas.

^{xvii} Diana Painter (Oregon State Historic Preservation Office) letter to Celena Kathan, December 28, 2016.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

In the area of **Agriculture**, the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm meets criterion A as a particularly good and complete example of a farm complex that exemplifies through its remaining features and layout the needs and functions of a late nineteenth-early twentieth-century farm. Established by northern and western European immigrant settlers who were arriving in increasing numbers in the 1870s, the farm became the epicenter of the original 160-acre homestead taken up by Thomas and Gertrude Cahill in 1875 (the second homestead in the area), later owned and operated by Andrew and Mary Cahill Nordstrom, and then by Francis and Helen Larson Nordstrom. All three generations lived on the homestead and farmed, grew hay, and raised livestock for over 100 years. The remaining house, barn, multiple outbuildings, and various landscape features collectively reflect the activities typical of rural farm life in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and illustrate the flexibility and ingenuity that was required for the operation of a successful farm in this area over a period of more than 100 years. The land continues to be used for agricultural purposes today, and the barn remains in use for the storage of hay much as it was originally intended.

In the area of **Architecture**, the barn is significant under Criterion C in that it embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type and period of construction, in addition to displaying design elements that are unusual and perhaps unique in the region. In some ways typical of many barns of this era, the Cahill-Nordstrom barn exhibits the gable roof, vertical board exterior, and large center hay mow flanked by narrower aisles that accommodated space for feeding livestock and milking cows. The interior arrangement, along with the windows along the north wall and the presence of a separator room, all provide cues as to the building's function as a hay and dairy barn. The large, drive-through hay shed at the northwest end allowed loaded wagons, and later trucks, to drive into an enclosed area where hay could be unloaded and placed in the barn. This feature may have been a response to the climatic and weather conditions at this location, and also provides a clear illustration of one of the primary functions of the barn, that of hay storage. No other examples of such a design have been identified in the area, elsewhere in Clatsop or Columbia Counties, or in the broader area of the Willamette Valley. The barn underwent a sensitive rehabilitation effort in 2017-2018, and is in very good condition as well as retaining a high degree of historical integrity.

Contextual Background

Brief History of the Nehalem Valley

The Cahill-Nordstrom Farm is located in far-eastern Clatsop County about 1½ miles from the Clatsop-Columbia County line in a horseshoe bend in the Nehalem River (Figures 2 and 3). Situated one mile west of the former community of Vesper (Clatsop County), and about three miles west of Birkenfeld (Columbia County), the farm sits about halfway between the Pacific Ocean to the west, and the Columbia River to the east, and is surrounded by both open farm fields and forested areas within the Nehalem River valley (Figures 1 and 2).

The Nehalem Valley is named for the river that meanders through Columbia and Clatsop counties on its way to the Pacific Ocean. The Clatsop and Nehalem people inhabited the region before English and ultimately American colonization took hold and many were forced off of their native land, although a number of tribal members still live in the broader Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook County area. In 1844, Oregon's provisional government created Clatsop County out of the northern and western portions of the much larger Tuality District.^{xviii} Neighboring Columbia County was carved from the eastern portion of Clatsop County and the northern portion of Washington County in 1854.^{xix}

^{xviii} Oregon Secretary of State, State Archives, "Clatsop County History."

<<https://sos.oregon.gov/archives/records/county/Pages/clatsop-history.aspx>> Accessed January 2022.

^{xix} Oregon Secretary of State, State Archives, "Columbia County History."

<<https://sos.oregon.gov/archives/records/county/Pages/columbia-history.aspx>> Accessed January 2022.

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Vesper was historically the closest (former) town to the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm. One source states that it was named Vesper, which means “evening song,” by nearby neighbor William Johnston, who “thought it was one of the most beautiful times of day when the work was done.”^{xx} According to McArthur’s *Oregon Geographic Names*, the place was evidently named for the evening star Venus. A post office opened at the location in 1879 and closed in 1919.^{xxi} Birkenfeld is located a few miles farther east, and was founded by Anton Birkenfeld, a native of Germany, in 1910; the post office was established in 1916.^{xxii}

The Nehalem River valley area consists of flat bottomlands lining the river, flanked on both sides by steep forested mountains and hills. With the exception of Vernonia, settlement both historically and up through the present day remains almost entirely focused along the linear corridor of the Nehalem River and the highway that roughly follows its course through the valley.^{xxiii}

The area’s mountainous topography isolated the interior region of both Clatsop and Columbia counties from the more populated coastal and Columbia River communities (which were more easily accessed by boat or established road systems), and the area remained a frontier into the 1870s.^{xxiv} “While citizens in larger Oregon towns enjoyed the benefits of trains and a few good roads in the 1870s, the settlers of the Nehalem Valley endured the difficulties of those who came in the 1840s.”^{xxv}

Homestead and preemption claims, in which settlers could purchase up to 160 acres of land from the U.S. government at \$1.25 an acre, were taken up all along the valley in Columbia and Clatsop counties starting in the 1860s. The first homesteader to settle in the Nehalem Valley was Norwegian immigrant Hans Anderson, who resided near Elsie starting in 1866.^{xxvi} Within a decade he would be followed by a number of other immigrant settlers, most from northern European and Scandinavian countries, seeking farmland in the area. In many areas of Oregon during the early years of settlement pioneers used Indian trails for overland travel, and such was the case in this region. Early settlers utilized a trail from Wood’s Landing at the Columbia River to travel south into the Nehalem Valley where the fertile land along the meandering river provided good agricultural opportunities.^{xxvii} Farming, much of it subsistence farming, was initially the primary activity in the area, and hay was the dominant crop in the 1870s and 1880s.^{xxviii}

Forage crops perfectly supported the dairy farming that the valley land favored. Some of the most successful early products...came from dairy farms. As soon as farmers cleared their land many established small dairies. They sold their milk, butter and cream to the local creameries that developed and to the logging camps. They also shipped it to the Portland market by steamboat.^{xxix}

The early homesteaders believed that railroads soon would be built and this encouraged their settlement of eastern Clatsop and western Columbia Counties, but transportation in the interior remained difficult in the 1870s and 1880s, challenging agricultural and timber exporting until roads and eventually a railroad were built.^{xxx}

^{xx} Myrtle Slanger, “Remembering Neighbors Always Pleasant,” *Pacific Coast Seniors*, (September 1996), np.

^{xxi} Lewis A. and Lewis L. McArthur, *Oregon Geographic Names* (Portland, Oregon: Oregon Geographic Names, 2003), 992.

^{xxii} McArthur, *Oregon Geographic Names*, 84.

^{xxiii} George Kramer, “Nehalem Highway Corridor Study” (Salem, Oregon: Oregon Department of Transportation, 2005), 1.

^{xxiv} Quoted in Ann Fulton, “The Development of Columbia County, Oregon, 1792-1930 Historic Context Statement.” (Prepared for Columbia County Forests, Parks & Recreation Department, December 15, 1998), 30.

^{xxv} Fulton, “The Development of Columbia County...,” 30.

^{xxvi} Jill Johnson, “Nehalem River Watershed Assessment” Prepared for the Upper and Lower Nehalem River Watershed Councils (December 1999), 2; U.S. Census, 1870 via Ancestry.com.

^{xxvii} Fulton, “The Development of Columbia County...,” 31. As late as the 1930s, it was reportedly “...customary for the residents of the Nehalem Valley to use the trails to Olney, [from] where they could take a boat to Astoria” Emma Gene Miller, *Clatsop County, Oregon A History* (Portland, Oregon: Binfords & Mort, 1958), 146.

^{xxviii} Miller, *Clatsop County...*, 118.

^{xxix} Fulton, “The Development of Columbia County...,” 34.

^{xxx} Walter Merritt Carl, “History of the Nehalem Valley,” *Columbia County History* XV (1976), 30 quoted in Fulton, “The

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Market roads were essential to the development of the interior and the Nehalem Highway served as Market Road 6 in Clatsop County between Vesper and Astoria, and Market Road 4 in Columbia County.^{xxxii} The first cars in Oregon began appearing in the first decade of the 1900s, and their rapid rise in popularity resulted in a push for new road building. The Lower Columbia River Highway was nearly complete by the early 1920s, and construction of and improvement to interior roads and highways soon followed. Improvement to interior roads was a slower process, however. "As late as 1915 what is now the Nehalem Highway was still described as a "Wagon Road" by the State of Oregon and was likely a graded, and perhaps oiled, roadbed, but nothing more."^{xxxiii} Some sections were planked before being graveled and eventually paved.^{xxxiii} The entire length of the Nehalem Highway, which stretched from Forest Grove (Washington County) through Vernonia, Pittsburg, and Mist (Columbia County), and then through Jewell & Olney (Clatsop County) terminating in Astoria, was formally designated a secondary highway in the Oregon State system in 1936.^{xxxiv}

Columbia county's first logging railroads appeared in the 1890s, stimulating removal of timber from the interior where river transport was limited. "The Kerry Logging Company built the Columbia and Nehalem Railroad, the first logging railroad into the Upper Nehalem Valley in 1913. [...] It traveled from Wood's Landing on the Columbia River to Mist...and extended into the lower Nehalem Valley."^{xxxv}

To some degree, growth and development in eastern Clatsop County mirrored that of neighboring Columbia County, where the largest nineteenth-century population increase occurred between 1880 and 1890. Increasing immigration to the United States and the expansion of the logging industry were the main causes of the Nehalem Valley area's growth, and the growth of the rail system nationwide and in Oregon made immigrants' arrival easier.^{xxxvi} The progression of U.S. Census data from 1880 to 1940 indicates that in the nineteenth century, Clatsop County's Vesper precinct, where the Cahills settled, was predominantly occupied by first-generation immigrants from Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Ireland. After the turn of the twentieth century, those northern European immigrant populations increased, and with the establishment of logging camps in the area, people from Japan and Italy added to the multi-cultural character of the local population.^{xxxvii}

Villages and towns, many still unincorporated, sprang up in the Nehalem Valley in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, their newly established churches, schools, and stores providing social and economic centers for the nearby residents who typically worked in agriculture, logging, or both. Birkenfeld was founded by German immigrant Anton Birkenfeld around 1910, and his Birkenfeld Store formed the nucleus of the community. "The area was the general terminus of the first railroad into the Nehalem Valley, an event that spurred local economic development."^{xxxviii} By 1925, Birkenfeld was described as "...a new town, a busy trading point on the Inland Loop Highway...tributary to many logging camps, shingle mills and sawmills employing thousands of men..."^{xxxix}

Agriculture continued to be a common endeavor throughout the Nehalem valley. Subsistence-level farming of hay and dairying were the primary pursuits well into the 1930s, and "as was true throughout Oregon between 1900 and 1930, dairying produced a greater total income than any other branch of farming."^{xl} Local farmers

Development of Columbia County..., 31.

^{xxxii} Fulton, "The Development of Columbia County...", 32; Kramer, "Nehalem Highway...", 6; Ron Singh et al, "History of State Highways in Oregon (Salem, Oregon: Oregon Department of Transportation, Right of Way Engineering, January 2008), 102-1-2; Oregon Department of Transportation, "Market Road Tracings." <<https://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/ETA/Publications/Market-Roads.pdf>>

^{xxxiii} Kramer, "Nehalem Highway...", 6.

^{xxxiii} Cecilia Marie Nordstrom Van Winkle interview with Celena Kathan, 3/27/1994.

^{xxxiv} Singh et al, "History of State Highways in Oregon," 102-1; Kramer, "Nehalem Highway...", 6.

^{xxxv} Fulton, "The Development of Columbia County...", 35. "One of the most extensive logging railroad networks that existed in the late 1920s and early 1930s enabled one to ride by rail from Olney to the Nehalem Valley and into the hills south of it, then loop back to the Nehalem Valley again at Birkenfeld, and back across the hills to the Columbia River again, a trip of nearly 100 miles entirely by logging railroad." Miller, *Clatsop County...*, 213.

^{xxxvi} Fulton, "The Development of Columbia County...", 34.

^{xxxvii} U.S. Census data, 1880-1940.

^{xxxviii} Kramer, "Nehalem Highway Corridor Study," 3.

^{xxxix} Columbia County Court, "An Invitation to Visit and Make a Home in Columbia County, Oregon" (Portland, Oregon: Boyer Printer, c. 1925), 29 quoted in Kramer, "Nehalem Highway Corridor Study," 3.

^{xl} Fulton, "The Development of Columbia County...", 43.

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sold their surplus farm goods—fruit, vegetables, eggs, poultry, beef, and dairy products—at local groceries such as the Birkenfeld Store and to the logging camps, and once the road system improved commercial agriculture became a viable undertaking.^{xii}

As late as the mid-twentieth century, parts of the Nehalem Valley were little changed from the early pioneer era. Population grew some (mostly in the form of the children born to the original settlers), schools remained small, some farmers continued working land with horses into the late 1930s, and rural electrification came to the Nehalem Valley area in the late 1930s or early 1940s.^{xiii} The community of Vesper disappeared around 1950, but Birkenfeld retains a number of its early buildings and structures, and the area today retains its somewhat isolated, rural character.

