

S. B. Cox

HA09 Map 4: T3S, R7E, S10 and S15

See Sam and Lucy Young B03 and Gillman HF15.

The original *Report on Agricultural Homestead Application* (on file SRNF HR) for this tract of land is provided at the end of this overview and a scanned copy can be found in the computer files. This *Report* noted the name of the applicant as S.B. Cox of Zenia, California. There is a Solomon B. Cox listed on the 1900 census (see below). Given his age at that time—25 years old—it is likely that he was the applicant.

The William Cox family (Soloman was the eldest son) at that time was probably living in the Zenia area and it not clear what happened to the rest of this large family that was listed on the 1900 census, as there was no listing for anyone in Cox family at Zenia on the 1910 census

29	95	Cox William H-1	28	11	Mar	1857	
		— Phuby Ann	Wife	16	F	July 1857	M
		— Solomon B	Son	17	M	June 1870	S
		— George W	Son	14	M	Mar 1878	S
		— William B	Son	14	M	May 1879	S
		— Sarah A	Daughter	14	F	Mar 1881	S
		— Robert Lee	Son	14	M	June 1885	S
		— Pearl M	Daughter	12	F	May 1887	S
		— Charley K.	Son	11	M	July 1888	S
		— Ollie N.	Daughter	11	F	Apr 1893	S

Appendix 3 Census 1900-3

There was a second Cox family listed on the 1920 census--there were 17 children in the second Cox family. No link could be found connecting the 1900 William B. Cox family--including S.B. Cox--to the 1920 census Patrick M. Cox family (below). The census data on the second Cox family is included here for informational purposes, as by 1930, no member of either Cox family showed up on the census despite the large number of family members. At that time a Joseph Cox showed up (Appendix 3 1930-1) but he does not appear to have been related to either of the earlier Cox families.

Given the fact that S.B. Cox is listed on the 1900 census but not the 1910 census, it is quite possible --and would fit fairly closely (within about one to two years) for the time frame of when Sam and Lucy Young moved to Soldier Basin (B03). It is possible that Cox sold the tract to the Gillmans (see HF15) or permitted Sam and Lucy and the others to live on his

abandoned homestead. More research is needed to determine when he left and when he sold the tract. It eventually was acquired by the Gillman family.

Year	Name	Relationship	Sex	Age	Marital Status
123 143	Cox, Patrick M.	head	M	49	M
	" Mary L.	wife	F	43	M
	" John H.	son	M	27	S
	" Walter M.	son	M	25	S
	" Mabel J.	daughter	F	23	S
	" Hazel L.	daughter	F	20	S
	" Robert M.	son	M	22	S
	" Percy J.	son	M	19	S
	" Theodore R.	son	M	17	S
	" Edna S.	daughter	F	15	S
	" Mary E.	daughter	F	14	S
	" Elta T.	daughter	F	12	S
	" Ruth A.	daughter	F	11	S
	" Buena P.	daughter	F	8	S
	" Nellie J.	daughter	F	7	S
	" Betha A.	daughter	F	5	S
	" Samuel J.	son	M	4	S
	" Martha M.	daughter	F	3	S
	" Dorothy M.	daughter	F	1	S

Patrick Cox Family: 1920 census--this was one big family with 17 Children varying in age from 1 to 27. Given their placement on the census, they appear to be living in the Zenia area.

(A3: 1920-13)

To summarize the problem as discussed in the section on Sam and Lucy Young (B03), there is no clear link established in the historical record connecting the Cox family with Sam and Lucy Young who were supposed to have moved to this location in about 1907 (see B03 for more information). If that was the case, it would seem that both families (as well as the two elderly Wailaki women) would have been living here when Ranger Gray made his inspection of the homestead in March of 1908. As discussed below, however, Ranger Gray's very complete report does not mention nor does his detailed map (see the Appendix) indicate any Wailaki living at this location at that time.

I have found very little information on S.B. Cox leading me to believe that he did not live within the NFERW for very long. It is not clear how the land was made available for settlement by Sam and Lucy Young and how the land was conveyed to the current owners—descendants of the Gillman family. At some point, however, the Gillmans acquired the S.B. Cox tract (HA09). The TC Assessor's Map for 1949 shows the two tracts at Soldier Basin as being owned by M.A. Upham. In the late 1980s this parcel was owned by Mary Alice Upham of Sebastopol (SRNF Land Records). Note that Gilman's daughter was "Mary A." So it is likely that this tract is still be owned by a member of the Gilman family.

