

BRIDAL VEIL
MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

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HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL EVALUATION

A Report Prepared for:

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SECTION 1

PROJECT TEAM

In order to evaluate the historical and architectural significance of the Bridal Veil site, Heritage Investment Corporation assembled an experienced interdisciplinary team. Project personnel included:

John M. Tess, Historian/President, Heritage Investment Corporation
Richard E. Ritz, FAIA, Architect, Architectural Historian
Lewis L. McArthur, Industrial Historian
Anne Schultz, Associate, Heritage Investment Corporation
Jerre Kosta, Associate, Heritage Investment Corporation
Rob Mawson, Heritage Tourism Specialist, Heritage Group

All of the project personnel are well versed and have many years of specialized experience evaluating historic properties and sites in the State of Oregon.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

In the spring of 1991, the Trust for Public Lands acquired the land encompassing the town of Bridal Veil. As part of its planning process, the Trust then contracted with the Heritage Investment Corporation [HIC] to inventory and survey the land. This survey was limited to above ground resources on specified Trust-owned land. The HIC team identified and subsequently evaluated the buildings, sites, structures, objects, and historic landscapes. It considered them individually, as an ensemble, as a thematic grouping and as a potential historic district. That evaluation was based on well-accepted local, state and federal criteria for evaluating historic properties. The purpose of this report is to codify the survey and to present the team's findings.

METHODOLOGY

The HIC team conducted their investigation in a three step process. First, they conducted an evaluation of the existing literature, represented here in the bibliography. Second, they conducted fact finding site visits, represented in the history and building descriptions. Third, they applied well accepted standards for evaluating historic sites to the results of their fact finding investigation, represented in the concluding chapters.

In conducting the investigation, project personnel visited the site numerous times. Project leaders, Mr. Ritz and Mr. Tess entered all accessible properties. As part of his comparative analysis of company towns, Mr. McArthur also visited various similar sites.

Finally, as part of its overall evaluation, the HIC team considered the findings of Tourism Development Associates who also recently completed an evaluation of Bridal Veil's significance for Multnomah County. That discussion is found in section 7 with the findings.

SECTION 2

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BRIDAL VEIL

The town of Bridal Veil developed during the late 19th century as an offshoot of the lumber mill operation that commenced near the mouth of Bridal Veil Creek. In the 1880's, the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company constructed a railroad along the south bank of the Columbia River. The railway would make the previously inaccessible forests a viable lumbering opportunity. Anticipating the railway, Amos J. Moore filed for an 80 acre homestead claim just east of Bridal Vail. His four brothers and sister did likewise on adjacent land, creating a assemblage nearly 500 acres strong. Moore operated a sawmill in Albina, but the supply of ready timber in that area was dwindling. Bridal Veil, with the rail connection, offered an enormous potential.

The Moore family started with two homes. As plans for a lumber mill progressed, other homes and a paper mill were built. In 1883, the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company reached Bridal Veil, passing directly by the lumber mill. In 1887, the Bridal Veil Falls Lumbering Company incorporated and logging commenced at Palmer, a camp above Bridal Veil on Larch Mountain. By the end of that year, the company had constructed a two mile flume from Palmer down to Bridal Veil.

The town of Bridal Veil was named after Bridal Veil Falls, the waterfall that cascades down from the creek at the west end of town. According to legend, the name Bridal Veil comes from a lady traveling the Columbia River on the Sternwheeler Bailey Gatzert. Upon seeing the cascading falls, she remarked that they reminded her of "a delicate misty brides veil". People began to refer to the area as Bridal Veil. When the federal government located a post office there, the community became officially known as "Bridal Veil".

During the 1890's, the logging operation at Palmer and the lumber company in Bridal Veil continued to grow. At Palmer, the fir logs would be rough cut and traveled by flume to Bridal Veil. There, resaw mill would cut and process the rough fir. The Bridal Veil Lumbering Company built a one and a half story boarding house, a company store, a two-story grade school, a remilling plant and a shipping plant. At the same time, Palmer grew, with houses, post office and country school. By 1900, approximately 180 people lived in Bridal Veil.

In 1902, fire destroyed the town of Palmer. The blaze started east of Bridal Veil and travelled up the mountain engulfing the small lumber community. Three years later, L. C. Palmer, the town's namesake, re-built the sawmill, postoffice and a schoolhouse a mile above the old townsite, closer to the virgin timber.

In 1914, the state constructed the Columbia River Highway through Bridal Veil. With the dramatic waterfall nearby, entrepreneurs developed a rest-stop with a restaurant, hotel, auto camp and residences.

The lumber company continued to operate between Bridal Veil and Palmer until all the available timber was cut, sometime during the mid-1930's. In 1936, fire destroyed a large part of the lumber company at Bridal Veil. The resaw room, sorting shed, drying shed and part of the flume were destroyed. Due to the limited amount of timber left in the area, the company decided not to re-build. In 1937, the Kraft Cheese Company purchased the property, town and lumber mill to manufacture cheese boxes. Kraft sold the property in 1962 to Machinery Sales Company. At this time 19 houses were located on the property and extensive improvements were made.

Machinery Sales sold the property in 1964 and the plant along the railroad tracks was used as a lumber storage plant. In 1990, the Trust for Public Land acquired the property. Today, within the area owned by the Trust, Bridal Veil consists of 15 houses (including 1 collapsed), 1 church, 1 post office, and 6 industrial buildings (mostly modern).

[The history of Bridal Veil is comprehensively examined by William Carr's A HISTORY OF THE BRIDAL VEIL LUMBERING COMPANY and by Tourism Development Associate's BRIDAL VEIL, OREGON. The above is meant only as a synopsis to provide the reader with a sense of perspective.]

TIMELINE

- 1886 T. H. Smith purchases timber, organizes the Bridal Veil Falls Lumbering Company with partners Loring C. Palmer, E. L. Brown, Charles Brown and George Barnet.
- Smith begins construction of sawmill at Palmer.
O. A. Palmer supervises logging for Company.
- 1887 Smith begins construction of the re-milling and shipping unit at Bridal Veil and flume from Palmer.
- Palmer sells interest in Vancouver, Washington mills and becomes president of Bridal Veil Company.
- 1889 Smith and E. L. Brown sell interests in Company to John S. Bradley and J. M. Leiter.
- Name changed to Bridal Veil Lumbering Company.
- 1891 Donahue and Kelley camps begin operation.
- 1895 Eldridge Hill organizes Apex Transportation Company
- O. A. Palmer named general manager and operates railroad under lease from Company.
- 1896 "Bull" donkey and chute installed.
- 1898 Post office established at Palmer.
- 1902 Fire destroys Palmer.
- 1903 New sawmill in operation replacing small temporary mill in use soon after fire of 1902.
- 1904 Bridal Veil Box Factory incorporated.

- 1905 Palmer sells holdings in the Company.
Donahue and Kelley and Apex Transportation Co. cease operations.
Company has exhibit at Lewis and Clark Exposition.
- 1907 Edward Kingsley becomes manager.
Company buys out Bridal Veil Box Factory.
- 1908 New planing mill at Bridal Veil completed.
Edward Hazen replaces Kingsley as manager.
- 1909 Ben Hazen hired as secretary of Company.
- 1911 Douglas Fir Sales Company organized.
- 1914 Douglas Fir Lumber Company replaces bankrupt Douglas Fir Sales Company.
- 1916 Ben Hazen becomes secretary and sales manager of Douglas Fir.
- 1917 Ed Hazen negotiates purchase of Wind River Lumber Company.
- 1918 Spruce Production Division works begin at Bridal Veil.
- 1919 Palmer post office ceases operation.
- 1920 Ben Hazen leaves Company.
- 1921 Wind River ceases operation.
- 1922 Group of investors purchases Company and change name to Bridal Veil Timber Company.
Edward Hazen leaves Company.

- 1923 Gordon Creek & Palmer Railroad established to log new stand of timber.
Wind River operations sold to David Eccles.
Larch Mountain Fire Protection Unit established.
- 1924 Railroad converted from narrow-gauge to standard-gauge.
- 1926 Highest lumber production figures are established.
- 1928 U.S. Forest Service begins planting trees on Larch Mountain.
- 1933 Schools closed at Palmer and Bridal Veil.
- 1935 Company purchases down and standing timber in the Bull Run Watershed
that is offered for sale by Portland Water Bureau.
T.H. Smith dies.
- 1937 Company sells equipment and building to Homer George Leash.
Bridal Veil Lumber and Box Company is formed.
Bridal Veil Timber Company continues to log remaining stands of
hemlock.
- 1941 Bridal Veil Timber Company ceases operations.
- 1944 Forest Service burns "ghost town" of Palmer.
- 1960 Bridal Veil Lumber and Box Company ceases operations.
- 1963 Site used as lumber manufacturing plant.
- 1991 Site sold to Trust for Public Land

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SECTION 3

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION

SETTING

The townsite of Bridal Veil is located adjoining the Columbia River in Township 19, Range 5E, Sections 22 and 14 in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The townsite was laid out along several roads which generally follow the contours of the hillside. Except for Bridal Veil and Palmer Roads, the roads are still unpaved after more than a century. It is not known exactly when the present buildings were constructed, but certainly they are post-1900.

The townsite may have appeared to be more unified when all of its original houses and buildings were standing. Today, however, the ensemble is disjointed and leaves only the appearance of the remnants of a town. Except for the six houses which are together on the main road, the remainder of the townsite consists of isolated single buildings or pairs of buildings. It is not now readily recognizable as a company town.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Typically, a company town would be comprised of industrial buildings, business offices, commercial structures, community structures, and residences. Depending on the company, it also would have amenities such as a parks or commons. Given that the development of the town was the responsibility of the company managers, the town likely would be laid out in some recognizable pattern, even though changes in industry may change that pattern over time.

Bridal Veil, the company town, today reflects little of that. There are only three industrial buildings extant: the maintenance shop, the resaw building and the warehouse. These date to the 1920's at the earliest and the 1960's at the latest. All are in poor condition with the resaw building collapsing. All have had significant structural changes and have very little historical integrity.

The post office is the only commercial structure in the town. It is located on the old mill site, was a first aid station, moved and adapted for use. Board and batten vertical siding has been nailed over an earlier 6" drop siding and a wood shake roof installed.

In general, it has a romantic rustic appearance that is out of character for the area, the era and the use. A similar rustic treatment is found on the modern well and pumphouse.

The church is the only community structure in town. It is a relatively modern building, possibly incorporating an older building. Construction of the current configuration was probably constructed in the 1930's at the earliest. It is poorly sited on the lot and appears to have been squeezed into place. It is in fairly good repair.

There are sixteen houses located in Bridal Veil. Most, five, are located along the north side of Bridal Veil Road along with the church. Another four are located on another, unpaved road just to the north on lots overlooking Bridal Veil Road. Three, the larger homes, are located higher on the mountain along Historic Columbia River Highway. One appears to have been a manager's home while one apparently was a boarding house. One houses, of standard worker size, now collapsed, is higher yet, off Palmer Hill Road. Nearby is another collapsed structure that may have been adapted for use as a garage. Finally one, apparently standard size home, is located off a unpaved road up the hill and south of what was the mill site. The location of the homes is relatively disjointed with no clear traffic pattern to anywhere. The homes are located uphill and downwind from the industrial buildings.

Of the sixteen houses, fourteen may be classed workers' houses, with one classed as the manager home and one likely a boarding house. The workers' houses were constructed from a standard plan. This standard house was probably originally constructed without indoor plumbing, 24 feet square with a six foot deep front porch the full width of the house. A gabled roof of medium pitch, with the ridge running from front to rear, covered the main part of the house. The front porch was covered by a shed roof supported on four slender posts without decoration. A brick chimney with a corbelled cap was located at the center of the rear wall. Siding was eight or six inch drop-siding and windows were double-hung wood sash, four-over-four, paired. The original wood shingled roofs have been covered or replaced with composition shingles, or in some cases, with wood shakes. Inside was a 14 x 24 living room on one side, and two 10 x 12 bedrooms on the other.

At some time after the original construction, a 10 foot by 24 foot addition was built to the rear of most of the houses, offset two feet to one side of the original house. This addition contained a kitchen, a bathroom and a porch or storage room, which may have originally been open.

The houses are all built on hillside sites, so that the back door of the addition is reached by a fairly long flight of steps. The houses are constructed on post-pier foundations and closed in with vertical board skirting.