History of the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm

The Cahill-Nordstrom farm was originally homesteaded in 1875 by Thomas and Gertrude Lay Siebert Cahill.^{xiii} Thomas Cahill was born in County Sligo, Ireland in 1838, and immigrated to the United States in 1865.^{xiv} Gertrude Lay Seibert was born in Coblenz Germany in 1854, and arrived in Baltimore, Maryland from Germany in 1871 where she lived with her uncle, John Seibert and his wife.^{xv} The Seibert family moved to Nebraska to homestead in the early 1870s, and there Gertrude Seibert met and married Thomas Cahill in January of 1875 at Overton, Dawson County, Nebraska (Figure 17).^{xvi}

Experiencing the grasshopper plague for the second season made Thomas and Gertrude decide to move to Oregon. They traveled by train to San Francisco and up the coast by boat to Portland. They came to the Nehalem Valley on August 15, 1875... The Nehalem River was reached by walking a trail over the hills from Wood's Landing on the Columbia River. They carried their few belongings with them. They selected this area to homestead because they had been told that a railroad was going to be built through that area and the land would become very valuable.^{xvii}

They chose for their homestead 160 acres at a horseshoe bend of the Nehalem River.^{xviii} As the second settlers in the general vicinity of Vesper, which at that time was wilderness—brushy and forested—their only neighbors were Frank Lousignont and his family, who had a cabin on the other (northwest) side of the Nehalem River.^{xix} According to family lore, the Cahills initially accidentally sited their dwelling on Lousignont's land on the west side of the river. Upon learning of their mistake, they relocated to a site within the bounds of their own homestead, on low-lying land near the present-day corral, where they built a small cabin, their first

^{xii} Van Winkle interview.

^{xiii} John M. Carmody, Administrator, "1938 Report of Rural Electrification Administration," (Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1939), 170.

^{xiii} Larsen, "A Brief History..." 1; "Nordstrom-Cahill-Van Atta-Larson Family Tree," Ancestry.com; U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, "General Land Office Records" (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior). <<https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/default.aspx>> Accessed January 2020-February 2022.

^{xiv} "Nordstrom-Cahill-Van Atta-Larson Family Tree," Ancestry.com; U.S. Census records, 1900. Immigration records indicate that Thomas and John Cahill arrived in New York in 1859 on the ship "John Bright" having traveled in steerage with a number of other Irish immigrants. "New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957. Accessed via Ancestry.com, January 2022.

^{xv} Cecilia Marie Nordstrom Van Winkle, "Andrew and Mary Nordstrom, Nehalem Valley Pioneers," unpublished manuscript, 1970s [?], 1.

^{xvi} "Marriage Record, Dawson County, Nebraska," Thomas Cahill and Gertruda [Gertrude] Siebert, January 13, 1875. Accessed via Ancestry.com, January 2022.

^{xvii} Unknown author, "Thomas and Getrude Cahill and Andrew and Mary Nordstrom--Nehalem Valley Pioneers," no date. Unpublished manuscript, Cahill-Nordstrom Family Collection. At that time, "immigrant families from Europe traveled down the Columbia River from Portland, arriving by train or ship, and were then guided over the hills from Woodson, near Clatskanie" to reach the Nehalem River valley. Van Winkle interview; Kate (Nordstrom) Larsen, "Birkenfeld," *History of Columbia County, Oregon* Vol. 5, No. 1 (Columbia City, Oregon: Columbia County Museum Association, 2016), 2

^{xviii} The 160 acres was purchased under the Land Act of 1820 which, among other things, allowed settlers to purchase land from the U.S. government for \$1.25 per acre. Records show that the Cahills' final patent was issued in February of 1890. General Land Office Records, "Thomas Cahill."

^{xix} Van Winkle, "Andrew and Mary Nordstrom..." 1; Van Winkle interview.

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house on this property.ⁱ “They established their home, clearing some of the land, building a cabin from the timber; purchased some livestock, and began the farm.”ⁱⁱ During this period they also likely built the first barn on the property (Figure 23). Two daughters were born during the Cahills’ early years on the land: Mary in January of 1876 not long after their arrival and Cecilia Gertrude in 1879.ⁱⁱⁱ

For the first few years, the Cahills’ only near neighbors were the Lousignonts, and later John Cahill (Thomas’ brother) and William Johnston and his family took up land nearby (descendants of whom continued to own part of their original holdings well into the 1970s) (Figures 11, 13, and 16).ⁱⁱⁱⁱ The neighborhood’s sparse population is reflected in the 1880 census record for the Vesper precinct, which included only five families totaling about two-dozen individuals. Of the adults, immigrants (from Ireland, Germany, and Sweden) slightly outnumbered those from the United States (from Oregon, Florida, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Louisiana); seven of the thirteen children in the precinct had been born in Oregon in the previous five years.^{liv} Because of the isolated location, transportation included both river and rough overland routes for at least the first twenty years of the area’s settlement. “The Cahill farm was accessible [*sic*] only by fording the Nehalem River until 1915 when a county road and bridge were built from Vesper to Northup Creek Road” about 1¾ miles west of the Cahill Farm.^{lv}

As with most of the early settlers of the area, the Cahills were general agriculturalists—they were subsistence farmers raising cattle, pigs, and chickens and growing hay and garden crops.^{lvi} Thomas Cahill planted a large orchard of apple, pear, and plum trees that produced abundant fruit for the family (and their descendants) for decades.^{lvii} For over twenty years they lived in that first cabin and farmed their land, until an 1896 flood damaged the dwelling beyond repair (or washed it away). Prompted to move to higher ground, they built a “shack” in the woods up the hill across (south of) present-day Nehalem Highway, where they stayed for about a year.^{lviii} In 1897 they constructed the third house on the homestead, which was situated on a site on the north side of the road, about 200 feet east of the current house, and overlooking the old barn and pasture land to the north. That vernacular, upright-and-wing, box-constructed house was also built with lumber milled from trees on the property, and served as the family home until 1914.^{lix}

The Cahill’s older daughter Mary continued living with her parents on the Cahill farm into the earliest years of the twentieth century. She had little formal schooling until her early teens, having been self-taught and instructed by her mother until a “log cabin type school” was established at Vesper.^{lx} When she was about twenty years old, she traveled to Astoria to take a teaching certificate test, which she passed, and went on to work as a school teacher at various nearby locations, including the logging camp in nearby Elsie, some twenty miles southwest of the Cahill place. There she became acquainted with Andrew Nordstrom, a Swedish immigrant homesteading in Elsie who worked as a fisherman seasonally and worked his land in the offseason. Nordstrom had been born in Husum, Sweden in 1859, and immigrated to the United States in 1882. He first

ⁱ Celena Kathan, personal communication with author, March 2022. It is unclear whether any remnant of this cabin or shack remains visible; according to the property owner there may still be some remnant foundation stones in the vicinity.

ⁱⁱ Larsen, “A Brief History...,” 1. The cabin was situated in low land near the river and was heavily damaged or washed away in an 1896 flood.

ⁱⁱⁱ Larsen, “A Brief History...,” 1; U.S. Census, “Thomas Cahill,” Clatsop County, Oregon, 1880.

ⁱⁱⁱⁱ The Lousignon house is shown on the 1878 cadastral map on the north side of the Nehalem River, at the terminus of a trail from the Columbia River. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, “General Land Office Records”; Van Winkle, “Andrew and Mary Nordstrom...,” 2; Charles F. Metsker, “Metsker’s Atlas of Clatsop County, Oregon” (Portland, Oregon: Charles F. Metsker, 1930 and 1974).

^{liv} This demographic trend continued over the next twenty years. The 1900 census included 39 families/heads of household with 47 adults having immigrated from northern Europe, the vast majority (37) from Scandinavian countries, particularly Sweden. Twenty-seven adults hailed from sixteen American states. U.S. Census records, Clatsop County, Oregon, Vesper Precinct, 1900.

^{lv} Van Winkle, “Andrew and Mary Nordstrom...,” 2.

^{lvi} Francis Nordstrom, “Application for Century Farm Honors--1976.” Oregon Century Farm and Ranch Application, <<http://ocfrp.library.oregonstate.edu/public/farms>> Accessed January 2022.

^{lvii} Van Winkle interview. Most of these trees were located south of the house (across present-day Highway 202), but at least one remnant apple tree remains within the nominated area boundary, near the barn (Figures 6 and 7, Photo 18).

^{lviii} Celena Kathan, personal communication with author, March 2022.

^{lix} Larsen, “A Brief History...,” 1.

^{lx} Van Winkle interview.

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settled in Michigan, but removed to Elsie, near his older brother John, in 1886 and purchased 160 acres of land there in 1897.^{lxi} Six years later, in September of 1903, Andrew and Mary wed at Astoria, and then lived briefly at Andrew's farm (Figures 18 and 20).^{lxii} In 1904 Thomas and Gertrude Cahill sold their farm to the newlyweds for \$1,500, thus handing the ownership and management of the property over to the next generation.^{lxiii} The couple sold the land near Elsie, moved to the Cahill farm, and the elder Cahills then moved "up the road towards Birkenfeld" where they remained until the late 1910s.^{lxiv}

As the Nordstrom family grew, so did the farm. Four children were born in the decade after their marriage, all at the farm: Anna (born in 1904), Thomas (1906), Francis (1909), and Cecilia (1914). Andrew and Mary further developed the homestead and hired John Larson and his sons to build a new barn and house for them. John had immigrated to the United States from Finland sometime around 1880.^{lxv} After spending time in California, Washington State, and Umatilla County, Oregon, around 1910 the Larsons arrived in the Oak Point area of Columbia County (along the Columbia River) where they lived for a time in a community of other Finnish immigrants.^{lxvi} Their stay there was apparently brief, as Larson was hired by the Nordstroms to build their new barn in 1911 and the new house in 1914.

John and Kate (Van Atta) Larson (married in 1891 in Brush Prairie, Washington) and several of their dozen children lived about a mile southeast of the Cahill-Nordstrom farm in a house John had built.^{lxvii} John Larson was an accomplished carpenter who traveled regionally,

...and did beautiful cabinetry and finish work on chests, tables, and cupboards with various kinds of inlaid wood. John and son Francis Larson built large homes in the area, and worked for Anton Birkenfeld in building the Birkenfeld store, post office, and school. The Larsons also constructed homes in Mist, and built a store and hotel in Jewell, Clatsop County.^{lxviii}

At the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm, both of the new buildings were larger than their predecessors, though both of the older buildings remained in place and in use for some years. The new barn included the unique, drive-through hay shed, a very large central mow for storing loose hay, and rows of stanchions for feeding and milking cows. A separator room provided space for processing milk and cream, and butter was made in a wooden churn set on the back porch of the new house. The new house was heated by the large kitchen cook stove and a heating stove in the dining room. An acetylene lighting system was installed, and when that system failed kerosene lamps were used.^{lxix} Rural electrification eventually provided electricity for lighting and

^{lxi} Andrew Nordstrom obituary 1948, accessed via Ancestry.com "Nordstrom-Cahill-Van Atta-Larson Family Tree"; U.S. Census records, 1900; Deed, Elmer Packard to Andrew Nordstrom, 9/25/1897 (Cahill-Nordstrom Family Collection). Elsie is an unincorporated community southwest of the Cahill-Nordstrom farm, located on U.S. Highway 26. The Elsie post office operated from 1892 until 1943. McArthur, *Oregon Geographic Names*, 328.

^{lxii} The wedding took place at the home of John Nordstrom (Andrew's brother). Marriage Certificate, Andrew Nordstrom and Mary Cahill, accessed via Ancestry.com "Nordstrom-Cahill-Van Atta-Larson Family Tree"; Larsen, "A Brief History..., 1; Slanger, "Remembering..., " np.

^{lxiii} The *Morning Astorian*, "Local Brevities," September 28, 1904, p. 5.

^{lxiv} Larsen, "A Brief History..., " 1; Slanger, "Remembering Neighbors...." The Cahills later moved to Gresham to live near their other daughter Cecilia Cahill Sharkey. Thomas Cahill died in 1917, and Gertrude lived another twenty-six years before her death by drowning in the Nehalem River in 1943.

^{lxv} Information on the year of Larson's immigration varies from 1878 to 1886 depending on the source. U.S. Census records, 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930; "John H. Larson," Obituary, *Oregon City Enterprise*, December 21, 1943.

^{lxvi} U.S. Census records, 1900 and 1910.

^{lxvii} Larsen, "A Brief History..., " 1-2.

