

Thomas Duncan Homestead

HF05 Map 7: T5S, R7E, S3

There is a hard copy file for this entry.

It appears that the Caution Post Office (F20c Location #3) was located on this property at the junction of trails HTNF43 and HTNF43 spur A. Some consultant information places the post office further south on the Church Willburn Ranch—see F20c entry for a discussion of this problem.

Plotting this tract was very difficult and the Base Map is plotted to reflect the changes in property lines discussed below and to conform to the 1977 SRNF map since it shows the improvements on private property. It encompasses both the HE and the earlier portion of the John Duncan place (see also Lowden's 1894 map)

John and Polly Duncan were among the earliest settlers on Long Ridge. Their son, Tom Duncan, filed for entry on June 13, 1914, under the 1906 Forest Service Homestead Act (H.A. #439). For more information on the extended Duncan family see B06.

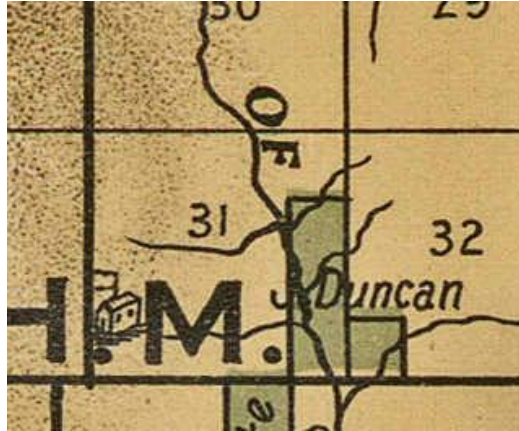
This document focuses on the homestead application filed under the NFHA. Several trails including HTNF-08, HTNF-43 and the Tom Duncan Mailbox Trail (HTNF-05) connect this homestead to the west with Long Ridge, south to the Church Willburn place, and to points east of the NFER.

The original GLO survey was very inaccurate and has caused numerous problems for this tract of land and the Duncan family. Contemporary surveys showed that the location of the original John and Polly Duncan homestead was located further to the east as shown on the Lowden's 1894 map (below). It appears everything, after surveys were updated, was shifted to the west at least a quarter mile.

As noted earlier, it was plotted on the Base Map to encompass the home and barn—as described in the homestead entry (Appendix 1 below) since the need to file for homestead entry on this tract in 1906 was because the improvements in the original homestead entry (see Map 1) claimed by his father John Duncan in the 1870s (see B06) were on national forest lands (see HE below). In addition, it appears that this entry was an effort expand the size of their homestead and to claim adjacent lands further to the west.

Lowden's 1894 map places most of the J. D. Duncan tract to the east of the NFER. This later was changed during a new cadastral survey and tract moved further to the west.

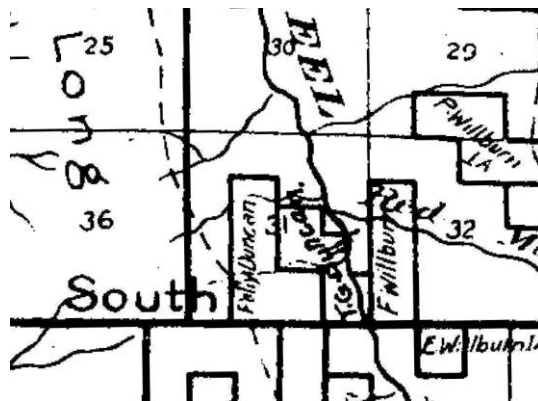
HF05



HT05 Map 1

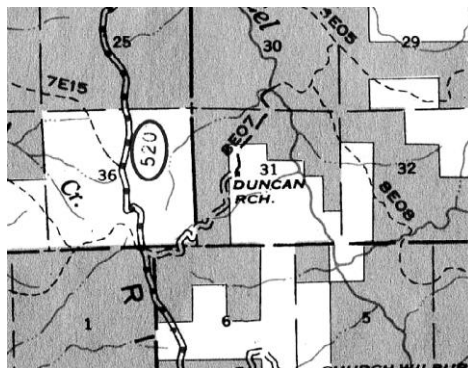
Lowden's 1894 survey map: most of the tract is to the east of the NFER. In later maps the tract was shifted further to the west after new surveys. (A2: 05)

The 1915 TNF map places most of the J. Duncan tract to the west of the river .



