

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Anderson, <sup>(Lewis)</sup> House, Barn and Granary

and/or common same

**2. Location**

street & number 508 West 16th Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town The Dalles \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district Second

state Oregon code 41 county Wasco code 065

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Wasco County - City of The Dalles Museum Commission

street & number Box 806

city, town The Dalles \_\_\_ vicinity of state Oregon 97058

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wasco County Courthouse

street & number Fifth and Washington Streets

city, town The Dalles state Oregon 97058

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title The Dalles Historical Landmark has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date 1976  federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records City of The Dalles Historical Landmarks Commission c/o City Hall 313 Court Street

city, town The Dalles state Oregon 97058

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>1972</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Construction of the house, barn and granary on the Lewis Anderson homestead on Pleasant Ridge south of The Dalles was carried out under Anderson's supervision between 1890 and 1898 by members of the local colony of Swedish immigrants. Ab Pearson was chiefly responsible for construction of the house, built in 1895. Of hewn log construction (yellow pine) with dovetailed corners, the rectangular (34' x 24') one-and-a-half story gable-roofed house rested--as did the other farm buildings--on a foundation of fieldstones. The roof consists of slab sheathing on natural fir pole rafters with a covering of split pine shakes. Window openings, typically fitted with double-hung sash with four over four lights, are formally placed. Second story window openings in the principal (north) facade are small rectangles fitted with four fixed panes each. The entry, slightly offset from center, opens directly into the parlor in the NW corner of the house. Behind the latter are a small bedroom and stair hall giving access to sleeping areas above. The kitchen is in the SE corner of the house, and the simple floor plan is completed by the front bedchamber in the NE corner. The small hip-roofed shelter for the front entry is believed to have been added sometime after 1878. A single-story, one-room box-framed addition centered on the rear elevation housed the cistern (collected rainwater) and laundry. It has been reconstructed on the present site. Either gable end of the house is ventilated by a semi-circular opening.

First built of the ensemble was the 30' x 50' sidehill barn with its grade entrance at upper and lower levels (hay loft and threshing floor above, central double row of mangers below). It had been constructed of hewn tamarack logs in 1890 while the Andersons were living in a cabin on the site. The granary of yellow pine logs had been built sometime between 1885 and 1890 as a dwelling on the Swanson (later, Jewell) homestead at Rock Prairie. The compact building was acquired by Anderson, dismantled, transported to Pleasant Ridge and rebuilt on wood posts for its new purpose in 1898. It has no openings in rear or side walls. Its front gable end is ventilated by a diamond-shaped opening above the doorway.

Having been donated to the Wasco County-City of The Dalles Museum Commission by Earl Meeker, an Anderson descendent, in 1972, this ensemble of three buildings was gradually dismantled and re-erected on a publicly owned parcel adjacent to Fort Dalles Historical Museum, a property also maintained under joint City-County auspices. The relocation project was spurred by incidents of vandalism on the abandoned farmstead. Further, there is extreme danger in Wasco County in summertime from grass fires. The members of the Museum Commission felt that it would only be a matter of time before the buildings would be burned or vandalized or cannibalized beyond recall in their isolated setting where water for fire control was totally lacking.

To move the farmhouse, the upper rows of logs were removed one at a time and catalogued and brought into The Dalles on trucks. The lower portion of the building was moved to The Dalles on a flat bed truck.

In The Dalles it was put on jacks until the foundation could be built to the form of the bottom logs. When the house was lifted from the rocks which had served as a foundation, the bottom logs were found to have dry rot. Under the direction of the City Engineer, the dry rot was removed and a good cement foundation was placed under the house with cross braces of cement so that the house will never sag. As soon as possible, the cement foundation will be camouflaged with logs.

When the building was placed on the foundation, the upper portion was reassembled as it had been. The logs of the building are from 12 to 14 inches square or slightly oblong. Naturally, they are not all of uniform size, as they were all hand hewn. The granary was relocated to The Dalles at the same time.

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As the old shake roof was nearly all gone, a new roof was put on the building. The small porch and rear addition were reconstructed on the basis of careful measurements taken at the original site. At the time of the moving of the house, it was not possible to salvage the porch or the laundry in the back.