^{lxviii} It is unclear whether the Larson House or the houses in Mist remain standing. It appears that the Jewell store and hotel were demolished at an unknown date. The Birkenfeld Store (11139 Highway 202) and the Birkenfeld School (11249 Highway 202) are both extant. In addition, the house located on the Bellingham farm in Birkenfeld, located at 11164 Highway 202, was reportedly built by John Larson and remains standing. "His older sons worked with him to build the homes, Francis was the oldest, born in 1892 and Howard born in 1894 and Victor, born in 1900 helped with some too. Francis carried on the trade and was a carpenter in the Birkenfeld area where he lived his whole life." Kate Larsen, personal communication to Celena Kathan, March 2022. Also Larsen, "Birkenfeld," 5; Oregon Statewide Inventory; Celena Kathan, personal communication, 2021 and 2022.

^{lxix} Van Winkle interview.

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appliances. Materials receipts suggest that a new woodshed, chicken house, and hog trough was also built at that time, none of which remain.^{lxx}

Like the previous generation, Andrew and Mary too, were general farmers. Andrew took up the earlier efforts of his father-in-law and continued clearing land for farming and pasture, and the family grew all manner of fruits and vegetables, including lots of potatoes, which were a staple.^{lxxi} They also raised chickens, ducks, geese, pigs, sheep, beef and dairy cows, and sold eggs, cream, and garden produce to the grocery store and to mill workers at the nearby logging camps.^{lxxii} Other farmers in the vicinity also “started small dairies to provide milk, cream and butter, which was hauled over the mountain trail to Clatskanie and beyond” although they “survived primarily through subsistence living with gardens and orchards as well as their few livestock.”^{lxxiii} With the bounty of food grown on the farm and the ability to sell the excess, the difficulty of the 1930s Depression years was not felt as acutely by the Nordstroms and their neighbors.^{lxxiv}

The Nordstroms were active and well-respected members of their community. Their home was always open for a meal and a place to stay: teachers, the traveling priest, the “bee man,” and the peddler would stay at the farm as they traveled the region serving the community and providing much-needed farm and household items. Andrew served as a census enumerator, assisted with school-related responsibilities, was a local magistrate, and a was founder of the Nehalem Valley Pioneers Association in 1924. Mary was a member of the local ladies groups (Alter Society, Tea Ladies, and Birkenfeld-Mist Helping Circle), worked at the voting polls, was a strong Temperance movement supporter, and was active in the Suffrage movement, going to Astoria to march. Both Mary and Andrew were members of the Winema Grange in Birkenfeld.^{lxxv}

In 1934, Andrew and Mary’s third child, Francis, married John and Kate Larson’s youngest daughter Helen, and the couple lived in the old (1897) house on the Cahill-Nordstrom place while Andrew and Mary Nordstrom continued residing in the “new” (1914) bungalow (Figure 19). Around 1940, Francis purchased the Vesper School Teacherage (teacher’s cottage), originally located about a mile east of the farm on Highway 202, and moved it to the farm, locating it by the county road that runs along the eastern edge of the farm now known as Cahill road (Figures 6 and 7).^{lxxvi} The young family moved out of the old 1897 dwelling, and lived this newer house for the rest of their lives.^{lxxvii}

Francis and Helen farmed the homestead and raised dairy cows alongside his parents, sending some of the milk and cream to Astoria for processing.^{lxxviii} When in the late 1940s sanitation codes required upgrades to buildings and equipment for processing milk, they discontinued the dairy and shifted to beef ranching.^{lxxix} In order to provide sufficient winter feed for their livestock, an additional forty-acre hay field was cleared of timber, and a sawmill was set up to saw it into saleable lumber.^{lxxx}

Significant changes in the family and to the farm occurred in the 1940s and 1950s. Matriarch Gertrude Cahill returned to the family home in the late 1910s following the death of her husband in 1917, and died by drowning in the Nehalem River in 1943. Andrew Nordstrom died in 1948, and his wife Mary Cahill Nordstrom in 1951. Following their deaths the house was rented until about 1960, and has since been vacant.^{lxxxi} Francis and Helen and their three children continued living in the former Teacherage and farming the land, though the farm operations and physical makeup changed somewhat in the 1940s. Mechanization finally arrived with the purchase of a tractor. “In the early days, horses were used to pull the plow, seeder, mower, rake and hay

^{lxx} “Statement, Andrew Nordstrom to Louis Nystrom,” June 5, 1913. Cahill-Nordstrom Family Collection.

^{lxxi} Ibid.

^{lxxii} Ibid.

^{lxxiii} Larsen, “Birkenfeld,” 3.

^{lxxiv} Van Winkle interview.

^{lxxv} Celena Kathan, personal communication with author, March 2022.

^{lxxvi} Larsen, “A Brief History...,” 3.

^{lxxvii} Larsen, “A Brief History...,” 3. This house is still owned by Francis and Kate Nordstrom’s youngest daughter. It is on a separate tax lot and is not included in the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm nominated area boundaries.

^{lxxviii} Larsen, “A Brief History...,” 5.

^{lxxix} U.S. Census, 1940; Larsen, “A Brief History...,” 5.

^{lxxx} Larsen, “A Brief History...,” 4.

^{lxxxi} Larsen, “A Brief History...,” 8.

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wagons. My dad [Francis Nordstrom] bought a tractor in about 1940 and discontinued the use of the horses.”^{lxxxii}

As is typical for farms of nearly any age, additions, subtractions, relocation, and repurposing of farm buildings and features took place as needed to suit the function of the farm. In the 1940s the 1897 house was divided in two: the upright section was moved south, across Highway 202, and used for hay storage and as a weaning shed for calves, and the kitchen wing was moved to its current location and used as a shop.^{lxxxiii} The shop housed Francis Nordstrom’s forge, “where he did blacksmith work, repairing equipment and making new parts as needed. [...] The shop also had various tools like drills and augurs, and equipment for farm use and maintenance.”^{lxxxiv} Many of those tools remain stored in the shop today. The old 1897 barn was dismantled in the early- to mid-1950s and the machine shed was built in its general location.^{lxxxv} Some of the materials from the old barn may have been used in the construction of other new buildings on the farm, such as the newer wood shed and the gas shed west of the Teacherage/Francis and Helen Nordstrom house (Figure 7; Photo 17).

“The property was farmed by Francis and Helen Nordstrom until they died in 1996 and 2005. Their son Ron returned after retirement and lived on the farm for several years. The farm property and barn has continued to be used by a neighbor who keeps cows on the property and hay in the barn.”^{lxxxvi} Although the 1914 house is in poor condition and several of the outbuildings could be considered obsolete, the agricultural ensemble composed of the house, barn, multiple outbuildings, and landscape features provides a complete representation of a working farm from the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century, reflecting the needs and activities of rural life in that period in this region of Oregon. The property’s overall historical integrity for the period of significance remains intact, and its setting and viewshed have changed little over time, perpetuating the sense of place that allows it to illustrate its history.

The Cahill-Nordstrom Barn

The large barn on the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm was built by John Larson in 1911 for Andrew & Mary Cahill Nordstrom. It is the second barn on the property, the first having been constructed at an unknown date prior to 1900 (Figures 25, and 27). Both buildings existed and were in use until the earlier barn was demolished or dismantled by Francis Nordstrom in the mid-1950s.

The current 56’ by 60’ barn was built using a combination of hand-hewn and dimensional lumber, and historically was used for hay storage, animal shelter and feeding, and milk processing. According to the historic context for Linn County barns, “The variety and combination of barn framing techniques is one of the characteristics of the period 1900-1919. The timber frame, the plank frame, the pole frame, the balloon frame, and the platform frame were all used during this period.”^{lxxxvii} This barn appears to employ a combination of timber and pole frame techniques. Its basic three-aisle plan, which was common in early twentieth-century barns, provided feeding and milking areas with stanchions and a separator room arranged longitudinally along either side (north and south) of a large, central, full-height hay mow. A separator room for processing milk was located at the western end of the southern aisle (Figure 10). Today the barn is used exclusively for hay storage, although the interior spatial arrangements still reflect some of the earlier uses, with feeding areas, stanchions, and separator room remaining.

The barn’s most unusual feature is the large, full-height hay shed or “hay house” on the west end of the building. This part of the structure is accessed via side doors on the north and south walls, through which hay

^{lxxxii} Larsen, “A Brief History...,” 5.

^{lxxxiii} Ibid.

^{lxxxiv} Ibid.

^{lxxxv} Larsen, “A Brief History...,” 4.

^{lxxxvi} Larsen, “A Brief History...,” 8.

^{lxxxvii} Mary K. Gallagher et al, “Historic Context Statement, The Barns of Linn County, Oregon 1845-1945,” (Albany, Oregon: Linn County Planning Department, 1997), 74-75. Although this source focuses on the Willamette Valley’s Linn County, it remains one of the best sources related to the history and typology of barns specific to Oregon. Much of the general design and technology information is relevant to barns used in agricultural areas throughout western Oregon.

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wagons or trucks would drive and hay could be unloaded into the barn from under cover. The hay shed was also used as a sheltered place in which to butcher steer, elk and deer. While most barns of this period have some sort of hay hood, the construction of a full-height, fully enclosed, drive-through hay shed is highly unusual. No other barns of similar design have been identified in Clatsop or Columbia Counties, and early Oregon barn expert Gregg Olson believes it may be unique in western Oregon.^{lxxxviii}

One of Andrew & Mary Nordstrom's granddaughters, and daughter of Francis and Helen Nordstrom, recalled that,

We continued to put up the hay loose all through my childhood years [1940s-1950s], as my dad [Francis Nordstrom] didn't get a baler until the 1960s. We would shock the hay into mounds in the field and then two people would put pitchforks into the shock and lift it up onto the hay wagon. The full wagon was then put in the end of the barn in the separate area made for lifting the hay from the wagon with a big hay fork, which was pulled up by a rope and pulleys across the peak of the barn. My dad would put the fork in the hay and yell when it was ready to be pulled up. The rope exited the opposite end of the barn peak and down to where it was attached to the pickup, driven by my mother [Helen Larson Nordstrom]. I would stand at the barn door and holler 'whoa' when it was at the proper place and my mom would stop the pickup, my dad would pull the 'trip rope' and the fork would release the hay into the barn. The process was repeated until the hay was evenly distributed in the barn.^{lxxxix}

In addition to being significant as a contributing feature in the farm group, the Cahill-Nordstrom barn, built by local carpenter John Larson, is individually significant under Criterion C as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the type, period, and method of construction of barns built in the area and in western Oregon in the early years of the twentieth century. The barn clearly displays some of the more typical characteristics of its period of construction in its gabled form, structural makeup, vertical board exterior, three-aisle plan, and still-evident indications of use as a dairy barn. The building's plan, with its expanse of stanchions and the separator room, links the barn to agricultural practices of the period and reflect the importance of dairying during the twentieth century in the region. In addition to these typical features, the barn appears to be unique in that it also displays a wholly unusual feature in the hay shed, an element that is not seen on any nearby barns, nor has it been observed on barns in the Willamette Valley, and it helps illustrate of one of the barn's main functions, that of hay storage.

The barn is in excellent condition and retains a high degree of historical integrity. It has remained in use for most of its life, although saw some deterioration in the last two or three decades, and underwent a successful rehabilitation effort in 2017-2018. Alterations include the addition of a large door in the south side of the building (circa 1960) to accommodate putting bales instead of loose hay into the barn, and the installation of a metal roof sometime between 1960 and 1965 which presumably involved the removal of the original cupola. The recent rehabilitation included placement of new concrete foundation supports, repairs to the deteriorated northwest corner of the building and the hay shed, the installation of new metal roofing, and the in-kind replacement of some exterior siding boards using wood from the property that was milled on-site.^{xc}

Comparative Analysis - Cahill-Nordstrom Farm

The Nehalem Valley was historically and continues to be agricultural in character, with open farmland surrounded by forested hills that have been the source of timber production for decades. A variety of farmhouses and farm groups remain in the area, though few farms retain the historic house, barn, and multiple historic-period outbuildings in an arrangement essentially unchanged since the mid-twentieth century.

No comprehensive data is available enumerating the number, location, and status of buildings constructed by builder John Larson, but he did build houses, barns, stores, and hotels throughout the area, including in the

^{lxxxviii} Gregg Olson to Celena Kathan, personal communication, 2016.

^{lxxxix} Larsen, "A Brief History...", 5.

^{xc} Celena Kathan, personal communication with author, 2019-2020

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developing communities of Jewell, Birkenfeld, and Mist.^{xcii} “There are very few buildings of his construction left, but the Nordstrom home and the large house currently owned by the Bellingham family in Birkenfeld are still standing.”^{xciii} Of the few substantiated extant buildings, the Cahill-Nordstrom Barn is the only barn.

