

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 26 1976
DATE ENTERED DEC 13 1977

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Cabin #97 *nlh*

AND/OR COMMON

Walter Crooks Cabin

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *nw of Tacoma on*

#97, Salmon Beach

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tacoma

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th - Floyd V. Hicks

STATE

Washington

CODE

COUNTY

Pierce

CODE

053

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Paul Larson (improvement only, see continuation sheet)

STREET & NUMBER 7838 S. Tacoma Way, Space 53

CITY, TOWN

Tacoma

VICINITY OF

STATE

Washington

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County-City Building

STREET & NUMBER 930 Tacoma Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Tacoma

STATE

Washington

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Cabin #97 is an anonymous "fishing shack", located on tidelands seaward of the highwater mark but landward of the Government Meander Line. Topographically, the building is at the base of a steep, madrona-covered bluff facing southwest, with access only by trail from a parking lot one-quarter mile away. The building faces the Tacoma Narrows, a mile-wide channel noted for its swift currents although a protective back eddy exists just offshore.

The building is a chattel real on property indirectly leased from the upland owner, who owns all of Government Lot 3, Section 22, Twp 21 N., Rng 2 E., Willamette Meridian extending to the Government Meander Line. It is an integral part of a waterfront community of about 85 homes known as Salmon Beach. This community formed a non-profit corporation twenty-five years ago to lease tidelands on which their homes were built and in turn sub-lease to individual building owners.

The cabin is a one-room structure fourteen feet by seventeen and one-half feet in plan built above the beach on piling or, more accurately, a foundation of logs stood on end and buried several feet in the sand. There is a bulkhead about ten feet behind the building protecting the bluff from erosion; at high tide the supporting posts are partially submerged. It has a gable roof, its ridge parallel to the beach, extended at a lower pitch in front and in back providing for a veranda and an enclosed addition. The floor system is a random assembly of planks and beams of varying lengths running in several directions beneath the cabin. Wherever a post has rotted through, another has been added nearby and shimmed into place. An L-shaped ramp, walkway and deck along the north and west sides of the structure provide access from the beach in back and a full width front porch with a panoramic view of the Tacoma Narrows and the Olympic Mountains.

The cabin has shingle siding in alternating courses of four inches and six inches to the weather. Windows are a mixture of fixed nine-light, four-light casement and smaller single pane units all with board enframements.

There have been few alterations to the building other than a recent extension to the deck and various repairs to the railings, roof and under pinnings - using apparently salvaged materials that do not match in places. With these few exceptions the cabin exterior is essentially unchanged since 1916.

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Mr. James H. Wiborg, real property
6608 North 46th Street
Tacoma, Washington 98407

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Constructed 1916

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cabin #97 represents those fishing shacks built around the turn of the century along the shores of Puget Sound. By 1905, the Commencement Bay waterfront of Tacoma was lined with lumber mills, wheat warehouses, and a smelter. No camping or private structures were allowed along the five miles of shoreline within Point Defiance Park. As a result, these shacks and their fore-runners, which were platforms, dotted the remaining waterfront west of Tacoma, known as "The Narrows". Because the best salmon fishing grounds in the area were located off Point Defiance, Andrew Foss located his Narrows Boathouse at a good fresh-water spring 900 feet south of the park boundary in the spring of 1906. The rental rowboat business prospered, especially on Sunday. The more industrious fishermen attracted by this facility built small camps nearby, many of which were destroyed when construction of the Northern Pacific's waterfront line eliminated the campsites in 1910. Sunset Beach, Day's Island, and other remaining stretches of waterfront were rapidly subdivided and modern homes overlooking the beach replaced older simpler styles of waterfront structures.

The strip of tideland north of the Nelson Bennett tunnel west portal and one and one-half miles south of the Point Defiance Park boundary was an exception. With no road access and an owner unwilling to subdivide and sell, the area retained its original appearance - a string of little cabins, but a little more dense than before. With salmon fishing still the major attraction, this area became known as Salmon Beach. It has suffered from mud slides, fires, and a nefarious reputation during Prohibition. For many men too old to work in the woods Salmon Beach became a refuge - a place to make homebrew and, when the fishing was good, sell their surplus salmon to downtown fish markets.

During the Depression, it was also a refuge for a younger group of men and women concerned with subsistence living. Many of the old shacks were either remodeled or rebuilt to raise families, while a few aging residents lingered in spartan camps into the forties. Disagreements with the land owner and more slides virtually stopped all improvements during the fifties, and only in the past six years have persons had confidence enough to make substantial investments in these homes.

Cabin #97 is one of a few cabins at Salmon Beach which avoided major modifications during the Depression. Part of the significance of this structure is its relatively unaltered condition and its placement among equally old, but extensively modified buildings. Since there has never been a written public record of cabin ownerships, the builder's name cannot be verified. It is known that during the thirties and forties, a bachelor named Walter Crooks lived in #97. He fished a little, drank a lot, bothered nobody, and played the ukulele. During the past twenty-five years, the cabin has passed through a succession of would-be remodelers, all of whom lost interest for various reasons.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Tacoma News Tribune:

- "Tidal Wave Assails Salmon Beach", 4/16/49, pg 1
- "No Forced Removal Planned", 4/20/49, pg 1
- "Salmon Beach 'City' up for Auction", 3/21/54, pg 1
- "Salmon Beach - A fearless community survives", 1/13/74, pg F9
- "Salmon Beach Retreat", 2/2/75, pg D-4

(see continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	0
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5	3	5	6	2	0
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5	2	3	7	6	8	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mr. Roger C. Edwards, Chairman

ORGANIZATION

Salmon Beach Historical Committee

DATE

11/18/75

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 7002

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Tacoma

STATE

Washington

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Anton M. Sholnik

TITLE

SHPO

DATE 5/18/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Wm. D. ...

DATE

12/8/77

ATTEST:

Charles ...

~~OFFICER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

DATE

12-9-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Cabin #97 is representative of a past era in waterfront living. It is part of a uniquely unmodernized community unified by lack of individual land ownership and a fascinating variety of haphazard, ramshackle buildings. While succeeding generations have steadily changed the outward appearance of the community, this one cabin has remained basically unaltered. Similar structures in isolated areas of Puget Sound are known to exist, although cabin #97 reflects the early years of a very unusual community representing a continuous spectrum of indigenous waterfront residences.

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"Salmon Beach Photo Legacy", 6/8/75, Sunday Magazine
Seattle Post-Intelligencer:

"Remote Salmon Beach; A Century Away", 5/24/69, pg B

Salmon Beach Historical Committee Newsletters, November 1973 and December 1974