

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95000808

Date Listed: 6/29/95

Meyers Falls Power Plant

Historic District

Property Name

Stevens

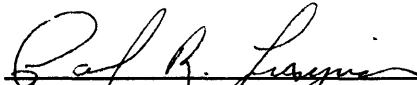
County

WA

State

Hydroelectric Power Plants in Washington State 1890-1938 MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

6/29/95
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Period of Significance:

- The Period of Significance is redefined as 1909-1924 to include all of the principal contributing resources and the associated significant dates.
- The Significant Date 1903 is deleted since it falls outside the period of significance and it is not directly attributable to any of the district's contributing resources.

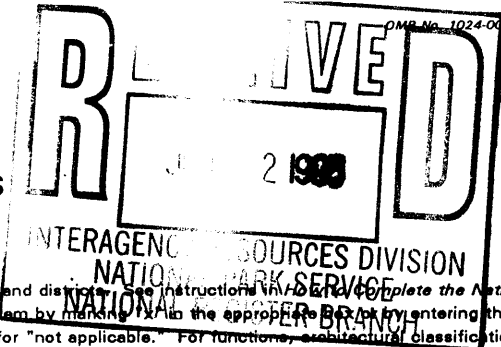
This information was confirmed with Lauren McCroskey of the Washington Preservation Office.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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: Meyers Falls Power Plant Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number: 0.5 mi. south of Kettle Falls (city), adjacent to (north and south of Juniper Street

_____ not for publication

city or town Kettle Falls

vicinity

state Washington

code WA

county Stevens

code 065

zip code 99141

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.)

Mary M. Sampson
Signature of certifying official

5/18/95
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 commenting or other official _____

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:) _____

D. R. Lynn

6/29/95

h Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Property Name Meyers Falls Power Plant Historic District.

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u> </u> objects
		<u>11</u>	<u>4</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____ No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Development of Hydroelectric Power in Washington State, 1890-1938

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Cat: INDUSTRY: energy facility Sub: _____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Cat: Other/Industrial Sub: _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other/Industrial
Bungalowoid

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation CONCRETE
 walls Concrete; Wood
 roof concrete; Metal/Aluminum
 other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
(see continuation sheets)

Property Name Meyers Falls Power Plant Historic District

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B. 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.)

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1912-1924

Significant Dates

1903
1909-1910
1915; 1924

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
(see continuation sheets)

Property Name Meyers Falls Power Plant Historic District

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9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)
(see continuation sheets)

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 Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Specify repository: The Washington Water Power Company Archives, Spokane, Washington; Western Historical Services, 731 Dundee Drive, Post Falls, Idaho

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 5. ac.

UTM References

1	<u>1/1</u>	<u>4/2/2/1/4/0</u>	<u>5/3/8/2/8/9/0</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing			
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>

___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robin Bruce, Director
 organization Western Historical Services date March 31, 1995
 street & number 731 Dundee Drive telephone (208) 773-4021
 city or town Post Falls, Idaho state Idaho zip code 83854

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 _____
 street & number _____ telephone _____
 city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

Introduction:

The Meyers Falls Power Plant Historic District (hereafter the District) is located approximately 0.5 mi. south of the City of Kettle Falls, Stevens County, Washington. It is accessible from Kettle Falls via Juniper Street, which dissects the district in a south/southwesterly bearing. The District occupies the N1/2, NW1/4 Section 29 and S1/2, SW1/4 Section 20, T36N, R38E, and comprises an area of less than 5 acres, adjacent to (north and south of) Juniper Street (see *Figure 1, Map of the Meyers Falls Historic District*). The intake structure located on the west side of the Meyers Falls impoundment marks the northern terminus of the District and the caretaker's cottage at the base of Meyers Falls marks the southwestern end. The diversion canal, penstock, powerhouse, and adjacent contributing structures mark the east and west boundaries of the District. The District includes both extant hydroelectric resources as well as abandoned hydroelectric structures important to local and regional history in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Physical Environment:

The District lies within the Huckleberry geographic range, one of six general physiographic regions that comprise Stevens County, Washington (United States [U.S.] Department of Agriculture 1982:2). The Huckleberry region extends south along the western border of Stevens County from the United States (U.S.)/Canada International Boundary on the north to the Spokane River on the south. Most of this rugged terrain is included within the Colville National Forest. The high mountains of the Huckleberry region separate the agriculturally rich Colville Valley from the Columbia River Valley, with those valleys trending east/west and north/south, respectively. The District is located in the extreme southwestern corner of the Colville Valley (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1982:3-4).

Although the District is near the incorporated City of Kettle Falls (originally the village of Meyers Falls), modern intrusions to the site have been slight. Several modern dwellings that appear to have been constructed within the last twenty years overlook the canal intake structure located behind the Meyers Falls dam from the terrace above (north of) the impoundment (Luttrell 1991:17). However, these dwellings are separated from the historic properties of the District by the impoundment. Thus, overall visual impact to the District's historic setting is minimal. Moreover, since hydroelectric development at the falls has diverted water to both the abandoned and present powerhouses/plants at the base of the falls through flumes, canals, and penstocks, the falls themselves appear little changed from descriptions of the falls as they looked in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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Layout of District:

Contributing and noncontributing elements within the Meyers Falls Historic District parallel both banks of the Colville River, south and west from the holding reservoir at the crest of the falls to the existing powerhouse and caretaker's cottage at the base of the falls. On the west bank of the river, these properties include the diversion canal intake and the canal, penstock intake, penstock, powerhouse, caretaker's cottage, automobile garage, and root cellar that are a part of the Meyers Falls Hydroelectric Development (HED), an operating industrial facility. An abandoned diversion flume and power plant, dating from an earlier era, is located on the south bank of the river across from the present powerhouse and caretaker's cottage (see *Figure 1, Map of the Meyers Falls Historic District*).

Registration Requirements:

Recommendations from the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO [correspondence from Leonard Garfield to Daniel Pfeiffer, WWP, of 29 July 1991]) provided the basis for establishing contributing and noncontributing properties within the District. The SHPO's comments were based upon a cultural resources survey and evaluation of the area included within the boundaries of the Meyers Falls Historic District completed on behalf of the WWP by Archaeological and Historical Services (AHS), Eastern Washington University, Cheney, Washington (Luttrell, Holstine and Eminger 1991). Further evaluation for this nomination resulted from a pedestrian survey of the District conducted by Mr. Timothy Bachelder, Lead, Licensing and Regulatory Specialist with Northrop, Devine & Tarbell, Inc., and Robin Bruce, historian and Director of Western Historical Services on 8 March 1994. In addition to the SHPO's recommendations, further criteria included age requirements (fifty years old or older) necessary for consideration of properties for inclusion in the NRHP. Integrity of ancillary mechanisms associated with the development of hydroelectric generation and transmission, and integrity of non-hydroelectric features that are a part of that industry were considered in assessing contributing and noncontributing properties. The ability of the properties to convey a sense of their historic function, feeling and association that demonstrate the physical development of hydroelectric development at Meyers Falls were also considered in evaluating the significance of properties within the District. Further evaluation of contributing and noncontributing properties named in this nomination incorporate the following guidelines established in the 1988 Multiple Property Nomination to the NRHP, "Development of Hydroelectric Power In Washington State, 1890-1938" (Soderberg 1988:Sec F. 8, pp. 8-9):

Hydroelectric power plants and installations are eligible for listing in the National Register if they are:

1. significant in the history of hydroelectric generation engineering and electric transmission technology, in the history of hydroelectric design principles, and in the development of construction techniques (Criterion A and C); or,

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2. significant in the social, economic and industrial development of the locality, state, region or nation (Criterion A); or,

3. significant examples of hydroelectric power systems designed or built by renowned engineers (Criterion C); or,

4. a rare example, a significant early example, or a significant representative example of a low or high head hydroelectric development (Criterion C). . . .

