## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM



1473

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in riow to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property				
historic name	THARALD HOME	STEAD		_
other names/site number	ELLIS FARM			
2. Location				
street & number	HOFFMAN COVE R	OAD	not for publication	
city or town	SHAW ISLAND		vicinity	
state WASHINGTON	codeWA _ cou	ntySAN JUAN	vicinity code _055 zip code _982	86
3. State/Federal Agency Ce	ertification			
request for determination of eligibility meets the procedural and profession	meets the documentation standa al requirements set forth in 36 Cl and that this property be consider ments.)	ards for registering propertie FR Part 60. In my opinion, the red significant nationally	ereby certify that this X nomination s in the National Register of Historic Places a ne property X meets does not meet the statewide X locally. ( See	
Signature of certifying official			/0·2Z·0/ Date	
State or Federal agency and bur  In my opinion, the property  ( See continuation sheet for	meets does not meet		eria.	
Signature of commenting or other	r official	Date		
State or Federal agency and bur	eau	Λ		
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4. National Park Service Ce	ertification	1100		
I, hereby certify that this property is:     entered in the National Register     See continuation sheet.     determined eligible for the     National Register		Signature of Keepe	Ball Date of Action	 <u>- 0</u> 2
See continuation sheet determined not eligible for the National Register				
removed from the National Regi		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)
Contributing Noncontributing ure72 buildings tsitesstructures
objects 7 2 Total
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register  NONE
Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Cat:DOMESTICAGRICULTURE/ SUBSISTENCE _ Sub:SINGLE DWELLINGAGRICULTURAL OUTBUILDINGS _
Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation STONE METAL: CORRER
roof METAL: COPPER walls WOOD: LOG

See Continuation Sheet

8. State	ement of Significance	
in one or for Nation	mble National Register Criteria (Mark "x" more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property nal Register listing)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)ARCHITECTURE
_XA	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	EXPLORATION / SETTLEMENT
B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
_x_ c	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or	Period of Significance1883-1926
	method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a	1936-1951
	significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Significant Dates
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to	1883 1890
<del></del>	yield information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Person
	Considerations in all the boxes that apply.)	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Cultural Affiliation
В	removed from its original location.	
c	a birthplace or a grave.	Architect/BuilderTHEODORE & THOMAS THARALD
D	a cemetery.	(Builders of Home)DEL HOFFMAN (Builder of garage/apartment)_
E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	ORCE JONES (Builder of Water Tower) TED COPPER (Builder of Tractor shed)
F	a commemorative property.	
	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	
Narrativ (Explain t	ve Statement of Significance he significance of the property on one or more continuat lee Continuation Sheet	ion sheets.)

9. Major Bibliog	raphical References	
Bibliography		
(Cite the books, artic	les, and other sources used in preparing t	his form on one or more continuation sheets.)
preliminary d listing (36 previously list previously defined a listing (36 previously defined a listing (36 designated a listing recorded by listing previously designated a listing previously listing pr	National Historic Landmark Historic American Buildings	Primary Location of Additional Data:  State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University _X_ Other Name of repository: SHAW ISLAND HISTORICAL MUSUEM DR. FRED ELLIS
10. Geographica	I Data	
Acreage of Prop	ertyAPPROXIMATELY 30 ACF	RES
UTM References (Place additional UT	i M references on a continuation sheet)	
1 10 502143  Zone Easting 2 10 502321  Zone Easting	5378699 Northing 5378745 Northing	3 10 502458 5378643  Zone Easting Northing 4 10 502544 5378597  Zone Easting Northing
		_X_ See continuation sheet.
Verbal Boundary (Describe the boundary See Continu	aries of the property on a continuation she nation Sheet	et.)
	ndaries were selected on a continuation si	neet.)
11. Form Prepare	ed By	
		ATT
		JSUEM dateMARCH 14, 2001
street & number_	78 REDWING ROAD	telephone(360) 468-2063
city or town	FRIDAY HARBOR	state WA zip code 98250

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### **Continuation Sheets**

### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### **Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner		
•	the request of the SHPO or FPO.)  DR. FREDERICK ELLIS	
street & number	PO BOX 130	telephone(360) 468-2063
city or town	SHAW ISLAND	stateWAzip code98286

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

### **Narrative Description:**

#### Setting

The Tharald Homestead is located on Parks Bay on Shaw Island, San Juan County, Washington. It was originally accessed by boat from Parks Bay to the south. Today a modern dock leads to a dirt lane that accesses the original homestead site. Today the home can also be reached by means of a driveway off of Hoffman Cove Road, to the northeast, which has changed the point of entry to the main (log structure) house to the north. The area between the ocean and the building complex is forested with a mix of Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), and Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) near the shore, with undergrowths of salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) and fern (various spp.) in moist areas. To the north, a pond has been made (1988) from what was originally a cedar bog, with a short dock (modern) across the road from the carport. The area immediately surrounding the building complex has been landscaped with a large variety of native and imported trees and plants, including cottonwoods, sequoia, red oaks, green beeches, catalpa, rhododendrons, a variety of fruit trees, including figs and a flowering cherry, and a vegetable garden.

There are nine main structures on the property: the log house; a garage/shop/apartment; a water tower; a smoke shed; a tractor barn; a hay barn; a woodshed/carport; a bunk shed; and a covered swimming pool. All are considered contributing elements except for the swimming pool and woodshed/carport, which are either modern or have been so modified as to have lost their historic integrity.

### Log House (Historic Contributing)

The main house on the property is a log dwelling that most likely was built in three stages, ca. 1883 and ca. 1890, with a modern addition to the north in 1962. The structure, which is L-shaped in plan, is 1 ½ stories with a gable roof. The area of the structure under the main gable roof measures 30' long x 22' wide. A 16' wide, cross-gable section projects to the east another 8', for a total width on the north side of 30'. On the southeast corner of the main gable section is a 7' x 7' recessed entry porch, which is supported by a 6" diameter log column. The porch is paved with flagstone.

