

# Nuisance abatement program falters but continues toward goal

By Dirk Andersen

A year ago this past June, The INDEPENDENT published pictures of four abandoned and possibly hazardous properties in Vernonia, asking the question, "Must our town look like this?"

It precipitated a flurry of activity as city officials searched city ordinances for possible avenues of action. A

number of citations were hastily prepared; buildings were posted and notifications went out to owners, without prior legal clarification.

The city attorney eventually outlined a proper, legal, step-by-step procedure for the city to follow in an abatement program.

The building inspector, the fire and police departments

are authorized to issue citations for building code violations, fire, health and safety hazards.

Since the procedure was detailed, some thirty citations have been issued, which involves posting of the property and notification of the owner by certified mail.

Such notification must specify the nature of the non-

compliance and the time frame within which the property must be brought into compliance, by securing, removal or repair.

An appeals board is established to consider extenuating circumstances and to adjudicate complaints.

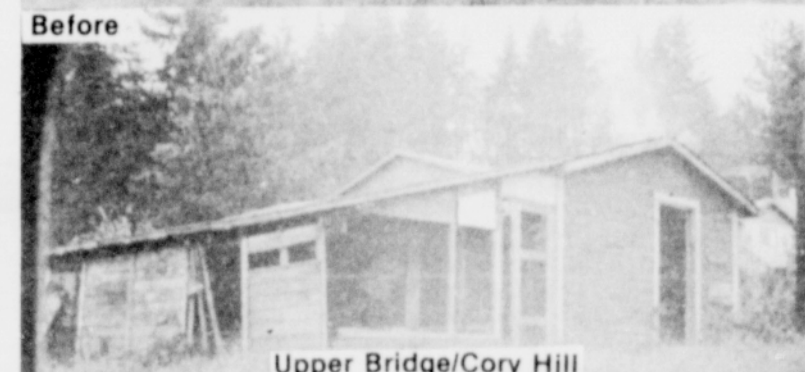
Pictured here are before and after shots of most of the buildings that were removed or burned in the past year.



