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SP 577

Washington State HERITAGE BARN REGISTER 	Farm Name Painter Ranch	Property Location Address: 6803 W. Cheney Plaza Road City: Cheney Zip: 99004
	Historic Name Painter, Parlan & Mary, Barn	County Spokane
	Owners Name Julie Painter Pittmann Phone: 509-523-2220 Email: juliepittmann@hughes.net	Owner Address Address: 1462 Waterman Road City: Rosalia State: WA Zip: 99170

BARN	ROOF SHAPE	ROOF COVERING	FLOOR PLAN	SIDING	FOUNDATION MATERIAL	PAINTING/ DECORATION	OTHER BARN FEATURES
CONDITION <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins BARN BUILT DATE: 1916	<input type="checkbox"/> Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Broken Gable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Gothic <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Dutch <input type="checkbox"/> Conical <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metal <input type="checkbox"/> Wood <input type="checkbox"/> Other CURRENT USE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ag <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Square <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rectangular <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Irregular <input type="checkbox"/> L- Shape <input type="checkbox"/> T- Shape Size: 35x60 Height: approx 35 ft.	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal <input type="checkbox"/> Wood – Horizontal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood – Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Vertical <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Stone <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input type="checkbox"/> Stone <input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Wood <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Painted? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Color: Red Names/Dates/ Decoration? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Describe: 1916 in concrete foundation wall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cupola <input type="checkbox"/> Dormer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hay Hood <input type="checkbox"/> Ventilator <input type="checkbox"/> Weather Vane <input type="checkbox"/> Lightning Rod <input type="checkbox"/> Silo <input type="checkbox"/> Milking Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Other

*** PROPERTY HISTORY: (Expand on the history of the barn/property such as use, original owner, builder, architect, family stories and memories, etc.. add additional pages if necessary)**

In November 1882, Benjamin and Melvina Painter purchased the 160 acre homestead of David & Emma Bonney for \$12.50 an acre. The farm is 16 miles southwest of Cheney. Parlan and Mary Painter, who owned the farm from 1908 to 1930, built the nominated barn in 1916. There is room for cattle, an orchard, and grain on the farm. The original cabin, home to David and Emma Bonney and the barn are the oldest buildings on the farm.

The barn is 36 x 60 feet, with a hayhood on the south end. The cupola sits at the top and in the middle of the barn roof. For many years, the hay elevator lifted square hay bales to the loft door under the hayhood. There the workers would grab the bale and stack the bales. The main floor is wood with a large center area running the length of the barn. Stalls for horses run lengthwise on both sides of the center. The stairs for the loft are large, built for ease of walking up and down. At the bottom of their stairs is the tack area. Here is where the working horse harnesses were stored. On the east side corner of the barn is the grain bin, where oats are stored for feed. The north side of the barn could be closed about one third of the way into the barn. This allowed storage or the horses to stand in the shade during hot summer days.

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Windows were a luxury for the barn, but Parlan wanted natural light into the barn. Some of the 1916 glass remains in the windows. We painted the east side of the barn in 2004.

Parlan and Mary were active in their community of Buckeye. Mary resided over the local Buckeye School 8th Grade examinations. Parlan was Buckeye Township Assessor for many years. Parlan was an excellent horseman. In addition to training his workhorse, he helped train calvary horses for WW1. Parlan participated in local rodeos at Cheney and Bonney Lake. Parlan lived through several hardships in the United States. These included the depression years of the 1890s and 1930s, two World Wars, the loss of his mother when she was quite young, and helping his father as he aged on the farm. These events shaped Parlan into a thoughtful man, whose handshake and word were as reliable as the Bible, according to neighbors. Parlan and the entire Painter family enjoyed visiting and working with their neighbors in the Cheney-Rosalia area. These neighbors enjoyed Christmas parties at the local Buckeye School, helping each other with the harvesting of crops, and whenever someone needed help in sickness or on the farm, the neighbors would unit to form a strong closeknit fellowship. The barn is a symbol of the working farm that continues today. Since 1916, the barn continues to do its duty, sheltering horses, feed, and equipment.

Parlan and Mary's sons Jim and Clarence Painter continued the tradition of ranching. Jim and his wife Jeanne lived at the ranch, raising Hereford cattle, wheat, and barley. Jim was precinct chairman for many years, registering voters. Jim and Jeanne passed away and their daughters Julie and Janice, along with their spouses, brothers Charles and Steve Pittmann continued to farm and raise Herefords. Steve passed away in 2006. Charles and Julie's son Justin lives and farms at the Painter Ranch. Since 1882, the land continues in the Painter family. During the State Centennial of 1889, the farm achieved centennial status at a ceremony attended by over 200 people.

Artist, Nona Hengen created a beautiful painting of the Painter farm, including the big red barn in 2004. At that time, a Painter Picnic celebrated 122 years of continual ownership. Family and friends from around the state attended the weekend event, including tours of Cheney and the farm.

Visible for many miles before reaching the farm, it is a landmark in the community. Washington Wheat Growers ran Nona's story about the Painter farm in 2005 and filmed a farming history documentary at the farm later that year.

Spokane County, Washington State, and the Washington Cattlemen's Association recognize the Painter farm as a Centennial farm.

Please provide current photos of nominated property (interior and exterior (all four sides)) and a map indicating the location of property in relationship to major roads. Digital images are preferred (please provide disc) or print on photographic paper.