The critical components typically include reservoir; dam; intake structure; water conveyance system, including canal, pipeline, penstocks, forebay, stand pipes and surge tank; powerhouse and generating equipment; transformers and transmission system. In addition, some plants included company housing and related structures.

Eligible hydroelectric installations will retain integrity of most of these components, sufficient so that the significance of the total system is well represented (Soderberg 1988:Sec F, pp. 8-9).

Contributing elements consist of the following identified properties:

- 1) The intake structure at the north (reservoir end) of the present diversion canal;
- 2) The approximately 360 ft. long diversion canal (part of the present Meyers Falls HED), trending southwest to the powerhouse's penstock;
- 3) The intake structure controlling the volume of water from the canal into the present powerhouses's penstock;
- 4) The abandoned concrete substation located adjacent to (north of) the present penstock intake;
- 5) The present riveted steel penstock;
- 6) The abandoned power plant located at the base of Meyers Falls on the south bank of the Colville River across (south of) the present powerhouse and caretaker's cottage;
- 7) The Present Meyers Falls powerhouse located at the base of Meyers Falls on the north side of the Colville River;
- 8) Turbine-generator unit no. 1 (present powerhouse);

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- 9) Turbine-generator unit no. 2 (present powerhouse);
- 10) Marble control panel (present powerhouse); and
- 11) The caretaker's cottage (presently occupied) located adjacent to (west of) the present powerhouse.

Noncontributing elements consist of the following properties:

- 1) The spillway dam located on the Colville River immediately north of Juniper Street;
- 2) The caretaker's automobile garage located on the north bank of the Colville River at the foot of Meyers Falls;
- 3) The root cellar that is a part of the assemblage of buildings and structures associated with the caretaker's cottage located on the north bank of the Colville River at the foot of the falls; and
- 4) The trench that was associated with diversion of water to the present abandoned power plant.

These properties are identified and described in the "Contributing and Non-Contributing Elements" section of this report below (see *Figure 1, Map of the Meyers Falls Historic District* for their location):

Contributing Properties to the Significance of the District--Properties Currently in Use:

Original Intake Structure at Entrance of Headrace (Canal):

The intake structure located at the Entrance of the diversion canal was constructed in 1916 by the Stevens County Light and Power Company to increase the electrical power production at Meyers Falls (Luttrell 1991:16). The concrete and wooden intake structure at the entrance of the diversion canal continues to serve its original function of deflecting heavy floating material from the intake structure into the canal. It is situated on the west bank of the reservoir, approximately 100 feet northwest of the present spillway dam. A wooden bridge for operation and maintenance purposes spans the concrete crest of the structure. A boat safety cable and protective wooden log boom extend behind the intake structure from the dam to the reservoir's west shore. The intake mechanism is fitted with fixed bars to deflect debris. The bars are cleaned by hand with a rake. The structure does not appear to have been modified from its original construction. The intake structure is a contributing element in the District.

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Hydro Canal:

The diversion canal at Meyers Falls (constructed 1915-16) is an open trench with sloped sides, the most common form of canal utilized in early hydroelectric development (Koester, Frank 1909:40:41). The canal diverts water from the intake located on the west bank of the reservoir a distance of approximately 360 ft. to the penstock intake located directly above (northeast of) the present powerhouse. The construction and configuration of the trench maximized the natural fall of Meyers Falls. The canal reduced the friction of the falls by diverting water into a penstock that plummets directly into the turbine-generator units in the powerhouse below. Lining the sides and bottom of trench/canals with paving stone or cement also increases water velocity (Koester 1909:41). The Stevens County Light and Power Company employed this form of construction in building the present canal:

Excavated in common, hardpan and solid rock for total length of 360 ft. Concrete lined.

Excavation		
Common	3,860 cu. yds.	
Hardpan	1,770 " "	
Solid Rock	1,090 " "	
Concrete	450 " "	
Misc. Steel (Spillway Pipe)	3,800 lbs.	(WWP, "Meyers Falls Station, Engineering Data," n.d:1).

The canal and its design have not been altered from the original plan. It is a contributing element in the significance of the District.

Penstock Intake:

Although the present structure protecting the penstock intake has been modified from its original frame covering, which featured a half-span, or "lean-to" roof, the intake mechanisms are original and have not been modified since their installation in 1915-1916 (Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Dora Vaux photographic collection: various dates). The modified building design housing the intake, however, appears to have occurred soon after the structure's construction. In addition to the intake structure, the penstock intake consists of the following elements:

Reinforced concrete structure carrying trash racks and 2 hand operated wooden headgates under wood shelter.

Concrete	156 cu. yds.
Iron and steel - trash racks, operating mechanism, etc.	12,000 lbs.
Timber - gates, shelter, etc.	2,900 F.B.M.
(WWP, "Meyers Falls Station, Engineering Data," n.d:1).	

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The present shelter covering the gate operating mechanisms is a single story, wood frame, gable-roofed structure. It measures approximately 12 x 15 ft. and stands approximately 10 ft. tall. Roof and wall cladding consists of corrugated sheet metal. A single pedestrian entry door accesses the structure from its west facade. Fenestration consists of two side-by-side window openings of approximately 2 x 2 ft. on the structure's north side, which are covered with mesh screen. At present, the windows are boarded over with protective wood coverings. The intake shelter and mechanisms are contributing elements to the significance of the District.

Penstock:

Installed in 1916, the riveted steel penstock measures 48 in. in diameter and is 325 ft. long. The penstock passes through two massive concrete piers, which angle and secure the penstock. The penstock is additionally supported by concrete "saddles" located at regular intervals down the steep slope. The penstock drops over 100 ft. in elevation and splits immediately before entering the powerhouse at ground level to divert water into each of the two turbines located inside the structure. The penstock has not been altered since its original construction. It is a contributing element to the significance of the District.

Powerhouse:

The powerhouse was constructed in 1915-1916 by the Stevens County Power & Light Company. The flat-roofed structure stands on a solid concrete foundation. The poured concrete powerhouse is reinforced with structural steel, and measures 33 x 55 ft., and stands 15 ft. high. The structure's roof is concrete. The powerhouse is accessed through the structure's secondary (northwest facade). A wooden utility doorway, measuring approximately 10 ft. x 10 ft., and a wooden pedestrian doorway, access the powerhouse at the northwest and southwest end of that facade, respectively. A small wood-framed, multi-paned vertical window is situated between the doorways. Fenestration on the powerhouse's rear (northeast) facade consists of three sets of paired, wood-framed, multi-paned, double-hung windows. Window placement on the structure's southeast facade is similar, except that the windows are not paired. Fenestration on the powerhouse's primary facade consists of two sets of paired, wood-framed, multi-paned, double hung windows, with one pair located at each end of the structure. All windows are covered with original protective screening. The simple, unadorned, utilitarian powerhouse has retained its integrity of design, location, setting, and workmanship. It is a contributing element to the significance of the District.

