

**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 TENINO STONE COMPANY QUARRY

and/or common Memorial Swimming Pool

**2. Location**

street & number City Park \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Tenino \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 3rd - Don Bonker

state Washington code 053 county Thurston code 067

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Town of Tenino

street & number Town Hall

city, town Tenino \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Washington 98589

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Thurston County Courthouse

street & number 2000 Lakeridge Drive S.W.

city, town Olympia \_\_\_\_\_ state Washington 98502

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Washington State Inventory of Cultural Resources has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date December 1974 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

city, town Olympia \_\_\_\_\_ state Washington 98504

# 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Tenino Stone Company Quarry is located just south of the central business district of the Town of Tenino. It is adjacent to and forms a part of a city park, the rest of which is to the east. To the west is the new location of the historic Tenino Depot, a National Register property. A railroad runs along the northern boundary of the quarry property.

The quarry consists of a hillside from which a rectangular section has been removed. The hill is solid stone with a shallow overburden of soil. Trees and bushes grow in the soil, and in cracks in the gray-colored stone there are small plants and mosses. The quarry is shaped like a box and is about 900 feet long and about 60 feet wide. Part of the floor of the box is deeper than the rest and is filled with water. This pool, which is 90 feet deep, was also formed by the removal of stone. It is used for swimming, and there is a diving board and ladders. The walls of the quarry extend up in terraces, of which there are ten to twelve from ground level to the top. Each terrace is about six feet high and less than a foot deep. These terraces clearly show where blocks of stone were removed. Just to the east is a pile of these huge blocks.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

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**Specific dates** 1888 to 1926      **Builder/Architect** n/a

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The significance of the Tenino Stone Company Quarry rests on its associations with a major turn-of-the-century cut stone operation. The quarry walls have a terraced look which clearly shows the removal of blocks of stone which ultimately became major buildings in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere.

The building stone industry of Washington state never developed the volume of such established stone-producing states as Vermont or Georgia. Nevertheless, at least 250 quarries have operated in the state, producing much of the stone needed for local use and shipping some to points as far away as California and Montana. Most of the quarries were established to satisfy a temporary market and were then abandoned, but a few lasted for long periods. One of these was the Tenino Stone Company.

The sandstone deposits of Tenino were investigated by Samuel W. Fenton and George N. Van Tine, two stoneworkers who became acquainted in Minnesota when both were employed by Thomas Russell of Ontario. Fenton came west in 1888 at the suggestion of Van Tine, and the two opened their quarry the same year. The decision was based on the fact that the stone had a very fine grain and was easily worked, and on the fact that a sizable deposit was found next to a rail line. The business prospered at first, but profits declined sharply in 1892, and Van Tine's interest eventually passed to Thomas Russell, who also came west. Part of the problem was competition from the Hercules Sandstone Company, which was organized in 1891 and operated another quarry nearby. Business again prospered in the late 1890's and early 1900's, and the State Geologist described the company's operation in 1901 as follows:

The company has a very complete plant for working this stone and a large part of the work is done by machinery. At the present time (Aug., 1901) forty men are employed, and in July, 1901, \$4,600.00 worth of stone was shipped. During the busiest part of the year the shipments will probably average \$4,000.00 per month and for the remainder of the year perhaps \$2,000.00 per month. The stone is quarried by first getting a working floor, on which tracks are laid for the use of the channeling machines. The company has two of these machines, one of which is 4½ feet wide and the other 6½ feet wide. By means of the channelers large blocks of sandstone are cut along two and sometimes along three sides and then broken loose on the other by wedging. In this way very large blocks of regular sizes are obtained. These large blocks are hoisted from the quarry to the level of the mill by means of steam derricks, placed with their bedding planes vertical on small cars, and taken to the mill, where they are sawed into the various sizes wanted. The company employs from 10 to 15 skilled stone cutters and is prepared to furnish all kinds of carved and ornamental work as well as plain dimension stone.