The Museum Commission stopped work on the house to relocate the hand-hewn barn from the Anderson Homestead on Pleasant Ridge. As soon as possible, work on the house will be resumed. The chimney will be rebuilt. Also, the house will be caulked, carefully wired for lights and some form of heat. As it will be open to the public, both lights and some form of heat will be needed. For the lighting, it is planned to wire old coal oil lamps.

The house will be furnished of the period 1890-1900. One of the Anderson granddaughters has promised some of the original furniture which was in here grandmother's house.

More important to the Museum Commission now than the chimney or the furnishings is a sensor fire preventive system, and such a system for both the house and barn have been budgeted. A yard sprinkling system is to be activated this year.

Prior to its being dismantled, the barn was first photographed in detail, each log catalogued, then taken apart piece by piece, then reassembled as per the cataloging and the photographs. This proved to be quite an undertaking but it was moved to The Dalles and sited on the parcel which had been made available by The City of The Dalles.

To date, the barn has not been completely reassembled. We had to stop to find a fifty-foot long log to replace one which had dry rot and our men members had to wait to cut fifty or more poles for the roof. The original poles were not worth salvaging when we moved the barn. A new shake roof will have to be put on the barn, too, and the barn will have to be wired for lights eventually. We have discussed what to use on the yard as ground cover, such as clover, but we have not come to a firm decision yet.

Long-range plans call for the removal of all of the houses on the square block around Fort Dalles Surgeon's Quarters. The long-range plans also call for the removal of all of the buildings on the lots adjoining the lots where the Anderson House and Barn are located. This would mean clearing all buildings on those lots west to Trevitt Street. The City of The Dalles is already budgeting funds for acquisition. There are plans, too, for the closing of the street between the Anderson House and Fort Dalles Surgeon's Quarters and for the closing of the alley between the Anderson House and the Anderson Barn. These goals are listed in the comprehensive land use plan for The Dalles.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1890-1898 **Builder/Architect** Lewis Anderson with Ab Pearson & son contractor

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The hewn log house, barn and granary erected and reassembled on the Lewis Anderson homestead on Pleasant Ridge in Wasco County between 1890 and 1898 are a noteworthy Scandinavian-American vernacular ensemble. Originally sited on the eastern edge of a high prairie dotted with oak trees and overlooking Mt. Hood in the Cascade Range to the west and the rolling Columbia River plateau to the north, the buildings were dismantled and removed from their original setting in 1972 and reassembled on a publicly-owned parcel adjacent to Fort Dalles Historical Museum in The Dalles. Considered necessary to safeguard the abandoned buildings from deterioration, fire and vandalism, the relocation project was undertaken by the Wasco County/City of The Dalles Museum Commission. The ensemble, maintained under County and City auspices, is to be operated as a museum demonstrating the Scandinavian cultural immigration to the vicinity of The Dalles. While there are other examples of vernacular buildings of similar origin in the state they are rare, and the Anderson ensemble is exceptional because of its state of preservation, and the range of building types it represents.

While other structures of the homestead were not salvaged--either because they had collapsed or were dilapidated, or because they were unremarkable in comparison to the hewn structures--their positions and appearance have been recorded so that the harmony of the farm layout with its original setting can be illustrated. The present site, a 13,000 sq. ft. parcel on a slope overlooking the site of Fort Dalles and the city spreading out along the Columbia River below, is surrounded on three sides by residential development. Long-range plans presently under consideration call for acquisition of adjoining property and street closures to provide a more compatible environment for both the Anderson farm group and the nearby restored Fort Dalles Surgeon's Quarters, a National Register Property. The Anderson farmhouse maintains its original orientation to the north, and, notwithstanding the compression required on a site of limited size, the siting of the granary off the southwest corner of the house is an approximation of the original relationship. The barn is placed at the rear of the new site where the steeper gradient provides an approximation of the side hill on which it was constructed initially.

