

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 7 1976
DATE ENTERED AUG 9 1976

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

** McAlmond House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 3, Box 836

N of Sequim on Duwamish Bay

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Sequim *vic.*

VICINITY OF

#3 - Honorable Don L. Bonker

STATE

Washington

CODE

53

COUNTY

Clallam

CODE

009

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
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Jerome Hellmuth

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 356

CITY, TOWN

Bainbridge Island

VICINITY OF

STATE

Washington 98110

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Auditor's Office, Clallam County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Fourth and Lincoln Streets

CITY, TOWN

Port Angeles

STATE

Washington 98362

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Washington State Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington 98504

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The McAlmond House is a Gothic Revival farmhouse built in the early 1860's on a bluff overlooking Dungeness Spit and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. It is located on the north shore of the Olympic Peninsula roughly 75 miles into the Strait from the Pacific Ocean. Dungeness Spit is a natural breakwater that shelters the house and a small harbor in front. Below the bluff is an expansive salt marsh that separates the house from the beach.

It is a one-and-a-half story frame structure with a T-shaped plan and cross gables. The foundation is constructed of soft orange brick retaining a full basement excavation. Within the basement is a cistern trough built by running a brickwork bulkhead between opposite walls of the foundation.

Changes in the footing and coursework indicate the possibility that one wing was built as a later addition. Around the stem of the T-plan (south wing) the foundation is crudely constructed in random courses and without footings. The remaining wing has a skillfully laid common bond foundation on a corbelled base.

Two single stack chimneys emerge from the roof in a mid-slope at the intersection of the wings on opposite sides of the ridge. They have simple corbelled caps with a hound's-tooth course and a pair of narrow recessed panels on one face. The chimneys are positioned so that back-to-back fireplaces heat the parlor and dining room on one stack, while the sitting room fireplace and kitchen stove are on the other.

A small decorative gable interrupts the cornice on both sides of the south wing directly above a pointed casement window. On the crossing north wing at the front of the house (facing the water) is a full size center gable which is essentially an extension of the south wing. Positioned below it is a single, double-hung window with a semi-circular arched transom and cap moulding.

A wide frieze or fascia board under the cornice follows uninterrupted around the eaves with scroll sawn brackets spaced at wide intervals. Formerly there was ironwork cresting along the ridge of the roof and there were finials at the apex of each gable, however these have been removed and lost.

The siding is four-inch clapboards with corner and base mouldings and window surrounds. This material is clear fir running the full length of the wall section.

Most of the windows are double-hung with six over six lights. They are positioned symmetrically at regular intervals approximately equal to the width of the windows themselves. Exceptions not previously mentioned are four over four light sashes on the east side of the building at the ground level flanking the side entrance. These are also used for the three facets of a bay window on the east wall of the parlor.

The main entrance, centered on the front facade, has colored side and transom lights some of which have been replaced.

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Across the front is a full width one-story veranda with an attached hip roof. It has a bracketed cornice with the brackets in pairs above each porch post. Originally two one-story porches ran the length of the south wing along either side extending flush with the ends of the perpendicular north wing and essentially squaring off the plan at the ground floor. These porches continued the lines and slope established by the hipped ends of the veranda in front. They appear as though they were continuations of that veranda that are interrupted by the projecting ends of the front wing. One of the porches has been extended and enclosed to provide space for a bathroom.

The interior is relatively plain and has few structural alterations. One unusual feature is that the stairs to the upper floor rise to an awkwardly narrow landing where there is a door at the level of the floor above providing an opening into the south wing. There are no steps up to this door which may have once served an outside stairs that would have been removed when the south wing was built.

The McAlmond House is in a deteriorating condition due to a complete lack of maintenance over a period of many years. One side porch has nearly fallen to ruins, and the veranda is missing posts and sections of the balustrade. The clapboards on the south end of the building were badly charred in a fire and it is now covered by composition siding. The foundation brickwork is spalling off and much of the mortar has eroded to a depth of nearly half the mortar joint in places.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

E. H. McAlmond

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McAlmond House is all that remains of the very early settlement of what was originally known as New Dungeness, named by British explorer Captain George Vancouver in 1792 after a coastal village in England. This community was founded by a small group of sailors who arrived there from New England in the early 1850's.

The house was built by ships carpenters from Massachusetts in approximately 1861 for Captain Elijah H. McAlmond. Construction materials were transported by boat from mills in Oregon on the Columbia River, and then loaded on barges which carried them ashore. A team of oxen hauled the materials from the waterfront across the marsh and up the bluff to the site.

The Honorable E. H. McAlmond held high public office in the early settlement of New Dungeness. He served as Justice of the Peace, first county commissioner, sheriff, Deputy United States Marshall, Probate Judge and in 1863 as a member of the Territorial Legislature.

