

Andrews Stone House
Harney County Road 201,
approximately 13 miles north of Oregon 205 at Fields, Oregon
Andrews, Harney County
Oregon

HABS No. OR-172

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Columbia Cascade Support Office
National Park Service
Pacific West Area
909 First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-1060

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Location: Harney County Road 201 approximately 13 miles north of
Oregon Hwy 205 at Fields, Oregon
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Oregon

U.S.G.S. Andrews Quad (7.5)
UTM Coordinates:
11. 4702320. 367480.

Present Owner: U.S.D.I. Bureau of Land Management
Burns District
HC 74 12533 Highway 20 West
Hines, OR 97738

Present Occupant
and Use: Unoccupied residence.

Significance: Part of a small townsite associated with ranching, a prominent
industry in this region, the Stone House exemplifies a
vernacular style of architecture typical of rural late 19th and
early 20th century southeastern and south central Oregon.

Report prepared by: Sarah LeCompte, Historian
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 987
Baker City, Oregon 97814
Sept. 1997

Historical Information

Physical History

1. Date of erection. According to family history, the house was built circa 1931.
2. Architect. None -builder designed.
3. Original and subsequent owners, occupants, uses. From the 1930's to the mid-1960's the Stone house was used as the residence of Andrew and Marjorie Shull, and the northwest side was a store and post office. Subsequently owned by their son Greg Shull after the store and post office were closed in the mid-1960's, it was acquired by A.B. McGuire in 1974 along with other ranch properties. On July 31, 1975 McGuire sold the ranch properties to John S. Brandis, Jr., who sold the property to the Wild Horse Ranch, Inc. on Sept. 15, 1975. Wild Horse Ranch, Inc. sold the property to the Trust for Public Lands on March 27, 1991, who on the same day sold the same tract to the Bureau of Land Management.
4. Builder. According to family history, the house was built by Andrew Shull, assisted by a stonemason named Ferguson. Primarily constructed of randomly coursed, dressed fieldstones, primarily tuft of local origin, with various types of mortar and cement.
5. Original plans and construction. There are no known existing plans of the original construction. Little historical data exists as to original appearance. Based on an interview (Oct. 23, 1994, Burns, Ore) between Stephen Dow Beckham and Marjorie Smyth Shull, an original resident of the house, the general layout has changed little, and the external appearance is virtually unchanged. The house had two front doors; the northwest section of the building was used as a general store and post office, and the south and east sections were the residence of the Shulls.
6. Alterations and additions. A stone sun-porch style addition was added to the east end, date of addition is unknown but style of windows and hardware suggest it was prior to 1950. After use as a store, the interior was opened up (center dividing wall removed). Some modernizations in kitchen and bathroom fixtures appear to have been made at that time, and interior floor and wall finishes are typical of 1960's and 1970's style materials and designs. At upstairs attic window suggests a date after 1965.

Historical Context

The Stone House (Shull House) is part of the rural townsite of Andrews, Oregon. Located near the southeastern foot of Steens Mountain and west of Alvord Desert in south central Oregon, approximately 125 miles southeast of Burns, the town served travelers and ranchers. Originally known as Wildhorse, the small, remote settlement included a saloon, hotel, a school and homes, and at its zenith in the 1920's had a population of about 135 people in the immediate vicinity. From 1900-1920 it was an overnight stop for travelers between Burns and Winnemucca. The general store and post office served workers at Borax lake and nearby ranches. The school drew local children. Andrews was also a gathering spot for social activities.

Most of the first settlers filed land claims in the area in the late 1880's. Peter Andrews, for who the town was ultimately renamed, arrived in the area in 1879. Wildhorse/Andrews developed on the John T. Smyth homestead around 1897. Brothers John and George Smyth operated a store from a dug-out, later building a frame house, a stone house used as a store (different from subject stone house), a hotel, and a saloon on the west side of the road. A dance hall was built west of the hotel. The 24 room hotel with a café burned down December 31, 1924.

The residents living around Andrews were 34% foreign born and primarily worked as farm labor or ranchers, and included Chinese laborers living and working at the nearby Rose Valley Borax Works.

Marjorie Smyth, one of four children of George Smyth, married Andrew Shull in 1931, and they built the Stone House on the east side of the road, in a former garden plot of the family. She served as post mistress for the next 33 years, and they operated a store and gas station from the Stone House where they also lived, located across the road and north from the saloon.

Outbuildings, fruit trees, and large shade trees in the enclosed yard around the stone house suggest a green, farm like oasis surrounded by sagebrush ranch lands. Among the outbuildings were a garage, two sheds, an outhouse, a barn-shed, and a water tank.

The Andrews saloon, a one-story balloon frame false front wood building, was destroyed by fire in July 1996. Other features still standing at the Andrews townsite are another stone house, and a stone schoolhouse (not in federal ownership). Currently the Stone House is unoccupied and boarded up. It is surrounded by cattle grazing lands.

