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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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MAR 31 1993

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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 an 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 Aircraft Warning Service Observation Tower

other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number 216 Spring Road  not for publication

city or town Agnew  vicinity

state Washington code WA county Clallam code 009 zip code 98324

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.)

Mary Hanover 3/11/93  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
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 of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or 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 entered in the National Register

Date of Action

Debra Byer 4/29/93

**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
1		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

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

Defense

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

Not in use

**7. Description**

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

N/A

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls wood: planks  
wood: shingles

roof asphalt

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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Military

**Period of Significance**

1941-1943

**Significant Dates**

1941; 1943; 1992

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Cook, Fred and Jean (builders)

See text

**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) 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 Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Aircraft Warning Service Observation Tower

Clallam County, WA

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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

3 Zone Easting Northing
4 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

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 Leonard Garfield and Harriet Fish

organization Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation date February 15, 1992

street & number 111 W. 21st Street SW telephone (206) 586-2901

city or town Olympia state WA zip code 98504

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Harriet U. Fish

street & number Post Office Box 908 telephone (206) 452-9195

city or town Carlsborg state WA zip code 98324

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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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1

## Aircraft Warning Service Observation Tower, Sequim vicinity, Clallam County

**Description:** Built in December 1941, the Aircraft Warning Service Observation Tower is a 35-foot tall wood frame structure constructed by civilian volunteers living in the Dungeness area. Originally, the tower was located near the southeast corner of Old Olympic Highway and Kitchen-Dick Road just south of the Fred and Jean Dick Cook farmhouse. In December 1992, the tower was moved two miles west along the Old Olympic Highway to its current site a few feet north of the Harriet Fish residence. Located on the same prairie, the new site closely approximates the original in orientation and setting.

The tower is built on a nearly square plan that measures eight and one-half feet by eight feet, and rises three stages. The tower, which originally rested directly on the ground, was placed on a poured concrete pad at the new site. The corner posts have been reinforced at their bases with metal brackets. The structure, which was built by local farmers using whatever materials were at hand, features a frame of dimension lumber with vertical plank walls. The lower walls feature battens and the top story of the tower has been faced with a covering of coursed shingles. The tower is sheltered by a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles.

Each stage of the tower is completely enclosed to form a small undivided room accessed through a single leaf door. The rooms are unfinished and unadorned with simple plank floors and ceilings (plywood lines the walls of the top story). The only fixture in the tower is a built-in writing shelf or observation desk in the corner of the top unit. Each level is lighted by wood-sash windows of varying sizes and configurations. Windows on the bottom level are paired; the second floor includes multi-light and fixed pane windows; the top level, where the observation desk was, is extensively glazed with banded sliding windows, paired double-hung windows, and fixed lights.

An open platform, supported by two-by-fours, surrounds the upper level and features plank flooring and a crude two-by-four wood railing with plain boards. The view from the deck today affords the same view as from its original location.

To access the upper levels of the tower, an open staircase was constructed against the side of the structure with platform landings at the second and third stories. A few steps of the staircase at the bottom level were replaced after the structure was moved because of deterioration.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Aircraft Warning Service: Observation Tower, Sequim vicinity, Clallam County

Description continued:

When the property was moved in 1992, the top section of the tower was lifted by an 85-foot crane; the structure was then placed on flat bed trucks in two sections, moved two miles down the road, and reassembled at the new site. Three men completed the project in about five hours. In addition to placing the tower on a new concrete pad, the tower was turned slightly to avoid heavy winds, and the staircase and platforms were reinforced.

Statement of Significance:

The Dungeness area Aircraft Warning Services Observation Tower is a rare reflection of the role of civilian volunteers in protecting American security and contributing to the homefront war effort during World War II. In response to the threat of air attacks, residents of the Dungeness area joined together to build the observation tower and then manned it around the clock for two years, reporting aircraft activity to "filter centers" in Seattle and Port Angeles. Constructed shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December, 1941, the tower was under the supervision of chief observer Jean Dick Cook on whose property it was built. Cook and her several hundred volunteers were mostly women (as were the civilian volunteers at the centers where the observations were plotted) and they kept the warning system in full operation around the clock until October, 1943. Although other towers have been dismantled or fallen into disrepair, the Dungeness tower remained intact and served as a Civil Defense tower in the 1950s. In December 1992, 51 years after its construction, the tower was moved to a nearby site in order to ensure its continued preservation.