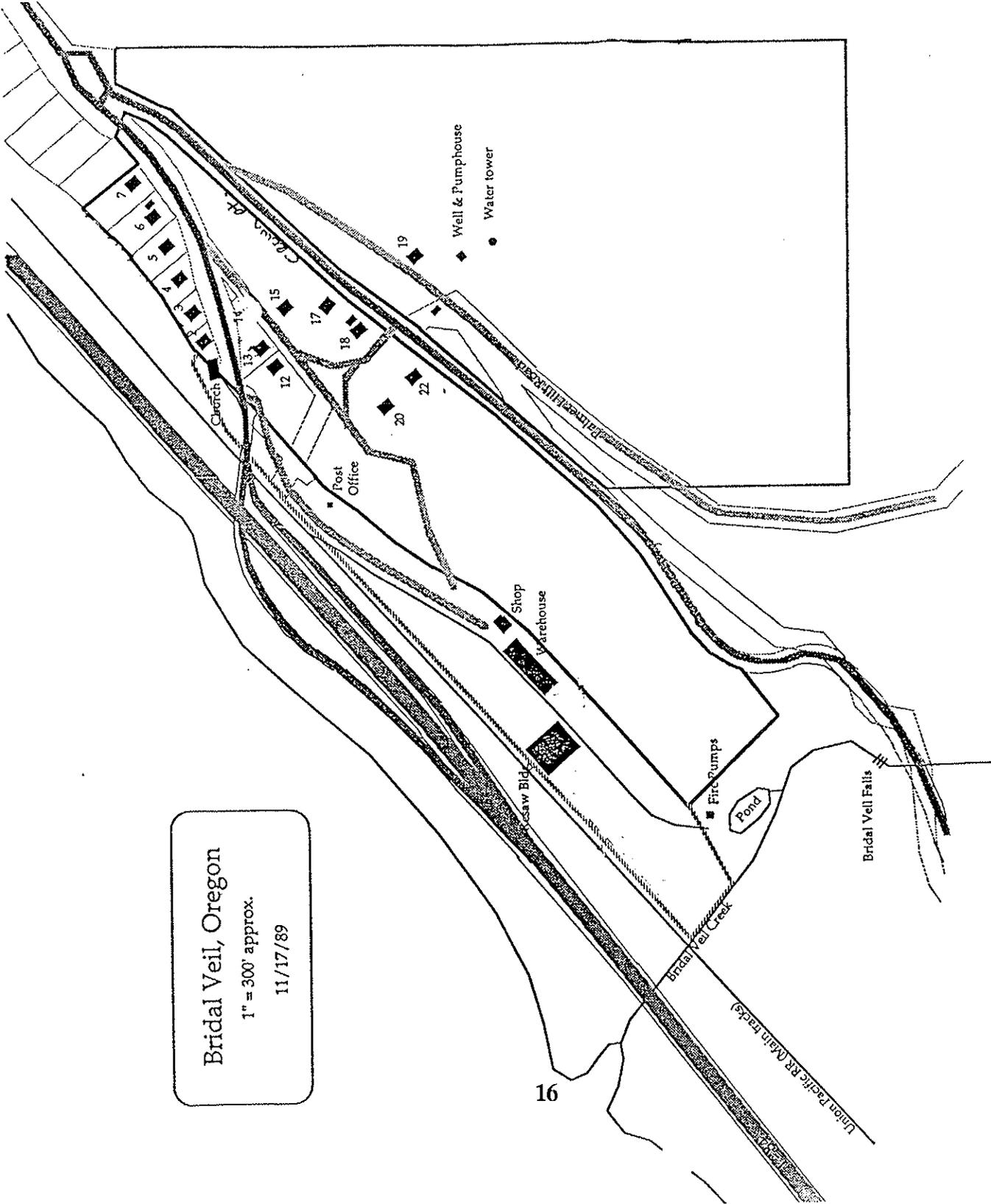
It is not known how many of these standard houses were originally constructed, but 13 survive, including one which is in a totally collapsed condition. Some exist without rear additions, and most have had the original front porch shed roof removed or replaced with some other kind of porch roof. In many houses, the original brick chimney has been removed and replaced with a metal patent chimney. Most of the houses have had changes to the windows and many have had extensive additions.

In the 1960's, the owners of the townsite made improvements to a number of the houses, installing new porches, decks, siding and aluminum framed windows. Many have new doors and windows cut in. One house has had its orientation reversed 180 degrees, and one house has been remodelled to a point that the original shell is unrecognizable either on the interior or exterior. Today, not one of the workers' houses has its original exterior appearance. Collectively and individually, the level of historical integrity is exceedingly low.

In addition to the workers' houses, there are three larger houses. One likely was the mill manager's home. One has been stripped of all interior detail, including doors, windows, walls, but by the lack of detail on the exterior and by its size we may surmise it was a boarding house. And one appears to have been a standard 24 x 24 worker's home with extensive additions.

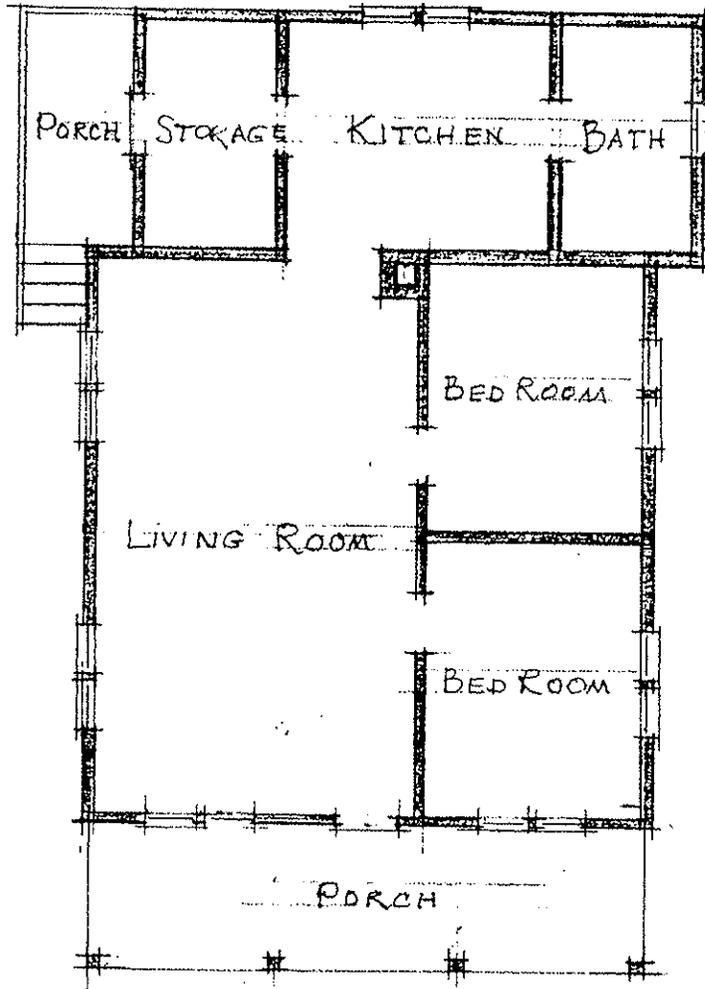
The general overall conditions of all of the buildings is extremely poor. Not well constructed, most are in need of structural repair and are deteriorating rapidly. The houses generally are uninhabitable and the industrial buildings unusable. All but four houses are unoccupied, although there is considerable evidence that the buildings are being used by indigents.

SITE MAP



Bridal Veil, Oregon
1" = 300' approx.
11/17/89

TYPICAL FLOOR PLAN



PLAN OF TYPICAL WORKER'S HOUSE. PROBABLE CONFIGURAT
THE KITCHEN-BATH-STORAGE WING AT REAR IS PROBABLY AN ADDITION.
SCALE: $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$

BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

MILL SITE

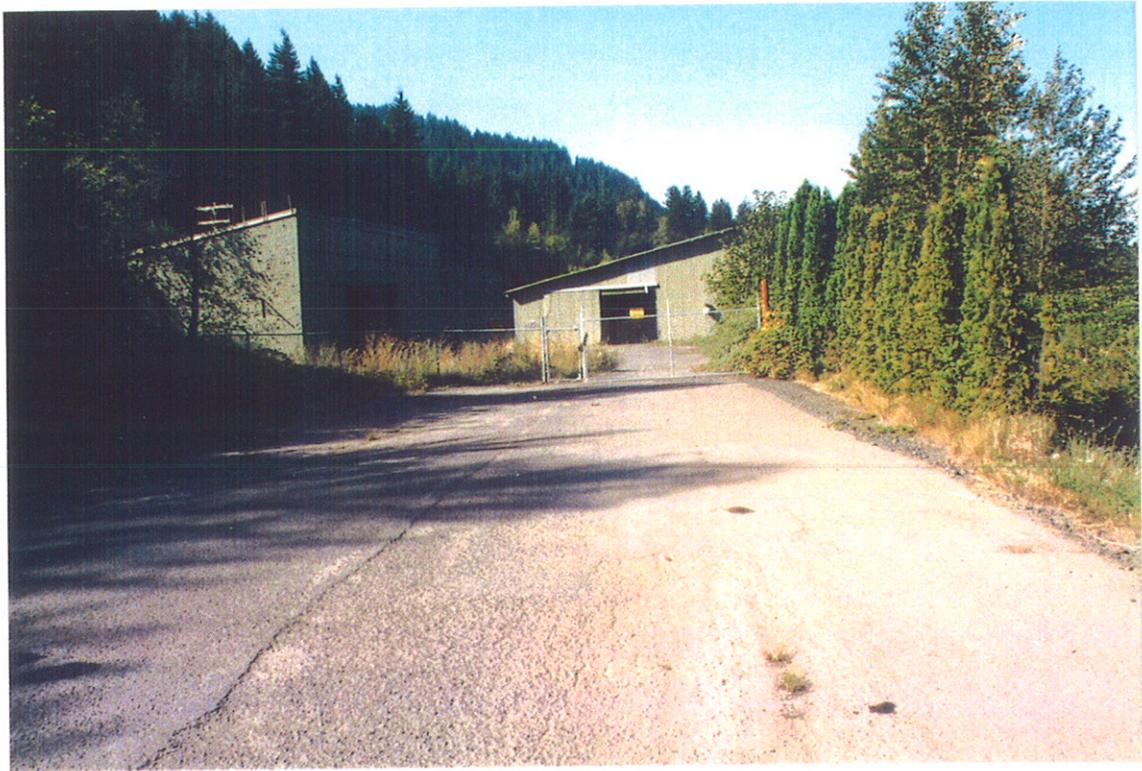
Address: Bridal Veil Road, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map # 9

DESCRIPTION:

The mill site is the industrial area west of the Post Office. While historically the center of the lumber sawing activity, today the only buildings remaining are the maintenance shop, the resaw building and the warehouse. The maintenance building was likely built in the 1920's and then doubled in size in the 1960's. The resaw building and warehouse likely date to the 1920's. The buildings are exceedingly simple in design, essentially four walls and a roof, without any special accommodation reflecting their use in the lumber industry. They are all in poor to fair condition. They all have been remodelled to a point where today they have little historical integrity or interest.

No documentation exists for the original mill site, individual buildings or ancillary systems, such as the flume. Any attempts at reconstruction would be speculative.



Mill Site Looking West (above)
Mill Site Looking East (below)



MAINTENANCE SHOP

Address: Bridal Veil Road, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map # 11

DESCRIPTION:

The shop is comprised of two sections. The first is a building approximately 45 foot square and 17 foot high. It is constructed of brick and features two bays on the north. The doors are located on the north facade, are steel, paired and hinged. The south elevation features a shed, approximately 36 feet long and 8 feet high.

The second section is attached to the west facade of the first building. It is approximately 14 feet high and 30 x 45 feet. It is made of concrete block and features three bays with modern overhead metal doors. The building is in fair to poor condition. The older section dates to the 1920's, while the newer section dates to the 1960's.

It is unoccupied.

Like the warehouse, the shop was built as a functional building and has been treated accordingly. The basic structures are intact, but not in the best of shape. Because of its simplicity, the structure has a certain amount of integrity but very little historical significance. The concrete block addition damages what significance there is.



Maintenance Shop - North Facade (above)
Maintenance Shop - East Facade (below)





Maintenance Shop - South Facade (above)
Maintenance Shop - West Facade (below)





Maintenance Shop Interior - East Section (above)
Maintenance Shop Interior - West Section (below)



WAREHOUSE

Address: Bridal Veil Road, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map # 10

DESCRIPTION:

The warehouse is 60 x 169 feet with 13 bays. It has corrugated steel over lap siding. It is frame construction on cement foundation. It has a flat slant roof, approximately 17 feet on the south sloping up to 25 feet on the north. At both east and west elevations, there is a 15 x 12 foot doorway. The north facade is along a rail siding and cement loading dock. It features a 15 x 12 foot doorway approximately 40 feet from the northwest corner. The facade has several sizable holes in the fabric. It was built approximately in the 1920's and is in fair to poor condition.

It is unoccupied.

The warehouse was built as a functional building and has been treated accordingly. The basic structure is intact, but not in the best of shape. Because of its simplicity, the structure has a certain amount of integrity but little historical interest. The corrugated metal covering and the damage to the north facade limit that little interest further.



Warehouse - East Facade (above)
Warehouse - South Facade (below)





Warehouse - West Facade (above)
Warehouse - North Facade (below)





Warehouse Interiors



RESAW BUILDING

Address: Bridal Veil Road, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map # 16

DESCRIPTION:

An older frame building, circa 1938, the resaw building was once 114 x 150 feet, enclosed on three sides. It has a corrugated metal skin covering a wood frame and bow truss roof construction. On the south, it featured a rail siding. At the east facade, it included a 15 x 7 foot office of wood construction. The west half of the building has collapsed.

Given the condition of the building and its simple design, it has very little historical integrity remaining. Given its simple design, it has even less significance.



Resaw Building - East Facade (above)
Resaw Building - South Facade (below)





Resaw Building - West Facade (above)
Resaw Building - North Facade (below)





Resaw Building Interiors



POST OFFICE BUILDING

Address: Bridal Veil Road, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map # 8

DESCRIPTION:

This building measures 10 x 12 feet in size, with a gabled roof. At the front is a 6 x 10 porch with a shed roof. The siding is vertical boards and battens, with some 6 inch drop-siding visible. The roof is wood shake and in poor condition.

The building is in good condition and in use as a post office.

