

HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Site No. 34-151 OAHF No. _____ Date Recorded 3/18/85 revised 8/87
 Site Name Historic Salsich Lumber Company Superintendent's House
 Common n/a
 Field Recorder ss/tc
 Owner's Name Christian Miller
 Address P.O. Box 1198
 City/State/Zip Code Yelm, WA 98597

Status

- Survey/Inventory
- National Register
- State Register
- Determined Eligible
- Determined Not Eligible
- Other (HABS, HAER, NHL)
- Local Designation

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Neg. No. 8-4,5
 (Roll No. & Frame No.)
 View of SW corner; west facade
 Date 3/18/85

Classification District Site Building Structure Object

District Status NR SR LR INV

Contributing Non-Contributing

District / Thematic Nomination Name Historic Resources of Unincorporated Thurston County

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Materials & Features/Structural Types

Building Type Domestic/Residence
 Plan Rectangular
 Structural System Wood frame
 No. of Stories Two

Cladding (Exterior Wall Surfaces)

- Log
- Horizontal Wood Siding
 - Rustic/Drop
 - Clapboard
- Wood Shingle
- Board and Batten
- Vertical Board
- Asbestos/Asphalt
- Brick
- Stone
- Stucco
- Terra Cotta
- Concrete/Concrete Block
- Vinyl/Aluminum Siding
- Metal (specify) _____
- Other (specify) _____

Roof Type

- Gable Hip
- Flat Pyramidal
- Monitor Other (specify) _____
- Gambrel
- Shed

Roof Material

- Wood Shingle
- Wood Shake
- Composition
- Slate
- Tar/Built-Up
- Tile
- Metal (specify) sheeting
- Other (specify) _____
- Not visible

Foundation

- Log
- Post & Pier
- Stone
- Brick
- Not visible
- Concrete
 - Block
 - Poured
 - Other (specify) _____

Integrity (Include detailed description in Description of Physical Appearance)

	Intact	Slight	Moderate	Extensive
Changes to plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to windows	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to original cladding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to interior	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

LOCATION SECTION

Address 10808 Vail Road
 City/Town/County/Zip Code Yelm vicinity/Thurston/98597
 Twp. 17N Range 2E Section 28 ¼ Section SW ¼ ¼ Section NE
 Tax No./Parcel No. 22728310201 Acreage 1.75 acres
 Quadrangle or map name McKenna 7.5
 UTM References Zone 10 Easting 533380 Northing 5197250
 Plat/Block/Lot See Verbal Boundary Description
 Supplemental Map(s) N/A

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is described as Parcel B of Boundary Line Adjustment 0484 28-17-2E (tax parcel 22728310201) in Thurston County, WA.

Verbal Boundary Justification: The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Salsich Lumber Company Superintendent's house.

Number of Contributing Resources: One

Number of Noncontributing Resources: 0

High Styles/Forms (check one or more of the following)

- Greek Revival
- Gothic Revival
- Italianate
- Second Empire
- Romanesque Revival
- Stick Style
- Queen Anne
- Shingle Style
- Colonial Revival
- Beaux Arts/Neoclassical
- Chicago/Commercial Style
- American Foursquare
- Mission Revival
- Spanish Colonial Revival/Mediterranean
- Tudor Revival
- Craftsman/Arts & Crafts
- Bungalow
- Prairie Style
- Art Deco/Art Moderne
- Rustic Style
- International Style
- Northwest Style
- Commercial Vernacular
- Residential Vernacular (see below)
- Other (specify) _____

Vernacular House Types

- Gable front
- Gable front and wing
- Side gable
- Cross gable
- Pyramidal/Hipped
- Other (specify) _____

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit Themes (check one or more of the following)

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/Government/Law |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture/Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Science & Engineering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Heritage (specify) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Movements/Organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning/Development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing/Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Study Unit Sub-Theme(s) (specify) _____ |

Statement of Significance

Date of Construction c. 1910 Architect/Engineer/Builder Unknown Level of Significance: Local
 Period of Significance: 1910-1932

- In the opinion of the surveyor, this property appears to meet the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places
 In the opinion of the surveyor, this property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local).

The Salsich Lumber Company Superintendent's House is the most significant extant structure associated with the once-thriving company town of McKenna and is one of the finest examples of the Colonial Revival Style in Thurston County. The Salsich (later McKenna) Lumber Company established a major mill in Pierce County near Yelm which operated from 1907 until 1932. The company built a town at the site as well but located the superintendent's house at some distance from the workers' housing. The McKenna Lumber Company also assisted the Yelm Irrigation District in completing a ditch and flume system in rural Thurston County in 1916 and inaugurated a cooperative agricultural venture on the irrigated lands for the benefit of their employees.

