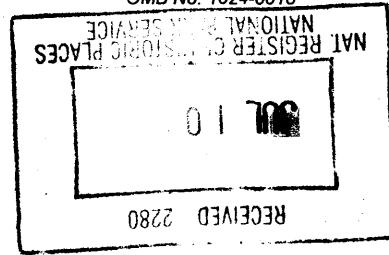


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

OMB No. 1024-0018



970

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Colvos Store
other names/site number Kress Store, Belcher Home

2. Location

street & number 123rd Avenue SW & Cove Road N/A not for publication
city or town Vashon N/A vicinity
State Washington code WA county King code 033 zip code 98070

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 7/5/00
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain:)

[Signature] 8/16/00
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Colvos Store
Name of Property

King County
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not incl. previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: Department Store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

PROFESSIONAL: Art Studio
DOMESTIC: Apartment

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN:
Commercial Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation WOOD: Post & Beam
walls WOOD: Weatherboard
roof ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Colvos Store
Name of Property

King County
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1923-1943

Significant Dates

1923

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

John Trones & Gustav Parker

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record# _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

King County Landmarks & Heritage Program
506 Second Avenue, Room 200
Seattle, WA 98104

Colvos Store
Name of Property

King County
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.)

1	<table border="1"><tr><td>10</td></tr></table> Zone	10	<table border="1"><tr><td>5</td><td>38</td><td>335</td></tr></table> Easting	5	38	335	<table border="1"><tr><td>52</td><td>56</td><td>790</td></tr></table> Northing	52	56	790	3	<table border="1"><tr><td> </td></tr></table> Zone		<table border="1"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> Easting				<table border="1"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> Northing			
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Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.) **SEE CONTINUATION SHEET**

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.) **SEE CONTINUATION SHEET**

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Julie M. Koler, Historic Preservation Officer

organization King County Landmarks & Heritage Program date April 14, 2000

street & number 506 Second Avenue, Room 200 telephone (206) 296-8689

city or town Seattle state WA zip code 98104

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Chris Coldeen

street & number 16103 Westside Highway SW telephone (206) 567-4035

city or town Vashon state WA zip code 98070

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Section number 7

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DESCRIPTION

The Colvos Store is located on the northwestern side of Vashon Island and adjacent to western side of the main road between the communities of Cove and Colvos. It is sited a short distance from the roadway, directly oriented toward the roadway and otherwise surrounded by open fields. Scattered on hillsides along the roadway route are several older residences. The setting remains very rural and the area has not experienced significant modern housing or commercial development.

This combination store and residence building is a straightforward example of rural corner store design. The building is rectangular in plan, measuring approximately 30' x 45', with a front gable roof form and a peaked false-front façade oriented toward the roadway. It has a post and beam foundation comprised of massive hand-hewn logs under the store and smaller wood posts and blocks under the apartment portion of the building, at the west end of the building. The simple one-part, false-front façade is symmetrical with two large display windows that flank the central door and transom. Each window has a fixed wooden sash with two large lower panes and an upper row of smaller frosted glass panes. Running along the entire front of the building is a narrow wooden boardwalk that was reconstructed in 1987 due to deterioration. The exterior walls are clad with shiplap. The cap of the false front includes a wide fascia board. The corner boards and window and door surrounds are plain trim members. Historically, a narrow store sign band and lamp were situated directly above the entrance door. The lamp remains in place and a small simple sign identifying "Colvos -1923" has been installed. The roof is clad with dark asphalt shingles.

When constructed in 1923, the building was divided into the store space, measuring about 30' x 30', and a two-room apartment in the rear, measuring 30' x 25'. However, sometime in the 1930s a hipped roof addition was made to the rear of the building, enlarging the apartment and enclosing a small porch on the north side. There is an indication that a rear door and porch existed at one time. It is possible that these alterations were made in conjunction with the construction of a 26' x 37' flat-roofed automobile garage adjacent (and slightly forward) to the south side of the store building [*now demolished*]. The façade of the garage contained a large garage door and five-sash window. A wooden "Shell" sign sat atop the building and projected out toward the street. Although the garage and its sign are gone, an old-style cylindrical gas pump still stands in front of the store. The building was reportedly painted with Shell Oil Company colors in the 1930s - pale yellow or cream color with orange trim.

