United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received APR 1 7 1986

date entered

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

1. Name

historic	Lewisville	Park		•
and or common	N.A.			
2. Loca				
street & number	r 26411 N.E.	Lewisville Hwy.		not for publication
city, town	Battle Grou	ind <u>x</u> vicinity of		
state	Washington cod	e 053 county	Clark	code 011
3. Clas	sification			
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered n/a	Status _X_ occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted _X_ yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum _X park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owr	ner of Prope	rty	······	
name	Clark Count			· · ·
street & number	P.O. Box 50	00, 1013 Franklin St	•	
city, town	Vancouver	vicinity of	state	Washington 98668
5. Loca	ation of Leg	al Descriptio	n	
courthouse, regi	istry of deeds, etc. Clark	. County Courthouse		
street & number	1200	Franklin St.	- 	
city, town	Vanco	uver	state	Washington 98668
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing S	Surveys	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	gton State Inventory ultural Resources		erty been determined e	ligible? yes _X n
date 1985			federal st	ate county loca
depository for s	urvey records Office o	f Archaeology and Hi	storic Preservati	ion
city, town		lst Ave., KL-11, 01y		Washington 98504

7. Description

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Lewisville Park, the oldest park in the Clark County park system, is situated on 154 acres along the East Fork of the Lewis River two miles north of Battle Ground in Clark County, Washington. The park is an hourglass shaped parcel lying along the north bank of the river on a northeast/southwest axis. The central road, which bisects the park longitudinally, generally divides an overgrown hillside along the northern boundary from the developed park area to the south along the river bank. A narrow millrace divides the river at the south end and creates an island. Vegetation is heavy throughout the park and, for the most part, it is indigenous: native conifers, vine maple, ferns, and salal abound. The man-made features in the park represent continuous development which began in 1936 and has progressed to the present time. An effort has been made to maintain the park in a near natural state. Buildings, roads, trails, cleared open spaces, and small features such as water faucets and stoves have largely been constructed to harmonize with the natural beauty of the site. The philosophy embodied in the first peeled log rustic structures erected in the early tradition of the National Park Service by Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers has been compromised only minimally over the years.

Lewisville Park's 13 shelters, bathhouse, and caretaker's cottage all represent the rustic architecture idiom promulgated in the early years of this century first by the National Park Service and later, to some extent, by the United States Forest Service. The cottage, the bathhouse, the large central shelter (originally referred to as the community kitchen and later called the concessions building), the first community kitchen (now known as Shelter D) and two of the smaller shelters were all constructed by WPA workers between 1936 and 1940. These buildings represent the epitome of the rustic style of architecture as it was ultimately developed in the Pacific Northwest. They are excellent examples of non-intrusive park architecture. The logs used in their construction were felled in the park, peeled by hand, and horse logged to each site. Rocks for foundations, footings, and chimneys were gleaned from the volcanic underpinnings of the area or taken from the river.

Central Shelter

The central shelter is an especially fine example of the rustic style. A large gabled structure of approximately 40 by 60 feet, it has one small cross-gable which houses storage and a huge stone fireplace. Large upright logs, five across each gable end and several within the structure, support a massive log truss system and roof of hand split cedar shakes. Log purlins and rafters extend well beyond the deep overhanging eaves. Split logs provide siding for the storage area and a partial wall some 40 inches high around the perimeter of the building. The remainder is open. The interior, now an open space, once had built-in counters and serving tables to accommodate a concession.

Bathhouse

The Bathhouse, an approximately 12 by 54 foot cross-gabled structure, is another good example of rustic architecture compromised slightly by renovations in 1978 which resulted in reversing its entrance from the west to the east elevation, installing six toilet/dressing rooms in an erstwhile single space, and trimming the rafter and purlin extensions so that they are now flush with the eaves. Nevertheless, the rustic aesthetic is clear in the log trusswork and bracing, hand split shakes, and log siding.

