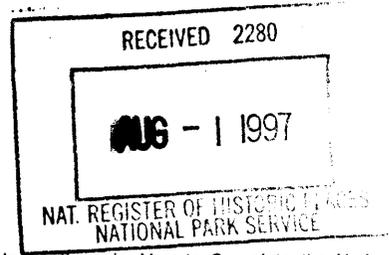


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1018

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Maloney's General Store  
other names/site number King County Historic Resources Inventory, #0536

### 2. Location

street & number 104 Railroad Avenue W not for publication  
city or town Skykomish vicinity  
state Washington code WA county King code 033 zip code 98288

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide X locally. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William ACTING SAPO 7.9.97  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

- I, hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
   See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
   See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain:)

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 8/29/97

Maloney's General Store  
Name of Property

King County, Washington  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not incl. previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing:**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Functions or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: general store

GOVERNMENT: post office

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation WOOD

walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof METAL

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria  
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1893-1948

Significant Dates

1893

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Maloney, John

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

King Co. Landmarks & Heritage

Maloney's General Store  
Name of Property

King County, Washington  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** less than one

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>6</u> <u>22</u> <u>940</u> Easting	<u>5</u> <u>285</u> <u>100</u> Northing	3	<u>    </u> Zone	<u>    </u> <u>    </u> <u>    </u> Easting	<u>    </u> <u>    </u> <u>    </u> Northing
2	<u>    </u> Zone	<u>    </u> <u>    </u> <u>    </u> Easting	<u>    </u> <u>    </u> <u>    </u> Northing	4	<u>    </u> Zone	<u>    </u> <u>    </u> <u>    </u> Easting	<u>    </u> <u>    </u> <u>    </u> Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Janet Garner and Rex Bakel, property owners; Cloantha Copass, King County Landmarks  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date March 1, 1997  
street & number P.O. Box 250 telephone (360) 677-2840  
city or town Skykomish state WA zip code 98288

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner** (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Janet Garner / Rex Bakel  
street & number P.O. Box 250 telephone (360) 677-2840  
city or town Skykomish state WA zip code 98288

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Maloney's General Store**  
**King County, WA**

### Description

#### Setting

Maloney's General Store stands at the northwest corner of Railroad Avenue W and Fifth Street in the heart of the Skykomish commercial district. The commercial district in Skykomish faces the railroad tracks, which before the opening of the Cascade Highway through Skykomish in 1925, served as the primary travel corridor through Skykomish. The railroad line was both the physical and economic focus of the community

The store is located in the Railroad Avenue Historic District. The district, which extends from Fourth to Sixth Avenues on the north side of Railroad Avenue, was included in the King County Historic Resources Inventory as Site #0536 in 1978. A local historic district, implemented in 1995, protects a larger section of the neighborhood. The Maloney Store (1893) and the Skykomish Hotel (1904), sited at the core of the historic Railroad Avenue historic district, are the most visually prominent buildings in the district. The store and hotel buildings flank the entry road from the present highway, which approaches from the north, and dominate the view of the town from the old Cascade Highway, which enters from the south.

The Skykomish commercial district initially developed in the early 1890s, growing to include not only Maloney's store but a hotel, and a few saloons, stores, and residences. However, in April 1904, all the commercial buildings except the Maloney Store burned to the ground. In addition to the Maloney Store, only a few residential structures have been identified which pre-date the fire.

Following the fire, new construction in Skykomish included the three and one-half story, hipped-roof Skykomish Hotel, with a tall front porch and balconies across the second and third story of the facade, as well as several saloons and commercial buildings east of the hotel on Railroad Avenue. Like the 1893 Maloney Store, these structures were built in a commercial vernacular style. Shared characteristics of the wooden buildings facing Railroad Avenue included single gable roofs behind boomtown facades and tall front porches which admitted light to the interiors while sheltering the south facing facades. The buildings were typically clad in beveled horizontal siding. While shingle roofs once predominated, metal roofs are now typical-- a response to Skykomish's heavy snowfalls.