The mill is supplied with four gang saws for cutting the stone, with the following dimensions: 13½x5½ feet, 11½x8 feet and 12½x5½ feet. These saws are capable of cutting blocks 16x6x5½ feet in size. They are run at different rates of speed and hence the rate of cutting is different even on the same

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Dwellely, Art, Tenino, the First Hundred Years, The Tenino Centennial Commission, 1971.  
 Moen, Wayne S., Building Stone of Washington, Dept. of Conservation, Div. of Mines and Geology, Olympia, Washington, 1967.  
 Shedd, S., The Building and Ornamental Stones of Washington, Washington State Geological Survey, 1902.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3.44

Quadrangle name Tenino

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	0	5	1	1	3	0	0	5	1	8	8	7	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a point 80 feet south and 297 feet east of southwest corner, lot 3, east 598.12 feet, north 24° 50' west 308.25 feet, south 73° 27' west 83.55 feet, south 76° 50' west 72 feet, south 77° 53' west 109 feet, north 33° 55' west 25.45 feet, south 59° 55' west 66.6 feet, north 19° 05' west 150.8 feet to

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

state	n/a	code	county	code

state	n/a	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title J.H. Vandermeer/Historian

organization Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation date June 1981

street & number 111 West 21st Avenue, KL-11 telephone (206) 753-9685

city or town Olympia state Washington 98504

## 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 Jacob E. Johnson

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 6/13/83

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the National Register
<u>J. Nelson Byrum</u> Keeper of the National Register	date <u>7/28/83</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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blocks, some of them cutting 6 inches per hour, while one will cut as high as 24 inches per hour. The abrasive used in sawing these sandstones is coarse steel filings, which are fed into the grooves along with water. The saw is driven by a rod connected directly with the piston of a steam cylinder. The power for driving the machinery is furnished by a 55 horse power return flue boiler, and a 50 horse power Erie engine. There are also two large steam hoists for operating the derricks in handling the stone. The mill is supplied also with one steam polisher, which is used in finishing window sills and work of that character. The custom here, as in many other places, is to cut the stone to the proper sizes, ready to place in the building, and in this way save paying freight on waste material.

By 1910 business again began to decline. Technical improvements in concrete masonry made it a less expensive alternative to cut stone, and most stone companies suffered from the competition. Officials of the Tenino Stone Company, moreover, felt their stone was especially vulnerable. It was the same gray color as concrete, and this was a disadvantage vis-a-vis light-colored stones in the remaining prestige market for cut stone. The company suspended most of its operations in 1913 and discontinued business entirely in 1926.

Over the company's 38 year history, stone was removed from the face of a 100-foot bluff and, in one section, to a depth of ninety feet. When operations were suspended, the cavity below ground level quickly filled with water from springs that had caused problems during the quarry's active years. Today it is a municipal swimming pool in an unusually beautiful setting.

The principal advantages enjoyed by Tenino stone were evaluated by the State Geologist as follows:

(Test) results show the Tenino stone to be below the average in crushing strength, to have a high ratio of absorption, and high percentage of pore space or porosity. The strength of the stone, however, is ample for all building purposes. The stone is not as hard as some sandstones and yet is hard enough to resist wear well. The stone when first quarried is very easily worked, and...becomes much harder after being exposed to the atmosphere for some time. This hardening is due principally to a loss of water. ... The fineness of the grain of this stone and the ease with which it may be cut make it a very superior stone for all kinds of carved work where sandstone is used.

Sandstone from Tenino was used for many important buildings in the Pacific Northwest. It is not possible to compile a comprehensive list, but the following suggests something of how important Tenino sandstone was in the building history of the area.