Caretaker's Cottage

The caretaker's cottage, situated near the park's entrance, is a log frame gabled house seated on a foundation of rough uncoursed lava rock. It is sided with very large hand split shakes and boasts a log frame balcony on either gable end. The porch, cut into

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the northeast side, is framed with massive logs. The interior carries out the rustic theme with exposed log beams, knotty pine walls, and a large lava rock fireplace.

<u>Shelter D</u>

Shelter D, the original "community kitchen" and the first structure erected by the WPA in 1936, has been altered significantly. Originally an open A-frame shelter with very tall log trusswork supporting a steeply pitched roof, the building was later given a new, less steeply pitched roof with overhanging eaves and trusswork built of milled lumber. The bottoms of the original log uprights were cut off three feet above the floor and placed on concrete piers.

Additional Shelters

The two smaller shelters from the WPA era, A and H, maintain a high degree of integrity although Shelter A has been given a new roof. These two open shelters of log uprights supporting simple gabled shake roofs served as the models for later shelters added in the 1950's and 1960's. There are a total of 11 of these smaller shelters throughout the park. All reflect the rustic aesthetic and all are basically simple gables over twelve log upright supports. Some have stoves of either lava rock or cast concrete within. In some, the uprights are mounted on cement faced with lava rock, recalling the Park Service's Albert H. Good's admonishment in 1935 that footings in the park structures should resemble natural outcroppings. The 9 post-1940 shelters are considered non-contributing because they were built after the period of significance.

Restrooms

There are four restrooms in the park, two early wood frame structures and two of concrete block. All are simple gabled rectangular structures. Maintenance buildings, two along the central road near the caretaker's cottage and four near the north end of the park just under the hillside slope, are also simple gabled rectangular buildings. All are painted deep gold. (The restrooms are believed to have been added after 1939 when the park's water system was completed.)

Other features in the park which date to the period of significance include several very small open log shelters which once covered electric cook stoves; numerous free-standing park stoves of either stone or of cast concrete; water standpipes encased in lava, basalt, or river rock masonry; two slab rock fire rings; a water heater housed in a lava rock enclosure; and many picnic tables, the newer of which are permanently seated in cement.

The park's spatial relationships have changed and evolved over the years as park managers have come and gone. There has always been a pleasing balance between the natural, overgrown areas such as the northwestern hillside and the open space for public use. A ball field has been situated in the north end of the park since the very beginning and the tennis courts near the central shelter date from well before the 1950's. The swimming area near the bathhouse was designated as such in 1936. There is a boat launch at the northern tip of the park. Trails and pathways meander between the open spaces and the thickets. A large area on the northern hillside, now covered with overgrowth and vines,

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was developed with trails defined by retaining walls of river rock, rock planters, and rock tree surrounds by WPA workers in 1936 and 1937. The walls and planters have survived and the trails could again be used with a minimum of clearing.

Landscaping has been done on a continuing basis over the years. Trees have been planted and removed. A slough which once created two islands in the park was filled in and two new bridges over the remaining millrace have replaced the original one which was rotted out by 1964. The 4-H put a nature trail on the hillside several years ago. Parking lots have migrated from place to place around the park and a new element, bark dust berms, has been introduced as buffers in the last few years. Many of these berms were created by CETA workers employed in the 1970's to implement a CETA-developed park plan written in 1976. This plan still guides the park manager as he maintains and improves the park. Current practice aims toward taking out much of the grass that was planted in the 1950's and 1960's and returning more areas to natural vegetation.

Notwithstanding the park philosophy promulgated by the National Park Service in the 1920's and 1930's, some planting at Lewisville Park has deviated from the natural. Redwoods, which shade the front of the park, and certain pines along the central road are not indigenous. In the 1950's, the Vancouver Rose Society planted over 300 rosebushes.

New construction on the river near the bathhouse has deviated from the rustic as well. In 1978, the original pontoon dock which could be pulled out over the water during the summer months was removed and replaced by a beach area surrounded by retaining walls of cedar boards topped by seats. Viewpoints segregated by similar retaining walls and rock were incorporated along the bank at the same time.