Both roofs, which are steeply pitched (12:12), are currently covered with 12" wide, standing-seam copper. The walls are constructed of approximately 12" diameter (cedar) logs that have been hewn flat on the inside surface and slightly flattened (approximately 3") on the outside, leaving a 5 to 6" tall x 3" deep beveled reveal where the logs meet each other. Full dovetail notching occurs at the corners, although where two of the walls butt into straight walls, the notching is a square tenon in a mortise. The interstices between the walls are very tight, with some evidence of oakum chinking wedged into the cracks. Several of the logs are ringed by chiseled grooves that were probably used for attaching ropes for hauling. According to revealed traces, historic photographs, and family stories, the logs were originally whitewashed. Today they are creosoted. The home sits on a fieldstone foundation laid in random rubble. Most of the windows are 6-over-1, wood double hung and approximately 2"-10"

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THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

### Narrative Description: (Cont'd)

wide by 5'-4" tall, although there are several 1-over-1 double hung windows that are smaller in dimension. All three exterior doors measure 2'-8" and are constructed of 3 vertical planks. Both the doors and the windows are surrounded by simple 1" x 6" wood molding.

On the interior, the ground floor consists of a small entry vestibule, a large living room and a kitchen/dining room. Stairs on the south side of the kitchen lead up to second floor, which consists of two bedrooms separated by closets under the main gable and a bathroom in the cross gable. Most of the downstairs walls are the original flat-hewn logs, with the exception of the west wall of the kitchen/dining room, which consists of rounded logs similar to the exterior. A 1'-5" square chimney is currently located on the west wall of the kitchen/dining room. However, there is evidence of a covered-up hole on the opposite side of the wall (i.e., in the living room); hence the cookstove/chimney might have been elsewhere. A large (3' deep x 6'-8" wide) stone fireplace is located in the middle of the west wall of the living room in main gable section. Photographic evidence indicates that this location was originally a doorway. The installation of the fireplace had been commenced, although not completed, prior to buildings occupancy by the Ellis Family in 1936. The ceiling/floor, which is 9'-6" high, has been modified, although the exterior of the cross gable elevation indicates mortised floor joists at 2' centers.

The actual date and sequence of construction of the log house is not clear. In the Testimony of Claimant for his homestead application, Theodore Tharald mentions a "log house 14 x 16, 1 door, 2 windows" dwelling as well as a "new house partly built—24 x 32." Tharald had first homesteaded in 1883; the Testimony was given in 1890. This might suggest that the older house, built ca.1883, was either abandoned or used as a separate dwelling or storage structure (although there is no above-ground evidence of another log structure on the property) or incorporated into the new house. Given the dimensions of the existing structure, it is possible that one of its sections—the kitchen/dining room or the south portion of the main gable, was incorporated into the new house.

Finally, there is another puzzling feature of the log house, which is the floor plan. The recessed corner entry porch suggests a more modern style than a 'simple' homestead log cabin. Perhaps Theodore Tharald and his brother influenced by current architectural fashions while working for Pope and Talbot at Port Gamble. Or there may have been other Old World (Norwegian) precedents. The research literature on American log structures and their Old World origins has mainly focused on the East Coast and the Midwest (Jordan 1985; Kniffen and Glassie 1986), although some studies have discussed Western regional traditions (Dole 1974; Wilson 1984). While these studies associate full dovetail notching and flat hewing with a FennoScandanavian Old World tradition, they do not mention floor plans specific to that group. Furthermore, this example does not fit the two- and three-room traditional Norwegian house type as outlined by Henning (1986). There is, however, an intriguing example of a "Norwegian gallery or sval" house illustrated by Noble (1984), which seems to show a recessed corner porch as the residuum of the long gallery (often containing stairs leading to a second floor) that would typically run along the side of a house. Unfortunately, there is not enough evidence at this time to draw firm conclusions.

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THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

### Narrative Description: (Cont'd)

At some point prior to Thomas Tharald's death in the 1923, an 8'wide x 16'long, lean-to porch was added to the north side of the log structure. In 1962, a one-story, low-pitch gable-roofed bed and bathroom addition was built to the northwest corner of the log house. The addition, which was designed in a very minimalist Northwest Regional Modern Style, is neither visually dominant nor structurally intrusive.

#### Garage/Shop/Apartment (Historic Contributing)

This structure, which consists of a garage and shop on the ground floor and apartment above, was built in 1938 by Del Hoffman, whose family operated a sawmill and were also boat builders in nearby Hoffman Cove. This historic contributing structure is 1 ½ stories with a footprint of approximately 20 by 33 feet. The roof, which is covered with 12" wide copper standing-seam metal, consists of two gable roofs with small gable dormers over the second floor entry to the south and a bay window to the north. The building is clad in large (20" reveal) cedar shingles with board-and-batten sections around the upper apartment unit. The windows are a combination of 6-over-1double hung and multipane fixed sash units. On the south side, stairs lead up to the entry of apartment unit. The structure rests on a concealed concrete foundation. The style is a Pacific Northwest variant of Modernism, with little decoration and straightforward detailing that accentuates the form and structure.

#### Water Tower (Historic Contributing)

Classified as Historic-Contributing, the Water Tower was built in 1938 by Orce Jones, a railroad trestle engineer who worked for the Northern Pacific. It is a tall, square structure that tapers down from a base of approximately 17'x 17' to a platform holding an octagonal, 3,000-gallon water tank. The tank was made by the Federal Tank Company in Seattle. The hip roof is covered with cedar shingles. The structure consists of 2" x 8" fir studs at 16" on center. The tower is clad with large (21"-reveal) cedar shingles under 1"x7" diagonal underlayment. The lumber was reportedly milled on Blakely Island and rafted over by fishing boat. The structure was raised by means of gin poles and block-and-tackle. On the west side, a 5-panel door leads to the interior space. The structure used to have several windows, which have subsequently been covered by matching siding.

### Smoke Shed (Historic Contributing)

This structure is probably contemporaneous with the log house c. 1890, and was used for smoking various meats. It is a simple, one-story 5'x 4" square structure, with a cedar shake gable roof. The shed is clad with 2" vertical laid boards. A low door, constructed of the same material, is located on the south side.

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THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

**Narrative Description: (Cont'd)** 

### Tractor Barn (Historic Contributing)

Built by Ted Copper, a neighboring carpenter, the barn was constructed in 1941. The barn measures 89' x 26', and has four bays. The gable roof is covered with galvanized, corrugated roofing on 2" x 4" nailers attached to 2" x 8" rafters. The walls are 1" x 12" board and 1"x 4" batten siding. The foundation is concrete, but there are dirt floors in the bays. This structure was used for storage of vehicles and assorted farm equipment.