Upon investigation, the building appears to date from the 1940's and is non-historic. In general, it has a romantic rustic appearance that is out of character for the area, the era and the use. Due to the change in use and the rustic remodelling, the building has no historical integrity.

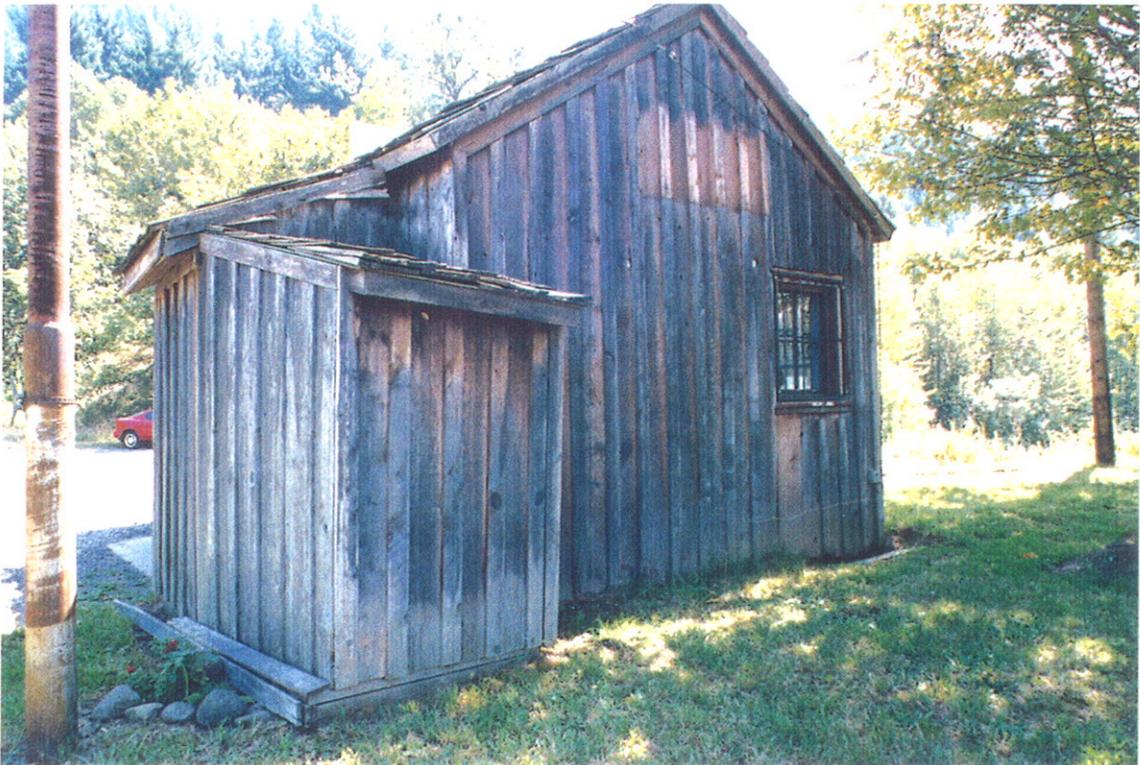


Post Office - Southeast Corner (above)
Post Office - Southwest Corner (below)





Post Office - West Facade (above)
Post Office - Northeast Corner (below)



CHURCH BUILDING

Address: #1 Bridal Veil Road, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map # 1

DESCRIPTION:

This is a relatively new building, T-shaped in plan, with the head of the T 56 feet long and 28 feet wide. The stem of the T projects six feet toward the street, and is 15 feet wide. The south elevation also features a symmetrical pattern of a single and a double casement window on each side of the T. The north elevation features a shallow porch which runs the length of the building, with a symmetrical pattern of a single casement window, door, double casement window.

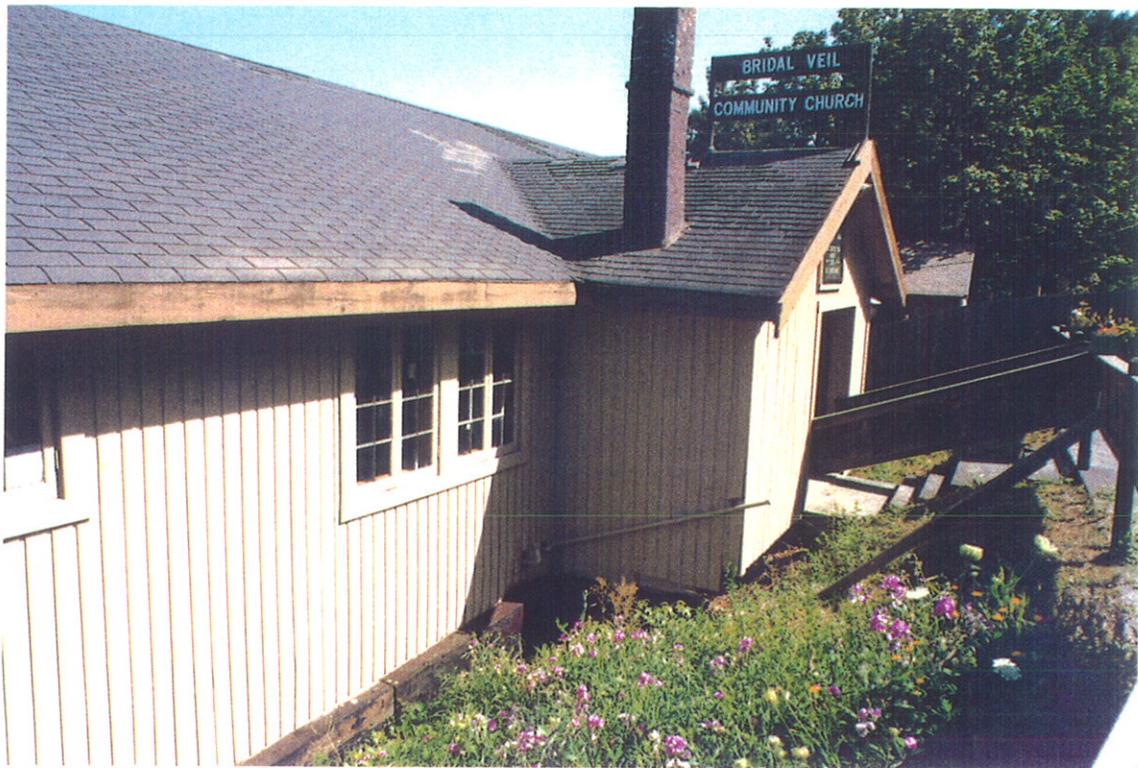
The building, on a steeply sloping site, has a post-pier foundation. The walls are vertical siding, except that at the ends the siding is diagonal. The roof is gabled, and surfaced with composition shingles.

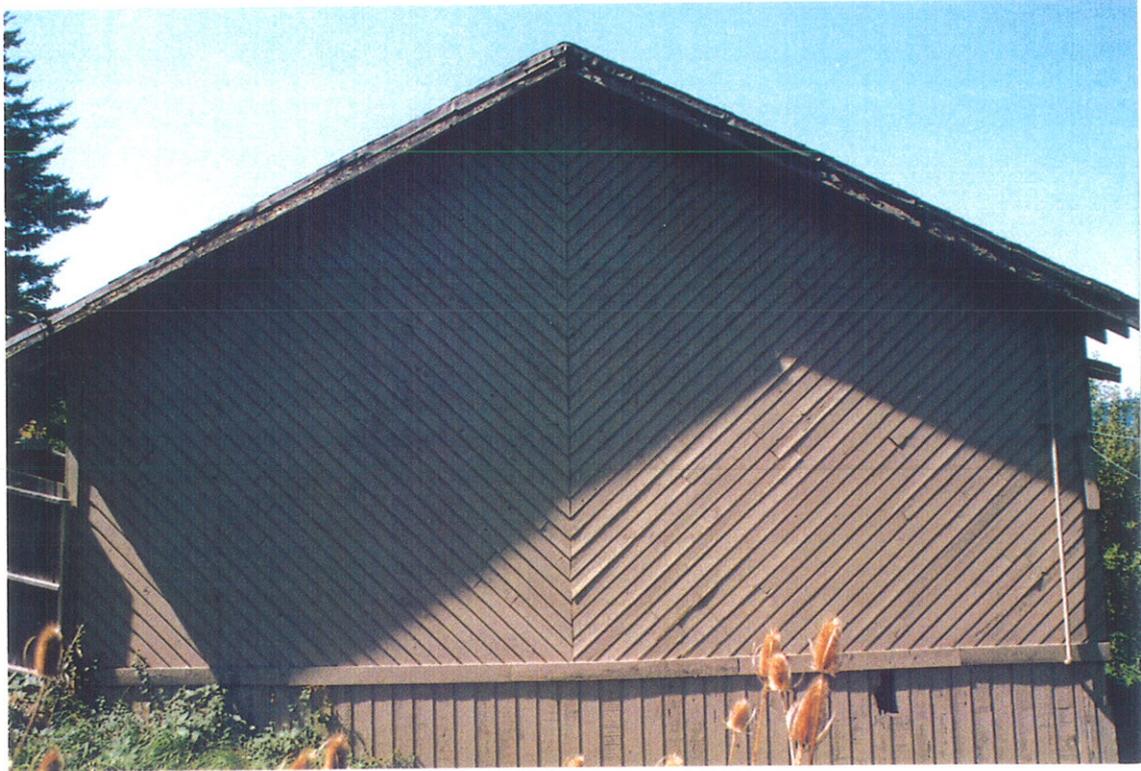
The Church Building is a non-historic building built c. 1930's.

Structurally the building seems to be in fair condition. According to an appraisal report on the structure, the electrical system is in poor condition. The roof needs attention.



Church - South Facade





Church - West Facade (above)
Church - Southeast Corner (below)



WORKER'S HOUSE NO. 2

Address: #2 Bridal Veil Road, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map #2

DESCRIPTION:

The core of the house is in the standard worker's 24 x 24 foot shell. It has two additions: The first is a 6 x 9 foot addition at the southeast corner. The second is a 15 x 18 foot ell at the southwest corner. The original front porch is gone, replaced with a broader wrap-around deck, porch. The original front door and several original windows have been covered over. New windows and doors have been cut into all facades. The house has new board and batten siding, stained, and new aluminum and wood windows. The roof is composition shingles. The foundation is post-pier. Modern fencing borders the property on the east and south. The original brick chimney still exists, and some of the original drop-siding is still evident.

The house is unoccupied.

Structurally the building appears to be in fair to poor condition. The building has been altered well beyond its original appearance. Due to the additions, loss of original fabric and existing condition, the building totally lacks any historic integrity.



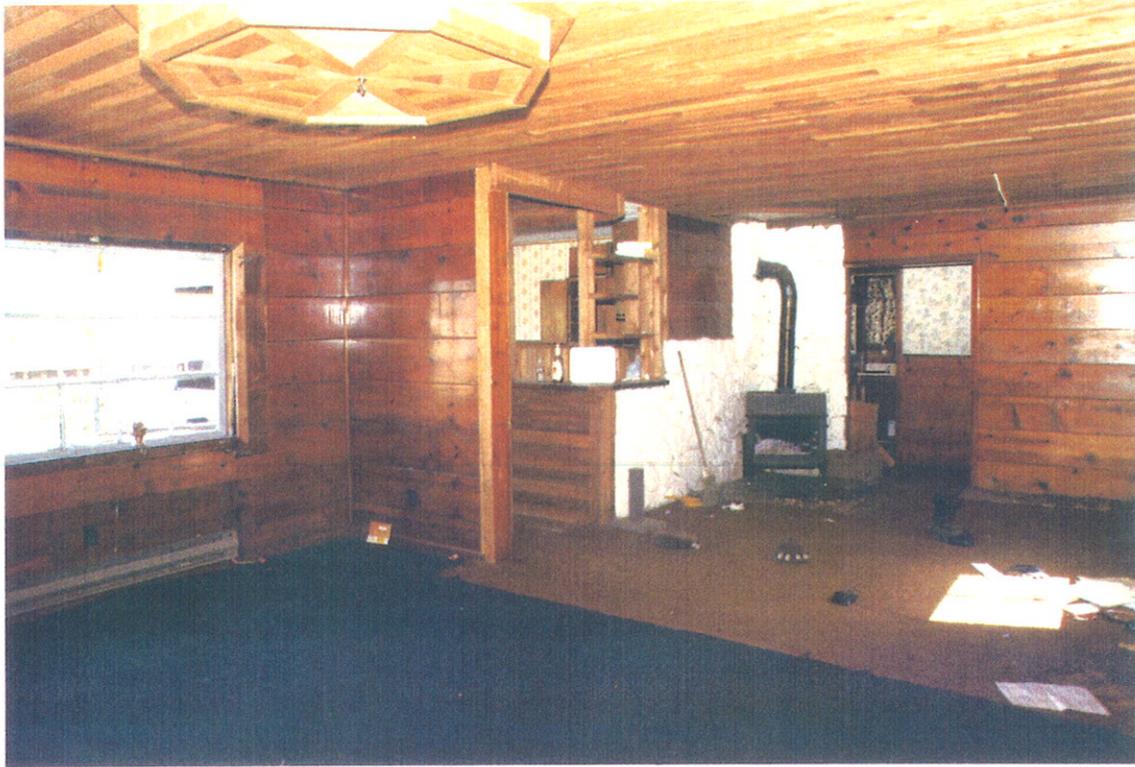
House #2 - South Facade (above)
House #2 - Southwest Corner (below)





House #2 - Northwest Corner (above)
House #2 - East Facade (below)





House #2 - Interiors



WORKER'S HOUSE NO. 3

Address: #3 Bridal Veil Road, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map # 3

DESCRIPTION:

This house is in original configuration with the old rear addition. The house has new siding, stained, and the windows have been replaced with plate glass in the front, aluminum and wood sash elsewhere. A new deck has been placed on the west side and rear, with a sliding glass door cut in at the rear. The roof is composition shingles. The foundation is post-pier. The original chimney is in place, but a new metal patent chimney has been installed.