Architectural Information

General

1. Architectural character. Hand built of dressed and randomly coursed volcanic tuff and field stones, all locally available materials, the Stone House reflects a building design style and technique that developed in southeastern and south central Oregon in the late 19th and early 20th century. Using locally available, inexpensively obtained materials in a style derived from early settlers, who had located from other areas of the U.S. and Europe, this regional style is typically identified with early settlements, homesteads and ranch buildings in this section of the Pacific Northwest.

2. Condition. Approximately 80% of the original building elements are intact and are in stable condition. The building is level, and mortar is in good condition. A fallen tree has damaged the northwest corner of the building, and moderate weathering has affected exterior paint finishes.

Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions. Rectangular shape 39 feet by 50 feet. One and a half stories. Basement under north half of structure. Gable end with four bays in front. One story enclosed porch 39 feet by 11 feet across back (east side).

2. Foundations: Foundation of same dressed field stone as building walls, approximately 20" thick. Basement under the north half of the building, approximately 20 feet by 39 feet, and estimated nine feet deep. Basement was filled with water up to about three feet deep at the time building was recorded, precise measurements could not be obtained.

3. Walls: Exterior walls are dressed field stone, random course, held with mortar, with average thickness of 18 to 20 inches, eight feet tall. This includes one stone wall, originally exterior, but interior with addition of porch. Keystones are used over doorways and window openings. Variety of mortar types and application techniques were used. Front and side walls appear to have mostly a lime mortar, and some sections of the mortar was scored. Wall around porch addition had mortar of thick cement, roughly applied, and built out flush to edge of rocks. There are numerous random patches to mortar on sections of all walls, with roughly applied cement, and on front walls, mortar patches are different colors. There is a large crack under the south window on the front facade. Gable ends are finished painted wood shingles in alternating courses of four inch and eight inch length. Painted brown on front gable end. On each gable end wall there is an industrial style metal light fixture over the doorway.

4. Structural system. Load bearing rock walls, interior walls are wood frame. Joist floors. Attic and roof are wood frame.

5. Porches, stoops, balconies. Two concrete steps on back exit.

6. Chimneys. On south facade, there is a rectangular rock chimney above roof line, between the first and second windows, connected to fireplace. A circular metal pipe chimney with metal cap, halfway between eave and roofline, between fourth and fifth windows on south side of building. Rectangular stone chimney on north side, back wall (inside of porch addition) connected to fireplace in bedroom.

7. Openings.

a. Two doorways on front facade - one originally opened to living quarters, and other one to the store. Doorway on the south half has been replaced with a window and partially filled with loose rock and mortar. Door on north half is circa 1970 wood panel door with nine light window and decorative cross brace over panel. East facade has a wood panel door, with top opening covered with screen. All doors have wood frames and moldings. Front doors are set in to rock approximately 12 inches from front of rock wall.

b. The west (front) facade has two double sets of double hung sash windows, one light over one light with top having decorative wood molding strips in rectangle pattern. Aluminum storm windows. One double hung sash window is in former door opening. On south facade are two set-in 4 light windows. One double hung sash window with decorative wood molding on top light. One aluminum frame sliding window. One horizontal sliding wood frame window with screen. Back porch has double hung 2 light over 2 light wooden sash windows aligned side by side, 13 windows across back, four on each side. One aluminum frame sliding window to attic in gable end of east facade. North facade has three double hung wooden sash single light over single light windows, evenly spaced. All windows are recessed into stone walls eight to twelve inches. Two stone window wells on north facade to basement.

8. Roof.

a. Gable end roof, 6:12 slope, 2 x 4" rafters, wood shingles, covered with galvanized sheet metal.

b. 18" overhang, rafter ends exposed. Painted barge boards with trimmed ends. Damage from fallen tree on northwest corner of roof and trim. North and south facades have cable tie downs connecting rafters to ground.

Description of Interior.

1. Floor plan, six rooms plus attic and half basement - sketch attached.
2. Stairways - open wood staircase with rail to attic, from hallway between kitchen and bedroom. Wood panel door with open wood stair case to basement, from sun porch (originally an exterior entrance).
3. Flooring. Floors throughout are 1 x 6" wood planks, plain stained in front room, covered with circa 1970's linoleum floor covering in other rooms, cut pile carpet in bathroom.
4. Wall and ceiling finishes - original finishes and materials are not evident. Firtex tile ceilings in main portion of house, wood paneling on ceiling of sun porch. Interior wall finishes are sheet rock with circa 1970's wall paper, 4 x 8" wood paneling, Plaster walls with wallpaper in bathroom. Barn wood board and batten along hallway.
5. Openings
 - a. Interior doors only at bedroom and bathroom. Also, doors in stone wall which was originally an exterior wall, from kitchen to back porch, and to basement.
 - b. Window trims include barn wood molding around windows in front room. Another double hung sash window on the back stone wall (kitchen) was originally an exterior window.
6. Decorative features and trim: The kitchen has built in cabinets and shelves on either side of the sink, south wall. In bedroom, a stone fireplace is outfitted with a cast iron fireplace insert, tile hearth. In front room there is a fireplace of field stone.
7. Hardware: Common style of hardware typical of circa 1930 through 1970, throughout.
8. Mechanical equipment
 - a. Heating system - no furnace or central heating stove, however there is a stove pipe in kitchen which may have led to heating equipment.
 - b. Wired for electricity.
 - c. Plumbing - porcelain sink in metal cabinet, running water in kitchen. Circa 1960 pink bathtub and commode; plastic counter top vanity sink in bathroom.

