National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Nam	e							
historic PICK	ERING FARM							
and/or common	PICKERING FAF	RM HORSI	E STABLES	3				
2. Loca	ation							
street & number	21809 S.E.	56th St	treet			_	not for publi	cation
city, town	Issaquah	uah		inity of	congressional district	3rd - The Honora		
state Wash	ington	code	053	county	King		code	033
3. Clas	sification	1						
Category district X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisitie in process being conside n/a	on .	Status occupie unoccu work in Accessible yes: res yes: un no	ipied i progress s stricted	Present Use X agricultu commerce educatio entertain governm industria military	re cial nal ment ent	museum park private ro religious scientific transpor	esidence
4. Own	er of Pro	pert	y					
name Euger	ne Ekblad							
street & number	2220 81st Str	eet SE					······································	
city, town Merc	cer Island		vic	inity of		state	Washington	98040
5. Loca	ation of L	egal	Desc	criptic	on			
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	KING C	COUNTY AD	MINISTRAT	ION BUILDING			
street & number		500-4t	h Avenue	<u>.</u>				
city, town		Seattl	е			state	Washington	98104
6. Repi	resentati	on ir	ı Exis	ting 9	Surveys			
	ON STATE CULTUR COUNTY	AL RESO	URCES SU	RVEY: has this pro	perty been deterr	nined el	egible? ye	s X no
date Decem	nber 30, 1977				federal	_x_ stat	e _X_ county	local
depository for su	rvey records 0	ffice o	f Archaed	ology and	Historic Pre	eservat	ion	
city, town	1 West 21st St	reet, O	lympia			state	Washington	98504

7. Description Condition — excellent — good — ruins — unexposed Check one — X original site — moved date — moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Pickering Farm is located in the Sammamish Valley, thirteen miles east of Seattle, Washington, at the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. A Victorian-detailed barn, four related buildings and eighty-six acres of open pasture land are the only remaining working parts of what was once the four hundred and ten acre Pickering Brothers Dairy Farm.

The Hay Barn

The present barn is actually two attached buildings. A tall hay barn with a high-pitched gable roof is the original building, constructed about 1890. In 1906, a one-story cow barn with a low-pitched gable roof was built eighteen feet to the south of the first barn. The space between the two buildings is roofed over and partially enclosed.

The center section of the hay barn, enclosing the haymow, is thirty feet wide, seventy-eight feet long, and approximately forty-five feet high at the ridge. Lean-to's extend the length of the barn on its east and west sides, the western one being wider and higher. The width of the barn, including the lean-to's, is seventy-two feet.

The siding of the hay barn is board and batten and is attached to the framing with cut nails. The roof of the western lean-to has a corrugated metal covering. All other roof surfaces are covered with wood shingles. Interesting exterior details include boxed-in eaves and verges and a large ventilation cupola at the center of the main roof ridge. The square cupola has a cross gable roof and on each side, two, round-arched, louvered openings with a crescent moon cut-off above them.

All of the original casement and double-hung sashes have been removed. The original double sliding doors have also been removed though the steel tracks are still attached to the lean-to's.

The hay barn foundation is post and concrete pier. The post and beam, sawn-timber framing is traditional, including precisely fitted mortise-and-tenon joints held with mortise pins. The posts and beams are approximately ten inches square. There are five bents, or post and crossbeam units, spaced eighteen feet apart along the length of the haymow. Each bent is stiffened by diagonal braces, also held with mortise pins.

An unusual feature of the framing is a system of iron tension rods. The rods are strung in pairs across the width of the haymow, eight inches above the center crossbeam and the beam either side of it. The outer ends of each pair are bolted through the posts which extend a foot above the tops of the crossbeams. The inner ends of each pair are joined in common to a small iron link or ring. These rods are not adjustable. Aside from the crossbeams and tension rods, the haymow is open from the ground floor to the rafters.