1915 TNF map showing most the tract to the west of the river.

The tract boundaries are plotted on the Base Map to reflect the property boundaries as shown on the 1977 SRNF map HT05 Map 2.



HTNF05 Map 2

(A2:21b)

Tom Duncan Homestead Entry

The *Report on Forest Homestead Application* dated September 29, 1914 (see HF05 Appendix 1) notes that;

Settlement was made prior to creation of the Forest. The applicants father John Duncan (now deceased) settled on these lands over forty years ago. It was recently determined by survey that the father, having entered and made final proof on lands other than those occupied by him.

It was listed as open for entry on October 14, 1914.

John Duncan and family were among the earliest settlers to homestead on Long Ridge -- dating to the 1870s. This was before the area was surveyed so they likely first "squatted" on the land. At the time the entry was filed, this was a substantial homestead with a house and number of out buildings and a vineyard with about 1,000 vines and 25 to 30 fruit trees; see HF05 Appendix 1 for a description of the improvements and other details on the homestead.

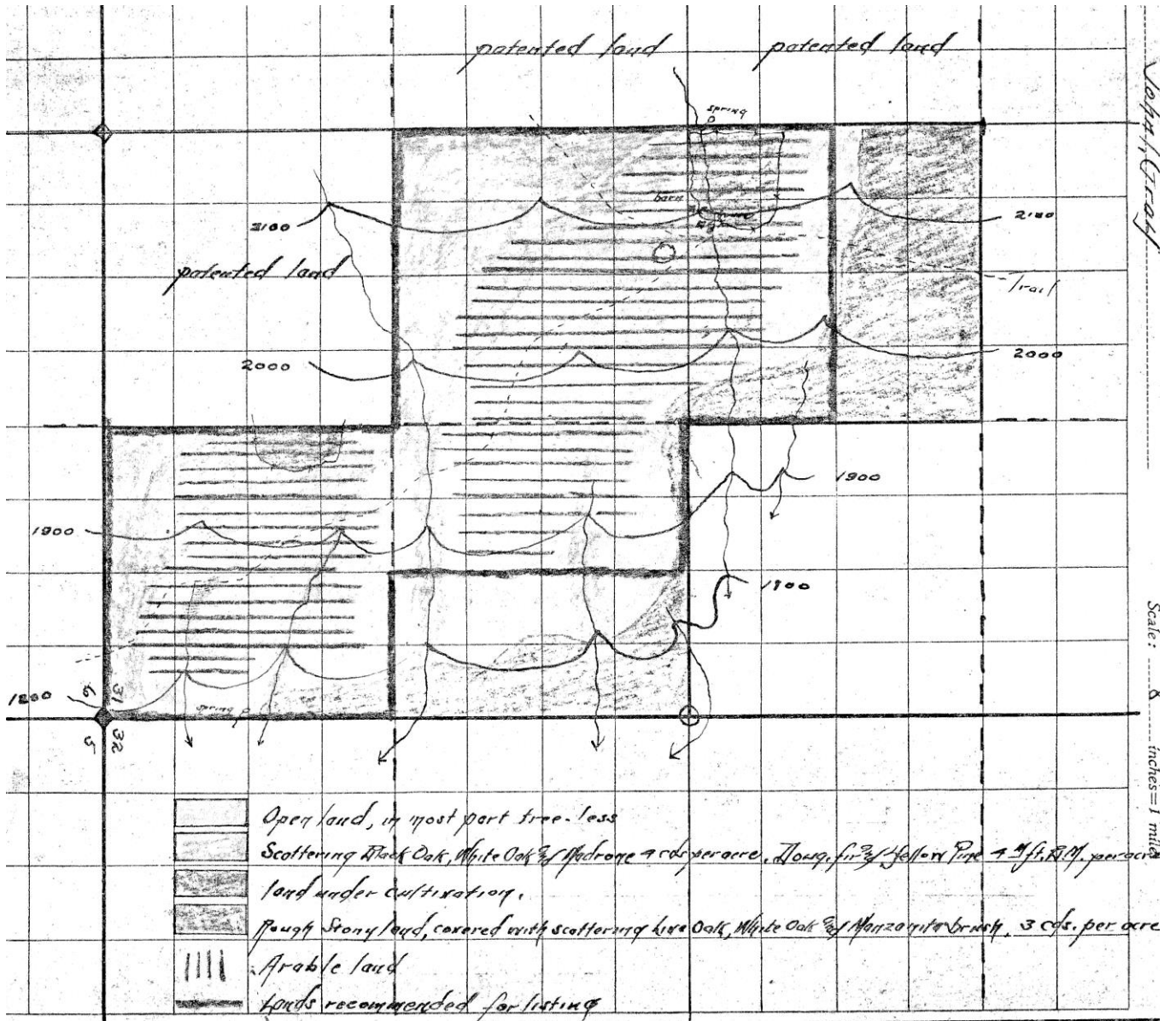
A 40 acre portion of the applied for tract was found to not qualify for listing (see plot map below). A letter in the file shows that the GLO listed the 120 acre tract on April 29, 1915.

