

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Port Gamble Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER on the northwestern end of Kitsap

Peninsula near the entrance to Hood Canal, Puget Sound

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Port Gamble

VICINITY OF

6th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Washington

53

Kitsap

035

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

### PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Pope and Talbot, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

1700 Southwest 4th Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Portland

VICINITY OF

Oregon

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kitsap County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Port Orchard

Washington

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Port Gamble lies in the nation's greatest reservoir of old growth saw timber; the great forests are composed principally of Douglas fir, but also include large stands of hemlock, cedar, and spruce. Nowhere in the world is there concentrated in such a relatively small area such a large quantity of timber.

Port Gamble's buildings, grounds and history encapsulate the drama of the transplantation of a venerable New England community to colonize upon Puget Sound--with the consequent enrichment of Washington life over the years. An important part of Port Gamble's history also involves the interplay of this New England community with equally interesting Irish, Chinese and American Indian groups.

An old grist mill was built in the early days and operated by power from the sawmill. The flour from this mill was sold in British Columbia, Seattle and other sections of the Sound. There was also an old octagonal blockhouse erected out of logs at Port Gamble as soon as the mill was established which served as a fort and offered protection against the Indians. The site of the old blockhouse was occupied in later years by a blacksmith shop.

One of the amusing incidents of life at Port Gamble in the early days was that someone imported some pigs which were allowed to run loose and fed on scraps thrown out of the window of the cookhouse which stood on the edge of the beach. In time, these pigs became very numerous and seemed to learn that when the mill whistle blew it was feeding time and immediately rushed down the alley to the cookhouse in such large droves that it was all one's life was worth to attempt to walk in the alley at the same time. The alley has become known as pig alley.

On entering Port Gamble's main street is a row of extremely beautiful trees on each side of the street. It is said that these trees were transplanted from East Machias, Maine. The town and mill had a water system obtained from an artesian well.

Port Gamble is still owned by Pope & Talbot, Inc. A portion of the original village has been demolished but still standing are some small Greek Revival homes erected in the 1860's, 5 New England box-type residences, several Victorian houses, a church built in 1871, a Masonic Hall, community center and company store. The existing and still active sawmill and docks were rebuilt in 1926. Among the original buildings still standing are the following:

1. The Thompson House (1859)
2. St. Paul's Episcopal Church (1870)
3. Captain William Gove House (1873)
4. U.S. Post Office (1853)
5. Masonic Temple (1870)
6. Walker-Ames House (1887)
7. Captain D. B. Jackson Home (1871)
8. M. S. Drew House (1870)
9. General Store (1853)
10. Port Gamble Sawmill (1853)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1853-1895

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Port Gamble was one of the earliest and most important lumber producing centers of the Puget Sound region. Today, Port Gamble is the finest surviving example of that region's many 19th century lumber towns.

In July 1853, Captain William C. Talbot of San Francisco and East Mathias, Maine arrived in Puget Sound in the 50-ton schooner Julius Pringle, and began searching the region for a good sawmill site. Five miles south of the entrance to Hood Canal, a small heavily forested peninsula jtted out to form a sheltered bay about two miles long and half mile wide. On the west side of this bay, he selected a level sandy spot as the site for the mill. Known first as Teekalet, from the Indian settlement by that name on the bay, the name was changed to Port Gamble in the mid-1860's.

Captain Talbot landed his men, and using eastern timber, erected a bunkhouse, cookhouse, and store and roofed these buildings with cedar shakes split from trees growing on the site. Leaving a crew of 10 men to lay the foundation and construct the frame of the new sawmill, Talbot returned to San Francisco. Talbot and his partners Andrew J. Pope, Charles Foster, and Josiah P. Keller had logged and built ships in Maine since revolutionary times. In 1849, they had joined the gold rush to California and had come to San Francisco. In 1853 they were extending lumbering operations to the virgin forest of the Washington territory, having incorporated the Puget Sound Mill Company with a capital of \$30,000 for this purpose on December 20, 1852. In September 1853, the 157-ton schooner L. P. Foster, commanded by Captain Keller, arrived at Port Gamble loaded with the machinery for the new steam-powered sawmill. A week later the muley saw and mill, which measured about 45 by 70 feet, were in operation. The plant could saw about 2,000 feet of lumber a day. New and improved machinery was installed in January 1854, which increased the capacity to 15,000 feet a day. Production at Port Gamble in 1854 amounted to 3,673,797 feet of sawed lumber, 64,000 shingles, 42,103 feet of piles, and 223 masts and spars, valued at \$70,999.60. In 1856, 52 vessels loaded at Port Gamble, and in 1857 almost 8 million feet were cut, the daily output of the mill then being 25,000 feet. Port Gamble was then comprised of the company owned mill, wharves, dwellings, stores, and shops. In 1858, a second mill, measuring 55 by 250 feet, with a daily capacity of 60,000 feet was erected. A new mill dock and a merchandise wharf were also constructed. About 175 men were then employed at Port Gamble. By 1861, the Puget Mill Company also owned and operated a fleet of 10 sailing vessels that had a combined capacity of between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 feet of lumber. The company had also acquired 32,658 acres of timberland by 1864.

(Continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Archie Binns - The Roaring Land
- Stanley Horn - This Fascinating Lumber Business
- Charles M. Gates - Empire on the Columbia
- Helen Gibbs - Time, Tide and Timber: A Century at Pope & Talbot

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 95 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	10	53117000	52996000	B	10	53077000	52996000
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	10	53069000	53003200	D	10	53117000	53003200
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point on the west curb of Highway 104, approximately 200' from the Thompson House, proceed west 350' to a point, thence north 800' to a point, thence west 1300' to a point, thence north 1400' to Teekalet Bluff, thence east 1750' to a point, thence in a northeasterly direction 1250' to a point, thence south easterly 1375', thence south 500' to a point, thence west 750' to a point, thence south 500' to a point, thence west 400' to a point, thence south 500' to a point, thence west 300' to the point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cecil N. McKithan

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey Division, NPS

DATE

9/20/77

STREET & NUMBER

1100 "L" Street, NW.

TELEPHONE

(202) 523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington.

STATE

D.C.

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

**Landmark**  
 Designated: NOV 13 1976  
 date  
 Boundary Certified: Dec 15 1978  
 DATE: [Signature]  
 and

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/20/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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In 1874, the Puget Mill Company was reorganized and its capitalization increased to \$2,000,000 in order to finance expansion of the Pope & Talbot empire. In March 1877, the Puget Mill Company purchased the Utsaladdy sawmill on Camano Island. In 1878, the Puget Mill Company next acquired the Port Ludlow sawmill for \$64,000. By 1875 the company was the largest holder of timberlands in the Territory of Washington. In addition, 99,000,000 feet of lumber was produced annually.

In 1925, the Charles R. McCormick Company of Delaware acquired the Puget Mill Company, and in 1926 the old mill at Port Gamble was demolished and replaced by a mill with a capacity of 300,000 feet per 8-hour day. The old docks were also completely rebuilt. In April 1938, the Pope and Talbot Lumber Company was incorporated to take over the former McCormick properties. In 1940 the new firm was again reorganized under the name of Pope and Talbot Inc.

Because of the limited amount of timber left at Port Gamble, the 1926 mill was reduced in capacity. The Port Gamble sawmill is still active, although operating now on this reduced scale.