Just below the gable ridge, suspended from a wooden bracing arrangement, is a steel, hayfork carrier track. It traverses the entire length of the haymow and extends beyond the walls of the north and south gables. In conjunction with a system of pulleys, horse-drawn cables and a hayfork lift, loose hay, piled in a wagon outside, was hoisted through the hay door in the north gable, pulled along the carrier track, and dropped into the haymow.

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The Cow Barn

The cow barn, built in 1906, measures forty by one-hundred and fifty feet with a sixteen-foot wide milking parlor projecting twenty-eight feet from the center of the east side.

The siding of the barn is primarily board and batten with some shiplap sections on the south end and on the milking parlor wing. The roofing material is wood shingles. Three louvered cupolas with steep pyramidal roofs are evenly spaced along the ridge of the barn roof, with a similar cupola on the wing. Eaves and verges are simply boxed.

The original casement sashes have all been removed. Wagon doors are located at the center of the cow barn's north and south ends. A dozen stall doors have been added to the exterior of the west side.

The cow barn has a post and pier foundation with a concrete wall, three feet high, around the perimeter of the building. The stud wall framing consists of two by six inch milled timbers. Horse stalls have replaced the original stanchions which once housed eighty-four dairy cows.

OTHER BUILDINGS AND SITE ADAPTIONS

There are three buildings associated with the dairy farm which remain on the land immediately surrounding the barn:

1. House - 1915

The house is a one-story, two bedroom bungalow, approximately 25 feet square in plan, with a rectangular plan addition in back. The main roof is a simple gable sloping toward the front with rafters extended to shelter the entrance and vergeboards supported at each end by three overscaled brackets. Windows are double-hung with plain board surrounds.

2. Second Hay Barn - 1936

This barn provides additional hay storage space. It has a wood shingled gable roof and board and batten siding.

3. Garage - 1912

The garage is a one-story building now used primarily for storage. It also has a wood-shingled gable roof, board and batten siding, and is architecturally compatible with the other buildings.

The dairy farm was converted into a horse boarding and training facility beginning in 1970. As a result, there were several alterations to the farm site. In the northeast corner of the property, there are five rail-fenced jumping and riding "rings". Two are on the west side of the entrance drive and three on the east side. To the south of the barns, interspersed with haying and grazing fields, is a half-mile practice race track. An adjoining straight track is the west of the barns.

8. Significance

1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 X1800-1899	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art commerce communications		g landscape architectur law literature military music	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	Circa 1890, 1906	Builder/Architect	Unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

First settled in the early 1860's and the scene of a fatal Indian attack in 1864, the Pickering Farm has been associated with the history of Issaquah, Washington, from the time of its earliest settlement to the present.

Bought by Territorial Governor William Pickering in 1867, and owned and operated by his descendants until 1975, the farm is an integral part of both the community's history and landscape.

The Pickering Farm is the only surviving 19th Century dairy farm in the Issaquah area where dairying was once one of the largest industries. The barn, built in two parts in 1890, and 1906, is an excellent example of a turn of the century farm building accommodating mechanical innovations and productions methods which helped make the large dairying industry possible in the Issaquah area.

<u>History</u>

In the early 1860's, William Casto and his wife, Abbie, settled on the shore of the southern tip of a large lake fourteen miles east of Seattle, Washington Territory and thirteen miles west of the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The lake was known at that time by its Indian name, Squak Lake. The Casto couple, using local Indians as their labor force, soon became successful entrepreneurs making and selling hazelwood barrel hoop stock which they eventually shipped as far away as San Francisco.

While the Casto's were establishing their business, a number of other pioneers settled in the vicinity which soon became known as Squak Valley. By 1864, many of the Casto's neighbors had filed for Donation Land Claims. The Casto's, however, had not filed an official claim by that time, and their farm of approximately 160 acres was recorded as unclaimed land at the General Land Office in Olympia. On November 3, 1864, the Territorial University in Seattle, through its Board of Commissioners and by permission of the University Land Grant Act of 1854, selected the 160 acres of land on which the Casto's had settled. The Casto's never had a chance to contest this action. On an evening in November, 1864, just after their land was selected by the University Commissioners, they were murdured in a bloody skirmish with local Indians seeking to avenge the murder of one of their chiefs by a white man.