The building was somewhat deteriorated by 1985, when the current owner undertook the rehabilitation project. Today, the façade of the Colvos Store appears as it did when constructed in 1923. The principal changes to this simple building and its site have included the addition of the automobile garage and expansion of the apartment in the 1930s and the demolition of the garage sometime prior to 1985. The current owner carefully rehabilitated the building in the late 1980s for artists' studios and a rental apartment uses. The project primarily consisted of the addition of a door to the north side and a small bay on the rear south side to increase interior living space. Structural repairs were made to the foundation and some deteriorated siding and trim was replaced in-kind.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Statement

Located near the northwestern shore of Vashon Island, the Colvos Store is an important extant building that provided a focus and identity for the once isolated community of Colvos. The community of Colvos was never large enough to be called a town, however it developed a distinct identity and character due, in part, to the cohesiveness of its primarily Scandinavian residents. Other significant buildings within the community have been demolished, including the Columbia School, and while four older churches buildings remain, they have been seriously altered and converted into residences and other uses. Constructed in 1923, this combination store and residence with its extant gas pump reflects an important period of community development and commercial history on Vashon Island, as isolated communities evolved due to expanded transportation opportunities and changing 20th century lifestyles.

Vashon Island Historic Context

Most of Vashon Island is known to have been the aboriginal territory of predecessor bands of the Puyallup Tribe, who established winter villages along the shores of Quartermaster Harbor, toward the southern end of the Island. Ancestors of the Suquamish and Muckleshoot Tribes may have also inhabited northern and eastern portions of the Islands.

Euro-American settlement of Vashon Island began during the 1850s, primarily along the shores of Quartermaster Harbor, with logging and farming being the earliest vocations. Island pioneers purchasing land through the Donation Land Act established individual timber and homestead claims. Logging and milling companies including the Puget Mill Company purchased large tracts of timberland.

During the latter part of the 19th century, numerous communities were established along the Island's shoreline, serving a growing population with limited commercial establishments, and providing important maritime transportation connections to commercial markets in the growing cities of Tacoma and Seattle. Settlement of the inland areas of the Island occurred more slowly, due to the limited and rugged roads that connected the uplands with well-established steamboast landings dotting the shorelines.

Early industrial activities included shipbuilding and brick-making operations which were typically located on waterfront sites, with easy access to maritime transportation, and took advantage of abundant natural resources; fir and cedar trees, clay, sand and gravel. Brick making became the second most prosperous industry on Vashon after logging, acquiring materials from the blue-clay bank beaches of the Island. Quartermaster Harbor served as the location of several brickyards, the largest one being the Bleeker yard on the Burton peninsula. By 1893, at least eight brickyards were in operation around Quartermaster Harbor, with additional yards located along the eastern shore of the Island. Major shipbuilding operations were developed at Dockton, at the outlet of Quartermaster Harbor on Maury Island, with secondary activities at smaller waterfront communities on Vashon and

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Maury Islands. However, logging continued to dominate the local economy, as thousands of acres of timber were harvested, and milled at both local and off-island mills.

Settlement patterns and the early industrial history of Vashon are clearly reflected in the development of the Island's built environment. The construction of late 19th century vernacular buildings reflects the rough living conditions with log cabins with shake roofs being prevalent. As lumber mills became more widespread, wood-frame construction with board and batten cladding became most common. By the late 1880s, when planed lumber became generally available, builders were able to construct more elaborate residences and commercial buildings.

