



June 1973 Top: Poor House west end Main entrance looking east from parking lot. All of these trees and shrubs were probably original when it was the County Poor Farm. The tall Locust tree right rear of house was old, I stopped counting rings at 100 when I cut it down in about 1980 so it was planted before 1890, at one time there were several of the trees same vintage around the right side yard in line with this one near the house as the old stumps were under the surface of the ground there, very large stumps. The grape vine along the right end of the porch were very old, large green seed grapes. I know their name but cannot think of it right now. Almost every thing growing on the farm was good to eat except some evergreen shrubs, two maples, one was a sugar sap tree, on the north east side of the yard near the cabin, these three trees in front and two locust trees and one other willow on to the left on the crick bank. The previous owners always rented out rooms and at one time the inside hall stairs were moved out under the balcony so they could have a double apartment above for entrance. They really cut the place up and it was used as a farm labor camp I am told. The steps in front are original as the poor house. This shot shows the wrap around porches, front to left with he shrubs small but still old. At one time when it was a poor farm someone put screens around the porches and painted the screens black for privacy.



June 1973 Bottom: From the parking lot looking at the North east corner of the porch. Weeping willow on the crick and other trees probably there when it was a Poor Farm, still living today 2008. Tall bush to the right of the Arbor Vitae is an old beauty bush. Two trees between Arbor Vitae and willow in the rear are two apple trees. The power line came from Larch Ave. west of the place on a small dirt farm road. Both apples and power lines are gone now. Place was wired for power in about 1926 I saw on one permit in the power box on the side of the house. House was plumbed by W O'Roark? in 1905 according to the son of that man that had a hardware store in Walla Walla as late as 1975. All of the metal grills in the claw foot tubs also showed that same O'Roark name on them.



Top About June 1973: The east end of the house looking west showing the south clothes line pole that looks like a football goal post, they were eight feet tall, four or five metal wire lines. The other post was about 50 feet to the right or north. This part of the house was a wing off the east end of the main house probably the dining room and front room for patients, below was a seven foot fully finished basement holding the kitchen and dairy below this part of the basement. The porch on the right was not in good shape so I took it down when I remodeled the room here one time and put in a big window. Upstairs was about 36 by 30 feet with twelve feet ceiling. Basement was where a spring was piped from about a quarter of a mile away on the farm to two cement water troughs to cool the milk and other perishables. The water ran all the time and was cold. The overflow pipes ran on out and in to the crick. The lower end of the dumb waiter and perhaps the workers or all kitchen. Patients dining room was probably up stairs in his single story wing. Cellar is far right just past the north porch for that wing. Note the south porch and the east end that also was enclosed at one time from the paint marks. At the far west end of the far north side of the basement was the Laundry. The floor of the basement is level with the present sidewalk on Scenic View Drive so the land slopes about eight feet from house to there.



Below: June 1973 Looking northeast from front of main house in a small pasture, crick is just beyond the dirt road from house to barn which is to the left or north of house is shown in the far left here with sheds on east of there. Crick turns right to the west just in front of barn yard and sheds, up stream there was a small falls that gave enough lift to the flow for flood irrigation below. Flow of crick is to the west around the barn yard where it turns again left or south to where it turns right again (west) under the culvert. On east of barn and sheds and corral it turns north again around the hill then east on around the bluff up stream about three or four miles where it comes out of several springs in Walla Walla, city. The Locust and an Apple tree just across road from Fawn our milk goat are old enough to have been there when it was a Poor Farm, apple was a yellow delicious type and still growing 2008 and bloomed, locust is gone. Smokehouse just this side of Barn to left of crick. culvert near the pony is across Scenic View Drive.



Top about Oct. 1973: The remains of what was the hospital looking east from the east side of the cellar. The steps and cement walk for the entrance of this building is between the camera and the person, north end of the clothes line is just visible beyond the english walnut tree shown in front. Walnut probably not there when it was a poor farm as it was about 25 years old at his time in 1973 when picture was taken. Walkway is still there, just left of clothes line pole. Part of porch foundation is also shown just beyond the walk. Bldg was about sixty feet long and maybe thirty feet wide. Walls inside were lath and plaster. That is plaster piled up on the right of the floor where the wall still standing stops there at where the west front door stops. Hard to see here. Some rooms or walls were evidently bathrooms or smaller offices or single rooms for patients but mostly it was a wide open ward it looked like. This bldg. was about fifty feet northeast of east wing of main house from small porch shown in previous photo of this east wing. There was a gap between walk and end of hospital so I think it also had a porch about the same size as the NE corner wing porch on prev. page 15. They had many porches and without fail the foundations were not very deep so when the porches fell down the foundations were hauled away leaving no trace.



