

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Washington
COUNTY: Cowlitz
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAR 3 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Rodman House
AND/OR HISTORIC: Old "Nat" Smith House [Preferred]

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 110 West Grant			
CITY OR TOWN: Kelso		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: #3 - Honorable Julia B. Hansen	
STATE Washington	CODE 53	COUNTY: Cowlitz	CODE 015

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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Donald and Pat Rodman		
STREET AND NUMBER: 110 West Grant		
CITY OR TOWN: Kelso	STATE: Washington	CODE: 53

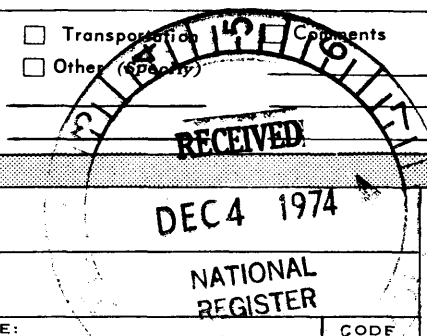
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Cowlitz County Courthouse		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Kelso	STATE: Washington	CODE: 53

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Inventory of Historic Places - Cowlitz County		
DATE OF SURVEY: 1974 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Governmental Conference		
STREET AND NUMBER: 5th Avenue Courthouse Annex		
CITY OR TOWN: Kelso	STATE: Washington	CODE: 53

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Washington
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" 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 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

Built about 1885, the Rodman house is a full two story balloon frame building on a field stone foundation. It is situated on two lots at the corner of Second Avenue and West Grant Street facing north. The footings are just below grade and there is no basement or excavation because of an unusually high water table in this area. The towns of Kelso and Longview are on drained marshland protected from flooding rivers by a system of dikes and drainage slews. The house is a moderately elaborate Victorian with a complex plan and roofline.

Its central mass is essentially a 25' cube under a high pyramidal roof with a careful composition of projecting hip and gable wings arranged around it. In the back is a short wing extending several feet to the rear and involving approximately three fourths the width of the back wall. It is flush with the facade toward the side street, continuing this as an unbroken surface. The section of roof above this wing is an attached hip that is an extension of the main roof along its slope toward the side street, but terminating in a ridge three fourths the distance up to the main apex.

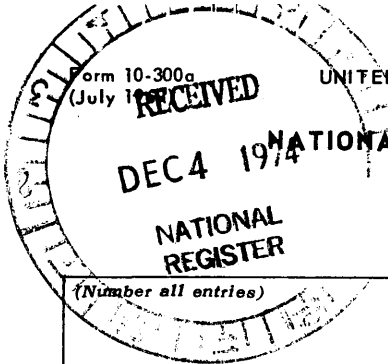
In front of the central building mass on the corner diagonally opposite the wing just described is a corresponding projection of similar size and proportion with the same basic roof relationship except that the upper third of its slope to the front is a gablet containing a low relief sunburst within the triangular vertical surface.

Centered on the ridge of the roof over each of these short wings is a chimney with corbelled cap and a vertical row of slightly projecting headers in a line up the center of the four sides.

Beginning with the lower east corner of the gablet (farthest from the side street) is the ridge of a full gable wing projecting several additional feet forward. The wall at the front of this extends from the gabled hip wing behind it the same distance this intermediate projection extends from the central building mass; it is also narrower than the intermediate section by the same dimension that this is narrower than the total width of the house. Both wings, one in front of the other, are a single flush continuation along their east wall of the central building mass east facade. Their roofs on this side also continue in the same plane as the main slope.

Roughly centered on the extended east facade is a projecting gable similar to the narrow wing at the extreme front. They are of the same size and proportion with elaborately decorated gable ends that include an arrangement of square, round and diamond butt shingles; turned, cut out and sawn apex embellishments; and wide cornice returns that terminate in large brackets positioned above second story windows. The first floor of the wing in front has 135° bevelled corner surfaces, much like a bay window, with curved cut out brackets and turnings softening the transition to right angle corners projecting above these bevels on the second floor.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Form 10-300a
(July 1973)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DEC 4 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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STATE	
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FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
WAR 3	1975

#7 - Description
The Rodman House

Corresponding to the wing centered in the east facade is a large pediment in the west main roof slope like a dormer without sidewalls. The tympanum is in the same plane as the wall below it, and filled with alternating bands of the three types of fancy butt shingles used in the other gable ends. Its ridge is level with the ridge of the gablet in front.

Although set back a few inches, the front entrance porch effectively completes a rectangle that would just enclose the entire building. It is "L" shaped to accommodate the projecting intermediate wing where double entrance doors open facing the front. A single door serves this portion on a balcony directly overhead. This porch is intricately decorated with turnings, posts and curved cut out brackets of the same type used for the adjacent quasi bay window.

There is a one story addition across the back of the building with a hip roof attached about half way up the back wall. The siding is shiplap with outside corner mouldings, a wide frieze above and a drip and apron below. The cornice and frieze are decorated above each corner moulding with band sawn brackets.

