

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 07000731

Date Listed: 7/13/2007

Humes Ranch Cabin (Boundary Increase  
& Additional Documentation)

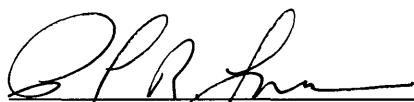
Property Name

Clallam  
County

WA  
State

Olympic National Park MPS  
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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

7/13/2007  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

-----  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Geographical Data:

The correct U. T. M. Coordinates for the property are: 10 459262 5310655  
[Clarification: The location and coordinates identified on the sketch and USGS maps  
accompanying this nomination do not match those found on the original 1977  
nomination, nor do they reflect the location identified on the USGS maps for the Humes  
Ranch. The corrected U. T. M. Coordinates (above) were produced by NPS staff using  
calibrated GPS technology, however, and are likely the most accurate.]

These clarifications were confirmed with the NPS FPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

731

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination 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 an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and area of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use typewriter, word processor or computer to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Humes Ranch Cabin (Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase)

other name/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 2.5 miles from the Whiskey Bend Trailhead: Elwha Sub-district

☐ not for publication

city or town Olympic National Park Headquarters, Port Angeles

☒ vicinity

state Washington

code WA

county Clallam

code 009

zip code 98362

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this

property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. ( ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official/Title

4-25-07  
Date

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official/Title

6-8-07  
Date

National Park Service  
State of Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

[Signature]

7/13/2007

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☒ public-Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
	Total

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter N/A if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Resources of Olympic National Park

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

1 building listed 9/14/77

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Interpretation

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone  
walls Wood Log (peeled poles)  
roof Wood Shake (cedar)  
other

### Narrative Description

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

Summary: The Humes Cabin was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. The Humes cabin is located along the Humes Ranch Trail, approximately 2.5 miles from the trailhead at Whiskey Bend, in the Elwha River drainage, in Olympic National Park. It is sited in a gently sloping, mountain terrace at the edge of a clearing, about 100 feet from the Elwha River flood plain, within the rain drenched mountainous interior of the Olympic Peninsula. Dovetail-notched logs form the main body of the small, one-story structure, built as a residence for early settlers in one of the most remote parts of this country. Originally a complex of several buildings, this log cabin and clearing is all that remains as evidence of these early settlers. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Humes Ranch Cabin  
Name of Property

Clallam County, WA  
County and State

## 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### 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)
- ☒ previously listed in the National Register: Sept. 14, 1977
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Criterion A: Exploration/Settlement

Criterion B: Recreation,  
Exploration/Settlement, Conservation

Criterion C: Architecture

### Period of Significance

circa 1900 – 1934 & 1941 – 1951

### Significant Dates

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Grant Humes

### Cultural Affiliation

### Architect/Builder

Grant and Will Humes

#### Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of Repository:

Humes Ranch Cabin  
Name of Property

Clallam County, WA  
County and State

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property:** 1.6 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	10	459262	5310655	3
	zone	easting	northing	
2				4

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is formed by lines completing a rectangle 100 feet from the four sides of the building in order to include the clearing, remaining orchard, and a forest backdrop.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the residence, remaining fruit trees, the clearing and the forest backdrop as a context to convey a sense of the historic setting.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Gail E.H. Evans, Historian / Stephanie Toothman, Regional Historian (1986), Gretchen Luxenberg, Historian (1998), and Jacilee Wray, Anthropologist (2005).

organization National Park Service, Columbia Cascade Support Office

date 1986/1998

street & number 909 1st Avenue

telephone (206) 220-4138

city or town Seattle

State Washington

zip code 98104-1060

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## Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

A **7.5 minute USGS map** 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.)

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## Property Owner

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

name

street & number

telephone

city or town

state

zip code

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places**

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Section 7 and 8

**Humes Ranch Cabin: Clallam County, WA**

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**Narrative Description:** The Humes Cabin was built as a single dwelling to house members of the Humes family who moved to the Olympic Peninsula from New York State in the late 1890s. Will and Grant Humes sited the cabin along the east bank of the upper Elwha River. The structure is a one-story building, rectangular in shape, on a stone foundation, and measuring 15' by 18'. At an unknown date a 15' by 9'10" addition was built on the rear. The main section of the cabin was constructed of hewn dovetail-notched logs; the rear attachment was of pole wall construction and sided with vertical weather boarding. The roofline was comprised of intersecting gable sections, both sheathed in cedar shakes. A hip roof porch supported by three slender logs extended across the main facade. A single window opening was incorporated into the west wall. An off-center door on the main (north) facade served as the primary entrance to the cabin interior. At an unknown date, a structure adjoining the main log cabin on the east was built. From a photograph taken in the 1920s, this addition appears as a gable-roofed structure, sided with vertical boards with a door and window opening on the north (main) facade.