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OTHER FARMSTEAD BUILDINGS

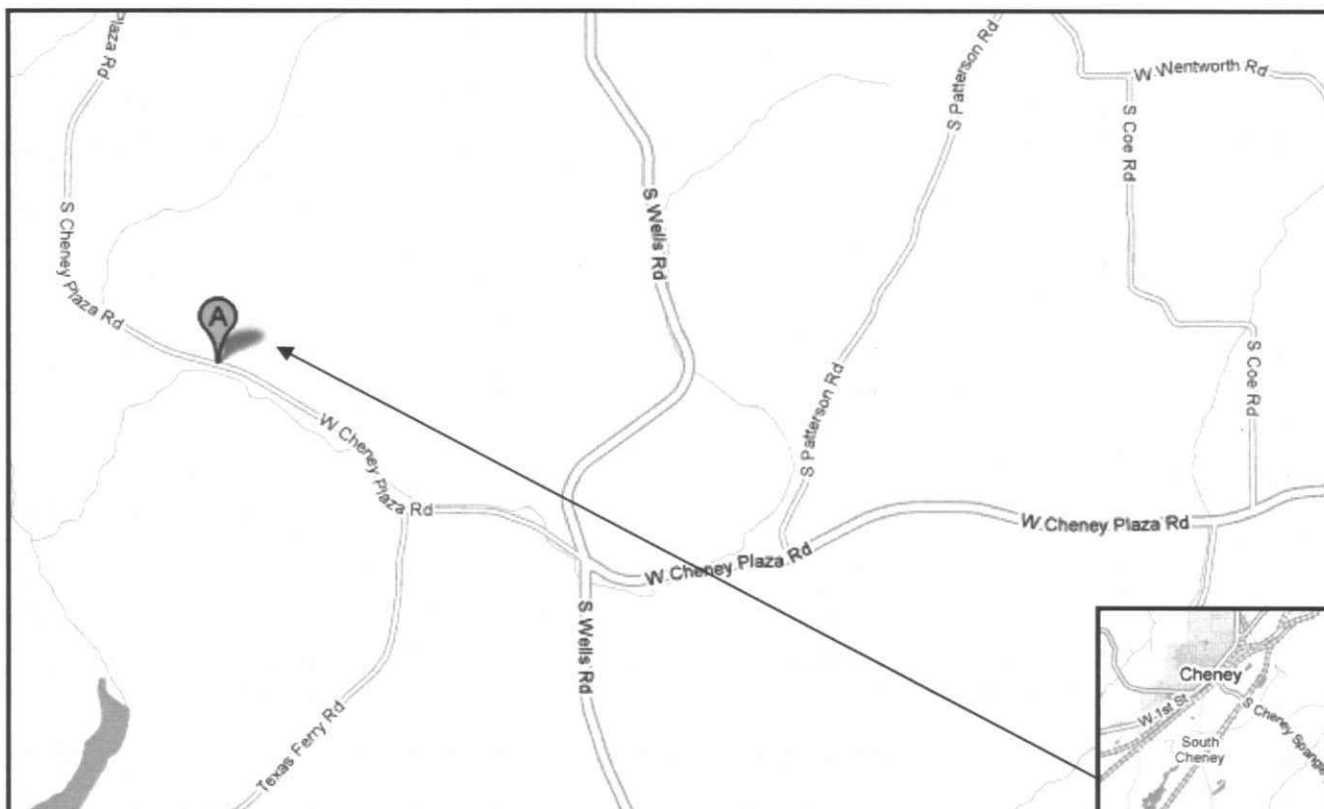
If building does not exist, please check N/A box

Provide additional photos of secondary buildings/structures regardless of age.

	ROOF SHAPE (Gable, Hip, etc.)	ROOF COVERING	FLOOR PLAN (Square, L-Shape, Rectangular, etc.)	SIDING	FOUNDATION MATERIAL	OTHER FEATURES: (Style, Color, Trim, etc..)	BUILT DATE
DWELLING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Gable	shingles	rectangular	wood siding	concrete	beige and brick	1960
OUTHOUSE <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	shed	shingles	square	wood	wood		1900
CHICKEN COOP <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A							
MACHINE SHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Gable	metal	rectangular	metal	concrete		1975
MILK HOUSE <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A							
SILO <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A							
OTHER: Garage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	shed	Metal	rectangular	metal	dirt		1980
OTHER: Cabin <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Shed	Metal	Rectangular	Wood	None	Red	1882

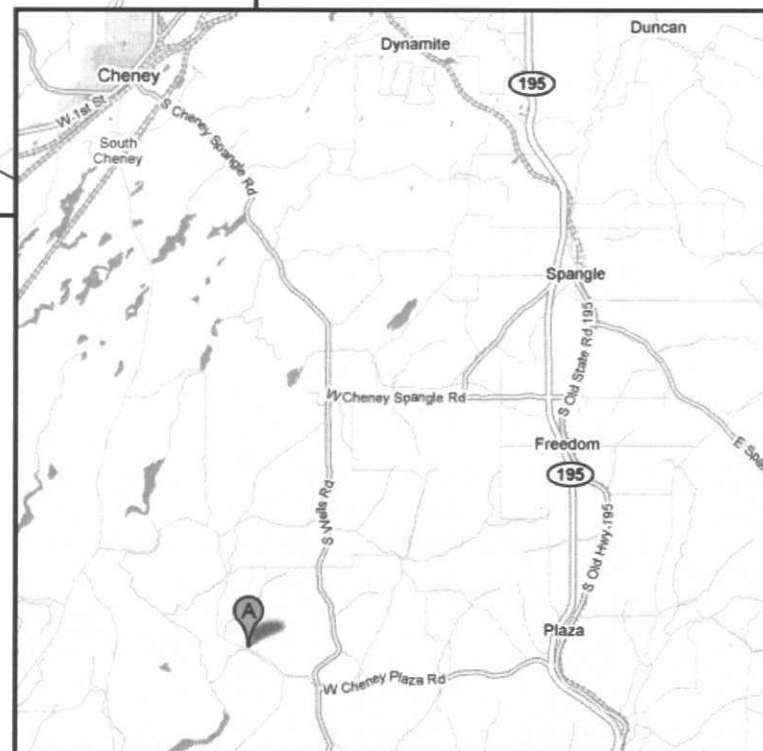
Please provide a sketch of the farmstead layout indicating the location of other buildings in relation to the barn. Include an arrow pointing north for directional purposes.

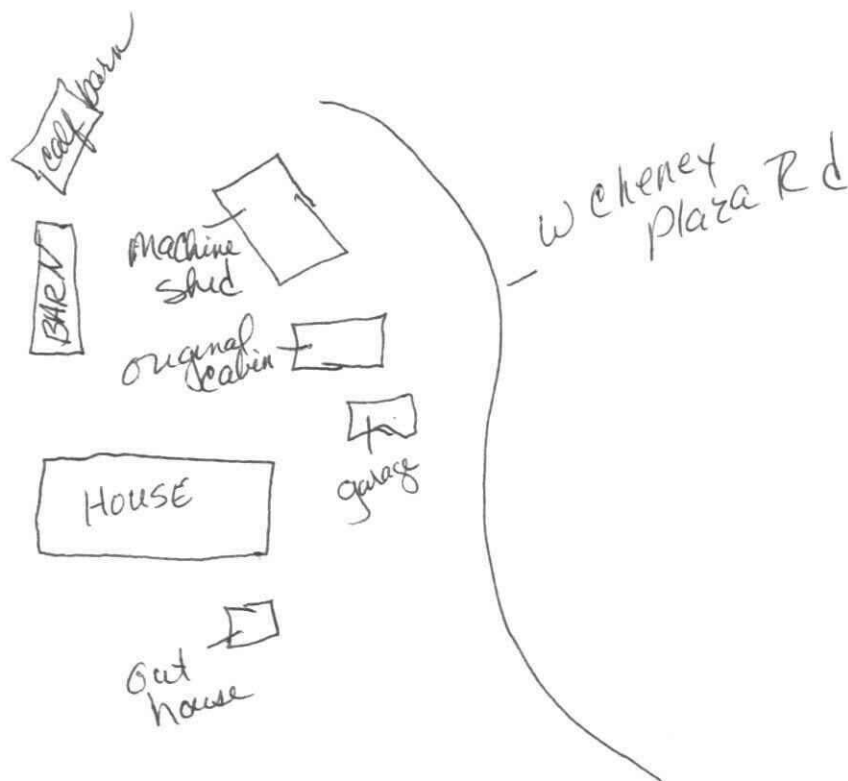
Return form and additional documentation to: **DAH**P 1063 S. Capitol Way, Suite 106 Olympia, WA 98504