It is not clear when the tract it was patented, but there may be more records in the homestead file at the HR office SRNF.

Plot Map of the Tract of land applied for—note it does not match contemporary Section lines!!!

MAP SHEET

Trinity Settlement
Duncan Tract, No. 439 *Trinity* National Forest.
 Division District *Kureka Land* Block
 T. *4S.* R. *8E.* S. *1* Section *31* Quarter
 Mapped by *John T. Graf* Scale: *8"* inches = 1 mile



Appendix 1 Homestead Entry File

Forest Service

Trinity - Settlement,
Duncan, T. G. H.A.#439.

REPORT ON FOREST HOMESTEAD APPLICATION

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

1. Location:

- (a) Applied for 160 acres. Reported on 160 acres.
- (b) Described as follows; SW NE, NW SE and E 1/2 SE, Section 31, T 4 S, R 8 E, H.M.
- (c) These lands are situated on the East slope of a mountain, locally known as Long Ridge. In the watershed of the North Fork of Eel River, and the land is situated about one half mile distance from this stream. The nearest postoffice and wagon road is in Hoaglin Valley, 7 mile in a NW direction. The tract is reached only by means of rough mountain trails. The region is sparsely settled, 5 families within 4 miles distance. Alder Point on the NW Pacific Railroad is approx. 26 miles distance.

2. Settlement:

- (a) Settlement was made prior to the creation of the Forest. The applicant's father John Duncan (now deceased) settled on these lands over forty years ago, infact the applicant was born and raised on the place. It was recently determined by survey that the father (John Duncan) was mistaken in the description of his lands, having entered and made final proof on lands other than those occupied by him.
- (b) Improvements consist of a frame house, 1 1/2 storys 24'x 30', 7 or 8 rooms. Building is old, its probable value is \$200.00 A frame barn (very old) 20' x 30' walls 18' with two 14' shed on sides. probable value \$150.00 A log store house 10' x 14' walls 8' Probable value \$50.00. Poultry house and other outbuildings worth probably \$25.00 to \$30.00 There is also approx. 80 rods of picket fencing comparatively new, worth about \$1.00 per rod. There is also a vineyard of 1000 vines, 25 to 30 fruit trees (25 to 30 years of age) The improvements were all built by the Duncan family, no other claim known to exist.

3. Claims:

- (a) No claims known other than those of the Duncan family.

Climate:

- (a) Moderate. Average annual precipitation 55 to 60 inches, 1/5 snowfall, 2/3 rainfall. The dry season usually extends from June 1 to October 1., with occasional showers through the months of June and September. The wet season extends over the remaining part of the year.
- (b) Greatest summer heat rarely exceeds 105° Extreme winter cold rarely below 20° above zero. Killing frosts last occur about May 15 and seldom again occur before October 20.
- (c) Hay crops of all kinds and fruits and vegetables of many varieties can be grown.

5. Public Uses:

- (a) The tract is not needed for administrative purposes, or for any public use. It has never been posted.
- (b) No needed exceptions for roads, trails, telephone lines or for any other purposes.
- (c) The tract has no relation to a drivable stream.
- (d) The tract does not include or control any reservoir sites valuable for power, irrigation or water supply. The tract does not form a part of a site suitable for power development. Form 107 is omitted.
- (e) The tract is not necessary for in the protection of a watershed or a city's water supply.