A search for comparative farm properties in eastern Clatsop and western Columbia Counties was undertaken using the State Historic Preservation Office Oregon Statewide Inventory/Oregon Historic Sites Database. No comparable farm group properties were identified in Clatsop County, but eight farm groupings in western Columbia County’s Nehalem Valley along Highway 202 with main features (the house and/or barn) that date to the first two decades of the twentieth century were gleaned from the database.^{xciii} Of those nine, two appear to be comparable to the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm in terms of integrity and number of features remaining, three retain buildings or structures of reasonably good integrity but not the number of outbuildings found at the Cahill-Nordstrom property, and three do not retain sufficient historical integrity to effectively illustrate historical significance under Criterion A.

Johnston House and Barns, c. 1910 (10663 Highway 202, Birkenfeld vic.; Figure 36) - This farm grouping consists of the late Queen Anne-style house and two barns (one gambrel roof and one gabled), all built circa 1910, as well as several smaller outbuildings of unknown dates. The buildings are arranged in a linear fashion along the north side of Highway 202, parallel to and mostly visible from the highway. As a group the Johnston Farm retains apparently high historical integrity in the house and barns, and the presence of several historic-period outbuildings contribute to its good representation as an early twentieth-century farmstead in the Nehalem Valley.

Melis Farmstead, c. 1910-1912 (14563 Highway 202, Mist; Figure 37) - The Melis farm grouping is located about eight miles east of the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm, and includes multiple buildings dating from between 1900 and circa 1940, and several that are of later vintage. The buildings are arranged on either side of a drive perpendicular to the highway. The house was built in 1912 and reflects a mix of Queen Anne and some subtle bungalow/Craftsman, Colonial, and Gothic Revival influences. The 1900 side-opening barn has a steep gable roof, stanchions, and milking parlor. The buildings in this grouping are each listed individually as “Eligible Contributing” in the Oregon Statewide Inventory, and as an ensemble they appear to be a good example of an early twentieth-century farmstead.

Freeman, David and Margaret Van Volkinberg, Farmhouse and Barn, 1900-1915 (10640 Freeman Road, Birkenfeld; Figure 38) - The Freeman farm today includes the c. 1915 house, c. 1900 barn, c. 1925 garage, and c. 1970 machine shed as well as a newer greenhouse and R.V./boat storage.^{xciv} The house has been altered and updated, most obviously by an addition and installation of vinyl windows, but is in good condition. The property does not retain as many of the smaller outbuildings seen at the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm (which are helpful in conveying the history and function of the farm), but overall the property is in excellent condition, and retains sufficient integrity to convey its period of construction.

Birkenfeld, Julian (?), House and Barn, c. 1915 (11164 Highway 202, Birkenfeld; Figure 39) - Though listed in the Statewide Inventory as the Julian Birkenfeld House and Barn, Anton and Julianna Birkenfeld were the original owners of these buildings.^{xcv} The circa-1915 Birkenfeld property includes the house and

^{xcii} Larsen, “A Brief History...,” 2.

^{xciii} Larsen, “A Brief History...,” 2. The house owned by the Bellingham family is identified in the Statewide Inventory as possibly being the Julian Birkenfeld house, but was actually the Anton and Julianna Birkenfeld house and is discussed in this comparative analysis. The associated barn also may have been built by John Larson, but this has not been substantiated.

^{xciv} Using the search parameters “Property Name Like: farm” and “Property Name Like: barn” with construction date prior to 1920, no properties in Clatsop County that were not in coastal communities were revealed. In Columbia County thirteen sites are listed that can be characterized as farmsteads or farm groups. Of those, one is the subject property, four are outside the Nehalem Valley area, two have been demolished, one is not a farm, and one is an isolated barn of later construction and heavily altered. The remaining four are discussed here. Other groupings were identified by amalgamating data from individually identified resources (those in which buildings—barn, house, etc.—were identified separately although they share the same address). These added four more properties to the analysis.

^{xcv} This property is not visible from the right-of-way. Descriptive information was derived from SHPO database, Redfin.com property sale information (2020), Google aerial photos, and images provided by the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm property owner.

^{xcvi} Celena Kathan, personal communication with author, March 2022.

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barn, as well as two older but undated outbuildings, a new detached garage, and a number of mature orchard trees. The house was built by local builder John Larson, and has been altered by at least one addition and vinyl windows. The barn retains reasonably good exterior integrity. The property overall appears to be in excellent condition, and retains sufficient integrity to convey its period of construction, but lacks the smaller outbuildings that help describe the history and function of the farm.

Conyers House and Barns, c. 1918-c. 1920 (67200 Nehalem Highway, Vernonia vic.) - The Conyers farm includes the house on the northeast side of the Nehalem Highway, and three large outbuildings of unclear function on the southwest side. The house, which has been altered by additions and vinyl windows, is surrounded by mature landscape elements including several orchard trees. The outbuildings are closely arranged opposite the house and accessed via a U-shaped driveway between them, with fencing and a large maple tree nearby. The arrangement and scale of the buildings suggests that this grouping may have had a function quite different from that of the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm, and it is therefore not a particularly good comparison.

Nelson, Andrew, House and Barn, c. 1910 (11651 Highway 202) - The Nelson farm group includes the house, gambrel-roof barn, and several smaller outbuildings; only the house and barn are included in the Oregon Statewide Inventory, with minimal information on each. The house, which has poor historical integrity due to numerous alterations, may be as early as c. 1910, but the barn may be a decade or two later given the gambrel roof. The dates of the other outbuildings—which appear to be open-sided pole-barn-type structures—is not known. Overall this property does not appear to have the cohesiveness necessary to illustrate the needs and functions of an early twentieth-century farm as effectively as the Cahill-Nordstrom grouping.

Libel Farm Group, c. 1900-c. 1940 (13854 Highway 202) - This property is represented in the Oregon Statewide Inventory as three distinct buildings and structures: the Libel house, the Libel barn, and the silo. There is also a detached garage on the property. The house and garage appear to date to about 1915 or 1920 (later than the c. 1900 date provided in survey data) and both retain good integrity and fair condition; the barn has been demolished; and the silo is dated at circa 1940 and is in good condition. Due to the loss of the barn and likely other outbuildings, overall this farm group does not retain the level of integrity seen at the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm.

Aldridge-Hansen House and Barn, 1894-c. 1910 (13950 Highway 202, Mist) - The Queen Anne-style house was built in 1894 and appears to retain a high degree of historical integrity. At least two later but undated outbuildings are situated nearby. The associated barn identified in SHPO survey data was reportedly constructed in 1910, but it has been demolished. In comparison to the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm this property does not retain sufficient integrity to be evaluated as a farm group (e.g. most of the outbuildings have been lost).

In addition, the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm is one of six Century Farms in Clatsop County listed in the Oregon Century Farm and Ranch database. It was awarded this status in 1976 and was the second farm in the county included on the list and is the second-oldest of the Clatsop County farms so recognized, the first being thirty years older and entered nearly twenty years prior.^{xcvii} Of these properties, all but one were settled and developed by immigrants from Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Germany, and Ireland, four were acquired prior to 1900, and two of the six claim retention of at least one original building (at the time of acceptance into the Century Farm program). Although it does not retain original buildings from its *first* years of settlement, the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm appears to be one of the best-preserved of those listed, retaining the greatest number of historic-period features that allow the place to illustrate its history as an early subsistence, hay, and dairy farm.

The Cahill-Nordstrom Farm compares favorably to all of these properties, in large part due to the number and variety of outbuildings and landscape features, which in aggregate exemplify what families and farmers needed to survive and operate a successful farm in this area in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

^{xcvii} See Oregon Century Farm and Ranch database at <http://ocfrp.library.oregonstate.edu/public/farms>.

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Comparative Discussion - Cahill-Nordstrom Barn

The Cahill-Nordstrom Barn appears to be unique in the Nehalem Valley, and no examples of similar barns—namely end-opening, gable-roof barns with the attached/external drive-through hay shed—have been located or identified in the Oregon Statewide Inventory in either Clatsop or Columbia County.^{xcvii} No barns of the period 1900-1919 have been identified in Clatsop County and listed in the database. In Columbia County, seventeen individual barns at fifteen distinct addresses have been identified and included in the database, and several of those are included in the farm groups discussed above. Of the seventeen barns identified, two have been demolished, twelve are not good comparisons due to location (outside the Nehalem Valley), form and/or roof design (side-opening, shed configuration, gambrel roof), or size (much smaller than the Cahill-Nordstrom barn). The remaining three are somewhat physically similar in size, roof form, and/or function, but lack the hay shed feature that sets the Cahill-Nordstrom barn apart from its contemporaries. Based on the information currently available, the Cahill-Nordstrom Barn appears to be the only one remaining that is known to have been built by local builder John Larson.

Outside of the Clatsop and Columbia County area, no similar barns have been observed in the course of research in the Willamette Valley. In Washington State, where over 800 barns have been identified and recognized as having historical significance, only four have a feature similar to the hay shed seen on the Cahill-Nordstrom Barn, three in the Puget Sound area and one in far-eastern Washington State.^{xcviii}

Given this building's architectural attributes and its high degree of integrity, the Cahill-Nordstrom Barn clearly meets Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a well-preserved and unusual example of an early twentieth-century hay and dairy barn in Clatsop County, Oregon.

Conclusion

Collectively, the buildings and features of the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm form a cohesive agricultural unit with representative features clearly illustrating the Farm's period of significance and historic functions. It stands as an important representative of a twentieth-century agricultural site in the Nehalem Valley that has maintained that use for over a century. The barn is also significant for its architectural merit, illustrating a design that is both typical and distinctive of its period.

^{xcvii} The search utilized the following parameters: Clatsop or Columbia County, built between 1900 and 1919, property name included "barn."

^{xcviii} The author has engaged in several rural and barn-specific surveys in the Willamette Valley over a period of twenty years and has not encountered such a design. In 2016, early barn expert Gregg Olson commented to the property owner that he had not seen another barn with this hay shed feature. Information on Washington barns was provided by Michael Hauser, Architectural Historian with Washington's Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, personal communication with author, February 2022.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approximately 8.30

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>45.987497</u>	<u>-123.385192</u>	3	_____	_____
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated area boundary encompasses approximately 8.30 acres of tax lot 500, in Section 23 of Township 6 North, Range 6 West, tax identification 606230000500. The nominated area is an irregular-shaped part of the southeastern portion of the larger 37.16-acre tax lot, bounded by the Nehalem River on the west and to a line approximately 100 feet west of the house; Highway 202 on the south; Cahill Road on the east; and an east-west line between Cahill Road and the Nehalem River on the north, approximately 50 feet north of the historic maple tree.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary was selected to encompass all of the historic built and natural resources remaining on tax lot 500 that contribute to the significance and history of the Cahill-Nordstrom Farm; it excludes broad expanses of open farmland to the north of the farm group, and the bungalow on Cahill Road that is on a separate tax lot (6062300/tax lot 00400). Its irregular shape owes to the curve of the Nehalem Highway/Highway 202 on the southern boundary, the curve of the east bank of the Nehalem River on the west, and the exclusion of the small tax lot 400 along Cahill Road.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Liz Carter and Celena Kathan date 1 March 2022
organization _____ telephone 541-343-6499
street & number _____ email lizcarterhp@gmail.com
city or town Eugene state OR zip code 97403

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Regional Location Map**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Tax Lot Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

Cahill-Nordstrom Farm
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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Cahill-Nordstrom Farm
City or Vicinity: Clatskanie vicinity
County: Clatsop **State:** Oregon
Photographer: Celena Kathan and Liz Carter
Date Photographed: November 27, 2016 and September 6, 2020

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- Photo 1 of 18:** Cahill-Nordstrom house, view of front (south) and east side elevations, looking northwest.
OR_ClatsopCounty_CahillNordstromFarm_0001
- Photo 2 of 18:** Cahill-Nordstrom house, view of rear (north) and west side elevations, looking south.
OR_ClatsopCounty_CahillNordstromFarm_0002
- Photo 3 of 18:** Cahill-Nordstrom house, dining room with oriel window at left. View looking southeast.
OR_ClatsopCounty_CahillNordstromFarm_0003
- Photo 4 of 18:** Cahill-Nordstrom house, kitchen, view south looking into dining room.
OR_ClatsopCounty_CahillNordstromFarm_0004
- Photo 5 of 18:** Cahill-Nordstrom house, upstairs hall looking east.
OR_ClatsopCounty_CahillNordstromFarm_0005
- Photo 6 of 18:** Cahill-Nordstrom house, upstairs bedroom.
OR_ClatsopCounty_CahillNordstromFarm_0006
- Photo 7 of 18:** Cahill-Nordstrom barn, east and north sides, view looking west/southwest.
OR_ClatsopCounty_CahillNordstromFarm_0007
- Photo 8 of 18:** Cahill-Nordstrom barn, north side and west end looking south/southeast, with drive-through hay shed at right.
OR_ClatsopCounty_CahillNordstromFarm_0008
- Photo 9 of 18:** Cahill-Nordstrom barn, west and south sides looking northeast, with drive-through hay shed at left.
OR_ClatsopCounty_CahillNordstromFarm_0009
- Photo 10 of 18:** Cahill-Nordstrom barn, interior, southwest corner with walls of separator room visible.
OR_ClatsopCounty_CahillNordstromFarm_0010
- Photo 11 of 18:** Cahill-Nordstrom barn, interior, south side aisle with wood stanchions.
OR_ClatsopCounty_CahillNordstromFarm_0011
- Photo 12 of 18:** Cahill-Nordstrom barn, interior, looking west showing structure and new metal roof, with remaining shingle roofing visible on right (north) slope.
OR_ClatsopCounty_CahillNordstromFarm_0012
- Photo 13 of 18:** Granary, view looking northeast.
OR_ClatsopCounty_CahillNordstromFarm_0013
- Photo 14 of 18:** Machine shed, view looking southeast.
OR_ClatsopCounty_CahillNordstromFarm_0014