It is clear that more research is needed to clarify the ownership of this tract and the connection between S.B. Cox and Sam and Lucy Young.

### **The S.B. Cox Homestead**

The following section summarizes relevant portions of the *Report on Agricultural Homestead Application* for this tract of land.

S. B. Cox had settled on the land March 1, 1902 (when he declared entry under the Homestead Act of 1862). This homestead entry was made prior to establishment of TNF. Therefore it was grandfathered in when it was inspected by the Forest Service on March 22, 1908, by examining officer John T. Gray MRRD Deputy Forest Ranger. No mention is made if there were other family members living there, Cox may have been single as the ranger homestead entry reports usually include this information. The relevant portions of the ranger's report are summarized below.

This land is located on an open ridge in the forks of the North Fork of Eel river and Soldier Creek a tributary. It is a sparsely settled region, the nearest settlement of importance being Zenia 8 miles distant. The Mad River wagon road is 4 miles distant. The nearest railroad station is Carlotta 63 miles distant by road.

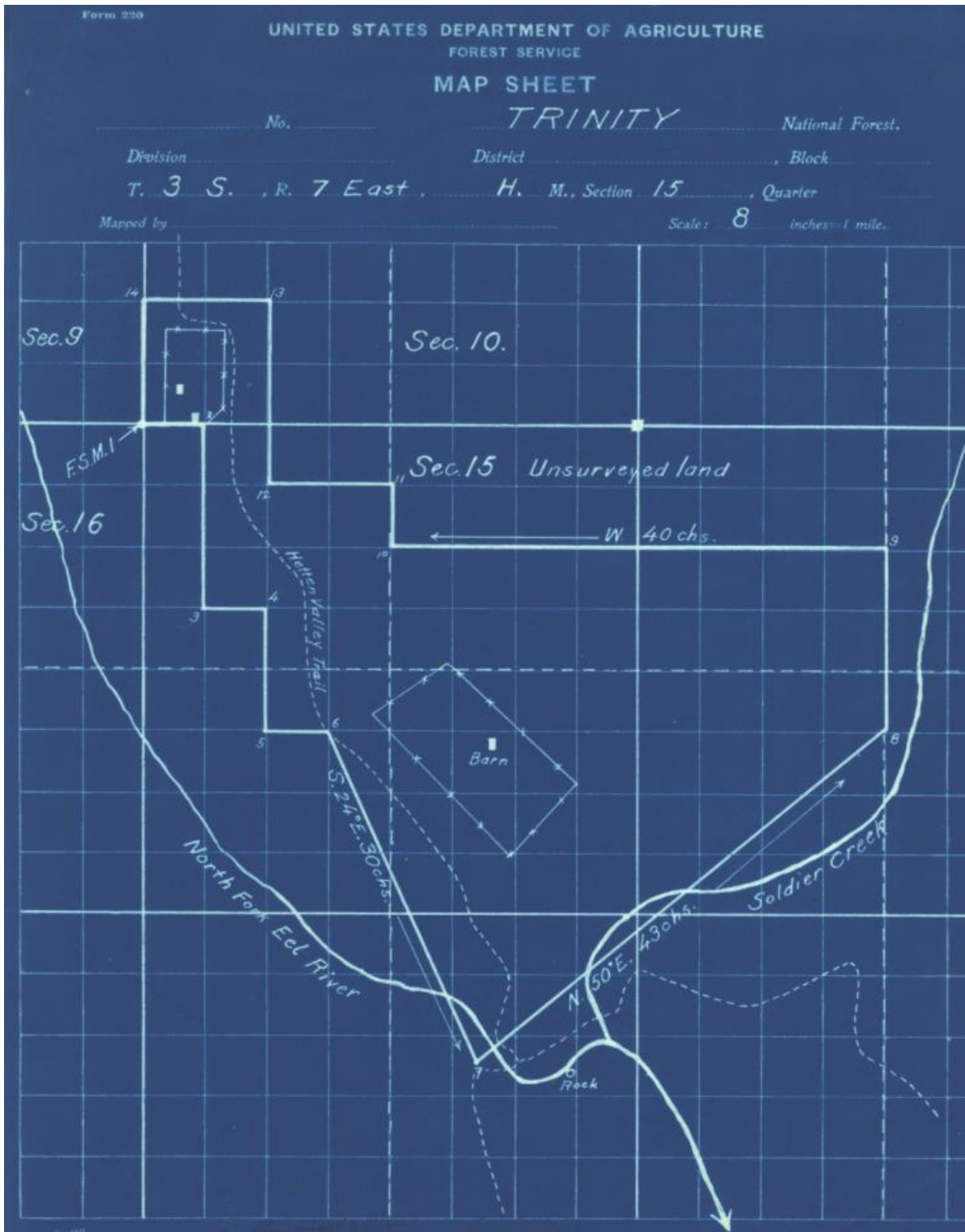
5. Formation: The soil in most part is a black loam [possilbe midden?]. I note two springs on the tract. The largest in the N-W cor. of the tract—affords sufficient water to irrigate a small garden, no ohter water available for irrigating puposes.