Site

1. Situated in a fenced rectangular shaped 132 foot by 118 foot enclosure. The front facade faces west, front on a gravel road, and across from fields which are the site of former buildings of the townsite of Andrews. Another stone house and a stone school house are north and west of the structure. The gravel road runs north-south, and the house is located about 13 miles north of Fields, the nearest town. The Steens mountains are closely visible from the front facade, and the topography to the north, east, and south is primarily flat, with slight rise and hills, fenced pasture land or open grazing land.

2. Historic landscape design: Mature trees include poplars planted around margins to provide a wind break on north and west sides. 11 poplars run in an east-west row north of the house. Three poplars stand west of the house adjacent to the gravel road. A walnut tree stands between two of the outbuildings. Jeffrey pines on east and south sides of the house, along with cherry and apple trees on the north side. The enclosed area was the vegetable garden of the Smyth family in the early twentieth century.

3. Outbuildings. Associated with the Stone House are 5 outbuildings and a water tank. The Garage is a wood frame building standing on the east side of the gravel road in Andrews and south of the Stone House. It measures 14'4" wide by 20'3" long. The building has a shingled, gable roof, open eaves, vertical board walls covered with composition shakes, double entry doors on its west (front) elevation, and a five-panel door on its east (rear) elevation. A lean-to shed with shingled, shed roof is attached on the east (rear) elevation. Erected by Andrew Shull sometime after 1930, this building is in poor condition.

A shed stands east of the garage, and is a wood frame building measuring 7'9" wide by 9'8" long. The building has a shingled, gable roof, open eaves, and horizontal four-inch shiplap siding. A five-board door is located in its east (rear) elevation. The windows are boarded over. Erected by Andrew Shull sometime after 1930, the building is in poor condition.

An wood frame outhouse stands east of the Stone House. It measures 6'3" by 5'5". It has a shingled shed roof. Exterior walls are covered with horizontal boards of shiplap. A three-panel door is located in the east (front) elevation; two of the door panels are missing. A small screened window is located in the west (rear) elevations. The outhouse has two seats. Erected by Andrew Shull in the early 1930's, this building is in poor condition.

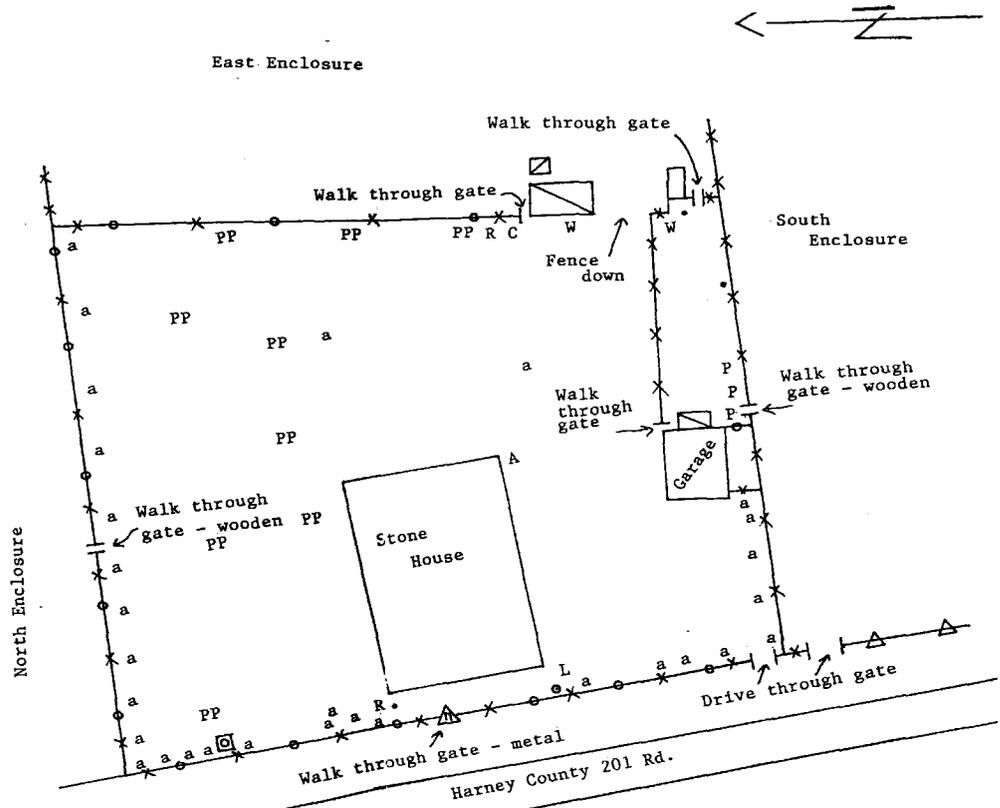
A shed 14' x 12'3" is located east of the Stone House. Its exterior is covered with

seven-inch horizontal shiplap boards. It has a gable roof covered with composition shingles in poor condition. The west (front) door is missing; the east (rear) door is missing; the south side door is missing; all windows are missing. Erected by Andrew Shull in the early 1930's, the building is in poor condition.