### Hay Barn (Historic Contributing)

This barn was built by the Tharalds circa 1900. It is a large structure, 40 feet by 62 feet, and has a gable roof with sheds on the east and south sides. The roof is galvanized, corrugated metal. The structure consists of tall, round log posts supporting cross joists that help brace the sides. The siding is 1" circular-sawn cedar planks of random (11-20") width. A concrete floor was poured over the dirt at a later date by the Ellis Family. On the west gable, a hayloft door is attached to cables and counterweighted by wooden boxes filled with gravel. There are also sliding-rail doors on the west and north sides.

#### **Bunk Shed** (Historic Contributing)

The bunk shed is an L-shaped structure remodeled from a woodcutter's bunk shed that was probably built in the 1920s or 1930s. The one-story, gable-roofed structure has a cedar shingle roof with board-and-batten cedar siding.

#### Woodshed/Carport (Historic Non-Contributing)

The woodshed/carport consists of two attached structures: the original (late 1800s) woodshed of approximately 12 by 34 feet with a 20 by 18 foot carport added in the 1970s. Both structures have cedar shingle-covered gable roofs. The woodshed has board-and-batten cedar siding, while the carport has a post-and beam structure sided by wood open-lattice work.

### Covered Swimming Pool (Non-Historic Non-Contributing)

The covered swimming pool was constructed in the 1970s. Similar to the Bunk Shed and Woodshed/Carport, it is a one-story, gable-roofed structure with a cedar shingle roof and cedar board-and-batten siding.

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THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

### Statement of Significance

The Tharald Homestead is historically significant under criterion A as an intact pioneer farm on Shaw Island in San Juan County. The homestead is a representative example of a typical pioneer Scandinavian settlement in Washington State and is noted for its use of "Nodic" style architecture under criterion C. Moreover, the homestead is one of the best and oldest examples of its kind to survive in all of San Juan County, Washington. The homesteads period of significance covers the homesteading years of 1883 to 1926, the 43 period when the property was owned by Theodore Tharald. The homestead also has a second period of significance from 1936 to 1951, a period signifying a second wave of construction and development. In 1936, Dr. Fredrick Ellis and his family purchased the property and added several contributing buildings to the resource. Since 1951, the Ellis Family has continued not only to preserve the original architectural character of the farmstead, but has also established easements on some 400 additional surrounding acres of property to permanently conserve a wildlife habit on the site, while protecting old growth forest on Shaw Island. Additionally, a peninsula that encloses this pristine bay was donated to the University of Washington as a biological preserve by Fred Ellis, owner of the nominated property.

When Theodore Tharald, a Norwegian immigrant, claimed this land in 1883, he was part of the first wave of Scandinavian immigrants to settle in the San Juan Islands. Tharald, like many homesteaders throughout San Juan County, improved his holdings by first carving out farmland from a dense forest, and then clearing a cedar bog for lumber to build a log house. With his brother Thomas, who joined him in 1885, he constructed two barns, a smoke shed, woodshed, and chicken house. The nominated parcel includes the original twelve acres on which the Tharalds raised sheep and grew crops. This farm is particularly significant locally because, unlike many of the county's original homesteaders, the Tharalds spent the rest of their lives on the site. Thus it can be said that the Tharalds maintained a pioneering or homesteading way of life from 1883 to 1926.

In 1936, the homestead was purchased by Portland physician, Robert H. Ellis. The Ellis family re-established the homestead as a working farm and made a concerted effort to preserve the historic character of the log house and original buildings. The Ellises proceeded to add significant outbuildings to improve farming operations and enhance the site as a residence. Additions included a water tower, a garage with shop and living quarters, and a tractor barn. Through the 1950s, the Ellis family continued the agrarian traditions and practices established by the parcel's original homesteaders, following a historical pattern common to the San Juan Islands.

#### **General Setting**

An archipelago of great natural beauty, the San Juan Islands occupy a prominent location in North Puget Sound, at the confluence of three important waterways: the Strait of Juan deFuca, Haro Strait, and Rosario Strait. To the north, the Strait of Georgia marks the boundary of the archipelago's outermost islands. During low tides as many as 780 islands are evident; when the tides are high, 456 remain above the surface of the water. 172 of these are named, with the four largest islands being Orcas, San Juan, Lopez, and Shaw. (Shaw Island was named during the Wilkes Expedition in 1841)

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THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Statement of Significance: (Cont'd)

for an American naval captain, John D. Shaw.)

The San Juan Islands enjoy a mild maritime climate and a long growing season. Winter temperatures generally hover around 41 degrees. The average summer temperature is 57 degrees, on warm days climbing into the 80s. Rainfall varies from nineteen inches a year at the south end of San Juan Island to 30 on the northeastern reach of Orcas Island.

The islands are known for their rocky shores and their small inlets and bays. The northern reaches are densely forested with Douglas fir, cedar, and hemlock, while Madrona and Garry oak are typical of sunnier locales with rocky and dry soil. Southern slopes are covered with an abundance of wildflowers in the spring. Valleys contain open meadows and fields, some of which are natural prairies; others were cleared by the early settlers for farmland. Shaw Island is considered to have been the most densely forested of the inhabited islands, with natural meadows for farming. It took tough-minded men like the Tharald brothers, who were used to hard physical work, to establish a productive homestead on Shaw Island.

The homestead that Theodore Tharald claimed and settled on in 1883, and "proved up" over the next seven years, is a prime example of pioneer homestead settlement and architecture. The nominated parcel includes the original twelve acres where Theodore Tharald raised sheep and grew crops, primarily hay and vegetables, and cleared land to build a sturdy log house, a barn, and a chicken house. Later joined by his brother Thomas, Theodore spent the rest of his life farming this acreage. The homestead and the structures the brothers erected, the log house, barn, and smokehouse, are intact and retain their original character. Still in use, the log house provides remarkable evidence of pioneer life.

According to Shaw Island Historical Society historian, Cherie Christensen, this homestead is particularly significant in that the Tharalds did not sell their holding after "proving up." Instead, these two Norwegian bachelor brothers remained on their homestead until they died, Thomas in 1923, Theodore in 1926.

The Robert H. Ellis family obtained the farm in 1936, adding a cluster of buildings, a water tower, a garage with a shop and apartment overhead. These newer buildings provide a sense of cohesion for the property and are evidence of the virtually unbroken farm activity that continued on the site from 1883 until 1961. The Ellises continue to occupy the log house, having made only minimal interior alterations. As of the writing of this nomination, the living room area still has no electricity.