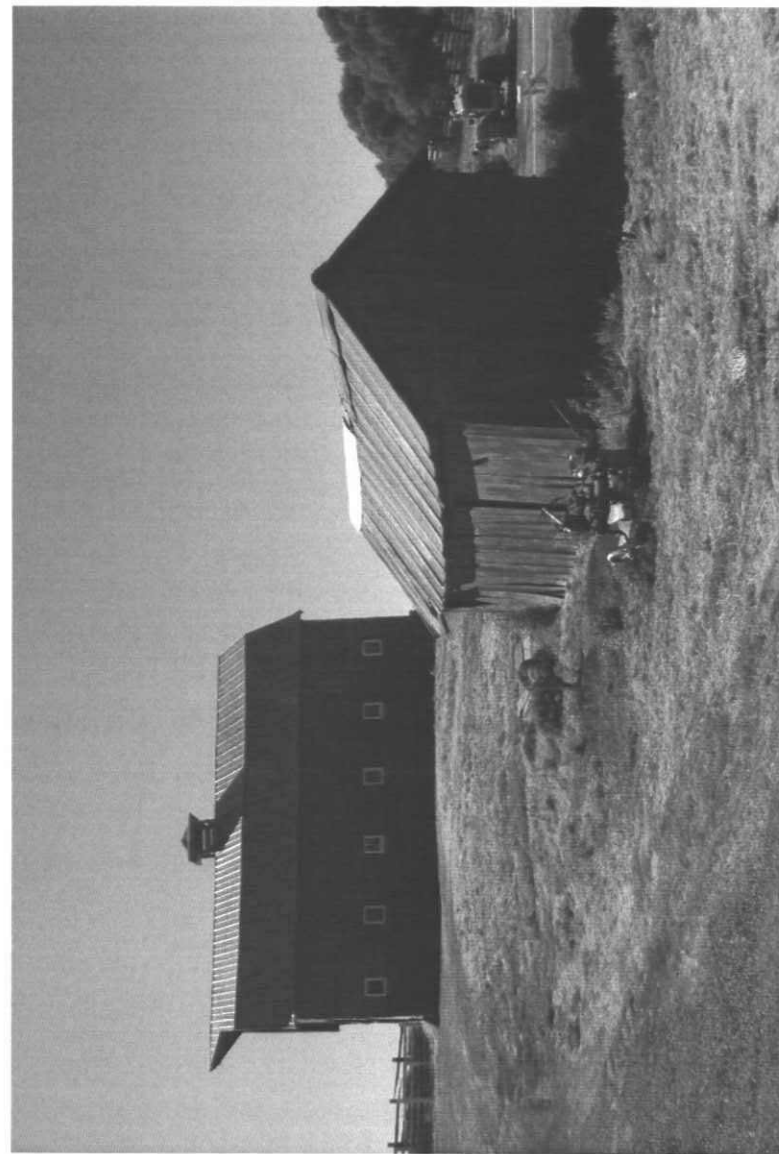
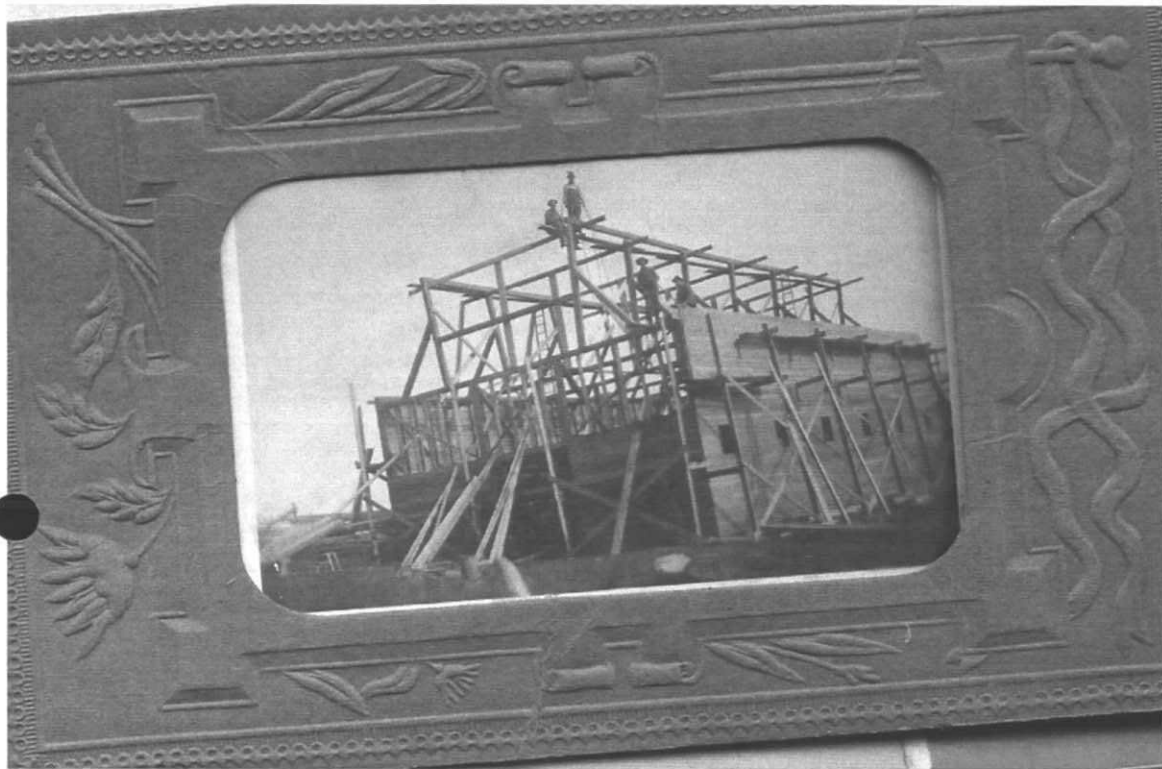
Painter Ranch

