

JOSEPHINE COUNTY CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY

IDENTIFICATION:

T 33S R 6W S 15 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Present Owner: Biencourt, Pierre J.
 Account Number: 33-6-15, TL 1700 Address: 1800 Placer Road
160 Wolf Creek Road Wolf Creek, Oregon
 Historic Name: Tunnel Creek Mill Architect: _____
Wigwam Burner Builder: Schmidt, C. E.
 Common Name: Wolf Creek Lumber Co. Original Owner: Schmidt, C. E.
 Category: District _____ Ensemble _____ Building(s) _____ Structure x
 Site _____ Object _____
 Ranking: Secondary Quadrangle: Glendale

Use: Present Incinerator Original Incinerator

THEME:

_____ Archaeology _____ x Industry _____ Mining
_____ Agriculture _____ Military _____ Social/Education
_____ Architecture _____ Politics/Government _____ Transportation
_____ Commerce _____ Religion _____ Other
_____ Exploration/Settlement

DESCRIPTION:

Type: Wigwam Burner Date Constructed 1955 Estimated _____ Factual _____
 Style: Conical
 Plan: _____
 Roof: _____
 Walls: Sheet Steel; Riveted and bolted
 Windows: _____
 Doors: _____
 Decorative Elements: _____
 Foundation: _____
 Alterations/Additions: _____
 Condition: Excellent _____ Good x Fair _____ Deteriorated _____
 Other Resources: _____

Recorded By: Kay Atwood Date: November 25, 1983
 Negative # II-1 Slide # Roll: C4

SITE:

Original Site x Moved Date

The Wolf Creek Lumber Company Wigwam Burner is located just north of the community of Wolf Creek and approximately two hundred yards from the Southern Pacific Railroad track. It is functional but non-operative at the present time due to strict environmental controls.

SIGNIFICANCE: (Historical and/or Architectural importance, Dates, Events, Persons, Context)

The Tunnel Creek Lumber Company was constructed by C. E. Schmidt in the early 1950's. Mr. Schmidt bought the property on which an earlier mill had stood, but which was vacant at the time of his purchase. He imported a newly popular gang mill from Germany and with his son, Donald Schmidt, and son-in-law, Jay Crews, operated his business. Donald Schmidt was killed accidentally. After C. E. Schmidt's retirement, Jay Crews continued to lead the business. The family sold the entire location in 1970.

At the end of World War II there were five mills operating in the Wolf Creek area and these constituted the primary economic source for the community. These lumber mills included the William Ashby Mill, the Clark and Smith Lumber Co., the Melvin I. Iverson Co., the Wolf Creek Lumber Co., and the Clare Lumber Co. The Wolf Creek Lumber Company ceased operation when Interstate 5 claimed its site. Others eventually closed down. The present Wolf Creek Lumber Co., (similar to the original company in name only) on which the Wigwam Burner stands, is the sole surviving example of the lumber mill industry in the Wolf Creek area.

SOURCES CONSULTED:

Carnegie, John; "Sawmills in the Medford District", 1946, (Manuscript is in the Mark Lawrence collection), Medford, Oregon.

Crews, Mrs. Jay; Telephone Conversation, December 1983. Mrs. Crews is the daughter of C. E. Schmidt.

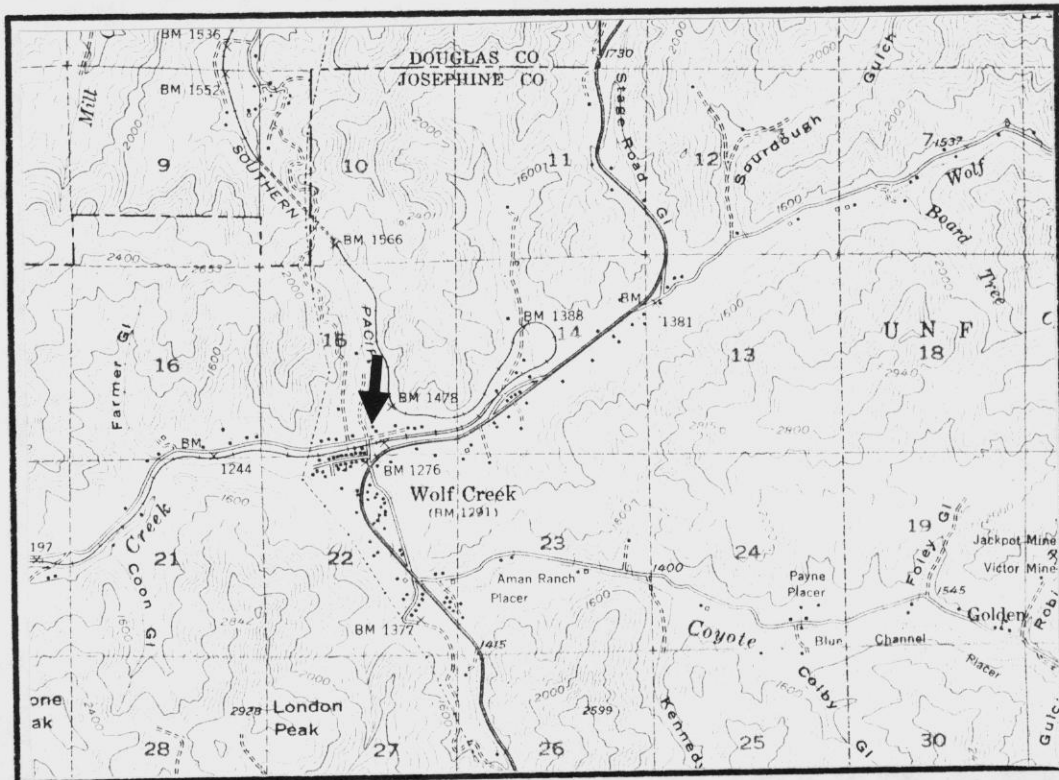
JOSEPHINE COUNTY HISTORICAL RESOURCES

NAME: Tunnel Creek Mill Wigwam Burner



VIEW: East Elevation

DATE OF PHOTO: November 1983



Josephine County Planning Department