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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Minkler, Birdsey D., House other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 201 South Main Street city, town Lyman state Washington code WA county Skagit code 057 zip code 98263

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories. Resource counts: Contributing 2, Noncontributing 0, Total 2.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet. Signature: [Signature] Date: October 10, 1988

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: [Signature] Date of Action: 12/1/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Late Victorian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation WOOD/post and pier; concrete
walls WOOD/weatherboard

roof composition shingles

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Birdsey Minkler House is a two story, timber frame, Victorian residence built in 1891, with a characteristic front gable-and-wing form and a colonnaded Neoclassical portico added in the early 20th century. The well preserved house is located on the main street of Lyman, and rests on the southwest corner of a one acre lot which includes a small caretaker's cottage and a spacious lawn with fruit trees and ornamental shrubs. It is the most imposing historic residence in the Upper Skagit Valley community.

The Minkler House is built on a T-shape plan, with a front-facing gable wing and a perpendicular side-gable wing recessed slightly from the planes of the main unit. The house is faced with narrow-gauge cedar drop siding, with plain frieze boards under the eaves, and thin corner boards with moulded capitals. The steeply pitched gable roof has boxed, overhanging eaves and is covered with composition shingles. A brick chimney rises from the ridgeline of each roof.

The front-gable wing measures approximately 45 feet across the front (west) and rear elevations, and 60 feet along the sides. Tall, narrow windows punctuate the facade at regular intervals. The windows are one-over-one double hung wood sash units, framed with wood surrounds. The surrounds include projecting entablature hood mouldings and bracketed sills. On the front facade, the entry is offset to the north and features a single leaf door with glazed upper panel, operable transom, and a wood surround with entablature hood. In the peak of the front gable is an over-scaled ornament consisting of a decorative king post truss with sunburst-like wood trim.

The most dominant feature of the front elevation is the two-story, gable-roofed portico which spans the facade. The portico was added in the early 20th century, replacing a simpler porch with square posts. The bases of the columns were reinforced with wood pedestals in 1988. The roof of the porch, which has a gentler pitch than that of the main roof, shelters the second-story bedrooms and has boxed eaves and a plain tympanum. The porch roof is supported by four colossal fluted columns with Ionic capitals which rise to a plain entablature. A second story balcony is inset into the porch. The balcony is enclosed by a plain railing with square balusters.

On the south side wall, a polygonal bay projects at the southwest corner of the first story. The bay has an engaged hipped roof with boxed eaves, supported by scrolled brackets and underscored by a decorative frieze. The double-hung, wood sash windows in the bay are framed with moulded surrounds and the base of the bay is ornamented with decoratively moulded panels. The rear elevation includes regularly spaced double-hung wood sash windows with surrounds. A one-story rear porch in the wing shelters a doorway which provides access to the house.

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Continuation Sheet**

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The side wing is recessed a few feet from the facade of the main wing, and is two stories with a gable roof. The second story of the side wing projects slightly over the first story, and was added to the structure sometime in the early 20th century. Fenestration on the first floor of the wing includes the same double-hung wood sash windows found elsewhere on the house, but the upper windows consist of a band of three windows with multiple light upper sash. The entry to the wing is main through a central single leaf door, with wood frame surround. The first floor is sheltered by a shed roof porch, supported by three fluted Ionic columns, similar to the large scale columns on the main wing. The northwest corner of the first floor is chamfered, and the cut-away window is sheltered by the second story overhang.

The interior plan of the Minkler house includes a front entry hallway leading to stairs. To the south of the hall is a front parlor (with bay window); beyond the hallway is the rear parlor and dining room, with a kitchen in the side wing. The staircase includes a simple turned newel post with turned balusters that leads to the five upstairs bedrooms. The walls and ceilings of the house are plaster and lath, with simple mouldings, including baseboards, picture railings, and window and door surrounds with bull's-eye corner blocks. To the rear of the house is a one-and-one-half story, wood frame caretaker's cottage. The cottage has a gabled roof, with a shed roof extension on the south. Like the main house, the cottage is faced with drop siding, with corner boards and simple door and window surrounds.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY
POLITICS
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1891-1910

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Minkler, Birdsey D.

Architect/Builder

Not Known

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Birdsey Minkler House is a historically significant residence associated with a pioneer entrepreneur, lumberman, and politician in the Upper Skagit River Valley. Constructed in 1891, the house is distinguished by its well preserved late-Victorian character, and by an imposing Neoclassical portico which illustrates the evolving scale and pretension of domestic architecture in the early 20th century. The house clearly conveys Minkler's prominent role in the development of the region, and remains the finest historic residence in Lyman.

Historical Background: Birdsey Minkler was born in Omro, Wisconsin in 1849, educated at the state college in Appleton, and briefly made his residence in Kansas. In about 1870, Minkler moved to California where he worked in a variety of sawmills and began what would become a successful career in the West Coast lumber industry.

Minkler moved north to Washington Territory in 1875, settling first in Port Madison and then in Seattle. Two years after his arrival, he staked a homestead claim in the Upper Skagit Valley. But creating a farm on the heavily forested land proved difficult, and Minkler soon abandoned the homestead for a timber claim. By 1878, he had constructed a sawmill (reputedly the first in Skagit County), and established a post office at the site which he called Birdsvew. Minkler's mill was a successful venture, and in 1885 he sold the business and with the proceeds moved to the village of Lyman and established a general store.

Minkler's mercantile was one of the most successful stores in the community, but not long after his move to Lyman, Minkler was again involved in the lumber business. By 1890, Minkler, with several associates, had organized the Lyman Lumber and Shingle Company. The mill was located at a small company town known as Minkler, two miles west of Lyman, and it grew into one of the leading industries in the area. Shortly after establishing the firm, Minkler built the house that still stands on South Main Street.

Minkler's financial success was matched by his political involvement. Minkler served on the first board of the Skagit County Commissioners after the county was separated from Whatcom County. He also was elected to the first session of the state House of Representatives in

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lenggenhager, Werner and Lucile McDonald. Where the Washingtonians Lived (Seattle: Superior Publishing Company, 1969), p. 146.
Willis, Margaret, ed. Chechacos All: The Pioneering of Skagit (Mount Vernon: Skagit County Historical Society, 1973), p. 78.
"Senator Minkler Dies Suddenly," Lyman Press, May 19, 1910.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property one acre

UTM References

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is described thusly: beginning at the northeast corner of the intersection of South Main Street and 2nd Street, proceed east to the alley, proceed 217 feet north, proceed 200 feet west, proceed south along Main Street to point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the house and grounds historically associated with Birdsey Minkler.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mr. and Mrs. John Patterson, edited by Leonard Garfield
organization Property Owners date July 17, 1988
street & number 201 South Main Street telephone (206) 826-3358
city or town Lyman state Washington zip code 98263

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1889, and served a term in the state Senate in the early 1890s. In 1907, Minkler retired from active participation in his business and political life, but travelled widely across the country and around the world. He died on a return trip from California in May, 1910. Following his death, his children retained ownership of the house and control of the lumber mill.

The Minkler house, the most imposing structure in the community, clearly reflects the prominence of its owner. Built in 1891, the house is a well preserved example of late Victorian architecture, with a characteristic front gable-and-wing form, decorative gable ornament, bay window, and entablature hood mouldings. The colonnaded Neoclassical portico, added in the early 20th century, is a dramatic modification that reflects the increasing scale and historicism of architecture in the early 20th century, and the growing wealth of one of Lyman's most prominent citizens.