Turbine-Generator Unit No. 1:

The Stevens County Light and Power Company purchased a "single runner, double discharge, Pelton-Francis turbine" from the Pelton Water Wheel Company, San Francisco, California, in 1915 (Unit No. 1). The unit was shipped to Meyers Falls that same year (The Pelton Water Wheel Company, San

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Francisco, California, 3 February 1936:1). The 24 inch "Pelton-Francis" turbine featured a 7 ft. flywheel and 30 in. geared control valve and governor ([the governor has since been removed] WWP, "Meyers Falls Station, Engineering Data," n.d:1). The turbine was arranged to connect with a Westinghouse 900 Kva, 11,000 V, Direct Current (DC) generator, manufactured by the Westinghouse Electric Manufacturing Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Nameplate, Generator Unit No. 1, Nine Mile HED, n.d.).

Those two mechanisms (which comprise Turbine-Generator Unit No. 1), were the first of the two units installed in the present powerhouse at the time of its completion in 1916. Turbine-Generator No. 1 is situated on the southeast end of the powerhouse. Except for the removal of the governor control mechanism, which has been replaced with a Bailey computerized control system, the original turbine-generator unit has not been modified from the original, and has remained operational since its installation in 1916 to the present. Turbine-Generator Unit No. 1 is eligible for inclusion in the NRHP as a contributing element to the significance of the District.

Turbine-Generator Unit No. 2:

Turbine Unit No. 2 is "a single runner, single discharge, horizontal turbine unit. . . designed to develop 550 H.P. at 600 R.P.M. under a head of 128/125" (The Pelton Water Wheel Company, 3 February 1936:1). It was purchased new from the Pelton Water Wheel Company, San Francisco, in 1917. At that time, Generator Unit No. 2 was removed from the powerhouse on the south side of the river (since abandoned) and connected with Turbine Unit No. 2 in the present powerhouse (Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Meyers Falls photographic collection, 1917). Generator Unit No.2 is a Westinghouse 900, Kva, 11,000 V., 3 phase 60 cycle, 600 RPM unit. As with Turbine-Generator Unit No. 1, Turbine-Generator Unit No. 2 has not been modified since its installation except for removal of the original governor. Turbine-Generator Unit No. 2 is a contributing element in the District Nomination.

Marble Control Panel:

The Vermont marble control panel (originally called the "switchboard") in the present powerhouse consists of two units that were fit together and form the appearance of a single unit. The older unit apparently was removed from the abandoned power plant and installed in the present powerhouse in 1915. At that time a second switchboard was ordered from the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company, East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with the instructions that the new switchboard did "not entirely" have to match the existing panel (WWP, "Switchboard Inquiry and Data Sheet," 29 March 1915:1). The control mechanisms are significant because they are completely operational, which is rare for a hydroelectric facility of this vintage. The control panels have been recently modified to accommodate a computerized Bailey control system; however, the original control system has been maintained as a backup. The control panel is a contributing element in this Nomination.

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Caretaker's Cottage:

The present caretaker's cottage was constructed in 1924. The small dwelling exhibits bungalow stylistic features. It is situated adjacent to (west of) the powerhouse. The five-room, single-story, hip-roofed structure stands on a concrete foundation over a partial basement. A half-hipped roof extension on the dwelling's south facade covers the cottage's kitchen/dining area. Corrugated aluminum roofing has replaced the cottage's original wood shake roof (WWP, "Meyers Falls Station-Value for Insurance Purposes of Station, Transformer House and Operator's Cottage," 20 January 1932:5). The dwelling is accessed by a single entry doorway centered on the dwelling's primary (east) facade. The doorway is protected by a simple gable-roofed open porch. The only adornment on the cottage's primary facade is wooden shutters attached to the wood-framed, double hung windows, which are located on either side of the doorway. Exterior cladding consists of horizontal wood-lapped siding. The dwelling's windows are all similar in appearance and appear to be original. The grounds of the yard form an integrated unit with the mowed lawn that surrounds the powerhouse. Rock terraces for flowers and vegetables are also part of the powerhouse and cottage grounds. The cottage exhibits excellent exterior integrity.

The caretaker's cottage at Meyers Falls typifies development of early twentieth century hydroelectric facilities located in remote locations (Soderberg 1988:Sec. F,p. 6). Domestic dwellings in close proximity to the powerhouse allowed for the around-the-clock monitoring and operation of the control, generating, and transmission systems, as well as afforded immediate employee response should problems in the system arise. The cottage is important because of its integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, and feeling, and for its association with the operation of the Meyers Falls HED from the time of the dwelling's construction in 1924 to the present. The caretaker's cottage is a contributing element to the significance of the District.

Contributing Elements to the Significance of the District--Abandoned Properties:

Abandoned Concrete Substation:

The poured concrete substation (now abandoned) was erected in conjunction with the present powerhouse (constructed 1915-1916). Originally called the "Transformer House," the 12 ft. x 14 ft. x 14 ft. structure once served as the relay point for electrical power generated from the powerhouse (WWP 1932:5). The flat-roofed structure is accessed from its primary east facade by double wood-batten, sliding utility doors. Portal openings near the top of the structure's primary and side facades once conveyed electrical transmission wires from the powerhouse to the equipment inside the substation. Original equipment included three transformers, one lightning arrester, six disconnecting switches, twelve pin insulators, and two strain insulators (WWP 1932:4). At present, all electrical transmission wires are routed from the powerhouse to the Greenwood Substation located approximately .25 mi. southeast of the powerhouse. Although all original mechanisms have long since been removed, the substation admirably conveys a sense of its original function and its role in the evolution of

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hydroelectric development at Meyers Falls. The abandoned substation is a contributing element in the District.

Abandoned Power Plant:

Constructed by the Northwest Light and Power Company about 1910, the abandoned poured concrete power plant is situated on the south bank of the Colville River at the foot of Meyers Falls (*Spokesman-Review* 13 December 1910:8). In 1910, the power plant furnished "electric light and power to Colville, Mission, Kettle Falls, and Meyers Falls," as well as to other small villages (*Spokesman Review* 13 December 1910:8). The rectangular-shaped structure measures 28 ft. x 58 ft. The tailrace (north end) of the two-story, gable-roofed structure faces the present powerhouse. The trench that once conveyed water diverted from the Colville River into the power plant is partially visible above (east of) the powerhouse. Although all equipment has been removed from the structure, and weather-related degradation has compromised the structure's exterior integrity (the roof is mostly collapsed), the abandoned power plant retains its feeling, integrity of setting, and the ability to convey its association with the evolution of hydroelectric development at Meyers Falls. The abandoned power plant is a contributing element in this District Nomination.

Noncontributing Elements:

The Spillway Dam:

The existing 24.5 foot high dam (constructed in 1961) replaced the original timber-crib dam built in 1915. It is located at the south end of the reservoir. It does not meet the age requirement (fifty years of age or more) to be considered eligible for listing in the NRHP (U.S. Department of the Interior, *National Register Bulletin 16A*, 1991:1). The spillway dam is a noncontributing element to the District's significance.

