

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 1 1979
DATE ENTERED	OCT 4 1979

**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 Henry Heisen House

AND/OR COMMON  
same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
27904 N.E. 174th Avenue \_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Heisson \_\_\_ VICINITY OF  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE  
Washington CODE  
COUNTY  
Clark CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" 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  
Harold Heisen

STREET & NUMBER  
Box 85

CITY, TOWN  
Heisson \_\_\_ VICINITY OF  
STATE  
Washington 98622

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Clark County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
1200 Franklin Street

CITY, TOWN  
Vancouver STATE  
Washington 98660

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Clark County Cultural Resources Inventory

DATE  
1977-78 \_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE  COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Regional Planning Council of Clark County

CITY, TOWN  
Vancouver STATE  
Washington

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Henry Heisen House is located in Heisson, a small rural community in central Clark County situated less than a mile south of the East Fork of the Lewis River. The farmhouse stands at the western edge of town, alongside the main road from Battle Ground, its main entrance facing east onto a side street. It is the most imposing residence remaining in this once flourishing turn-of-the-century farming and lumbering community. The house is surrounded by lawn, mature conifer and deciduous trees, and large shrubs. A barn contemporary with the house and a modern one-car garage are also located on the property.

The two-story, wood frame residence was originally supported by hewn timber posts, but these have been replaced by a concrete foundation. The building consists of three intersecting gable-roofed units, forming an unusual plan which is not typical of Clark County farmhouses. Two open porches are attached to the east and west elevations, and a projecting bay of three window units forms the main feature of the south elevation. On the north an enclosed passageway connects the kitchen entrance with a small one-story well house and fruit cellar.

A wide frieze under boxed eaves and wide cornerboards clearly define the edges of all surface planes and, along with the plain window enframements, they create a strong contrast with the dark shiplap siding. Rounded ends of the frieze which occur under the returns of the gable ends are a distinctive feature of the exterior articulation. Rectangular window openings of one-over-one light, double-hung sash are mostly paired, though a few appear singly. Decorative elements include identical gable ornaments in the four gable ends, partially turned square posts supporting the pent roofs of the porches, and diagonal spindle brackets. Originally the roof ridge was adorned with ornamental wooden cresting, but this was removed when the original hand-shaved shakes were replaced by the present wood shingles. Other alterations include the enclosure of a portion of the west porch to provide space for a bathroom, the addition of low railings of vertical siding on both porches, the replacement of deteriorated shiplap on the south elevation with modern cedar siding, and the removal of two of the three chimneys. The exterior has recently been painted, closely following the original color scheme of dark brown siding and pale buff trim.

The interior of the Heisen House has undergone only minor alterations over the years, and the arrangement of the rooms remains essentially intact. The first floor contains a large central hall with a slightly altered stairway, a parlor, dining room, kitchen, and modern bathroom. The second story consists of a central hall, four bedrooms, and a small storage space with a ceiling opening giving access to the attic. These upper floor rooms are not full ceiling height at the eaves, though they still appear spacious and comfortable.

The walls and ceilings of the large (16' x 20') kitchen are completely covered with tongue-and-groove panelling, and the same panelling serves as wainscoting in the dining room. Wall surfaces in the other rooms are shiplap covered with cheesecloth and wallpaper. The original brown textured wallpaper has been replaced with a newer pattern. Broad baseboards with moulding, wide door and window surrounds, and wood trim framing an arched opening in the living room are all painted. The house never had a fireplace, and the original wood-burning stoves and their chimneys have been removed.

# 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 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 ca. 1898

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry Rhinehart Heisen

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Henry Heisen House was built by the son of Alexander Heisen, an early settler of Clark County who founded the community known as Heisson and platted the town. It is a particularly fine example of rural turn-of-the-century vernacular architecture incorporating exceptional features in the disposition of the major units and exhibiting a high level of craftsmanship in its construction and detailing. It is significant to Clark County for its association with a pioneering family and for its preservation by descendants of this same family.

Alexander Heisen traveled widely in the western frontier country before settling in the farming and logging area of southwestern Washington Territory. He was a native of Nuremburg, Germany, but left home at an early age and eventually made his way to the new world. Family tradition holds that, unlike other settlers who came West via the Oregon Trail, he followed a northern route across Canada, reaching the coast via the Fraser River in about 1852. After marrying Mary Relyea Bradley, a widow with two children, in the Puget Sound country, he filed a claim on land which is now part of Ft. Lewis. A few years later they settled near McMinnville, Oregon, and an historical marker in the area cites their name as early pioneers. In 1866 they came by wagon and ox team with their four small children to homestead near the East Fork of the Lewis River in Washington Territory.

In typical pioneer fashion their first home was a primitive shelter of split puncheons laid against a large log. In the spring a cabin of squared logs with notched corners was constructed. A historic photograph of this hewn log house shows a substantial dwelling with a roofed porch and glazed windows. This home served the growing family for several years until the "lumber" house could be built.