#### Exterior

The store began as a 30' by 60' wood frame structure clad in fir drop siding with a single-gable shingle roof. This center structure remains, expanded by side additions. A rectangular "boomtown" facade, finished with a simple projecting cornice supported on wooden brackets, projects above the gable. Set within the upper story of the facade, a pair of centrally placed two-over-two double-hung windows provide light for the attic space. The large facade also provided a place for Maloney to promote his business; historically, a large flat sign reading *Gen. Merchandise, John Maloney Prop.* stretched across the facade below the cornice.

The storefront contains large wood frame display windows. The divided-light windows are arranged in a three-over-three pattern on either side of the door. Another set of windows angles

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### Maloney's General Store King County, WA

back from the others to create a recessed entry with a pair of narrow paneled and glazed entry doors. Historically, painted signs on the windows advertised Maloney's wares, as well as the location of the U.S. Post Office. The store windows rest on bases inset with decorative panels of angled beveled siding.

A hipped porch roof supported on four chamfered posts extends across the front of the store over the sidewalk, which was originally wood plank. The porch provides some protection to the large windows and created additional display space used by Maloney to display his wares.

By 1904, single-story shed additions had expanded the store on both side elevations. These additions, like the original building, have boomtown facades disguising the true roof line. The facades on these wings are lower than the central facade, but are finished with a bracketed cornice like the original. When the side additions were constructed, the porch roof was extended to the east, and a new shed porch roof, several feet lower than the main porch roof, was built for the western wing.

Built to provide additional storage area, the wings initially had warehouse doors on their facades. However, as the demand for commercial space grew, these wings were altered for use as shop space. Between 1904 and 1913, the west wing service door was replaced by a door and two flanking one-over-one windows to create a storefront for a meat market which used the space. By 1913, another shed addition on the west side further expanded the footprint of the store. This wing has a pair of centrally placed 3 x 4 wood frame divided light windows, which were installed in the 1940s to replace the original service door.

The east wing service door was replaced by a display window. Sometime after 1915, this corner was remodeled to create a separate shop space with its own door on the street. A corner entry door was installed and windows added to give the east wing its current appearance.

The east side of the store, which fronts on Fifth Street, has two doors--one to the rear of the store area and another to a rear office area. Additionally, a pair of two-over-two double-hung windows towards the south of this elevation light the shop space and a pair of one-over-one windows light the office area. The west side of the store has no fenestration other than a contemporary door providing access into the storage area.

Historically, covered additions extended from the north (rear) elevation of the building to the Maloney house located just north of the store. These passageways enabled family members to move between the two buildings without venturing outside in inclement weather. The Maloney house and the connecting passage were removed in the early 1940s, shortly after the death of John Maloney. At that time, a new rear wall was erected about eight feet in back of the original rear wall of the store, enclosing the exterior stair case. The rear elevation features three one-over-one windows lighting the stairs, and a contemporary wooden door.

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### Maloney's General Store King County, WA

#### Interior

The interior of the shop space maintains its historic appearance, with high ceilings and an open floor plan. Connecting doors lead to the wings and the rear enclosure. The floor is tongue-in-groove fir and the ceiling is covered with bead board. One noteworthy feature is a rolling ladder and track running the length of the store along the east wall which was used to reach goods stored on the floor-to-ceiling shelving which historically was located along the wall. Also of interest is the metal meat locker door in the west wing which is associated with the use of the west wing as a meat market.

Both porch and all three boomtown facades were removed in 1948, in an effort to modernize the appearance of the store. The original siding and roof material were covered at this time, and window trim was removed to install brick-pattern composition siding.

The Maloney Store was extensively restored between 1992 and 1996. Deteriorated portions of the post and beam foundation were replaced, and a new steel roof, typical of the Skykomish commercial district, was installed. Layers of vertical cedar siding and composition siding were removed and the original fir siding was repaired. Where the original siding was missing or severely deteriorated, new siding with a matched profile was installed. Window trim was reinstalled and rotten sills were replaced. The upper windows on the facade were restored, as was the corner door and two side doors on the east wing. Extensive interior restoration was also completed, including floor and ceiling repairs.

