

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received SEP 18 1984

date entered OCT 18 1984

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

1. Name

historic Williams, Herbert, House

and/or common Perfield House

2. Location

street & number 1711 ^{F.} Elm St. ^{E.} ₉ not for publication

city, town Sumner vicinity of

state Washington code 053 county Pierce code 053

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Henry Knaack

street & number P.O. Box 411

city, town Sumner vicinity of state Washington 98390

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pierce County Assessor's Office

street & number 2401 S. 35th St.

city, town Tacoma state Washington 98409

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Washington State Inventory of
title Cultural Resources

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

city, town 111 W. 21st Ave., Olympia state Washington 98504

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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

The Herbert Williams House is an elaborate two-story wood frame home that exhibits design elements of the Italianate and Queen Anne Styles of architecture. The home is in a fair state of repair and is currently undergoing restoration. The building is located on the northern boundary of the town of Sumner, a community situated at the confluence of the Puyallup and Stuck Rivers in north central Pierce County. To the south of the home is a residential neighborhood which combines older vernacular cottages with newer construction. The agricultural developments of the Stuck Valley begin north of the home. Approximately one eighth of a mile of open fields separates this house from the Sidney Williams House. Together these two homes form a boundary between the farm lands of the Stuck Valley and the residential neighborhoods of Sumner.

The Herbert Williams Home is generally "L" shaped, but porches and bay windows give it an irregular plan. The main body of the building is a square two-story block, three bays on each side, which faces south toward Elm Street. A one and one-half story rectangular servants' wing is attached to the north facade of this main section.

The building's foundation is composed of wooden piers that are obscured by a wooden skirting. A later concrete basement is underneath the servants' wing and the north side of the house. The building is clad in beveled shiplap siding.

The main (south) facade is articulated by a two-tiered entrance porch in the center bay flanked by one-story polygonal bay windows. The porch has a concrete stoop, turned posts, carved brackets, raised panels on the cornices, decorative latticework screens, and a hip roof. Porch rails with turned balusters form a balcony on the second story porch. The five-sided bay windows are ornamented with raised panels, carved brackets, double-hung one-over-one sash windows with segmentally arched transoms, and elaborate wood moldings. Similarly detailed single windows are on the second floor of the house. Above the central porch is a large gabled wall dormer ornamented with a small window and a gable screen in a sunburst pattern. The truncated hip roof of the building is covered in wood shingles and is ornamented with wide boxed eaves and carved brackets. A chimney is positioned at the center of the roof.

The east and west facades of the building share the main facade's window and wall dormer designs. There are no bay windows on the east facade, but there is a similarly detailed one-story porch surmounted by a balustrade. The west facade lacks a porch but does have a rectangular bay window with detailing imitating that of the front bay windows.

The servants' wing has a more picturesque profile with its gable roof and pairs of gabled wall dormers on the east and west facades. These dormers have the same gable screens as the main building but lack the brackets and boxed eaves. The windows of this wing are identical to those on the other parts of the house. A simple hip roof porch that appears to be a later addition is on the west facade. A porch on the east facade has been removed. Much of the interior of the Williams House has been preserved and original features include a long staircase with turned balusters and an ornate newel, molded baseboards, molded door and window surrounds with corner blocks carved in a floral pattern, transoms above several doors, and paneled doors including recessed sliding doors.

The main section of the Herbert Williams House is largely Italianate in style. The polygonal bays, heavy moldings and brackets, segmentally arched windows, and formal composition all reflect this style, though the Italianate was most popular ten to fifteen years before this house was erected. More up-to-date were the building's Queen Anne elements: the porch with its turned posts and lattice screens, moldings on the interior of the house, and the gabled wall dormers with sunburst gable screens. This picturesque quality of the Queen Anne Style is most evident on the servants' wing, where the wall dormers form a striking sawtooth pattern.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1890 **Builder/Architect** J. Driskill, Contractor

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Herbert Williams House is significant as the home of one of two brothers who made important contributions to the early agricultural development of the Stuck Valley. The homes of Herbert and Sidney Williams are the only unaltered buildings within this area of Pierce County which illustrate the affluence which accompanied successful hop production in the 1880's and early 1890's. The Italianate style features of the Herbert Williams House are the only known applications of this style within the vicinity of Sumner and the Stuck Valley. It remains one of this area's finest Victorian-era mansions.

Sumner and the Stuck Valley were platted into Donation Land Claims by early settlers who entered Pierce County by way of the Naches Pass Trail, an immigrant road which passed nearby. Two such pioneers were Abrael Morrison and George Hayward, who staked their claims immediately north of William Moore Kincaid's claim. Kincaid's son, John Francis, platted the town of Sumner within the Kincaid claim in 1883, the same year the Herbert and Sidney Williams' father, Frederick S. Williams, purchased the Morrison and Hayward claims. He retained ownership of the southern portion of the Morrison property and transferred the remainder of both claims to Herbert and Sidney, who became joint owners. Herbert served as the manager of the hop business while Sidney oversaw the actual agricultural operations. Their hop farm became one of the largest in a county renowned for its hop production.