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THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

### **Statement of Significance: (Cont'd)**

#### **Historical Background**

There was once a strong Native American presence in the San Juan Islands. Among the Coast Salish people, the Lummis maintained seasonal fishing camps in the islands as well as a few permanent settlements at the north end of San Juan Island. A favorable climate and an abundant food supply—salmon, shellfish, waterfowl, deer, and plentiful native fruit, berries, and other plants, like camas—provided the island's earliest inhabitants with life's basic necessities.

Spanish explorers made several voyages to the Northwest and to the Puget Sound between 1774 and the early 1790s. They charted and named many waterways and islands in the San Juan archipelago. The British also made their way into the region during the 1790s with an expedition led by Captain George Vancouver. British and American traders soon followed, the powerful Hudson's Bay Company establishing fur trading centers and markets. The British began to expand their territory as well as their commercial ventures throughout the early 1800s, especially after the War of 1812. Americans began to trickle into the Northwest, and it wasn't long before Britain and the United States began to disagree on the boundaries of the territory each had declared as their own. In June, 1846, the two governments signed a treaty to establish a boundary line between the United States and Canada at the 49th Parallel. The San Juan Islands were caught in an unusual predicament as they are situated between Vancouver Island and the American mainland: the demarcation or boundary line between the two countries was not clearly specified in the treaty. Since there are three channels running through this chain of islands, it was long unclear as to which country could claim ownership of the archipelago.

The Hudson's Bay Company had established a farm and salmon-fishing station on San Juan Island as early as 1846. Throughout the 1850s, this venture was expanded to include the grazing of large flocks of sheep. At the same time, American prospectors began to flock into the region, most on their way to the Fraser River to seek their fortunes in gold prospecting. Miners making their way north from Victoria and Port Townsend frequently stopped in the islands, with many preferring to "squat" instead of venturing into the unknown. Other miners later returned from the gold fields to claim land in the islands' favorable location. British residents in the islands eventually clashed with these American squatters, and what ensued was a joint occupation of the islands from 1859 until 1872, when the long-standing boundary dispute was turned over to Emperor Wilhelm of Germany for arbitration. Wilhelm decided in favor of the United States, awarding the ownership of the islands to the American government in that same year. Two years after the boundary between the United States and Great Britain was settled, the islands were surveyed by the federal government. Settlers in the islands began filing homestead claims. From 1875, when the official survey was completed, to circa 1920, a total of 749 claims were filed, the majority occurring between 1890 and 1894. A significant number of those filing claims were of Scandinavian origin.

Shaw Island's early history closely parallels that of San Juan County, although it was settled later than Orcas, San Juan, and Lopez Islands. Very little is known about the island's earliest settlers. A federal land survey in 1874

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THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

### Statement of Significance: (Cont'd)

indicated that Shaw Island contained "good land for small farms, but the larger portion is only fit for sheep pastures." The survey map delineated sites of United States Military Reservation, noting a few settlements. The 1880 census revealed that Shaw Island had the distinction of having been settled almost entirely by men. In 1883, the island population comprised twelve men, all but ten of them bachelors, including two pairs of Norwegian brothers. One of the two married men, the Norwegian fisherman Christian Olsen, took a Native American woman as his wife. Among the twelve was the wool smuggler Alfred Burke, a Danish immigrant. The Norwegian brothers—Theodore and Thomas Tharald, and Hans and Christian Christensen (in later years changed to Lee)—established subsistence farms. According to island lore, the Norwegian contingent held regular meetings for many years so they could speak their native tongue together.

The first Shaw Islanders settled along the shore, traveling by sail or rowboat back and forth to Friday Harbor, Orcas, Port Townsend, Victoria, and further south to Port Gamble, Port Blakely, and Seattle. These early settlers clung to their pioneering ways somewhat longer than the rest of the county, in part because no village was established on the island. The Post Office on Shaw Island wasn't established until 1885. The island's first dock was built at the head of Blind Bay in 1892, and the first store in 1899. Until then, residents sailed or rowed to Friday Harbor or Sweeney's Store on Orcas Island for mail and supplies. As on the other islands, and indeed in rural communities all across the US, the community's gathering place was the one-room schoolhouse. The school was built in 1892 and was located where Hoffman Cove Road meets Neck Point Cove Road.

Homesteaders on Shaw Island, like those who staked claims all over San Juan County, first turned to subsistence farming and later to the occupations that have traditionally sustained islanders until the last 20 years—lumbering, fishing, boat building, and quarrying limestone.

Once established, Shaw Island farmers exported sheep, wool, cows, dairy products, chickens, eggs, fruits and berries. In the 1930s, a few farmers experimented with growing ginseng. While farming was the principal occupation for Shaw Islanders, it wasn't unusual for the farmers to supplement their income by working in sawmills or quarrying lime on the island and elsewhere. A small lime quarry opened on the island in 1894. Owned by Puget Sound Paper & Pulp Company in Everett, it was operated by L. D. Hix for whom Hicks Bay was named.

Succeeding generations of the Hoffman family, still in residence on Hoffman Cove, ran a sawmill, shipping lumber to Friday Harbor and elsewhere in the islands. Del Hoffman was a renowned boat builder in the islands, supplying Island Packing Company (the salmon cannery in Friday Harbor) with six fishing boats in 1895.

There was regular boat traffic between Shaw Island and Friday Harbor, where the island's farmers took their livestock, dairy products, poultry, grain, and fruits and vegetables for shipment to Seattle and other Puget Sound markets. During the 1890s, the county's farmers regularly met on Shaw because of its central location. Like most

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

### Statement of Significance: (Cont'd)

Shaw Island farmers, the Tharalds had their own sloop and regularly plied the islands, making a weekly trip to Friday Harbor for supplies, social life, and to deliver produce.

The 1920 census reports a population of 101 residents, with five residents noting that their mother tongue was Norwegian or Swedish, and eight residents claiming Scandinavian descent.