Spurred by the extension of the Milwaukee Railroad through the district, William Salsich, manager of the Ulas Estate, came West from Star Lake, Wisconsin, where timberlands were depleted. His company erected a sawmill in 1907 (at what is now McKenna in Pierce County), logged six sections of virgin timber, and brought key people from his Wisconsin operation including Adam Cook, general manager, who occupied this house.

The firm built a company town, primarily on the Pierce County side of the Nisqually River, with a saloon, company store, hotel, and post office. The company store and workers' hotel as well as some ruins of the mill are still in the town in Pierce County, although the superintendent's house was located on the Thurston County side of the river. The house, which reflects a Palladian formality, is an outstanding example of the Colonial Revival Style in the county.
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Description of Physical Appearance

The Salsich Lumber Company Superintendent's House is located on Vail Road approximately one mile southeast of Yelm. Approached by a sweeping circular driveway, the house is an elongated, two-story wood frame structure resting on a poured concrete foundation. The Colonial Revival design is dominated by a Palladian-like central pedimented pavilion, but the fenestration and other details reflect some Craftsman influence. The hip roof is covered with wood shingles and is penetrated by a brick chimney on the south end wall and a pedimented center gable on the front facade. The roofline terminates in a plain boxed cornice and wide soffit with modillions. Walls of the first story are clad with clapboards and cornerboards while the second story is clad with shingles. Horizontal banding separates the two stories.

The central front entry door is sheltered by a wide porch with paired, tapered columns and a flat roof with a vaulted center section. The porch roof is clad with metal sheeting and has a prominent cornice and soffit with modillions. Fenestration consists of single, paired and tripled double-hung sash with six-over-six lights and plain surrounds. The center gable holds a cameo window. A one-story flat-roofed extension projects from the north wall (formerly the sleeping porch) which has a top balcony with a wood railing. The rear of the house has two gabled dormers with small four-paned windows breaking the roofline. A small central two-story projection accommodates the offset back door. Banks of four six-over-six double-hung sash windows are on the first floor and similar single windows light the second floor.

Adjoining the house to the north are two hip-roofed outbuildings which were formerly the woodshed and kitchen. Their front facades, lit by bands of four six-paned windows, are joined to the house by latticework walls (continued)

Major Bibliographic References

Bonney, W.P. History of Pierce County, Chicago, 1927, Vol. 3, p. 552.
 Burnes, Frances Stone. "This Town Has an Idea Behind It," Tacoma Sunday Ledger, November 17, 1918.
 Interviews with Goodwin family, 1987.
 King, Mickey, "Once Thriving Mill Town Now a Ghost," Tacoma News Tribune, September 22, 1968.
 Prescott, Edgar. Early Yelm, Folly Press, Tacoma, 1979.
 Staples, Alice. "McKenna: The Former Logging Town Which Refused to Die," Seattle Times, December 28, 1958.

SALSICH LUMBER COMPANY SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE

Significance (continued):

In 1916, the Salsich Company disposed of its holdings to the McKenna Lumber Company. Under the direction of William Goodwin, Sr., who came to the area in 1907, the McKenna Company manufactured rough and finished lumber, lath, and shingles and specialized in high grade lumber for railroad cars. The mill produced 200,000 board feet per day and employed 400 men at its high point.

The McKenna Lumber Company aided the Yelm Irrigation Company in 1915-16 by providing \$22,000 worth of lumber used to build three main laterals and most of the sub-laterals of the ditch which until that time had gone unfinished because of financial difficulties. The Yelm Irrigation Company, started in 1910, was one of the few such groups organized in Western Washington and diverted water from the Nisqually River along a main ditch to Yelm where it was distributed by wooden flumes to semi-arid farmlands. The irrigated land was planted in berries and small vegetables.

The McKenna Mill Company also pioneered a cooperative program in which the Company provided each worker with seven to 12 acres of land (with water rights from the Yelm irrigation project) and lumber for a house, barn, and outbuildings. The company also supplied a cow and pigs or chickens, as well as provender from the company barns and store. Payments were not due for a period of two years under the condition that improvements be made by the tenant. The mill was also one of the few in the county that hired women for manual labor in the sawmill. The company store was a cooperative venture for the workers as well.

The McKenna Mill Company closed in 1932, a victim of the Depression. The company continued ownership of the town for many years, disposing of its last holdings in the 1970s. The Goodwin family lived in the house for several decades until it was converted for use as a funeral home in later years.

Description (continued):

with round arches, forming the appearance of a continuous unbroken elevation.

The interior of the house retains the original fir floors and woodwork, including board-and-batten wainscoting in the foyer, pocket doors leading to the dining room, and beamed ceilings. Two of the four second story bedrooms have original sinks in their closets. The third floor has a small maid's room.

The house has good integrity on the exterior. A bathroom has been added on the interior on the first floor and the fireplace and chimney replaced. The sleeping porch has been enclosed and some spaces altered to accommodate modern kitchen amenities.