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- Photo 15 of 18:** Pump house (left) and Shop (right), view looking west.
OR_ClatsopCounty_CahillNordstromFarm_0015
- Photo 16 of 18:** Shop, west and south elevations, view looking northeast, with pump house behind.
OR_ClatsopCounty_CahillNordstromFarm_0016
- Photo 17 of 18:** Woodshed and Gashouse, view looking east toward Cahill Road.
OR_ClatsopCounty_CahillNordstromFarm_0017
- Photo 18 of 18:** Corral (left), woodshed (center), and old apple tree (right), looking east.
OR_ClatsopCounty_CahillNordstromFarm_0018

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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List of Figures

(Resize, compact, and paste images of maps and historic documents in this section. Place captions, with figure numbers above each image. Orient maps so that north is at the top of the page, all document should be inserted with the top toward the top of the page.)

- Figure 1 of 39 Aerial photo showing relative location of Cahill-Nordstrom Farm, Birkenfeld vic., Clatsop County.
- Figure 2 of 39 Aerial image of Cahill-Nordstrom Farm and portion of Nehalem Valley near Birkenfeld.
- Figure 3 of 39 USGS topographic map with Cahill-Nordstrom Farm location indicated.
- Figure 4 of 39 Clatsop County tax map, with Cahill-Nordstrom Farm indicated.
- Figure 5 of 39 Clatsop County Assessor aerial photo with tax lot boundaries and nominated area boundary.
- Figure 6 of 39 Current aerial photograph/site plan with resources identified.
- Figure 7 of 39 Aerial view of Cahill-Nordstrom Farm, Fall 1977.
- Figure 8 of 39 Cahill-Nordstrom house, first floor plan.
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- Figure 10 of 39 Barn floorplan.
- Figure 11 of 39 U.S. General Land Office map, 1878, with approximate location of Cahill Farm indicated.
- Figure 12 of 39 U.S. General Land Office map, 1885, with approximate location of Cahill Farm indicated.
- Figure 13 of 39 1930 Metsker map with location of Cahill-Nordstrom Farm indicated.
- Figure 14 of 39 1941 USGS topographic map of Vesper vicinity with Cahill-Nordstrom Farm indicated.
- Figure 15 of 39 1955 USGS topographic map of Vesper vicinity with Cahill-Nordstrom Farm indicated.
- Figure 16 of 39 1974 Metsker map with location of Cahill-Nordstrom Farm indicated.
- Figure 17 of 39 Thomas and Gertrude Siebert Cahill, no date.
- Figure 18 of 39 Andrew and Mary Cahill Nordstrom wedding picture, 1903.
- Figure 19 of 39 Francis and Helen Larson Nordstrom wedding picture, 1934.
- Figure 20 of 39 Andrew and Mary Cahill Nordstrom's first house in Elsie, no date.
- Figure 21 of 39 Second Cahill house built 1897, no date.
- Figure 22 of 39 Second Cahill house built 1897, no date.
- Figure 23 of 39 First barn (demolished in mid-1950s), no date.
- Figure 24 of 39 View looking east with chicken coop in middle ground, and in background (l to r) 1911 barn, bridge, 1897 house, and early Nehalem Highway/Highway 202, taken between 1911 and 1914.
- Figure 25 of 39 Leonard Soderstrom near location of second (1897) house, with old bridge in middle ground, old barn (background left), and new/existing barn (background center), between 1911 and 1914.
- Figure 26 of 39 Cahill-Nordstrom House, circa 1915 view.
- Figure 27 of 39 Overview of Cahill-Nordstrom Farm, view looking northeast from hillside above today's Highway 202, circa 1918 (colorized).
- Figure 28 of 39 Andrew & Mary Nordstrom House, circa 1920, view looking west.
- Figure 29 of 39 View of haystacks in front of hay shed on northwest end of existing (1911) barn.
- Figure 30 of 39 Mary Nordstrom in front of house with old barn in background, circa 1919.

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- Figure 31 of 39 Andrew and Mary Nordstrom and children with 1911 (existing) barn in background, circa 1920.
- Figure 32 of 39 1942 photo of Cahill and Nordstrom families.
- Figure 33 of 39 Machine shed, circa 1952.
- Figure 34 of 39 Cahill-Nordstrom House, front porch prior to removal due to deterioration.
- Figure 35 of 39 Cahill-Nordstrom House, rear elevation prior to removal of back section due to deterioration.
- Figure 36 of 39 Johnston House and Barns, 10663 Highway 202, Birkenfeld vicinity, Columbia County.
- Figure 37 or 39 Melis Farmstead, 14563 Highway 202, Mist, Columbia County.
- Figure 38 of 39 David and Margaret Van Volkinberg Freeman Farmhouse and Barn, 10640 Freeman Road, Birkenfeld vicinity, Columbia County.
- Figure 39 of 39 Anton and Julianna Birkenfeld House and Barn, 11164 Highway 202, Birkenfeld, Columbia County.

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Figure 1. Aerial photo showing relative location of Cahill-Nordstrom Farm, Birkenfeld vicinity, Clatsop County. Courtesy Google.

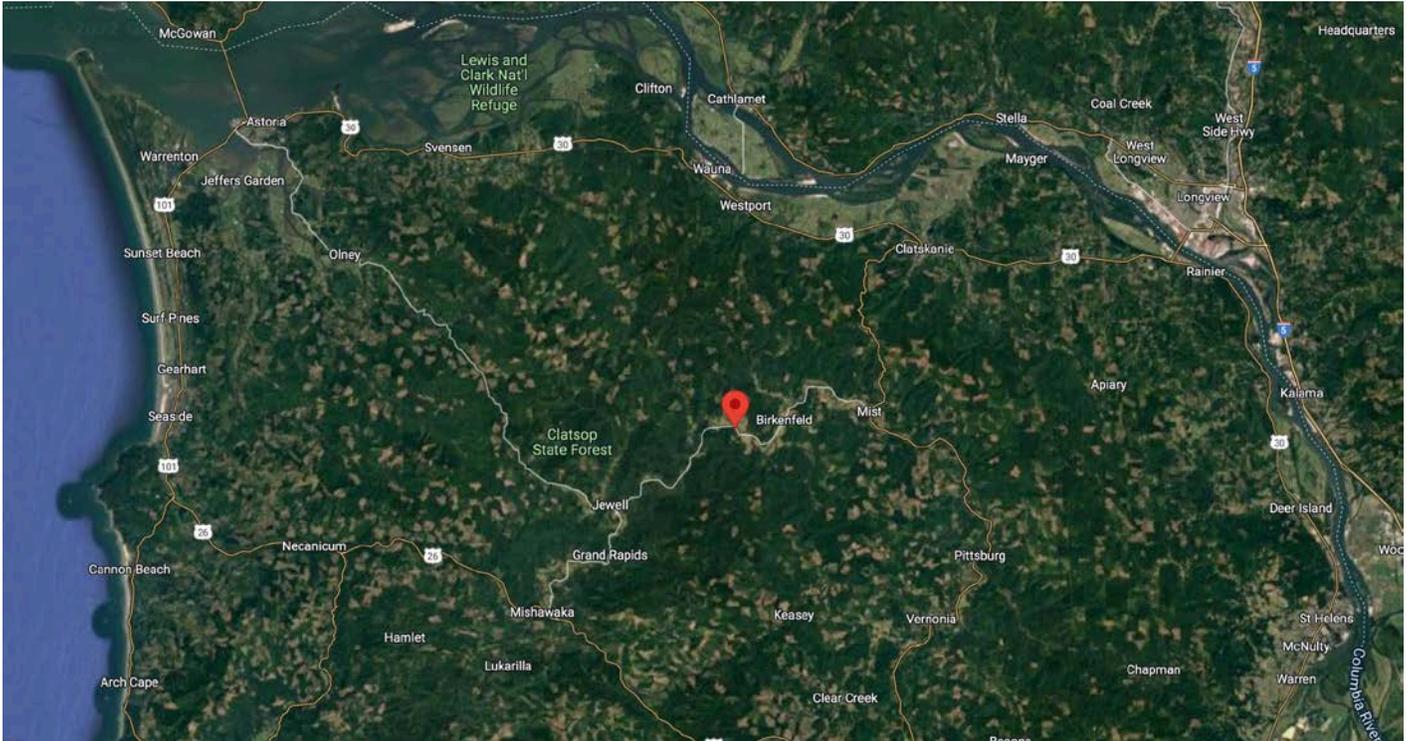


Figure 2. Aerial image of Cahill-Nordstrom Farm location and portion of Nehalem Valley near Birkenfeld. Courtesy Google.



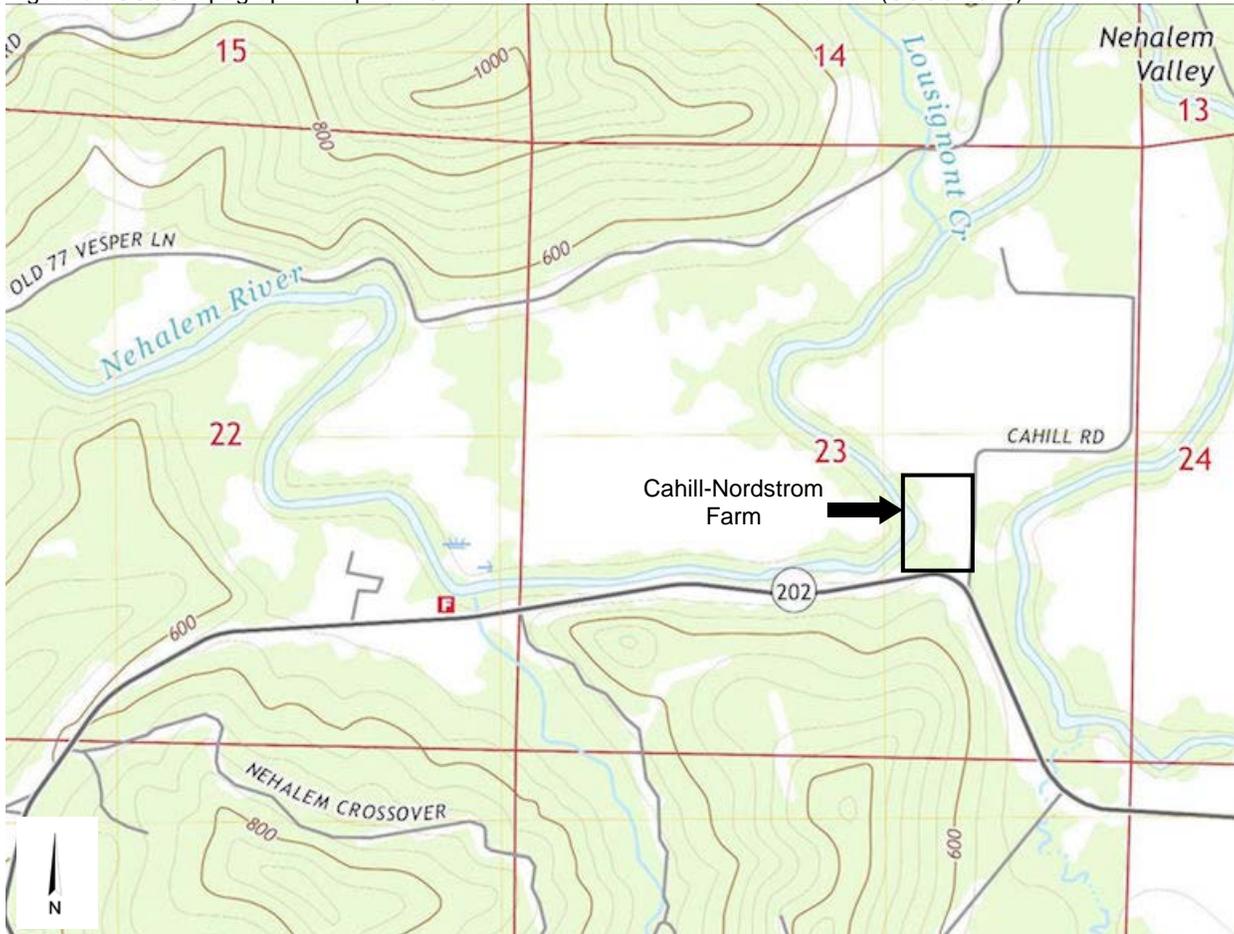
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Figure 3. USGS topographic map with Cahill-Nordstrom Farm location indicated. (USGS 2020)



