

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received APR 4 1986

date entered MAY 8 1986

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

1. Name

historic Doe Bay General Store & Post Office

and/or common Doe Bay Village Resort & Retreat

2. Location

street & number End of County Road not for publication

city, town Doe Bay, Orcas Island vicinity of

state Washington code 053 county San Juan code 055

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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>n/a</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: recreation

4. Owner of Property

name Errol Cowan

street & number 3252 Holiday Court #108

city, town La Jolla vicinity of California state 92037

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. San Juan County Courthouse

street & number 350 Court Street West

city, town Friday Harbor state Washington 98250

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Washington State Inventory of Cultural Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date November 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Washington State Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

city, town 111 West 21st Avenue, KL-11, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Doe Bay General Store and Post Office stands on its original site at the eastern terminus of the County Road near Doe Bay on Orcas Island. Built in 1908, the store is perched on a 30 foot high rock bluff overlooking Rosario Straight to the south and east and fronted by the roadway to the west.

A single story wood frame structure, the Doe Bay General Store is rectangular in plan, measuring 42 by 54 feet, supported with posts and beams that rest on the large rock outcropping that drops away to the east. The dual pitch gable roof is set behind a false or "Western Front" parapet wall which now displays the store name. A full width sheltered porch provides access to what was once the post office on the north bay (10 by 42 feet), the store in the center bay (34 by 42 feet), and a tavern on the south bay (ten by 42 feet). Each of these bays is entered through a separate paneled door with upper-half windows divided into four lights. Two large four-light windows bracket the store entry and a small four-light window is at each end of the porch by the side entries. Four six-light fixed windows are grouped on the south (tavern) elevation. The building is clad with a combination of horizontal one by eight channel groove shiplap on the front elevation and four inch clapboard on the sides. The only alterations to the store are two bathrooms that have been added in the southwest corner and some interior wall materials. The original one by six beaded ceiling paneling and brick chimney centered on the east wall remain in place.

The large addition to the east of the store was built in 1936 as a dance hall and tavern overlooking the sheltered bay. Oriented perpendicular to the store, the north-south gable roof of the addition spans a two story 30 by 42 foot plan. Originally, only the upper level was enclosed, supported over the rocks by 12 inch round wood columns every six feet. In recent years, the lower level was also enclosed and is now used as a guest kitchen and dining area. The walls of the original upper level hall are clad with original cedar shingles.

The interior of the dance hall is lighted by three foot high, six light fixed windows grouped in bands of seven on the north and south elevations and 18 on the east. The space is clear-spanned with rafters tied together every four feet by exposed rough fir three-by-sixes. The interior wall surface is vertical one by eight inch vee-joint cedar siding. The northwest corner of the plan is occupied by a 12 by 25 foot kitchen and serving area. Spaced around the remaining perimeter are 12 of the original wood slatted booths. The room is accessed from the rear of the store and through an exterior doorway on the southwest. The only alterations are modern ceiling material, four small skylights, a wood stove in the southeast corner, and the enclosed lower level, which does not significantly detract from the integrity of the dance hall. An adjacent shed, sided with horizontal drop siding, with a single leaf door and a fixed six light window, is contemporary with the store and is included in the nomination. (Several small frame cottages are located near the Doe Bay General Store and are used as guest quarters for visitors to Doe Bay resort. The cottages are not historically significant and are not included in the nomination.)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	___ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ humanitarian
___ 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

1908 (store construction)

Specific dates 1936 (dance hall addn) **Builder/Architect** Store: Viereck Family
 1908-1936 (period of significance) Addition: William Boyer

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Doe Bay General Store and Post Office, built in 1908, is representative of a turn-of-the-century, rural commercial establishment which served the needs of the surrounding agricultural community. One of the few remaining unaltered examples of "false front" architecture in San Juan County, the store is closely associated with the development of agricultural trade and commerce in the isolated Doe Bay area. The attached tavern and dance hall, built in 1936, reflects the beginnings of a later phase of the region's economy, when tourism and recreational activity revived the failing agricultural economy of this island community.