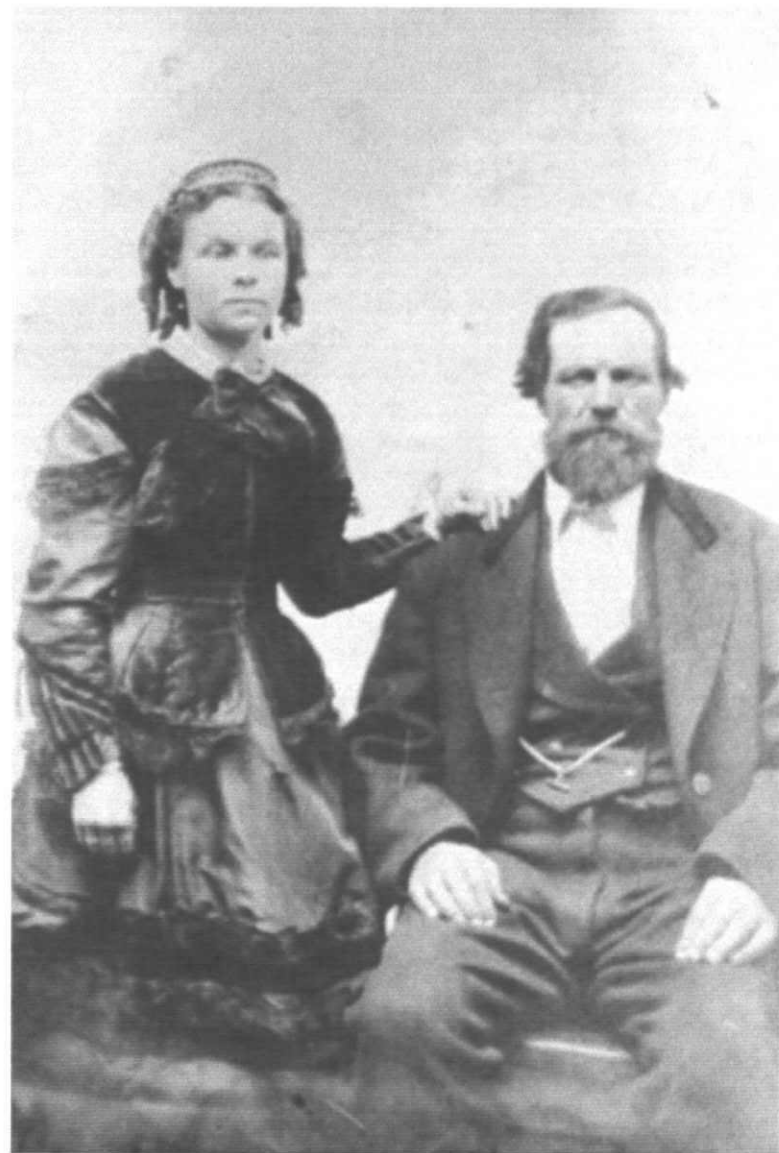
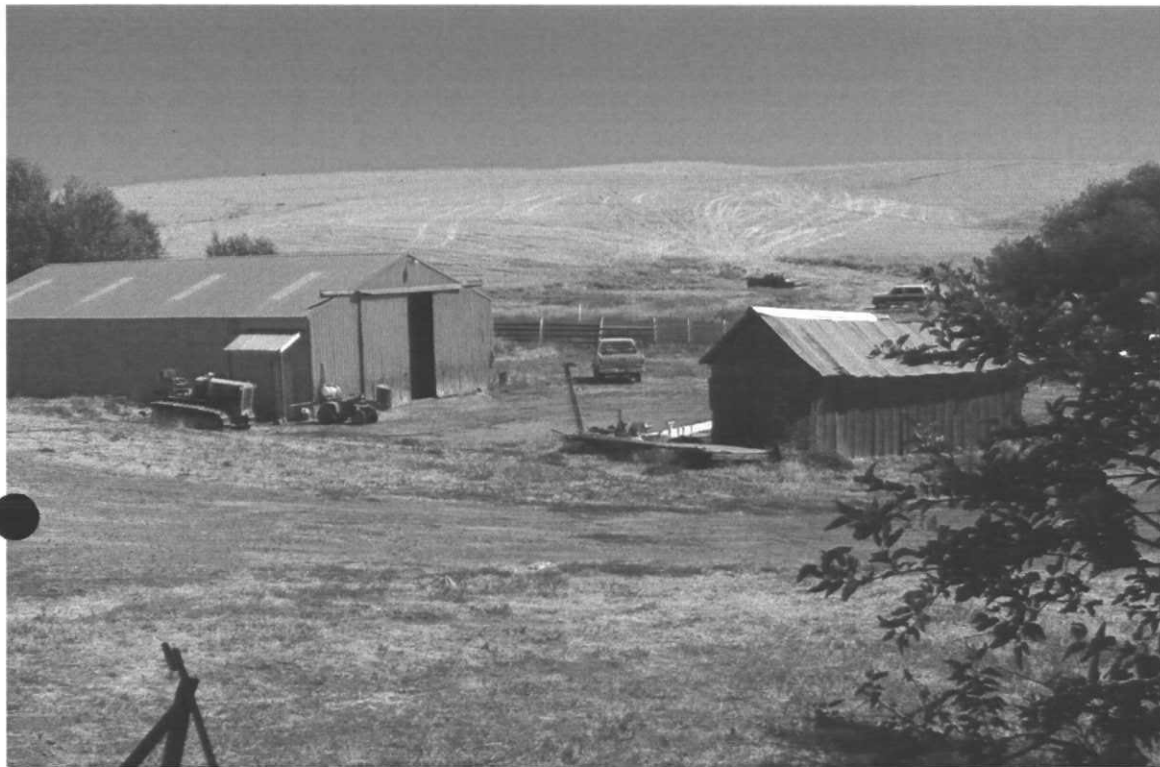
6803 W. Cheney Plaza Rd.
Cheney, WA 99004

