

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Washington	
COUNTY: Whatcom	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.12.53.0013	DATE 12/13/71

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Pickett House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
910 Bancroft Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Bellingham

STATE: Washington

CODE: 53

COUNTY: Whatcom

CODE: 073

Honorable Lloyd Meeds  
CONG. DISTRICT # 2

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Meeting House <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Daughters of the Pioneers, c/o Mrs. Hal Roach

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2417 Kulshan Street

CITY OR TOWN: Bellingham

STATE: Washington

CODE: 53

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Whatcom County Auditors Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Whatcom County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Bellingham

STATE: Washington

CODE: 53

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: District of Columbia

CODE: 11

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STATE: Washington

COUNTY: Whatcom

ENTRY NUMBER: 71.12.53.0013

DATE: 12/13/71

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pickett House was built in 1856, and is presently standing on the original site. It is a two story frame house, with wood and concrete foundation. The main portion of the house contained a study, master bedroom downstairs and two bedrooms upstairs, with access to the upper floor provided by a ladder. A leanto at the side of the house contained the dining room and kitchen. There was a fireplace in the kitchen, with a chimney made of mud and sticks. Renovations have been made by various owners, in order to make the house more livable. A newer kitchen was built on the back of the leanto, and the first kitchen became the present bathroom. The original dining area has become the caretaker's living room, so that the entire leanto area is a small apartment for the caretaker. The study in the main portion of the house is now an elegant living room, and the master bedroom is a dining room, where the meetings of the Daughters of the Pioneers are held once a month. The ladder to the upstairs rooms has been replaced with a small staircase. All the rooms have wallpaper hung over the original wide undressed planks, and the original floor boards have several newer layers of wood flooring over them. The plumbing and wiring is recent, with electric heat recently installed as baseboard units. Also on the property is a pear tree planted by Captain Pickett in 1856, which is still producing large crops of pears annually, and the stables, which have not been renovated.

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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) **1856**

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 type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry            | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | History   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape           | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature          | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music               |  |   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pickett House, built in 1856, is one of the few remaining buildings in Whatcom County that date to the earliest days of the white settlement on Bellingham Bay. It is an undistinguished small house, but was for awhile the home of a most distinguished man, General George E. Pickett, of Civil War fame. Pickett was sent as Captain in charge of Company D, Ninth Infantry, in August of 1856 to erect a fort on the bay to protect the small settlement from Indian raids, for at this time, the entire Northwest was expecting a major Indian uprising. The fort was built a few miles northwest from Bellingham, around the bay, and Pickett's house was constructed at the same time, on the bluff above the bay, in the dense woods on the northwest edge of the settlement. The lumber used for the house and the fort was cut at the Roeder mill on Whatcom Creek, and this sawmill was essentially the nucleus of the settlement, with approximately twenty families on homestead claims. Captain Pickett married an Indian woman from a noble family of the Haida tribe, in the year after his arrival, and a son, James Tilton Pickett, was born to them December 31, 1857. Several months afterwards, Mrs. Pickett died, and Captain Pickett cared for the boy until 1859, when his company was removed to San Juan Island, in the Straits of Juan de Fuca, some miles to the west of Bellingham, during the San Juan Boundary Dispute with Great Britain. The boy, through his father's friend, Major James Tilton (Jimmie's namesake), was placed in the care of earlier acquaintances, the William Collins of Arcadia, Washington, near the present capitol of Olympia. Pickett resigned his commission in 1861 and went by ship to the south, to join the Confederacy. He never returned to Washington or saw his son again, but through the underground, he communicated with Major Tilton, a Union officer, and managed to provide the boy with supplies and clothing. Major Tilton had assumed a great portion of the responsibility for young Jimmie. Pickett married a childhood sweetheart, La Salle Corbett of Richmond, in 1864. Later, after Gettysburg and Pickett's famous charge, Pickett was parolled with other Southern officers. He was maligned in Congress by a bitter Union officer, General Butler, after Lincoln's assassination, and with his wife was forced to find safety in Canada. They later were given safe conduct by General Grant, and they returned to Virginia. Pickett died at age fifty, on July 30, 1875, and was later interred with full military honors.

