

HF16

William Shannon Homestead

HF16/HF16a Map 4: T3S, R7E, S. 34.

HF16b Map 3: T3S, R7E, S. 352

HF16c Map 3: T4S, R7E, S 9.

There is a hard copy file for this entry.

The Shannons were one of the most prominent families living in the Kettenpom Valley region during the first half of the 20th century. They eventually acquired a substantial amount of land by buying up some of the old homesteads in area.

Four locations where the Shannons lived in this area are plotted on the Base Map. The approximate locations of improvements are plotted with an "X." It is plotted as an HF since Shannon applied for tract HF16 under the Forest Homestead Act.

Note that the settlement of tract 16b (see below) predates creation of the TNF and is plotted as such on the Base Map (Layer 8) the type of entry is unknown at this time.

Location HF16b

In 1902, The Shannons moved to or acquired location HF16b. Ted Shannon (see interview below) noted that:

William and Gertrude Shannon and their children moved into the North Fork basin in 1902.... The Shannons at first settled in Hoaglin Valley but almost immediately moved down along the North Fork of the Eel to a place which had been occupied by a squatter named George Kindred. Shannon filed for homestead rights and the family lived here for 17 years (Shannon Ms.).

This would help to explain how the tract became labeled as the "Shannon Place" on later maps (see discussion and maps below). George Kindred was an early settler and was considered one of George White's "buckaroos." According to Carranco and Beard (1981: 231) he was involved with the killing of the Packwood Brothers (see George Kindred entry).

George Kindred shows up on the 1900 census. At that time (given his placement on the census rolls) he was living with his son and his family possibly at the HF16b location. This would explain the why--later in time--it became associated with Shannon although he did not acquire the tract until about 1902. Shannon may have actually purchased "squatters rights" from Kindred. Garcelon (A5: ms01) supports this possibility indicating that:

The Shannon place [at HF16b] was taken up by William Frederick Shannon and his wife Gertrude. *The place was next to the North Fork of Eel River near*

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Shannon Buttes. There was an orchard across the river. This place could have been the old George Kindred place. They homesteaded this place in 1902 and built a two story house. Portions of this house still stood after the 1964 flood. [Emphasis added.]

The location along the NFER was very isolated and only reached by trail HTNF-46. This trail after crossing the NFER and heading west from the Shannon Place then climbed steeply for about 1.25 miles--gaining 650' in elevation--to the trending ridge where the Shannons filed for the homestead claim at HF16 discussed below. From there a trail dropped down to Kettenpom Valley a distance of about 2.5 miles.

HF16/HF16a

The location of this homestead entry is plotted on the Base Map as HF16. The location of the improvements—later found to be on national forest lands—is plotted on the Base Map as HF16a and was recorded in 1979 by Larry Weigel as site 05-10-54-157.

The complete homestead entry file for William Shannon was not available for this study. However, Weigel attached the *Report on Agricultural Settlement* (April 19, 1913) for this tract (Appendix HF16 below) to the site record. The report provided a complete description of the homestead improvements, including:

a log house 16' x'22', wall 9' high...a shed kitchen 10' x 22' on one side of the house...Dwelling is floored throughout, has four rooms, four windows and five doors. The structure is old but in fairly good repair (this may have been the location of feature F23 see that entry} it was built by a former claimant but repaired by the entryman.

A frame barn 18' x 24', walls 12'. Sheds 12' in width on either side.

[The report continues providing a complete description of the improvements. See the Appendix]

The ranger's report concluded that:

The Entryman with his family made settlement and established actual residence on this claim, September 29, 1913. Since making settlement the entryman and his family have maintained a continuous and unbroken residence on the claim.

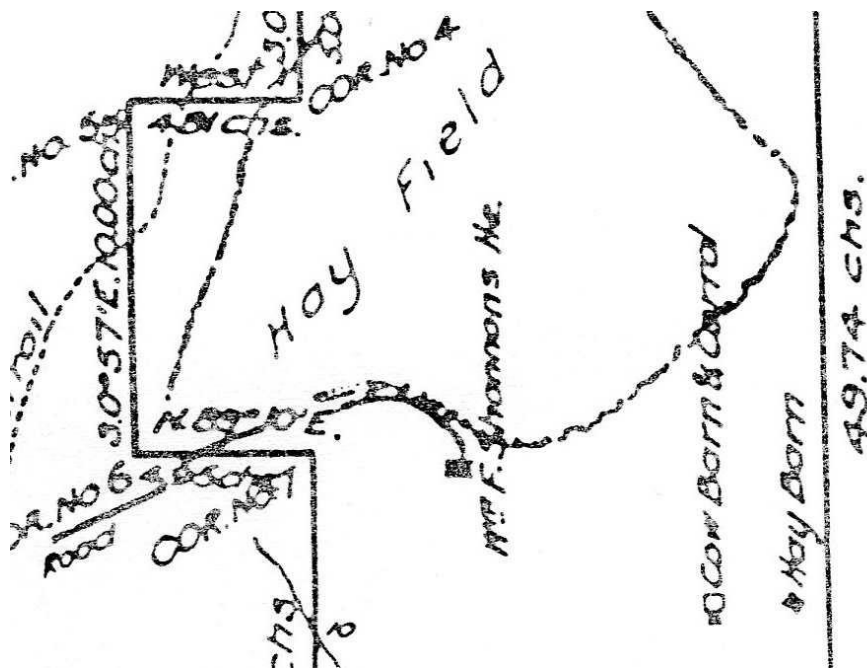
...I recommend patent.