8. Claims: No conflicting claims known to exist. The improvements which consist of about 7/8 mile of fencing, house and two barns were constructed by S.B. Cox the applicant.

9. Economic Possibilities: Applicant works to legalize his claim to the land on which he has lived for 6 years, he has made a living during this time rasing stock, which are fed during winter with hay grown on this land. The soil provides good crops of grain. No market for porduce grown. Land of this character is worth from \$4.50 to \$6.00 per acre.

10. Rekommedations: I recommend that the 160 ares outlined in blue on the map be listed for settlement...

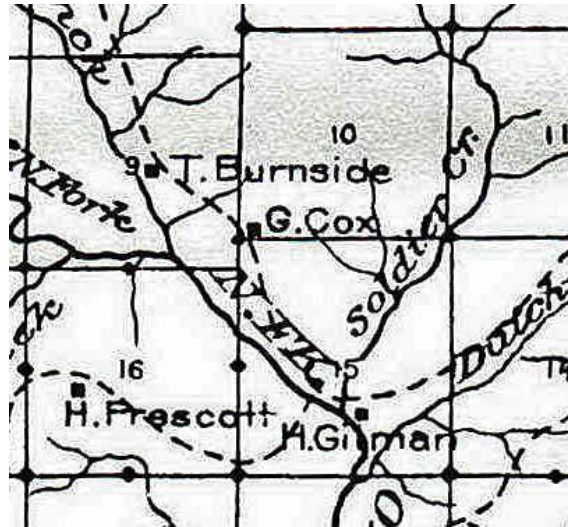
The 160 acre tract of land was very unique in that it was highly irregular not a typical assblage of 3 or 4 quarter sections to make up 160 arces—refer to the map of this tract below.



HA09 Map 1

Note the highly irregular shape of this tract of land and location of the improvements.

The S.B. Cox place shows up on the 1922 TNF map (Map 2) as the "G.Cox" place--note that the improvements are well to the north of the mouth of Solder Creek. Interestingly the map shows no structure on the tract closer to the mouth of Soldier Creek; which was where Cox had constructed a barn and Sam and Lucy Young had lived a decade earlier (see B03).



HA09 Map 2

1922 TNF map includes both the Cox Place and the Gilman place.

Note the improvements are well to the north of Soldier Creek (A2: 11).

The location of the improvements is depicted on the Base Map with "X1" the approximate location of the cabin/house and "X2" the location of the barn. The homestead record and the map drawn by the ranger (below) are significant as this is the only physical description encountered of Solder Basin during this period in the literature. Note on the Ranger's map that the house, a fenced in area, and garden area are located in Section 10 along the Kettenpom Valley to Hettenshaw Valley Trail (HTNF-15). This is about ½ mile to the north of the barn that is closer to the location of the village site located near the mouth of Soldier Creek (see B03 for more details).