Lewisville Park's period of significance, the years between 1936 and 1940, when the park was first developed through grants and with labor provided by Roosevelt's work relief program, is represented by the six original buildings described above and by the natural aesthetic that is largely intact today. The quality of that significance has not been compromised by later development but rather, for the most part, has been respected by it. Resource Count: 1 contributing site (park)

<u>Contributing Buildings</u> (See accompanying map for reference) Built during period of significance

 Total: 7 Caretaker's cottage & garage, 1936-37 Shelter D, 1936 Central shelter, 1937-38 Contributing Object: Entry sign, entrance Non-Contributing But Compatible Buildings 	5. Shelter H, ca. 1937 6. Bathhouse, 1937-38
Total: 19 7. Shelter B, 1954-55	17. Maintenance Building 2 (post-1940)
8. Shelter C, 1954-55	18. Maintenance Building 3 (post-1940)
9. Shelter G, 1954-55	19. Maintenance Building 4 (post-1940)
10. Shelter J, 1952-53	20. Maintenance Building 5 (post-1940)
11. Shelter F, ca. 1952	21. Maintenance Building 6 (post-1940)
12. Shelter k, 1960's	22. Restroom I $(post-1940)$
13. Shelter I 1, 1960's	23. Restroom II $(10, 10, 0)$
14. Shelter I 2, 1960's	24. Restroom III $(post-10/0)$
15. Shelter I 3, 1960's	25. Restroom IV (post-1940)
16. Maintenance Building 1, post-1940	(2000 1940)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of SignificanceC	heck and justify below		
prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599	archeology-prehistoric		X landscape architectur law law literature military music philosophy X politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation

Specific dates 1936–1940

Builder/Architect

William J. Paeth

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Lewisville Park is Clark County's oldest publicly owned park. It was acquired in four tracts which totalled 244 acres in 1936-37.¹ Acquisition was prompted by the federal government's work relief programs, specifically the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which made funds available for a vast variety of socially worthy projects including recreational centers. Well before the property was purchased, application had been made for an initial grant of \$15,250 for Lewisville Park's development, and a WPA crew began work 20 days before the third parcel was deeded over to the County. Lewisville Park was to become one of the WPA's most significant and lasting achievements in Clark County. The architecture of the buildings and, indeed, the design of all other features in the park, reflect the rustic architectural aesthetic. Designed by William J. Paeth, a former U.S. Forest Service employee, the buildings in Lewisville Park are examples of the fully evolved Northwest rustic idiom promoted by federal land managing agencies (notably the National Park Service) during the first two decades of the 20th century. Peeled logs. lava rock, basalt, river rock, and hand split shakes were the materials used to build the These man-made features were deliberately designed to be park's improvements. non-intrusive.

The park's close historical association with Franklin D. Roosevelt's WPA makes it a legacy of the federal response to the Great Depression. It recalls the wholly unprecedented role of the federal government in the economic welfare of the country through public works programs. Whether measured in terms of persons employed, money expended, or volume of results, there had never before been a similar program of such magnitude. Lewisville Park is a symbol of the social, economic, and cultural importance and impact of the WPA.

The park meets the following National Register criteria:

¹Later, those portions of the acquisition which lay on the east and south side of the Lewis River were either leased or deeded over to the Scouts.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

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Interview Inditing to its property within the state is:	street & number	<u></u>			telephone	(206) 69	9–2359
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:							
	12. Sta	te Histo	ric Pres	ervation	Offic	er Cer	tification
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– 565), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. State Historic Preservation Officer signature title date 4386 For NPS use only hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register Keeper of the National Register Attest: date	The evaluated sign	n <mark>ificance</mark> of this p	roperty within the	state is:			
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- a. It is directly associated with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal, the federal response to the Great Depression. As Clark County's first public park, it marks the beginning of the county park system. (36 CFR 60.6 (a))
- b. The park buildings and features embody the distinctive characteristics of the rustic style of architecture. The early improvements are excellent, well-developed examples of this idiom and recall the philosophy of non-intrusion promulgated by federal park managers in the early 20th century. (36 CFR 60.6 (b))

In addition to these specific criteria, the park clearly possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The entire park, including open spaces, vegetation, and all man-made features, is being nominated because the park itself is significant as the county's first park and because all its features represent the Depression era and the federal work programs, the non-intrusive philosophy of park management of the 1900's, and the rustic aesthetic.