The water tank is located on the northwest corner of the enclosure. A platform of x-braced tree branches and planks six feet off the ground supports the circular galvanized metal tank, approximately 5' diameter by 5' tall.

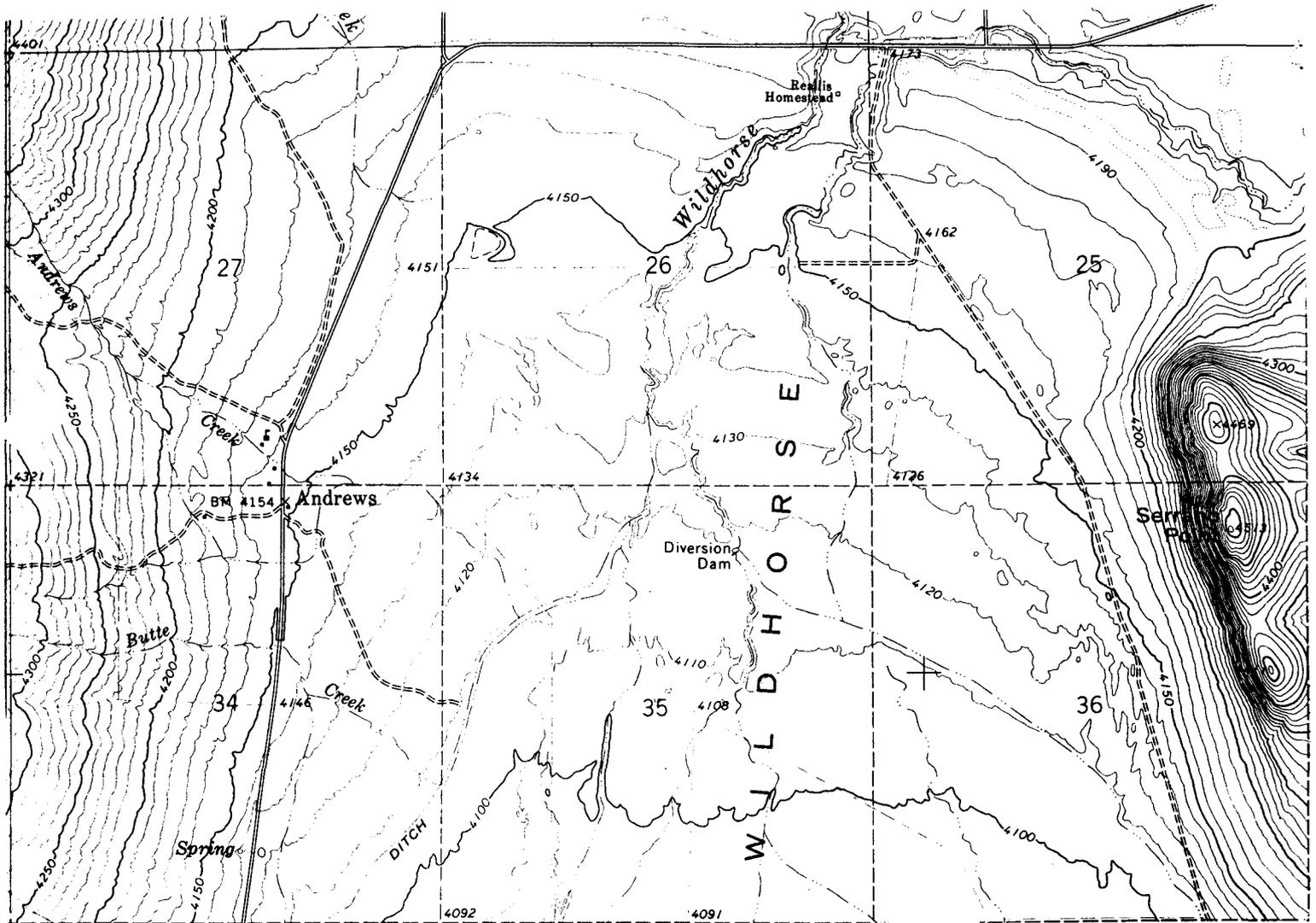
The yard is enclosed with a post and wire fence, with the front gate located in front of the house, facing the gravel road.

Not part of the complex, and currently located on private property is a barn-shed standing east of the road, north of the Stone House. Wood frame measuring 37'4" by 15'5", the exterior is covered with vertical board and batten siding; the shed roof is covered with boards and sheet tar paper. The building has three windows on its east (rear); the door is missing. The four windows on the west (front) elevation are missing. Erected by Andrew Shull in the early 1930s, this building is in poor condition.



