





The Willamette Grange Hall is located on the west side of Highway 99W immediately north of the Greenberry Road - Highway 99W intersection.

### NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES

None noted.

#### Outbuildings

The only outbuilding associated with the grange is a pumphouse behind (to the west) of the building.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

The Willamette Community and Grange Hall, with its Georgian design elements is the most stylized Benton County grange hall. The building is notable for the integrity of its design. The Willamette Grange is one of the earlier granges to be organized in Oregon. The first grange in Oregon was established in 1872. By the end of 1873, there were 175 grange organizations in Oregon. The Willamette Grange was the 52nd of these, organized in 1873.

The Willamette Grange has always been an important part of its community. Surrounding families such as the Curriers, Buchanans, Harris, and Smiths have participated and held various offices through the years. In 1892, John Mitchell (postmaster Inavale P.O.) wrote that Muddy Creek went "past the gallant granger's hall/ Where farmers and their thrifty wives may call/ And have a good old fashioned, social time/ Unmarred by high-life etiquette or crime."

The present Willamette Grange building was built in 1923 and is the third to be constructed to house the grange. The first two were both destroyed by fire. The site of the first grange was a little east of Muddy Creek near Greenberry Road, and was probably on Robert L. Buchanan's land. In the mid 1890's it burned and was replaced sometime around 1897 by a second building located approximately one-quarter mile east of the first grange site. This second grange was more certainly on R.L. Buchanan's land as can be seen on the 1903 map of Benton County. It was a simple two-story rectangular building with a gable roof with no apparent embellishment. This building burned in 1922.

In 1923 the community did not simply want to replace their lost grange building, they sought to revitalize the grange organization and to provide a community center as well as a new grange building. The importance placed on the project by the community is evidenced by the degree of style and quality which the present building possesses. John Porter, a local farmer, donated two acres for the building site and Corvallis businessmen as well as the farm community donated much of the materials.

### SOURCES CONSULTED

Gazette-Times, Corvallis, Oregon, July 26, 1958.

Stephenson, Garry Owen, Because They Joined The Grange-An Architectural History of Benton County Grange Halls, 1981.