Commercial / General Store Historic Context

Although Vashon Island was surveyed into sections in 1857, few settlers filed homestead claims until the 1880s when the population of the Island increased dramatically. Because the Island relied primarily on water transportation, most claims were located with easy access to the shoreline. As early as 1885, steamers were plying Puget Sound bringing supplies to Vashon settlers and, in turn, transporting their produce and eggs to Seattle and Tacoma markets. Before establishing regular routes, many of the boats were simply flagged down from the shore by Islanders wanting passage. One enterprising captain outfitted his boat with merchandise and brought his "floating department store" directly to Vashon customers.

As the steamer routes became better established, small retail stores were set up at or near various boat landings, including Cove, Lisabuela, Luana Beach, Colvos, Chautauqua, Vashon Landing and Portage. Because there were few roads on the Island, there was limited travel between communities and, in fact, this isolation bolstered self-sufficiency in these small settlements. Residents in each community came to depend on their corner grocery for daily supplies and the steamers for transportation to the mainland for other goods. The advent of ferry service in 1916 brought automobile transportation, which provided the stimulus for constructing better roads, which in turn increased contact between the communities. Some of the early stores suffered while others grew larger or introduced new services such as automotive repair and gas pumps. By the 1920s, Vashon Island had several paved roads the main business center was within the inland community of Vashon.

Of the myriad of early stores on Vashon Island, only a few continue to be used for their original purposes with minimal alterations. These include the Vashon Hardware Store and Harbor Mercantile (now Burton Trading Co.) in Burton. The Colvos Store is among a few other historic general or specialty store buildings that have survived, but have been converted to new uses. In most cases, these surviving store buildings have been seriously altered.

Colvos Store Historic Context

The history of commercial activity on Vashon Island, as well as the settlement of the communities of both Cove and Colvos, is inextricably tied to that of exploration and steamer travel on Puget Sound.

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Colvos Passage was named in 1841 for Passed Midshipman Colvocoressis who worked under Lt. Commander Ringgold as part of the Wilkes Expedition that charted Puget Sound. As early as 1863, there were land claims in the areas later known as Cove and Colvos. However, most claims were made in the 1880's when the entire Island experienced a wave of settlement. By 1885, steamers were plying Colvos Passage transporting goods to and from the Island, Seattle and Tacoma markets. The Steamer *Virginia III* would leave from Tacoma through the Pass making stops at Spring Beach, Luseata Beach, Maplewood, Cross' Landing, Lisabuela, Cove, Colvos, Cedarhurst, Vashon Park, Biloxi, and onward to Seattle.

Cove and Colvos, together known as the West Side, were primarily settled by Norwegians, Danes, and Swedes, and were almost 100% Scandinavian at one time. Perhaps the narrow and winding channel of Colvos Passage, and the steep forested hillsides of the Island, reminded settlers of their native Norway and prompted their settlement in Cove and Colvos to pursue logging, fishing, and farming. Over the years, the two communities housed a boat-building operation, post office, motel, several churches, the Columbia School, and the West Side Water Company as well as two steamer docks and two stores. A general store that was built in Cove in 1907 ceased operation in c.1920 as steamer traffic declined. The Colvos Store was built in 1923 and served as a general merchandise store until c.1943.

The Colvos Store functioned as the rural equivalent of the corner store, a cultural mainstay established in towns and cities during the later 19th and early 20th century. Corner stores were frequently plain and simple structures that often served as neighborhood and community landmarks and gathering places. The proprietor's family usually lived above or within the store building - an arrangement indicative of an economic and social system that depended on small-scale family operated enterprises. Before the advent of the automobile and the customers' ability to refrigerate or store quantities of food, the neighborhood or corner store was an essential part of rural and as well as urban communities. The architecture of corner stores tended to be simple and practical with particular design emphasis placed on having prominent entry and display window areas. Due to their location, many corner stores became the social and physical anchor within distinct neighborhoods or communities.