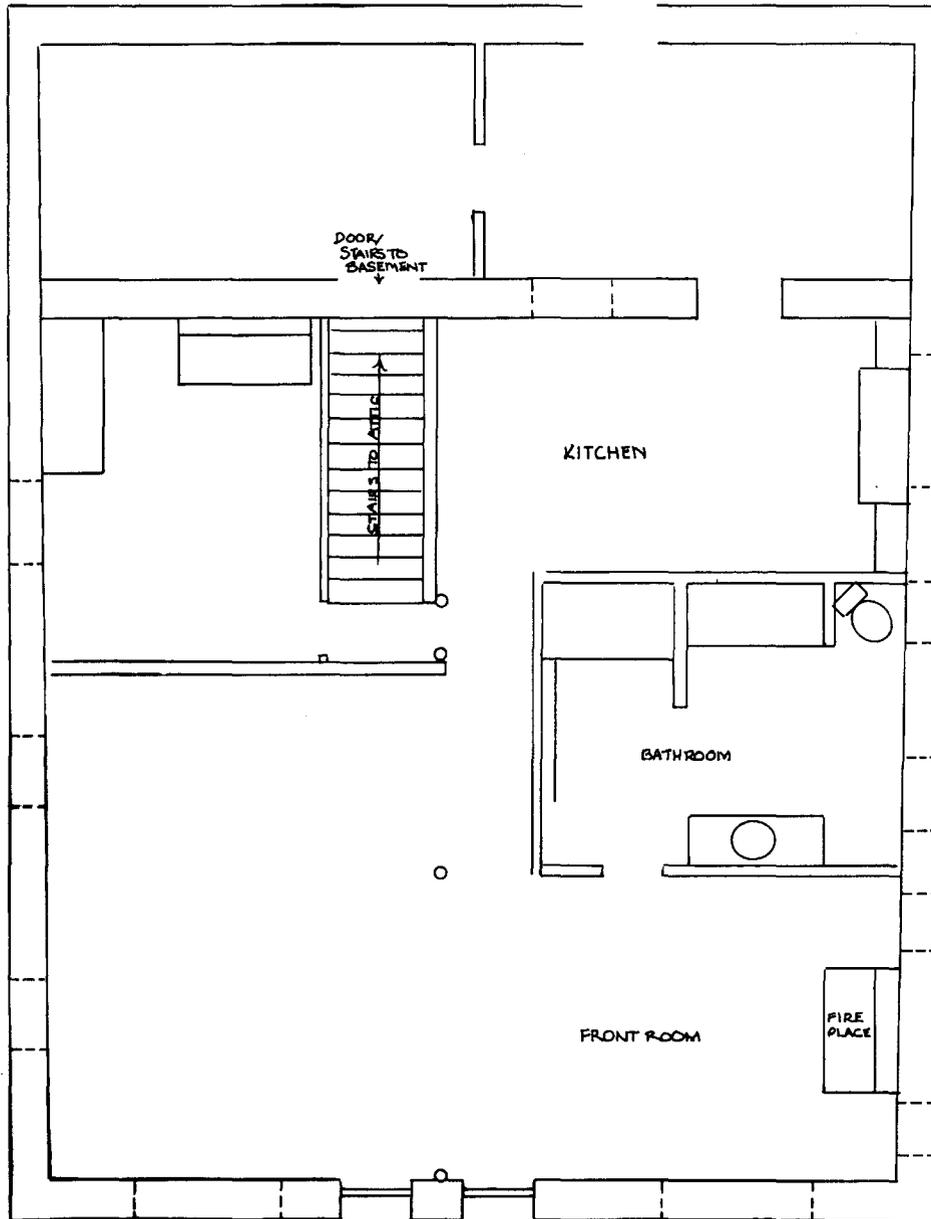
Andrews Stone House Main Enclosure Legend		
△	- Datum	Plant spp.:
⊙	- Utility pole	a - Poplars
⊕	- Water tower	A - Ash
⊠	- Privy	W - Walnut
⊡	- Chicken coop	R - Wild rose
□	- Shed	PP - Apple
—○—	- Hogwire fence	L - Lilac
—x—	- Hogwire fence w/ barbwire	C - Cherry
△△	- Post fence	P - Ponderosa pine
xx	- Barbwire fence	. - Unknown plant