Historically, the Humes Cabin property was a complex with several outbuildings, including a barn of pole construction with boards and shakes split from logs. Other improvements to the property included cleared land for crops such as alfalfa, oats, wheat, and grass, and pasture for animals such as horses and cattle. Old fruit trees remain standing in front of the cabin. The outbuildings, cabin additions, and barn were removed by the National Park Service in the 1950s.

Changes to the building include the replacement of the roof in the 1940s and in 1958, and the rehabilitation of the front porch in 1980. The NPS continues to undertake general preservation maintenance activities on the structure to ensure its preservation. The cabin with its landscape remnants has integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It meets the registration requirements set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation form for Historic Resources of Olympic National Park.

SEE ATTACHED INVENTORY CARD PREPARED IN 1982 FOR PROPERTY

### **Statement of Significance:**

**Summary:** The Humes Cabin, built c. 1900 along the Elwha River drainage, was constructed during a period of early homesteading activity in the rain-drenched mountainous interior of the Olympic Peninsula. Over half a century of continuous migration and settlement west of the Mississippi River concluded in the isolated, harsh environment now substantially contained in Olympic National Park. The Humes Cabin represents the efforts and spirit of the Anglo-American pioneer in settling the "last frontier" of the contiguous United States. Humes Cabin is one of the few remaining intact homestead residences on the peninsula and is the oldest extant homestead cabin in Olympic National Park. Grant Humes, occupant of the cabin for nearly 34 years, is credited with participating in the first group ascent of Mount Olympus, and led hundreds of recreationists into the Olympic interior through his guide and packing service. The Humes Cabin is significant for its association with early settlement in this rugged part of the peninsula (criterion A); for its association with Grant Humes and Herb and Lois Crisler, individuals significant in the Olympic Peninsula's Recreation, Exploration/Settlement, and Conservation history (criterion B); and because it represents a distinct method

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Section number 8

**Humes Ranch Cabin: Clallam County, WA**

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and type of design and construction: Log, Shake and Pole architecture (Criterion C). The building retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative: The Elwha River and its tributaries reach deep into the heart of the Olympic Mountains encircling Mount Olympus and its jagged, snow-capped neighbors on the east and south. The Elwha River extends farther inland than most major Olympic Peninsula rivers, and its watershed takes in 175 thousand acres. Notable early exploring expeditions, led by Joseph O'Neil in 1885 and James Christie in 1889-1890, found the Elwha Valley a natural pathway into the Olympic interior and the river provided an original route of entry into the mountains. In 1885 the lower Elwha was considered one of the oldest settled parts of Clallam County.

Settlement in the upper reaches of the Elwha River Valley, as in other interior peninsula valleys, did not occur until the late 1880s and early 1890s. In 1879, the Elwha valley was totally void of inhabitants. In 1885, when the party led by Joseph O'Neil traveled along the upper brushy slopes to the east of the Elwha River, the party found many traces of hunters and a "little old log cabin...under the brow of a protecting hill" (Evans 1983, 77). No other signs of white occupancy along the Elwha River were mentioned in O'Neil's account of the expedition.

By the late 1880s, however, two Norwegian brothers, Henry S. and Jake Hansen, were living in the upper Elwha Valley. Soon after abandoning their original plan to claim land farther up the river, they settled on plots near the confluence of Indian Creek and the Elwha in T.30 N., R.7 W., Sec. 29 (just north of the present park boundary). Henry Hansen selected a small clearing on the south side of Indian Creek that had been taken up by an earlier settler. Slightly to the east of Henry Hansen's homesite near the mouth of the Little River, William MacDonald built a cabin (in Sec. 28) on the east bank of the Elwha River. In the winter of 1889-1890, the Press expedition, led by James Christie, encountered MacDonald's hospitality as the Press party was preparing for its navigation up the Elwha. Members of the Press party described MacDonald's cabin and clearing as the "outpost of civilization" (Evans 1983, 77). William MacDonald shortly afterward (1891) became the first postmaster in the upper Elwha, and the hollowed-out cedar stump which served as the original "McDonald" post office was a local landmark for many years. Henry Stringham succeeded MacDonald as postmaster in 1898 when he purchased the MacDonald homestead. Soon after Paul Laufeld and his family of four replaced Stringham at MacDonald's Little River clearing.