With 23 subscribers, Shaw islanders established the only cooperative telephone company in San Juan County. In 1930, ferry service began on regular basis. It wasn't until 1951, that the island obtained power; until then residents used kerosene lamps to light their homes, thus maintaining remnants of pioneering days far longer than residents of San Juan Island and Orcas Island. Today the island boasts only a few amenities: a small grocery store, post office, library, museum, and an historic one-room schoolhouse with a recent addition. (The Little Red Schoolhouse, as it is known on Shaw Island, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.)

#### Tharald Homestead

Theodore Tharald was part of a great wave of Scandinavian immigrants who made their way to the Pacific Northwest after first stopping in the upper Midwest, some settling in Minnesota and Wisconsin for as long as ten years before moving on to the Dakotas and further west. According to Marianne Forsblad, director of the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle, who has written extensively on Scandinavian immigration, the Tharald brothers' migration to Washington was in keeping with what is known as the "secondary migration," a trend that brought large numbers of Scandinavians from the Midwest to Puget Sound from 1880 to 1920. Indeed, according to Forsblad, between 1883 and 1920, Scandinavians were the largest of all ethnic groups in the Northwest. Figures cited in Carlos Schwantes' interpretive history, *The Pacific Northwest*, show that in 1880, 4,651 Scandinavians had settled in Washington; by 1890, when Theodore Tharald received the patent to his Shaw Island homestead, that number had climbed to 32,192. Twenty years later, nearly 100,000 Scandinavians called Washington state their home.

Theodore Tharald settled on Shaw Island in 1883, filing a homestead claim thirteen years after arriving in the United States from Norway. (He was not the only Norwegian on Shaw Island to have hopscotched across the country: His neighbor Christian Christensen, who settled on Shaw Island in 1879, lived first in Wisconsin, then headed for Seattle with his brother in 1874.)

It is not clear how many Tharald family members had arrived together in Minnesota, but an Abstract for Title prepared for E.B. Bruns, who eventually assumed ownership of the Tharald homestead, shows that a sister remained in Minnesota while three brothers gradually worked their way across the country. In 1885Thomas Tharald joined his brother Theodore on Shaw Island, and the two remained on the homestead for the rest of their lives. Their younger brother, Ole Berg, called North Dakota home before arriving on Shaw in 1924 to care for the aging bachelors. His son, Oren, and daughter, Atlanta, eventually joined him. Oren later settled in Friday Harbor.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

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THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

### Statement of Significance: (Cont'd)

Shortly after Theodore Tharald died in 1926, his niece married Eber Bruns, a member of an early Shaw Island family. Eber Bruns and Atlanta Berg Bruns occupied the Tharald's farm for a short while, later moving to Orcas Island where their descendants continue to live today.

It wasn't unusual for early settlers of the San Juan Islands to subsidize their homesteads and farms by seeking employment in the lumber and fishing industries, some even lured to the far north by tales of the Klondike bonanza. Like countless Norwegians and Swedes, Theodore Tharald worked in Puget Sound sawmills. When he filed homestead papers in 1883, the 38-year-old noted that he had been living at Port Gamble and was working in the sawmill established by Pope & Talbot Co., the Puget Mill Company.

On September 11, 1883, Theodore claimed 152.95 acres, after having lived on the site since May. By then he had built a log house. Seven years later, in 1890, he listed further improvements to the claim, including a partly finished log house, a barn, a chicken house, picket fencing—presumably around the house—and split rail fencing to confine livestock: twelve sheep and one cow and calf. During this same time, it appears that Theodore was a regular commuter between Shaw Island and Port Gamble, no doubt rowing or sailing the boat he kept in Parks Bay. He left his homestead for up to four months a year "to earn money to live on and to improve my claim," he wrote. Tharald noted on his homestead papers that between 1887 and 1890, he had been working for S.G. Simpson in Little Skookum, Mason County, as a "common laborer."

Like the early farmers all over San Juan County, the Tharald brothers grew timothy and small grains, averaging fourteen tons of hay a year during the 1880s. An undated photograph of the two brothers shows them standing with a hired hand in front of a thresher that made its way around the island during the summer. Settlers promptly established large vegetable gardens and orchards, planting apples, cherries, plums, and pears, and so did the Tharalds. According to Cherie Christensen, the Tharalds were known for raising sheep rather than dairy cows. Since Shaw Island farmers worked their farms cooperatively, it is likely that the Tharalds made the rounds from farm to farm just as the thresher did.

Newspaper accounts and Shaw Island lore portray the two brothers as quiet, retiring men who liked to visit their neighbors. They participated in the social events of the community, and sailed weekly across San Juan Channel to Friday Harbor. The first Shaw Island Postmaster, Bert Tift, a homesteader who arrived the same year as Theodore Tharald, was known to be a good friend and neighbor to the Therald brothers. Tift noted in his dairy on December 16, 1883: "Park and Tharald were here to dinner." An entry on February 12, 1890, shows that "Tharald proved up today." The lives of these men were typical of the rhythm in the islands, lives circumscribed by geography, and constrained by the demands of farming and geography. Rural life in the islands has been punctuated by hard work, cooperation, and neighborliness, as well as a fair amount of tolerance and goodwill. When Thomas, age 69, died suddenly in 1923, the *Islander*, a local newspaper declared that "the sympathy of the entire community is extended to this brother (Theodore) who is now left alone after all the years of companionship."

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

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THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Statement of Significance: (Cont'd)

### Dr. Ellis Family

Dr. Robert "Fred" H. Ellis, a Portland physician, his wife, Blanche, and their four children discovered the Tharald Homestead in 1936 after sailing into Parks Bay with a local fisherman. An avid sailor, Robert had cruised throughout the San Juan Islands in 1916. Twenty years later he was looking for his own place in the islands, and Parks Bay offered protected anchorage.

At that time, the owners of the Tharald Homestead were Earl and Marjorie Hoffman. The Hoffmans, though well ensconced in the life and history of Shaw Island, were ready to move. The log house was haunted, they claimed. It was run down, drafty and cold, the roof leaked. The Ellises, however, saw a "swan in the making," as Fred Ellis puts it. Thus began the family's preservation efforts. From the beginning, the family intended to preserve the log house, adding only minimal improvements. From 1936 to the present, Fred Ellis has followed his parents' vision, dedicated to both preservation and conservation, gradually acquiring contiguous properties for preservation of habitat and open space, 400 acres forever set aside in conservancy.

When Fred Ellis purchased the farm it consisted of the log house, two barns (one derelict), a wood shed, and a privy. The log house had been white washed and the Ellis children were given the task of scraping it away over the course of several summers. The cedar logs were then coated with creosote.