The house is unoccupied.

Structurally, the building appears to be in fair to poor condition. The chimney is in extremely poor repair and the roof needs replacement. Although in its original exterior configuration, the changes to its exterior, particularly on the north facade, have greatly compromised its historical integrity.



House #3 - South Facade (above)
House #3 - West Facade (below)





House #3 - North Facade (above)
House #3 - East Facade (below)





House #3 - Interiors



WORKER'S HOUSE NO. 4

Address: #4 Bridal Veil Road, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

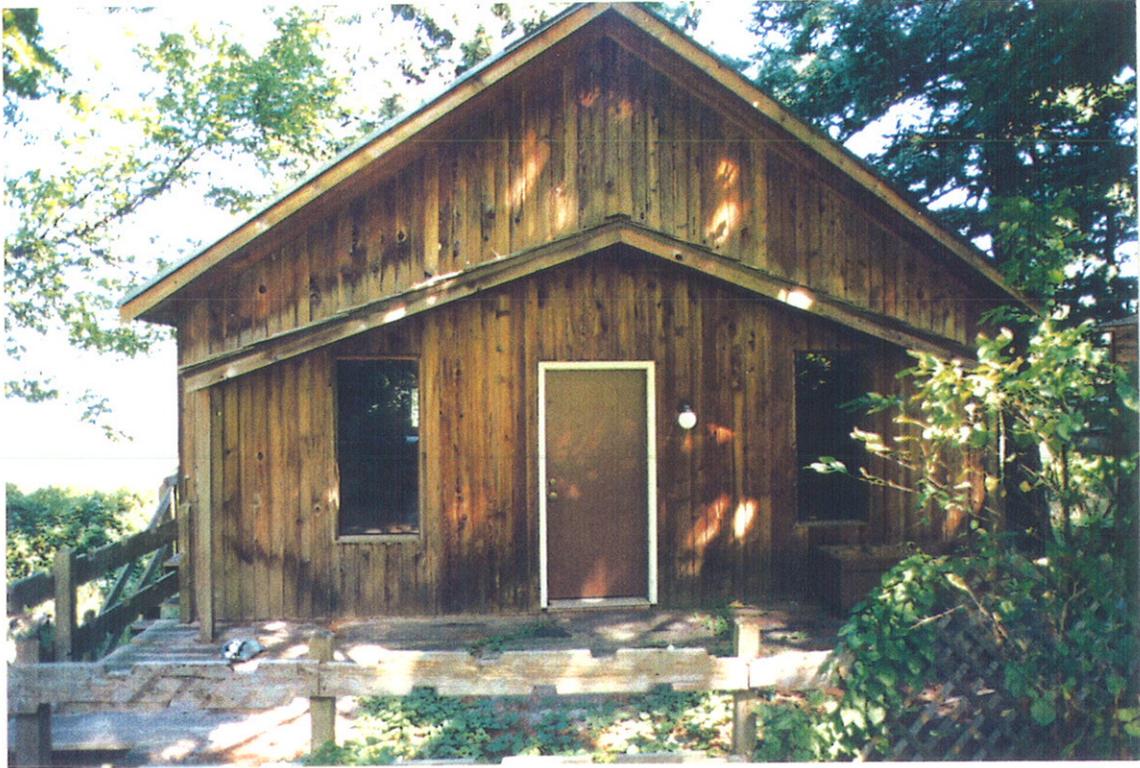
Map # 4

DESCRIPTION:

This house is in its original configuration with the old rear addition. The house has new vertical siding, stained, and has some of the original drop-siding showing. Windows are plate glass and aluminum sash replacements. The roof is wood shake. The original chimney has been replaced with a metal patent chimney. The foundation is post-pier. The original porch has been removed and a decorative porch treatment, 18" deep, has been built at the front with a lower gabled roof over it mirroring the roof line. A modern deck wraps around the front and west side, leading to a sliding glass door entryway off the kitchen.

The house is unoccupied.

The building appears to be in fair structural condition. While maintaining its original configuration, the historical integrity of the building has been greatly compromised with the addition of vertical siding, the changes to the west facade, the replacement of the windows and replacement of the original chimney.



House #4 - South Facade (above)
House #4 - West Facade (below)





House #4 - North Facade (above)
House #4 - East Facade (below)





House #4 - Interiors



WORKER'S HOUSE NO. 5

Address: #5 Bridal Veil Road, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map # 5

DESCRIPTION:

This house is close to the original configuration with the old rear addition. Siding is original six inch drop-siding, but the windows have been replaced with aluminum sash. While most windows are of similar size, the front aluminum replacements are larger than the original wood sash. In addition, new windows have been cut into the rear addition. An original roof vent window has been covered over and a new vent installed. The roof is composition shingles. The foundation is post-pier. The original brick chimney is in place.

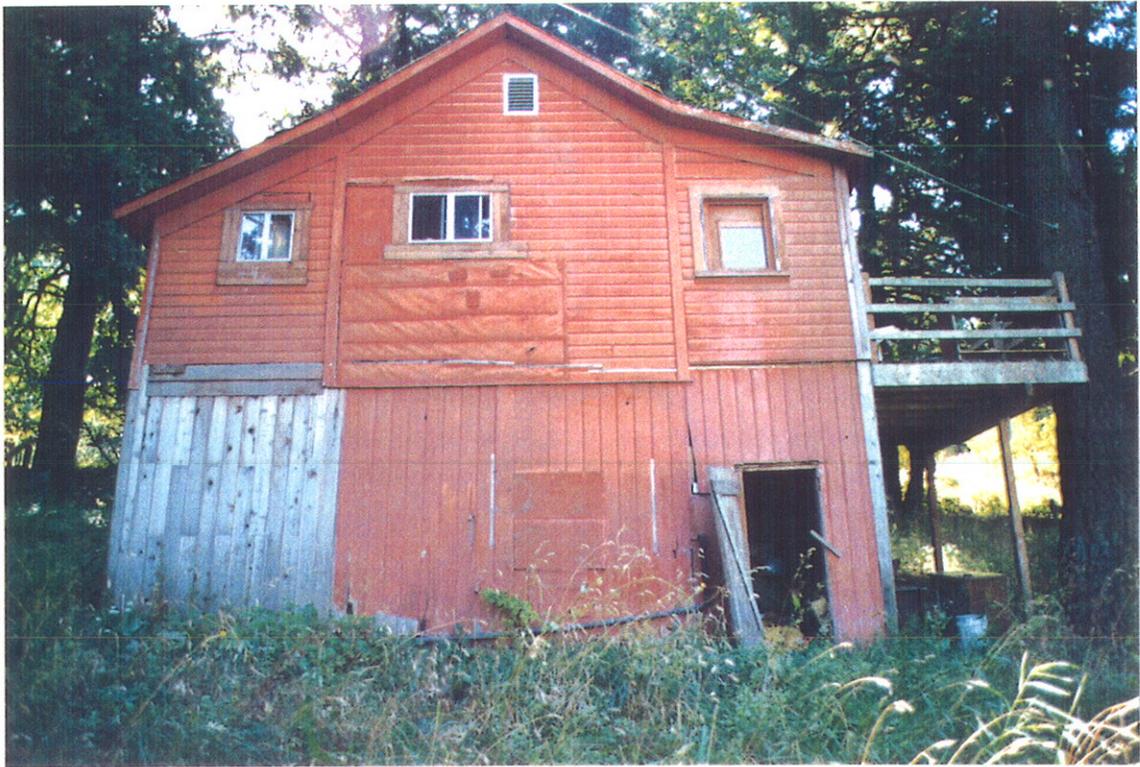
The house is occupied, but appears to be poorly maintained.

The building appears to be in fair to poor structural condition. The building is in considerable disrepair. This structure contains more of the original features of the standard home than any other in Bridal Veil. However, the new window treatments significantly compromises the historic integrity of the building.



House #5 - South Facade (above)
House #5 - West Facade (below)





House #5 - North Facade (above)
House #5 - East Facade (below)





House #5 Interiors



WORKER'S HOUSE NO. 6

Address: #6 Bridal Veil Road, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map # 6

DESCRIPTION:

This house is in its original configuration with the old rear addition. The original front porch and its roof have been replaced with a wrap around deck and small porch. Siding is the original six inch drop-siding. Windows are the original four-over-four double-hung sash with aluminum storm sash over. The original brick chimney is in place. The foundation is post-pier. The roof is composition shingles.

There is a 20 x 20 foot garage outbuilding to the east of the house, with sliding doors at the front. The roof is composition shingles and sagging noticeably. Siding is six inch drop-siding.

The house is unoccupied.

The structural condition of both buildings is poor. Replacement of the original porch comprises the historic integrity of the building.

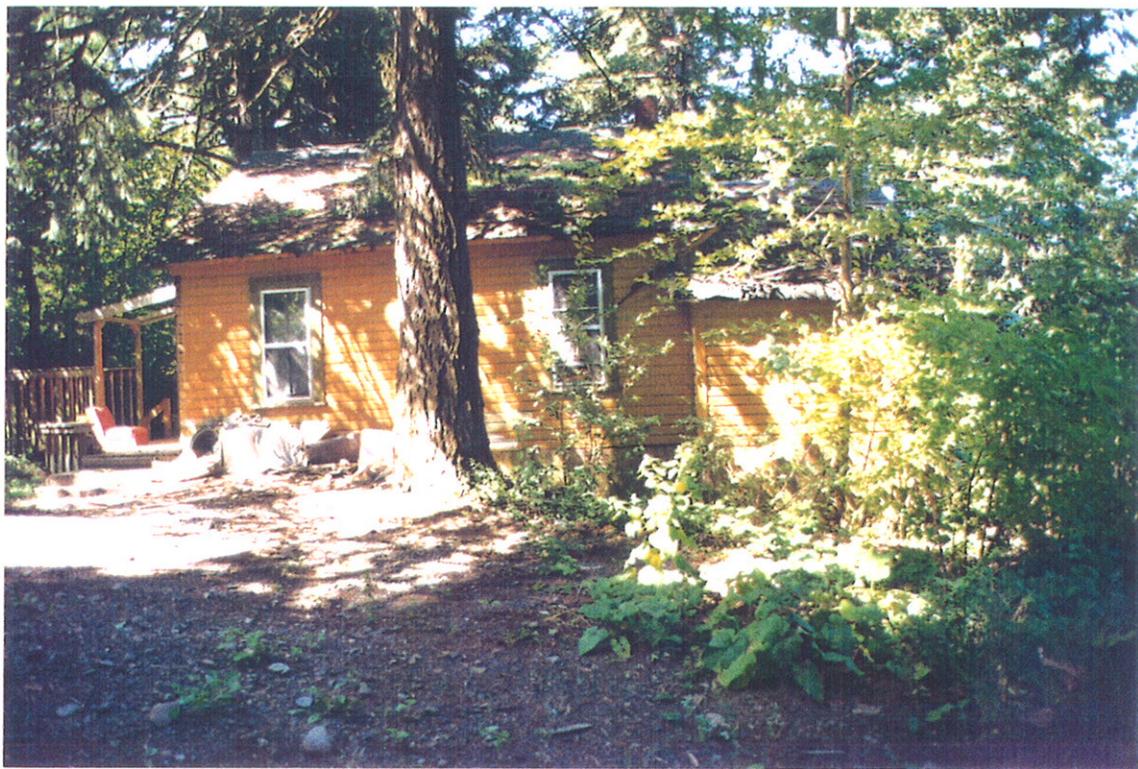


House #6 - South Facade (above)
House #6 - West Facade (below)



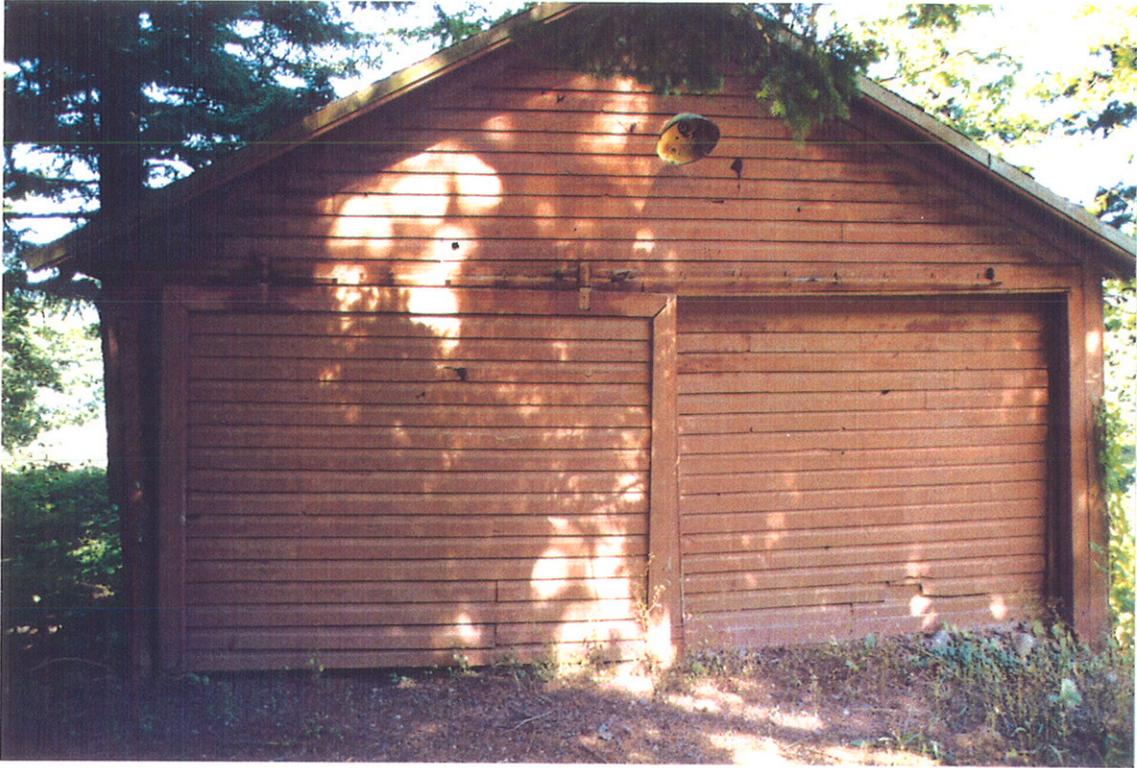


House #6 - North Facade (above)
House #6 - East Facade (below)