Caretaker's Automobile Garage:

The gable-roofed, wood frame two-car garage is located immediately north of the caretaker's cottage. The building appears to be of more recent construction than the cottage. The present garage probably replaced an earlier "shed for wood and auto" at that location (WWP 1932:5). The garage is a noncontributing element to the significance of the District.

Root Cellar:

An earthen-roofed root cellar that appears to be contemporaneous with the caretaker's cottage stands on a hand-placed rock foundation adjacent to (west of) the cottage's rear facade. The root cellar has

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not been utilized in years, and the structure's roof is partially collapsed. The cellar is not a critical component in the development or operation of the present Meyers Falls HED. It is a noncontributing structure in the significance of the District.

Water Diversion Trench to Abandoned Power Plant

The structural and visual integrity of the water diversion trench associated with the abandoned power plant has been compromised. The trench originally served as a conduit for a 5.0 ft. steel pipe that diverted water from the Colville River to the power plant on the south side of the river. That piping no longer exists and the trench is largely grown over with native shrubs, forbs, and grasses. Moreover, the trench is inaccessible to the public. The water diversion trench is non-contributing to the significance of the district.

8. NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The abandoned and operational properties included within the District represent a continuity of properties related to hydroelectric development in northeastern Washington State during the period of significance (1903-present). Collectively, these resources illustrate the evolution of hydroelectric technology in Stevens County in the beginning decades of the twentieth century. In addition, the properties that comprise the present Meyers Falls HED are representative of a well-preserved example of a small-scale, high head plant. Essentially unaltered from its original design and workmanship, the Meyers Falls HED has operated continuously since its construction in 1915. Together, these properties possess a significant linkage of structures and buildings related by physical development to the progress of hydroelectric development in Stevens County. The historic properties within the District admirably convey a sense of their association with social, economic, and technological advances important in the history of Stevens County and to the region of northeastern Washington, and illustrate the evolution of hydroelectric development at that location. The contributing properties that comprise the District fit within the historic context and conform to the registration requirements described in the multiple property nomination, "Hydroelectric Power Plants in Washington State, 1890-1938" (Soderberg 1988). The Meyers Falls Historic District is eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A.

Historical Background and Significance

Introduction:

The District is located along the Colville River in northwestern Stevens, County, Washington, and is situated less than three miles northeast of the confluence of the Colville and Columbia rivers. The Columbia and Kettle rivers form the western boundary of Stevens County. Located in northeastern Washington State, Stevens County is one of the oldest and largest counties in Washington. Created in

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1863, in addition to its present boundaries, Stevens County originally encompassed what is now Whitman, Spokane, Okanogan, Ferry, and Pend Oreille counties (Works Progress Administration [WPA] 1942:1).

History of Consultation

In 1991 a cultural resources survey and evaluation of Meyers Falls and its environs was conducted by Archaeological and Historical Services (AHS) of Eastern Washington University. That survey encompassed an area of seventy acres which included the boundaries of this nomination (less than five acres), as well as considerable acreage surrounding the properties included within the present District nomination. On-site inspection included two AHS personnel "walking the project area in 'Lazy S' transects at a maximum of 20 m spacing to insure adequate coverage of the entire project area" (Luttrell 1991:13). In addition, eleven hand-dug post holes were excavated in three shovel test locations, with "all fill from these units . . . dry-screened through 1/4 inch mesh hardware cloth All measurements were recorded as 'below surface' (B.S.) readings." (Luttrell 1991:13). That survey disclosed no "cultural materials associated . . . within or adjacent to the project area" (Luttrell 1991:2). The survey further concluded that it "is doubtful if any salmonid fish ever overcame the elevational rise of Meyers Falls and entered the upper Colville River" (Luttrell 1991:16).

Consultation for the survey included contact with the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT), and the Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, and Kalispel Indian tribes to solicit information regarding Native American use of the area (Luttrell: 1991:10). No responses followed except from Adeline Fredin of the CCT. AHS summarized her remarks:

Native associations at Meyers Falls would not be in the nature of a fishery, however, as none is referenced in the standard ethnographic studies of the area, nor have any been reported in local Indian oral tradition (Luttrell 1991:16).

Subsequent consultation included an additional opportunity for the Spokane Tribe of Indians to comment regarding traditional use and Indian habitation within or near the District (Lauren McCroskey, correspondence to Sandra Mack (WWP) of 27 January 1995 [see also Toni Pessemier (WWP), personal correspondence to Jim SiJohn of the Spokane Tribe of Indians, 15 February 1995]). No additional information regarding Indian peoples' traditional use of the District resulted from that solicitation for information.

Ethnology

The area that encompasses present Stevens County, Washington, was formerly territory occupied by Interior Salish-speaking Indian peoples. In historic times nearby Kettle Falls was one of the most important Indian fisheries on the Columbia River until 1940. At that time the series of waterfalls that comprised Kettle Falls was inundated by the impoundment (now known as Lake Roosevelt) created by

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Grand Coulee Dam. In 1811, the first Euro-American believed to have visited Kettle Falls, David Thompson, assigned that nomenclature to the site based on a derivation of the Salish word for "kettle," *Ilth-kape* (Thompson 1916:466). Observed Thompson:

Here for the country, was a considerable Village of the Natives who have given their name to these falls. . . . At this Village were Natives from several of the surrounding Tribes, as a kind of general rendezvous for News, Trade and settling disputes, in which these villagers acted as Arbitrators . . . (Thompson 1916:468-469).

However, native American populations in the vicinity of Kettle Falls had already been subjected to Euro-American influences, particularly disease, which decimated Indian peoples in that area. Observed scholar David Chance: the "The first 'historical' event we know of at Kettle Falls was a smallpox epidemic which spread around 1785, almost certainly from over the Rocky Mountains" (Chance 1986:60). Continued Chance: smallpox "and other diseases such as measles and tuberculosis haunted each generation into the middle twentieth century" (Chance 1986:60). Regardless of disease and other adverse effects of Euro-American contact, Indian peoples greatly outnumbered Euro-Americans in present Stevens County until the decade of the 1870s, at which time most Native Americans were forced to relocate to nearby Indian reservations. Despite Euro-American pressures, Indian peoples have constituted an integral part of the culture history of the county and its associated region to the present. For further information on the ethnology of the region, particularly as it affects traditional use of the Columbia River near Meyers falls and Native American populations during the historic period, the following three sources are particularly informative (see Section 9, "Major Bibliographical References" of this nomination for complete citations).

- 1) Chance, David. *People of the Falls*.
- 2) United States, Department of the Interior. *Report of the Indian Commissioners*.
- 3) Raufer, Maria Ilma, O.P. *Black Robes and Indians on the Last Frontier*.