The Williams brothers' property also served as a kind of barrier between town development on the south and agricultural activity along the Stuck River to the north, a physical distinction which still survives to some degree today.

In the 1880's, the valley was a veritable sea of hops. Perfect climate and soil conditions helped to create one of the most productive hop growing areas in the world. This crop provided the economic stimulus for the development of this area and made local farmers almost instantly prosperous. This early hop industry was significant to the entire state as one of the most successful agricultural developments in its territorial history. Hop production created an economic boom which lasted until the early 1890's, when a plant louse infestation destroyed the crop. The wealthy farmers had palatial (at least in the eyes of Sumner residents) homes constructed on their farms. In-town plats had deed restrictions prohibiting owners from any association with alcoholic beverages, a factor which no doubt determined where the producers of a major ingredient of beer could live. As a result of the economic collapse following both the plant lice and the 1893 Depression, many of these farmers lost their property or divided it into smaller holdings for sale as either farm land or as platted additions to the town of Sumner. Only two surviving properties associated with this important hop industry (the Woolrey-Koehler Hop Kiln and the Meeker Mansion) have been entered on the National Register.

In 1890, both Herbert and Sidney Williams built large homes on Elm Street. The homes are only an eighth of a mile apart, but the farmland between the two houses is now under ownership of a third party. The architect for the Herbert Williams home is unknown, but contractor J. Driskill was reportedly the builder. Herbert Williams' home is far more ornamental than the home of his brother. Local folklore maintains that Herbert built such an extravagant house to please his new bride, Lola. She was not long impressed, however, and left him near the time when Herbert, bankrupt, was forced to sell the house to the Kirkwood family. The property was divided, and ultimately ended up in

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bonney, William Pierce. History of Pierce County, Pioneer Historical Publishing Company, Chicago, 1927.
Sumner Herald. Scrapbooks of undated articles concerning the history of Sumner; also, the issue of August 22, 1890, Sumner Public Library, 1116 Fryar, Sumner.
 Newspaper articles (no dates) and property title (c. 1883-1891), Sumner Historical Society.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Sumner

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The house is located in the northeast quarter of Section 24, Township 20 North, Range 4 East, W.M. It is lot No. 1 of Short Plat #80-172 (Parcel No. 04-20-24-5-016).

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code

state	n/a	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Caroline Gallacci, Preservation Planner	Edited by Mark L. Brack Archaeology & Hist. Pres.
organization	Pierce County Planning Dept.	date June 29, 1984
street & number	2401 S. 35th St.	telephone (206) 591-7172
city or town	Tacoma	state Washington 98409

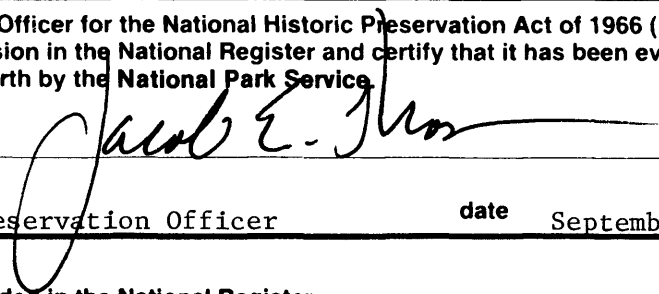
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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



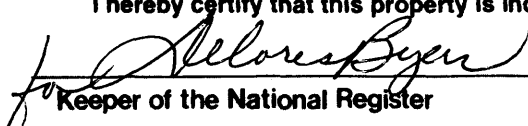
title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 11, 1984

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 10-18-84


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

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the hands of subsequent farmers of whom the Perfield family was the most longlasting.

The design of the Herbert Williams home is quite unusual for this area of Pierce County. Only the Meeker Mansion, located six miles southwest of Sumner in the town of Puyallup, shows similar architectural qualities. With great proficiency, the Herbert Williams House combines elements of the Italianate and Queen Anne Styles of architecture; while the Meeker Mansion is more strictly Italianate. The Meeker Mansion (National Register, 1971) was erected in 1890 for Ezra Meeker, a Washington pioneer and prosperous hop farmer. Both the Meeker Mansion and the Herbert Williams House share similarly detailed polygonal bay windows, segmentally arched windows with ornate moldings and bracketed cornices. The Williams House also displays Queen Anne Style features including picturesque gables and particular types of ornamentation. Such an eclectic combination of styles is quite common in American architecture; however, most farmhouses erected during this period are more similar to Sidney Williams' house, with its modest details and simple massing. The refined ornamentation and proportions of the Herbert Williams home distinguish it from nearly all of its surviving contemporaries in the rural areas of the county.

Besides the Williams brothers' homes, the other major residences located in the Stuck Valley were constructed for Captain William Dobler, the Ames family, and J.R. Dickenson. These grand homes reflected the prosperity which accompanied hop production. Sadly, this prosperity was short; but local residents remember it as the time when Sumner was considered on a par with Puyallup and Tacoma, its nearest economic rivals. The homes of the Stuck Valley hop tycoons mentioned above have all been demolished or significantly altered and only the Williams' houses have maintained their integrity. These two homes remain important and unique reminders of an agricultural heritage that was largely responsible for the growth and development of this area of Pierce County.