In the summer of 1996, the original rectangular boomtown facade and tall front porch with chamfered posts was rebuilt, based on documentation provided by historic photographs of the building. Restoration plans for the front porches and boomtown facade were reviewed and approved by the King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission. Work was completed in accordance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings, the design guidelines adopted by the Landmarks and Heritage Commission.

#### **Statement of Significance**

Maloney's General Store is significant for its association with John Maloney, founder of Skykomish and a prominent early citizen, and for its association with the early commercial development of Skykomish. Skykomish's first commercial building, Maloney's General Store housed the General Store and Post Office. The store was built in 1893, the same year the Great Northern Railway's transcontinental line was completed. Situated alongside the tracks, both the store and the community grew with the railroad. Successful as a merchant, John Maloney was instrumental in the development of nearby lumber mills, mines and rock quarries. He held numerous civic positions, and served as postmaster for 31 years. The Maloney Store demonstrates integrity of setting and appearance. The original store structure was enlarged and slightly altered during its period of significance to arrive at its present configuration.

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### Maloney's General Store King County, WA

When John Maloney came of age in the mid-1870s, he left his parent's Missouri farm and headed West. For awhile he worked as a mine laborer in Colorado, and the next twelve years found him prospecting in Arizona, Utah, South Dakota, and Alaska. In the fall of 1889, at the age of 33, John Maloney arrived in Seattle from Alaska. He was by now a skilled wilderness traveler.

It was at this time that James J. Hill sought to extend his railway, the Great Northern, west to link the Twin Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis with the emerging ports on Puget Sound. Hill's chief locating engineer, John F. Stevens, became acquainted with Maloney and enlisted him and C.F. Haskill to locate and survey a route through the rugged Cascade Mountains. They selected the pass which today bears Stevens' name and construction began in October 1890.

While exploring the area, John Maloney recognized its untapped wealth of natural resources and the economic possibilities with the coming of the railroad. He staked a claim where the tracks would be laid in a beautiful river valley fifteen miles West of the pass. The earliest people in the area were probably the Skykomish Indians who traveled up the valley from the West in the summer months to hunt and forage. The name "Skykomish" is derived from the Native American words "skaikh" meaning "inland" and "mish" meaning "people".

On January 6, 1893 track-laying crews working toward each other from the East and West met just West of the summit of Stevens Pass. James Hill's dream of uniting America's heartland with the West Coast was realized. That year John Maloney erected his general store building facing the tracks. The building housed a general store and post office. John Maloney became the first postmaster, a position he held for thirty-one years. The new depot was built in 1894 for both passenger and freight trains, and coal chutes were added as well. A schoolhouse was erected by public subscription and in 1894 a school district formed. More businesses and houses added to the community as well.

In 1895 John Maloney married Louisa J. Fleming, and in the following years eight children were born to them. John Maloney took a strong interest in his children's education and served on the school board for twenty years. As they grew older, the children participated in family business and took over the store's operation in later years. The eldest son, John Maloney Jr., served as postmaster for 29 years, retiring in 1963.

In 1899 John and Louisa Maloney filed a Plat of the Town of Skykomish. Four subsequent additions were filed in 1904, 1923, and 1927. In 1909 the Town of Skykomish incorporated with John Maloney as its first Mayor.

Skykomish's population and economy grew steadily in its first thirty-five years. The Great Northern's crossing over the pass was treacherous in winter months and continual improvements were needed as its use increased. A tunnel and an elaborate system of snow sheds were built to protect the tracks from heavy snows and avalanches. This construction project provided steady employment for hundreds of laborers and their families and an insatiable demand for lumber, concrete and other supplies.