Stone House Andrews, Oregon
Sketch Map
1/4"=3m

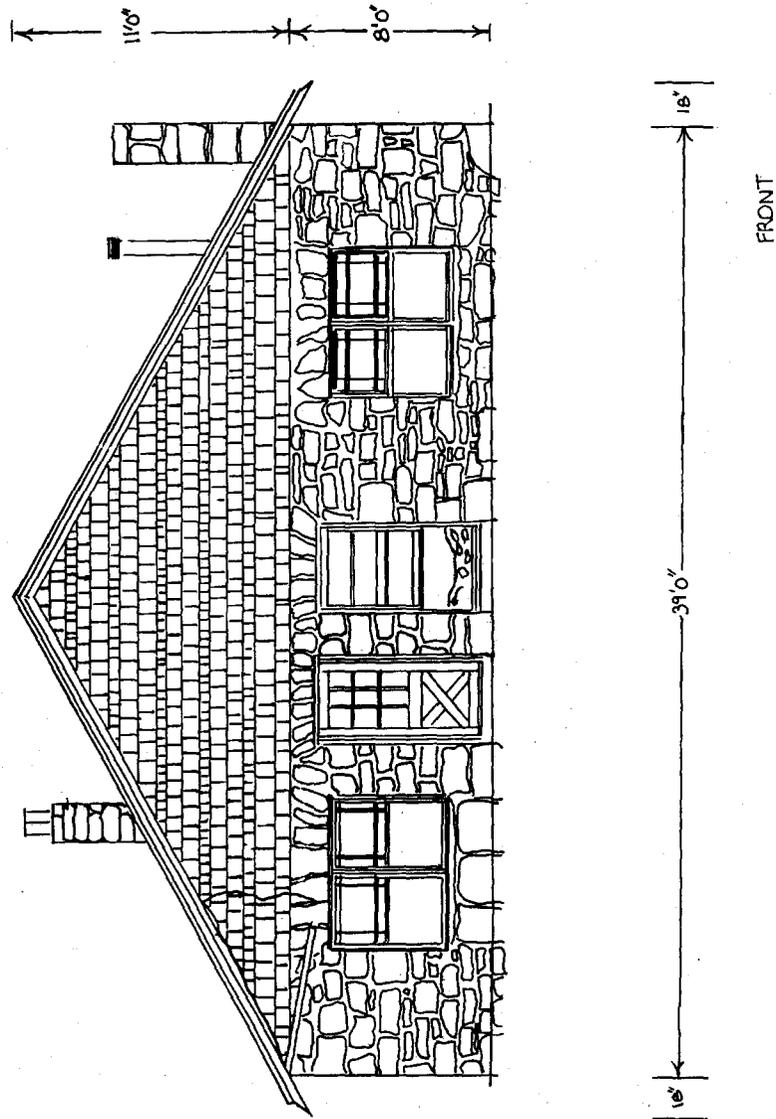


USGS QUADRANGLE MAP OF ANDREWS AREA

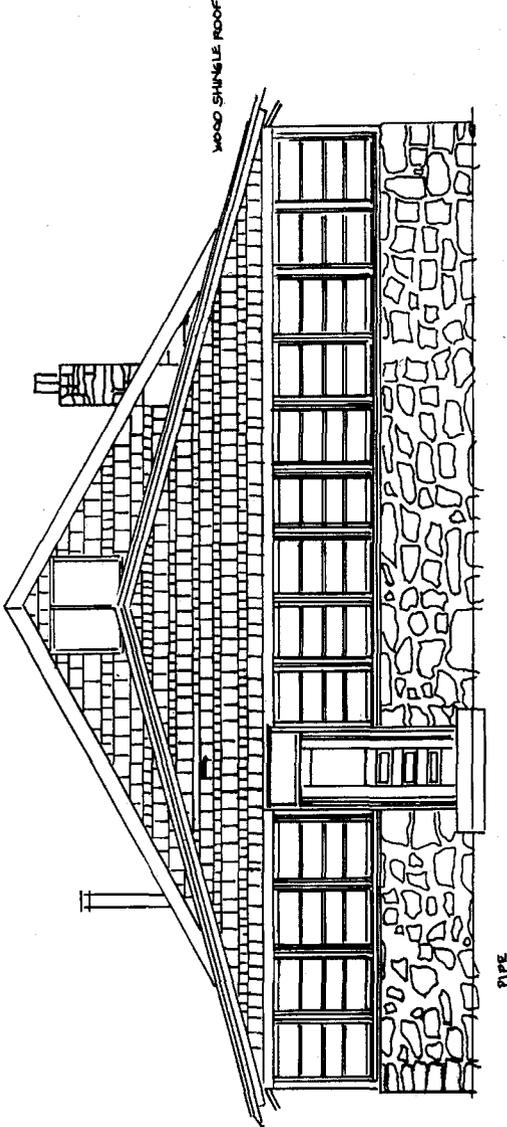
USGS Andrews, Oreg. Quadrangle
Township 35 South, Range 33 East, Section 34, Willamette Meridian
Scale 1:24,000



Stone House Andrews, Oregon
Sketch of Floor Plan (Meas. Approx.)
1/8"=1'0"