Meyers Falls and the Hudson's Bay Company Falls (about 1816-1871):

Fur trappers and traders represented the first Euro-American presence in what is now Stevens County. In 1811, David Thompson of the British North West Company (NWC) became the first white man to navigate the Columbia River from its headwaters in what is now British Columbia to the river's mouth at the Pacific Ocean. His explorations promoted the fur trade potential of the Columbia River watershed and prompted the expansion of the fur trade industry into present northeastern Washington State (Chittenden, Vol. 1, 1986:92). It is unknown if Thompson visited Meyers Falls during his early explorations; however, he was active near that site. Two of Thompson's men founded Spokane House near the confluence of the Spokane and Little Spokane rivers, with those waterways located

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approximately 10 mi. northeast of the contemporary city of Spokane's metropolitan core, a distance of less than 70 mi. from Meyers Falls (WPA 1942:7). Following his extensive exploration of the Columbia River watershed, Thompson utilized Kettle Falls, located on the Columbia less than five miles west of Meyers Falls, for his base of departure back to Montreal in 1812.

Thompson's explorations, and the ambition of the NWC, aroused the efforts of competing fur companies, most notably from the NWC's most powerful rival, the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC). Eventually, competition between those two British concerns escalated to open warfare before the NWC was absorbed by the HBC in 1821 (Chittenden 1986:94). The HBC then gained control of Fort Spokane, which they maintained until 1826. In that year, upon orders from Governor George Simpson of the HBC, Fort Spokane was dismantled and a new fort established on the flat adjacent to (east of) Kettle Falls on the Columbia River. Named in honor of Andrew Colvile, then a director of the HBC, Fort Colvile soon ranked second in importance only to Fort Vancouver on the lower Columbia in the HBC's extensive network of fur trading posts. In addition to its importance as a collection center for furs, Fort Colvile also served as the main food producer for the HBC's area east of the Rocky mountains. As a result of their agricultural endeavors, the HBC introduced commercial agriculture to that region (Chance 1972:4).

Wheat produced at Fort Colvile was ground into flour at a grist mill located about 3 mi. southeast of the fort at the falls of the Colville River (later known as Meyers Falls). Although accounts of its date of construction conflict, the mill is believed to have been the first water-driven mill in the Pacific Northwest (Chance 1972:7). Some early accounts credit construction of the mill to the NWC:

Here at [Meyers Falls at] an early date, a flour mill was built, some claim as early as 1816 or 1820. Its location was about 25 feet southeast of the present mill. . . . This would indicate that the servants of the Northwest Fur Co. had opened up farms and raised grain, making the mill a necessity, before the Hudson Bay Co. absorbed that Company in 1821 (Winans 1904:28)

At a reunion of Stevens County pioneers in 1936, those present concurred:

At Meyers falls on the Colville river, the Northwest Company of Canada operated a little mill, prior to its absorption by the Hudson's Bay company in 1821. The Hudson's Bay company enlarged it, and ground there wheat from its large diversified farm on Marcus flats (*Spokesman-Review* 18 June 1936:n.p.).

Other sources, however, acknowledge the involvement of mutual, and perhaps overlapping, construction efforts by both the NWC and the HBC:

In 1826 the Hudson's Bay Company either built the first gristmill on Meyers Falls or rebuilt an already existing one (Himmelberg 1980:Sec. 7, p. 2).

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Similarly:

My father, Alexander Jondrau, came to Washington Territory from Ontario, Canada, with the Hudson's Bay Company, with which company he was employed as a blacksmith, cook, miller, and a general handy man. . . . My father made the burrs for the mill at Meyers Falls [probably for the Goudy mill referenced below]. These were made of granite from the hills around Marcus. . . This was the first flour mill built in Stevens County. He also assisted in the construction of the building and the water power plant which furnished power for the mill (WPA, "From an Interview with Mrs. Louise Pillisier," 1937:Vol. 1, p. 144).

Debate over the exact founding of the construction of the flouring mill at Meyers Falls points to early recognition of the importance of the power potential of the site to future development of the region. In 1827, the HBC remodeled the Meyers Falls mill, undoubtedly as a result of intensified utilization of the facility (Himmelberg 1980:Sec. 7, p. 1). Certainly, the mill influenced the success of Fort Colville's agricultural development. During Sir George Simpson's inspection trip to Fort Colville in 1841, he noted the wide variety of crops raised, as well as their productivity (wheat averaged from sixty-three to sixty-five bushels per acre that year [WPA 1942:10]). In 1843, under the direction of a "Mr. Goudy," the HBC again remodeled the mill. The effort included replacement of the original mill stones with new stones (Winans 1904:29). W. P. Winans, an early Stevens County settler, described the Goudy mill (as it was once known) as he remembered it when he first saw the mill in 1861:

[I]t was a hewn log building about 35 x 50 [ft.], two stories with an attic, covered with Cedar Bark. It had a single pair of stones made of the granite of the neighborhood, a home made fanning mill was the only wheat cleaning machinery, and the bolt to separate the flour from the bran was a wire screen, stationary, with a revolving brush on the inside (Winans 1904:29).

The HBC and its retired employees, many of the latter whom had married Indian women and established farms in the Colville and Columbia valleys near Fort Colville, dominated Euro-American settlement along the upper Columbia River until 1846. That year the governments of Great Britain and the United States (U.S.) signed the Oregon Treaty of 1846. The treaty affected the sovereignty of Oregon Country, a vast region which included the present states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, portions of western Wyoming and Montana, and a large area of western Canada. The agreement established the International Boundary between Canada and the U.S. at the 49th Parallel. That legislation ended the period of joint occupancy of Oregon Country by those two governments, an agreement which had been in effect since 1818 (DeVoto 1943:5,211). As a result, overland emigration to the Far West escalated dramatically. This influx of permanent settlers hastened the demise of the commerce of furs in the trans-Mississippi West, an industry already in decline.

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Louther Meyers at Meyers Falls (1866-1909):

Owing largely to its isolation and to the influence of the still-powerful HBC, American pioneer settlement in the Colville Valley remained negligible until the discovery of gold in the region in the 1850s. Even then, emigrants bent on permanent settlement in the valley remained scant until the decade of the 1870s and 1880s. During those two decades, the north and south halves of the Colville Indian Reservation, whose eastern boundary bordered the Columbia River west of Meyers Falls, was opened to mineral entry. That event incited a rush of miners to the upper Columbia region.

Louther Walden Meyer, for whom Meyers Falls is named, arrived in the Colville Valley before intense Euro-American settlement of the area. He emigrated from Ontario, Canada, to the Colville Valley in 1862 (Lewis 1926:5-6). A skilled cabinet maker by trade, Meyer first worked on the HBC's buildings at Fort Colville. He next worked as a miller for another employer, before joining the gold mining rush along the Big Bend of the upper Columbia River in British Columbia. When his mining venture proved unprofitable, Meyer returned to the Colville Valley. Convinced of the hydro potential of the falls that later bore his name, Meyer leased the HBC's "grist mill and power" from the HBC in 1866 (Lewis 1926:6). That year Meyer undertook the first of several improvements he made to the mill before he closed the facility in the 1890s.

In 1869, after a lengthy separation from his family, Meyer sent word to Ontario for his wife and three children, among them fifteen-year-old Jacob, to join him at Meyers Falls. Jacob Meyer later recalled the scattered nature of Euro-American settlement in eastern Washington in the decade following his arrival there:

In those early days there was no settlement whatever at Spokane Falls, and for a long time the only two crossings on the Spokane River were Monahans, afterwards known as La Pray's Bridge, on the Colville-Walla Walla Military Road, and Kendalls, afterwards known as Cowley's Bridge, on the Mullan Road; there were only a few hundred people [Euro-Americans] living north of the Snake River (Lewis 1926:8).