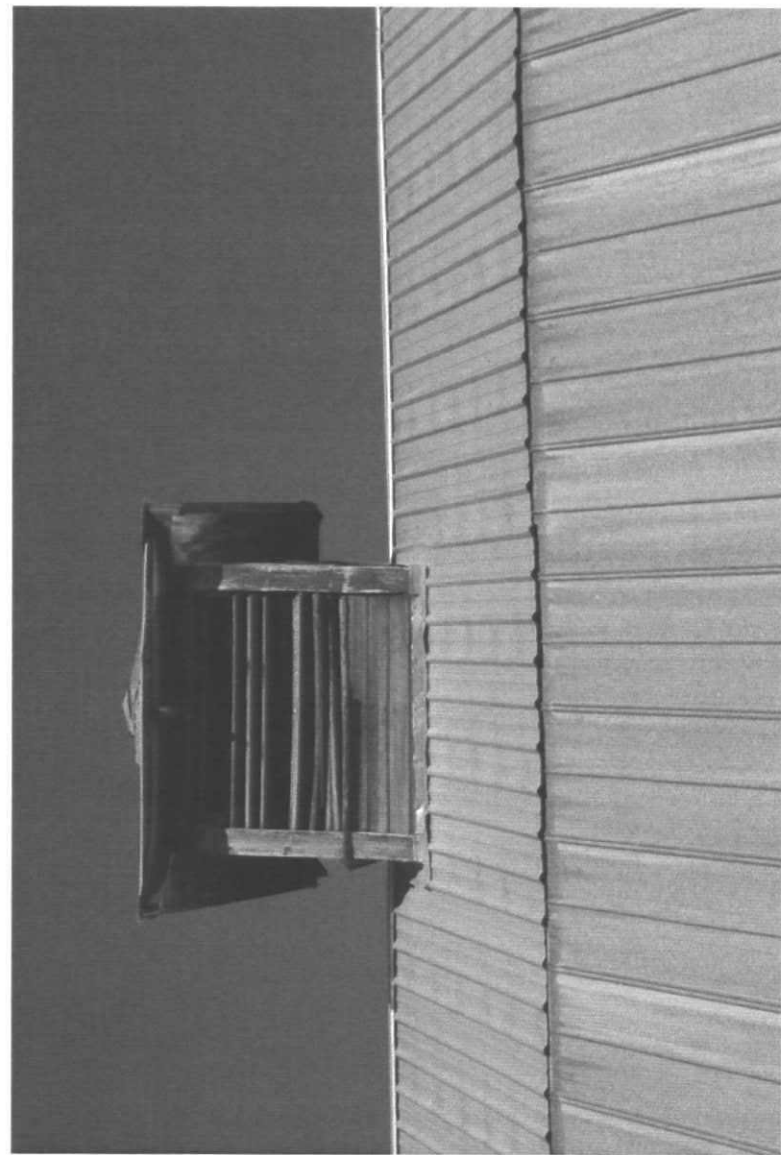




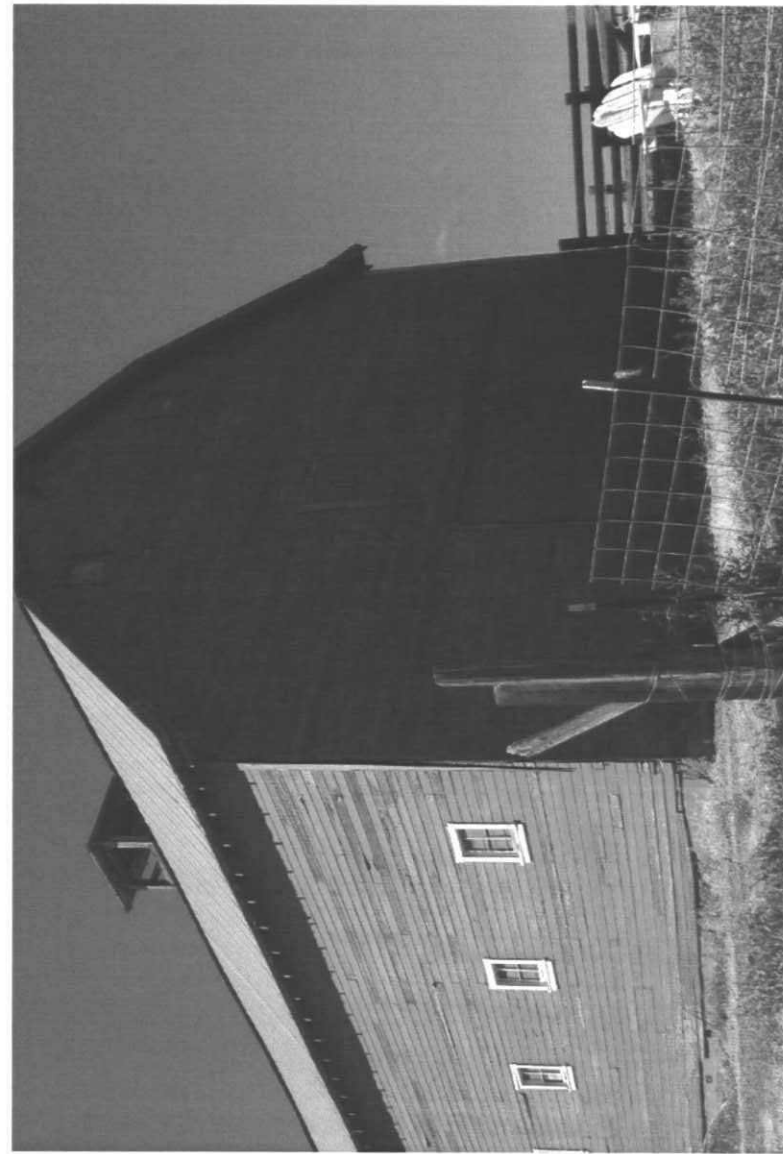
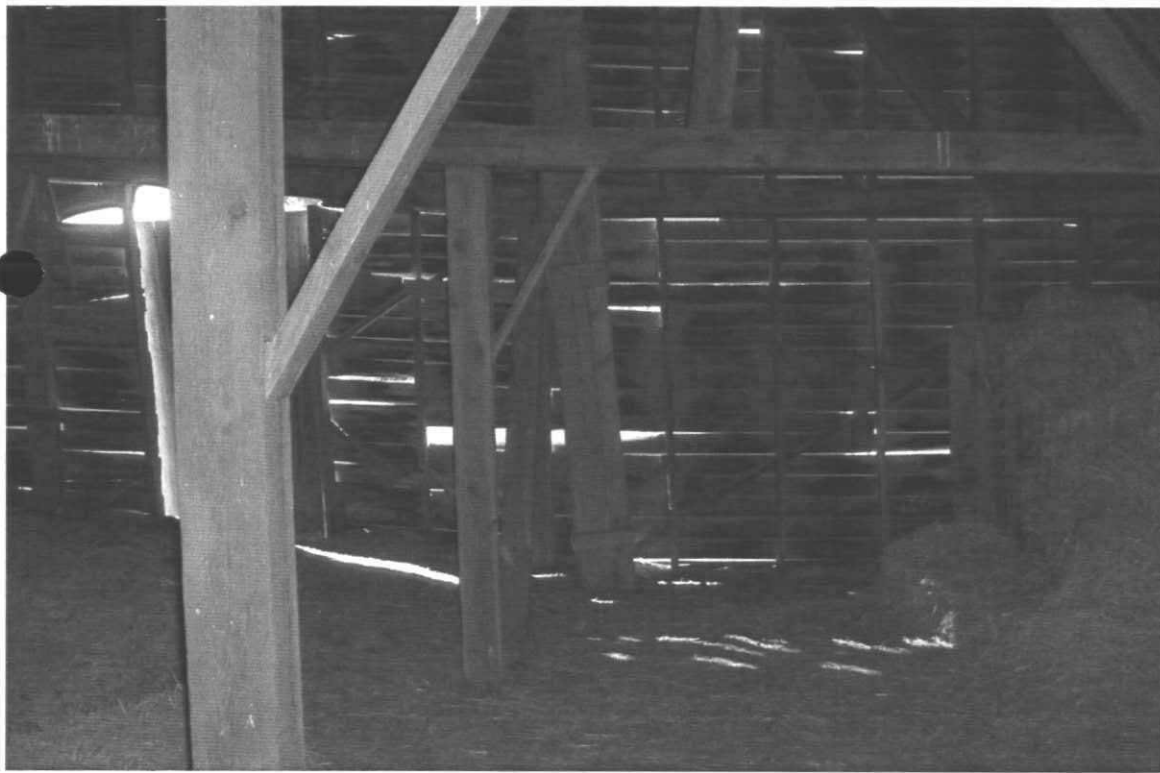
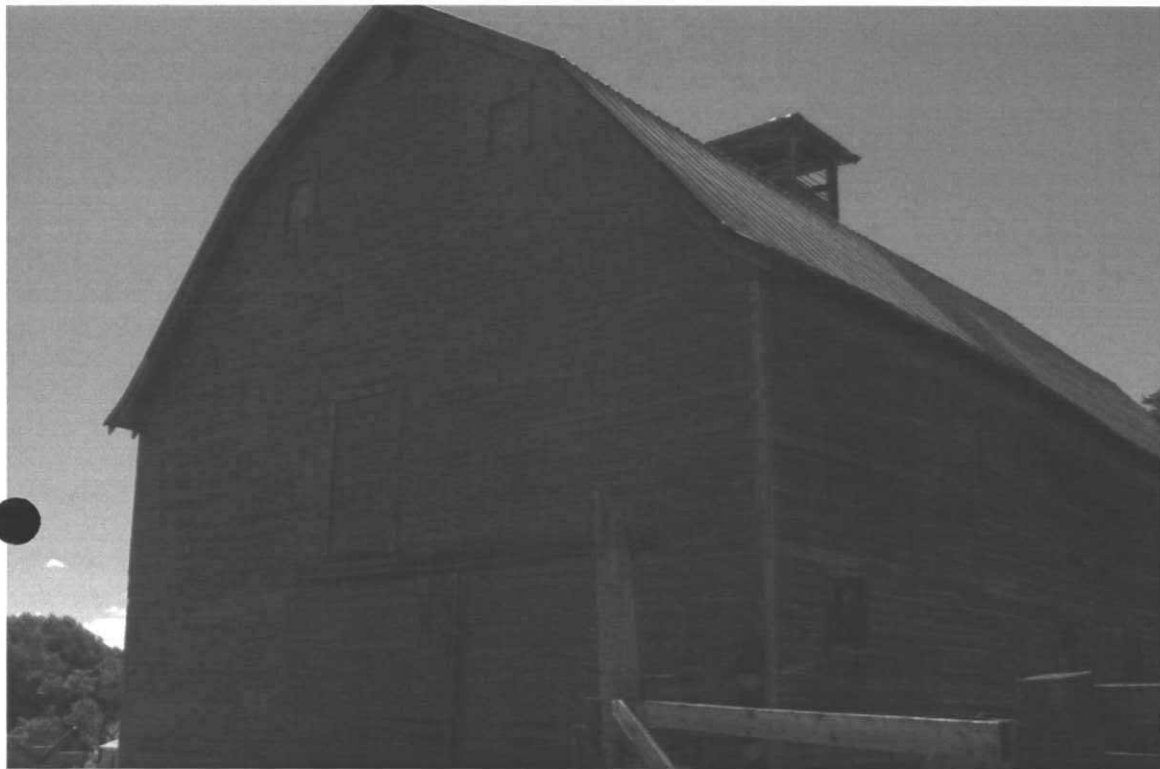
PAINTER RANCH
6803 W. CHENEY
PLAZA RD.
CHENEY, WA
99004