Fenestration is fairly sparse without any one system rigidly adhered to, although the window placement does evidence consideration for numerical relationship and proportion. Windows are predominately tall, narrow and double hung, some with small panes in the upper light.

The original ornamental iron cresting survives on the roof along each of its ridges. Generally the exterior of the house is without significant alteration, although the porch has received considerable reconstruction.

The interior has been renovated at great cost, although not necessarily in keeping with the original design. A four inch plank walnut parquet floor has been installed along with considerable shag carpeting, ceilings have been textured, several baseboard heaters have been added and a sunken tub has been cut into the bathroom floor. However, the decorative carpentry was not significantly disturbed, and this is most impressive on the interior of the 'bay window'.

The Rodman House is a large, flamboyant Victorian surviving in a generally excellent state of preservation.

5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) about 1885

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Throughout the years since its construction about 1885, the Rodman Home has been associated with many prominent pioneer families and influential men in the development history of Cowlitz County.

In 1849, Harry "Uncle Darby" Huntington established a donation land claim on the west bank of the Cowlitz River, just upstream from its confluence with the Columbia River. A village immediately began to grow around his homestead and soon became known as Monticello. Two young brothers, Noyes and Royal C. Smith, had ventured west with Darby Huntington, leaving their widowed mother and young brother, Nat, in Indiana. The brothers settled at Monticello and in 1858 received a federal charter to open the first steamboat operation on the Cowlitz River. The Smith brothers called their company the Cowlitz River Steam Navigation Company.

The donation land law was quite liberal in 1849, and the Lower Cowlitz Valley began to be settled rapidly. In late 1849, one of the first settlers, Seth Catlin, established a claim at what is now West Kelso and portions of Longview. It is on part of Seth Catlin's original claim that the Rodman House now stands. Seth Catlin was Chairman of the Cowlitz Landing Convention in August 1851 and was later a participant in the Monticello Convention of 1852. As a result of these conventions, Congress established the Territory of Washington as separate from Oregon Territory. Seth Catlin then became one of the first representatives to the Territorial Legislature.

In 1854, Chandler R. Huntington, brother of "Uncle Darby" Huntington, brought his family from Indiana over the Oregon Trail to Monticello. With this group came Chandler's mother-in-law, Mary (Stone) Smith, and her young son Nat Smith. Nat was the younger brother of Noyes and Royal C. Smith, previously mentioned. Young Nat attended school at Monticello until 1858, when he became employed in his brother's store. As Cowlitz County developed, both the Huntington and Smith families became quite prominent.

In 1864, Nat Smith built the first sawmill along the Cowlitz River upon the property of Jacob Huntington, at Sandy Bend. In 1866, Smith

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McClelland, J. M., Jr. Longview, The Remarkable Beginnings of a Modern City, Portland Oregon: Binford's & Mort, Publishers, 1949.
 McClelland, J. M., Jr. Cowlitz Corridor, Longview: Longview Publishing Co., 1953.
 Cowlitz Co. Historical Society, Cowlitz Co. Quarterly Vol. V No. 2, Sept. 1963.
 Cowlitz Co. Historical Society, Cowlitz Co. Quarterly Vol. I No. 4, Feb. 1960.
 Cowlitz Co. Historical Society, Cowlitz Co. Quarterly Vol. XV No. 1, May 1973.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

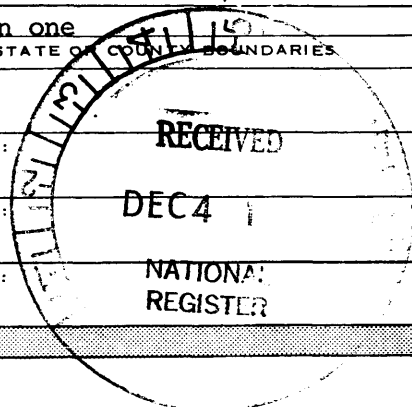
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		46° 8' 48"	122° 54' 58"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		46"	56	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

10/5065
5110130
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Dennis Gillespie, Associate Planner

ORGANIZATION: Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Governmental Conference DATE: Sept. 16, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 5th Avenue Courthouse Annex

CITY OR TOWN: Kelso 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 & Recreation Commission

Date Nov. 26, 1974

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

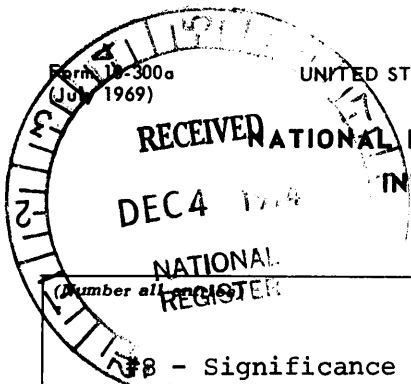
[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/3/75

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 2.25.75



STATE	Washington	
COUNTY	Cowlitz	
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

108 - Significance
The Rodman House (1)

moved his mill to Monticello, but the mill was soon washed away in the great flood of 1867. In 1868, Smith rebuilt his mill at Monticello, but soon sold the mill to H. Darby Huntington. From 1868 to 1884, Nat Smith engaged in steamboating where he acquired the title of Captain.