Lewis Anderson (b. 1862) was a native of Sweden who went to sea at the age of fourteen. He came to Wisconsin as interpreter for a group of emigres in 1882. By 1885 he had arrived in Wasco County, Oregon and found work on the railroad then under construction near water grade along the Columbia River and in local sawmills before settling his farmstead on Pleasant Ridge--a location of uncommon scenic beauty, but short on water. Through his efforts other Swedish immigrants moved into the area. Their structures were typically hewn log constructions utilizing dovetail joints, peeled-pole roof framing, and some rough-sawn and milled lumber. Hampered by the lack of water, the colony of Swedes dissipated within a few years, and the Anderson farm buildings are now the best preserved remnants of the settlement enterprise.

The following biographical details were given by Mrs. L.R. (Edith) Anderson, Lewis Anderson's daughter-in-law, in 1973.

Lewis Anderson was born in northern Sweden in 1862. His father worked in a sawmill. He was in poor health, so he moved south to Senswall, where he ran a tailor shop. His wife and Lewis and sister Anna came later. They

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

see attached

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one (100' x 130')

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References The Dalles South, Oregon, Washington

A	<u>10</u>	<u>640665</u>	<u>5050500</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
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D			
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E			
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F			
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G			
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H			
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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is located in Sec. 4, T1N, R13E of the Willamette Meridian. It is described as Lots K and L, Block 38, Fort Dalles Military Reservation to Dalles City, and also vacated Garrison Street (100' x 30') between Tax Lots 5800 and 9400.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Gladys Seufert

organization Wasco County - City of The Dalles Museum Commission date March 12, 1979

street & number Box 806 telephone 503/296-5481 (City Manager)

city or town The Dalles state Oregon 97058

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

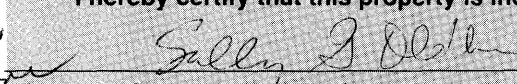

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Designee date October 5, 1979

<b>For HCRS use only</b>	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
	date <u>3/20/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: 	date <u>3/13/80</u>
Chief of Registration	

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put what belongings they could handle on a sled and hauled it down to Senswall. The mother worked in the ship yards braiding cord for caulking for ships.

At age fourteen Lewis went to sea on an English sailing vessel. He worked as a cabin boy. It is said he paid a sailor one penny a lesson to give him English. He must have learned his lessons well for he spoke fluent English.

Some of the ship's captains were cruel to their crews and abused them. Lewis was crippled all his life because of their treatment. He is said to have jumped ship in South America. He later went on another ship and was Captain's mate.

At age twenty he came into a Swedish harbor. His sister Anna and a group of people were waiting to come to America. But they had to have an interpreter. Since Lewis spoke English he was chosen to be their leader. They first came to Wisconsin. Each family had their own ideas about where they wanted to settle, so it wasn't long until most of them had gone their own way. And Lewis and Anna were left alone. Lewis worked at various kinds of things. Anna found work in a hotel.

Lewis finally met a little red haired girl. Before long they were married and went to Minneapolis to live. Lewis found work on the railroad.

About 1885 they decided to come west. They worked on maps to locate a place where they might want to live. They decided on Goldendale. (Washington). They thought it might be a desirable place because of the name. They were let off the train at what is now called Bigg's Junction. They found just a few sheep cabins. Lewis fixed a shelter for the night and went to Goldendale the next day. There he found nothing but a few cabins. They finally went to The Dalles and Lewis found work on the railroad...

Lewis met Del Martin's father and Pete Omeg, who were also working on the railroad. These men lived on Pleasant Ridge. They told him of a home site there that he might take. He signed for the home and took his family there to live. The first summer they camped on Five Mile Creek because there was no water on the Ridge.

It wasn't long before Lewis was taking care of the water situation. He made a pond for stock water, and made a cistern to catch the water that drained from the slope above it. It was filtered through charcoal.\*

The first year the Andersons planted a garden and a small field of grain. They put a fence around it and it grew well and they were proud of it. One morning they looked out their door and were shocked to see it practically destroyed. The fence was torn down and scattered about, and the garden was ruined. None of the country had been fenced before and cattle and sheep pastured at large. But Andersons didn't get discouraged. The next year they planted again. The cattle and sheep men were more considerate after that...