Below: October 1973: Taken between main west entrance and carriage house in parking lot looking southeast at what is left of the old orchard and a pasture or hay field and beyond the far fence, short fence row of grass what was the zucchini patch, probably foodstuff for the residents during the days of the Poor Farm as they raised about everything they ate. Small fruit orchard probably used when it was a Poor Farm from the age of the trees. There were several other stumps under the surface of the ground there too. Trees were from front to back, Cherry, largest apricots I have ever seen and very tart, next was a plum I think, then off to the right a smaller trunk was a small apricot and last was a summer ripening yellow soft apple used for apple butter I think. There was an old rotten but bearing bartlett pear near the apple tree too but it was so old that it died before this was taken. We got one crop from it. The owner of that farm was a neighbor and Adventist but raised cows and as soon as the sun went down on Friday those cows would get through the gate and wander around and I would have to call them to put them back in or I would have to do it if they were gone. Those cows knew exactly when Friday came and when the owner was not there and it seems like it happened every Friday for several years.



Top: May 1974 about noon. Our daughter Karen age 18 and Fawn our milk goat. West entrance from the carriage house and parking lot looking North East to front and south side. This square two story and basement part was about 40 feet by forty feet square and about 50 feet from the basement floor to the tip of the roof with a wrap around porch on two sides. All of the ceilings in this square two floors was 14 feet high. When in use as a Poor Farm the main road came here from what is now Larch Ave. College Place direct east to the graveled parking lot here, going left from here you crossed Stone Cr to the left and on up to the barn where the milking was done about 300 feet to the north. The milk trucks that picked up the ten gallon metal cans came in the here and turned left on up to the barn where they picked them up each a day I suppose and took them to the local creamery. The milk and cream for the farm was taken to the two water cooled troughs in the basement. It looks like at one time they had a cooler box run by electric power at the far east end of the south wrap around porch from remaining installations. The entry would have been through a door right there into probably the dinning room or it could have been accessed through the north basement entry above ground.



Bottom: May 1987 about 3:00 in the afternoon. Main or west entrance of the Poor House looking east from the parking lot. The small shrubs at the end of the walk to the steps had grown so large it had closed the gap. We moved out of the house in 1984.

I think all of the trees and shrubs including the weeping willow to the left were all here when used as a Poor Farm I have been told the Poor Farm house was two houses and moved to this place from other places around the county and installed on the basement fifty years before I bought it which was in the summer of 1972. The main part, the two story square house was said to be the old Stubblefield Wayward Girls home, or something to that effect early in 1900's. Not aware of where the other half came from. I read at the archive room in Walla Walla Library in a local early magazine some of the County Council went out looking for a Poor Farm place to establish sometime in the late 1800s. I think the first or an early director was named Olds. Originally there was a small hill along this side of the shrubs here and the



Top: Winter 1978-79 Cellar north side of house looking north toward barn, English Walnut and Ruff, age eight, Siberian wheel sled dog in snow. Note, mobile homes already occupied in 1978 - 79 when taken. Cellar was double walled with block or poured inner walls cement floor a six inch gap and then red bricks on outside. Some bricks were removed by someone unknown by whom to me before we came here. It also had an inner and outer door for insulation with ash & clinkers in the attic for the same insulation probably for protection during the Cold War when there was danger of USSR nuclear war and it was probably a fall out shelter during the last few years as use for Poor Farm when it and the TB hospital were here. Later the TB hospital was moved up on the bluff about a half mile north on the Dalles Military Road to a facility closed about 1954 and changed to an elder care facility then later in the 1990s sold to an individual that later built houses there and the larger facility was bought or controlled by the Walla Walla college. The poor farm was closed in 1954 and sold to an individual and held it and farmed the land until about 1976. Then he changed it to the present mobile home park in about 1976 and it has been sold twice since that time. The last time for a reported 1.8 million bucks to the present owner of the 27 acres.



Bottom May 1987: East end of wing of house, greenhouse on left, our mobile home on right. Looking west. Greenhouse, ham tower and mobile home not there when it was Poor Farm. Right basement window on right is where milk and cream can troughs and dairy was. Or dairy was cooled with spring water when it was Poor Farm.

Greenhouse on left corner was originally a porch but not quite so far forward. I tore it down making it into a greenhouse. Also when used as a poor farm there was a roofed porch on front side as shown by paint markings and a single door right about where the tower is and the east window was wider and higher probably used as a patient dinning room and a small landing with four or five steps down on right to exit. Also there was a screened porch on the extreme right side of this room facing north the same way, probably both for easy entrance for the patient residents on both the hospital and pest house. Main floor windows were somewhat different shape and size also not painted windows but double hung with weights like windows on upper story on left but some were twin windows. Our mobile home is about the same size and place as the Hospital was when it was a Poor Farm. Pest house was about fifty feet south or left of our mobile home.