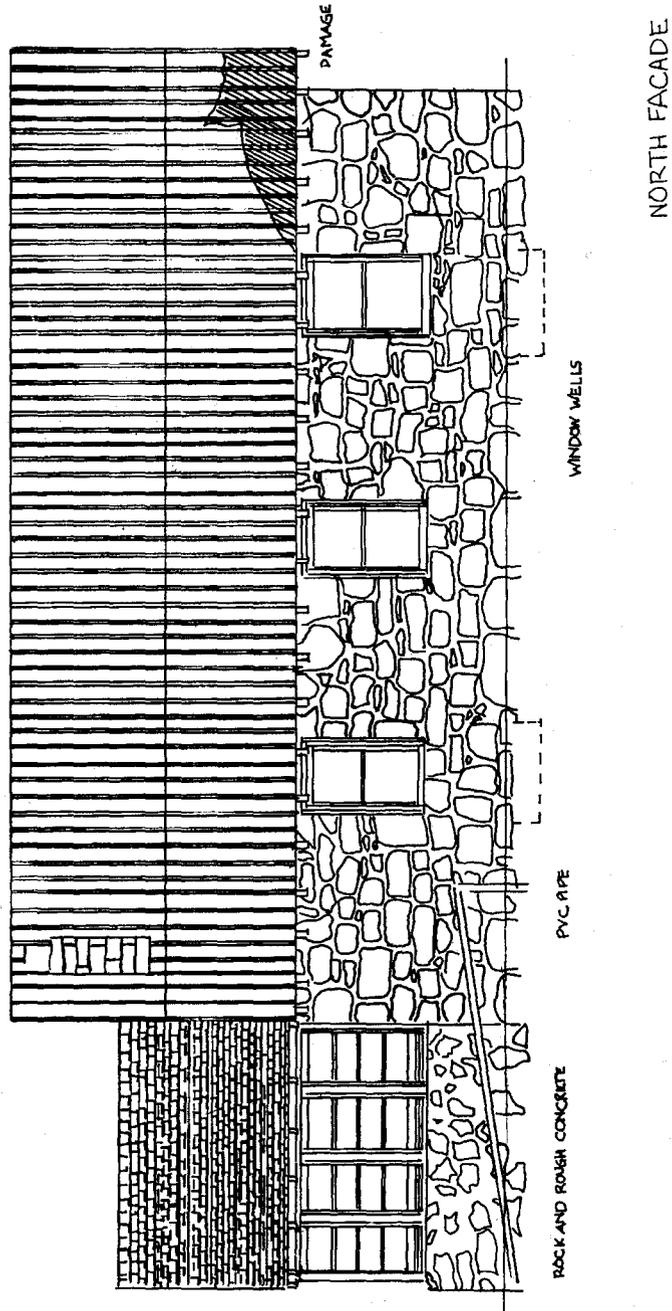


Stone House Andrews, Oregon
Sketch, Front
1/8"=1'0"

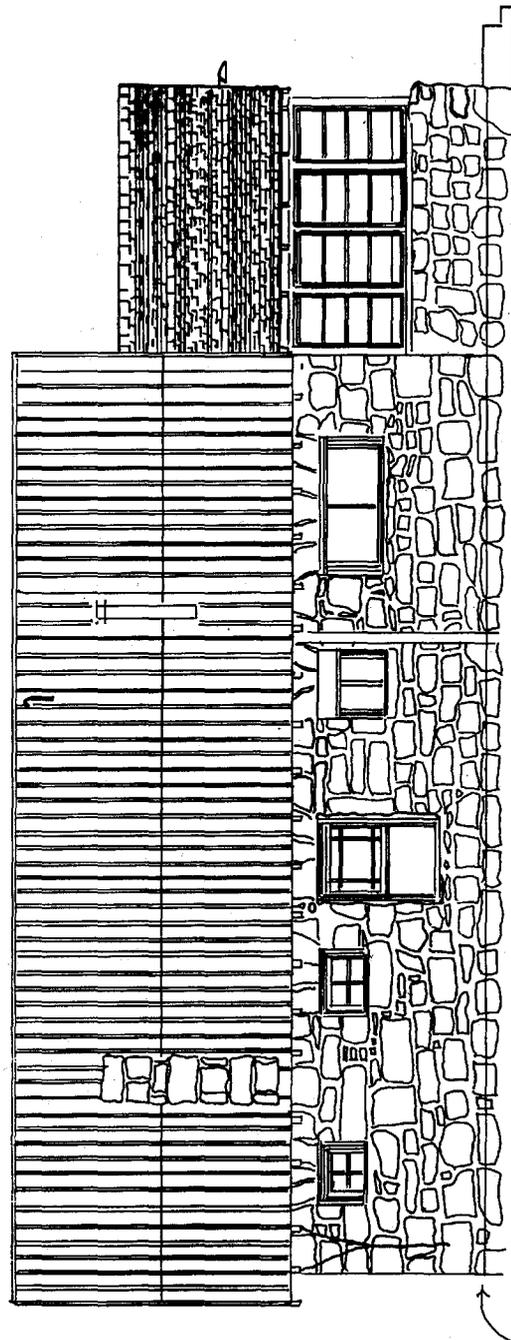


EAST FACADE

Stone House Andrews, Oregon
Sketch, East Facade
1/8"=1'0"