Dairy farming was the chief occupation and grain crops were also planted on some of the 240 acres which Alexander Heisen acquired. Dairy products were traded for supplies, and some cash was earned by peeling hazel brush poles which were sold for use as barrel hoops. Subsistence farming remained the accepted way of life for the Heisens and their neighbors during the last decades of the nineteenth century. In the 1890's one of their sons, Henry Rhinehart, married Ida Lillie Dresser and built a small house on his father's property. Henry also farmed but learned carpentry as well, and when the need for a larger house became evident as the family grew, he constructed the present building just to the east of his former home. This house is the only one of all the Heisen family homes which still exists.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached sheet.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Yacolt, Washington

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,0 5,3,9,4,2,0 5,0,7,4,5,1,0

B               

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is a rectangular lot approximately 300' by 130' bounded on the south by N.E. 279th Street and on the east by N.E. 174th Avenue. It is registered as Tax Lot #3½, Section 18, T.4N., R.3E., W.M.

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

Shirley L. Courtois

ORGANIZATION

The Conservation Company

DATE

February 1979

STREET & NUMBER

1955 - 6th Avenue West

TELEPHONE

(206) 284-8556

CITY OR TOWN

Seattle

STATE

Washington 98119

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Jeanne M. Welch 7/27/79

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol Skell  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10-4-79

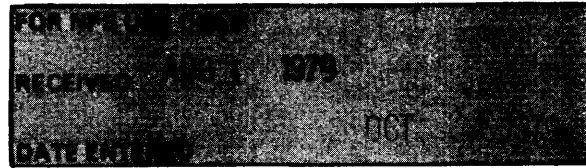
ATTEST: W. Ray Luce  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

10/4/79

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The early decades of the twentieth century were the most prosperous for this area of Clark County. The railroad, long delayed by the initial concentration on Oregon and then the depression of the 1890's, finally expanded into the inland areas of the county. The Portland, Vancouver and Yakima line was completed to Heisson in 1902. In that same year the great forest fire known as the Yacolt Burn destroyed and damaged millions of board feet of timber. The rail line was quickly extended to and terminated at Yacolt (and became known as the Portland, Vancouver and Yacolt R.R.) in order to recover the damaged timber before it decayed. Intensive logging operations were undertaken in the timber country between the North and East Forks of the Lewis River.

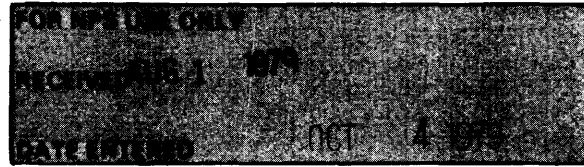
All of this activity precipitated rapid growth in the once tranquil farming community. The town was platted in 1907 and new businesses were established. There were about nine residential blocks of small frame houses fronting on dirt and gravel streets with boardwalks for pedestrians. With daily mail delivery via the railroad came the need for a post office. When it was established in 1904 an error in Washington, D.C. changed the spelling to "Heisson." The train depot had yet another spelling, "Heison," on its signboard. Besides giving their name to the town and donating land for a school, the Heisens took an active part in its development. Henry helped construct the railroad bridge over the East Fork and then built a large general store which was operated by his wife's parents, Mary and Harry Cameron. Mrs. Cameron became the postmistress, but the store was soon sold to Matthew Morrison. However, she later operated the town's candy shop, much noted for its hand-pulled taffy.

The Ryan and Allen Lumber Company came to the area in 1909 to log the timber north of the river. They built a sawmill on Kelly Hill and constructed a long high flume to carry the sawed lumber and ties to their loading dock at the railroad depot in Heisson. The monumental flume (181' at its highest point over the river) was a landmark in the area, but it is now gone. Another demolished landmark was the covered bridge over the East Fork, built during Heisson's period of rapid growth to replace the log foot bridge which could not accommodate teams and wagons.

The town of Heisson flourished until about 1923 when the timber was depleted and the sawmill workers and their families moved away. Some houses were torn down and others were moved. The store and post office building, with additions and alterations, is still standing, although moved from its original location. The schoolhouse, built in 1910, has been remodeled for use as a residence.

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The Henry Heisen House, then, is the only remaining essentially unaltered building which stands as a reminder of the importance this community once had in the development of the inland areas of the county through the coming of the railroad and the activities of the lumber industry. It is also representative of the substantial, craftsmanlike residences constructed by the second generation of early pioneer families to replace the rough hewn houses of their fathers.

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Allworth, Louise M. Battle Ground...In and Around (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co., 1976), pp. 31, 228-229, 276.

Heisen, Harold and Ladine (son and daughter of Henry R. Heisen), personal interview February 17, 1979.

Linn, Lillian Heisen (daughter of Henry R. Heisen), personal interview February 17, 1979; and her unpublished brief history of the family, "The Heisen Story."

The Reflector (Battle Ground). "Heisens of Heisson among century farmers of Clark County," November 11, 1976.