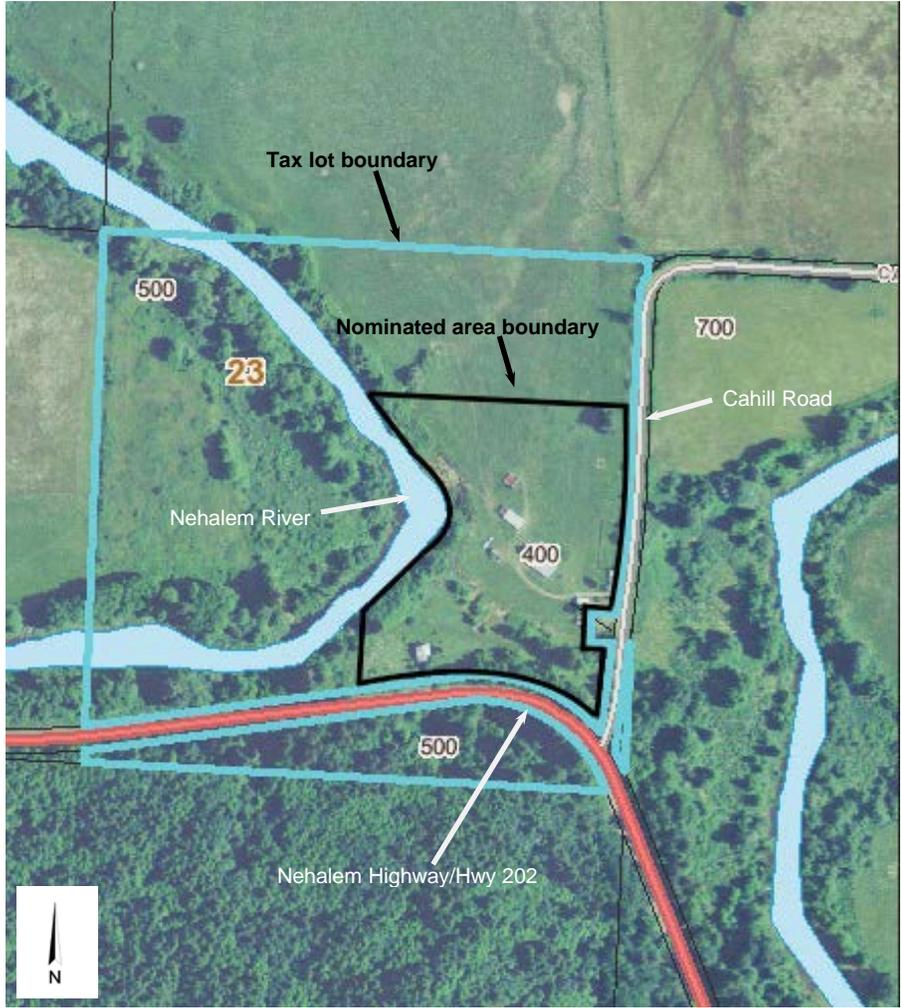
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Figure 5. Clatsop County Assessor aerial photo with tax lot boundaries and nominated area boundary.



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Figure 6. Current aerial photograph/site plan with resources identified. Courtesy Google.



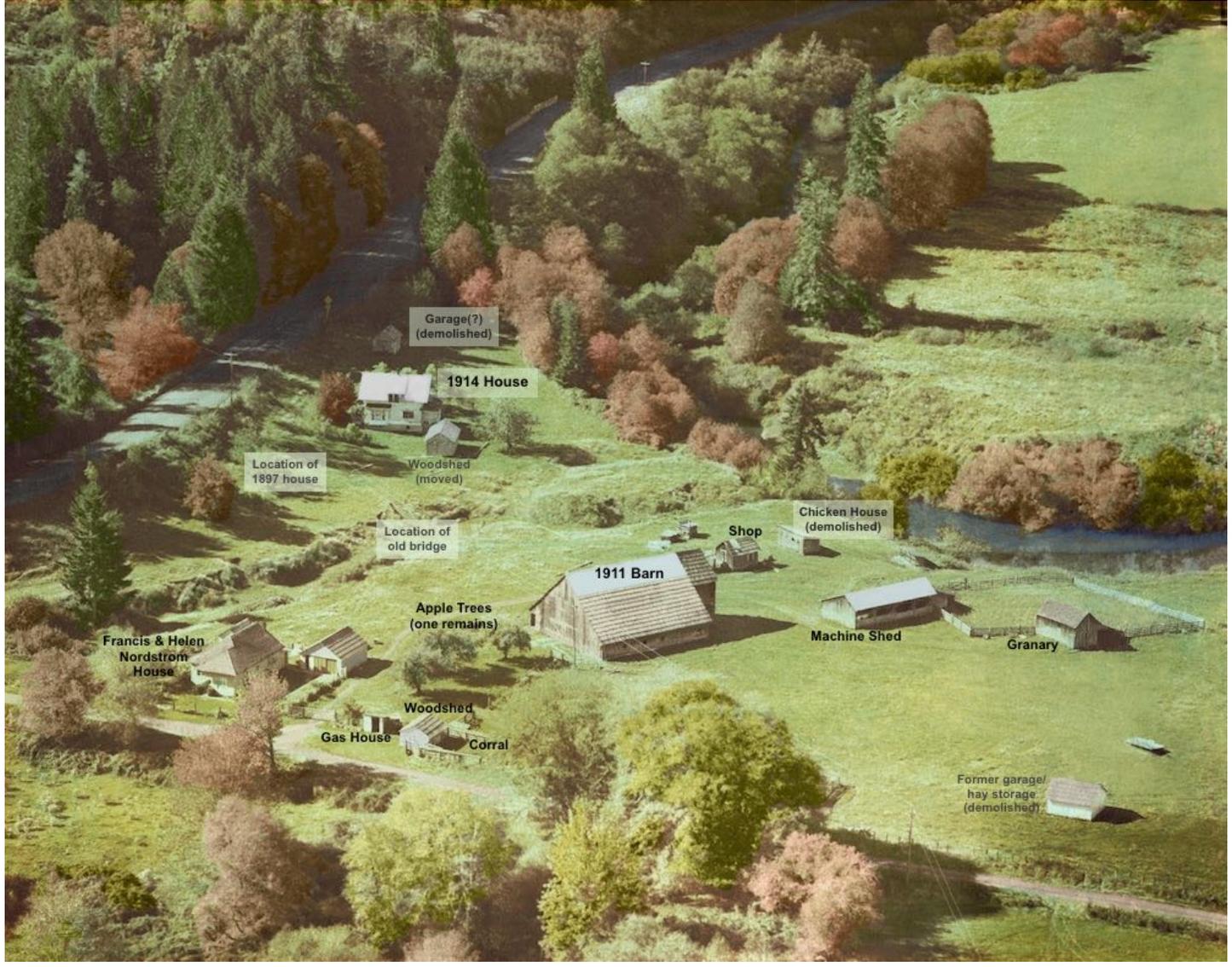
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Figure 7. Aerial view of Cahill-Nordstrom Farm looking southwest, Fall 1977. Cahill-Nordstrom Family Collection.



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Figure 8. Cahill-Nordstrom House, 1st floor plan (no scale).



Figure 9. Cahill-Nordstrom House, 2nd floor plan (no scale).

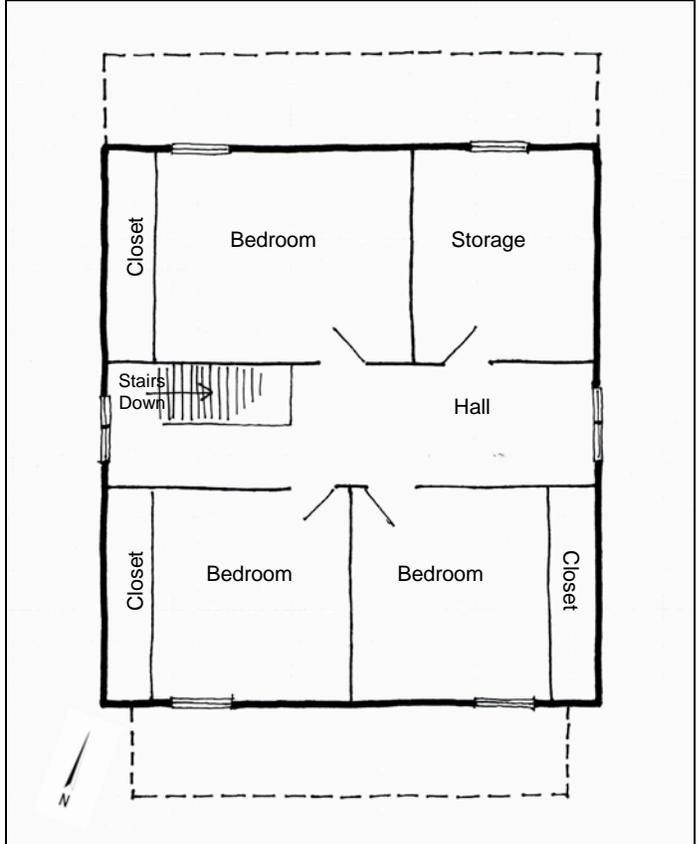
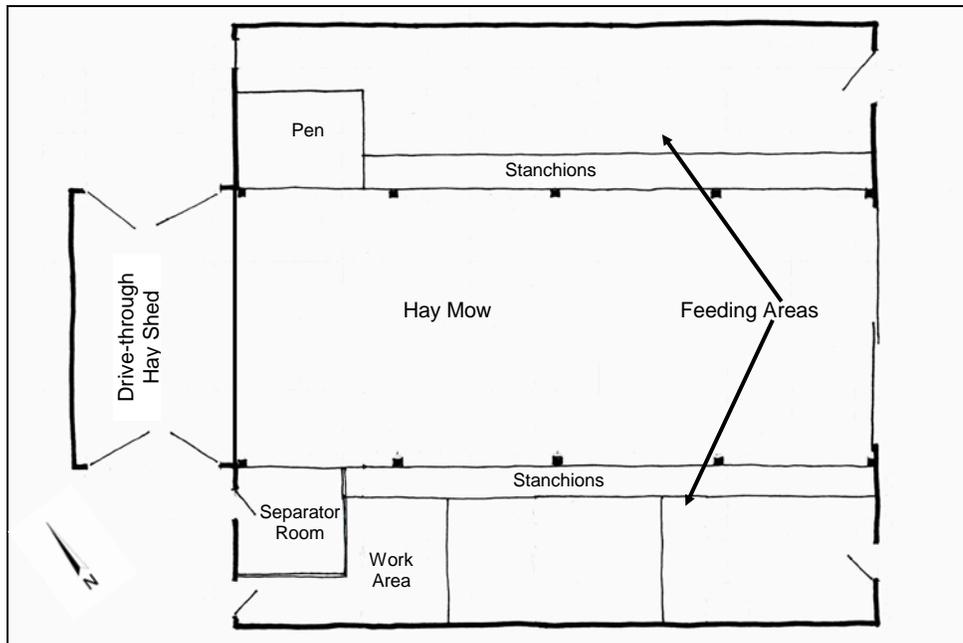


Figure 10. Cahill-Nordstrom Barn, plan (no scale)



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Figure 11. U.S. General Land Office map, 1878, with approximate location of Cahill Farm indicated.