For the first few years, the farm was used as a summer recreational cabin. Water was hauled in milk buckets from a shallow dug well. During the summer of 1937, the family brought the farm into another era by drilling a well and building a water tower with a 3,000-gallon redwood water tank to provide the house with water for the first time. A railroad trestle builder, Orce Jones, built the structure with lumber milled from Blakely Island.

The Ellises have never changed the configuration of the log house. There were two bedrooms upstairs as well as a catch-all room that served as a root cellar. This room was eventually turned into bathroom. The living room was the centerpiece of the house. Robert Ellis acquired an enormous oak couch from Henry Vuillard's Portland Hotel prior to its demolition and brought it to the farm. The effort to install a five-ton couch in the living room was considerable, the family vowing never to move it again. It has remained in place since that day.

Often full in the summer, the log house proved quite small. As a result a garage with living quarters above was built for the Ellises by Del Hoffman in 1937-38 to accommodate the many family members who came for the summer. During 1939 and 1940, the Ellis family made countless trips to Sucia Island for sandstone to make walkways in the muddy yard around the house. The sandstone was so plentiful that they picked it off the beach, loaded it into a cedar dingy, and hefted it onto Art Hoffman's fishing boat, only to reverse the process once they returned to Parks Bay. Each stone was handled eight times, Fred Ellis exclaims. These walkways still surround the pioneer log house.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

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THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

### Statement of Significance: (Cont'd)

During the late 1930s, the property was still used as a working farm, and the Ellises set about increasing its productivity. They not only built new fences, but later blasted the cedar stumps that Theodore Tharald had left in the bog. They re-roofed the barn, adding a concrete floor, and kept sixteen Guernsey cows. The separator was kept in the Tharalds' woodshed, which is still standing. (A carport was added to this woodshed in the 1970s.)

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, dairy farmers in the islands sold their milk and cream to a cooperative, the San Juan County Dairyman's Association in Friday Harbor. The creamery provided regular pick-up service to farms on San Juan, Orcas, Shaw and Lopez. This was the heyday of dairying in the islands; the Creamery, as it was called, had the reputation of producing cream with the highest butterfat content in the state.

Over the years, the Tharald farm evolved and changed as all farms did in the rest of the county. Beef cattle—Herefords—replaced diary cows after WWII. During the 1950s, as agriculture in the islands began a steady decline, a number of Shaw Island farmers sold out. It was during this time that the Ellis family began to acquire nearby farms. They continued to raise cattle until the early 1960s, at which time they sold their herd and eventually turned to safeguarding habitat as an endeavor creating a beautiful preserve for old-growth fir and cedar.

### **Concluding Comments**

San Juan County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state of Washington. Voter registration lists for the last presidential election show that more than a third of voters were new to the islands since the election in 1996. Population increase has brought significant and permanent change to the rural landscape and way of life in the islands. The Tharald Farmstead, at the head Parks Bay, Shaw Island, still echoes the earliest patterns of settlement and life in San Juan County. Much remains virtually unchanged and continues to bear witness to the homesteading way of life.

The Tharald brothers not only represent an historical pattern of Scandinavian immigration and settlement in America, but also reflect a common island history and experience. This is evident in the development and architecture of their homestead. With the exception of the Krumdiack Homestead on Waldron Island, a National Register listed site, the Tharald Homestead is the most intact example of homesteading life in the San Juan islands. A vast majority of the pioneer cedar log cabins built in San Juan County have been demolished, moved, substantially altered, or allowed to fall into a state of disrepair. The fact that the Tharald house has been continuously occupied and cared for since 1883 is also noteworthy.

The outbuildings constructed by the Ellises have served a useful function over the years, and do not detract from the integrity of the log house, the barn, or from the historic character of the nominated parcel. Indeed their very functionality, coupled with building materials that have weathered over time, enhances the original homestead.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 9 of 9

THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

### Statement of Significance: (Cont'd)

The Ellis family represents another historical pattern: that of summer residents who then made the San Juan Islands their permanent home. What makes the Tharald Homestead important both locally and nationally is that it represents a full circle of human endeavor: the evolution of a site from pristine wilderness, to a homestead carved out of the woods by two hard-working Norwegian immigrants, to a working farm run by an energetic and conservation-minded family, to a place where evidence of both the pioneer era and the succeeding farming years. The homestead is a well preserved 20-acre enclave set in the midst of a surrounding landscape returning to its natural splendor.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9

Page 1 of 2

THARALD HOMESTEAD
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9

Page 2 of 2

THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

**Bibliography: (Cont'd)** 

#### **Archival Materials**

Hayner, Norman S. "Ecological Succession in the San Juan Islands." American Sociological Society, 1929. A synopsis of this paper by Dr. Hayner, professor of sociology at the University of Washington, was found in the Shaw Island Historical Museum.

Tift, Bert. Shaw Island homesteader and postmaster. Diary entries: December 16, 1883, and February 12, 1890. Homestead map of the 1880s and 1890s. In the collection of the Shaw Island Historical Museum.

#### **Personal Communications**

Christensen, Cherie. Historian, Shaw Island Historical Society.

Forssblad, Marianne. Director, Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle, WA.

Ellis, Dr. Frederick E. Property owner, Shaw Island.

Schroeder, Dr. Tom. Local historian.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10

Page 1 of 1

THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The Tharald homestead is located on Parks Bay on the west side of Shaw Island in San Juan County, Washington. The homestead was originally accessed by boat from Parks Bay. Today there is a long dock with a dirt road leading up too the original homestead site. The dirt road winds through dense forest, which forms the border of the nominated parcel on all sides. The site is located in parts of Section 32 and 33 of Township 36N Range 2W.