In the early 1890s, others came and settled in the upper Elwha Valley near Indian Creek and Little River. Claims were made on both sides of the river. By late 1893, General Land Office surveyor Henry Fitch located only three settlers in the township south of the Elwha junction of Little River and Indian Creek, now included in Olympic National Park (T. 29 N., R. 7W). Around 1889, Warriner Smith built a cabin in the rugged, heavily forested slopes on the east side of the Elwha River near the mouth of Madison Creek. In December 1889, the Press expedition visited Smith's vacant cabin intent on constructing a boat that would carry the party deep into the Olympic range. For ten days in early February 1890, Press party members made themselves at home on Smith's Madison Creek claim while they waited for clear weather before continuing their trek. Expedition members described Smith's uninhabited cabin as log "with spaces between the logs from one to three inches with loose sheeting inside of cedar shakes, a breezy and well ventilated cabin for this kind of weather" (Evans

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**Humes Ranch Cabin: Clallam County, WA**

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1983, 78). Proceeding slowly up the Elwha River on a faint old trail, the party encountered one other evidence of white habitation on the river--the clearing and unoccupied cabin of Dr. A.B. Lull about 100 yards from the Elwha River somewhere near the mouth of Griff Creek. In the winter of 1889-1890, Dr. Lull's Griff Creek clearing and cabin were apparently the last outpost on the upper Elwha. This is where the Press party met the Klallam Indians who directed them up an Indian trail.

Although hunters, trappers, and occasional miners probably wandered through sections of the upper Elwha, now within the present boundaries of Olympic National Park, the next known settlers on the upper Elwha did not arrive until the mid-1890s. From Tacoma, Washington, Ernst Krause, a German immigrant and painter, and his wife Meta, established a log house, barn, garden, and orchard in a low valley shelf on the east bank of the Elwha River where they kept cows, horses, mules, pigs, and chickens. The Krause's were building a new home and clearing more land in the area when a slash fire they were tending swept out of control and consumed their homestead buildings and animals. Discouraged, the Krauses returned to Tacoma, and a small, grassy opening with small hummocks of disturbed ground and scattered fruit trees are all that remain at Krause Bottom today.

In mid-fall of 1897 three easterners arrived in Port Angeles: two brothers, Will and Martin Humes, and their cousin, Ward Sanders. Reared on a farm in upstate New York, they came from a family that guided and packed hunting parties in the Adirondack Mountains. Their purpose, however, was not to farm but to mine for gold, either on the peninsula or, possibly, in Alaska. Immediately after settling temporarily in an unoccupied rancher's cabin about thirteen miles south of Port Angeles on the Elwha River, Ward Sanders dug into a ledge outcropping, hoping to find gold. Even while great mineral wealth along the Elwha River seemed doubtful, all three of the party were impressed by the abundance of deer, elk, and fish in and around the Elwha. Will wrote to his family that there was abundant good pasture land and that if he found a suitable site, he would settle down in the sheep business (Evans 1983, 79). By March 1898, Martin, Will, and Ward had taken up ranches in the upper Elwha: Ward and Will selected adjoining parcels between Idaho Creek and Lillian River; Martin's land was two to three miles upriver. Immediately, Martin and Ward began clearing land in preparation for gardens.

Ward Sanders described their early settlement activities in letters to his East Coast cousins. He described in great detail the elk, deer, bear, and "cat" hunting expeditions they took on the wooded slopes of the Elwha River. An avid hunter and lover of the outdoors, a third Humes' brother was attracted to the Elwha country. In late 1899, Grant Humes came to the Elwha Valley.

Shortly after Grant's arrival on the Elwha, Martin Humes left the area and in 1905 died in Idaho. Ward Sanders apparently stayed with his cousins for a few years and then also left, occasionally returning to visit. Soon after Grant arrived, he and brother Will built a cabin of hewn logs on the east side of the Elwha, north of the confluence with Antelope Creek. While hunting for elk, deer, and cougar continued as a major fall sport, subsistence, and cash-producing activity, Will and Grant spent summers farming. In a 1901 letter Will described his farming plans for the next year, which included preparing the land for beef cattle, building a new barn, and plowing up 4-5 acres of new ground for wheat, alfalfa, and oats.



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With the increased number of mountaineering and sport hunting groups entering the Olympic interior, both Will and Grant engaged in an active packing business. The packing business during the fall hunting seasons was especially lively in the early 1900s. The two were well-known in the business and catered primarily to outdoor and sports enthusiasts from the Seattle area. They planned to enlarge their house to provide expanded accommodations for summer and fall packing parties. During the long and damp winter months, Will and Grant often engaged in clearing and opening sections of trail along the Elwha River to facilitate the movement of their pack horses.