The report also noted that: "the entryman William F. Shannon has *lived upon the land for a period of eleven years*, and I believe in all other respects fully complied with the homestead laws." [Emphasis added.] It is not clear, therefore if the family spent most of their time at this location or at the much more remote Kindred place along the river. What is clear is

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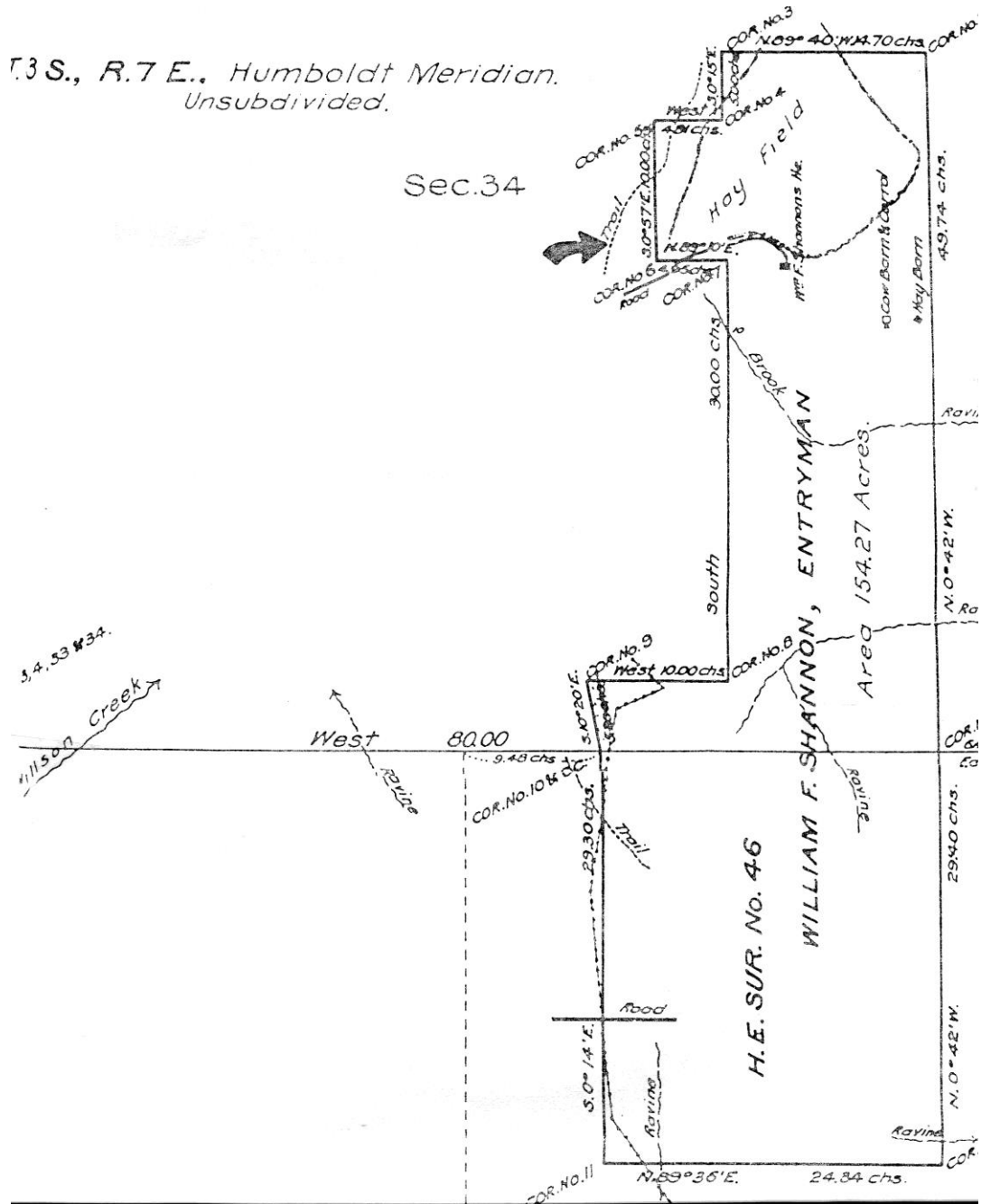
that they lived in this general area beginning in 1902 and acquired both the Kindred place and this location that may have been previously owned by a squatter named Ted Wedel (see F23).

The site record indicates that Shannon received a patent for tract HF16. When Weigel recorded the location with the improvements at HF16a, he wrote that "Little physical evidence remains of the structures that once stood on this place." He noted a pile of stones that was the fire hearth and an orchard. There were also a few broken pieces of porcelain, enamel ware, and shards of glass. The location of the improvements is shown on the tract map. The enlarged map shows the location of "Wm. F. Shannons Hse" as well as a hay field and two barns.



Enlarged tract map showing the location of the improvements.