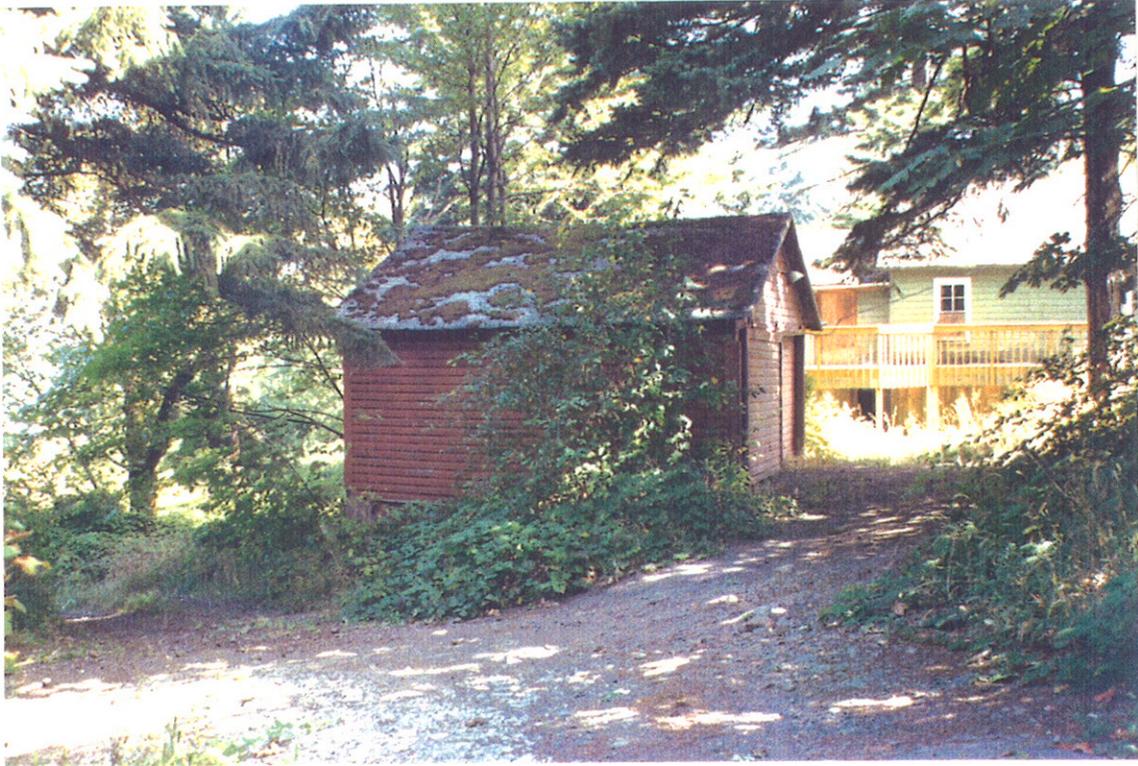
House #6 Interiors

(House #6 is presently occupied
Interior Photographs are not available)



House #6 Garage - South Facade (above)

House #6 Garage - West Facade (below)





House #6 Garage - North Facade (above)
House #6 Garage - East Facade (below)



WORKER'S HOUSE NO. 7

Address: #7 Bridal Veil Road, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map # 7

DESCRIPTION:

This house appears to be in the most original condition of all the houses with the old rear addition. Siding is drop-siding. Windows are double-hung wood sash, paired. On the east, the 4x4 windows have been replaced with plate. The roof is composition shingles over earlier wood shingles. The original front porch roof has been removed and replaced with a wrap around deck. The original brick chimney is in place, but in poor condition. Foundation is post-pier.

Despite being in near original condition, the structural condition of the house is extremely poor. The removed original porch and the window changes also compromise the historic integrity of the building.



House #7 - South Facade (above)
House #7 - West Facade (below)





House #7 - Northeast Corner (above)
House #7 - East Facade (below)





House #7 Interiors



WORKER'S HOUSE NO. 12

Address: #12 Bridal Veil Road, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map # 12

DESCRIPTION:

This house is in its original configuration with the old rear addition. The siding is six inch bevelled lap-siding, which differs from the drop-siding of the houses Nos. 2 through 7 and may mean that it was built at a different time. The original front porch and shed-roof are still intact.

The house is occupied but poorly maintained.

The building appears to be in fair to poor structural condition. The building is in considerable disrepair.



House #12 - South Facade (above)
House #12 - West Facade (below)





House #12 - East Facade (above)
House #12 - Southeast Corner (below)



WORKER'S HOUSE NO. 13

Address: #13 Bridal Veil Road, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map # 13

DESCRIPTION:

This house is the same as No. 12, except that the siding is V-joint rustic, with two v-joints per board. The second story vent window has been covered over.

The house is occupied but poorly maintained.

The building appears to be in fair to poor structural condition. The building is in considerable disrepair.



House #13 - South Facade (above)
House #13 - West Facade (below)



WORKER'S HOUSE NO. 14

Address: #14 Bridal Veil Road, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map # 14

DESCRIPTION:

This house is in its original configurations with the old rear addition. It also has a gabled roof addition at the front, and a 12 x 21 foot flat roofed shed/carport addition at the east facade. It has several types of siding, including six inch v-joint rustic. The windows are both aluminum and wood sash, with several original windows on the east covered over and new windows cut in. A new doorway has been cut in for access from the carport which reorients the house 90 degrees to the east. The porch on the front also appears to be new.

The building is unoccupied.

The building appears to be in fair to poor structural condition. The building is in considerable disrepair. The new doorway, window treatments and orientation greatly compromises the historic integrity of the building.

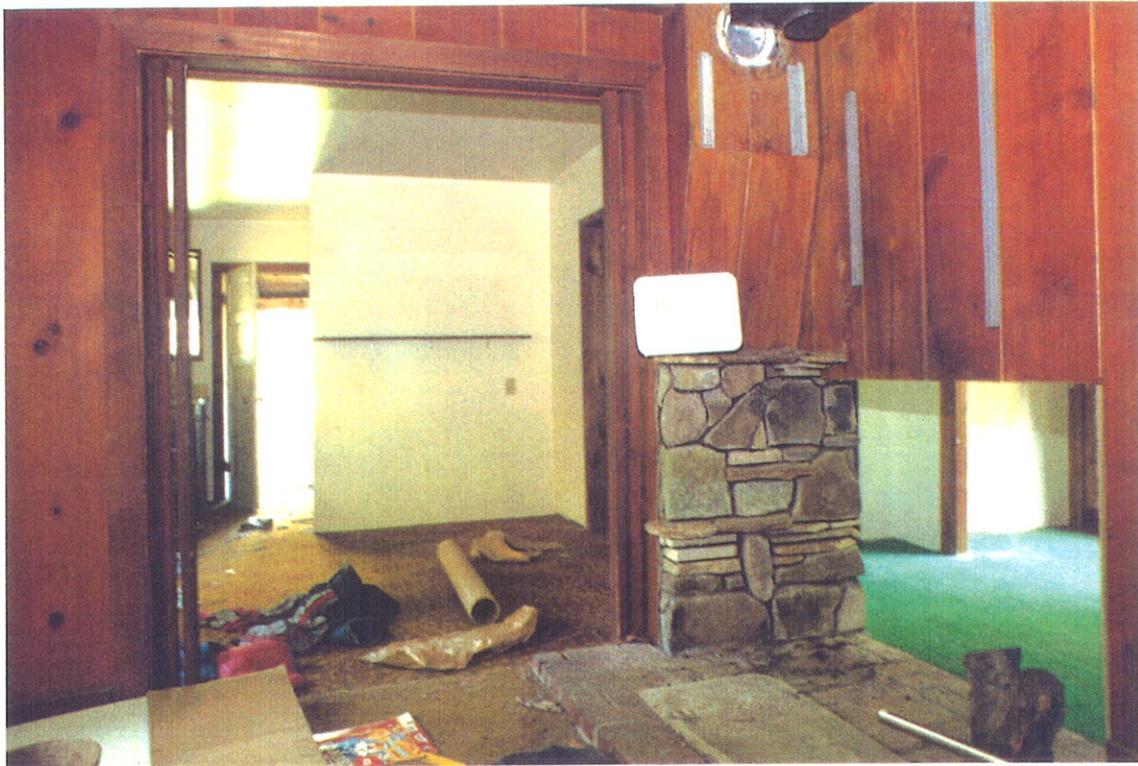


House #14 - South Facade (above)
House #14 - Northeast Corner (below)





House #14 - East Facade (above)
House #14 - Interior (below)



WORKER'S HOUSE NO. 15

Address: #15 Bridal Veil Road, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

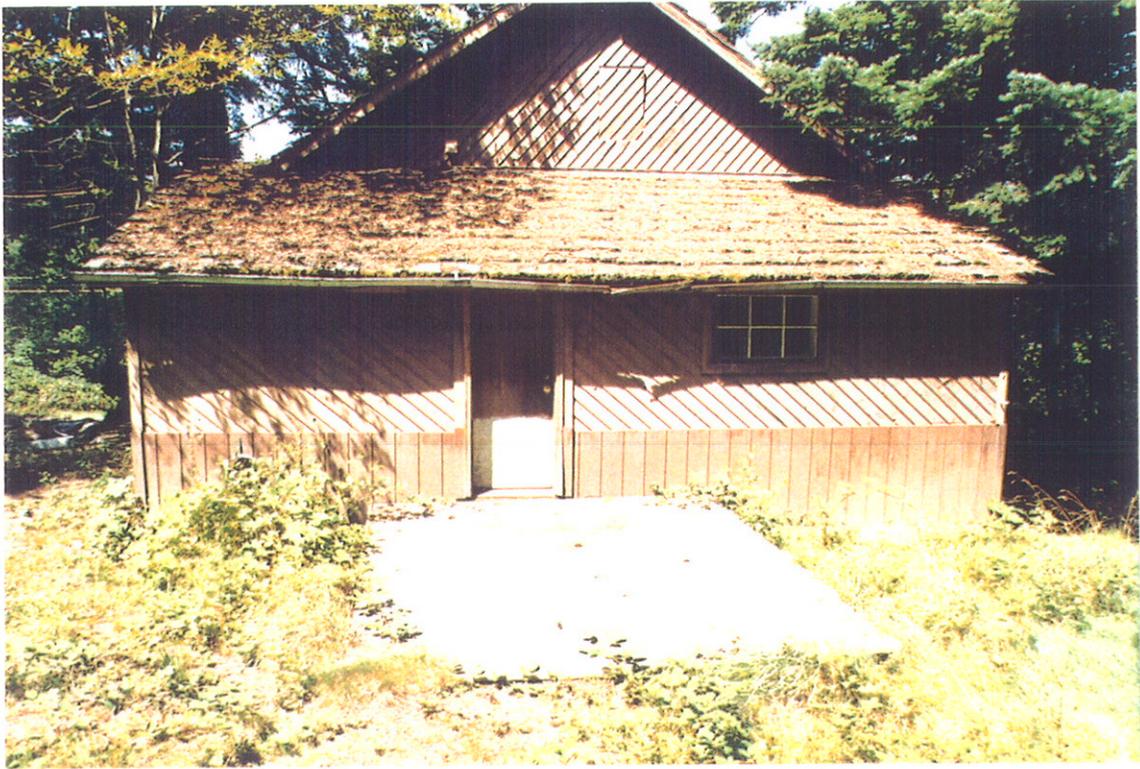
Map # 15

DESCRIPTION:

This house has the original configuration with the old rear addition. However, its orientation has been reversed, with the primary entryway from the north, not south as originally built. The original south porch has been covered over and enclosed for living space. A new porch and deck have been built on the north, along with a new doorway and new windows. The original windows have been replaced with aluminum sash. The siding is new diagonal boards, stained. The foundation is post-pier. The chimney is a new metal patent chimney. The roof is wood shake.

