

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Washington
COUNTY:	Pierce
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUL 27 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Davidson Home

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
~~Philip Keach Home~~

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1802 Commercial Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Steilacoom

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
#3 - Honorable Julia B. Hansen

STATE Washington	CODE 53	COUNTY: Pierce	CODE 053
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**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 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	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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Contents
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

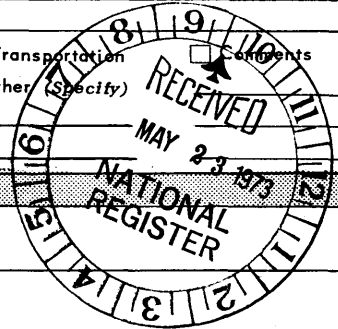
OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde V. Davidson

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1802 Commercial Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Steilacoom

STATE:  
Washington

CODE:  
53



**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Pierce County, County - City Building

STREET AND NUMBER:  
930 Tacoma Avenue South

CITY OR TOWN:  
Tacoma

STATE:  
Washington

CODE:  
53

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:  
18th & C Streets, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
D.C.

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Washington
COUNTY:	Pierce
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FOR NPS USE ONLY

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)	
<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 Davidson Home is near the Steilacoom waterfront on a hill overlooking Puget Sound. Standing two stories high, the medium-gabled house is a mid-nineteenth century American farmhouse built on a basic T pattern. In the back of the building, a one-story portion extends directly to the rear, forming the base of the T. The two-story section has two single-stack chimneys arranged one behind the other in straddle ridge fashion. Each of these chimneys has two interior fireplaces. The one-story rear extension of the house has only a single chimney and fireplace. All three chimneys are common red brick.

The outside walls are composed of 16' long fir planks. The interior ceilings are 9'8" high, and the doors stand 7'2". A foot of space separates the first-story ceiling from the second-story floor. The original foundation was composed of cedar blocks and hewn fir timbers, but these were replaced with cement in 1955.

A two-story porch extends nearly the full width of the front of the house. The balustrades, or railings, are later work. The main porch has two French doors and a main entrance opening onto it, whereas the second-floor porch balcony has three French doors. A flush, light mullion transom is situated above the main entrance door. All the sash windows are double hung and have lintels. The French doors and all the windows on the front and two sides of the house have shutters.

In the 1880's, the slate roof was replaced by cedar shingles which, in turn, were replaced by a composition roof. The roof trimming of the house is plain boxed cornices with returns. At present, the house is painted white with green shutters.

Generally, the exterior of the house has been altered little. On the inside, bathrooms have been added and some walls removed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

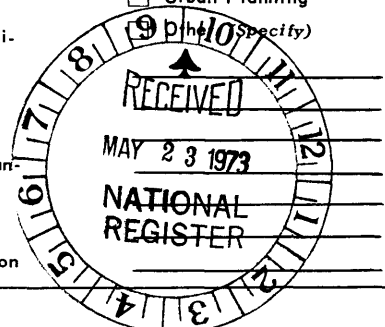
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<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) 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Steilacoom has always been recognized as one of the oldest towns in the State of Washington. The townsite was established in January, 1851, by Lafayette Balch. Interestingly, the Davidson Home is one of the only two surviving buildings erected on the Balch townsite.

First called Rolling Hill, the Davidson Home was built in 1858 by Phillip Keach for his bride-to-be, Antoinette Martin. Keach was a successful businessman who had opened a general store in Steilacoom five years earlier.

In the same year Keach built his home, the Territorial Legislature passed a special law enabling Steilacoom citizens to organize and incorporate the "Steilacoom Library Association", the first organization of its kind in Washington Territory. The organizational meeting for the Association was held on March 16, 1858, in Keach's store, and he was elected first librarian.

The important role this organization played in Steilacoom's development is revealed by a statement made by W. P. Bonney, secretary of the Washington State Historical Society. In his History of Pierce County, published in 1927, Bonney commented:

The Steilacoom Library Association was the pioneer civic organization of the county, and it was the early association through which movements of general interest and concern to Steilacoom and the county received encouragement and completion. Its officers and members did not confine themselves merely to the collection of books for a library; but acted much in the way of . . . a modern commercial club or chamber of commerce.

In 1859, Keach further expanded his public duties when he became Pierce County Treasurer. In the same year, he was awarded a contract to build a government trail from Steilacoom to Bellingham Bay. Two years later Keach was granted a mail contract for Puget Sound and he became part owner of a steamboat used for this purpose.

In 1937, the house was placed on the Historic American Buildings Survey and, of course, a complete set of plans were printed up. Being an attractive and well preserved example of a mid-nineteenth century American farmhouse, the home is particularly noted for its full length porch and plain boxed cornices with returns. The building's double chimneys and five French doors are also noteworthy.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bonney, W.P. History of Pierce County. Vol.I.  
Chicago: Pioneer Publishing Co., 1927.

McDonald, Lucile. "Echoes of Yesteryear in 99-Year Old Keach House  
at Steilacoom". Seattle Sunday Times Magazine, January 20, 1957.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

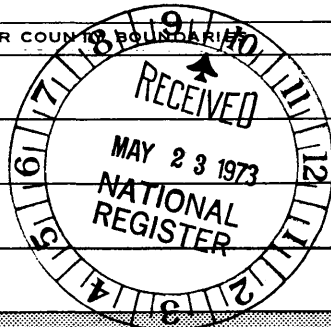
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		47' 10" 27"	122' 35" 47"	
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				

10/530580  
5224370  
CD

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Patricia J. Laughlin

ORGANIZATION: Steilacoom Historical Museum Association DATE: Feb. 28, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 16

CITY OR TOWN: Steilacoom STATE: Washington CODE: 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. Odegaard  
Charles H. Odegaard

Title Director - Washington State  
Parks & Recreation Commission

Date May 9, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

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

Date 7/27/73

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register

Date 7/28/73