LISTABLE LAND.

1. Location and acreage:

- (a) Described as follows; S 1/2 SW NE, NW SE, W 1/2 NE SE, and SE SE, Section 31, T 4 S, R 8 E, H.M. No other claims adjacent to the tract. The tract is joined by patented lands along its western boundaries (see attached map). No small areas of National Forest land would be isolated or separated from the main body of Forest land.
- (b) Area, 120 acres.
- (c) The applicant was present and consulted during this examination.

Topography and Soil:

- (a) The entire tract is mountainous, although situated on moderate slopes at an elevation ranging from 1750' lowest to 2150' highest. The tract has a South and SE exposure but in most part is an East exposure.
- (b) Very little loose surface rock noted. A few out crops of solid rock but will not cover an area greater than two acres on the recommended area.
- (c) The general character of the soil is a dark gray sand loam, and considerable of the soil on the more level like portions (probably 20 acres) the soil is a black loam. The surface soil appears to have considerable depth but few places noted where the subsoil was visible, where found (at a depth of 5 or 6 ft.) it was a yellowish clay. The soil cultivated appears to grow fair crops without irrigation, notwithstanding the land has been annually cropped for many years.
- (c) There is three rather bold springs on and near the tract, these springs afford sufficient water to irrigate 7 or 8 acres of land. No chance to develop other water for irrigation.

8. Agricultural Value:

- (a) Approximately 60 acres of the 120 acres recommended for listing can be cultivated to paying crops after the brush has been removed. The land will grow good average crops of hay and on the level benches where there is considerable moisture excellent gardens can be grown. The land without irrigation produces about 1 1/2 tons of hay per acre. There are no transportation facilities, crops grown on the tract would necessarily have to be fed to stock on the place. No market for hay in the near vicinity.
- (b) The average cost of clearing and otherwise preparing the brush covered portions for cultivation will be about \$15.00 per acre. The applicant could probably do the work himself. The probable market value of the land after improving for cultivation will not exceed 10 dollars per acre, judging from sales in this locality, which have been for grazing purposes exclusively. Such sales, the prevailing price paid has been \$5.00 to \$7.00 per acre.

9. Forest Value:

- (a) Forty five acres of the tract is covered with a scattering stand of scrubby Black Oak, White Oak, and Madrone, with a very scattering stand of Douglas Fir and Yellow Pine. This area will run about 4 cords of cordwood per acre and 4 M ft.

doug. fir and yellow pine, about 1/3 doug. fir and 1/2 yellow pine. The remaining part of the tract is almost entirely open grass and cultivated land. On the entire area there is about 180 M ft. R.M. douglas fir and yellow pine, its value is approximately \$1.50 per M ft. Its total value being \$270.00. In addition to the above timber there is 250 cords of cordwood, this is of little value at this time. There is no visible chance to dispose of this timber for a long time to come, the region is very inaccessible. The average age of the fir and pine timber is about 150 years. The timber appears to be sound.

- (b) Reproduction of fir and pine found scattering over about 6 acres in the SW portion, will approximate 150 seedlings per acre and its average age is 7 years.

NONLISTABLE LANDS.

6. Location and Acreage:

- (a) N. 1/2 SW NE and E 1/2 NE SE, section 31, T 4 S, R 8 E, H.M. for other information, see paragraph 6 of this report describing the listable lands.
- (b) Area, 40 acres.
- (c) The applicant was present and consulted at the time of examination by the examiner Mr. S. A. Shields, Assistant Forest Ranger.

7. Topography and Soil:

- (a) The land is mountainous and broken by numerous small ridges and land slides. The degree of slope will average about 20. A general east exposure.
- (b) Rock in loose and solid form is found over the greater part of this area.
- (c) The soil in most part a light gray sand loam intermixed with shale or broken rock. Where the land slides have occurred the soil is a mixture of yellow and blue clay. The land is very dry, has no possible value for cultivation.
- (d) There is no water on this tract available for irrigation and none could be developed.