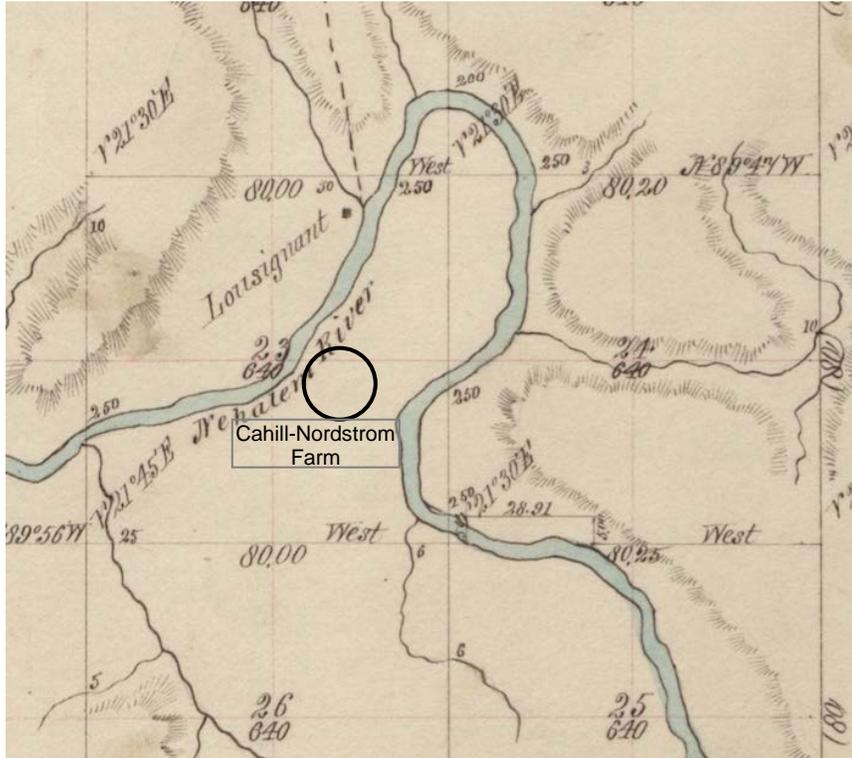
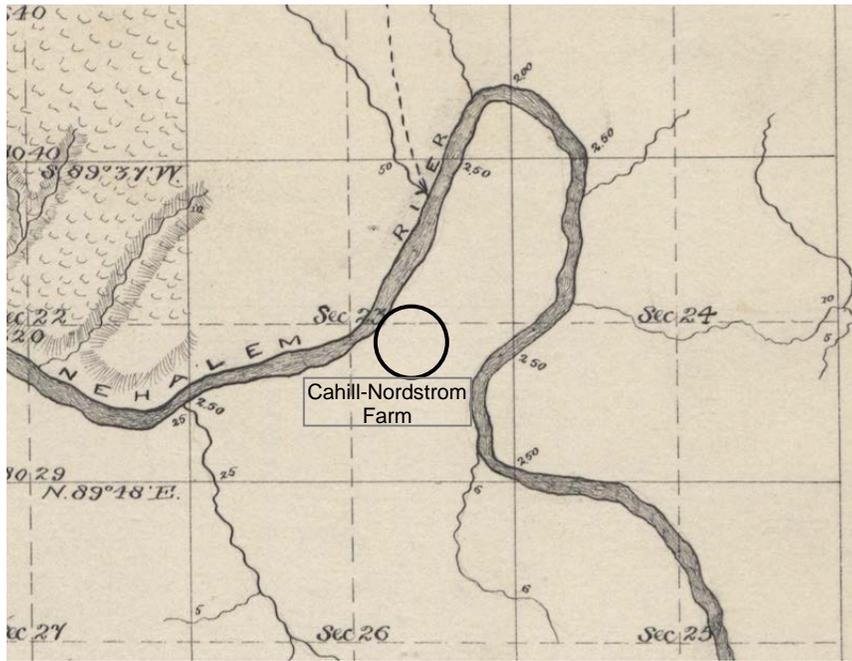


Figure 12. U.S. General Land Office map, 1885, with approximate location of Cahill Farm indicated.



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Figure 13. 1930 Metsker map with location of Cahill-Nordstrom Farm indicated.

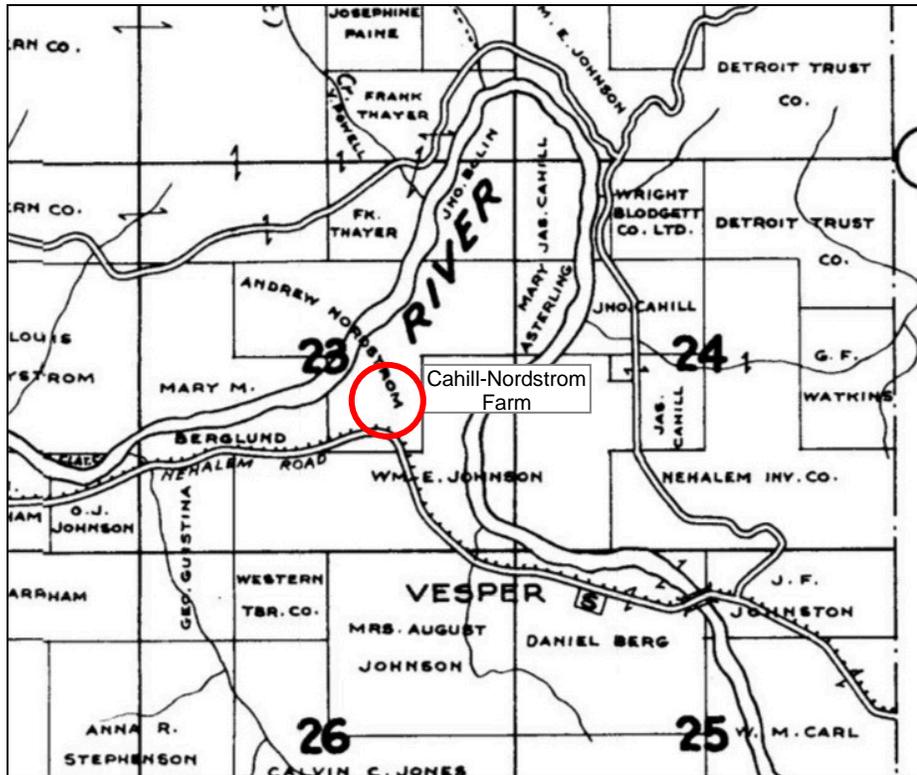
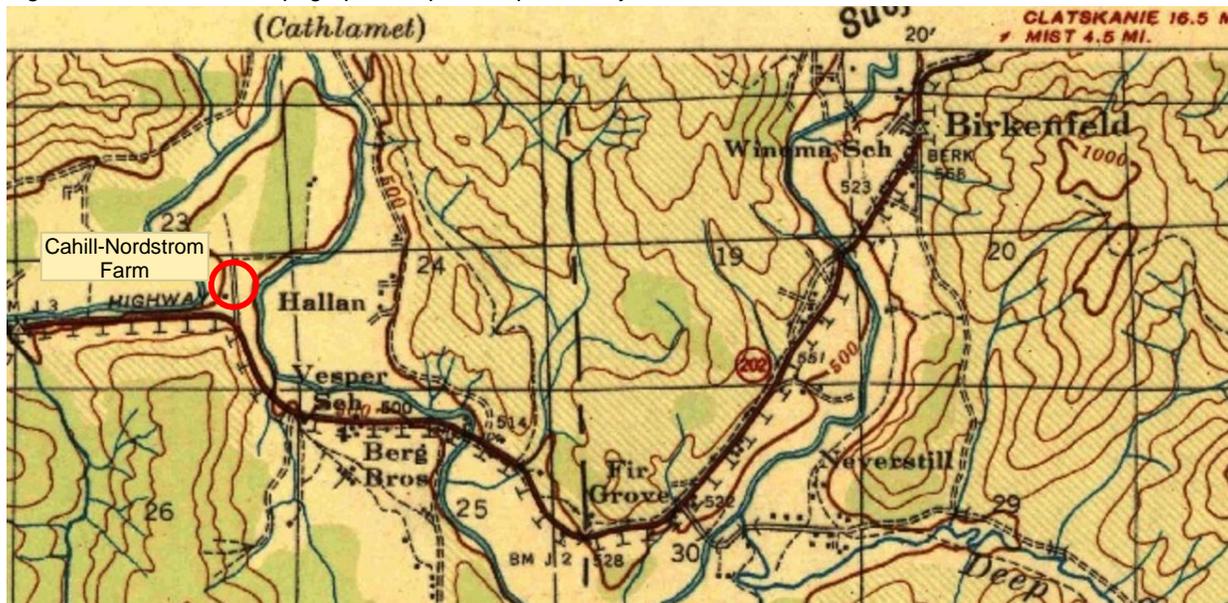


Figure 14. 1941 USGS topographic map of Vesper vicinity with Cahill-Nordstrom Farm indicated.



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Figure 15. 1955 USGS topographic map of Vesper vicinity with Cahill-Nordstrom Farm indicated.

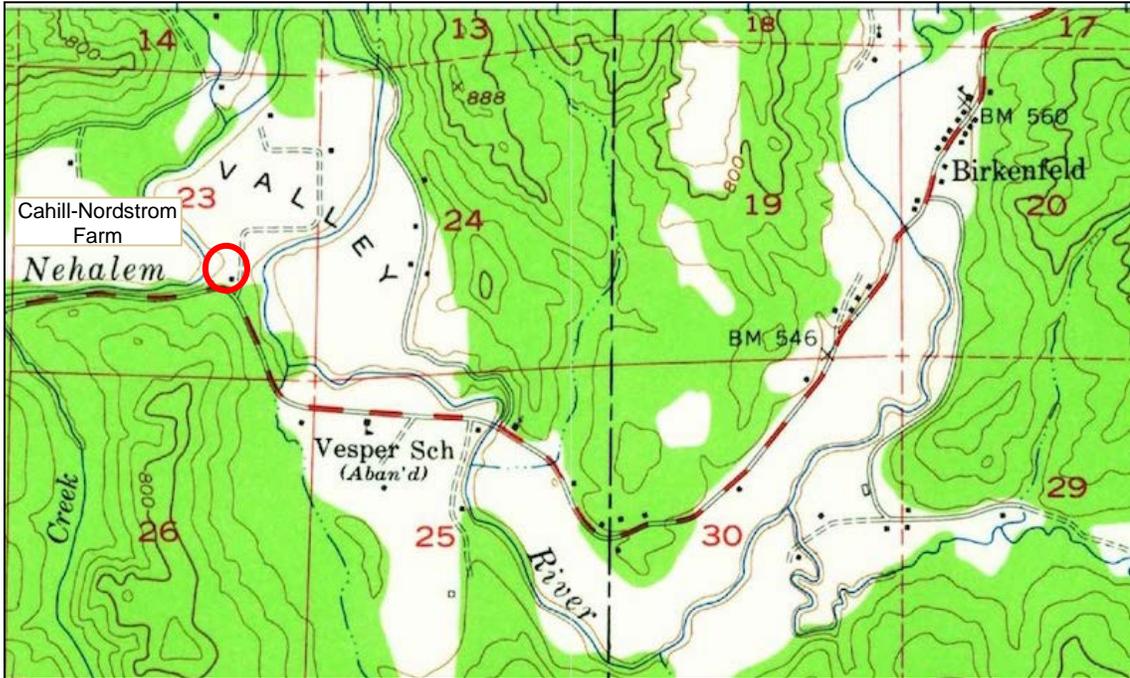
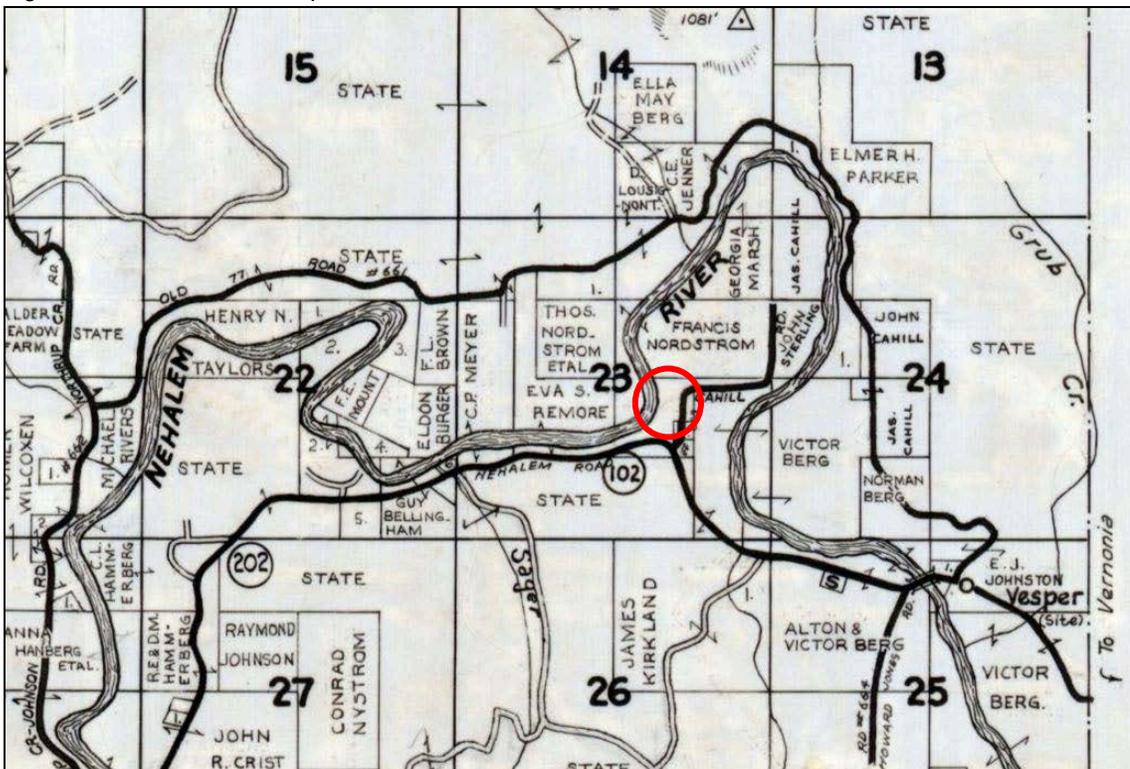


Figure 16. 1974 Metsker map with location of Cahill-Nordstrom Farm indicated.