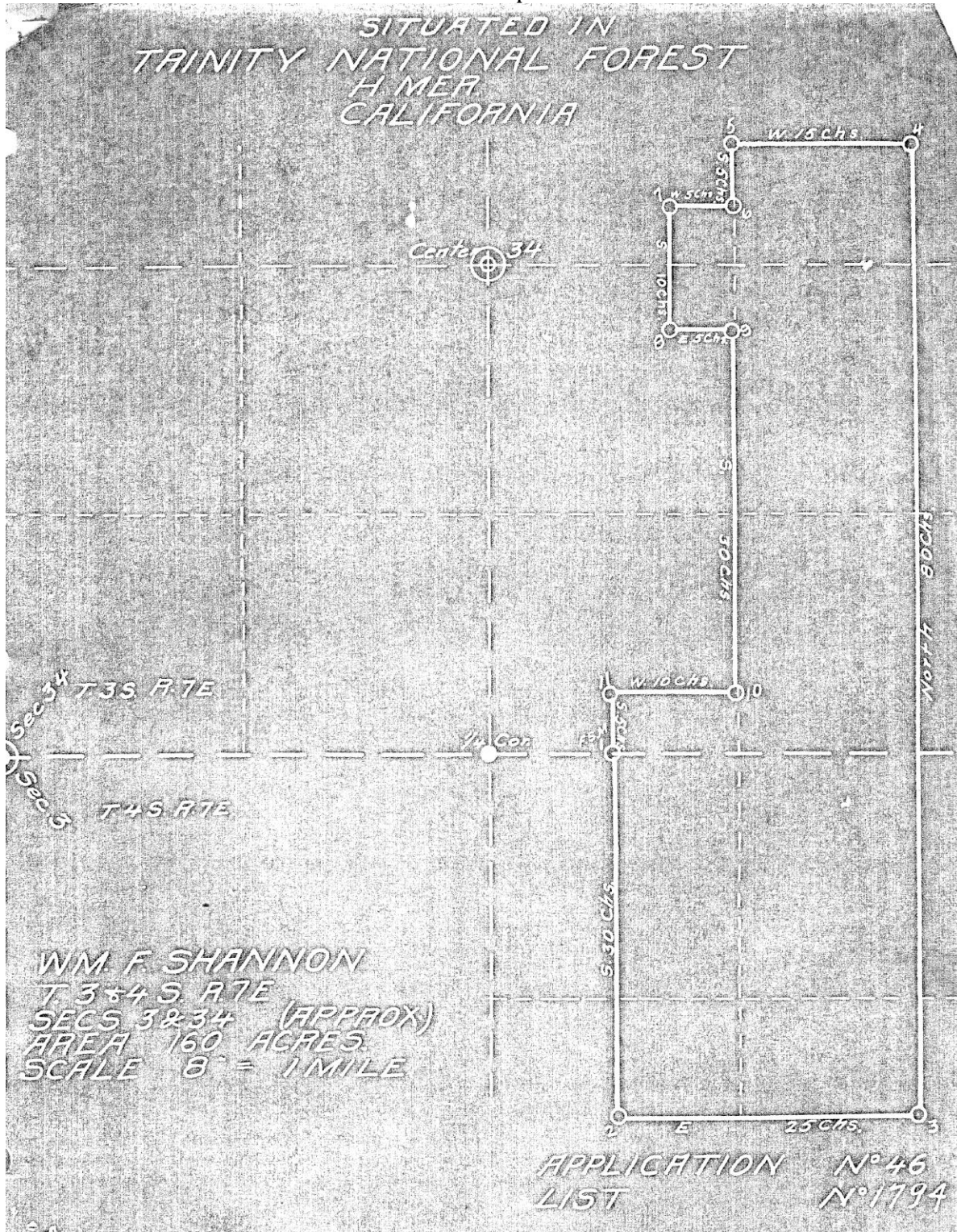
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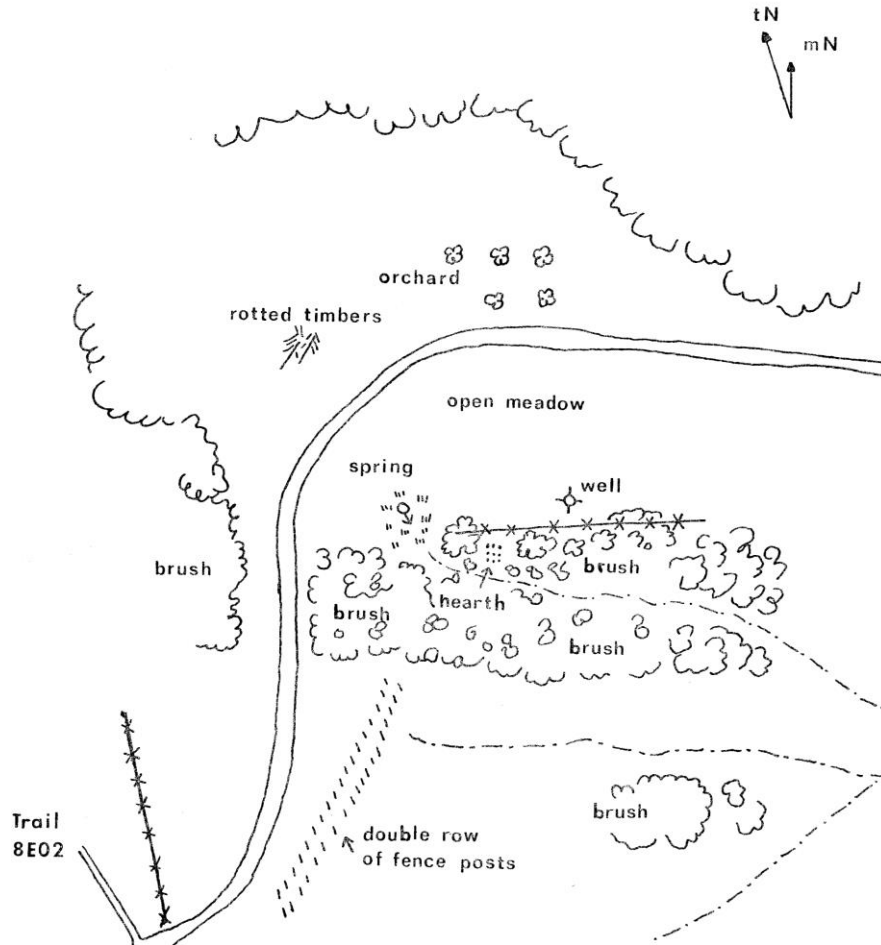
H.E. tract map for HF16 Sections 3 and 34.