8. Agricultural Value:

- (a) The tract affords some browse feed for the pasturage of stock but very little grass. Due to the character of the

soil, its dryness etc. roughness of topography and lack of available water for irrigation, the entire tract has no possible value for agriculture.

(b) The cost of clearing the land, grubbing etc., would be at least \$15.00 per acre, and the land would be of no greater value when cleared. It is too rough and rocky to be cultivated.

(c) No value whatever for cultivation, No similar land under cultivation. No similar land sold unless small portions in connection with the better quality of lands.

Forest Value:

(a) The land in most part has a scattering cover of Live oak, scrub white oak and manzanita brush. This will average about 5 cords of cordwood per acre. A total of 100 cords for the brush covered portions. The cordwood under present conditions has no market value. No timber of the better species on the tract.

(b) No young growth of fir or pine found.

John T. Gray.
Forest Ranger.

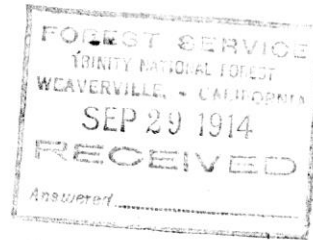
Respectfully Submitted,
September 23, 1914.

Approved 9/29 1914.

J. D. COFFMAN.
Forest Supervisor.

Guilty

Additional Documents in the Homestead Entry File



Ruth, California.

L
Trinity - Settlement,
Duncan, T. G. #439.

Sept. 23, 1914.

MEMORANDUM

Statement of time spent in making field examination
and report in the above settlement case.

Field

S. A. Shields	Asst. Ranger.	Sept. 11,	4 1/2 hours	} 2.88
" " "	" "	" 12,	4 1/2 "	
WL H. Atkeson	Forest Guard.	" 11,	4 1/2 "	} 3.15
" " "	" "	" 12,	4 1/2 "	
				6.03

Total 18 hours

Office

S. A. Shields	Asst. Forest Ranger	Sept. 16,	1 hour.	.38
J. T. Gray	Forest Ranger	" 16,	1 "	
" " "	" "	" 21,	3 1/2 "	3.33
" " "	" "	" 23,	4 "	.63
				3.7
Total 9 1/2 "				

John T. Gray.
District Ranger.

