



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Grimm House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2002 Hartford Drive not for publication _____
city or town Lake Stevens vicinity _____
state Washington code WA county Snohomish code 061 zip code 98258

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary Thompson 1/27/95
Signature of certifying official Date
Mary Thompson, State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____

Edson H. Beall 3/9/95
entered in the National Register

Joe entered in the National Register
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Property Name Grimm House

County and State Snohomish County, Washington

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u> public-local	<u> </u> district	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u> public-State	<u> </u> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u> public-Federal	<u> </u> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<u> </u> object	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:

N/A

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Dwelling

Vacant (not in use)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

foundation Wood (post-beam)
walls Wood

roof Wood
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

The Grimm House was built in 1904 by the Rucker Brother's Lumber Company. It was built for middle-management mill workers such as mill wrights and machinists. Paul Grimm, for whom the house was named, was a mill wright who helped build the sawmill that was to be the foundation of the City of Lake Stevens. Later, Mr. Grimm was able to purchase the residence. The Grimm family resided in the house from 1904 to 1968, the date that Mrs. Grimm died. It was purchased by William Hawkins who rented the unit until 1986. It was given to the Lake Stevens Historical Society in 1987 by Mr. Hawkins with the idea that the house would be restored and refurnished to the era in which it was constructed. The house is divided into a kitchen, kitchenette, bathroom, pantry, two bedrooms downstairs and two bedrooms upstairs. It also has a front porch and a dormer above the porch. This house is the only remaining house out of four (of this style) built by the Rucker Brothers for their employees. The Rucker brothers operated one of the largest saw-

Property Name Grimm House

County and State Snohomish County, Washington

B. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Exploration/Settlement

1904-1926

1904-1926

Industry

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

W. J. Rucker

Rucker Brothers

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Property Name Grimm House

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9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Lake Stevens Historical Museum

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than 1

UTM References

1	<u>1/1</u>	<u>5/6/9/9/1/0</u>	<u>5/3/1/8/2/6/0</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing			
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David McGuire & Gayle Whitsell
 organization City of Lake Stevens/L.S. Historical Society date February 15, 1994
 street & number Post Office Box 257 telephone (206) 334-1012
 city or town Lake Stevens state Wa zip code 98258

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Lake Stevens Historical Society
 street & number Post Office Box 847 telephone (206) 334-3873
 city or town Lake Stevens state Wa zip code 98258

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mills in the United States on Lake Stevens from 1904 to 1926. The City of Lake Stevens is located around the original mill site on Lake Stevens and has incorporated the town of Hartford northeast of the original mill site. Hartford enjoyed rail service from many locations including the historic Monte Cristo mining and logging district to the east of Lake Stevens. The Grimm House stands as a representative of the historical period that witnessed the early settlement of the area; the advent of an industrial revolution in the Northwest; the expansion of national and international markets in logs and wood products shipped out of the Port of Everett (located six miles to the west); and the beginning of the community that evolved into the City of Lake Stevens. The house has deteriorated since 1986 due to neglect, lack of use, and exposure to the weather; however, it is still in very good condition despite the fact that the porch was removed for safety reasons (and is stored in the house).

Attached are schematic drawings of the house interior and recent photographs. Overall, the house is 30'x30', two floors, and has a shake shingle roof. The foundation is wood/post-beam, the siding is wood, and the interior is woodshiplap-wallpaper. Modifications to the original structure include the addition of a bathroom, and an interior wall that was removed and put back several times according to some accounts (see main floor schematic - dashed line).

Recent photos are included with this nomination. The house is located in the heart of Lake Stevens and is surrounded by mostly commercial uses (north, east, south), and residential (west). The building to the southeast on Stevens Creek is another "original" structure, believed to date to the late teens or early twenties. The building is used as a restaurant and was a commercial building from the early twenties to present. All of the other commercial buildings are fairly recent (1960s +). The residence to the west was built in 1908 and is known as the Bragg House. Bragg was a blacksmith during the period when the Mill was in operation.

