

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Washington
COUNTY: Lewis
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE APR 24 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Claquato Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
3 miles west of Chehalis on Highway #6

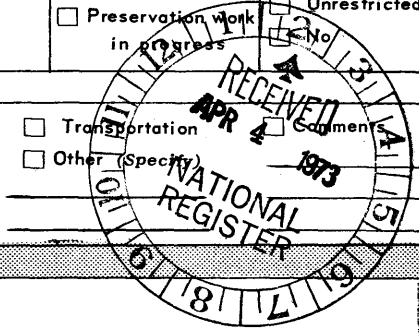
CITY OR TOWN:
Claquato

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
#3 - Hon. Julia B. Hansen

STATE: Washington CODE: 53 COUNTY: Lewis CODE: 041

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Lewis County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Lewis County Courthouse - 15 North

CITY OR TOWN:
Chehalis

STATE:
Washington

CODE:
53

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Lewis County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
15 North

CITY OR TOWN:
Chehalis

STATE:
Washington

CODE:
53

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lewis H. Davis filed for a donation claim of 640 acres in 1853, the year Washington achieved Territorial status. Claquato Hill was included in the claim. Four years later, he built a sawmill. The first lumber from the sawmill was donated by him for the building of a community church. Claquato Hill was selected as the site. A brother-in-law made the doors and casings for doors and windows. The village blacksmith forged the larger nails. Other settlers donated labor to construct the church which was completed in 1858. Pioneers in nearby Boistfort presented the pews, pulpit and pastor's chair. Only the latter is missing today. The bronze bell, still hanging in the belfry was purchased by public subscription. It was cast in Boston in 1857, by Henry A. Harper & Company and shipped around the Horn to Washington Territory.

The box-type structure is small, only 20' X 30', with a sanctuary 20' X 23'. Siding is of whip-sawn boards; doors are hand-mortised and pegged. The belfry consists of a louvered square upon which is superimposed a louvered octagon of lesser dimensions. This, in turn, is mounted by a symbolic crown of thorns.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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SIGNIFICANCE

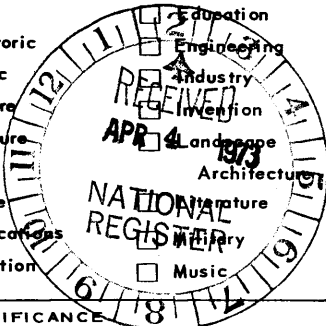
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1858

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | <u>settlement</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The history of the Claquato Church parallels that of the village of Claquato which existed three miles west of Chehalis. Except for the Episcopal Church in Port Townsend (built in 1865), it is the last of all the early territorial churches to remain standing. Built in 1858, the Claquato Church was the third Protestant Church erected in the entire vast area north of the Columbia River. It was the principle preaching place of the Chehalis River circuit. Both church and village were due principally to the foresight and fortitude of one man, Lewis H. Davis. He built a one-room log cabin for the first family home and with the help of the few settlers began an ambitious program of road building. Through grants from both national and territorial governments, ostensibly for defense against Indian uprisings, the roads were improved and extended and the main north-south artery became known as the Military Road and is so known today. This road also served as the main street of the village.

Claquato became a way-station for all overland travel from the Columbia River to the little port settlements of Olympia and Steilacoom and to the trapping and trading posts along the way. Territorial status increased traffic and Claquato became the largest community between the Columbia River and the territorial capitol, Olympia. Two hotels, general store, church, stables, blacksmith and carpenter shops were the nucleus of village life as well as affording conveniences and comfort to the travelers.

The church deed stipulated that the church must be made available as a school building, if necessary, for a specific number of years. The school building up to this time has been a nearby log cabin. Like the village, the school was of special importance in this thinly populated area and was shortly named Claquato Academy.

As population increased, the valleys below the hills begin to fill with settlement. The railroad drew people to the newly established town of Chehalis, three miles east. A new school was built on the opposite side of the Chehalis River in 1873, causing Claquato to dwindle still further in population and in importance.

Through its early years, the Claquato Church was a source of pride and cheer as well as one of solace. Pioneer marriages were solemnized; young and old were baptized; and the last rites for the departed were held within its walls.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic Claquato Church by Roscoe B. Doane, American Legion
Restoration Committee

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

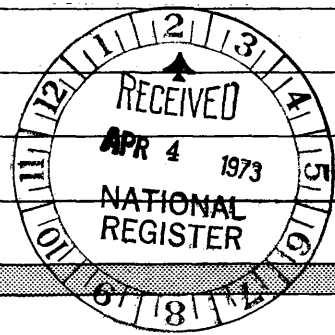
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		46 38 35	123 01 11	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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02

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: James O. Backman

ORGANIZATION: Lewis County Historical Society DATE: 7/13/72

STREET AND NUMBER: 1070 Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN: Chehalis STATE: Washington CODE: 53

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Charles H. Odegaard
Charles H. Odegaard

Title Director - Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Date March 26, 1973

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

Robert M. Utley
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/24/73

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 4/16/73

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Washington	
COUNTY Lewis	
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(Number all entries)

#8 Significance

Claquato Church

Services were held in the building until the mid 1930's. When it stood vacant, vandalism occurred and rapid deterioration set in. Since the property had ceased to belong to any organized religious group, the Commissioners of Lewis County took it over with title vested in the name of the county. Post Number 22, American Legion was granted permission to restore the church as a public service. This was completed in August, 1953, and was at that time rededicated as a memorial to the pioneers of Lewis County.