The location of the house on the tract map fits in well with the location by the trail for the house as mapped by Weigel on the site record.

Tract map 2



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Although the some family members still reside in Kettenpom Valley [HF16c], the original homestead claim [HF16] was at the southern base of Shannon Butte. In 1982, Barbara Shannon (A6: I342), a descendent of William Shannon provided the following information on the movements the Shannon family.

The old homestead buildings [HF16a] were all demolished and any structural remains are now covered with overgrown brush and manzanita. Shannon had an orchard with several varieties of fruit trees. This was located across from the buildings on the north side of the old road. Several apple trees are still present in this orchard.

Remnants of the original fence line are all along the jeep road and around part of the orchard. The fence posts were all made by hand and strung with wire.

Shannon grazed cattle on his claim and on the surrounding lands. His grandson still runs cattle on the old claim and has a Forest Service grazing permit. He and his family herd the cattle in and out of the area on the old jeep

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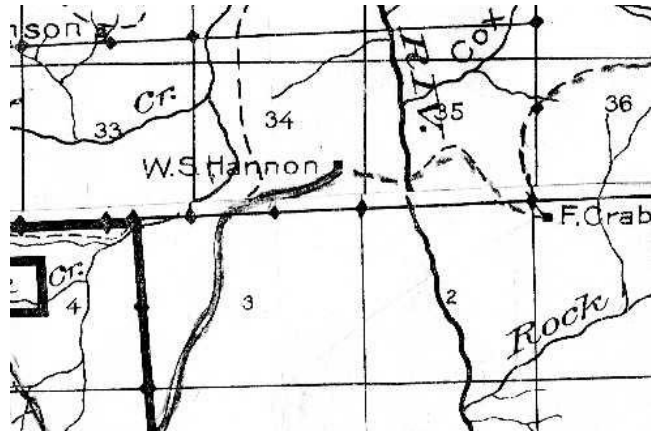
road. They run their cattle on Shannon Butte, which was named after William Shannon.

The claim was resurveyed by the government years ago and Shannon's holdings were found to be on public lands. His homestead entry was declared invalid and his claim was revoked. The family moved down into Kettenpom Valley, where they live today.

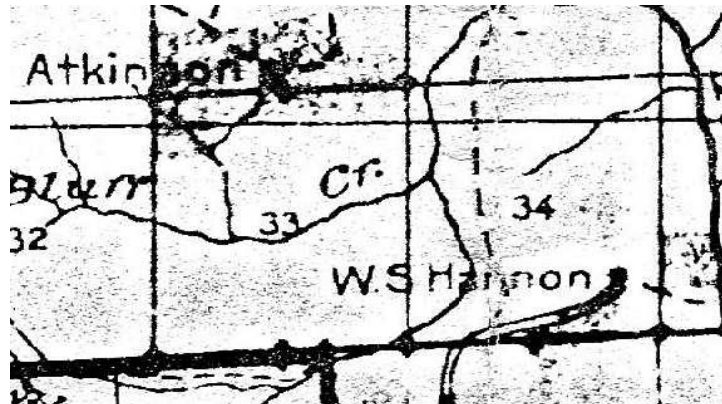
As noted above, as a result of the inaccurate original GLO survey the improvements were located to the west of the actual tract of land. The family then moved to Kettenpom Valley. As discussed below, they first bought and moved to the Klem place (F28). By the 1980s the Shannon Ranch was located at HF16c.

Maps

The location of Shannon's place at HF16 (and HF16a), given the problems with the GLO survey, as discussed below, are shown on the 1909 and 1915 TNF maps as being located on the subject tract. On these maps a wagon road leads to the homestead.