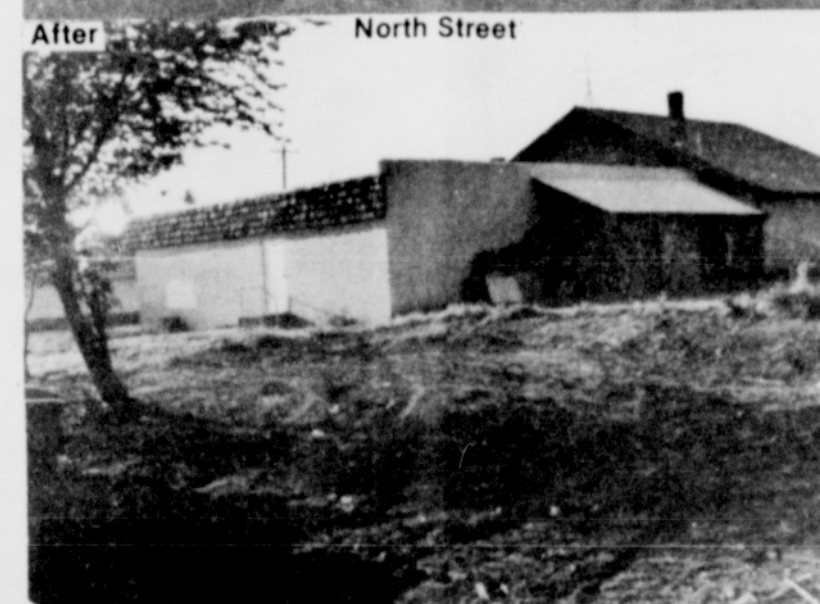
After Cherry Street



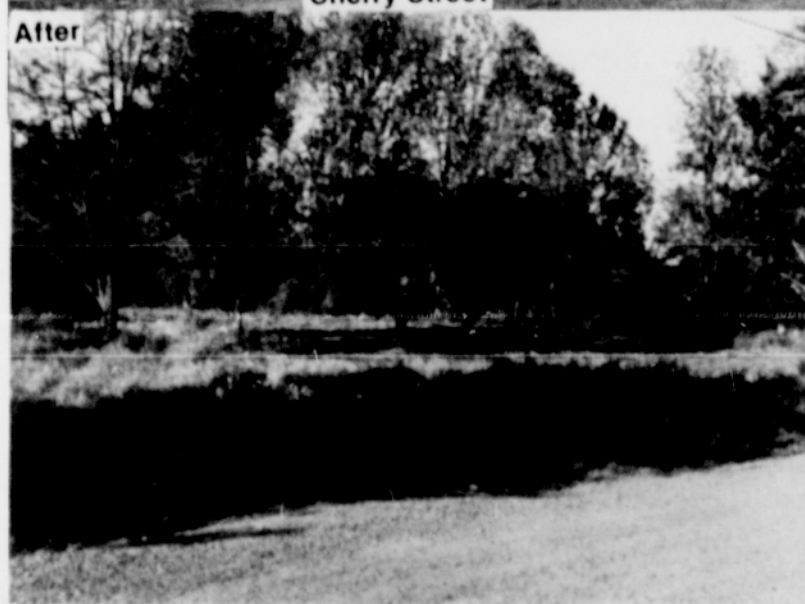
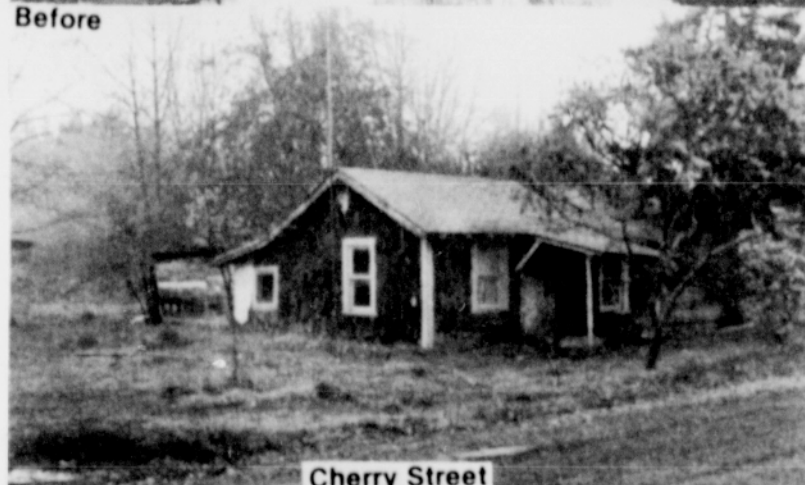
After Douglas Street



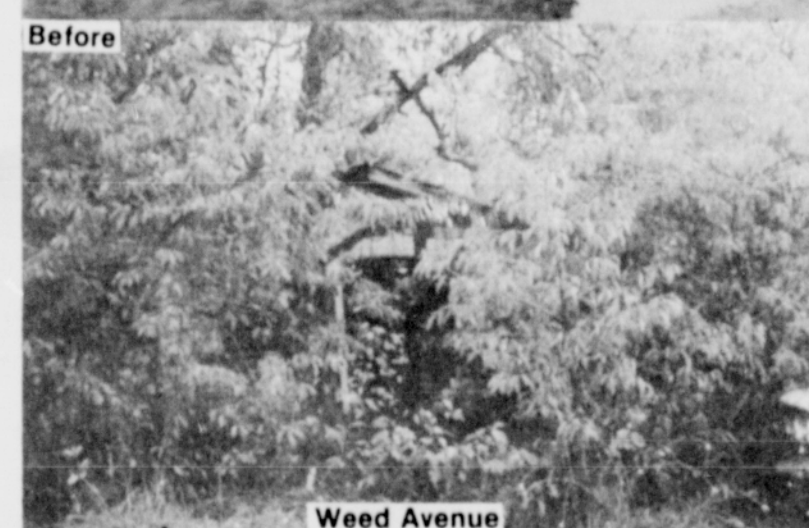
After Upper Bridge/Cory Hill



After North Street



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After Weed Avenue

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