

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Washington
COUNTY: Kittitas
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE APR 13 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Northwestern Improvement Company Store

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
First Street & Pennsylvania Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Roslyn

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
#4 - Hon. Mike McCormick

STATE: Washington CODE: 53 COUNTY: Kittitas CODE: 037



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Unoccupied	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Burlington Northern

STREET AND NUMBER:
800 Block - 3rd & Columbia

CITY OR TOWN:
Seattle

STATE:
Washington

CODE:
53

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Kittitas County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
5th & Main

CITY OR TOWN:
Ellensburg

STATE:
Washington

CODE:
98926 53

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE:

STATE: Washington

COUNTY: Kittitas

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

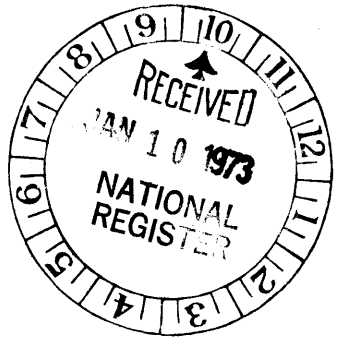
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Northwest Improvement Company Store was built in 1889 and is one of the few commercial buildings remaining in Washington from this time. It was constructed of red brick, made in a local brickyard. It is in excellent condition as it has been in continuous use since being constructed as a general store by the Northern Pacific Railroad. It is approximately 284 feet long on the west side, 88 feet wide on the store front (south) and 52 feet wide on the north where the warehouse is combined under the same roof. There is a balcony over the back area. There are two front entrances, a side entrance and exit, and a rear exit.

Walls are 12" -15" thick and form the bearing walls for the roof structure. The general store portion (southend) contains the original wood columns and stamped metal ceilings. There has been no deterioration of the columns or ceiling and there has been no disruption of space due to remodeling or addition of interior partitions. The store front (south wall) has its original facade of steel lintels, glass, and cast iron columns. This end of the building opens onto a raised sidewalk with a fine old metal railing separating this raised area from the street grade below.

The exterior of the building has retained its natural brick color, and all fenestrations on the east and west sides have the original brick arches. The major portion of the building has cast-iron shutters typical of the era for fire and security protection. The northerly end of the building, constructed originally as a warehouse, is an open space, clear-spanned with heavy timber trusses bearing on the solid masonry walls, leaving this entire end of the building as one open room.

Minor repairs to the brick work will be required and new roofing should be installed over all roofs. There is a partial basement area under the south (store) end of the building.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

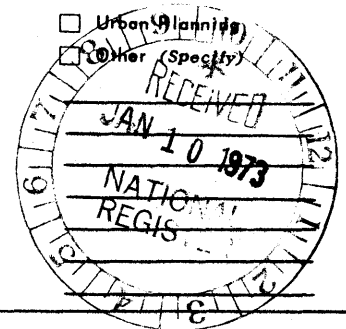
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The N.W.I. Building is the last remaining structure associated with the Roslyn Coal Field, a major source of fuel at the turn of the Century. This building, known as the "Company Store", furnished all the needs of the people of the community, having departments of groceries, hardware, men's clothing, shoes, women and children's ready-to-wear, dry goods and notions, meat market, furniture, farm and miner's supplies, household furnishings, jewelry, as well as handling explosives for the entire coal field.

According to local history, it is presumed the Northern Pacific Coal Company purchased the store from Levi Strauss et Co. and opened the store on October 10, 1886. They built the present building across the tracks in 1889. The front had been remodeled and after suffering a fire in February, 1916, it was repaired in the same design and has remained this way.

The Company was originally the Northern Pacific Coal Company, then changed to Northwestern Improvement Company and, following a merger, is now the Burlington Northern.

This building will be demolished by Burlington Northern Land Office if the City of Roslyn cannot find a way to preserve the building. Only the City was given the opportunity to take over the building and adjacent land, otherwise the building will be demolished and the land frozen and not made available to anyone.

It has been said that the discovery of the Roslyn Coal Field was what definitely decided the Railroad to favor Stampede Pass for the railroad, rather than Naches Pass or any other, in the Cascade Mountains.

This building could be used to preserve the culture of the Nationalities that contributed to the social development of the community. Nationalities included: Croatians, English, Scottish, Austrians, Czechoslovians, Italians, Slavonians, Finns, Swedes, Russians, Lithuanians, Polish,

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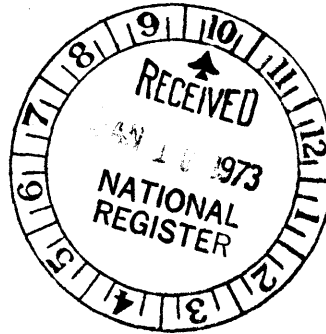
(Continuation Sheet)

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Continued from #8 - Significance

Irish, Welsh, Germans, Dutch, Norwegians, Montenegrans, Serfs and Arabians or Syrians, as well as Negroes imported during a strike and a group of Chinese who prospected for gold.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Spawn of Coal Dust
 County History
 City of Roslyn-records

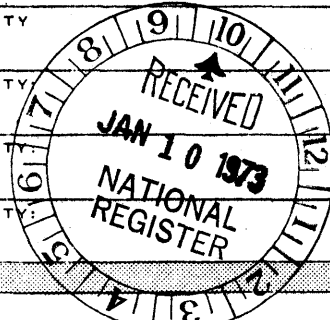
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		47° 13' 25"	120° 59' 31"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.8 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



10/652090
5231760

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Gertrude H. Kennedy - Economic Development

ORGANIZATION: Kittitas County Action Agency DATE: 8/30/72

STREET AND NUMBER: c/o Burcham Hotel Building

CITY OR TOWN: Cle Elum 98922 STATE: Washington CODE: 53

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Charles H. Odegaard
 Charles H. Odegaard

Title Director - Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

Date December 15, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

APR 18 1973

Date _____

ATTEST:

James W. Woodford
 Keeper of The National Register

Date April 9, 1973