

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Washington
COUNTY:	Whatcom
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

**1. NAME** OCT 16 1974

COMMON:  
Hovander Homestead

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
River Lea Farm

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
5299 Neilson Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Ferndale

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
#2 - Honorable Lloyd Meeds

STATE: Washington      CODE: 53      COUNTY: Whatcom      CODE: 073

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PUBLIC ACQUISITION: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____			

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Whatcom County Park Board

STREET AND NUMBER:  
3373 Mount Baker Highway

CITY OR TOWN:  
Bellingham

STATE:  
Washington

CODE:  
53

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Whatcom County Auditor's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Whatcom County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:  
Bellingham

STATE:  
Washington

CODE:  
53

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal       State       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

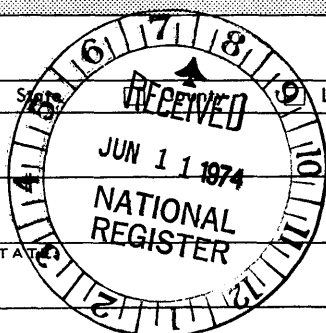
CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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 Hovander Homestead has changed little since its completion in 1903. Fronting the Nooksack River, it contains a home of unusual architectural quality as well as several structures integral to the operation of the farm.

Built by Holan Hovander, a retired Swedish architect, the farm house is an excellent example of stick style design. Although lacking the diagonal overlay common to many stick style structures, it reflects many of the characteristic features of the style such as its tall proportions, steeply pitched roof and extensive eaves. The shake hipped roof blends into cross gables running the width of the house at the front and rear and scroll cut barge boards decorate all the eaves. Vertical siding extending from the eave line to the sill of gable windows separates the horizontal clapboards covering the body of the house from the fishscale shingles in the gable ends. The original brick foundation of the house now rests on concrete footings as a result of county stabilization efforts in the park.

Outbuildings include a hay barn, a fruit drying shed, a water tower, a milking parlor, a tool shed and a machine shed. A silo and two chicken coops have been removed. The Whatcom County Park Board has added two restrooms, a power transformer shed, two picnic shelters, two fishing shacks and new chicken coops. Built of clapboard and with shake roofs, the new structures reflect the spirit of the original buildings yet are easily distinguished from them.

The barn is 95 feet long, 65 feet wide and 64 feet high and was built in 1911. It is equipped with two hay lofts; the lower section has milking stalls on the west side, a central section with large sliding doors and horse and cattle stalls on the east side.

The water tower was also built in 1911. A tall structure rectangular in plan, it once held a 500 gallon storage tank and pumping apparatus. Originally the south side of the tower was open near the top. In 1971, this opening was reproduced on the three remaining sides of the tower and interior stairs were added to convert the structure to an observation platform.

The two story board and batten fruit drying shed was built in 1898, and has a low hipped roof. The interior still retains the shelves and a drying chute. A stove used in the building is being stored for safe-keeping in the attic of the farmhouse.

The machine shed and tool shed were also built in 1898. The machine shed, a long narrow building open on the west side, is attached to the fruit drying shed. The tool shed is a small gable roof clapboard structure with a shed extension.

The small concrete dairy was built in 1916, and is complete with cream separator and butter and ice cream making equipment.

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 checked="" 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) 1898 - present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>local history</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" 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 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

In 1898, a retired architect, Holan O. Hovander, bought 100 acres of homesteaded land and 52,000 board feet of lumber for the construction of a house. The lumber dried for several years before construction began in 1901. Holan himself laid all the brick, acquired from Seattle, for the foundation and other parts of the house; his six children helped by mixing river sand with the mortar. Carpenters performed most of the construction work and completed the house in 1903. Finished materials such as moldings, windows, doors and the brick were shipped from Seattle.

Along with the land, Hovander received several head of cattle, a horse team, two orchards and a fruit drying shed. He then purchased various types of seed from all over the country. The farm became almost totally self sufficient, producing meat, eggs, and other dairy products -- fruit, beet sugar, grains and silage materials.

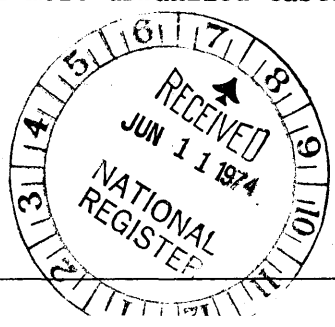
The Hovander property was landlocked and they had no access from a public road to their farm. They used a road over another man's land but because continued use would have converted that road to county property, they were forced to take another route. That route was the river and the boat they used for transportation is still on the property.

Not only was the handsome house a home for the family, it was a community social center used occasionally for square dances.

In 1915, Hovander died and left the property to his wife. The sons ran the farm until 1936, when Mrs. Hovander died and left the farm to Otis, the youngest son. He later sold 60 acres of the original 100 to the Whatcom County Park Board.

The Hovander Farm is significant not only for its splendid farm house but also for its importance in the development of the area. It signifies the transition of a pioneering era to one of more urbanized tastes.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Family records and letters

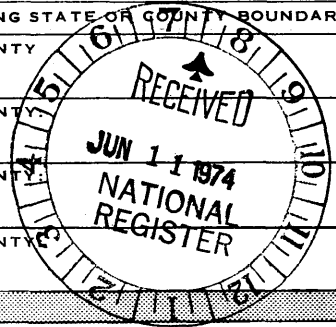
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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	48 ° 50 ' 02 "	122 ° 35 ' 46 "	° ' "	° ' "	
NE	48 ° 50 ' 02 "	122 ° 35 ' 00 "			
SE	48 ° 49 ' 30 "	122 ° 35 ' 00 "			
SW	48 ° 49 ' 30 "	122 ° 35 ' 46 "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **60**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Roger Ellingson, student (Advisor: Mollie Bartholick, Arts Coordinator)**

ORGANIZATION: **Whatcom County Park Board** DATE: **April 23, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**3373 Mount Baker Highway**

CITY OR TOWN: **Bellingham** STATE: **Washington** CODE: **53**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 June 7, 1974

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

AR Mortensen  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/16/74

ATTEST:

W. H. [Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register

Date 10.11.74

NW 10/529620  
 048 2045 5408 860  
 0988045/085 035/0135  
 0487045/585 035/0135  
 SE 10/530 585 035/0135  
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