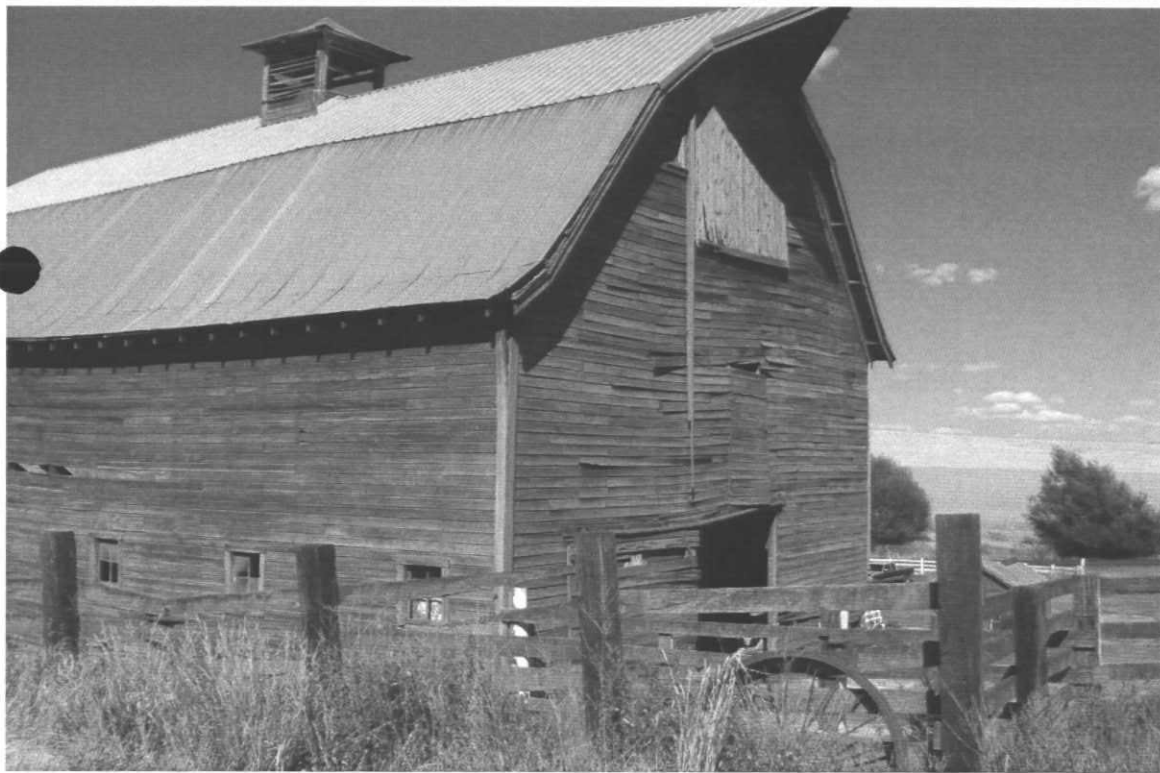














Painter Farm *1882-2004*

Palouse Pioneers

Benjamin Painter, 48 year old native of Ohio, his wife Melvina, and their four sons, Harry 12, Ben 10, Parlan, 7 and Albert, 4, stand atop a windswept knoll looking down over land that is to be their new home in eastern Washington after their arrival at Cheney in 1882. Three children have been lost to childhood diseases in the two decades preceding, years spent in little towns on the Nevada-California border where the Oregon Trail ended for Ben Painter, and where he met his wife.

Ben Painter is certain they will be able to have a good life here in the Palouse hills, for there are Ohioans here too: enough in fact, for all to agree upon naming the creek and a school "Buckeye" in honor of the Buckeye State.

David and Emma Bonney, the original homesteaders, lived in a 10x 12 "house" that is still standing on the property. It is the only trace of the Bonney's sojourn here, apart from the adjacent lake that bears their name.