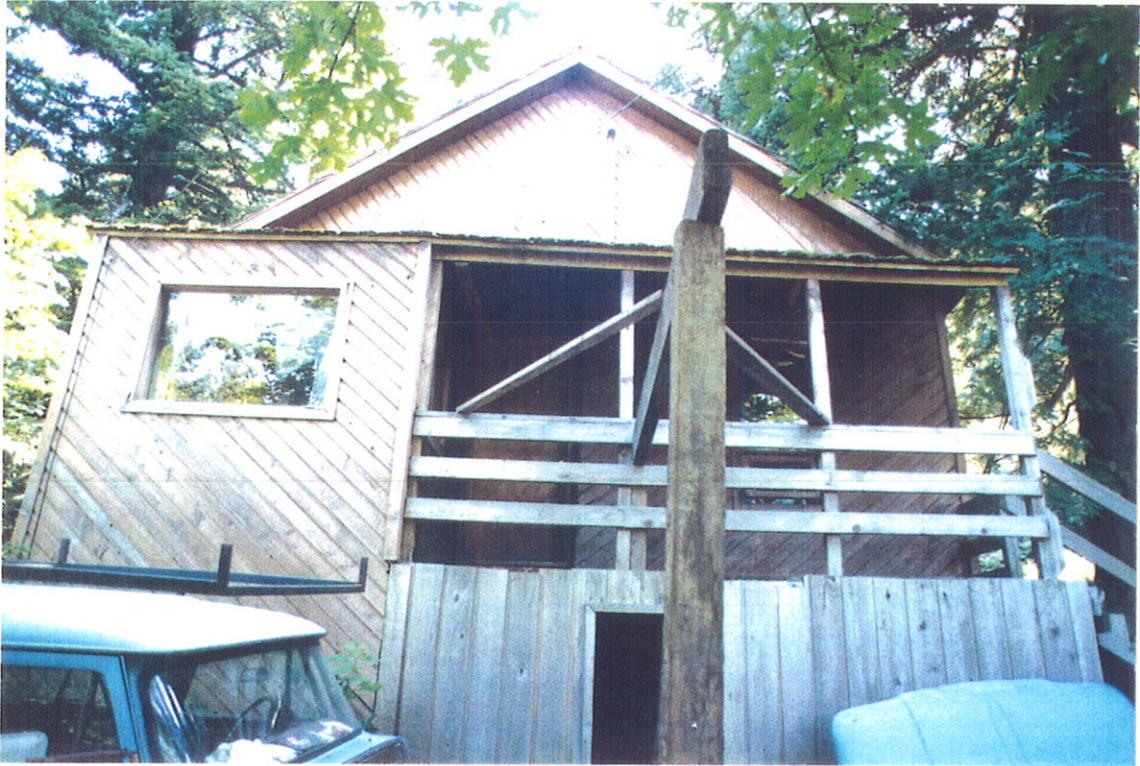
The house is unoccupied.

The building appears to be in fair structural condition. The building is in considerable disrepair. Because of the reorientation and extensive remodeling, the house has little historical integrity.



House #15 - South Facade (above)
House #15 - West Facade (below)





House #15 - North Facade (above)
House #15 - East Facade (below)





House #15 Interiors



WORKER'S HOUSE NO. 17

Address: #17 Crown Point Highway, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map # 17

DESCRIPTION:

This house has had significant additions to its the original 24 x 24 foot building. There is a gabled addition at the rear which is at right angles to the main roof and extends to one side, forming an ell. A recessed porch and secondary entryway was added. The original front porch with shed roof still exists, but a part of one corner of the house has been opened to the outside, extending the porch. A flat roof addition with a porch adjoins the old addition at the rear. A stone fireplace has been constructed at the west side of the house.

The windows on the front have been replaced by larger one over one double hung sash windows and new aluminum sash windows have been cut into the west elevation. On the north, most of the original windows have been covered over and new ones with aluminum sash cut in. A sliding glass door also has been cut in with a new deck on the second rear level. The first floor interior spaces have apparently been rearranged several times. The roof is surfaced with composition shingles on the south, east and west; corrugated metal on the north.

Constructed on a very steep hillside site, the house has one floor below the street level and two floors above. Below the lowest floor is an unexcavated space with post supports for the house. Many of the posts bear on wood block footings.

The house is occupied.

In very poor condition, the extensive changes to the structure over time seriously undermine any historical integrity.



House #17 - South Facade (above)
House #17 - West Facade (below)





House #17 - North Facade (above)
House #17 - East Facade (below)



MANAGER'S HOUSE NO. 18

Address: #18 Crown Point Highway, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map # 18

DESCRIPTION:

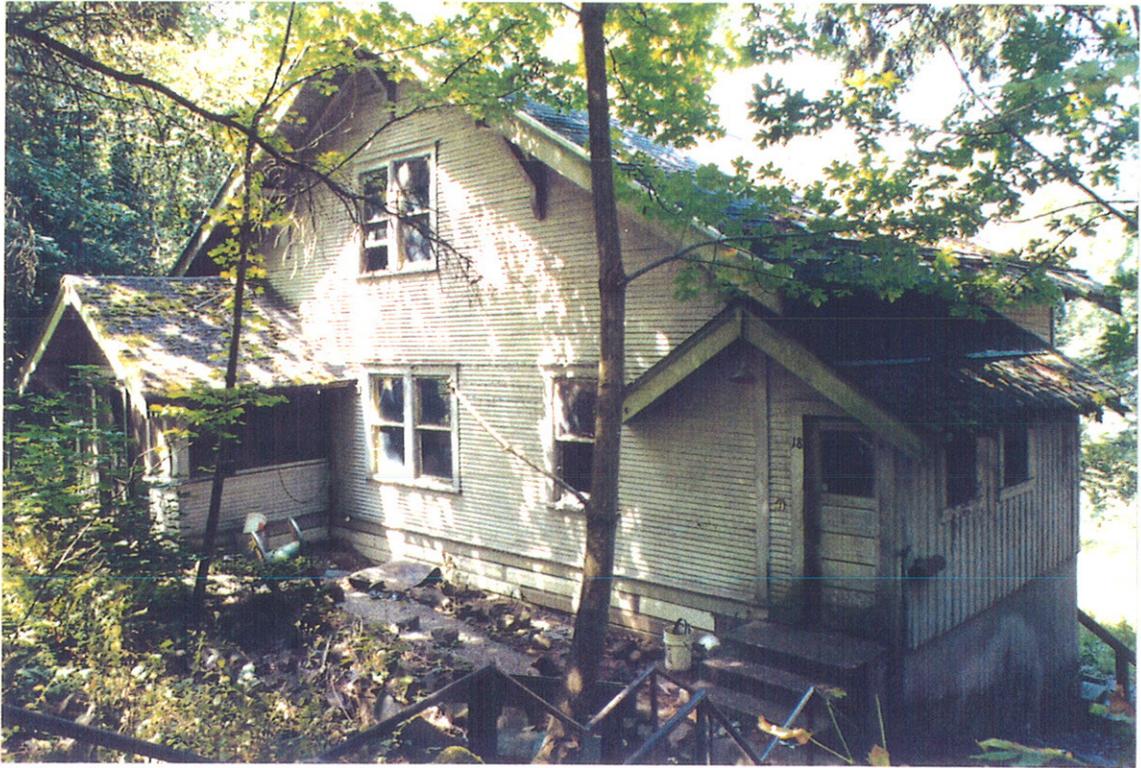
Larger than most of the other houses, this structure likely served as the manager's residence. The 24 x 40 foot main portion is covered by a gabled roof with the gable on the long side of the building. The roof has wide overhangs which at the gable ends are supported on five ornamental brackets. At the west corner of the front, a shallow ell projects and on the same side a gabled dormer projects for the main roof. A small addition has been made at the other end of the front of the house.

Constructed on a very steep hillside, the house has one floor below street level and two floor above. Below the lowest floor is unexcavated space with post supports for the house. Many of the post bear on wood block footings.

The siding is a combination of wood shingle, V-joint rustic and bevelled lap siding. Windows are one over one double hung wood sash, original and mostly paired. The roof is composition shingles.

The house is unoccupied.

Noteworthy as the largest and finest house in the community, building number 18 is not a singularly noteworthy example of architectural design on its own merits. It is noteworthy in Bridal Veil for its size and its decorative detail simply because the other buildings are smaller and lack any decorative detail. Further, its generally poor condition undermine its historical integrity.



House #18 - South Facade (above)
House #18 - Northwest Corner (below)





House #18 - North Facade (above)
House #18 - Northeast Corner (below)





House #18 Interiors



WORKER'S HOUSE NO. 19

Address: #19 Bridal Veil Road, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map # 19

DESCRIPTION

This house was apparently in original configuration with the old rear addition, drop siding, gabled roof and post pier foundation. However, at some point, it suffered from a serious fire. Today, it is totally collapsed and beyond repair. It is without any historical integrity.



House #19 - South Facade (above)
House #19 - West Facade (below)



WORKER'S HOUSE NO. 20

Address: #20 Bridal Veil Road, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map # 20

DESCRIPTION:

This house does not have the rear addition and has undergone complete remodeling. It's orientation has been changed from east to north. It has a modern porch and roof addition on the north with two square bay windows flanking the main entryway. The siding is diagonal, stained. The roof is wood shake. A new metal patent chimney has replaced the original brick chimney. The windows are plate or aluminum sash, with the original windows covered and new windows cut in. A sliding glass door on the west facade leads to a new deck. While this is the only house in the townsite in which the remodeling reflects any sense of design, the extent of the remodeling makes it unrecognizable as a early 20th century house.

The house is unoccupied.

The house appears to be in fair to good condition. The extensive additions and remodeling however have totally compromised the historical integrity of the house.



House #20 - North Facade (above)
House #20 - East Facade (below)





House #20 - South Facade (above)
House #20 - West Facade (below)





House #20 Interiors



STRUCTURE NO. 21

Address: #21 Bridal Veil Road, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map # 21

DESCRIPTION

This structure was either built as a garage or more likely adapted for use as one. Given its size, it may have been one of the original 24 x 24 foot worker's homes without the addition. It is considerably larger than the other garage in Bridal Veil. The building features drop siding and post pier foundation. The roof apparently was flat.

Regardless, today, the building is totally collapsed, beyond repair, and largely unrecognizable. It is without any historical integrity.



House #21 - South Facade (above)
House #21 - Southeast Corner (below)



WORKER'S HOUSE NO. 22

Address: #22 Crown Point Highway, Corbett, Multnomah County, OR 97010

Map # 22

DESCRIPTION:

With 1,500 square feet on each of its three floors, this house is larger than most of the worker houses. Yet, it does not feature the detail of the manager homes. Located on a steep hillside, it has one full floor below street level and two above. Below the lower floor is unexcavated space surrounded by wood skirting boards having a V-joint pattern and applied vertically. The foundation is post-pier, except that at the street level a concrete block foundation has been added along the front.

The exterior siding is six inch drop-siding. All windows and doors have been removed. The gabled roof is wood shake and the ridge of the roof parallels the street. Ornamental brackets similar to those on the manager's house support the wide overhand at each gable end. A large shed dormer extends across half of the front slope of the roof.

It has a recessed porch on the west end of the south elevation, and a second, simpler entry at the east end. A stone fireplace has been constructed on the west side of the house.

All interior features have been stripped, including walls.

The size of the house and location of the house might lead to speculation that it served as a manager's house. However, what little detail remains--roof brackets and porch columns--are exceptionally simple in design and construction, suggesting that it more likely served as a boarding house.

The house is unoccupied and appears to be in poor condition. It is in considerable disrepair. Because it has been stripped so totally, the structure is but a shell and without any historical integrity.



House #22 - South Facade (above)
House #22 - West Facade (below)





House #22 - North Facade (above)
House #22 - Northeast Corner (below)





House #22 Interiors



LEGAL DESCRIPTION: BRIDAL VEIL

Description of the tract of land which is the subject of this report:

A tract of land in Section 22, Township 1 North, Range 5 East of the Willamette Meridian, in the County of Multnomah and State of Oregon, described as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the North line of said Section 22 with the center line of the Old Columbia River Highway, said beginning point being also South 89 degrees 44' 30" West 599.73 feet from the witness corner to the section corner at the Northeast corner of said Section 22; thence along the center line of the Old Columbia River Highway as follows: South 48 degrees 37' 30" West 47.17 feet to Road Angle No. 8; thence Southwesterly 171.76 feet on the arc of a curve to the right having a radius of 2866.16 feet and tangent to the last mentioned course; thence South 52 degrees 03' 30" West 182.13 feet; thence Southwesterly 238.70 feet on the arc of a curve to the left having a radius of 636.12 feet and tangent to the last mentioned course; thence South 30 degrees 33' 30" West 170.28 feet; thence Southwesterly 146.06 feet on the arc of a curve to the right having a radius of 572.55 feet and tangent to the last mentioned course; thence South 45 degrees 10' 30" West 551.36 feet; thence Southwesterly 159.73 feet on the arc of a curve to the left having a radius of 1430 feet and tangent to the last mentioned course; thence South 38 degrees 46' 30" West 377.04 feet; thence Southwesterly 160.56 feet on the arc of a curve to the right having a radius of 1909.91 feet and tangent to the last mentioned course; thence South 43 degrees 35' West 308.27 feet; thence Southwesterly 194.59 feet on the arc of a curve to the right having a radius of 1432.47 feet and tangent to the last mentioned course; thence South 51 degrees 22' West 353.37 feet; thence Southwesterly 126.18 feet on the arc of a curve to the left having a radius of 260.53 feet and tangent to the last mentioned course; thence Southerly 108.74 feet on the arc of a curve to the left having a radius of 191.12 feet and tangent to the last mentioned curve; thence South 8 degrees 59' East 98.14 feet; thence Southwesterly 127.71 feet on the arc of a curve to the right having a radius of 119.40 feet and tangent to the last mentioned course; thence South 52 degrees 18' West 150.51 feet; thence Southwesterly 54.73 feet on the arc of a curve to the right having a radius of 382.04 feet and tangent to the last mentioned course; thence South 60 degrees 30'30" West 56.25 feet to the center of Bridal Veil Creek; thence leaving the Columbia River Highway North 3 degrees 34' West along the center of Bridal Veil Creek 44.74 feet; thence North 20 degrees 50' East 194.6 feet; thence North 43 degrees 50' West 206.6 feet; thence North 80 West 100 feet; thence North 57 degrees 52' West 187.1 feet the Southeasterly line of the right of way of O.W.R. & N. Co.; thence leaving Bridal Veil Creek and along said right of way Northeasterly 377.95 feet on the arc of a curve to the left having a radius of 2183.68 feet and initial tangent bearing North 57 degrees 55' East; thence North 48 degrees 00' East 506.25 feet; thence Northeasterly 424.57 feet on the arc of a curve to the left having a radius of 1055.37 feet and tangent to the last mentioned course; thence North 24 degrees 57' East 161.55 feet; thence North 48 degrees 32' 30"

East 795.34 feet; thence North 60 degrees 05' East 161.62 feet; thence Northeasterly 347.52 feet on the arc of a curve to the left having a radius of 1055.37 feet and tangent to the last mentioned course; thence North 41 degrees 13' East 360 feet; thence Northeasterly 172.96 feet on the arc of a curve to the right having a radius of 855.37 feet and tangent to the last mentioned course, to the North line of said Section 22; thence North 80 degrees 44' 30" East along the section line, 424.68 feet to the place of beginning; ALSO ALL of those portions of Government Lot 1 and the Southwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of said Section 22 with lines on the Southerly and Easterly side of the center line of the Old Columbia River Highway.