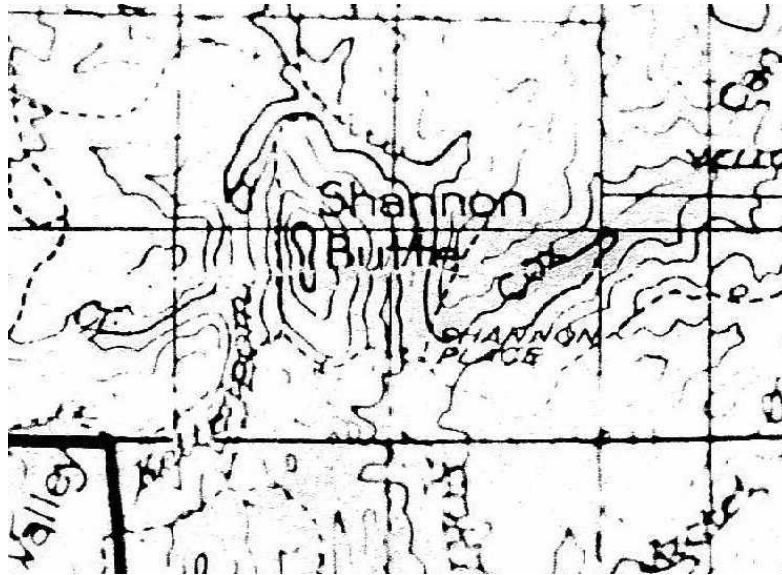
Note the wagon road and the Shannon Place at HF16.
(A2; 08a)



The 1915 TNF map also shows the wagon road and homestead located at HF16.
(A2: 09)

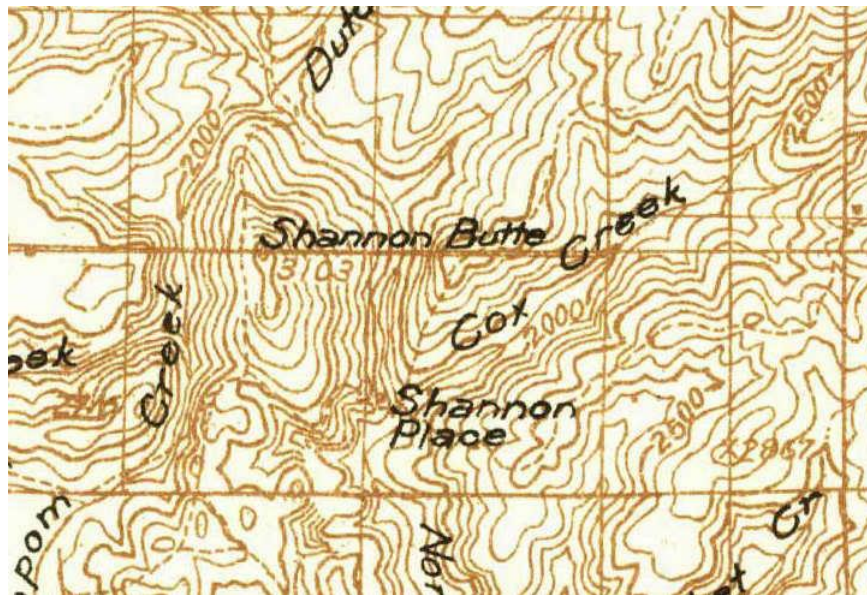
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Later maps show the "Shannon Place" as being located at HF16b. Interestingly; most of these maps do not even identify the actual homestead location with improvements at HF16 and HF16a. For example, despite to poor quality of the TNF 1941 map, the "Shannon Place" is clearly shown as being located near the trail junctions HTNF-45 and HTNF-46 along the west side of the NFER..



1941 TNF map.
(A2: 15)

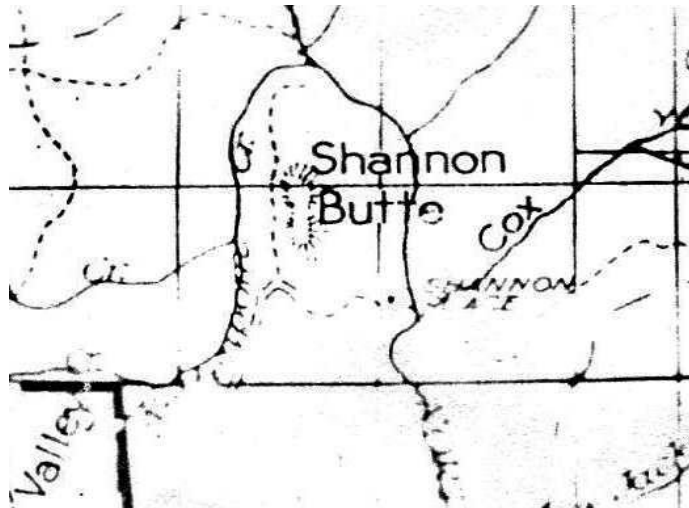
The 1931 HV 15' USGS map also shows the Shannon Place along the river and no improvements at the HF16/HF16a location.



(A2: 23)

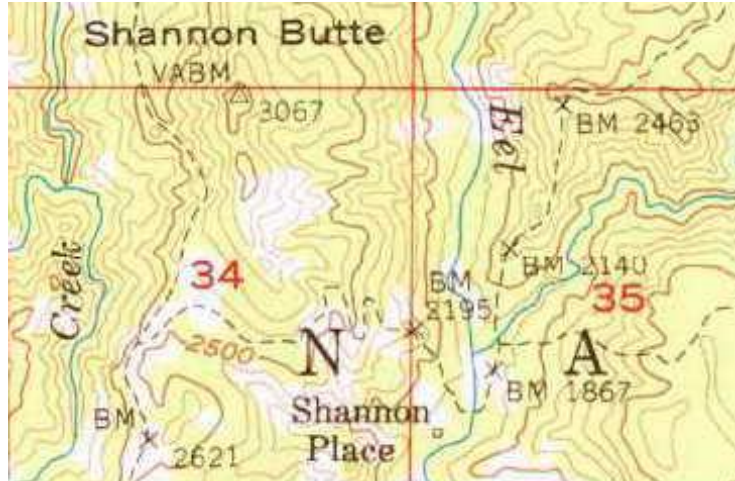
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The Shannon Place is also shown on the 1951 TNF map as being located along the NFER. Note that the map shows the road to location HF16 but no improvements at the end of the road—just a trail leading down to the Shannon cabin.