In 1881, John G. Viereck, Doe Bay's first homesteader, contracted to carry mail from Eastsound three times a week, a rigorous 24 mile round trip by horse. The post office was in the Viereck home. Chagrined by the fact that Doe Bay, although the most isolated community on Orcas Island, was closest to the mainland shipping port of Bellingham, Viereck and his sons began rowing out to intercept the mailboat on its run from Bellingham to Eastsound and sorting out the Doe Bay mail on the spot. As a result, in 1894, Doe Bay became an official mail stop though the ship-to-shore connection remained via row boat. This was remedied in 1904 when the Viereck sons, together with community labor, constructed the first permanent dock, a precarious affair projecting off the rocks 20 feet above the water.

During the first decade of the new century, the population of Doe Bay grew significantly due to lucrative market returns from farming the rich land. It was apparent that the port should provide more services, so in 1908 another collaborative effort on the part of the community and the Viereck sons resulted in the building of the Doe Bay General Store and Post Office near the dock. The Viereck sons (who had been deeded the land with the passing of John G. Viereck in 1899) ran the store and Barnhart Viereck served as postmaster. In 1913, the Townend family bought the store and adjoining property, but Barnhart Viereck continued as postmaster until 1918, when his sister-in-law, Elizabeth, took over.

During the teens, eastern Washington orchard development dealt a death blow to the San Juan agricultural economy and Doe Bay, among other island communities, declined in population. However, Doe Bay remained an active port. Steamer cargo was replaced by passengers who had discovered Doe Bay and nearby Point Lawrence as prime camping and fishing spots. Mrs. Townend, who had lost her husband, married William Boyer in the early 1920's. Boyer was an enterprising man and recognized the potential of recreational development. By 1935, two large fishing resorts had been built at Point Lawrence and Boyer purchased additional land to develop the Twin Cedars resort at Doe Bay near the store. As part of the development, the tavern-dance hall was added to the store, poised dramatically above the water behind the store. The tavern was the center of night life for the resorts, which had dining halls but no entertainment facilities. (The Twin Cedar cabins survive, but are altered.) The dock received and the store distributed the necessary supplies to support these activities, and continued to serve the few subsistence farms that remained until the 1950's.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Mt. Constitution

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	0	5	1	6	2	6	0	5	3	8	7	4	1	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing									

B

Zone		Easting				Northing									

C

Zone		Easting				Northing									

D

Zone		Easting				Northing									

E

Zone		Easting				Northing									

F

Zone		Easting				Northing									

G

Zone		Easting				Northing									

H

Zone		Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is parcel 160224002, Part 3, Lot 5 of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 36, Township 36 North, Range 1 West, Willamette Meridian, San Juan County, Washington. To include only the area bounded by the County Road on the west, the water on the south & east, & described thusly:

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

(continued)

state	n/a	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert J. Patton, Professor

organization School of Architecture date June 29, 1985

street & number Washington State University telephone (509) 335-5539

city or town Pullman state Washington 99164

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.

for State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title DSHPO date 3.24.86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 5/8/86

for [Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The post office and tavern/dance hall operations were discontinued about 1954, but the general store continued to function minimally until 1975. A succession of owners committed to maintaining the low key atmosphere inherent in these structures has resulted in the retention of this special San Juan Islands landmark which was central to the economic well being of the community from 1908 until the 1930's and beyond. (Although the dance hall and tavern addition was constructed in 1936, it reflects an important development in the history of Doe Bay and the store, illustrating the changing economy of the area. As such, it forms an integral part of the commercial significance of the store property and is a contributing element in the nomination.)

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Abstract of Title, prepared for E.H. Viereck, February 27, 1919, San Juan County Clerk,
Friday Harbor, Washington.
Ramsey, Guy Reed, Postmarked Washington, Island County and San Juan County, Lopez Island
Historical Society, 1976.
Splitstone, Fred J., Orcas, Gem of the San Juans, Eastsound, Washington, 1946, Fred T.
Darvill, Bellingham, Washington, Cox Bros. Inc., 1954.
Viereck, Clinton, Interview (son of Oscar R. Viereck), P.O. Box 698, Blaine, Washington,
November 7, 1984.
Viereck Family Journal, prepared by Mary Viereck, P.O. Box 698, Blaine, Washington.

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V.B.D. Continued: Beginning at a point at the southern extremity of the County Road, parallel to the southern edge of the gas shed, proceed easterly approximately 65 feet; proceed northerly approximately 75 feet; proceed westerly to the county road; proceed southerly along the road until point of beginning.