Young Jacob assisted his father in the operation of the grist mill at Meyers Falls. Later he told of the "early days" in which Indians from as far east as the Spokane and Coeur d'Alene (Idaho) valleys brought their small stores of grain to Meyers Falls for milling. Meyer recalled that Chinese placer miners, who worked the bars of the Columbia River near Meyers Falls, also patronized the mill (Lewis 1926:7-8). By 1872, having been in operation since the early 1820s or before, the mill needed extensive repairs. Louther Meyer closed the mill that year. He then dismantled the old Goudy mill and built a new one at the same location, utilizing thick timbers that were still sound from the old mill for the new structure (Sherfrey 1978:53).

The Meyers' residence at Meyers Falls served as a social as well as an industrial center for early Stevens County. Louther Meyer's wife opened her home "near the old Hudson's Bay Company mill,

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"where she directed a private school. There "she had paying pupils, some white, mostly mixed" (WPA *Told by the Pioneers* 1937:116). An early resident of the area during the 1860s and 1870s recall the friendly lifestyle among both Indians and whites during that period:

The Indians were always peaceful and honest. No one thought of locking their doors in their houses or at the Meyers grist mill where an abundance of flour was stored. None of the flour or feed was ever stolen (WPA, Pillisier, 1937;145).

By 1885, Louthier Meyer maintained a substantial complex of buildings and other improvements at Meyers Falls. Those included the grist mill, dwelling, stable, and store house. In addition, Meyer had fenced 140 acres of the 160 acres he eventually claimed under preemption proof and cash entry patent from the U.S. government. By 1885, Meyer had cleared and fenced 40 acres of his land patent and valued the land and improvements thereon at \$5,000.00 (U.S., Louthier Meyer, Cash Entry and Preemption Patent No. 1899, 27 December 1888:n.p.). The majority of Meyers' improvements probably stood on the small terrace adjacent to (west of) the grist mill. However, today--over 100 years later--time has obliterated all evidence of precisely where those properties may once have stood. When railroad service reached Stevens County in the 1880s, Meyer was among the county's leading citizens.

The coming of the northern-tier trans-continental railroads, beginning with the Northern Pacific's passage through Spokane and eastern Washington in the 1880s, brought substantial numbers of new emigrants into the Colville Valley. In 1885, the U.S. Government Land Office conducted the first survey of 2T36N, R38EWM, in which Meyers Falls is located. In his survey notes, surveyor David C. Thayer commented on the topographical nature of the township, noted density of settlement, and mentioned the mill at Meyers Falls.

This township is very badly broken on N. and E. sides by mountainous lands, while the south and center is thickly settled, there being a valley N. and S. of Colville Creek [later Colville River]. The stream commences in N.E. part of S. 36 course N.W. until it reaches sec 21, there takes S.W. course and leaves township in Sec. 31. The St. Ignatius Church is in this township. Also schools for boys and girls conducted under the direction of the church and taught by sisters and brothers. Mr. C. (sic) W. Meyers has a flour mill in operation situated in Sec. 29 on Colville Creek--run by water: been in operation since 1872. The township is well watered by springs and small creeks and is well adapted to agricultural purposes (Bureau of Land Management [BALM] Survey Notes T36N, R38EWM, 1885:n.p.).

Louthier Meyer capitalized on changes in the industrial development of Stevens County that resulted from the influence of the railroads and increased population to the area. These changes produced a broader based economy, with mining and lumbering assuming increasing importance to the economic growth of the region. In addition to his flour mill, in 1890 Louthier Meyer built a sawmill directly below (south of) the flour mill on the middle falls of Meyers Falls (Northwestern Industrial Exposition 1889:48). Meyer shipped the majority of lumber from the "Meyer's Falls Lumber Co." to eastern

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markets (Winans 1904:30). The same year that Meyer constructed the sawmill, a Spokane newspaper discussed the "splendid advantages" of Meyers Falls (*Spokane Review* 19 April 1891:7):

Meyers Falls is situated half way between Colville and Marcus, on the Spokane and Northern railway, where the waters of the Colville river tumble down a precipice of over eighty feet. While the town is in its infancy and very little is said of its splendid advantages, it may be a surprise to some people to learn that it has a sawmill with a capacity of 20,000 feet of lumber per day, and a flouring mill capable of turning out fifty barrels of flour each day. The Spokane & Northern railway is building one of its finest depot building here on the line of the road, excepting only that at Spokane. Among the buildings already occupied may be enumerated one store, restaurant, telegraph and express office, stage office and livery stable, and a real estate office. A hotel is in course of erection, and before the sun is high in June Meyer's Falls will be attracting wide attention (*Spokane Review* 19 April 1891:7).

By the early 1890s, however, the City of Spokane had emerged as the largest city and undisputed industrial center in eastern Washington State. Spokane entrepreneurs facilitated development of the vast wheat lands of eastern Washington by providing producers with state-of-the-art milling enterprises. Competition from Spokane's commercial center, together with limited wheat production in Stevens County, convinced Meyer that local production did not justify upgrading his obsolete milling equipment with costly new machinery (Winan 1904:29). Therefore, Meyer closed the mill in the early 1890s. Despite closure of the flour mill, Meyer expanded and diversified industrial development at Meyers Falls. In addition to the sawmill, a brick factory utilizing "a vein of excellent clay" from the banks of the Colville River above the falls, was situated on the falls near the sawmill (Northwestern Industrial Exposition 1889:49). Those two enterprises were, however, relatively short-lived. Operations at the sawmill ceased in 1908 (Luttrell 1991:7). The clay factory probably closed before the sawmill, as earlier documents that describe hydroelectric development of the falls mention the sawmill, but not the brick factory (Taber, E. G. n.d:n.p).

However, Meyer's mill remained a popular tourist attraction years after its closure. In 1916, fire destroyed the mill (Lewis 1926:8). Reportedly, ash from a careless visitor's cigarette fell on wood shavings in the old structure. The tinder-dry material quickly burst into flames, thus destroying the historic mill (Sherfrey 1978:53). From the time of its construction (estimates range from between 1816-1825) until the early 1880s, the flouring mill at Meyers Falls remained one of the most important industrial sites in a far-flung region of the interior northwestern states: Jacob Meyer summarized the mill's significance:

The falls of the Colville River where the old Hudson's Bay Company's mill was situated became known as Meyers Falls. That old millsite had first been improved in 1827-1828 and was occupied by the first flour mill built in the United States west of the Rocky Mountains. The first patented flour ever made in the United States was manufactured there in 1866. In 1872, I assisted my father in dismantling the old mill, and in constructing a new mill on the

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site of the old 'Goudy' mill of 1843. This old Hudson's Bay Company's mill once produced cereals that supplied all the employees of the Company from Utah to Peace River between the Cascades and the Rockies (Lewis 1926:7).

Today, remnants of the flume diversion canal and a few rotting timbers, features which are mostly concealed by thick shrubbery and native grasses, are the only discernible features associated with the grist mill. The site was listed in the NRHP on 12 April 1982. The grist mill site is located on the west bank of the Colville River adjacent to (south of) Juniper Street. The site is situated approximately 300 ft. east of the present eastern boundary of the Meyers Falls Power Plant Historic District.