It is not clear how the local myth began that there was a 100' long barracks left by the army during the 1860s at Soldier Basin when the military was active in the region. It may have been the remains of the barn that were observed instead. Clearly a primitive wooden structure built in the between 1861 and 1864 (when the military was active in the area) would have lasted little more than a decade or two in this region (see B03 for a discussion of this issue).

One consultant (A6: I#448) noted that the old Cox claim was located where the cottonwood (poplar?) trees are located to the northeast of the prehistoric site. He also noted that there was a big spring in the swale and there was a house and barn on the homestead. {This would have been in the 1930s.} It is not clear if this matches the location of the Cox house/cabin as noted on the Ranger's map. There may have been a structure built closer to the mouth of Solder Creek at some point after the Ranger mapped the tract of land.

**S.B. Cox: *Report on Agricultural Homestead Applications***

John T. Gray, Deputy Forest Ranger MRRD, TNF, noted the following information in his inspection report. A copy of the original report can be found in a jpg format at this folder labeled: HA09 Cox HS report 1908.

Item 8; Claims

No conflicting claims known to exist. The improvements which consist of about 7/8 mile of fencing, house and two barns were constructed by S.B. Cox the applicant.

Item 9: Economic Possibilities

Applicant wishes to legalize his claim to the land on which he has lived for 6 years; he has made his living during this time raising stock, which are fed during the winter with hay grown on this land..

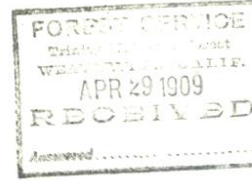
Item 10: Recommendations

I recommend that the 160 acres outlined in blue on the map be listed for settlement....

John T. Gray. Deputy Forest Ranger

What is confusing about this report is that the Cox claim clearly encompasses the old village site at the mouth of Soldier Creek, yet there is no mention made of anyone living there in the spring of 1908 when Ranger Gray made his inspection. The attached map to the report (see Appendix below), drawn by the ranger, is very detailed, as is usual for their very well written and mapped homestead reports, it therefore, it seems unlikely that he would not have mentioned any other building at this site or discussed the fact that other people were living there.

The following letter in the file from 1909 indicates that Cox was successful in acquiring the property.



OL  
 Trinity, Settlement,  
 Cox, S. B., H.A. #34.

April 24, 1909.

Mr. S. B. Cox,  
 Zenia, Cal.

Dear Sir:

I am very glad to inform you that approximately 160 acres of the tract of land applied for by you under the Act of June 11, 1906, described as follows, have this day been listed with the Secretary of the Interior to be declared open to settlement and entry:

To be approximately

Township 3 south, Range 7 east, Humboldt Meridian,  
 Sections 10 and 15 (Eureka Land District)

Further information concerning this tract may be obtained from the Commissioner of the General Land Office, Washington, D. C. Your local land office will notify you when your entry can be accepted.

Very truly yours,

Chief, Office of Operation.

The above information brings into question just when White Lilly (and his wife White Lilly), the tow Wailaki women, and Sam and Lucy Young first settled there. It seems that it would have taken place after the spring of 1909 given the date of the above letter. It is possible that they may actually have been living just to the south on the Gillman place. That is unlikely; however, note that on the map below it is detailed enough to show trail HTNF-19--the Ben Arthur Trail--but does not show any improvements to the south of Soldier Creek. A search of the Land Records at SRNF and at the TC courthouse would help to answer this question. For more on this issue refer to B03.

## Appendix 1

## Report on Agricultural Homestead Application

Form 110.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

## REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL HOMESTEAD APPLICATIONS.

March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1908.  
(Date.)

Trinity

National Forest.

1. Name and address of applicant:

S. B. Cox, O. O. Zenia, Calif.  
(If already on land, give date of settlement.)Settled upon there March 1<sup>st</sup> 1902.

2. Location:

*This recommendation embraces the land desired by the Applicant*  
(Legal subdivision, or by metes and bounds. Relation to highways, rivers, railroads, etc. Proximity and importance of towns, settlements, etc.)

