

**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 Albert Nelson Farmstead

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Route 1, Box 1160 (Manastash Road) not for publication

city, town Ellensburg me. vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Washington code 053 county Kittitas code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Tom Hamberg

street & number Route 1, Box 1160

city, town Ellensburg vicinity of state Washington 98926

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kittitas County Courthouse

street & number 500 North Main Street

city, town Ellensburg state Washington 98926

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date May 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kittitas County Museum

city, town Ellensburg state Washington

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Approximately five miles southwest of Ellensburg, Washington, stands the Albert Nelson Farmstead, a collection of five frame farm buildings erected circa 1910. Still standing on a two-acre site are the farmhouse, barn, grainery, woodshed-smokehouse, and garage. The house is surrounded by mature maple and spruce trees and at the rear are two old apple trees planted in the 1870's when the Manastash blockhouse occupied the site. No longer extant on the farmstead are the original chicken house, pig pens, milk separator house, outhouse, and a small story and one-half dwelling (the early blockhouse much modified) which Melinda and Albert Nelson occupied until construction of their new home in 1910.

The substantial two-story farmhouse is unusually elaborate for its rural setting. Its foundation is of rusticated cast stone. Basically L-shaped in plan, the house has a large one and one-half story kitchen wing attached to the rear. The roof configuration consists of perpendicular gables over the main body of the house, and a broad hipped roof over the kitchen. A beaded horizontal siding with prominently contrasting corner boards characterizes the exterior.

A broad covered verandah with turned bracketed posts extends from the front or south elevation around to the three-sided projecting bay on the east facade. An identical bay occurs on the front facade, both of them crowned by the pediments of the perpendicular gables. A shed-roofed kitchen porch, now enclosed, was originally similar to the formal front verandah. Connected to the kitchen porch by a short flight of steps is a partially below-grade root cellar. For the most part, fenestration consists of one-over-one light double hung sash with plain board surrounds. The central windows within the two projecting bays are larger and more elaborate, featuring decorative transoms and triangular headed windows at the attic level.

The interior of the house is notable for its tamarack millwork. The floor plan remains unaltered, although the interior plank walls originally covered with linen and wallpaper have been sheetrocked. The current owners have removed the lowered ceilings and other recent superficial modifications.

Located to the northeast of the house is the 1910 barn built by Albert and Edwin Nelson. In plan and elevation the barn is typical of many in Eastern Washington and is thought to have been patterned after early university extension bulletins such as those disseminated by the Washington Agricultural College (now Washington State University) in Pullman. A two-story central core with a slightly askew gable roof is open to the rafters. Shed roofed sections at either side were used for the shelter of horses and milk cows. To the east of the barn is the grainery with one-third of its interior space devoted to grain storage bins (built off the ground on a floor supported by cement blocks), and the remainder to the housing of grain wagons. An open gable roofed machine shed built in the 1930's was appended to the north end of the grainery. Following damage by high winds in 1981, the present owners are attempting to reconstruct a similar structure.

The smokehouse and woodshed building stands only a few yards from the back door of the farmhouse. Fully half the interior was floored and used as a smokehouse. The exterior siding is identical to that of the house. A shed-roofed workshop on the north side is a later addition. To the front of the property just off the highway is a small one car garage with a dirt floor and siding and detailing similar to that of the house. All of the buildings, with the exception of the machine shop and the workshop, show such similarity of style and level of craftsmanship, that they are all thought to date from the 1910 construction period.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 c. 1910 **Builder/Architect** Ike Jones & Albert Nelson, builders

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Albert Nelson Farmstead represents the rural architectural heritage of the Manastash or Damman District, of the Kittitas Valley in central Washington. The buildings of this 1910 farmstead demonstrate in a typical yet unusually cohesive way the type of farming which developed in this largely Scandinavian-settled district. They also reflect a way of life that has all but disappeared. Only a handful of isolated homes, barns, and out-buildings remain standing in the rapidly developing rural residential subdivisions around Ellensburg. This farmstead, built with lumber logged from Nelson timber stands and sawn in Nelson's own mill, is one of the finest and most intact examples of rural craftsmanship in the area.

The Albert Nelson farm was a co-mingling of property from the Evan T. Strande Homestead and the Halvor Nelson Homestead. Albert Nelson married Melinda Strande, the eldest daughter of Evan Strande in 1898. Melinda's father had emigrated from Christina, Norway in 1869, and by 1874 he had filed a pre-emption claim on eighty acres of land southwest of Ellensburg. Strande married Rebecca Anderson in Ellensburg just after the birth of the town in 1875. Eventually he successfully contested his homestead right on eighty acres of railroad land and secured other acreage by purchase bringing his farmlands to a total of 240 acres. He also acquired another 160 acres of grazing and timber lands in the Manastash Canyon.

Albert's parents Julana and Halvor Nelson immigrated from Oslo, Norway to the United States in the early 1860's, first settling in the Kent Valley in what is now King County, Washington. Late in 1873 they moved to the Kittitas Valley. By 1880 they had homesteaded eighty acres just four and one-half miles southwest of Ellensburg. Later they acquired another eighty acres of farmland and a 160-acre ranch on the north fork of Manastash Creek. On that ranch Halvor built a water-powered sawmill soon after 1900. For more than thirty years, the Nelson sons Albert, Edwin, and Fred ran the sawmill and a logging operation on family lands.

Edwin Nelson married the younger Strande daughter, and like his brother Albert, was given a parcel of land from the Strande homestead as a wedding present. Halvor Nelson abided by the old country opinion that his sons should work for their inheritance, so he first leased the farmland to his sons and later sold it to them. Around 1910 the prosperity of the Nelson brothers and their families and in-laws inspired a building boom in the Manastash region of Kittitas County. Albert Nelson's farmstead was erected at this time, along with a new house and barn for Edwin and two large barns for the Strandes. All of the lumber was logged and sawn from timber stands on Nelson and Strande lands in the Manastash.

Ike Jones, a local carpenter and builder came to live with Albert Nelson's family when work began on the new house. The window sash and doors were ordered from Ellensburg, but the rest of the lumber came from the Nelson mill. Tamarack was especially chosen

9. Major Bibliographical References

An Illustrated History of Klickitat, Yakima, and Kittitas Counties. Interstate Publishing Co., 1904.

History of the Yakima Valley, Washington, comprising Yakima, Kittitas and Benton Counties. The S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1919.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 2 acres

Quadrangle name Ellensburg South

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
	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

The nominated property occupies a 2-acre square in the extreme southwesterly corner of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, T17N, R18E, 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 David Wheeler, Preservation Planner

Edited by: F.K. Lentz, OA&HP, Olympia, WA

organization Kittitas County Museum

date May 1980

street & number 114 East 3rd Avenue

telephone (509) 925-3378

city or town Ellensburg

state Washington 98926

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

date 1/20/82

title

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 2/25/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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For HCRS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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as the interior wood trim, not only because of its availability but because it is a fine-grained wood suitable for mouldings, plate rails, break-front decorations, flooring and trim boards.

Many other buildings in the Damman District and the Manastash Canyon area of Kittitas County were built with Nelson lumber. This farmstead is one of the best examples of local materials and local craftsmanship brought together in the context of a working farm. The current owners are appreciative of the significance of the property and are working to restore the house as well as the outbuildings to their turn-of-the-century character.