The Depression and the WPA

In response to the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal administration launched an unprecedented work relief program in the summer of 1935. Forty to 50 federal agencies were to provide jobs to the vast numbers of unemployed. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was responsible for the greatest share.

The executive order which created the WPA charged it with providing employment on socially useful projects and between 1935 and 1941 it employed an average of 1,110,000 workers per month. Appropriations were handed down piecemeal (between 1935 and 1941, the WPA had to ask Congress for additional funding on nine different occasions) and controversy dogged it for the entire term of its existence. Nevertheless, the WPA accomplished unprecedented improvements on a nationwide scale.

It constructed over 600,000 miles of highway, built or improved more that 116,000 bridges, and constructed or rehabilitated 110,000 public buildings during those six years and these projects were but a part of what it sponsored. Writers, architects, painters,

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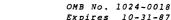
and actors were employed by the WPA. Its accomplishments included rat extermination, bird stuffing, the making of Braille books, and the performance of symphonies, to name a few. The size of WPA projects ranged from a \$40 million airport in New York to jobs requiring only a few hundred dollars. Total expenditures from 1935 to 1941 came to \$11.4 billion. Donald S. Howard asserted that never before in the history of the human race had such magnitude been reached in a public works program.² After the United States became involved in World War II, the WPA was disbanded.

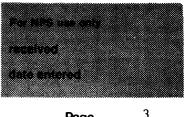
The WPA in Clark County

Clark County responded enthusiastically to the federal programs funded through the 1935 Emergency Relief Appropriation Act. Grant requests were made for a variety of projects: nursery school teachers, street and sewer improvements, parks, school playing fields, stadiums, and jails. The county engineer stated that WPA projects gave the county "the most permanent good for the money of any type of activity so far devised." Despite this, the county's participation was not without controversy. WPA workers struck briefly for a wage increase in the summer of 1936. There were complaints of program abuse. Appropriations were inconsistent and workers were laid off or added on periodically as money came in. Nevertheless, by June of 1937, the federal government had spent \$741,083 on WPA projects in Clark County; local match had been \$118,199 and 800 workers had put in 12,350 man-months.

The impact was significant. By the summer of 1938, 16.5 percent of the county's population was receiving federal relief, most of it in work projects. The lasting result is to be seen in capital improvements throughout the county.³

The WPA and Lewisville Park





²Material for this section was taken from Donald S. Howard's <u>The WPA and Federal</u> <u>Relief Policy</u>, Russell Sage Foundation, New York, 1943.

³Material for this section was taken from the <u>Columbian</u>, 1936-1938.

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Among the reminders of the WPA presence in Clark County, the most significant in
terms of historic resources and lasting popular appeal, is Lewisville Park. The only
other park in Clark County to receive WPA funds was Vancouver's Leverich Park, and that
appropriation went almost wholly to the rebuilding of the stadium now known as Kiggins
Bowl. Nowhere but in Lewisville Park are there Depression era resources of the same
quality, workmanship, and distinct style. Nowhere but in Lewisville Park do local resi-
dents take such pride in this legacy.

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The WPA funds made available for local recreation centers prompted county officials to begin a search for a park site, the first such site to be acquired as a county park. With enthusiastic public support, the county commissioners negotiated for four parcels along the beautiful East Fork of the Lewis River where the tiny community of Lewisville had stood from 1873 until the early 20th century. Three small parcel trades completed the acquisition of 244 acres in 1937. The park is smaller today due to the subsequent leasing of parcels on the south and east banks.