The 1951 TNF map showing the Shannon place along the west side of the NFER.
(A2: 16)

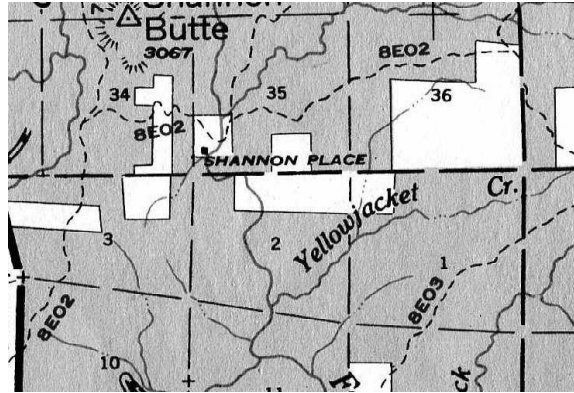
The Kettenpom 1955 15' USGS map also shows the Shannon Place as being located near the river.



Kettenpom 1955 15' USGS map
(A2: 24)

The 1977 SRNF map shows both tracts as being private land. The Shannon place is still shown as being located along the west side of the NFER. It does still indicate that the tract of land at HF16 is still privately held.

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1977 SRNF map showing tract HF16 and tract HF16b as private property.
(A2: 21b)

HF16c: Kettenpom Valley

Location HF16c on the base map is plotted where the "Shannon Ranch" is shown on the 7.5' USGS maps. This is where the Shannons lived in the 1980s. It appears, however, that when the Shannons first moved to Kettenpom Valley they bought the old Klem place (F28). Garcelon (A5: ms01) wrote that:

The third place that Ted [Shannon] bought was the Klem Place. Ted lived there until his death. During the 60's when I was still a building contractor I completed their house for them but it burned down several years later. They rebuilt on the same spot.

The Shannon Family of Kettenpom Valley

The Shannon family was one of the most prominent families living in the Kettenpom Valley region during the 20th century (see census records below). Over the years, as noted above, the family lived at several different locations. After the improvements at HF16a were found to be on national forest lands due to problems with the original GLO survey, the family moved down into Kettenpom Valley. Over the years, they have also acquired a number of other private tracts of land in Kettenpom Valley.

The following section is taken from Keter 1994a: 46-47.

William and Gertrude Shannon and their children moved into the North Fork basin in 1902. They were typical of the families who moved into the region during this period of time. They had few resources but a lot of dreams and energy to try and make a life on inexpensive land in country that still provided opportunity. Shannon had no credit in this area and had to return to Hydesville for groceries that first year. The Shannons at first settled in Hoaglin Valley but almost immediately moved down along the North Fork of the Eel to a place which had been occupied by a squatter named George Kindred. Shannon filed

for homestead rights and the family lived here for 17 years (Shannon Ms.).

The Shannon's had a small orchard with several varieties of fruit trees (I342). The orchard was fenced with hand-hewn oak fence posts and was strung with barbed wire (this type of fencing was common in the North Fork region and some of the fence posts are still standing at many of the old homestead sites in the basin). He also grazed a few livestock on his homestead and the surrounding land. A trail led upstream along the North Fork of the Eel from the Shannon Place (I#316) to where the Gilman family homesteaded just to the south of Soldier Creek. Other families living near the Shannons were Fred Crabtree (about two and one-half miles east of Shannon) and Wade and Grace Atkinson about two miles to the west. [See also Keter 1997.]

Census Records

For some reason, despite the prominence of the Shannon family, not one family member shows up on the 1910, 1920, or 1930 census. This seems very strange and needs more research to try see why this occurred.

Consultant Interviews

Garcelon (A5: ms01) provided some additional information on the Shannon's move to Kettenpom Valley in about 1919 or 1920. A number of properties were owned by Ted Shannon (William Shannon's son) or family members who moved out of the area. He indicated that:

Ted is buried in the Hoaglin cemetery. His second wife is still living (1988). Ted built the airport in Hoaglin Valley. In 1938 a fire was started by a kid at the Hoaglin School. Our crew from the L. A. Huber mill,, the former White mill where Bollman Lake is now located, went to fight the fire. It burned a lot of grass, and lot of manzanita and some timber. It burned to the east and did not harm any buildings but got into some timber that is now in the New Wilderness area over the ridge almost to Salt Creek camp ground (approximately 1939). (A5: ms01, page 25-25)

Ted Shannon Autobiography

Ted Shannon (A5: ms05), in 1951, provided the following information on his families move to Kettenpom.