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Figure 17. Thomas and Gertrude Siebert Cahill, no date.
Courtesy Kate Nordstrom Larsen, Ancestry family tree.

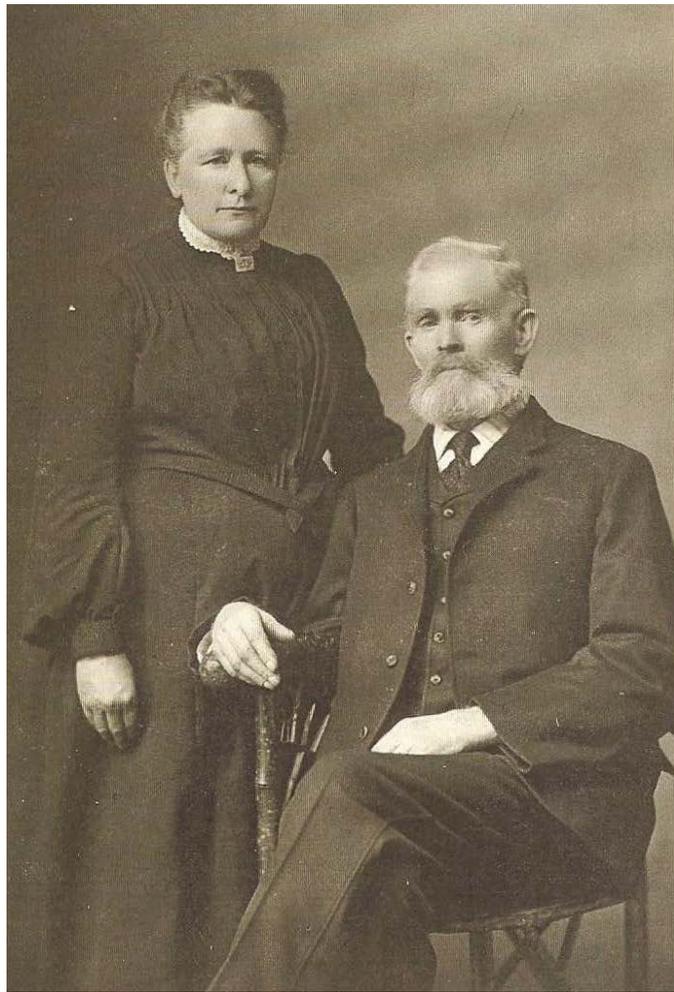


Figure 18. Andrew and Mary Cahill Nordstrom wedding picture, 1903.
Courtesy Kate Nordstrom Larsen, Ancestry family tree.



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Figure 19. Francis and Helen Larson Nordstrom wedding picture, 1934. Courtesy Kate Nordstrom Larsen, Ancestry family tree.



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Figure 20. Andrew and Mary Cahill Nordstrom's first house in Elsie, no date.



Figure 21. Second Cahill house, built c. 1897, no date. Figs. 20 and 21 Courtesy Kate Nordstrom Larsen, Ancestry family tree.



Figure 22. Second Cahill house built 1897, Spring 1940. The one-story kitchen wing was moved and repurposed as the shop (see Photos 15 and 16). Cahill-Nordstrom Family Collection.



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Figure 23. First barn (demolished in mid-1950s), no date. Cahill-Nordstrom Family Collection.



Figure 24. View looking east with chicken coop in middle ground, and in background (l to r) 1911 barn, bridge, 1897 house, and early Nehalem Highway/Highway 202, mid-1910s. Cahill-Nordstrom Family Collection.



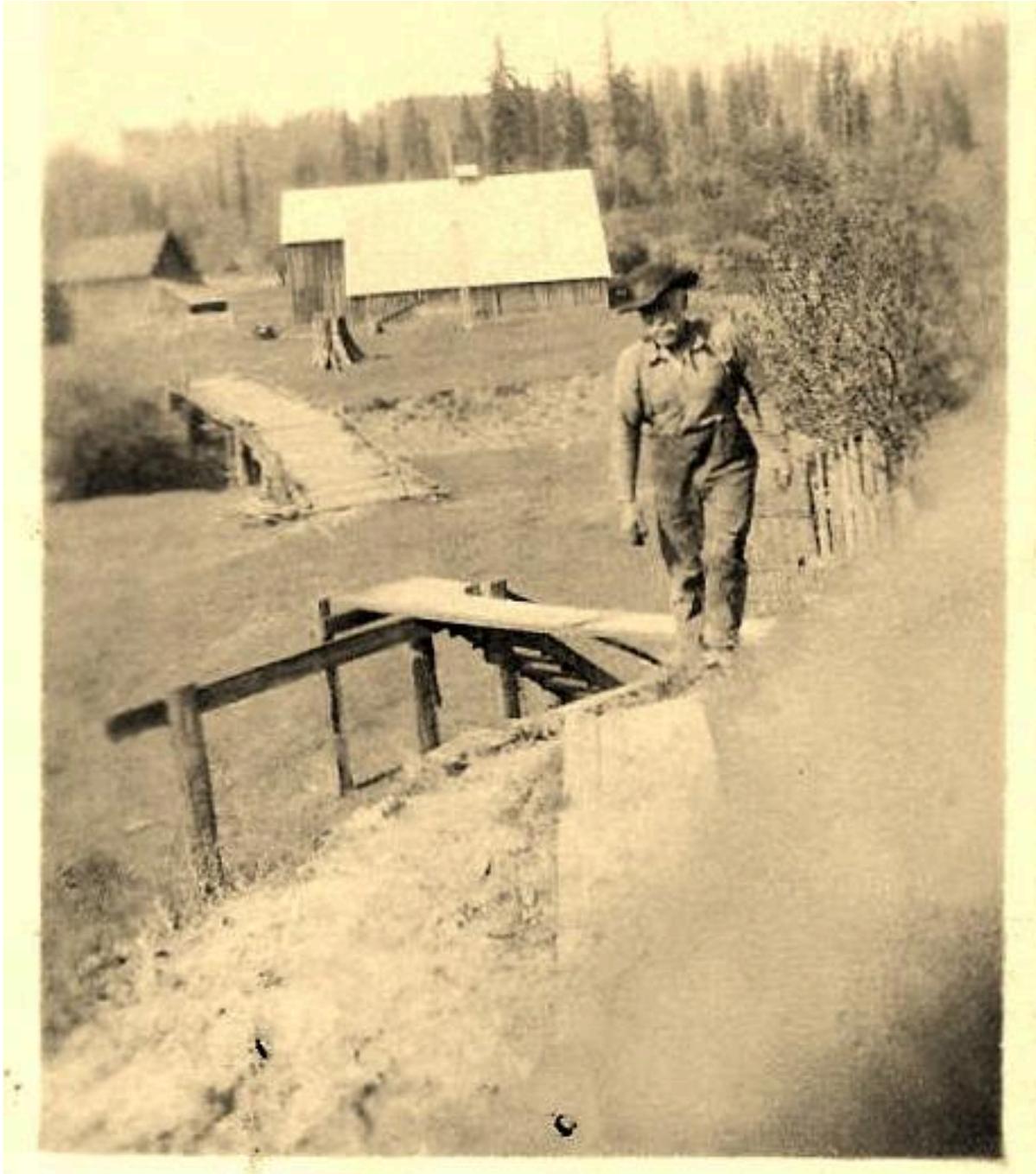
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Figure 25. Charlie Asplund (?) near location of second (1897) house, with old bridge in middle ground, old barn (background left), and new/existing barn (background center), mid-1910s. Cahill-Nordstrom Family Collection.



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Figure 26. 1914 Cahill-Nordstrom House, circa 1915. Cahill-Nordstrom Family Collection.



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Figure 27. Overview of Cahill-Nordstrom Farm, view looking northeast from hillside above today's Highway 202, circa 1918. Buildings in foreground, left to right: chicken house, garage, 1914 house built by John Larson, bridge. Buildings in background, left to right: unknown, old barn, new 1911 barn. Courtesy Carol Sullivan Colletta.



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Figure 28. Andrew & Mary Nordstrom House, view looking west, circa 1920. Cahill-Nordstrom Family Collection.



Figure 29. View of haystacks in front of hay shed on northwest end of 1911 barn, no date. Cahill-Nordstrom Family Collection.



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Figure 30. Mary Nordstrom in front of house with old barn in background, circa 1919. Cahill-Nordstrom Family Collection.



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Figure 31. Andrew and Mary Nordstrom and children (Cecilia Marie Nordstrom Van Winkle seated on left) with 1911 (existing) barn in background, circa 1920. Cahill-Nordstrom Family Collection.



Figure 32. 1942 photo of Cahill and Nordstrom families. "The water tower by Andrew and Mary's house can be seen in this photo. Andrew is 3rd from the left. Mary to his right. My sister Mary Ann is in front of great grandma Gertrude Cahill and brother Ron in front of my mother Helen. The others are neighbors." Courtesy Kate Nordstrom Larsen (2016).



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Figure 33. Machine shed, circa 1952. Courtesy Carol Sullivan Colletta.



Figure 34. Cahill-Nordstrom House, front porch prior to removal due to deterioration, c. 2016. Courtesy Celena Kathan.



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Figure 35. Cahill-Nordstrom House, rear elevation prior to removal of back section due to deterioration, c. 2016. Courtesy Celena Kathan.



Figure 36. Johnston House and Barns, 10663 Highway 202, Birkenfeld vicinity, Columbia County, July 2019. Courtesy Google.



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Figure 37. Melis Farmstead, 14563 Highway 202, Mist, Columbia County, July 2019. Courtesy Google.



Figure 38. David and Margaret Van Volkinberg Freeman Farmhouse and Barn, 10640 Freeman Road, Birkenfeld vicinity, Columbia County, 2020. Courtesy Redfin.



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Figure 39. Anton and Julianna Birkenfeld House and Barn, 11164 Highway 202, Birkenfeld, Columbia County, July 2019. Courtesy Google.



**Cahill-Nordstrom Farm
Clatsop County, OR**

Photo 1. Cahill-Nordstrom house, view of front (south) and east side elevations, looking northwest.



Photo 2. Cahill-Nordstrom house, view of north (rear) and west side elevations, looking south.



**Cahill-Nordstrom Farm
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Photo 3. Cahill-Nordstrom house, dining room with oriel window at left. View looking southeast.



Photo 4. Cahill-Nordstrom house, kitchen, view south looking into dining room.



**Cahill-Nordstrom Farm
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Photo 5. Cahill-Nordstrom house, upstairs hall looking east.



Photo 6. Cahill-Nordstrom house, upstairs bedroom.



**Cahill-Nordstrom Farm
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Photo 7. Cahill-Nordstrom barn, east and north sides, view looking west/southwest.



Photo 8. Cahill-Nordstrom barn, north side and west end looking south/southeast, with drive-through hay shed at right.



Cahill-Nordstrom Farm
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Photo 9. Cahill-Nordstrom barn, west and south sides looking northeast, with drive-through hay shed at left.



Photo 10. Cahill-Nordstrom barn, interior, southwest corner with walls of separator room visible.



**Cahill-Nordstrom Farm
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Photo 11. Cahill-Nordstrom barn, interior, south side aisle with wood stanchions.



Photo 12. Interior of barn looking west showing structure and new metal roof, with remaining shingle roofing visible on right (north) slope.



**Cahill-Nordstrom Farm
Clatsop County, OR**

Photo 13. Granary, view looking northeast.



Photo 14. Machine shed, view looking southeast.



**Cahill-Nordstrom Farm
Clatsop County, OR**

Photo 15. Pump house (left) and Shop (right), view looking west.



Photo 16. Shop, west and south elevations, view looking northeast with pump house behind.



**Cahill-Nordstrom Farm
Clatsop County, OR**

Photo 17. Woodshed and Gas House, view looking east toward Cahill Road.



Photo 18. Corral (left), wood shed (center), and old apple tree (right), view looking east.