A fifth son, Valentine, is born to the Painters in May of 1883. Washington Territory achieves statehood six years after the Painters settle in and begin raising wheat and cattle. The mother, Melvina, stricken with diabetes, dies in 1892 leaving two sons in their twenties, two in their teens and 9 year old Valentine, the only child born on their Palouse homestead.

Ben Painter, Palouse pioneer, farms up to his dying day at age 74, in 1908. The "Painter Place" continues in the family, passing from generation to generation, through Ben's son Parlan to grandsons Clarence and James Painter to great grand daughters Molly, Janice, and Julie Painter, on to the next generations.

The painting on this card was commissioned to mark the 122nd year of the farm under the ownership of one family.

The Painter Farm

Owners: Mrs. James Painter, Clarence Painter

Location of Farm: 17 miles south of Cheney on Cheney-Plaza Rd.

Dates of Ownership	Name	Relationship to Current Owner
1882 - 1908	Benjamin B. Painter	Grandfather
1908 - 1930	Parlan W. Painter	Father
1948 - 1986	James Painter	Brother/Husband
1930 - Present	Clarence Painter	
1986 - Present	Mrs. James Painter	

In November 1882, 48-year-old Benjamin Painter and his wife, Melvina Walker Borrette, purchased the 160-acre homestead of David and Emma Bonney for \$12.50 per acre. The land, with water and trees, fit Ben's dreams and, with winter coming on, there was a dwelling for the family. He planted an orchard, started raising cattle, and built a log barn and a two-story house. Wheat was planted when part of the orchard froze during the harsh winters. In fall, the wheat was hauled by four-horse teams to the nearest granary which was at Cheney. Taking the harvest to market took a month. Prior to settling near Cheney, the Painters had lived in Elko, Nevada and Susanville, California where they had a store. They and several other families headed to Washington when they heard about the fertile Palouse country. Ben and Melvina had eight children. Five sons lived to adulthood.

Acres in original parcel: 160 **Acres still retained:** 160

Crops or livestock raised: 1889 - Wheat, cows, and horses; 1988 - Wheat, cows, barley, peas, lentils, and hay

Spokane

Additional information: The original two-room house was recently renovated and is used as a small shop. Parlan took over the farm after his father's death in 1908, the same year he married a neighbor girl, Mary Agnes Rouch. Their sons Clarence and James later farmed the land. Today the over 2,000-acre farm is operated by Charles and Steve Pittman, brothers who are married to James and Jeanne Painter's daughters Julie and Janice.



'The Painter Family, Palouse Pioneers' 19" x 36" oil painting

Palouse pioneers

BY NONA HENGEN

Often wonder, when driving through eastern Washington, who homesteaded the farms that I pass, if they have changed hands, or if descendants of the pioneering family still here and farm. What circumstances brought original settlers to come to this land, and to choose a particular spot to homestead? I've wondered the same about the farm I now live on. Its deed and its history of ownership, but the original plat maps have vanished from temporary memory a century ago. A year ago Julie Pittmann told me her family, the Painters, were going to convene for a reunion of one family's common occupancy of a farm that already a Centennial Farm in 1989. We were expected from five branches of the Painter family; they would meet at 19 at EWU's Student Union for an unprecedented celebration, with festivities designed to commemorate the 122th anniversary of the Painter family farm.

Julie wanted a painting of the ancestors to be unveiled at the reunion, this is where I came in. She brought an impressive array of memora-

bilia—photos of forebears, an aerial view of the farm, which is situated halfway between Cheney and Rosalia and has, at various times, had either a Cheney or a Rosalia address—and an impressive tome she had prepared representing an extensive genealogy of the Painter family, interspersed with a collection of family memories.

We set a date for me to see the farm, and I rode in a pickup to the "back forty" to choose a view that would encompass the buildings, the land, the timber and a portion of Bonney Lake, all part of a wheat and cattle legacy spanning a century and a quarter.

I had heard the Painter name and had been to Bonney Lake (on later maps, spelled "Bonnie")—and had driven past her farm without knowing it was hers, and most certainly not knowing any of its history.

Julie traced that history back to Ohio, where Julie's great grandfather Benjamin Painter was born in 1834 and where he lived the first 12 years of his life. The family moved to Missouri and there he spent his teens. During those impressionable years, the Mexican War, that gave us our Southwest, was being waged. It

was a time slave-owning Missourians who lived near the western border of Missouri were alarmed because as slavery families were settling the Kansas country. The trouble between free Kansas and slave-holding Missouri resulted in scattered warfare and murders right up to the outbreak of Civil War. The governor of Missouri urged the state convention to join the Confederacy, but Missouri voted to remain with the Union. Families were broken up during the on-going chaos and hostility among opposing forces.

The pre-Civil War United States ended at the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. The town closest to where the Painters lived was St. Joseph, the jumping-off place for the Oregon Trail. Somewhere beyond—way beyond—lay California which had become a state in 1850.

As I started my composition for the painting, I pondered a young man's work in the 1850s. Ben Painter was 14 at the close of the Mexican War in 1848. He and his brothers, Alex and Sam, had grown up hearing a lot about an impending conflict over slavery. In the '50s, many lectures went on the stump in these North fringe states. Horace Greeley, a journalist and newspaperman, opposed the spread

re was some pretty impassioned going on, and the Painters, now men, could not have escaped the climate of the times. 1854 storm clouds were gathering over the country was breaking apart; the States were talking Secession. That was the big issue. The country was years away from Civil War. And as a rail-splitter out in Illinois for president, a 51-year-old lawed-politician who would occupy the House in 1861.

**'Go West,
ung man, go West**

times were very unsettled personally as well as nationally. Ben's mother and the place he had spent his no longer held him. Ben Painter and two brothers decided to follow Greeley's advice. They would themselves, join a wagon train, "West."

At the time this advice was being given there was no Homestead Act, and as no transcontinental railroad to the States with California. And the pioneer men, including their families, flocked off in 1854 on the overland trail, full of hope for the promise of life in California.

hard for us today to imagine what have been like to take that trail. Hard for the Johnsons; no hot shower and of an arduous day. No Nike hoes or White's Boots to get one out of that trail; no refreshing shower and cold running water, and no cooling mattresses waiting to soothe muscles with a good night's sleep. No parking of oxen. It took courage to make it on the Oregon Trail.

Johnnie Sr. died during the trek. His son, Alex and Sam continued on to California between present day Nevada

territory and California, where they left the trail in 1854. It would be 10 years before Nevada would be admitted to the Union. The place the Painter brothers alighted had been named "Honey Lake." There was a gold rush in progress—gold and silver. The Painter youths saw an opportunity in outfitting and feeding miners.

It had been six years—1848—since gold had been discovered in California. There were still thousands of men hurrying west to get in on placer mining. The California strike made it imperative to get an alternative route over the Sierras, in order to avoid the Donner Pass route. Peter Lassen (Lassen Peak) was the first to explore for such a route; by 1851, William Nobles had begun taking settlers over a route running from Nevada's Humboldt River to Shasta City at the northern end of the Sacramento Valley.