The present serene landscape of Meyers Falls is vastly changed in appearance from the complex of industrial enterprises that occupied the site before 1900. No standing remnants of Louthier Meyer's improvements, the sawmill, or the brick factory are now evident. Leveled areas near the site of the grist mill indicate that buildings once stood there. However, owing to the intense level of sequential human endeavor, and the resultant layering of ground disturbance activities that occurred within the confined area adjacent to the falls before hydroelectric development of the site began, if, in the future, cultural material is uncovered, it is likely that potential artifacts would be in a greatly changed or mixed context. Because of this circumstance, reaching sound conclusions regarding discrete historic associations could be difficult, if not impossible, to determine.

Hydroelectric Development at Meyers Falls (1903-Present):

Industrial utilization of Meyers Falls changed focus years before the flour mill burned. As the economic base of Stevens County expanded to include development of lumbering, and particularly mining, hydroelectric development of Meyers Falls emerged as the principal industry at that location. In addition to the importance of hydroelectric development for industrial purposes, development of the hydroelectric generating potential of the falls also brought electricity to nearby communities.

Although the date of the first use of electrical power generated at Meyers Falls is unclear, the first known hydroelectric development at Meyers Falls commenced in January of 1903, when Meyer leased the power site to T. A. Winter of Colville. In May of the same year, Winter reassigned the lease to the Northwestern Light & Power Company (NLPC) of Colville. That utility constructed a wooden powerhouse building (razed in 1924) near the base of the lower falls on the south side of the Colville River (Luttrell 1991:7-8). The hydroelectric facility was of a simple design:

Water was diverted by a small wing dam near the head of the lower falls on the south river bank and carried by a metal pipe 28 inches in diameter to the turbine, turning the generator with a 78-foot head of water power (Luttrell 1991:7).

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During the first year of its lease, the NLPC installed electrical distribution systems to Meyers Falls, Colville, and Kettle Falls. In 1904, the company extended its distribution system to include Blue Creek, Marble, Orin, and Chewelah (Luttrell 1991:7-8). With increased demand for hydroelectric service, the NLPC hired an engineer from Spokane, E. G. Taber, to conduct a "Report on the Physical Features affecting the development of the Water Power at Meyers Falls, Stevens County, Washington" and to outline plans for future expansion of the Meyers Falls system (Taber, E. G. n.d:n.p. [While no date appears on this document, it discusses the sawmill then operating at Meyers Falls, which means the report was produced before the sawmill closed in 1908]). Taber noted the "natural advantage of [the] site for economical development of power," (Taber n.d:n.p.):

Cheap development work often means insecure work, but the rock formation covering this site furnished security for any form of construction. The topography provides a natural control of the flow of water and does away entirely with the need of high dams (Taber n.d:n.p.).

Taber also commented on the sawmill and its effect on future hydroelectric development at Meyers Falls:

At the present time there is a sawmill using the upper section of the rapids above the main fall and their dam 5 ft. in height makes a total possible head of 130 feet. This dam holds slack water for a distance of five or six miles in a direct line up the valley, making an extensive storage reservoir (Taber n.d:n.p).

As part of his recommendations, Taber further suggested:

[A]t some future date the [proposed] 4 ft. pipe can be extended about 600 ft. to the present site of the sawmill dam at the head of the rapids where a permanent dam should be built to bring into use the remainder of the total head of 130 ft. (Taber nd:n.p.).

Taber concluded his report by complimenting the managers of the Meyers Falls plant: "the existing plant seems to have been very well planned to get the most effective results with a small outlay" (Taber n:d:n.p).

By 1910, the NLPC had completed upgrades to the Meyers Falls hydroelectric system, including construction of a new concrete power plant (the now abandoned plant is a contributing element in this Nomination). The power plant measured 28 x 58 feet and was constructed on the south side of the Colville River directly west of the wooden building it replaced (Luttrell 1991:8). The power plant held two generators, one from the obsolete wooden powerhouse and a new generator, which was later moved to the present powerhouse. (The new unit, Unit No. 2, is a contributing element in this Nomination). Cost of the 1909-1910 NLPC upgrades totaled \$35,000.00:

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The Northwest Light & Power Co. . . has expended \$35,000 in improvements, comprising the con[s]truction of a five-foot steel conduit through the rocky cliff on the south side of the falls, conveying the water about 600 feet from the head of the falls to the concrete power house at the foot of the cataract, affording a drop of nearly 100 feet (*Spokesman-Review* 13 December 1910:8).

The cost far exceeded Tabor's earlier estimate of \$9,500.00 for essentially the same upgrades (Tabor n.d:n.p.). Excessive cost of these upgrades further weakened the already financially strapped NLPC. In January of 1913 the Stevens County Power & Light Company (SCPL) assumed the NLPC's lease, and renewed the lease two years later in 1915 (Luttrell 1991:8).

As had their predecessors, the SCPL faced increasing consumer demands on the Meyers Falls hydroelectric facility, particularly from mining interests. After renewing their lease with members of the Meyer family in 1915, the SCPL initiated upgrades which essentially entailed all new construction and design of the Meyers Falls hydroelectric plant. With the exception of the wooden dam constructed in 1915 (and replaced by a concrete structure in 1961), their efforts produced the present hydroelectric facility described in Section 7 of this nomination.

During the 1920s, the new SCPL plant played a significant role in the development of the mineral resources of Stevens County. This included lease arrangements for supplying electrical power to the following mining developments: The Northwest Magnesite Company (1923); the International Portland Cement Company (1927); the Idaho Lime Company (1927); the Northwest Mines Corporation/Amazon Mine (1928), the Bonanza Mining Company (1928); and the Chewelah Mining Company (1928 [Stevens County Power & Light Company 1915:5-12]):

In 1929, The Washington Water Power Company (WWP) entered into lease arrangements with members of the Meyers family for use of the Meyers Falls hydroelectric facility, agreements which have extended to the present (Luttrell 1991:9; WWP; "Application for Subsequent License at the Meyers Falls Hydroelectric Development Project No. 2544," 1991:2). However, when the initial lease agreement was consummated, WWP personnel expressed reservations regarding the company's acquisition of the Meyers Falls plant. Then, as now, the Meyers Falls hydroelectric plant constituted a minor facility in the WWP's hydroelectric network:

The value of the Meyers Falls Plant as an integral part of our system is rather difficult to define unless some fixed set of conditions for its determination be adopted. Although it is possible to fix its capacity theoretically, its practical influence on, and benefit to, the system is open to question. Because of its size (1,200 kw. maximum output) it affects but little any such consideration as the margin of capacity over load and, consequently, has practically no bearing upon the problem of future development (Hill, W. A., correspondence to Mr. Greisser, Chief Engineer WWP, 17 August 1929:2).

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Those predictions have in fact proven true; the Meyers Falls hydroelectric plant has remained essentially unaltered from its construction by the SCPL during the years 1915-1917. Yet, despite its nominal generating capacity, the facility has played a significant role in the development of one of Washington State's least populated counties. The contribution of hydroelectric power to the development of Stevens County is admirably conveyed through the integrity of contributing structures that are a part of the District.