SUBJECT to the rights of the public in and to the old Columbia River Highway and other county roads and dedicated or other public streets.

EXCEPTING Lots 1 to 6 inclusive, FIRST ADDITION TO BRIDAL VEIL, and FURTHER EXCEPTING the portion conveyed to the State of Oregon by deed recorded January 31, 1946 in Book 1011 page 32, Deed Records; ALSO EXCEPT that portion taken by the State of Oregon, by condemnation proceeding, under Circuit Court Case #385083.

SECTION 4

CONTEXTUAL EVALUATION AND FINDINGS: COMPANY TOWNS

[Portions of this section have already been submitted to the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and are being used as a reference point in evaluating company towns in the state.]

In evaluating Bridal Veil, the HIC team first considered the community as company town. By definition, a company town is a community where the business entity involved owns all the structures, industrial, residential and commercial. And by definition, the towns existence and growth is tied to the nature and success of the industry. At one time, Oregon had numerous mining towns, fishing towns, and logging town. Today, the company town is exceedingly rare. An intact example of a late 19th century or early 20th century company town would be an important asset in interpreting and understanding Oregon's history.

The HIC team examined and evaluated six company towns active in the period. They are considered in chronological order of establishment:

BRIDAL VEIL

The Bridal Veil Timber Company started operations in 1886. The facilities, along the Columbia River adjacent to Bridal Veil Falls, included resaw and planing mills, office facilities and some 15 residences. With the possible exception of the post office, there does not appear to have been any substantial commercial section. The railroad and river boats provided convenient transportation. The logging and rough sawing were all done at Palmer and Brower on the bluff some 1500 feet above the river. The rough sawn lumber traveled by flume down to Bridal Vail for finishing and shipping. Most of the employees were housed at the upper mill camps. The mill and some other facilities were destroyed by fire in 1936 and the present industrial buildings except for possibly the resaw building were all constructed after the Bridal Veil complex ceased operating a company town.

BROOKINGS

The Brookings Lumber & Box Company founded this town in 1908. It was laid out by Bernard Maybeck, the well known San Francisco architect. The original company facilities have been overwhelmed by the population influx after World War II. The company headquarters and some other structures are still standing but the "Company Town" phase is long past.

VALSETZ

This was a true company town established in 1920 by the Cobbs and Mitchell lumber interests. It was isolated on the west slopes of the Coast Range at the end of the logging railroad so complete commercial facilities were provided for the residents. By 1989, the timber was all cut so the mill pond was emptied and the town completely removed. The site was replanted as part of a tree farm.

WESTFIR

Westfir was established in 1923 by the Western Lumber Company. They entered into a contract with the Forest Service to cut 50 million feet of lumber a year. This required a substantial mill and adequate housing. The town was built on what was to become the main line of the Southern Pacific Railroad and Oakridge was nearby so commercial facilities were not critical. By the 1970's, the timber was running out and about 1980, the mill was destroyed by fire. In 1991 nothing remains of the mill, the only commercial buildings are a small store and the small company hotel converted to a bed and breakfast inn. There are a few residences near the store, apparently former manager and supervisor homes. West of and across the river are 25 or 30 original employee homes. All these residences have had slight or major modifications to suit the present owners. Little remains to suggest the one time company presence.

KINZUA

Kinzua was established in 1928 by the Kinzua Pine Mills Company. It was in an isolated area of Wheeler County. I have no definite description but understand it was a complete unit: mill, commercial buildings and residences. Like Valsetz, the entire installation was removed after the timber ran out and the area has now been replanted as a tree farm.

GILCHRIST

Gilchrist was built in 1937-38 by the Gilchrist Timber Company. It also was an isolated community and required industrial, commercial and residential buildings. It was laid out by Hollis Johnston, well known Portland architect. In 1991, it is still complete and without major alteration. In addition to the mill there are some 125 residences and complete community facilities. These include a mini shopping center along the highway, post office, high school and two churches. Everything is owned by the company and all buildings are painted in a single coordinated color scheme. Public lawns are green and well kept and the entire community is a magnificent example of a caring and public spirited company providing for its employees.

BRIDAL VEIL AS COMPANY TOWN

The importance of a company town as a historical resource is tied to the degree it remains intact and spatially reflects its industrial heritage. Of the sites evaluated, only Gilchrist retains its architectural and historical integrity as a lumber company town. It still maintains the mix of private and public facilities which functioned under the company auspices.

Bridal Veil was part of a larger lumber operation on Larch Mountain. Without the larger camps on the bluff, the significance of a well-maintained Bridal Veil is significantly lessened. It would display less than half the picture.

More importantly, Bridal Veil as a company town lacks the primary historical artifacts. The flume, the sawmill, the sorting bins--all of the 19th century and early 20th century industrial buildings are gone. So are the commercial and community buildings. Without these buildings, or even significant ruins, the company town lacks cohesion.

Finally, the structures that do remain, the homes, have a low level of historical integrity. They date not to the earliest years of the town, but to the early 20th century. Even then, they are in poor condition and have been extensively remodelled.

A well-maintained collection of structures with a high degree of historical integrity which reflected life in an Oregon lumber town would be a significant asset. Bridal Veil today lacks the historical resources of a company town beyond the residences, most of which have been significantly remodelled. What remains lacks the historical and spatial integrity to adequately define and reflect its historical roots as a company town.

SECTION 5

EXISTING INVENTORIES OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

Over the past two decades, there have been three significant pro-active inventories of historic resources in the Multnomah County portion of the Columbia Gorge, and one passive inventory.

1. The most comprehensive study of historic resources in the area was Steve Beckham's 1988 study, Prehistory and History of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Of 226 pages, the author spends five sentences discussing the history of the community of Bridal Veil. He does not identify the area or any specific building as being an important resource.
2. The State of Oregon completed a thorough "Study of the Historic Columbia River Highway" in 1987. That study lists three regionally and 37 locally significant historic buildings between Sandy River and Dodson. None of these was located on the Bridal Veil site.
3. In the late 1970's, for its goal 5 inventory process, Multnomah County established a zoning overlay which identified historic structures. In 1988, the county again inventoried all significant historic structures within the county, utilizing the services of an outside contractor, Kohler/Morrison. Some 60 historic resources were identified. Neither the zoning overlay or the Kohler/Morrison county inventory identified any buildings on the Bridal Veil site as historical.
4. The National Register for Historic Place identifies districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects with historic significance, whether national, state or local. The criteria is sufficiently broad to include not only residential properties, but industrial and commercial sites. Nominations come from the State Historic Preservation Office, but generally are initiated by private citizens. Resources do not have to be nominated by their owners. The register is nearly twenty-five years old. The area and structures of Bridal Veil have not been nominated and until this year no one has suggested they should be.

The HIC team finds that the question of historic resources in the Multnomah County portion of the Columbia River Gorge has been actively explored and that none of the existing evaluations or inventories considered the buildings and site of Bridal Veil significant.

SECTION 6

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CRITERIA

Apart from existing inventories, the HIC team evaluated Bridal Veil on accepted criteria for historical significance.

The question of what and how to preserve is not new. It has been asked time and again about buildings, sites and objects too numerous to list. In 1935, the Historic Sites Act authorized the Secretary of Interior to identify properties of national significance in United States History and to recognize them as National Historic Landmarks. The National Preservation Act of 1966 expanded the focus to include properties of state and local importance. To recognize these state and local landmarks, the act also provided for a National Register of Historic Places, to be maintained and expanded by the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of Interior. In order to provide a coherent, rational system to evaluate the thousands of possible sites, the National Park Service has developed a rather sophisticated, comprehensive yet flexible set of criteria which is applied possible nominations. In short order, the criteria are:

A) Significant Event: A site must be associated with one or more events important in the site's historic context. As described in the National Register Bulletin:

Criteria A recognizes properties associated with a single event, such as the founding of a town, or with a pattern of events, such as the gradual rise of a port city's prominence in trade or commerce. The event or trends, however, must be important within the associated context. . . . *Moreover the property must have an important association with the event or historic trends, and it must retain historic integrity.* (italics added)

B) Person: A site must be associated with individuals whose specific contributions to history can be identified and documented. These simply are not people who existed before, but people demonstrably important within a local, state or national context.

C) Design/Construction: A site must be significant for its physical design or construction, including such elements as architecture, landscape architecture, engineering and artwork. To be eligible here, a property must:

- * embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction
- * represent the work of a master
- * possess high artistic value
- * represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

D) Information Potential: A property may be eligible for the National Register if it contains or may be likely to yield information in prehistory or history. The most common sites under this criteria are archaeological.

Two premises underlay all of the criteria: First is integrity. Does the property retain the essential physical features that made up its character or appearance during the period of its association. Second is level of significance. Does the property represent an *important* event, person, design or information contribution.

THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK PLAN SUMMARY

Generally, local governmental agencies followed the guidelines of the National Register for Historic Places in establishing their own criteria for what is and what is not preserved. Multnomah County is no exception. In November, 1991, Multnomah County published the latest revised edition of the above summary to create a framework to guide and direct land use in the county, and to provide a context for resolving conflicting priorities.

Policy 16-I states that it is the county's policy to recognize significant historic resources, and to apply appropriate historic preservation measures to all designated historic sites by utilizing "the National Register of Historic Places" in the designation of historic sites. In addition, the policy recognizes six criteria for evaluation:

Historical - Property is associated with significant past events, persons, trends or values, and has the capacity to evoke one or more dominant themes of national or local history.

Architectural - Property is a prime example of a stylistic or structural type, or is representative of a type once common and is among the last examples surviving in the county.

Environmental - Current land use surrounding the property contributes to an aura of historic period.

Physical Integrity - Property is essentially constructed on original site.

Symbolic value - Through public sentiment, property has come to connote an ideal, institution, political entity or period.

Chronology - Property was developed early in the relative scale of local history.

SECTION 7

FINDINGS

In evaluating the architectural and historical significance of Bridal Veil, the HIC team first compared the buildings individually and then collectively against the standards for preservation as codified by the National Register for Historic Places and also by Multnomah County. For purposes of the historic context, 1941 is used as a cut off date. This is the date when the Bridal Veil Timber Company ceased operations and the historic period ends.

BRIDAL VEIL AND NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

A. ASSOCIATION WITH SIGNIFICANT EVENT

To qualify under section A, the National Register has three primary tests. First, that the building or buildings be closely associated with a singular event or pattern of events. Second, that the event or events be important within the historical context. And finally, that the building or buildings retain historic integrity.

The HIC team has explored the literature available, including the exhaustive compilation by Tourism Development Associates and the in-depth history of the Bridal Veil Lumbering Company by William F. Carr. No singular event stands out in the historical context to which the structures are tied.

Tourism Development Associates has suggested that the buildings can be tied to the general event or theme of logging in the Columbia Gorge region. The HIC team questions the importance of that theme to an area designated as a National Scenic Area. Nonetheless, even accepting the historical context, the HIC does not find that the buildings individually or collectively can be closely tied to the theme other than in a purely ancillary and tentative fashion.

A cohesive collection of well-maintained essentially unaltered structures built by a single logging company in a coherent growth pattern would be worthy of preservation. It could provide industrial archaeological interpretive opportunities valuable in conveying an important component of local history. The spatial arrangements and built environment alone would offer insight in an important element of Oregon's past.

However, the primary industrial structures of Bridal Veil were the sawmill and the flume, neither of which today exists. Housing in a logging camp or lumber mill was purely a secondary notion, as reflected in the common nature of the houses that remain.