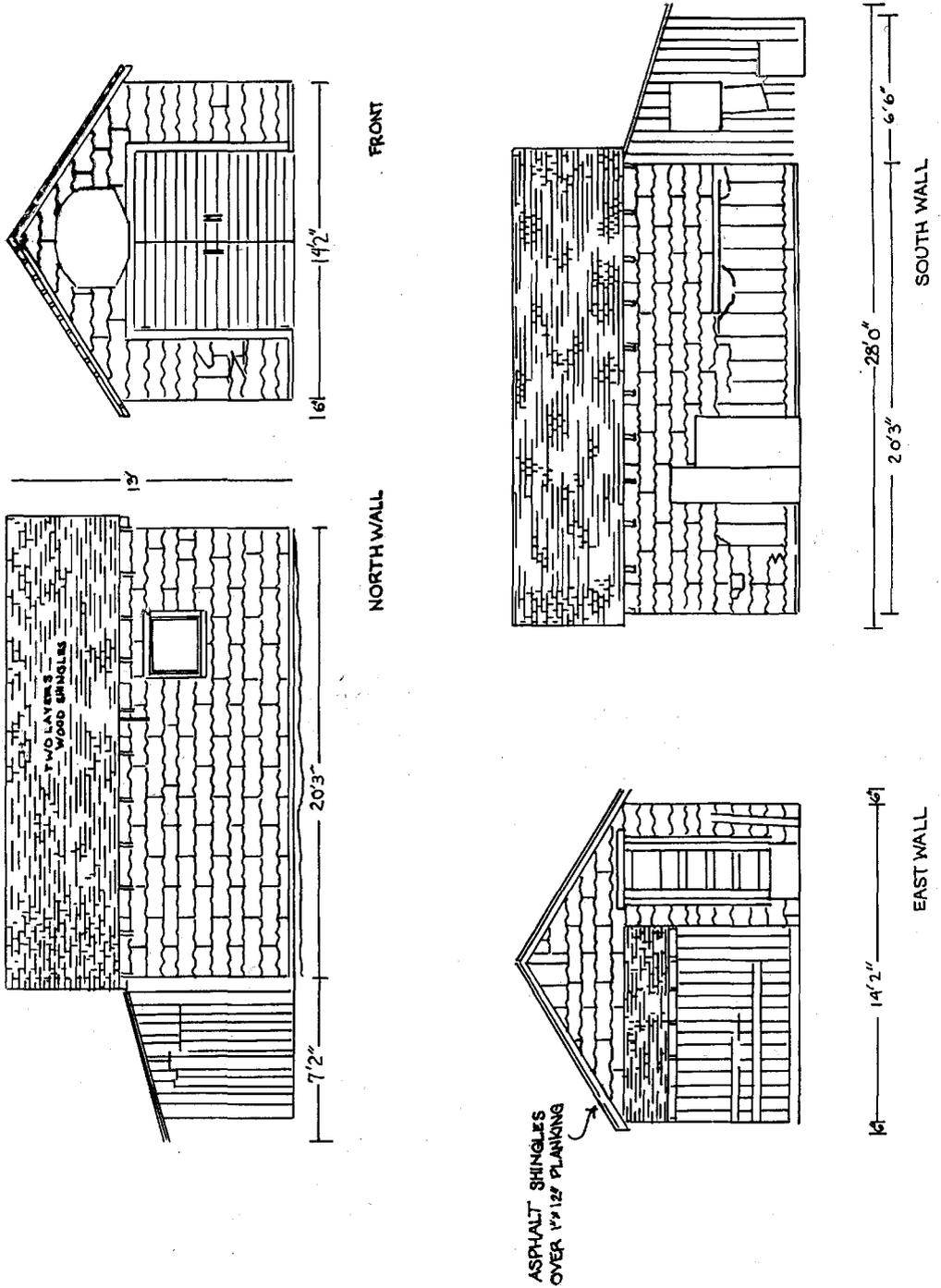


Stone House Andrews, Oregon
Sketch, North Facade
1/8"=1'0"



SOUTH FACADE

Stone House Andrews, Oregon
Sketch, South Facade
1/8"=1'0"



Stone House Andrews, Oregon
 Sketches, Garage
 1/8"=1'0"

Sources of Information

A. No architectural drawings of the building exist.

B. No historic photographs or artwork of the building were located.

C. Stephen Dow Beckham conducted several interviews with residents or former occupants as part of research in compiling his report "Andrews, Oregon" A Rural Historic Landscape Assessment" (Bureau of Land Management, Burns District, November, 1995.) These interviews included: Patricia Olgard Frazier, October 22, 1994, at Andrews, Oregon. George Shull, November 8, 1995, Lake Oswego, Oregon. Marjorie Smyth Shull, October 23, 1994, Burns, Oregon. Johnnie Cactus Smyth October 22, 1994, Andrews, Oregon.

D. Bibliography

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Project Information

The documentation project was undertaken as required by a Memorandum of Agreement between the USDI Bureau of Land Management Burns District and Oregon State Office of Historic Preservation as part of a proposed land exchange in which property described would be transferred to private ownership. Project undertaken in 1994 by Bruce Crespin, former archaeologist of Bureau of Land Management Burns District. Site documentation, historical research and assessment by Stephen Dow Beckham, Lake Oswego, Oregon 1995, Building measurements, inspections, and descriptions by Sarah LeCompte, historian, BLM Vale District and Scott Thomas, archaeologist, BLM Burns District, March 25-27 1997, Written narrative report and drawings prepared by Sarah LeCompte, Sept. 1997.