

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Washington
COUNTY: Chelan
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE SEP 17 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Blewett Arrastra

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **S of Cashmere on
Near mouth of Culver Gulch on Swauk Pass, U.S. Route 97**

CITY OR TOWN: **Cashmere vicinity** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **#5 - Hon. Thomas S. Foley**

STATE: **Washington** CODE: **53** COUNTY: **Chelan** CODE: **007**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Roadside attraction

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Washington State Department of Highways

STREET AND NUMBER:
Highway Administration Building

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
District Engineer, Washington State Department of Highways

STREET AND NUMBER:
1551 North Wenatchee Avenue

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
NONE

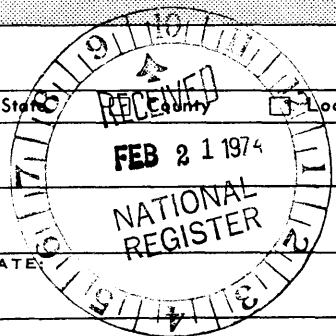
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: **Washington**

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

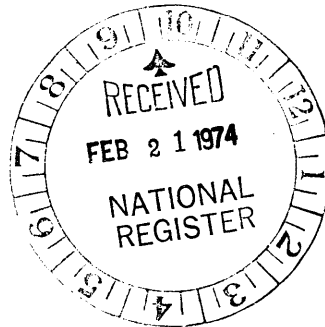
(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Blewett Arrastra remains at the original location in the steep and narrow valley of Peshastin Creek. Located next to U.S. Route 97, a two-lane highway transecting the southeast corner of the rugged and mountainous Wenatchee National Forest, the arrastra is the main attraction of a roadside turn out. The arrastra is situated adjacent to the fast-running creek, and for dozens of miles around, the forests, streams, and rocky crags of the Cascade Mountains and foothills remain in pristine condition.

In the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries, the gold mining town of Blewett occupied the nearby vicinity, but little remains today except a few abandoned shafts, the deteriorated remains of a stamp mill, and, of course, the stone arrastra. The original structures and buildings deteriorated or burned, or were moved or destroyed, particularly whenever modern highway construction occurred in the extremely narrow and constricted valley.

Records indicate the Blewett Arrastra was extensively used, and as early as the 1860's. Cut in bedrock, the arrastra measures about eight feet across. The base is intact, but the rocks dragged in the track to crush ore are missing. This part of the device, however, was often worn down and replaced. Three drag stones from other arrastras have been placed in the track. Various means could be used to move the drag stone around the circular trough, but no trace remains of these impermanent devices.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1860's**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>mining industry</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Whenever gold was discovered in the 1860's and 1870's in the mountainous regions of Oregon, British Columbia, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, and Eastern Washington, the influence of old California was always evident. In the new gold fields, the knowledge and methods of the Californians was respected and adhered to. California miners, including some original Forty-niners, were one portion of the mixed-up vanguard of different peoples who discovered the goldfields in the eastern portion of the Cascade Mountains of Washington Territory. The Blewett Arrastra may not have been actually built by California miners, but the device was clearly Californian in origin.

The Blewett Arrastra, constructed in the 1860's and remaining in excellent condition today, dates from the earliest days of mining in the Pacific Northwest. The device known as an arrastra (or arrastre) had been developed much earlier in Spanish America and was later adopted by Californians in the 1850's. The use of these devices then quickly spread as new goldfields were discovered throughout the West. A number of arrastras were constructed in the eastern Cascades, and some remain today including, of course, the Blewett Arrastra.

An arrastra was inexpensive, and easy to construct and maintain. An arrastra was the simplest device available for crushing quartz and could also work placers. These surprisingly efficient devices were often used to work ore that first had been crushed in a nearby stamp mill. The gold was then reclaimed by amalgamation with mercury, either by placing the quicksilver in the mortar or in sluices, riffle boards, and other similar devices.

The typical arrastra consisted of flat surfaced stones layed in a circular pattern and surrounded by a retaining wall. A post was set in the middle, and a sweep was hitched to a horse or mule to pull the drag stones around the track. The Blewett Arrastra is somewhat unusual because it was cut into bed rock. Furthermore, the Blewett miners moved their arrastra with waterpower, but may have also used mules and horses. The Blewett Arrastra was used until at least 1880. Today, it is one of Washington's finest remaining devices illustrating frontier mining technology. The arrastra is owned and protected by the Washington State Department of Highways and is easily accessible to the public.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hodges, L.K., ed. Mining in the Pacific Northwest. Seattle, 1897.

Paul, Rodman W. California Gold: The Beginning of Mining in the Far West. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1947, pp. 134-40.

Trimble, William J. The Mining Advance Into the Inland Empire. Madison: Bulletin of the University of Wisconsin, No. 638, 1914, pp. 93-96.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

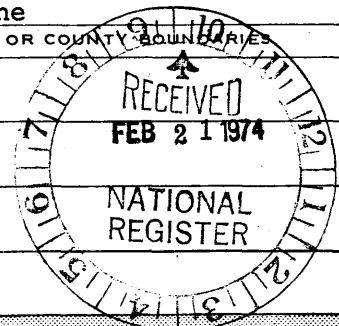
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		47°	25'	38"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		120°	39'	24"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

10/67670L
5255070
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than one**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
James Wilson, County Liaison

ORGANIZATION: **Chelan County Historical Society** DATE: **March 7, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 812

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Charles H. Odegaard
Charles H. Odegaard

Title Director, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Date Jan. 31, 1974

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

AR... ..
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/17/74

ATTEST:

Charles H. ...
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date 9.13.74