About 1916 Will Humes went back east when the Humes' father died, and he never returned to live permanently on the Elwha River. Grant Humes remained at the ranch, pursuing a life of farming, hunting, packing, and guiding, even as the community of settlers downstream grew larger and the flow of traffic on the Elwha trail increased. Humes augmented his supply of hay from the field near his cabin with grass sown and harvested on the old Anderson ranch across the river. Each year Grant harvested a variety of vegetables from his garden. In the 1920s, he often hunted for cougar in the mountains around the Elwha. Packing and guiding continued to provide Humes with a cash income even when other lower Elwha River residents joined the trade. As the Elwha River drainage became more and more a recreation area for outdoors people, Grant was sometimes hired to construct trails and seasonal hunting and fishing cabins.

After several months of failing health, Grant Humes died in Port Angeles in 1934. Following the death of Grant Humes, the Humes' Cabin stood vacant for six years before Herb, and later, Lois Crisler took up residency there. A native of Georgia, Herb Crisler first arrived on the Olympic Peninsula in 1919. While living in Port Angeles, he pursued wildlife photography for a short period. After an unsuccessful business venture in Seattle in the late 1920s, Crisler returned to the peninsula in 1930 to make his epoch trans-Olympic Mountain hike--without food or weapons to kill game. This widely publicized trek became the first of several Crisler exploits that brought widespread attention to the beauty and recreational potential of the wild Olympic Mountains. Soon after Crisler's marriage to Lois Brown around 1940, both Herb and Lois Crisler made extended summer hiking expeditions into the mountains to film the abundant wildlife. In conjunction with these trips, the Crislens erected several shelters and caches on high mountain slopes--many of which still stand today. In 1949, Walt Disney purchased the Crisler's elk film footage that was shown on Disney's nationally televised True-Life Adventure series in 1952. In addition to this form of visual media that drew attention to Olympic wildlife, Lois Crisler documented her observations of the Olympic Mountains and the Crisler's lifestyle in newspaper and magazine articles and in books. At various times when preservation of the Olympic wilderness appeared threatened, Lois Crisler was an ardent and vocal supporter of the conservation of the wilderness qualities of the Olympics. The Humes Cabin served as the seasonal residence of the Crislens from 1941 to 1951. The cabin possesses special significance for its association with the lives of these two individuals who through film and writing encouraged both the conservation and the recreational development of Olympic National Park.

Years after the Crislens moved away, the old Humes' barn (in 1958) and structures adjacent to the Humes Cabin (in 1970) were removed by the National Park Service. The legacy of the Humes family and the way of life of these early Elwha Valley residents are represented by the extant Humes Cabin (circa 1900), officially listed in

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the National Register of Historic Places on September 14, 1977. This form provides supplemental information. Today, Humes Cabin remains one of the oldest structures in Olympic National Park.

The Humes Cabin is significant and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, under the theme of settlement. It is one of the few remaining intact homestead residences on the peninsula and is the oldest extant homestead cabin in Olympic National Park. Over half a century of continuous overland migration and settlement west of the Mississippi River concluded in the isolated, harsh environment in what is today Olympic National Park. The Humes' Cabin is significant and eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion B, for its association with Grant Humes, an individual widely known for his prowess as a hunter and fisherman who was frequently employed as a guide for hiking, fishing, and hunting parties. Built around the turn of the century, the Humes' Cabin was the home of early and long-time Elwha River valley resident, Grant Humes. Humes was among the earliest settlers in this section of the valley and, during his lifetime on the Elwha River, he pursued a life typical of many Olympic Peninsula pioneers. Farming and hunting occupied much of his time during his years in the valley. As the recreational potential of the Elwha valley was realized, Humes supplemented his income by guiding, mountaineering, fishing, and hunting parties into the Olympics. Humes Glacier on Mount Olympus is named in commemoration of Grant and Will Humes who became favored guides for early hikers. Over a period of several years, Grant Humes worked to open and maintain sections of the Elwha River trail, thereby encouraging the use of the trail by hunters, anglers, and hikers. On several occasions, Grant Humes was employed to build retreat cabins for sportsmen who visited the Elwha Valley regularly. Although the barn, shed, and smaller Humes-constructed homestead farm structures are no longer standing, the Humes Cabin itself is historically significant because of its association with Grant Humes, a locally important figure in the settlement and recreational development in the Elwha River Valley of the Olympic Peninsula. The cabin is also significant for its association with Herb and Lois Crisler, two individuals who through film and writing encouraged both the conservation and the recreational development of Olympic National Park.

The Humes Cabin is significant and eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C, as one of the best surviving examples of the log structures built by the early settlers on the Olympic Peninsula. The climate and environment in which these early structures were built is not conducive to the long-term health and existence of these types of properties. The method of construction represented by this structure reveals important information as to how these early settlers lived and survived in this rugged place.

**Bibliography:** Evans, Gail. Historic Resource Study. NPS. 1983.