My parents are William Frederick Shannon and Gertrude Shannon. My father was born in 4 Corners Ontario Canada in 1877 and came to Tulare Co. about

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1890. He owned a team and wagon and drove from Tulare to Hydesville in 1898. My mother was born at Carlotta, Calif. in 1883.

Theodore R. Shannon their first child was born at the Felt place at Carlotta Jan. 1902. Father was a small man, not too healthy. The work was hard making shingle bolts: He met Arnett Shields who told him about homestead land in Trinity County in March, 1902. He went out on horseback to look at the land, there was two foot of snow on the ground. The place he first looked at was government land, it had too much young brush on it. So he settled on the land what now is the New Hoaglin School. The land my father first looked at was taken up in later years by Abe Clover. [This was probably at F25 and may have included HF16c.]

My father went back to Humboldt Co., bought six pigs, a dozen dairy calves to bring out. At the same time my mother and I went out in April 1902 by wagon. The first house the folks had was just a lean to cabin, had no siding on it for a while. My father had to go back to Hydesville after groceries. My mother and myself was left at the homestead. At this time I was only three months old. He was out of money, no credit in Trinity Co. So that is why he had to go to Hydesville for groceries. It took a week to make the round trip.

Arnett Shields and my father were good friends by this time so Arnett told him about the George Kindred place [F10a], a better location, lots of water, so he moved over on Kindred place in April, 1902. Filed homestead rights, got his deed after living on this place 17 years my father sold it to John and Annie Holten in Nov. 1919.

My brothers were born in the old homestead, Kenneth, Howard, Robert and George, also my sisters Deborah May and Marion Adele. Deborah was bitten by a rattlesnake July 1, 1911 while bringing water to my father and myself in the hayfield. She died the next day and was buried July 4, 1911.

Our neighbors were Fred Crabtree about 2 ½ miles east of the ranch. Holtorf in Hoaglin Valley they had the post office, Also a man by the name of Espie. Mr. Espie was coming into his place, was very cold, got a little ways from the place, was found frozen to death by a pine tree, what is known now the Garcia Mill on Ted Shannon place.

Wade and Grace Atkinson and their mother, lived about two miles due west from us. About two miles down the family by the name or Rutledge. If we wanted to visit any of the neighbors we usually walked.

My father carried mail from Hoaglin to Caution for eight years. There was a cable crossing the main North fork branch of Eel River, near Bob Hoaglin ranch. When the river was too high father tied the horse and walked the four miles to Caution and carried the mail on his back.

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I bought the old homestead from father in 1932 since then I have purchased 520 additional acres. They are the Fspie, Clover Klein places.

I went to school where the old school now stands. The old burned but built another in the same place. Mrs. Derring was my first teacher, Miss Lillian White was my second teacher. I don't remember about the voting. I do remember once my father coming home with a black eye from voting.

My folks left the ranch in 1919 to go to Tulare where my father rented his brothers fruit orchard for 8 years, in that time three more children were born, Eda, Gary and Calvin. Moved from there to a ranch at Orland where they now live. Both of them are in good health.

HF16 Appendix

Weigel attached a copy of the *Report on Agricultural Settlement* (April 19, 1913) to site record (hard copy included in the HF16 file).

See
 REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENT
 (Homestead Claim)

is smooth and fairly well suited for cultivation. The remaining part of the tract is broken
 Trinity National Forest
 Eureka Land District

Trinity Claims, which unfit it for cultivation but is
 Shannon, William F.,
 List No. 1794. Serial 02042. The slope of the arable
 Eureka.
 portion of these lands will not exceed 10%.
 Reference is made to notice of application to submit final
 proof on April 24, 1913. As a conservative estimate

sixty acres of these lands can be cultivated when cleared

1. Claimant

The postoffice address of William F Shannon the entryman is,
 Hoaglin, Trinity County, California. The entryman's
 family consists of a wife and four children. The family
 are residing on the claim. It would seem that this claim
 is their only home.

2. Description of the Claim.

A Homestead Entry, under the Act of June 11, 1908. List No.
 1794. Serial No. 02042, for the S 1/2 SE Lot 2, W 1/2
 Lot 1, SW 1/4 NE SE, SW SE NE, SE SE SW NE, NE NE NW SE,
 Section 34, T 3 S, R 7 E, H.M. W 1/2 Lot 1, E 1/2 Lot 2,
 NE NE SW NE, and NW SE NE, Section 3, T 4 S, R 7 E, H.M. Final
 proof to be made before the Register and Receiver at Eureka,
 California, on April 24, 1913.

3. Topography and Surface.

This tract is in most part mountainous land, is situated on
 rolling hills at the junction of Bluff Creek and the North
 fork of Eel river, this low divide being locally known as
 Buck ridge.

The surface of about one half this area or sixty acres is smooth and fairly well suited for cultivation. The remaining part of the tract is broken by small canyons and stony ridges which unfits it for cultivation but is a good grade of pasture land. The slope of the arable portion of these lands will not exceed 20%, a considerable amount is fairly level. As a conservative estimate sixty acres of these lands can be cultivated when cleared of brush. The elevation of this claim varies, from 2500 ft. at lowest to 2750 ft. as highest elevation above sea level. The house, barns, and other out buildings together with the greatest amount of fencing on the claim is found in its Northern portion.