Commencing at the cor. sec's 9, 10, 15 and 16 Twp. 3 S., R. 7 E., H. M. The land with of sec's 9 and 10 being unsurveyed, I use this cor. as F. S. M. Sta. 1 E. 5.00 to sta. 2, S. 15.00 to sta. 3, E. 5.00 to sta. 4, S. 10.00 to sta. 5, E. 5.00 to sta. 6. From this point, S. 24° E., 30.00 to sta. 7, 75° E., 43.00 to sta. 8, N. 15.00 to sta. 9, W. 40.00 to sta. 10, N. 5.00 to sta. 11, W. 10.00 to sta. 12, N. 15.00 to sta. 13, W. 10.00 to sta. 14, South 10.00 to sta. 1 the point of beginning.

This land is located on an open ridge in the forks of the North Fork of Eel river and soldier creek a tributary. It is a sparsely settled region, the nearest settlement of importance being Zenia 8 miles distant. The Mad River wagon road is 4 miles distant. The nearest railroad station is Carlotta 63 miles distant by road.

3. Area:

Applied for 160 reported on 160 recommended 160. ac. (Applied for, reported on, and recommended.)



4. Topography: *This land is situated on a gradual South and West slope of a ridge located in the forks of Soldier Creek and North Fork of Eel River.*  
(Topography of tract applied for, and relation to surrounding territory. Topography should be considered particularly in its bearing on agricultural possibilities, slope, aspect, etc.)

*It can nearly all be farmed. Looking to the South and East one can see for several miles but to the North and West hills that surround this land screens the view.*

*Altitude 2300 to 2500 ft. above sea level.*

5. Formation: *The soil in its most part is a black loam of*  
(Nature and extent of soil, rock, etc., paying particular attention to their influence on agricultural possibilities. Presence of water for irrigation and domestic use. Possibilities for developing water.)

*Erosive nature some points show out crop of shale and along the North boundary of the tract shows considerable out crop of shale. I note over two springs on the tract the largest in N-W cor. of the tract affords sufficient water to irrigate a small garden, no other water available for irrigating purposes.*

6. Climate: *Moderate. Greatest Summer heat 104°*  
(Precipitation, temperature, occurrence of killing frosts.)

*While killing frosts occur about Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Average precipitation 70 inches*

7. Cover: *Almost the entire tract is open glade or grass land,*  
(Nature and extent of cover, with estimate of amount and value. Accessibility and distance to market. Is cover needed for protective or seeding purposes?)

*12 1/2 acres has a scattered growth of white oak and on 2 1/2 acres there is a few scattered Red Fir trees. The Oaks are of no value except for wood and fence posts while the Fir timber is too scattered and rough to be of any value. Such timber, as there is on the tract is not used for seeding purposes, as on this bare south slope timber do not grow readily.*

8. Claims: *No Conflicting Claims Known to Exist.*  
(Conflicting claims to land or existing improvements—by whom and on what grounds. Examiner is not to pass upon claims—merely to furnish all available information. Use in the past, and by what means. Existence of mining claims.)

*The improvements which consist of about 7/8 mile of fencing, house and two barns were constructed by S. B. Cox. The Applicant*  
*No mineral known to exist.*

9. Economic possibilities: *Applicant wishes to legalize his claim*  
(Reason for application, and opinion as to success of applicant's plans. State fully agricultural possibilities. Value, if any, to Forest Service for Rangers' Quarters or other administrative purposes. Distance and market price per acre of nearby farms. Transportation facilities.)

*to the land on which he has lived for 6 years. He has made his living during this time raising stock, which are fed during winter with hay grown on this land. The soil produces good crops of grain. No market near for produce grown. Land of this character is worth from \$4.50 to \$6.00 per acre.*

10. Recommendations: *I recommend that the 160 acres outlined*  
(Specific recommendation for or against listing of land, with summary of reasons for recommendation.)

*blue on the map - be listed for settlement, Cox is a squatter who has acted in good faith, lived on the land 6 years and has at present an equity which is best respected.*

11. Photographs: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Give numbers of negatives which go with this report.)