In May of 1936, two months before the county commissioners had acquired the third parcel for Lewisville Park, Clark County applied for a WPA grant of \$15,250 for its development. The county proposed contributing \$6,000 to the project. Work began in July with six men on the job initially. In January of 1937, another \$37,000 was requested with the county contributing \$7,000 in materials. The final request for \$49,928, was initially submitted in December of 1937 and resubmitted several times during the next two and one-half years. The proposal described work to include grubbing; landscaping; plowing; seeding; driveway construction; and the construction of tables, stoves, kitchens, a house, toilets, amphitheater, and a pontoon bridge. This proposal projected a need for 769.4 man-months at a federal cost of \$1,782.78 per man-year.

The county's contribution was largely material. Timbers, logs, rocks, and stones could all be furnished from within the park; a plan beautifully suited to Albert Good's

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admonishment to use native materials in proper scale when developing parks.⁴ This final application was approved for payment on October 17, 1940.

The WPA's accomplishments during that first four-year construction phase were impressive. Ninety-five acres were landscaped; four shelters, a caretaker's cottage, and a community kitchen were erected; 16 fireplaces and 128 picnic tables dotted the park; and septic tanks, comfort stations, and water standpipes were in place. In addition, WPA workers had laid 2,576 square yards of road, built 122 feet of bridge, and laid 1,160 feet of path. Federal expenditures eventually came to \$102,178 or 79.4 percent of the total.⁵

Rustic Architecture in Lewisville Park

The rustic aesthetic had its genesis in Andrew Jackson Downing's theories of blending architecture with its environment. Downing propounded these theories in <u>Cottage Residenc-</u> <u>es</u> in 1842. Late 19th century romanticism about the frontier kept these ideas alive. Adirondacks "camps" were built in the rustic idiom in the 1890's. The National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service adapted the philosophy of non-intrusive building for their development of recreational lands early in the 20th century. The rustic style reflected the sensitive use of native materials, appropriate scale and proportion, and above all, non-intrusion upon the natural setting. Builders were concerned about the relationship of structures to their environment and thus buildings became accessories to nature.

In the Pacific Northwest, the rustic aesthetic began to take on special characteristics which reflected the area's special qualities and resources. Peeled logs were used for structural members. In some cases, bark was left for a picturesque effect, and log rafters and purlins were allowed to extend beyond eave lines. Footings were faced with

⁴Albert H. Good, <u>Park Structures and Facilities</u>, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

⁵Material for this section was taken from the National Archives of the United States, WPA Act Master Project File O.P. 465-93-332.

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rock to resemble natural outcroppings. The rustic style was improved by National Park Service architects in the 1920's and the Park Service published a building manual in 1935 which prescribed certain techniques to achieve this harmony. The style was fully developed by the time of the Great Depression and was superbly executed by the managers of the work relief programs.

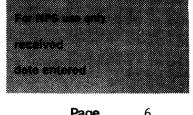
The rustic architecture in Lewisville Park provides excellent examples of this idiom at its maturity. The central shelter, the bathhouse, and the original community kitchen (Shelter D) as it was originally built are three superb representatives of the rustic style as it evolved in Pacific Northwest parks. According to the historian for the U.S. Forest Service's Region Six, the Forest Service has nothing comparable in the region.⁷ While there are several WPA-built state and county parks in Washington, Lewisville Park is the only one in Clark County. It was fully developed as an example of the rustic aesthetic in the non-intrusive treatment of all its features. The entire park is a tribute to the principles of harmony with nature.

Conclusion and criteria considerations

Lewisville Park is clearly significant as a striking example of the rustic aesthetic in park development. It is also significant as a resource historically associated with the Depression era work relief programs and their impact upon the nation's economy. Lewisville Park and its development at the hands of formerly unemployed WPA craftsmen is a lasting tribute to the federal government's role in providing not only the means for capital projects but also the remedy for the social ills accompanying widespread unemployment. Early 20th century park development practice in conservation techniques and landscape architecture theory is evidenced by the clearing, path building, and plantings which shaped the park. Lewisville Park is an outstanding legacy of the powerful forces at work on the aesthetic, economic, and social conditions of the nation during the Great Depression. Although less than fifty years old in part, the park is clearly eligible as (1) the

⁷Gail Throop, Interview, August 29, 1985.