The Casto farm was rented to one of their former neighbors, J.W. Bush. In 1867, the fifth Territorial Governor of Washington, William Pickering, an appointee of Abraham Lincoln, became interested in the land. Governor Pickering had been through Squak Valley previously but had not known there was land available. He had earlier bought other University Land on the Snoqualmie Prairie, where his son, William Pickering Jr., had settled and begun a farm. The Snoqualmie area, however, did not turn out to be as profitable as he had hoped.

<u>9. M</u>	ajor Bibli	ographica	al Referen	ces	
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10.	Geograph	ical Data			
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	national	state	Xiocal		
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After two years of working on the Snoqualmie farm, the Governor's son was encountering problems with claim jumpers and gun fighting. William Pickering Sr. wrote to his friend, Daniel Bagley, the head of the University Board of Commissioners, on February 16, 1867, and inquired about the purchase of the Casto farm. On March 2, 1867, in a letter to his son, Governor Pickering said he had about closed the purchase of 160 acres of land in Squak Prairie; the Casto farm. The land that he was referring to, the southwest quarter of section 21 of township 24 north, range 6 east, was part of the land that would eventually become the Pickering Brothers Dairy Farm in Issaguah, Washington.

Governor Pickering strongly recommended to his son that he move down from the Snoqualmie Prairie to the Casto farm which had 40 acres of open prairie and which was much closer to Seattle. The exact date that William Pickering, Jr. moved to Squak Valley is not known, but it is believed that he had moved there during 1867, and that he lived in the former Casto cabin.

William Pickering Sr.'s term as Territorial Governor officially ended in December, 1866, but he remained in Olympia until 1867 when his replacement under President Andrew Johnson, George E. Cole, arrived. At that time, he retired to his farm in Squak Valley. In January, 1869, the ex-governor returned to Illinois to encourage his other children to move to Washington Territory. A series of illnesses forced him to remain in Illinois until he died in 1873 at the age of 75.

It is obvious from the letters that William Pickering, Sr. wrote to his son during this period that he had developed a great personal interest and excitement about the land in Squak Valley. He sent William Jr. detailed maps of the land and how it should be developed. He also sent extensive instructions on wheat raising, barn building and irrigation for drainage of the swampy land. One of his letters advised William Jr. to buy some of the properties adjacent to his farm. This advice, which William Jr. followed, eventually turned out to be very profitable for the descendants of the Pickerings.

William Pickering, Jr. devoted his early years in Squak Valley to his farm. Following his father's advice, he drained his land, built fences and started to plan the building of a barn. He bought 160 acres of additional land in section 28 south of the Casto farm. This land included a hill overlooking the original prairie land that the Pickerings had occupied. According to current family members, William Pickering, Jr. built a cabin on the hill.

In the late 1860's and early 1870's, the people in the growing community of Squak Valley were conducting a small amount of trade with Seattle. Produce, dairy goods and products of the developing lumber and mining industries in the area were being used for trade. The growing population of Squak warranted the establishment of a post office of which William Pickering, Jr. became the first postmaster in 1870. He served in this capacity until 1875. During the early 1870's, carrying on the interest of his father in the developing community, he also served in a number of other public service positions. These included road superintendent, Grand and Petit Juror, Judge of Elections and a term as Commissioner on the Board of County Commissioners starting in 1874.

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William Pickering, Jr. married Sevilla Wilson from Renton in 1877. They had three sons, William, Royal and Ernest. When William Pickering, Jr. died in 1883, he left his young family with 320 acres of land in Squak and at least 540 acres of land in Snoqualmie Prairie.⁹

Sevilla Pickering remarried in 1884 to William Furnell. For many years she worked hard to raise her three sons. In 1888, as had been provided in the estate of William Pickering, Jr., she sold some of the Snoqualmie Prairie Lands and bought a residence in Seattle. The whole family moved there and the sons attended public schools. They returned to Squak, by then known as Gilman, in 1889. Sevilla took advantage of her property by renting part of it to a tenant farmer, John Reard, who sold produce to Gilman mines.