Ultimately, it is the City's goal to find resources to help us identify other potentially eligible properties; particularly those associated with the Rucker Mill. In the meantime, we must continue to identify and nominate those properties individually that appear to be eligible and that will benefit most from designation.

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o Period of Significance

The period of significance is the time span of the operation of the Mill (1904-1926). Most of the original buildings from the era of the Rucker Mill have been destroyed in Lake Stevens. However, the Grimm House, partly due to the longevity of the inhabitants, has lasted through the years to witness the many changes to the area; the construction and operation of one of the worlds largest log mills; the burning of the Rucker Mill; the decline of the local logging industry; the advent of pavement on the streets; the disappearance of the railroads; and the death of the last of the original occupants.

o Significant Dates

As mentioned above, the period of 1904-1926 saw the beginnings of the Lake Stevens community due to the construction and operation of the Rucker Mill and other smaller mills in the immediate vicinity. All of the following significant events were occurring while the house was being built and occupied:

- Roads were built to bring in people and goods from the Puget Sound. For example, the Everett/Machias road was begun in 1894; the effort to construct the Everett/Lake Stevens/Hartford/Granite Falls road was begun in 1908. These were plank on piling roads because of the extremely wet conditions.
- Rail lines were built to transport people and logs. These lines included the Northern Pacific line that reached Hartford in 1889; the Hartford & Eastern Railroad that linked Hartford and the Monte Cristo historic mining district in 1892. The Hartford & Eastern line later became known as Everett & Monte Cristo line that operated until 1915. The Rucker Brothers leased and operated the line until 1926 with passenger service that included six gas cars converted to run on rails.
- Towns were generated out of the housing built to accommodate the mill's work force including the City of Lake Stevens.

This house represents one of the few remaining links between the City of today and its rich past.

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0 Summary

The Grimm House (1904) is significant on both a state-wide and local level because of its association with the original settlement of the area; its association with the beginning and ultimately the end of the Rucker Mill (1904-1926); its association with W.J. & B. Rucker (Rucker Brothers); and its association with the economic development of the Pacific Northwest through the exploitation of wood products. The development of the Lake Stevens community and the impact the wood mills and mining operations and related transportation facilities had on that development cannot be overstated.

The Rucker Mill was believed to be built around 1904. It is difficult to provide an exact date because so many local mills burned, were rebuilt, traded hands, and were combined. The mill was located on the site of the old Joy's Mill which burned in 1903. The land was originally platted by C.A. Missimer in 1889 as the town of "Outing", but was later vacated by Missimer and sold to the Ruckers. The Rucker Mill processed old growth timber and shingles and could mill approximately 75,000 - 100,000 feet of logs per day. The shingle capacity equalled approximately 60,000 per day. The mill employed around 500 people. Other smaller shingle mills were in operation in Hartford less than a mile to east (currently part of the City of Lake Stevens). One of the original shingle mills is still in operation in the Hartford area.

The Rucker Mill burned at least twice (1917 and 1926), but was not rebuilt after the last accident. The newspaper articles covering the fire (Everett News and the Everett Herald, January 7, 1926) both quoted W.J. Rucker as stating that the mill would be reopened within 90 days. The value of the damage to the plant was \$200,000 - a large sum for the times, although both papers stated that the mill was insured. The mill was the center of social and economic life to the lake community.

Although most references to the name "Rucker" includes "Brothers", it was Wyatt Jasper, not Bethel who was responsible for most of the "wheeling and dealing" the two did around the turn of the century in the Lake Stevens and Everett area. W.J. Rucker was born in Noble County, Ohio, in 1857. In the spring of 1888, he liquidated his business connections and moved with his mother and brother to Puget Sound. Rucker's intent was to take advantage of the positive investment climate in the region because of the expansion of railroads and plethora of other wealthy investors. He explored the entire region for opportunity starting in Fairhaven (Bellingham), moving south to Anacortes, then to Mukilteo.