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first county park in Clark County, (2) the largest example of WPA construction in the county, and (3) an outstanding example of the rustic style of park architecture of the period. In each of these areas, the park is of exceptional significance in Clark County history.

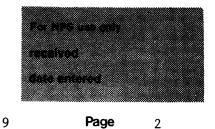
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Item number

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The nominated property is legally described thusly:

Beginning at a point which is S 1 49' west a distance of 2905.1 feet from the northeast corner of Section 22, T4N, R2E, W.M.; thence S 1 49' west a distance of 634.9 feet; thence north 83 48' west a distance of 1045 feet; thence N 52 33' east a distance of 573.6 feet; thence N 66 23' east a distance of 664.6 feet to the place of beginning, containing 8.6 acres more or less. (Dated June 10, 1936)

Plus, the southeast quarter of Section 22 in Township 4 North of Range Two East of the Williamette Meridian; save and excepting therefrom that certain tract of land conveyed to Abigail Church by deed recorded on page 188 of Book lettered R of Deed Records of Clark County; also save and excepting that certain tract of land known as "Mill Property", conveyed to A.B. Church and Abigail Church by deed recorded on page 189 of Book lettered R of Deed Records of said county; also save and excepting that certain tract of land conveyed to Mary E. Rowland by deed recorded on page 551 of Book numbered 2 of Deed Records of said county; also save and excepting that certain tract of land conveyed to Albert Green by deed dated March 5, 1921 and recorded on page 331 of Book numbered 147 of Deed Records of said county. (Dated June 12, 1936)

Plus, the northeast quarter of the Northwest quarter and the west half of the Northwest quarter of Section 23, Township Four, North of Range Two East of the Willamette Meridian. (Dated July 30, 1936)

Plus, beginning at a point which is S 1 49' W a distance of 865 feet from the N.E. corner of Section 22, T4N, R2E W.M., said point being in the center of present county road; thence S 1 49' W a distance of 1140.1 feet; thence S 66 32' W a distance of 664.6 feet; thence S 52 33' W adistance of 573.6 feet; thence N 88 48' W a distance of 760.2 feet, to a point in the present county road running thence along the center of said road road N 60 25' E a distance of 266.2 feet; thence N 43 58' E a distance of 182.7 feet; thence N 15 39" E a distance of 282.1 feet; thence north 0 25' west a distance of 370.9 feet, thence N 22 01' E a distance of 342.9 feet; thence N 43 55' E 259.4 feet; thence N 66 20' E a distance of 711.7 feet; thence N 85 10' E a distance of 476.6 feet to the place of beginning, containing 43 acres, same being s11 that part of the NE¼ of Section 22 T 4 N R 2 E WM, lying east of the county road. (Dated January 15, 1937) Note: Nominated property excludes those portions of property which lie on the east and south side of the Lewis River which have been leased or deed to the Scouts.

The nominated property is verbally described thusly:

Beginning at a point 500 feet west of the intersection of the county road (N.E. Potter Road); the north section line of Section 23 (i.e. 500 feet from the northwest corner of section 23) proceed east approximately 470 feet until the west bank of the east fork of the Lewis River; proceed southwesterly along the west bank of the main channel of said river until the S.R. 503 highway bridge; proceed northerly along the east edge of S.R. 503 until the intersection with N.E. Potter road; proceed northeasterly along county road until a point approximately 850 feet south of the northwest corner of section 23 (T 4 N R 2 E); proceed easterly 100 feet, then proceed northeasterly approximately

87W.

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1000 feet until point of beginning. Said nominated property located in sections 22 and 23, Township 4, North, Range Two East, Willamette Meridian, Clark County, Washington. (VBD illustrated on accompanying map, drawn to scale)