The Colvos Store was built through a partnership of John Trones and Gustav Parker. Trones was a Norwegian who had emigrated from Norway with his family and lived in several other parts of the country before migrating to Vashon Island in the early 1900's. He purchased land in Colvos in 1918 and five years later, persuaded Gustav Parker to put up capital to build a combination store and residence. The two men subsequently had a falling out after which Trones bought out Parker's interest and continued to operate the store himself for four years.

In 1927, Trones sold the store to the Tellviks. Mr. Tellvik was a carpenter who worked on Vashon Island and in Tacoma, while Mrs. Tellvik ran the store. He built a small garage on the south side of the store c.1929, which operated in conjunction with a Shell Oil Company gas pump run by Arthur Fosmark. Mr. Fosmark also did repair work Model 'T' Fords, but left the business after only a year. The Tellviks sold the property c.1931 to the Townes, who later sold to the Sexsons. Each of the four owners, Trones, Tellviks, Townes, and Sexsons ran the store selling various groceries, candies, some hardware, and gasoline while living in the rear apartment unit. In the early days, most West Siders

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did their major shopping in Seattle via steamer. However, by the 1920s, when the Island road system improved, local residents were primarily shopping in the larger community of Vashon. It seems likely that the owners Colvos Store put in the gas pump in an effort to capture the increased business that better roads and automobile transportation would provide. The pump was reportedly the only gas pump on the West Side.

In 1938, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Kress purchased the store and painted a sign above the front door, which read "Kress Store." They sold similar merchandise as their predecessors, as well as soda pop, ice cream, donuts, occasionally some used furniture. They were also known for selling "Hot Cha," bags of penny candies that were very popular with children in the area. For a period, there was a school bus stop located in front of the store, so it became a regular stopping place for children passing to and from school. It never functioned as either a supermarket or a specialty store, but served as a general store that could provide local residents with necessary daily supplies.

The closure of the store in c.1943 coincided with the general decline of business activity on Vashon during and after World War II. The loss of boat-building activity, combined with improved transportation on the Island, led to the gradual disintegration of the strong ethnic and community boundaries that had kept both Cove and Colvos relatively self-sufficient for several decades. With the heightened American involvement in World War II in 1942, the country began nation-wide rationing of gasoline, rubber, meat, sugar, and other items. The Kress's experienced difficulty in running their business on the reduced inventory the government was issuing them. As an example, they were accustomed to carrying 600-700 pounds of sugar at a time, in various sized bags for their rural customers who used a great deal of sugar in canning and baking. Due to rationing, their stock was reduced to 150 pounds. Over the months, business declined until 1943 when the Kresses simply closed down the store. Mrs. Kress died in 1956.

Guy Kress worked on a survey crew for Morrison-Knudson Construction Company and then for the State Game Office until he retired. He sold the store c.1959 to a personal friend Mr. Belcher, who was a bachelor seaman. Mr. Belcher lived there from c.1962 until his death in 1985. He willed the property to his housekeeper who, in turn, sold it to the present owner, Chris Coldeen. The building was vacant for a brief period before being rehabilitated for use as an artist studio and apartment. The Colvos Store was designated a King County Landmark by the King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission in December 1987 based on its historic commercial use and community significance.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lot 24-23-02 Block 9114 Plat:
S 190 f of N 380.6 ft of E 758 ft of SE ¼ of SW ¼ LESS CO RD

Boundary Justification:

The boundary of the nominated property is the current legal land parcel directly associated with the subject building.

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Photograph List

Colvos Store Vashon, Washington

- #1 View North along Westside Highway SW (Context)
- #2 South and east elevations, looking northwest
- #3 East elevation, looking west
- #4 North and west elevations, looking southeast
- #5 West and south elevations, looking northeast (Context)

Date: May 2000
Photographer: Chapin & Kate Krafft Seattle, WA
Negative location: King County Office of Cultural Resources
Seattle, WA

#5H [Historic view] Kress Store, c.1940 - *photocopy*



COLVOS STORE
WASHON, WA

#6 HISTORIC VIEW