Individually, the buildings were simple, common and functional when built. Over the years, they have had interiors alterations, fenestration changes, siding changes, structural additions and structural deletions. Additionally, the ravages of neglect and time leave them generally in poor condition. Extensive rehabilitation work would be required, further reducing what original fabric exists. Simply put, the costs would be prohibitive and without merit from a significance perspective.

Collectively, the structures do not represent any sense of community or company town. None of the early industrial structures remains, nor do the commercial or community structures. Only a few of the houses exist. The dates of construction vary. The spatial arrangement conveys nothing of a coherent town plan.

Finally and ultimately, the HIC team finds that none of the existing buildings retains enough integrity to be considered individually or collectively for their association to the late 19th century.

After evaluation, the HIC finds that the structure and area under consideration does not have any significance association, individually or collectively, to an event or theme.

B. ASSOCIATION WITH A SIGNIFICANT PERSON

To qualify under section B, the National Register has two primary tests. First, that the building or buildings be closely associated with a person singularly important within the historical context. Second, that the building or buildings retain historic integrity.

Again, in examining the literature available, including the Tourism Associates and the Carr studies, the buildings have no ties to any person singularly important within the historical context. Additionally, as noted, the level of integrity of the structures is quite low, particularly in the late 19th/early 20th century when the town was at its peak.

After evaluation, the HIC finds that the structure and area under consideration does not have any significance association, individually or collectively, to a person.

C. ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

To qualify under architectural significance, the National Register tests whether a building embodies "distinctive characteristic of types, periods, and methods of constructions". The question is whether an individual structure or collection of structures reflect high artistic value, or a significant design or construction theme.

The nature of these company town structures, by definition, were temporary and functional. The HIC team finds that the structures represent neither high artistic value nor significant design or construction themes.

After evaluation, the HIC finds that the structure and area under consideration does not have any architectural significance.

D. INFORMATION POTENTIAL

To qualify under section D, the National Register applies two tests: First, does the property have information to contribute to our understanding of history. Second, is that information important.

In examining the literature available, the HIC team finds that the potential for additional significant information is remote. The Bridal Veil Lumber Company records are located at the Oregon Historical Society. William Carr has exhaustively studied the history of the company. And John Woodward conducted a 5-year archaeological study of Larch Mountain on which Bridal Veil is located. Finally, it must be recognized that the period under consideration is relatively modern with an enormous wealth of information on all aspects of the human condition.

After evaluation, the HIC finds that the structure and area under consideration does not have any information potential.

BRIDAL VEIL AND MULTNOMAH COUNTY HISTORIC SITE CRITERIA

Multnomah County generally follows the standards of the National Register for Historic Places in evaluating sites. However, it outlines the criteria in a slightly different format. For these reason, the HIC team applied the Multnomah County criteria to Bridal Veil as well.

A. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria refers to association with people, events, values and historical themes and is somewhat broader in application than the National Register criteria. For that reason, the HIC team examined the broader question of historical context.

No singular event important in the history of logging or the state occurred at Bridal Veil. No individual of relative significance lived in Bridal Veil. Therefore, the structures have no historical significance individually.

If the collection of structures offered insights into life in a company town in a particular era, then the collective of Bridal Veil would be historically significant. Such is not the case. None of the early lumber structures remains. None of the residential structures is intact. The exact location of many of the original buildings is questionable. The spatial arrangement today is not reflective of any coherent development.

The HIC team concludes that the site has lost its historic context due to the lack of integrity and its lack of any major industrial element which could tie the site together. Based on accepted standards of evaluation, Bridal Veil has no historical significance due to the loss of integrity at the site.

B. ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This criteria is essentially the same as National Register criteria B.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The criteria refers to a historic ambiance created by the current land use.

Logging and lumber operations at Bridal Veil ceased just before World War II. Most of the buildings are unoccupied and in poor shape. Today, while elements of the former town can be envisioned along Bridal Veil Road, the HIC team did not feel that the general area comprising what had been the town of Bridal Veil conveyed any sense of its past.

D. PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

This criteria refers to the property being today essentially as constructed originally.

As discussed throughout, the level of late 19th century/early 20th century integrity in the existing structures is extremely low. The houses were functional and simple. For most of the 20th century, the companies which owned the community did not invest in maintaining the structures. In the 1960's, however, the then owner did, resulting in numerous modern adaptations. Over the years, the houses have had interior alterations, fenestration changes, siding changes, structural additions and structural deletions. None is in good shape.

The HIC team finds that none of the structures is in original or historical condition.

E. SYMBOLIC VALUE

This criterion refers to a property or area serving as a historic symbol, connoting a period, ideal or institution.

Certainly, for the current residents and historians who have studied the area, the homes at Bridal Veil represent a heritage. However, when hearing the name Bridal Veil, most residents of the county and state think of the falls for which the town was named. Former parts of the Larch Mountain logging operation--Palmer and Brower--are totally unknown to the general public.

The HIC team concludes that the community of Bridal Veil has local symbolic value but due to the lack of integrity of the structures on the site, the symbolic value is tied to the logging operations which once existed, not to the existing structures on the site.

F. CHRONOLOGY

This criteria refers to a property being developed early in the relative scale of local history.

The history of the community can be traced back to the times of relative isolation in the 1880's. This date is some twenty years past the establishment and development of Portland, and eighty years past the times of Lewis and Clark. For the still relatively undeveloped area, the date of initial development is early.

The HIC team finds that these are some of the earlier houses developed on Larch Mountain. This conclusion, however, is tempered by the lack of historical integrity for the community and structures, which undermine any arguments for preservation.

INTERPRETIVE OPPORTUNITIES

In its report to Multnomah County, Tourism Development Associates suggested that Bridal Veil possesses an opportunity to interpret the social, cultural and settlement patterns of people living and working in the lumbering industry in the Columbia Gorge. The area does have a history to tell.

The consultant's study of Bridal Veil's history is exhaustive. It details an industry that encompassed large portions of Larch Mountain. The town of Bridal Veil was only the site of the finishing mill. The trees were harvested at logging towns like Palmer nearly 2 miles away and 1500 feet above. The logs were rough cut and then traveled by flume to Bridal Veil for processing and shipping.

The lack of significant historic fabric on the mountain means that telling this story through the built environment would not be preservation of an existing historic resource, but a re-creation. As noted throughout this report, the only physical remains of this industry are a few houses in poor condition with little 19th century integrity. The historical industrial structures are gone, as are the remnants of the upper logging towns.

The HIC team concludes that preservation and restoration of the site would not be key to the interpretation of the history of logging on Larch Mountain. The team does endorse efforts to tell the story, but considers interpretive markers or kiosks more cost-effective in reaching large audiences. Additionally, if the intent is to convey the heritage of lumber towns in the Columbia Gorge to the largest possible audience, alternatives such as traveling exhibitions based on the Bridal Veil Lumber Company records and industrial artifacts would be an opportunity as well.

SUMMARY

Evaluation Process: In the spring of 1991, the Trust for Public Land acquired the land encompassing the town of Bridal Veil. As part of its planning process, they contracted with Heritage Investment Corporation [HIC] to inventory the buildings in Bridal Veil and to evaluate the town's historic significance. HIC assembled an experienced interdisciplinary team, led by John Tess. This team included architect Richard E. Ritz, historian Lewis L. McArthur, heritage tourism expert Robert Mawson, researcher Anne Schultz and photographer Jerre Kosta. After conducting historical research and site visits, the HIC team applied federal and local standards for evaluating historic sites against the individual structures and community of Bridal Veil.

History of Bridal Veil: Bridal Veil developed in the late 19th century as a lumber mill operation on Larch Mountain. The arrival of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company through the area made this otherwise remote site accessible. The town took its name from the Bridal Veil Falls, located just west of the town. From the 1890's through the 1930's, the logging operation on Larch Mountain and the sawmill operation in Bridal Veil continued, suffering through fires and varying levels of economic success. In 1936, fire destroyed a large portion of the lumber company at Bridal Veil and the company decided not to rebuild. In 1941, the company ceased operations. In 1944, the Forest Service burned the "ghost town" of Palmer, the primary logging camp supplying rough cut logs to the sawmill operation. From 1937 to 1962, Bridal Veil was owned by Kraft Cheese Company for the manufacture of wood boxes. In 1962, Kraft sold the site. For the next thirty years, Bridal Veil went through a succession of owners until it was sold to the Trust for Public Lands in 1991.

Bridal Veil Today: The site consists of sixteen houses, 1 church, 1 post office, and 3 industrial buildings. The houses date to the first part of the 20th century and are in poor condition. The church is a reasonably modern building, circa 1940's. The Post Office was a first aid shed converted for use, again of 20th century origin. All of the industrial buildings date to the 1930's or later, and are in generally fair to poor condition. None of the structures dates to the early beginnings of the town. None of the historical industrial, commercial or community buildings or structures remains.

The lumbering operation on Larch Mountain began at logging camps such as Palmer. Located some 1500 feet above Bridal Veil, the logs were rough cut and traveled by flume down to Bridal Veil. There, the logs were finished cut and processed for shipping. As noted, Palmer was burned by the Forest Service in the 1940's, while Bridal Veil--without any of the historic industrial buildings--reflects little spatially of its early years as a lumber town. The spatial arrangement of the town today does not reflect a cohesive community, historically or otherwise.

Criteria for Historic Significance: As part of the 1966 National Preservation Act, the federal government created the National Register for Historic Places. The criteria for inclusion on the Register has become the standards for evaluating the historic significance of a building or site. There are four primary categories: Association with a significant event, Association with a significant person, Architectural merit, or Information Potential. In addition, a critical element for all categories is the issue of historic integrity. In other words, is the building today what it was during the time for which significance is claimed.

In addition to federal standards, most local governments also have standards for evaluating historic sites. Many of these standards mirror those of the National Register, but may be stated slightly differently. In Multnomah County, the criteria is outlined in its comprehensive framework plan. In addition to the National Register standards, the county outlines six categories: Historical association, architectural distinction, environmental ambiance, physical integrity, symbolic association, historical chronology.

Findings: The HIC team believes that a well-maintained collection of essentially unaltered structures built by a single lumber company in a coherent growth pattern would be worthy of preservation. Any of the elements alone would provide interpretive opportunities. Collectively, it would offer significant insight into an important element of Oregon's past.

Regrettably, the HIC team found a collection of buildings in poor condition, considerably altered over time, reflecting no recognizable town spatial arrangement. None of the original industrial, commercial or community buildings or structures remain. All that remain are homes that date to the first part of the 20th century. These have been remodeled, in many cases extensively and are in poor condition.

The HIC team found that historic resources in the Multnomah County section of the Columbia River Gorge had been examined at least three times prior, including twice under its goal 5 mandate. None of those examinations indicated that the site or buildings of Bridal Veil were noteworthy.

In applying federal and local standards for historical significance independent of previous studies, the HIC team found little justification for considering Bridal Veil, the site or buildings noteworthy. It found no significant association with a person or event. It found no significance architecturally, nor from the standpoint of offering potential information. Finally, it found an extremely low level of historic integrity.

The lack of significant historic fabric on the mountain means that telling this story through the built environment would not be preservation of an existing historic resource, but a re-creation. As noted throughout this report, the only physical remains of this industry are a few houses in poor condition with little 19th century integrity. The historical industrial structures are gone, the commercial structures are gone, the community structures are gone as are the remnants of the upper logging towns.

In sum, in applying the federal and local standards, the HIC team found the Bridal Veil site lacking of historic significance based upon the lack of integrity at the site.

Nonetheless, the HIC team does feel that the story of logging on Larch Mountain is important. They recommend that informational and interpretive kiosks be installed as the most cost-effective means of interpreting the site.

TABLE 1

BRIDAL VEIL AS COMPANY TOWN

Test 1: Do any of the historical industrial buildings exist?

No.

Test 2: Do any of the historical commercial buildings exist?

No.

Test 3: Do any of the historical community buildings exist?

No.

Test 4: Does the spatial arrangement accurately represent life in the historical period?

No.

TABLE 2

SUMMARY OF BUILDING RESOURCES AND HISTORICAL INTEGRITY

<u>Building</u>	<u>Importance</u>	<u>Integrity</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Resaw Building	secondary	none	poor--partially collapsed
Warehouse	secondary	low	fair to poor--needs major restoration
Maintenance Shop	secondary	low	fair to poor--needs major restoration
Post Office	none	none	good--adapted/moved to site
Church	none	none	fair-- outside historical period
Worker's House #2	tertiary	none	fair to poor--significant additions
Worker's House #3	tertiary	none	fair to poor--totally remodelled in 1960's
Worker's House #4	tertiary	none	fair--totally remodelled in 1960's
Worker's House #5	tertiary	low	fair to poor--needs significant restoration
Worker's House #6	tertiary	low	poor--needs significant restoration
Worker's House #7	tertiary	low	very poor--needs major restoration
Worker's House #12	tertiary	low	fair to poor--needs significant restoration
Worker's House #13	tertiary	low	fair to poor--needs significant restoration
Worker's House #14	tertiary	low	fair to poor--totally remodelled in 1960's
Worker's House #15	tertiary	low	fair--needs significant restoration
Worker's House #17	tertiary	low	very poor--needs major restoration
Worker's House #18	secondary	low	poor--needs major restoration
Worker's House #19	tertiary	none	n/a--collapsed
Worker's House #20	tertiary	none	good to fair--totally rebuilt in 1960's
Worker's House #21	tertiary	none	n/a--collapsed
Worker's House #22	tertiary	none	poor-- lacks all detail, lacks interior walls