Recorded by: Nahani Stricker  
Mary Kathryn Weber  
Kathy Schutt

Date: March 22, 1985

BENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

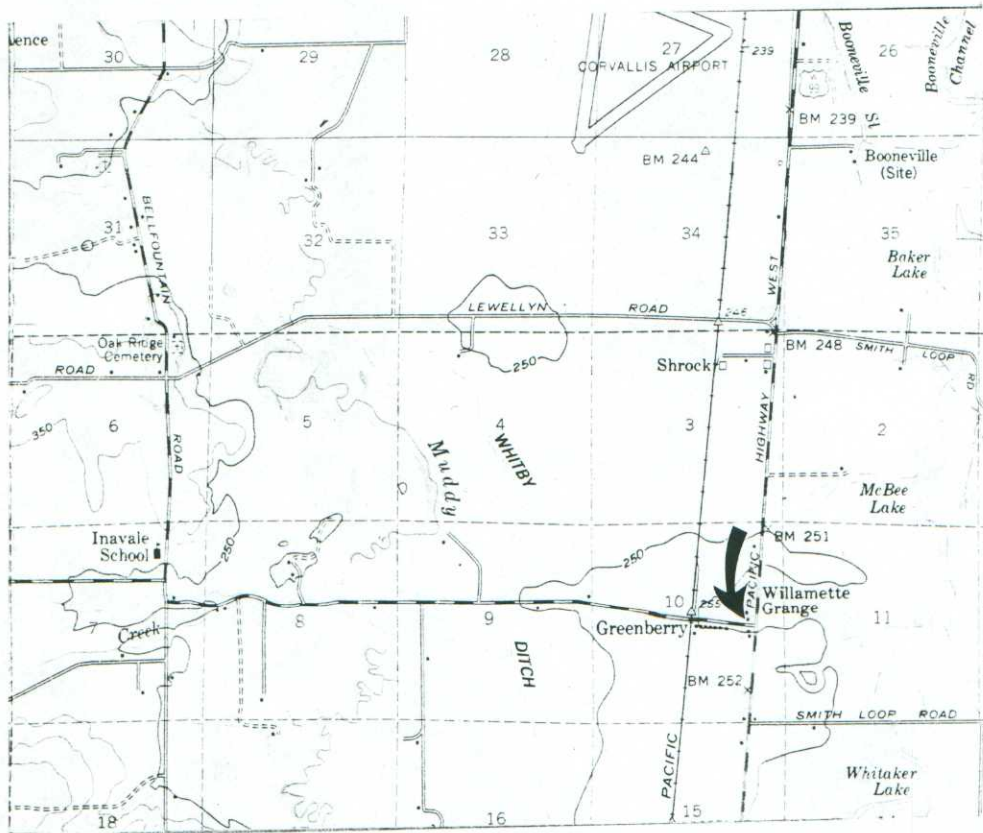
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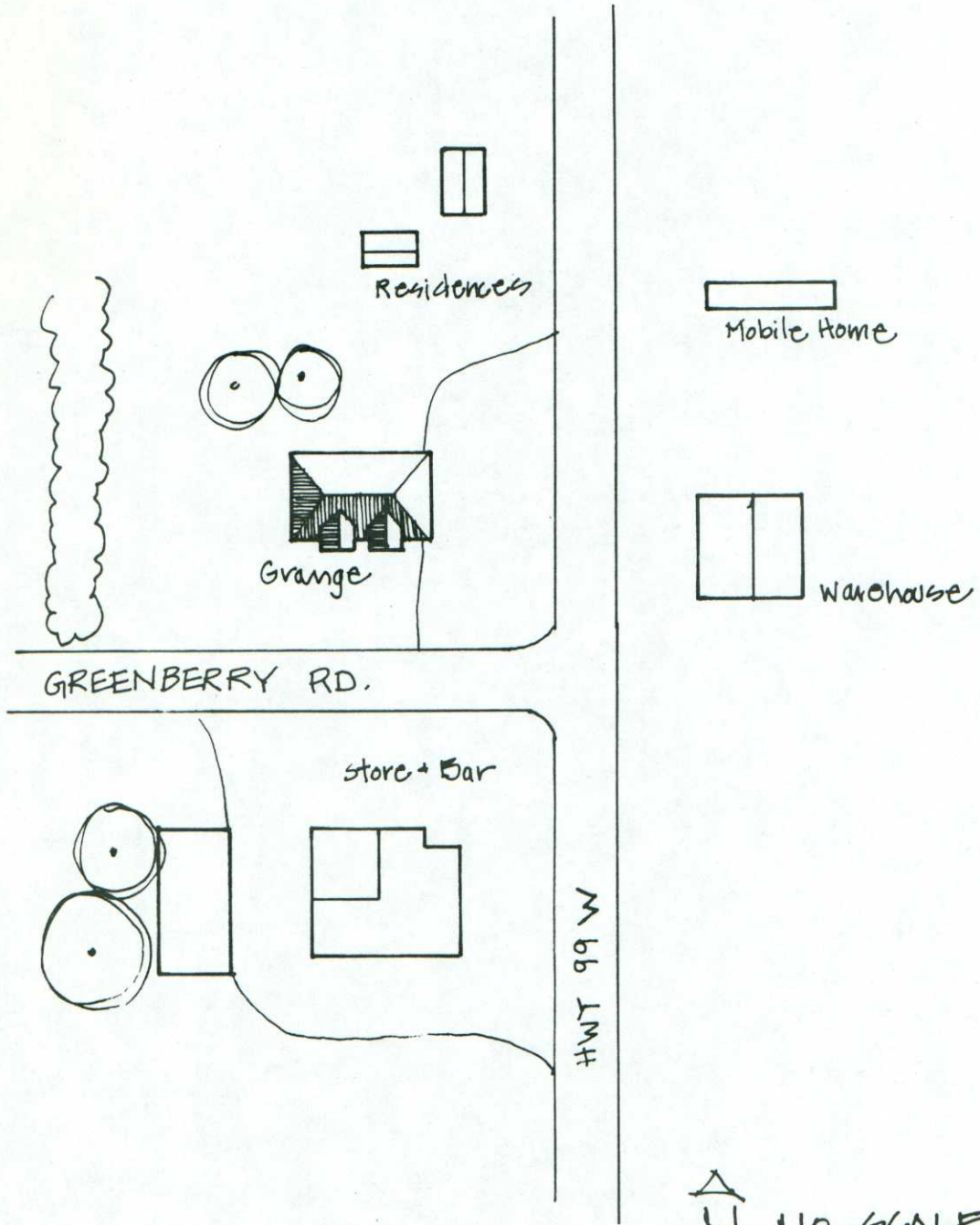
Photo No. 033A

View to northwest



MONROE QUADRANGLE

#250





BENTON COUNTY CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY 1983



INVENTORY NUMBER 250

AREA: Willamette

T 13S R 5W SECTION 10

TAX LOT # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: Hwy. 99E - near junction of Greenberry

Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Name: Willamette Valley Grange Hall

Theme: Institutional/Community

Construction Date: 1922

Type/Use: Meeting Hall

Style: 20 century colonial

Recorded by: R. Clark

Date: May 10, 1983

Rating: 2

Condition/ 9

Excel (10), Fair (5), deteriorated (1)

Roll 0 # 33A southeast side

Story 2 Frame wood

Roof hipped Eaves overhang, closed Frieze medium

Basic shape square Additions \_\_\_\_\_

Interior Chimney brick, north & west Exterior Chimney \_\_\_\_\_

Dormers 4 gables with eave returns Bays \_\_\_\_\_

Siding weatherboard Cornerboards medium

Typical Windows 8 panes wood frame with simple surrounds

Porch Roof flat Posts square pillars Placement centrally with rail at 2nd floor

Foundation cement Other Structures \_\_\_\_\_

Notable Elements \_\_\_\_\_

Alterations \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Historic Significance some of the bricks were taken from the old Porter house, faces east.

*more info. in 1986 inventory*