#### UTM Cordinates Cont'd:

5)	10	502544E	5378597N
6)	10	502509E	5378475N
7)	10	502285E	5378475N
8)	10	502133E	5378282N
9)	10	502996E	5378374N

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The nominated property comprises of the 12 acres that Theodore Tharald first cleared and improved upon, as well as approximately 18 acres of the original 152.95 acre homestead. The boundaries, which are irregular, define the area of historic use of the property. This includes the historic building cluster, the dirt road linking the site to Parks Bay, a large pond, and open field, and a portion of the modern dirt roadway that connects the site to Hoffman Cove Road.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 19

### Tharald Homestead, Shaw Island, San Juan County, Washington

#### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photographers: Nancy Larsen (NL) & Boyd C. Pratt (BCP)

Dates: NL April 2000; BCP January 2001 (up to 20), April 2001 (20-28) Negatives: Fred Ellis Collection, Shaw Island, San Juan County, WA

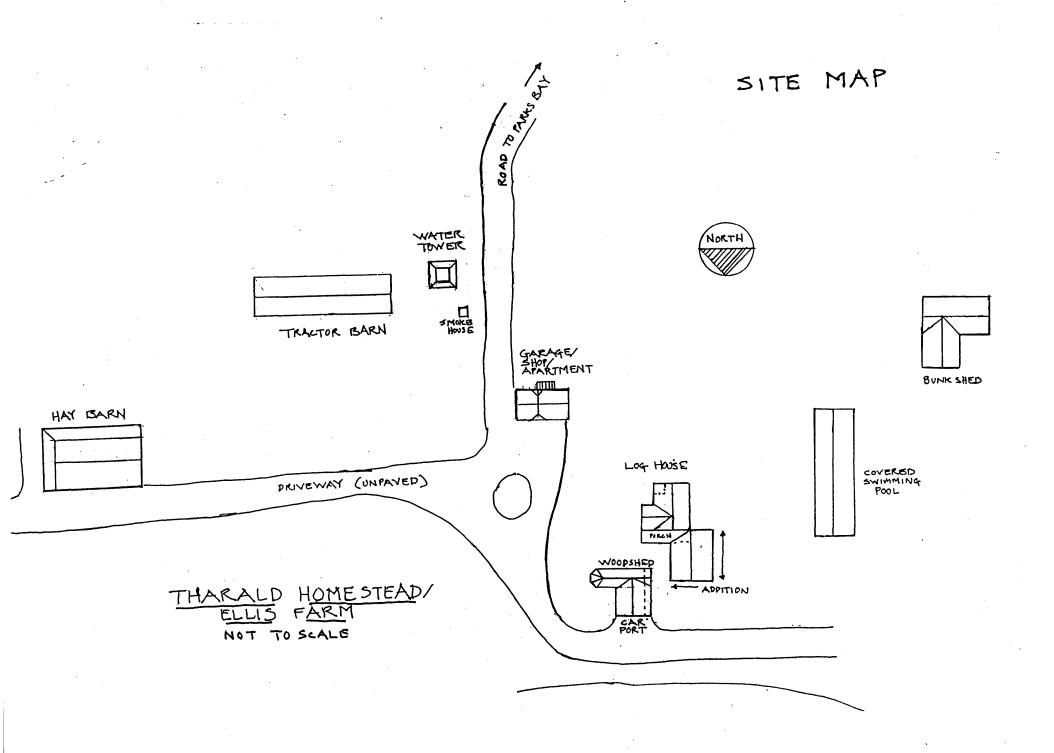
- 1. Log House, looking northeast (NL)
- 2. Log House, looking northwest (NL)
- 3. Log House, looking northwest (BCP)
- 4. Log House, looking west (NL)
- 5. Detail, Full Dovetail Notching & Groove for Log Hauling, Log House (BCP)
- 6. Detail, Logs and Field Stone Foundation, Log House (NL)
- 7. Addition to Log House, looking northeast (BCP)
- 8. Garage/Shop/Apartment, looking southwest (BCP)
- 9. Garage/Shop/Apartment, looking northwest (BCP)
- 10. Water Tower and Smokehouse, looking southeast (BCP)
- 11. Smokehouse, looking northeast (BCP)
- 12. Tractor Barn, looking south (BCP)
- 13. Tractor Barn, looking northeast (BCP)
- 14. Hay Barn, looking southwest (BCP)
- 15. Hay Barn, looking east (BCP)
- 16. Hay Loft Door, Hay Barn, looking east (BCP)
- 17. Detail, Counterweight for Hay Loft Door, Hay Barn (BCP)
- 18. Wood Shed/Car Port, looking southwest (BCP)
- 19. Wood Shed, Log House, and Addition, looking south (BCP)
- 20. Bunk Shed, looking southwest (BCP)
- 21. Covered Swimming Pool, looking southeast (BCP)

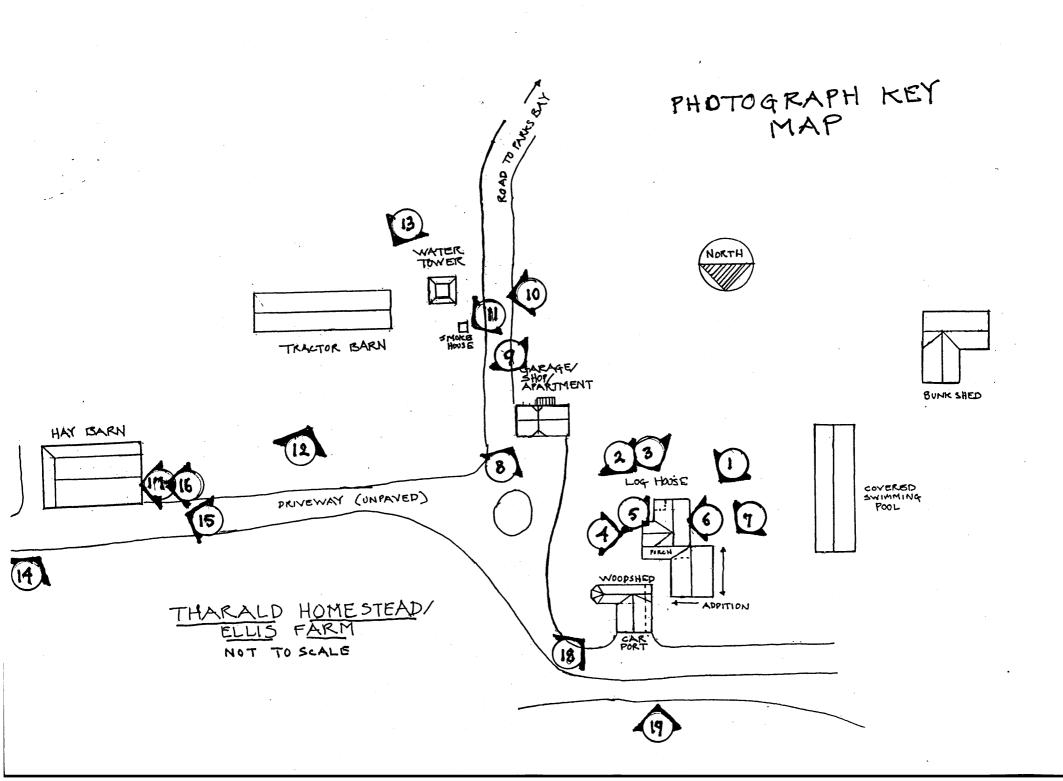
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