According to Royal Pickering, who was ten at the time, the family built their large barn after their return from Seattle in 1890. The barn originally housed 25 cows and included many features that were considered modern and innovative at the time. The mechanical hayfork lift with a system of steel cables and pulleys and a trolley running the length of the gable ridge was one of many types of mechanical hayforks that were being experimented with in barns at the time. The cupola on the roof and many windows along the sides were fitting of the 19th Century, when an awareness of the importance of proper ventilation to insure animals' health was becoming current practice.

While Sevilla (Pickering) Furnell was raising her family in the 1880's and 1890's, the community of Gilman on Lake Sammamish was becoming incorporated into County, State and National networks of trade. The most important industry in the farming valleys around Seattle was hop growing. In Gilman, coal mining was also an important industry. The hops industry as well as the local coal mining industry promoted the construction of roads and railroads in the State of Washington. During the early 1890's however, a hop blight wiped out most of the crops and a world-wide economic depression brought a halt to coal mining. When the economy of the area started to recover in the late 1890's, the availability of cleared land from the former hop fields and the access to transportation facilities encouraged development of a dairy industry.

The inhabitants of Gilman in the late 1890's were beginning to develop a sense of local pride and began to refer to their village as Issaquah, a name close to the original Indian name from which "Squak" had been derived.

It was typical for farmers at that time to raise cows for their own milk and sell any surplus from their home. Robert Pickering, Royal Pickering's son, has stated that this is how the Pickering dairy farm began. 12

The dairy industry was starting to look promising and Sevilla (Pickering) Furnell took advantage of the situation by sending her sons Ernest and Royal to business schools. When the Pickering brothers returned home from their schools in the early 1900's, the land that they had inherited from their father and grandfather proved to be well suited for dairying pasture. They bought an additional forty acres of land in 1904, and their farm soon became successful. 13

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In 1906, they built a cow barn as an addition to the earlier barn built in 1890. Their barns now housed 130 cows which had 260 acres of open fields for grazing. 14

Other farmers in the area were also prospering from the dairy industry and soon many local creameries and condenseries were established. The environs of Seattle became known as a "milkshed" for the Seattle milk market, which consumed 15,000 gallons of milk a day by 1914. 15

The Pickerings early on began to sell milk to a Cooperative, the Seattle Milk Producers Association. In 1913 and 1914, the Pickering Brothers Farm was featured in two different publications. The Issaquah Commercial Club's "Plain Facts" in 1913 praised their five unit milking machine, electric lighting for house and barn and running water system. ¹⁶ A 1914 issue of "Northwest Horticulturalist and Dairyman" used the Pickerings two "modern" silos to epitomize the efficiency of a modern farm. ¹⁷

In 1916, Ernest Pickering built a large house on the site of William Pickering, Jr.'s cabin on the hill overlooking the barn. The farm was incorporated in 1916 and an additional 50 acres of land bought in 1918 brought the total to 410 acres. Territorial Governor William Pickering's dream of a large profitable farm were being realized on the property which he had purchased. The Pickering family and dairy have since become an integral part of the Issaguah community and landscape.

Dairying production continued to expand in King County during the second decade of the Twentieth Century but leveled off during the 1920's when all available land was in production. The Pickerings' trading relationship with the Seattle Milk Producers Association connected them with a much more stable market than some of the local creameries would have. This allowed them to stay in business continuously while other dairies either changed hands or went out of business. The impact of the depression and two world wars caused a further leveling off in the dairy industry and post World War II suburban development contributed to the demise of many dairies. Another factor which came into play after World War II was strict dairy health regulations which small family farmers couldn't sustain.

From 1946 to 1952, the Pickerings had an average of 50 cows on their farm but were still going strong. In 1964, their herd had again increased to about 200 cows. They maintained their dairy farm longer than any other farm in Issaquah, but in the late 1960's were forced to sell a strip of land through the middle of their property to allow for the construction of Interstate 90. The frustration of having to traverse I-90 after it was built was added to by the even stricter diarying regulations which made it difficult for anything but large dairies to make a profit.