\*In later years the boys made a well 42 inches by 20 inches, and 10 inches at the top. The well held water all summer due to its nearness to the pond.

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When Anderson had their first wheat crop large enough to sell they hired a threshing crew to com in to harvest it. The crew consisted of fourteen head of horses and several saddle ponies. The men camped there for the night so there wasn't enough crop to sell when they left.

The next year Lewis decided to make his own threshing equipment. He tood a big log and hewed it to a cone shape. He put pegs in 6 inches apart and a frame around attached to a beam. It was pulled around and around by a horse. This equipment is now used at Dufur when they have their threshing bee each year...

Lewis Anderson had 2 boys and 2 girls...

Lewis Anderson wrote to the council of Sweden requesting they send a few families to America to settle the Mountain View district.

These people knew how to build warm houses, and Lewis was planning to build one, so he hired on of them for the job. Ab Pearson volunteered to take the job. Ab made violins and barrels out of fir and various other things for a living, so he was glad to get the work.

It took three months to build the house, and Ab took a dollar a day for his work.

Lewis camped up the Ridge about four miles. He hewed and cut the logs. He built a ramp to load the wagon. His wife came up with the runnig gears and took the load home. She pulled the pin from the reach and the horses would pull the front wheels from under the logs and they would drop down on the ground. She would hitch the horses to the back axel and pull the hind wheels out and the logs would drop. She brought home one load a day.

Lewis had charge of the building. They pulled the logs up on skids with block and tackle to where they were to be used. They laid one log on top of another edge ways and ran a gauge along both sides of the lower log and marked the upper one to fit the lower. They matched both corners of the log in a wedge form to hold them together. They bored holes with a big auger to 5 or 6 inches deep and put fir pegs in the holes. They drove the logs down with wooden mauls. When the gable ends were finished they put big logs lengthwise of the rafters to support them. The rafters were built of ifr poles with slab sheeting.

The roof was made of pine shakes. They were put on 4 inches to the weather. There were made with square nails. There were several layers of shakes by the time they finished. The roof withstood leakage for seventy-five years. Lewis did the inside finishing.

The granary was built on Rock Prairie on the old Jewell place. Lewis bought it, dismantled it and moved it to his home and built it again in 1898.

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The barn was built about 1890. It is unique in its way of construction. And it is built of tamarack logs which is a better material for building than pine.

There was a wooden trough all the way around the eaves of the house. This was used to catch the rain water for mother's (wash) laundry. (soft water). A small building attached to the back of the house was the laundry room. Under the floor was a cistern. The water from the troughs was piped into the cistern. It must have been an automatic thing, I don't know how it was done.

There was a small building near the pond which was used for an ice house. The ice was stored in sawdust to keep from melting. Some of the neighbors came in and helped cut the ice and store it. They called it an ice cutting bee. The neighbors had the use of the ice, too.

There was also a small building near the house with sawdust in the walls. This kept the huge pans of milk with thick cream on top clean and fresh. It was also storage for fruit and vegetables.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Seufert, Gladys, "The Anderson Log House" and "Life of Lewis Anderson," 1973. Five-page typescript of interview with Mrs. L.R. (Edith) Anderson, The Dalles, daughter-in-law of Lewis Anderson.



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Bibliography

- Davis, C. Gilman, "The Lewis Anderson Homestead," Space, Style and Structure: Building in Northwest America (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1974), 255-260.
- Anderson, Dale L., The History and Preservation of the Lewis Anderson Homestead, Pleasant Ridge, Wasco County, Oregon (Oxon Hill, Maryland: Silesia Printing for author, 1974). 22 pages, illustrated.
- Seufert, Gladys, "The Anderson Log House" and "Life of Lewis Anderson," 1973. 5-page typescript of interview with Mrs. L.R. (Edith) Anderson, The Dalles, daughter-in-law of Lewis Anderson.
- Personal interviews, 1975, Earl Meeker (deceased), grandson of Lewis Anderson, and Doris Woolsey, granddaughter of Lewis Anderson.