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<u>State</u> <u>City</u>	<u>Stone</u> <u>Co.*</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Architect (if known)</u>
<u>Washington</u>			
Aberdeen	T	Hayes & Hayes Bank	Whidden & Lewis
Centralia	T	Union Loan & Trust Co. Building	
Chehalis	T	State Training School	
Chehalis	T	City Hall	
Chehalis	H	Chehalis National Bank	
Everett	T	Washington School	
Ellensburg	T	Farmer's Bank (NR)	
Fort Ward	T	Army Post Buildings (NR)	
Montesano	T	Grays Harbor County Courthouse	
North Yakima	T	Methodist Episcopal Church	E.R. Sankey
Olympia	T	Capitol (East wing only) (NR)	Willis Richie
Olympia		U.S. Post Office	James Knox Taylor
Olympia	H	Thurston County Courthouse	Joseph Wohleb
Pullman	T	Science Hall, WSC	G.W. Bullard
Seattle	T	Carnegie Library (Central Br.)	J.P. Weber
Seattle	T	Bailey Building	Saunders & Houghton
Seattle	T	Thomas Russell residence	
Seattle	H	Bon Marche Annex	
Seattle	H	Eilers Building	
Seattle	H	Municipal Buildings	
Seattle	H	Swedish Mission Church	
Seattle	T	Coleman Building	
Spokane	T	Elks Hall (NR)	
Spokane	T	First Presbyterian Church (NR)	L.L. Rand
Spokane	T	Grace Baptist Church	
Spokane	H	Carnegie Library	Preusse & Zittel
Spokane	H	Masonic Temple (NR)	Riggs & VanTyne
Spokane	H	several public schools	
Spokane	H	numerous business blocks	
Tacoma	T	Catholic church	
Tacoma	T	First Christian Church	G.W. Bullard
Tacoma	H	Temple of Music	
Tacoma	H	Taylor-Gardner Building	
Tacoma	H	K.P. Temple	
Tacoma	H	First Congregational Church	
Tacoma	T	California Building	
Tacoma		Carnegie Library	Jardine, Kent & Jardine
Tenino		Tenino Depot (NR)	Luther Twichel
Tenino	H	Hercules Sandstone Co. Office	Walter Scheel
Tenino		several business blocks	
Vancouver	T	State School for Deaf and Dumb	
Vancouver	T	Government buildings for military	
Walla Walla	T	Masonic Temple	Henry Osterman
Walla Walla	T	City Hall	
Walla Walla	T	Central Christian Church	Henry Osterman

\*T=Tenino Stone Company, Inc., H=Hercules Sandstone Company, Inc.

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<u>California</u>			
Oakland	T	First Baptist Church	
San Francisco	T	Calvary Presbyterian Church	McDougal Bros.
Stockton	T	High School	Geo. Rushforth
<u>Idaho</u>			
Boise	T	First National Bank	
Lewiston	T	Kettenback Bank	
Moscow	T	Liberty Building	
Moscow	T	Federal Building	
<u>Montana</u>			
Missoula	T	Northern Pacific Depot	
<u>Oregon</u>			
Eugene	H	U.S. Post Office	
Portland	T	City Hall	Whidden & Lewis
Portland	T	Washington High School	
Portland	T	Women of Woodcraft Building	Bennes, Henderson and Tobey
Portland	T	Marquam Grand Opera House	
Portland	H	English Lutheran Church	
Portland	H	Mason-Ehrman Building	
Portland	H	Crane Building	
Portland	H	Corbett Building	
Portland	T	East Portland High School	T.L. Jones
Portland	T	Leadbetter residence	
Salem	H	U.S. National Bank	
The Dalles	H	U.S. Post Office	
<u>British Columbia, Canada</u>			
Vancouver	T	Hudson Bay Insurance Co.	
Vancouver	T	Canadian General Electric Building	
Vancouver	T	Crane Company Building	
Vancouver	T	Columbia Hotel	
Vancouver	T	Capt. Pybus Building	
Vancouver	T	Wolfe, Selkirk, Tecumseh and Ridgeway schools	

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southerly right of way of Northern Pacific Railroad, southerly along right of way 218.5 feet, south 20° 18' east 226.5 feet to beginning. (Thurston County Assessor Parcel #116-19-42-11)