Thousands were passing along this route, but some were dropping off in the Honey Lake Valley. One of these was a chap named Isaac Roop. Roop built a trading post and sold provisions to travelers taking Nobles' Emigrant Trail. He could provide provisions they would need before crossing the Sierras.

As more people arrived and settled around Roop's post, it began to be called Rooptown, but later, he insisted the name be changed to Susanville, after his daughter. When Nevada Territory was established, Isaac Roop became its first governor. A few years later it was determined (following government surveys) that Susanville wasn't in Nevada after all—it was actually in California!

Ben Painter and his brother Alex liked what they saw of the region, and stayed. Ben built a saloon close by Roop's trading post, and christened it the "Black Rock Saloon" after the mining region 90 miles to the north.

Indian trouble

Ben and Alex Painter had been in Rooptown about five years when the Paiute Indians, angered over mining activity and the proposed wagon road crossing the Sierra Nevada into the Great Basin, went on the warpath. A Colonel Lander, in charge of building that road, had 35 men helping him lay it out and 30 Rangers deputized to chase and chastise the Paiutes. When a white man got killed near Roorpville, the colonel put out a call for all able-bodied men to join his men.

and to go after the Parutes,

The Paiutes were ready and a pitch battle occurred. Ben's brother Al was mortally wounded in the fierce fighting. Al urged Ben to leave him with a rifle and a shot pouch and to keep fighting.

The road builders and Rangers finally got the Paiute ringleader but when he raced back to his brother, he found him dead. On that dreadful day, June 23, 1880, Alex was buried where he had fallen and the place named "Painter Flat" on territorial maps in his memory.

Romance

The Borette family stopped Roopville on their way to California. They had some dreadful experiences relate. Indians had massacred the wag party just ahead of them. The Boret planned to continue after stocking up some supplies, but those plans were on hold when a blizzard socked in the inhabitants of Roopville, obliging Oregon Trail travelers to spend the winter. The Borettes stayed just long enough for Cur to aim an arrow at Ben and their flannel-haired teenager, Melvina Borette.

Ben Painter married Melly June 188 during the second year of Abraham Lincoln's presidency and of the Civil War. She was 17, and he, 29. They start their married life in Susanville, on the California side of the California-Nevada border. They had two children and were expecting their third when a scarlet fever epidemic spread through the region as swept away the lives of their first two.

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In 1870, the Painters left the area for mining camp 70 miles north of Elko, named White Rock. Here Harry, their third child, was born, followed by Benjamin in 1872 and Parlan in 1875. Ben may have had mining or farming in mind for his boys when he bought 320 acres near White Rock. The settlement was little more than a crossroads and stage station that never had any other reason to grow. In 1871 the population of White Rock was 10, one-fifth of whom were the Painters and Melvina's parents, the Borettes, who added the move with them. White Rock's population peaked 18 years later at 35. It today one of Elko County, Nevada's, most town mining camps.

Custer's curse

When news of the assignation of theoux with Custer reached settlements on the Nevada-California border, the Painter boys were six, four, and one. Still, the Indians stuck it out in that isolated region, and their fourth boy was born there two years after the Custer massacre.

The Painters had by now lived their tire married lives—15 years—around the ranching and mining camp towns of the Nevada-California border. They died until 1880, when finally a baby girl, Amelia, joined her brothers. Amelia died on her second birthday and the grieving

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The painting

parents buried her at White Rock.

Melvina's parents wanted to leave White Rock. Her mother's health was failing. Somewhere they had heard about Colfax in Washington Territory, and Ben Painter took Melvina and their children and his in-laws to eastern Washington.

And that brings us to the year 1882 and to the imagined scene in the painting. The scene depicts members of the Painter family as they may have appeared looking down on the future site of their ranch, purchased November 1, 1882 from the Bonneys.

Benjamin Painter, 48 years old and a native of Ohio, and his wife Melvina and their four sons, Harry, 12, Ben, 10, Parlan, 7 and Albert, 4, stand atop a windswept knoll and look down over land that is to be their new home in eastern Washington after their arrival at Cheney in 1882.

Ben Painter was certain they would be able to have a good life here in the Palouse hills, for there were Ohioans here too—enough, in fact, for all to agree upon naming the creek and a school “Buckeye” in honor of the Buckeye state.

David and Emma Bonney, the original homesteaders, lived in a 10 x 12 "house" still standing on the property. It is the only trace of the Bonney's eight-year sojourn here, apart from the adjacent lake that bears their name.

A fifth son, Valentine, was born to the Painters in May 1883. Washington



Territory achieved statehood six years after the Painters settled in and raising wheat and cattle.

And then another tragedy befell the Painter family. The mother, Melvin's mother, died in 1961, stricken with diabetes and died in 1961, leaving two sons in their 20s, two daughters in their teens, and nine-year-old Valerie, the only child born on their Painter homestead.

Ben Painter, Palouse pioneer, continued to farm up to the day he died in 1974, in 1908. The "Painter Place" continues in the family, having passed from generation to generation, through Ben's son Parlan to grandsons Clifford and James Painter to great granddaughters Molly, Janice and Julie Painter. The photo that appears with this article was commissioned to mark the 122nd year of the family under the ownership of one family.

What an experience it was for us to share in this large family's celebration, and to catch a glimpse of their individual reminiscences of life lived by their pioneering forebears. Melvina, born in Scotland, married in 1847, gave birth to eight children, of whom three lived to adulthood; Valentine, the youngest, was nine when his mother succumbed to diabetes and existed for the remainder of his life until his death at the age of 46. It wasn't until 1921 that two Canadian scientists discovered and prepared insulin, and became the first to treat diabetic patients successfully, albeit too late for Melvina and those of her generation who may have suffered from this dreadful disease.

Melvina and Ben celebrated their anniversary; she knowing, perhaps it was to be their last.

Ben and Melly Painter exemplify the pioneering spirit. When I drive the Painter farm again, I will think that their generation experienced, endured, suffered, and attached their lives and dreams to, in order to discover the future in the West that Horace G. Painter proclaimed for sons of the soil and builders alike.

THE BARN CAT
Painted by Nona Hengen

"The eerie feeling of being watched struck me one morning when I was in the barn pouring grain into a feeder for the chickens that occupied a corner of the barn. I turned and glanced over a partition into the cavernous central chamber of the barn and there, on a broken bale in the semi-darkness, sat a tattered-ear ginger colored cat, motionless, staring spine-like at me, a stranger passing through who had chosen to tarry an hour, perhaps a day, in my barn. I painted the cat as I remembered him painted him so that the viewer of the painting, walking past it, will feel what I felt—the cat's suspicion, and his eyes following him as they followed me a decade ago on that early morning sojourn to the barn." —Nona Henken

Limited Edition,
15 S/N canvas replicas per size
Sizes:
Med. 16" x 20" • Large 24" x 30"