Top May 1987: South east corner of main house looking north west. Granny Smith apple and pair tree put in by me after we bought the place. Chimney was 2 by 2 foot so large and used for the coal or saw dust steam plant in the basement. Plant looked like a large old antique steam tractor boiler in the south east end of the basement, the coal bin was in the left west end of this side. It was a large boiler with steam pipes running to all of the major bldgs from here to heat them. The steam plant was not operable when I got it and I dismantles it leaving a six by twelve foot pit in the room, a previous owner had installed an oil furnace in its place. There are large loud school type electric bells on each floor for fire warning. There was at least one major fire that burned the very peak of the roof from evidence of same in attic where repairs were made. There were stove pipe outlets in four of the rooms and both halls so coal stoves could be used before the main steam plant was evidently installed. There was a smaller six or eight inch brick chimney on the north side of the house with pipe openings also. There were openings in the basement also. The round metal smoke pipe for the steam unit was 24 inches across. Chimney swifts lived in the large stack every summer and they all left in the fall about 100 of them to a large school stack in Portland where they all joined up from the north and went to south America. The swifts never landed except to lay, set, and hatch their eggs, they mate in flight. Both parents fed the young by catching millions of mosquitoes constantly. The smaller stack never had swifts in it. When migration time came many swifts



Bottom May 1987: SW corner looking north near cherry tree. He never from up north gathered in this stack so thick with birds they would blacken the sky as they landed diving very fast in a power dive straight in the open chimney and come out the same way. younger set would rest in it then all would go out at the same time in a flock of 100s or 1000s of birds. I have seen that many to return at a certain time in the spring or leave in a huge flock doing the reverse. When they were rearing their young if you went into the basement and tapped the chimney there were so many they sounded like a nest of rattle snake from all the chatter of them wanting to be fed thinking it was the parents approaching. Our bob tailed cat Rufus always sat up on the top of the stack and caught the swifts as they came out at about daylight and again at dark. He caught one almost every day all season.



Top May 1987: Stone Crick from SE Scenic View Dr culvert to parking lot culvert looking down stream south. Tree on left of crick is a Mulberry and I have seen about 50 Bull Trout two feet long each, largest in front all lined up from that tree to the culvert waiting for the berries to fall in the crick so they could eat them, they love them. Black walnut tree on down the crick on the right. Neither tree here when it was Poor Farm only the large weeping willow on the left and one other same size out of sight to left near Mulberry. Due to a twenty year drought the last five years all of the large trout, frogs and crawfish have not lived here anymore. Also the mink and muskrats that must have lived here in earlier times are no longer around here either but were when I came here. Note mallard drake sitting on right side. The crick is now silted in too after running like chocolate for five years during construction of new road up stream where the county disturbed and sanded in a large spring in the process. The large double window below in house was probably the night keeper's room as it controlled all the lights of the rest of the house so they could all be turned off or on from that central place.



Bottom May 1987: north side of main house and porch where the patients must have sat in the cool of the afternoon shade where the breeze always still blows a bit strong most of the time now. The shrubs are forsythia that was probably here during the Poor Farm era. At one time the porch was all screened and painted black the screens were still here and tossed under the porch floor. There were several large hooks for hammocks or swings all along both this and the right (west) side of the porch the patients must have used, the screens would have let air in and light out for them. Both floors of the house had 14 feet high ceilings. Each room was about 15 by 15 feet and the halls down the center were eight feet wide as well and both had doors to the west. The pipe vent stack in center of side comes from laundry in basement. Windows on far left were both bathrooms same size as each room, the only bathrooms in the whole house.



Top May 1987: Crick at the culvert, west end near the parking lot from the present fence looking northeast and the row of blue spruce along the north side fence on Scenic View Drive and both weeping willows along the crick with a mallard drake sitting on top of culvert sunning himself. Water is all spring fed and cool under the shade here, elsewhere it is hot from the sun and no shade so the trout and other wildlife liked it here and there was more of all kinds than anywhere else on the crick and no one bothered them at all. Even screech owls that raised their young in the willows would bathe in the crick each day when it was hot and barn swallows would get mud from the bank to make their nest in the barn. Great Horned owls will rest here in the trees twice each year as they migrate and kingfishers feed their young the fish they catch here as well as sand hill cranes as they fly up and down the crick. We have had Mountain quail, ringneck pheasants and all kinds of song birds that nest here or did. It is a peaceful place the Council picked to establish their Poor Farm so long ago. Of course we get varmints too such as raccoons, possums and squirrels that do damage all the time but no one bothers any of them. Even wild turkeys and a moose cow that came here a couple of years ago and stayed out west near the city limits. Then she walked back east to the Bitterroot Mts. of Montana to get bred and returned giving birth to twin calves which were killed by the local railroad this year. It just creeps along the track so must have been on purpose. All of these things must have gone on while patients were here to look at.



Bottom May 1987: Northeast corner of East wing looking at the root cellar and english walnut. I cut much wood out of this tree every year for thirty years until it got so big and dangerous that I was afraid it would blow over and fall on something after it got about fifty years old. These narrow sidewalks shown went all the way around the east, north and west side of the main house. They lasted over 100 years and very little were broken or cracked, very good workmanship