4. Settlement and Residence.

Date of entry January 29, 1913. The Entryman with his family made settlement and established actual residence on this claim, September 9, 1902. Since making settlement the entryman and his family have maintained a continuous and unbroken residence on the claim. Information as given by the entryman and his wife, verified by the statements of G. W. Gray and John Holtorf, both of Hoaglin, Calif., neighbors living within three miles distance of the claim. During the past five years, the Examiner has been familiar with this land passing the claim on an average of five times each year and from observations taken at these times has positive knowledge that during this period, the entry-

man has annually cultivated land and has never failed to see the entryman or other members of his family on the claim. Found 10 acres of land under cultivation. On the claim was noted a wagon, plow, harrow and other farming implements. In the dwelling was also noted beds, tables, chairs, sewing machine, and various other household furniture - cooking stove, cooking utensils, dishes etc.

5. Improvements.

A log house 16'x 22', walls 9' high, openings between logs have been chinked and split shakes nailed over openings on inner walls. A shed kitchen 10'x 22' on one side of main house, its walls are made of split and dressed weather boards. A porch 6'x 22' on other side of main house. Dwelling is floored throughout, has four rooms, four windows and five doors. The structure is old but in fairly good repair, it was built by some former claimant but repaired by the entryman. Its probable value is \$125.00

A frame barn 18'x 24', walls 12'. Sheds 12' in width on either side. Walls of barn consist of split lumber nailed upright. Roofed with split shakes. Its probable value is \$150.00.

A frame barn 18'x 24', walls 12' high with shed 12'x 18' across end of building. Its walls are covered with split lumber nailed upright and roofed with split shakes. Probable value \$125.00.

producing about six tons of hay. There are also
 A frame smoke house 8' x 10' walls 12' high, and are
 weather boards nailed to studding, roof shakes. Probable
 value \$20.00

A poultry house 10'x 10' walls 8' high, is split lumber
 nailed upright. Roofed with split shakes. Its probable
 value is \$20.00.

A hog house similar to the above 10'x 10'. Its probable
 value is \$15.00.

There is three enclosures on the claim containing about
 twenty five acres. The fencing consists of approx. 350
 rods of picket and rails also 480 rods of 2 barbed wires
 and a pole or rail attached to posts. The greater part
 of this fencing is in form of a drift fence and about 80
 rods of the amount is off the claim. To reach the claim
 about three miles of wagon road has been constructed at
 a cost of \$150.00, in labor. A spring near the dwelling
 affords water for domestic use but there is no water avail-
 able for irrigation. The greater part of the existing
 improvements have been built by the present claimant

those that were not built have been remodeled and kept in
 repair by him.

6. Cultivation.

At the present time there is 11 acres under cultivation,
 producing agricultural crops. 1 acre prepared for garden
 and 10 acres sown in grain. In 1903, 3 acres was under
 cultivation, 1/2 acre in garden, 3 1/2 acres in grain,

producing about six tons of hay. Each year thereafter the same land has been cultivated and from one to three additional acres added until in 1912 there was 20 acres under cultivation on the claim. Aside from 1/2 acre to 1 acre which has been annually planted in corn, potatoes and garden truck, the remaining crop grown has been wheat, oats and other grain. The crops have in most part been cut for hay and the average yield per acre has been about one and one half tons. The crops grown have been fed on the claim. On the claim is noted twenty fruit trees, 3 years old, apples, pears, plums and other varieties. There is also ~~xxxxxx~~ 1/4 acre planted to berries, strawberries, loganberries and gooseberries, these berries are all bearing. Two acres has been slashed the stumps removed and the land now cultivated. Rock has been removed from four acres fitting the land for culti-

vation and the land cultivated. The cost of clearing the land of trees and stumps and in removing the rock has been about \$25.00 per acre.

7. Grazing

The claimant holds a grazing permit for seven head of cattle and two head of horses, he also owns about one dozen chickens. The stock graze at large on the claim and adjacent lands.

8. Timber

On the claim there is 60 acres of open glade and cultivated lands. The remaining area is covered with scrub White

Oak timber and brush, this timber has no commercial value. In all there is approximately 200 cords of cordwood on the claim and its value will not exceed \$100.00. All timber cut has been used on the claim for fire wood and other purposes. The entryman has sold no timber from the claim.

9. Additional Information.

This claim has been used for home building purposes only. The entryman states that he has never made a homestead filing elsewhere and owns no other land. This is his only home. These lands are equally valuable for farming and grazing purposes. There is no suitable dam or reservoir sites on or near the claim. There is no power permits near. The claim has no values for power or powersite purposes. Examined April 8, 1915.

10. Good Faith.

The claim has the appearance of a permanant home. The buildings and other improvements are in good repair. There is gardens and grain crops growing while considerable effort has been made by the entryman towards clearing and preparing for tilling choicest farming lands. The claimant and his family are living on the land and there is household furniture in the dwelling necessary to make a home reasonably comfortable.

1. Recommendations.

The land covered by this entry is not a part of a site covered by a preliminary or final waterpower permit. The entryman William F. Shannon has lived upon and in good faith cultivated these lands for a period of eleven years, and I believe in all other respects fully complied with the homestead laws. I recommend that patent issue.

Ruth, California.
April 11, 1913.


Forest Ranger.

Approved: April 19, 1913.

J. D. Coffman.

Acting Forest Supervisor.