In 1884, Captain Nat Smith built a sawmill at the community of Freeport, just north of the original Monticello site. In 1889 the mill was destroyed by fire and Captain Smith rebuilt his mill in the community of Catlin, a short distance to the north of Freeport. The town of Catlin was officially established in 1889 when Seth Catlin's son, Adam, platted the community. Previously the town had been known as Marysville, in honor of Mary, wife of Seth Catlin.

Official property records for the town of Marysville were destroyed when the Kalama Courthouse burned at the turn of the century. This makes it impossible to establish the exact date Rodman house was constructed. However, it is generally held that Captain Nat Smith had the house built between the years 1885 and 1889, and it was the finest mansion in Cowlitz County at the time. The Smiths lived in the house until 1904.

One of Captain Smith's sons, named Nat R., was elected Mayor of Kelso, an office he held for several years. However, he did not live in the house his father had built. In 1904 the house changed owners twice and became the home of E. A. Rulifson. The Rulifson family occupied it until January 10, 1914, at which time the house was sold by the Cowlitz County Treasurer to F. L. Stuart. Eleven days later, Stuart sold to E. F. Crumb, who maintained the house until 1917. At that time it was purchased by Mrs. W. P. Wells. Residents of early Catlin recall that Mrs. Wells operated a boarding house for the poorer citizens of Cowlitz County. On April 19, 1919, the house was again acquired by F. L. Stuart. Later that year, Stuart sold the home to Thomas P. Fisk, and the second major period in the history of the home began.

Tom P. Fisk was one of the most colorful men in the history of Cowlitz County, and played a major role in the development of Longview. As a young man, Tom Fisk was educated and admitted to the practice of law in Western Kansas. He was married to Bertha Leichhardt in 1888 and in 1891 the young Fisk family moved to Castle Rock. Fisk formed a partnership with a Kelso attorney by the name of Van Name, but Fisk soon left to join the Seattle law firm of Piper, Fisk and Piper. In 1900, Tom Fisk moved from Seattle to Shelton, where his father had earlier settled. In 1919, Fisk returned to Kelso and with Judge H. E. McKenney formed the

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DEC 4 1974 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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NATIONAL REGISTER
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Cowlitz	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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(Number all entries)

#8 - Significance
The Rodman House (2)

law firm of Fisk and McKenney. It was at this point that Tom Fisk purchased the Nat Smith House.

Tom Fisk had for some time been politically active. An established member of the Republican Party, he was elected State Party Chairman twice, in 1896 and 1912. At one time, the Republican Party offered him the nomination for representative to Congress. He declined, suggesting that Francis Cushman, a young lawyer in Tacoma, be nominated instead. Francis Cushman received the nomination, was subsequently elected, and served twenty-eight years in the Congress, until his death.

When in 1922, R. A. Long of the Long-Bell Lumber Co. decided to build a planned city adjacent to his mill to be built along the Columbia, Tom Fisk immediately became involved. Fisk, along with three other men, conducted a three-day "spree" obtaining purchase options on all the land that is now Longview. As a result, the City of Longview was completely planned before a single structure was built. Tom Fisk thoroughly believed in the future of Longview, and in fact, initiated and became the prime advocate for consolidation of Kelso and Longview. J. M. McClelland, Jr., in his history Longview, recounts the efforts Tom Fisk energetically undertook to convince the Kelso residents of the consolidation's worthiness. After delivering an emotion-filled speech at a mass meeting in Kelso, the "Kelsonians" agreed. The consolidation most likely would have occurred, had R. A. Long not objected. Subsequently the idea was dropped.

When Longview was officially dedicated in July of 1923, Tom Fisk, judge by this time, made the welcoming address. Fisk then set out to establish a local Port District. After a long controversial fight over the location of port facilities, the faction to which Fisk subscribed won out and facilities were developed for the Port of Longview. Again he spoke at the dedication ceremonies.

Tom Fisk continued to practice law in Cowlitz County and until his death in 1933, he continually fought for the future development of both Longview and Kelso. After Fisk's death, Mrs. T. P. Fisk returned to Shelton.

The original Captain "Nat" Smith House, then the home of Tom P. Fisk, changed hands several times after the death of Fisk. When the Donald Rodman family purchased the house in 1966, it had deteriorated considerably. The Rodmans have since restored the exterior of the house

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#8 - Significance
The Rodman House (3)

to its original condition. Some modernization of the interior has occurred, although no destructive alterations were made.

As a work of architecture, Rodman House has survived almost 90 years without any significant alteration or deterioration of the exterior. It is a large, carefully arranged building that evidences typical Victorian concern for balance in a complex, asymmetrical arrangement of mass and ornamental detail. The choices of conventional forms, decorative elements and scale are highly characteristic of this residential type as it was built in an important period of Pacific Northwest history.