10.40

Duncan Letter



Hoaglin Cal
 Dec. 12, 1914
 Abstract- Yerrislin San Francisco
 Cal

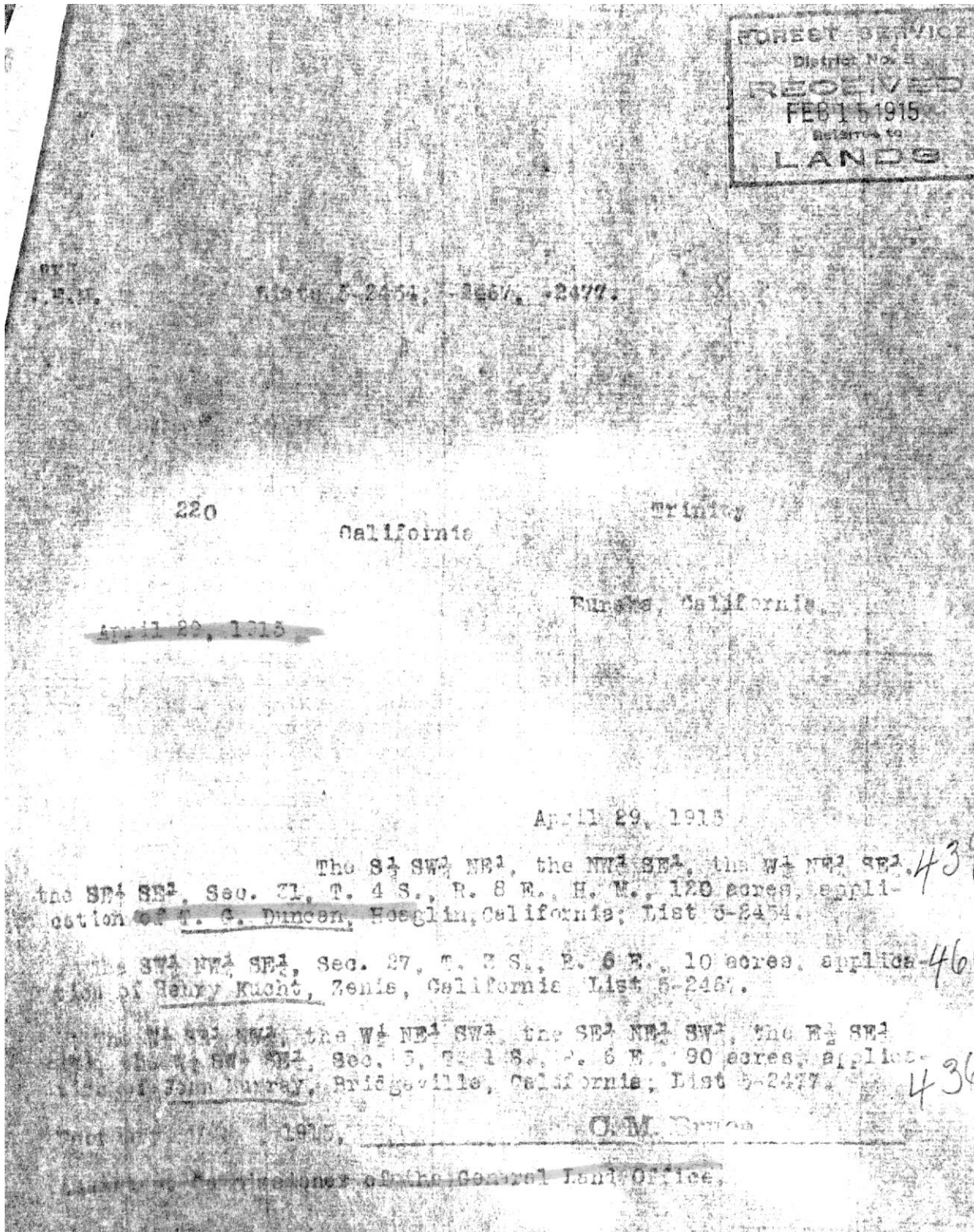
Dear Sir

In reply to yours of Oct-19, 1914
 will say that I have not received any notification
 as to filing as yet. now this tract of land
 is already improved and I have ~~had~~ ~~it~~
~~lose on thirty years~~ so do not think that I
~~will have any trouble in filing and proving~~
~~up immediately.~~ I would be pleased to
 have your views in regard to same.

Respectfully,

T. G. Duncan
 Hoaglin Cal.

Final Patent



L
Trinity, Settlement
Duncan, T. G. #439

Oct 14, 1914



The Honorable,

The Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

I have the honor to request that the following described land (List 5-2454) in the Trinity National Forest, California, which has been examined and is chiefly valuable for agriculture and which in my opinion may be occupied for agricultural purposes without injury to the National Forest and which is not needed for public purposes, be opened to settlement and entry in accordance with the Act of June 11, 1906 (34 Stat., 253):

Eureka Land District:

Township 4 South, Range 6 East, Humboldt Meridian;

Section 31, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW NE, NW SE, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE SE, SE SE;

Area, 120 acres.

The above described tract is listed to T. G. Duncan, of Hoaglin, California.

Respectfully,

D. F. HOUSTON

Secretary.

Supervisor's Copy

Copy sent Range 10, 1



L
Trinity - Settlement
Duncan, T G. 439

October 19, 1914

Mr. T. G. Duncan,
Heaglin, California.

Dear Sir:

I am very glad to inform you that on Oct. 14, 1914
120 acres of the tract of land applied for by you under
the Act of June 11, 1906, described as follows, were listed
with the Secretary of the Interior to be declared open to set-
tlement and entry:

Township 4 South, Range 8 East, Humboldt Meridian,
Section 31, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW NE, NW SE, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE SE, SE SE.

Further information concerning this tract may be ob-
tained from the Commissioner of the General Land Office, Wash-
ington, D.C. In writing for information you should refer to
List No. 5-2454 and give the name of the applicant. Your local
land office will notify you when your entry can be accepted, and
you are cautioned against incurring any unnecessary expense
toward filing on the land until you receive notice from the
Land Office that it is subject to entry.

Very truly yours,

Assistant District Forester.

Supervisor's Copy

AI