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According to History of Snohomish County (Vol. II, Pioneer Historical Publishing Co., 1926), Rucker determined that Port Gardner offered the most opportunity and "...secured a rowboat, and while he was ostensibly trolling for salmon, he was really ascertaining the depth of the water in front of what is now the busy water front of Everett." This activity prompted Rucker to make the first purchase of his estimated thousands of land transactions in the Everett/Lake Stevens areas. In fact, Rucker was involved in logging, farming, milling, banking, transportation, and real estate. The Rucker's presence in the area stimulated the building of roads, rail facilities, and the overall economic development and settlement of the area.

The Rucker Brothers, together with Henry Hewitt, Jr., filed the third plat in the City of Everett in 1892. The Rucker's filed one of the first plats, that was not later vacated, in what is now the City of Lake Stevens in 1908. That plat consisted of the vacated plat of the town of "Outing" (Lake Stevens) filed and vacated by Missimer.

In 1924, Rucker purchased the Northern Pacific Railroad Company's Hartford to Monte Cristo Line. The railroad was an important economic link for milling, logging, mining, and tourism. The line served to bring tourists to the "Big Four Inn" resort above Silverton near Monte Cristo. This inn was owned and operated by the Rucker Brothers.

When the Rucker Brothers arrived in the area, it was transitioning from strictly logging to milling. Logging operations required smaller crews than mills, and were more transient. Mills required more "structure" to be successful because of their relative permanence compared to a logging camp. For example, employees needed permanent housing, families needed schools and shops, the mills needed roads and rails, etc. Lake Stevens literally grew from the mill and its ancillary development. The Grimm House survives as a component of the structure supporting the Mill and the community that sprung up around it.

As for the house, the architectural style of the building may best be described as vernacular frame worker's housing and it is easily identifiable with the period of its construction. While it was not a mansion by any stretch of the imagination, it was a spacious and comfortable home for the Grimm family and quite nice by any standard for the day.

Looking at the historic photographs, one can see the other dwellings north of the Grimm House that were built for the same purpose; to house middle-management mill workers.

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None of those other houses exist today. The house was within walking distance of the mill and across Hartford Road from one of the rail lines that brought old growth timber to the mill. The overhead photograph was taken from the water tower at the mill which can be seen in the background of the other black and white photograph provided.

The setting of the Grimm House today has a body shop located to the north, a residence to the west, a bar/restaurant to the east, and a drive-in restaurant and mini-mart to the south (see photographs). The house is located in a commercial zone and is still on the corner of Hartford Road and 20th Street.

The house is prevalent in local oral histories and in written accounts of the history of the area (see bibliography).

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Bibliographical References

1. Silcox, Zelda, et. al, "History of Lake Stevens and Vicinity". Lake Stevens Community Development Program Publication, 1957.
2. Everett News, News Article on the Construction of the Everett/Machias Road, June 23 and June 30, 1894.
3. Everett News, January 6, 1927 (Burning of Rucker Mill)
4. Everett Herald, January 6, 1927 (Burning of Rucker Mill)
5. History of Snohomish County Washington, Volume I & II, Pioneer Historical Publishing Company, Seattle, 1926.
6. Oral Histories and numerous photographs on file at the Lake Stevens Historical Society Museum.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The house is located on a platted lot in the Rucker Mill Plat. Assessor parcel number 5622--000-006-0605. Legal description is as follows:

Rucker Mill Plat 1
Blk 000-D-06-PTN LOT 6 DAF
BAAP 180FT E OF SW CCR NE1/4 SEC 8-29-6
TH E239.5FT TH N31*51 OOE 180.64FT TH N
75*04 00W 344.18FT TH S 280FT TO POB
LESS ADD'L R/W TO CITY LK STEVENS PER
AF 9110040602

Boundary Justification

The house is located on the original lot platted by the original builders and owners: The Rucker Brothers. The entire central core of the City is part of the original Rucker Plat which is immediately adjacent to (north and west) the original mill site (see map and photographs).