The Pickett House has been constantly occupied since it was built in 1856. Pickett left it in 1859, and it was later sold, exchanging hands until the last

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Significance

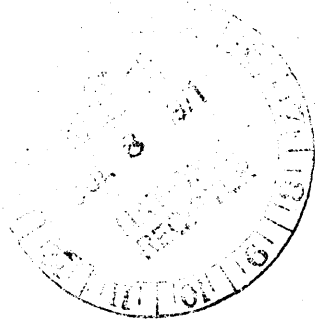
# 8 (continued)

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Washington	
COUNTY Whatcom	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Number all entries)

individual owner bought it in 1889. The property was conveyed by the owner to the Washington State Historical Society on January 25, 1936, and it was maintained by the state until September of 1965, when the Society presented it to the Daughters of the Pioneers. It is maintained by the Daughters as a small museum for mementoes of Captain Pickett and early Whatcom County; a young caretaker couple occupies the house now, and guided tours are given for school children and other groups.



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Edson, Lelah Jackson. - The Fourth Corner, Whatcom Museum of History and Art, Bellingham, Washington, 1968.

Jeffcott, P.R. - Nooksack Tales and Trails, Ferndale, Washington, 1949.

Roth, Lottie Roeder. - History of Whatcom County, two volumes, Pioneer Historical Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois and Seattle, Washington, 1926.

**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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		48	45	23
NE	° ' "	° ' "		122	29	04
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Charlotte V. Schneider, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Whatcom Museum of History and Art DATE: March 26, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER: 121 Prospect Street

CITY OR TOWN: Bellingham STATE: Washington CODE: 98225 53

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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. Odegard  
Charles H. Odegard

Title Director - Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Date July 6, 1971

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Ernest A. Connally  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DEC 13 1971