Summary of the District:

Today, the peaceful nature of Meyers Falls belies the scope of activity that typified the appearance of the falls before 1903. From construction of the Hudson's Bay grist mill at Meyers Falls (1816-1825), sequential ground-disturbing activities have characterized the history of the site. The subsequent layering of cultural remains (as one industrial development replaced another) is perhaps the reason that so little evidence of activities prior to hydroelectric development at that location remains, despite the longevity of industrial activity that occurred there. Of the long period of development that occurred at Meyers Falls, the hydroelectric-related properties that form a part of the present District alone convey a sense of the linkage of physical development that typically qualifies properties for inclusion in the NRHP as an historic district.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the Meyers Falls Power Plant Historic District encompasses and commences with the intake structure adjacent to (east of) Juniper Street and follows the diversion canal southwesterly a distance of 360 ft. to the penstock intake structure. From there the boundaries follow the 323-ft.-long penstock in a southwesterly bearing down the steep precipice to the present powerhouse. From the powerhouse the boundaries of the district proceed due west for a distance of approximately 100 feet to include the powerhouse and caretaker's cottage at the base of Meyers Falls on the north side of the Colville River, and the abandoned power plant and water diversion ditch on the south side of the river.

Boundary Justification:

The properties included within the boundaries of the District have retained integrity of location, design, feeling, and association, and were selected to encompass only those industrial features that have retained their ability to visually convey their historic and present function of hydroelectric power generation and electrical transmission. Non-contributing properties that are associated with, or are part of, contributing elements or assemblages are also included within the boundaries.

Photographs

Photographs No.'s 1-3 were photographed by Jacob Meyer. The original negatives for these historic photographs are in the archives of the Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Cheney Cowles Museum, Spokane, Washington, "Dora Vaux Collection."

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Date of Photograph: circa 1915
Direction of View: Looking west/southwest

Photograph No. 2
Date of Photograph: circa 1915
Direction of View: Looking east/northeast

Photograph No. 3
Date of Photograph: 1917
Direction of View: Looking north

Photographs No.'s 4-19 were photographed on 8 March 1994 by Robin Bruce of Western Historical Services (WHS). The original negatives are in WHS' project files, 731 Dundee Drive, Post Falls, Idaho 83854.

Photograph No. 4
Direction of View: Looking north

Photograph No. 5
Direction of View: Looking southwest

Photograph No. 6
Direction of View: Looking west/northwest

Photograph No. 7
Direction of View: Looking south

Photograph No. 8
Direction of View: (Interior of intake structure and intake mechanisms) looking east

Photograph No. 9
Direction of View: Looking north

Photograph No. 10
Direction of View: Looking west/northwest

Photograph No. 11
Direction of View: Looking south

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Photograph No. 12

Direction of View: Looking south/southwest

Photograph No. 13

Direction of View: Looking east

Photograph No. 14

Direction of View: Looking north/northeast

Photograph No. 15

Direction of View: looking west

Photograph No. 16

Direction of View: Looking north/northwest

Photograph No. 17

Direction of View: Looking north/northeast

Photograph No. 18

Direction of View: Looking west

Photograph No. 19

Direction of View: Looking northwest

Photograph No. 20

Direction of View: Looking northeast

Photograph No. 21

Direction of View

Looking north/northwest

Photograph No. 22

Direction of View

Looking west

Photograph No. 23

Direction of View

Looking south

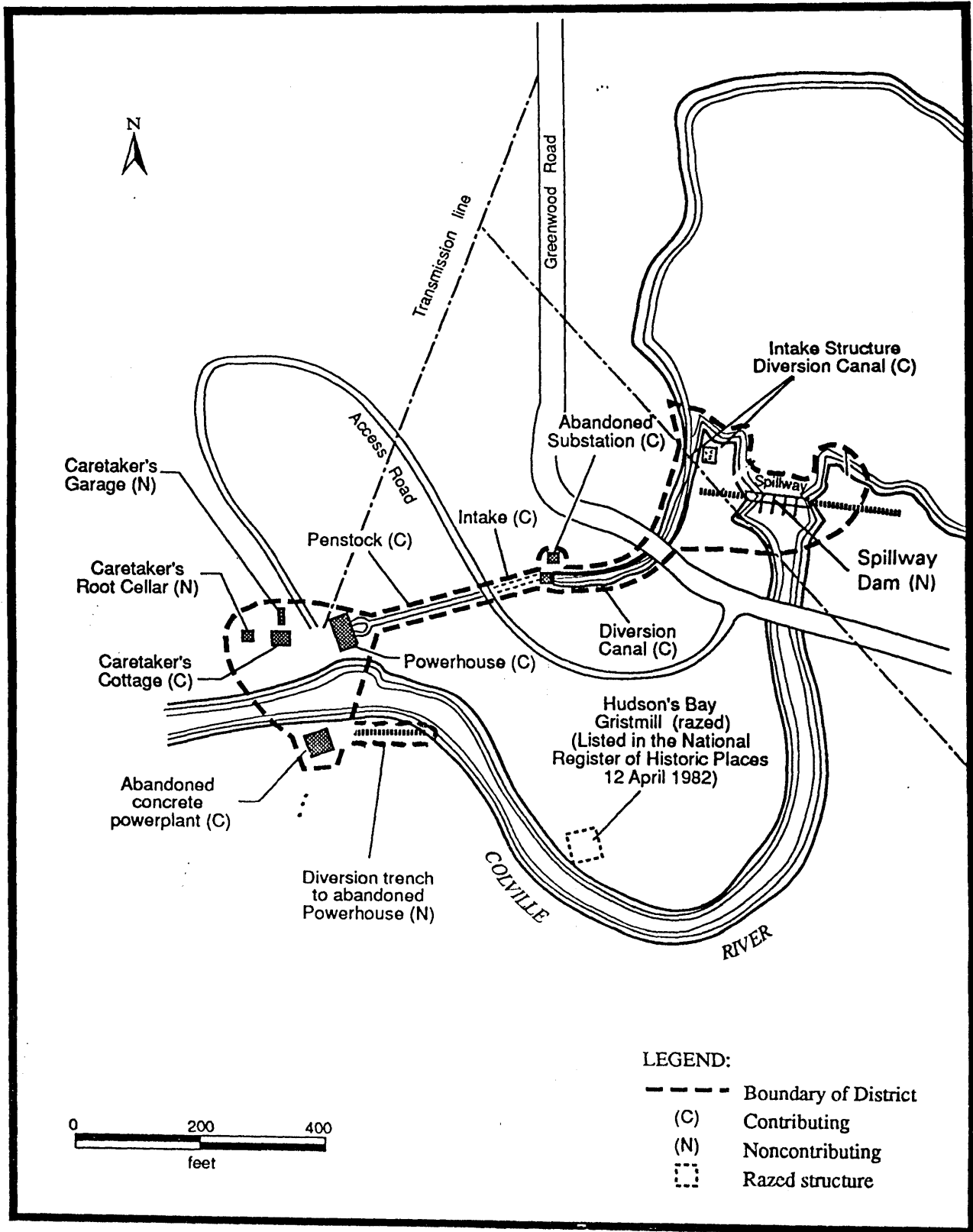


Figure 1. Map of the Meyers Falls Historic District.