

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88000702 Date Listed: 6/24/88

Jaaska House and Warehouse Thurston WA  
Property Name County State

Thurston County MRA  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Patrick Andrews*  
Signature of the Keeper

6/24/88  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

This property was architecturally significant based on the fact that the Jaaska House is one of the best intact examples of a cross-gable vernacular house built with cedar plank construction within the local context area. However, architecture was not indicated as an area of significance as it should have been. Following a telephone conversation with Leonard Garfield of the Washington SHPO office, it was determined that architecture should appropriately be included as an area of significance. As a result, beginning the period of significance in 1888 (the approximate date of the house's construction) is an acceptable reflection of the property's architectural significance.

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DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

# HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

## IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Site No. 34-18 OAHP No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Recorded 2/25/85 revised 8/87  
 Site Name Historic Jaaska House and Warehouse  
 Common n/a  
 Field Recorder ss/tc  
 Owner's Name Robin K. Kristiansen  
 Address 19520 Michigan Hill Road  
 City/State/Zip Code Rochester, WA 98579

### Status

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

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 L-shaped

Structural System Wood plank/frame

No. of Stories One; one and one-half

### 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) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Not visible

### Foundation

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

Integrity (Include detailed description in Description of Physical Appearance)

	Intact	Slight	Moderate	Extensive
Changes to plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Neg. No. 5s-12,13,16,18

(Roll No. & Frame No.)

View of House and warehouse, interior

Date 7/87

## LOCATION SECTION

Address 11300 Independence Road  
 City/Town/County/Zip Code Rochester vicinity/Thurston/98579  
 Twp 15N Range 4W Section 1 ¼ Section SE ¼ ¼ Section SE  
 Tax No./Parcel No. 14501430101 Acreage less than one  
 Quadrangle or map name Rochester 15  
 UTM References Zone 10 Easting 490650 Northing 5183550  
 Plat/Block/Lot See Verbal Boundary Description  
 Supplemental Map(s) See sketch map

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at the southeast corner Section 1, south 88° 53'39", west 1375.58 feet, S 24° 16'53", east 251 feet, north 72° 14'39", west 140.6 feet; south 27° 37'50", west 220.5 feet to north line of the county road, southeasterly along road to point of beginning. Less part lying within 30 feet of county road.

Verbal Boundary Justification: The nominated property includes the house and warehouse associated with Jaaska.

Contributing Resources: Two

Noncontributing Resources: 0

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

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

### Vernacular House Types

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

MAY 11 1988

## 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 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 checked="" 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 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 1911 (warehouse)

Date of Construction c. 1888 (house) Architect/Engineer/Builder R.M. Paton; Alex Jaaska Level of Significance: local  
Period of Significance: 1888-1937

- 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 Jaaska House and Warehouse are historically significant for their association with the Finnish logging town of Independence. The buildings are the last structures closely associated with the community of immigrants located at the junction of the Milwaukee and Oregon-Washington Navigation Company railroads in southwestern Thurston County. In addition, the Jaaska House is one of the best intact examples of a cross-gable vernacular house built with cedar plank construction.

Most of the early settlers in the area were of Swedish and Finnish descent who had come to the area seeking jobs in the lumber industry. The junction of the two lines was called "Helsing Junction" for their native Helsinki, Finland. On July 4, 1906, railroad tracks from Centralia and Hoquiam met at this spot and railroad workers renamed it "Independence." In 1908, a third railroad line came through, opening up the valley for logging firms and spur lines along the tracks. The community boasted a section house, depot, Finnish Lutheran Church, post office, meeting hall, and mercantile.

Alex Jaaska, a native of Finland, purchased the nominated property in 1903. The house was constructed c. 1888 by R.M. Paton. Jaaska built a store across the road from the house in Helsing Junction in 1911 and constructed the storage building on the property. In 1914, the Ninemier-Morgan Mill was started at Helsing, bringing an influx of population and trade for Jaaska's store. Other small mills and portable facilities also located in the valley as did farming and dairying. With the decline in the lumber industry, population moved elsewhere. By the 1970s, the church, mercantile, depot, and section house were torn down, as was Jaaska's store.

### Description of Physical Appearance

The Jaaska House and storage building are located in the Independence Valley near the Chehalis River, southwest of Rochester in sparsely populated southeast Thurston County. The main road originally ran in front of the house instead of its present location to the south. The house is a rectangular one and one-half story wood plank structure on a stone foundation. The gable roof is covered with wood shingles while the walls are clad with drop siding and cornerboards. Vertical boards skirt the foundation. Fenestration consists of tall narrow single and paired double-hung sash with one-over-one lights. The northeast corner features a rectangular one story bay with hooded roof, double-hung sash, and a panelled apron. A porch, recessed under the southeast corner of the roof, shelters the main entry door and an auxiliary door. The porch has turned posts with sawn brackets. The metal pipe railings and concrete steps leading to the entry are later additions.

The north end of the house has a shed-roofed porch running the width of the house which shelters two entry doors. The porch has plain posts and a wooden porch and steps. Adjoining the house on the south is a rectangular garage/out-building of later vintage. The building is clad in clapboard and has a gable roof with large doors on the south side and smaller windows punctuating the sides. A multi-paned glass enclosed porch is on the west side of the house adjoining the garage and main house.

The storage building is a rectangular wood frame structure with a tall central monitor gable roof flanked by lower shed-roofed sections. The roofs are shingled with exposed rafters and bracketed eaves. The south gable end has the main entry doors facing the road. Rows of small four-paned windows light the second story on the west and east (continued)

### Major Bibliographic References

- Ditch, Ann, and Hilma Englund. A Little History of Independence Valley, Washington State, State Capital Museum, Olympia, 1976.  
Interviews with Jaaska Family, Tenino, 1985 and 1987.  
Thurston County Assessor files.

## JAASKA HOUSE AND WAREHOUSE

### Description (continued):

facades. The north wall and part of the east wall on the first story are constructed of railroad ties.

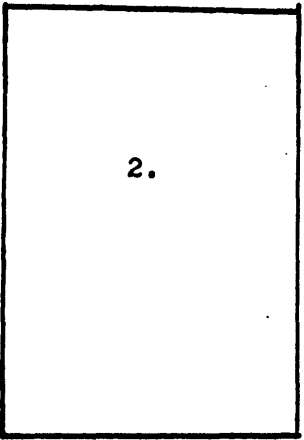
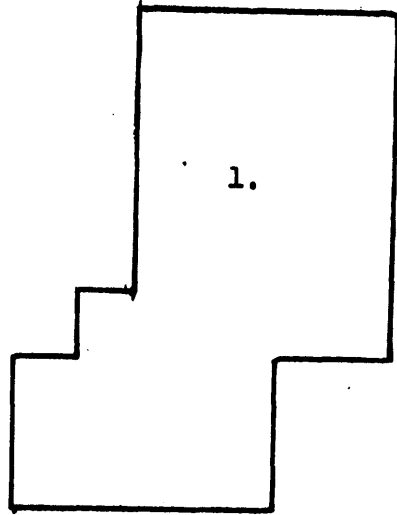
The house is nearly unaltered from the original with intact woodwork, floors, and walls. No modernization for a bathroom and little in the kitchen has been done. The house has recently been stripped down and is slated to undergo renovation. The storage building has had the floors replaced due to dry rot.

JAASKA HOUSE AND WAREHOUSE  
11300 Independence Road  
Thurston County, Washington

Building #1 = House (Contributing)  
Building #2 = Warehouse (Contributing)

---- = boundary

NOT TO SCALE



← INDEPENDENCE ROAD →