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**Maloney's General Store**  
**King County, WA**

Maloney's General Store expanded with the town and the railroad. Around the turn of the century, east and west wings were added to the building for the warehousing of merchandise. The store provided all the necessities for day-to-day living, such as groceries, dry goods, meats, drugs, ladies and gents furnishings, hardware and furniture. People would come in and sit around the stove to converse and wait for the mail to arrive on the train. There were nine people working in the store, including a shipping clerk who did nothing but pack orders to be shipped on passing freight trains.

As his fortune grew, Maloney began investing in other business endeavors. He joined with John F. Stevens and two other men to form the Skykomish Lumber Company. He owned the Maloney Shingle Company and the Baring Granite Works, which produced stone used in the main building at the state capitol and office buildings in Seattle and other cities. Baring Granite Works also furnished many of Seattle's curbstones and memorial markers. Several of the Skykomish area mines, which produced gold, silver, copper, lead, coal and iron, were owned by Maloney.

Tragedy struck Skykomish on April 11, 1904 when the entire business district was nearly lost to fire. The Skykomish Hotel, two saloons, and two dwellings burned. According to a local news article, "The volunteer firemen did good work and it was only through their persistent efforts that the merchandise store of John Maloney, the sole survivor of the conflagration, was saved."

The town immediately began rebuilding, and in the years between 1905 and 1911 changes were made to the Maloney Store as well. A new warehouse for the store was built across the street alongside the tracks. This allowed the two wings on the store to be converted from warehouse to retail use. In addition, a second, smaller west wing was added to provide additional storage. The former west wing became a meat market.

In 1925 the Stevens Pass Highway was completed through Skykomish and over the summit, connecting the west and east sides by roadway. Over time the importance of the railway to Skykomish diminished, and the highway played an increasingly significant role, particularly by encouraging tourist travel in the area. The 1920s was a decade of continued growth in Skykomish. Maloney platted three new additions to the town. Work began on a new eight mile long tunnel to take the Great Northern trains safely through Stevens Pass. More than 1800 laborers worked round the clock for three years to complete the tunnel - the longest in the Western Hemisphere. Only one significant change was made to Maloney's Store during this time. The east wing was made into a storefront by adding a corner entry door and additional windows. The space was leased to Mr. Jaffe for the sale of men's furnishings. Later, the Post Office was moved out of the main store area and into this wing.

In 1940 John Maloney died at age 84. The family home, which sat on a lot to the North and was connected to the store via two enclosed walkways, was demolished shortly after his death. Maloney's heirs continued to operate the store and post office until the late 1980s. The building continues to house a commercial business.

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**Maloney's General Store**  
**King County, WA**

## **Bibliography**

King County Historic Resources Inventory Site #0536

Lentz, Flo. "Historical Overview of the Town of Skykomish, Washington." Prepared for the Town of Skykomish, 1996

### Newspaper Clippings

"John Maloney - A Historical Series of Skykomish Valley Pioneers", Valley News, July 18, 1968.

"Maloney Was There Before Sky", publication not known January 29, 1982.

"Skykomish Burned," Eighty Years Ago Today column, Valley News, April 11, 1984.

"Seems Like Yesterday", Everett Herald, July 2, 1975.

"A Tunnel Turns 50", Everett Herald, January 12, 1979.

"An Unheralded Last Spike", Everett Herald, July 2, 1975.

### Skykomish School Annual "Herald of the Hills" student essays 1921 - 1923:

McEvoy, Alice "The Future Of Skykomish"

McEvoy, Alice "History of the Town and School of Skykomish"

Manning, Adele "History of the Railroad Through Skykomish"

### Other Sources

Polk, R. L. "King County Directory" Vol. 1911-12

Private photo collection of Robert Norton, Skykomish, Washington.

Town Records and Maps on file, Town Hall, Skykomish, Washington.

Interview with Harold Gibson, Skykomish resident, March 20, 1995

## **Verbal boundary description**

S/W 1/4 of Section 26, Township 26 North, Range 11 East; Lots 1 and 2 of Block 5,  
Town of Skykomish; Parcel #780780-0645-04

## **Verbal boundary justification**

The boundary includes both lots associated with the Maloney Store structure.