The Pickering family sold most of the Pickering Brothers Dairy to a group of investors in 1975. They kept a small amount of property for their family residences, including the large house on the hill which had been built in 1916. The barns have been used as a horse boarding stable since 1970, under the management of Robert Pickering, and most of the fields are still being used to provide hay for those stables.

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Footnotes:

- 1. Portland Land Office Tract Book No. 132, Townships 16-35N, Range 6E. Record Group No. 49 National Archives and Records Service.
- Pickering, William, Sr. to Bagley, February 16, 1867.
 Box 275, Folder B, William Pickering Papers, University of Washington Library.
- 3. Pickering, William, Sr. to Pickering, William, Jr., Box 275, Folder B William Pickering Papers, University of Washington Library.
- Pickering, William, Sr. to Bagley, September 23, 1869.
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- 5. Pickering, William, Sr. to Pickering, William, Jr., April 10, 1871.
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- 6. N₂ of NW₄/SW₄ of NW₄/NW₄ of SW₄, Section 28, T 24 N, R6E. Abstract of William Pickering Estate, Box 275, Folder D, William Pickering Papers, University of Washington Library.
- 7. County Commissioner's Records, King County Records Department, p. 466, Book 2, pp 348 & 553, Book 4, p. 58.
- 8. County Auditor's Certificate, November 13, 1874.
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- 9. Ibid No. 6.
- 10. Pickering, Royal Robert, Pickering File, Notes from a personal interview, January 7, 1961, Issaguah Historical Society Collection, Issaguah, WA.
- 11. Dole, Phillip, "Farmhouses and Barns of the Willamette Valley", in Vaughn and Ferriday, eds., Space Style and Structure, Building in Northwest America, Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1974, pp. 220, 225.
- 12. Pickering, Robert Royal, Personal Interview, October 27, 1979.
- 13. Pickering, Royal Robert, "History of the Descendants of Governor William Pickering", November, 1962. p. 4.
- 14. Issaquah Commercial Club, The, "An Issaquah Dairy Scene-One of our Largest" Plain Facts, Issaquah: Issaquah Commercial Club, 1913, centerfold.
- 15. R.L. Polk & Cos. King County Directory, Seattle: 426-431 Globe Block, 1914.
- 16. Ibid. No. 14.
- 17. Zintheo, C.J. "Two Yearly Silo Crops" Northwest Horticulturalist & Dairyman, November, 1914, p. 1.

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8. "Historic Issaquah Farm" The Seattle Times Pictorial, August 23, 1964, p. 1.

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"Key Dates in Issaquah History". The Issaquah Press, 62, No. 42, October 18, 1962, p. 10.

McDonald, Lucille, "William Pickering from Illinois, A friend of Lincoln and Washington's Civil War Governor". Seattle Times Magazine Section, February 6, 1966, pp. 6-7.

"Seven Were Killed That Autumn Night". The Issaquah Press, 62, No. 42, October 18, 1962, p. 10.

"Sole Survivor Tells of Squak Indian Massacre". The Seattle Post-Intelligencer Magazine Section, August 20, 1909.

Zintheo, C.J. "Two Yearly Silo Crops". Northwest Horticulturalist & Dairyman, November 11, 1914, p. 1.

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King County Cooperative Extension Service, Past Records of King County, Dairy Herd Improvement Association, Annual Summaries, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1952.

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Personal Interviews:

Pickering, Robert Royal, 970 Pickering Place N.W., Issaquah, Washington 98027. Numerous Interviews, October 2 - December 9, 1979.

Swanson, Don, Northwest Dairyman's Association, Seattle, Washington Telephone Interview, November 28, 1979.

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runs south 1025 feet and continues southeastward at 140 degrees for 1200 feet to its intersection with Interstate 90.

Boundaries of the nominated property include only the remaining undeveloped pasture land (significant open space) and all structures associated with the original Pickering Brothers Dairy Farm. The perimeter is defined by natural topographic features, a change in land use and public rights-of-way.