At age 16, McAlmond worked as a sailor off the coast of Maine where he had been born at Belfast March 4, 1829. As a young man he came around the Cape Horn to San Francisco, but soon left for Central America where he fought the natives of Nicaragua under the command of General Menyosen in a fruitless attempt to start an American colony. He arrived in the Puget Sound area in 1850 at the age of 21. There he fought Indians under Colonel Isaac Ebey, sailed lumber up and down the West Coast, was active in Alaskan trade and hunted seals off Cape Flattery. After settling in New Dungeness he built seagoing sailing ships in the harbor, was a farmer on 160 acres of land and a husband to three wives at the last official count. Reportedly there were four or more wives. Captain McAlmond is said to have fathered a son at the age of 90.

Three months after President Fillmore signed the legislation creating Washington Territory, March 2, 1853, Captain McAlmond applied for a Donation Land Claim. McAlmond received his claim October 10, 1857 which included the site of the existing house.

During his first years at New Dungeness, McAlmond made his primary living as a ships master and builder of sailing vessels. When he later turned to serious farming rather than laboriously clearing the heavily forested land and pulling immense stumps as the other farmers were doing, he diked the salt marsh at the edge of the tide flats below his house. He then diverted the Dungeness River to

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hines, H. K. An Illustrated History of the State of Washington, Chicago, Lewis Publishing Co., 1894.

Lewis and Dryden. Marine History of the Pacific Northwest, 1895.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	0	4	8	9	9	8	0	5	3	3	2	8	6	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

C

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

D

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jerome Hellmuth and Jacob E. Thomas - Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

ORGANIZATION

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

DATE

October 1975

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 1128

TELEPHONE

(206) 753-4116

CITY OR TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington 98504

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Arthur M. Skolnik

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

December 19, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. J. Hellmuth
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

8/9/76

ATTEST: *Charles A. ...*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8.6.76

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wash the soil and provide irrigation. With a very little effort the Captain created more than 250 acres of fertile lowland which he cultivated with great success.

It was during the period of 1853 to 1861 that he became an important civic leader. The First Washington Territorial Legislature of February 27, 1854, created Clallam County (once a part of Jefferson County), and appointed at its first session Elijah McAlmond one of the first county commissioners.

Following this, he held many other offices. In 1857 he served as Probate Judge which, in addition to probate matters, handled a variety of cases from selling liquor to Indians to murder. In 1859, he was one of the judges of elections and the county coroner. From 1855 to 1856 he was clerk of the court, inspector for special elections and supervisor of the poor. In the hall of the Clallam County Courthouse in Port Angeles there is a framed original document of election results held in Washington Territory July, 1860. Captain McAlmond's name appears as elected wreck-master, an important position in those days when boats piled up on the treacherous spit of New Dungeness.

In 1860, Captain McAlmond married Elmina Harmon, a native of Steilacoom, Washington. A son, Henry, was born the following year. By 1863, the marriage between Captain Elijah McAlmond and his wife, Elmina, began to break up, for on August 26, 1863, both parents deeded the 160 acre donation land claim, land and buildings to their only child, Henry, who was then three years old, "in consideration of love and affection." Two years later, May 12, 1865, Elmina had a court judgment served through the sheriff against Elijah McAlmond for cost of the suit and counsel fees. She then left the family, never to be heard from again. Elijah remarried on September 18, 1869 to Lucy Ann Miller.

The Honorable Allen Weir, the first Secretary of the State of Washington who was also the son of an early pioneer in New Dungeness, read a paper before the Washington Pioneer Association in 1891: "Roughing It on Puget Sound in the Early Sixties". In it, he mentions that Captain McAlmond is still alive and one of the few pioneers who is left in the area. Captain McAlmond was then 62 years of age. The following quotation appears on page 123 of that paper:

Houses were mostly built of logs with clapboard roofs and clay fireplaces. When Captain McAlmond built one of real lumber throughout, actually lathed and plastered inside, with real boughten doors and a cornice around the roof, there was a general feeling that the county had taken a long stride toward the opulence and luxury of the old world. The captain was elected justice of the peace out of pure deference for his superior attainments."

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The McAlmond House is apparently the oldest frame residence in Clallam County, and as Weir's account would indicate, it may have been the first. New Dungeness is among the earliest permanent settlements on the Olympic Peninsula roughly coinciding with the establishment of Port Townsend in 1851. Nearly all evidence of the original development at New Dungeness has disappeared with the exception of McAlmond House which is also the home of one of the first county officials and one of the founders of the community. As a work of architecture, it is an interesting adaptation of the traditional farmhouse form utilizing fine Gothic Revival and picturesque details to give it style and sophistication. Although much of the architectural decoration is deteriorated or missing, it is an unusual example of Gothic Revival in the area. Until recent months the house remained in the ownership of the McAlmond family without any significant modifications to the original design.

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Weir, Allen. "Roughing it on Puget Sound in the Early Sixties. . .", The Washington Historian, Vol. I, No. 3, 1891.

Interviews with surviving descendants.