*OK 137  
Washburn*

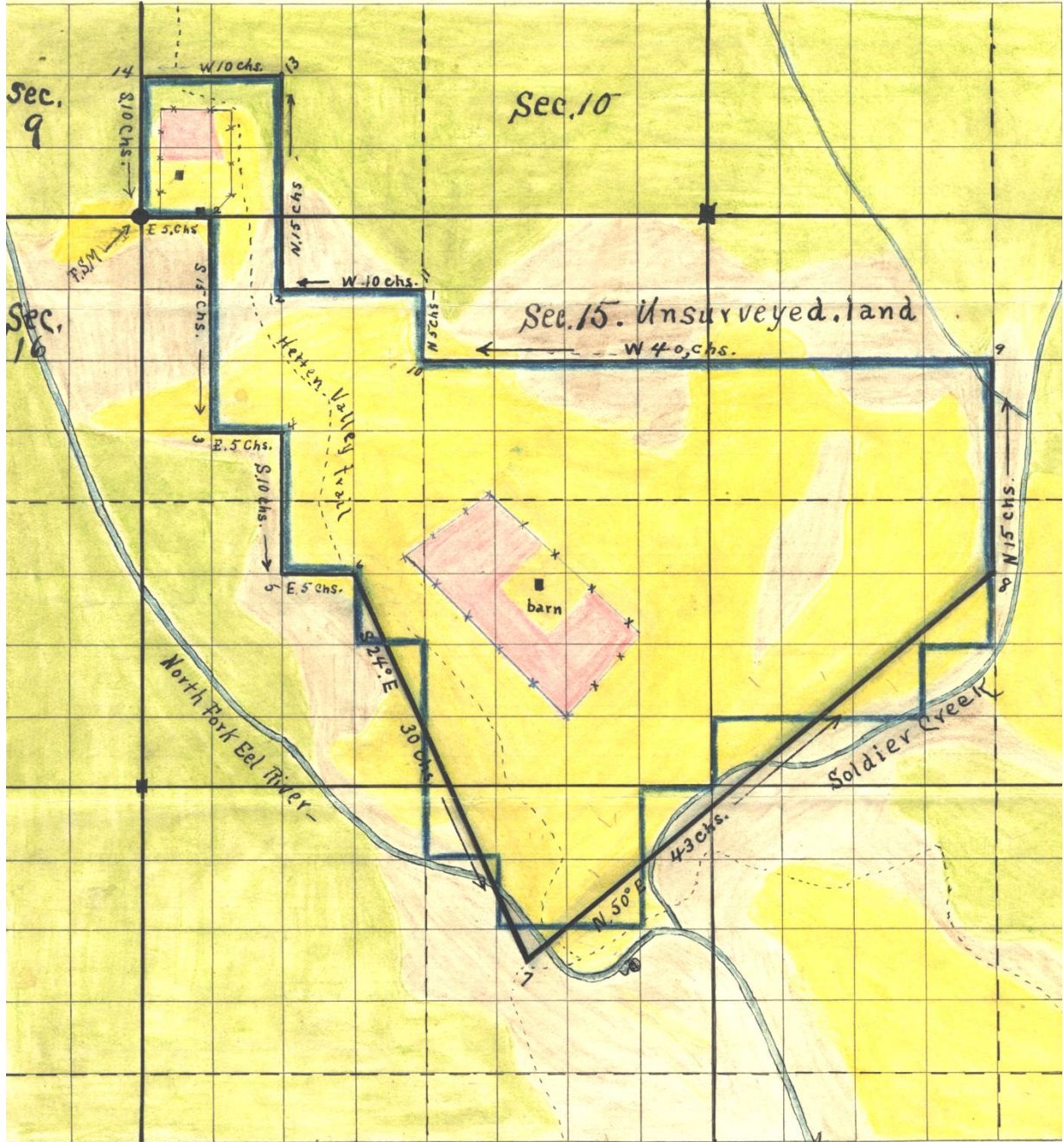
*John P. Gray*  
(Signature of examining officer)  
*Deputy Forest Ranger*  
(Title.)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_, 190 .  
(In charge, Examinations.)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_, 190 .

MAP SHEET.

Tp. 3 S R. 7 E H.M. Section, Quarter Scale: 8 inches = 1 mile.



Sketch map, in colored pencil, of the area applied for on a scale of 4 inches to the mile, showing topography, cover, roads, trails, agricultural land, and improvements. At least one-half mile of surrounding country should be sketched in. 8-494

- White Oak timber.
- Cultivated land.
- Open Grass land.
- Fir and Yellow Pine 2000 ft. B.M. Per Acre.