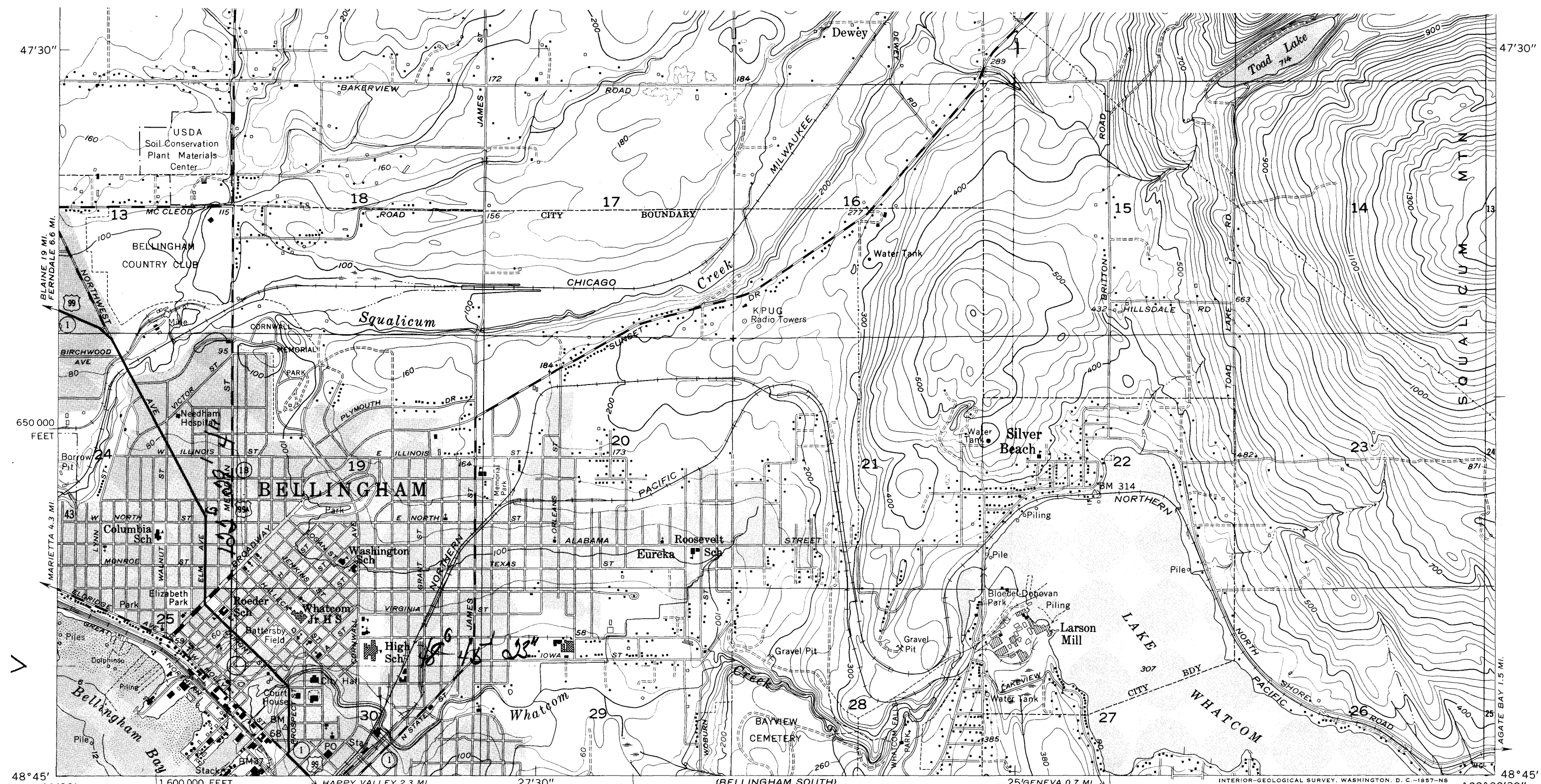
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
William M. Stewart  
Keeper of The National Register

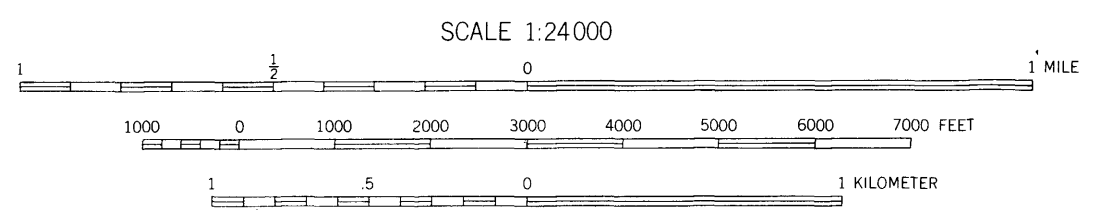
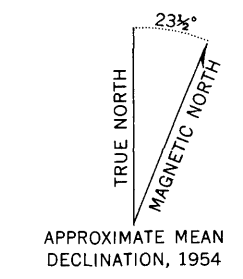
Date DEC 3 1971

NO  
LTM  
W

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Mapped by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey  
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USC&GS, International Boundary Commission,  
 and USGS  
 Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
 Aerial photographs taken 1949. Field check 1954  
 Hydrography compiled from USC&GS chart 6378 (1954)  
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Washington coordinate system,  
 north zone  
 Red tint indicates areas in which only  
 landmark buildings are shown  
 Dashed land lines indicate approximate locations  
 Unchecked elevations are shown in brown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL  
 DEPTH CURVES IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOWER LOW WATER  
 SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
 THE AVERAGE RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
 Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty —————  
 Medium-duty ————— Unimproved dirt - - - - -  
 U. S. Route      State Route

BELLINGHAM NORTH, WASH.  
 SW/4 SUMAS 15' QUADRANGLE  
 N4845—W12222.5/7.5

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 2, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1954