**Exception to the National Register/State Register criteria consideration regarding moved properties:** Although National Register and State Register criteria normally exclude moved properties, exception is made when a property is the most significant example of a type of construction; when the new location is comparable to the original in terms of setting,

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Aircraft Warning Service Observation Tower, Sequim vicinity, Clallam County

Significance continued:

orientation, and context; and when the move itself does not damage the character-defining features of the property. Survey data indicates that the Dungeness tower is the only intact observation tower in the region, that the new location (two miles due west on the same prairie on the south side of the Old Olympic Highway) provides the same views; and that the new location closely approximates the original in its setting. The move itself was conducted under careful supervision to insure that the structure was relocated with minimal alteration to the physical fabric of the tower.

**Historical Background:** In the aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor and America's entry into the war, the United States Army Air Forces established the Aircraft Warning Service to monitor air activity along both coasts of the United States. The service enlisted local resident volunteers to establish and operate observation towers, and to report any observations to various "filter centers" manned by military personnel and civilian volunteers, where the messages were deciphered and mapped.

Numerous towers were built along Washington's Pacific Coast and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Under the command of the United States Army Air Forces IV Fighter Command, the Aircraft Warning Services tower for the Dungeness-Agnew area was built of donated materials by farm families in the area and constructed immediately behind Fred and Jean Dick Cook's farmhouse. Jean Cook assumed the position of "chief observer," but she enlisted an estimated 300 volunteers to help man the 24-hour watch.

The observation tower was connected by telephone to "filter centers" in both Seattle and Port Angeles where the information was relayed in code that gave the location and a description of the spotted aircraft. At the filter center, the information was transposed and placed on a large area map. Many of the volunteers at the filter center were women assuming the roles of "plotter," "filter," and "teller." Observing from above or aside the large map were Air Force Fighter Command officers who interpreted the information and made decisions for action. The Port Angeles filter center was located in the old Joseph Paris Garage on West First Street, while a Seattle center was located at the downtown County-City Building and staffed by officers stationed at Fort Lawton.

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Aircraft Warning Service Observation Tower, Sequim vicinity, Clallam County

Significance continued:

The observation program continued from 1941 until October 1943, at which time the filter centers were turned over to the military and the civilian workers placed on stand-by status. Eventually, the Seattle Filter Center was closed and its operation moved to McChord Air Force Base near Tacoma. But following the war, the Dungeness tower was again pressed into service, this time as a Civil Defense observation tower operated by the volunteers of the Ground Observer Corps.

Most of the observation towers on the peninsula were dismantled after the war; others fell into ruin. Two other towers known to have existed in the region included a tower near Sequim Bay and one at the Port Angeles airport. The Port Angeles tower, which stood 75 feet high, was dismantled in the 1970s and the top of the lookout transported to the Olympic Game Farm near Sequim. The Dungeness tower was maintained throughout Mrs. Cook's life and remained on its original location until December 1992 when the present owners felt it necessary to remove the structure because of potential liability risks. In an interesting twist of fate, the tower is now located on the property of Harriet U. Fish, who served at the Seattle "filter center" where she frequently communicated with the Dungeness tower. Years later, Fish and her husband moved to the Dungeness area after they made a visit to the region to meet the volunteers with whom she had become familiar.

Bibliography:

Harriet Fish, "Tower Stands a War Monument," Port Angeles Daily News, February 14, 1982, p. C2.

Harriet Fish, "Wartime Filter Centers Monitored Air Reports," Port Angeles Daily News, February 21, 1982.

Dean Mosiman, "Historian Saves Tower of Power," Port Angeles Peninsula Daily News, December 12, 1992, p. 1.

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is located on the parcel legally described as S 25 ESWSW, E of Creek 4.56 acres, #330200-0000. (Continued)



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Continued:

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is a rectangular parcel of land located on the legally described parcel # 330200-0000 (R4T30S7). The property is further defined within that legal parcel thusly: beginning at the intersection of Spring Road and the Fish private drive, proceed to the end of the drive, and proceed west approximately 200 feet to the point of beginning. From POB, proceed 100 feet west, 100 feet north, 100 feet east, and 100 feet south to the POB.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property includes that portion of the legal parcel which includes the observation tower and immediate setting, providing an appropriate environmental context for the relocated structure but excluding the non-related structures and fields on the legal parcel.