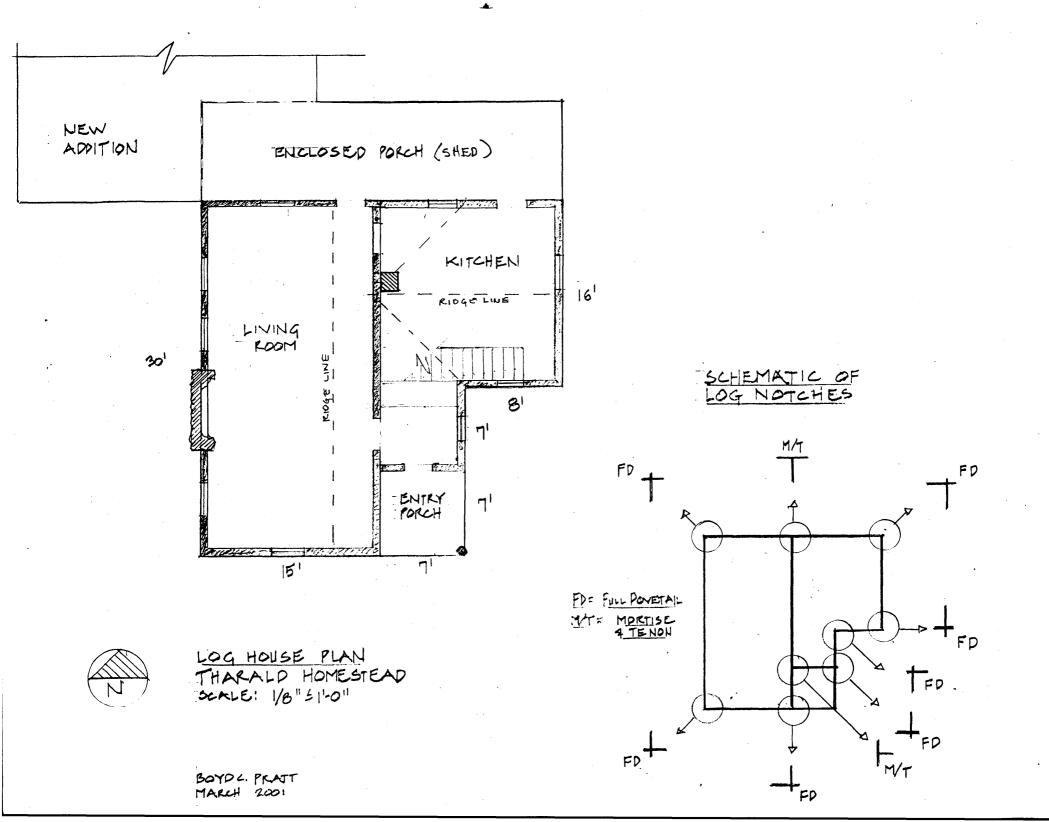
Section number Photos Page 20

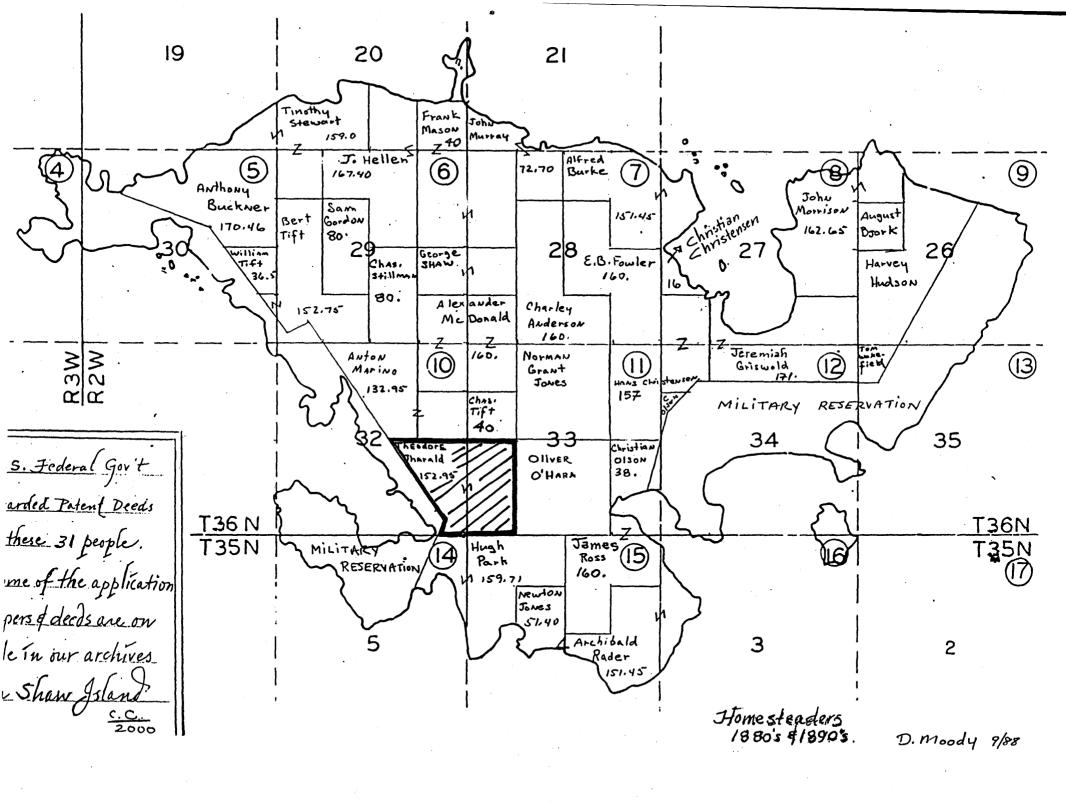
### Tharald Homestead, Shaw Island, San Juan County, Washington

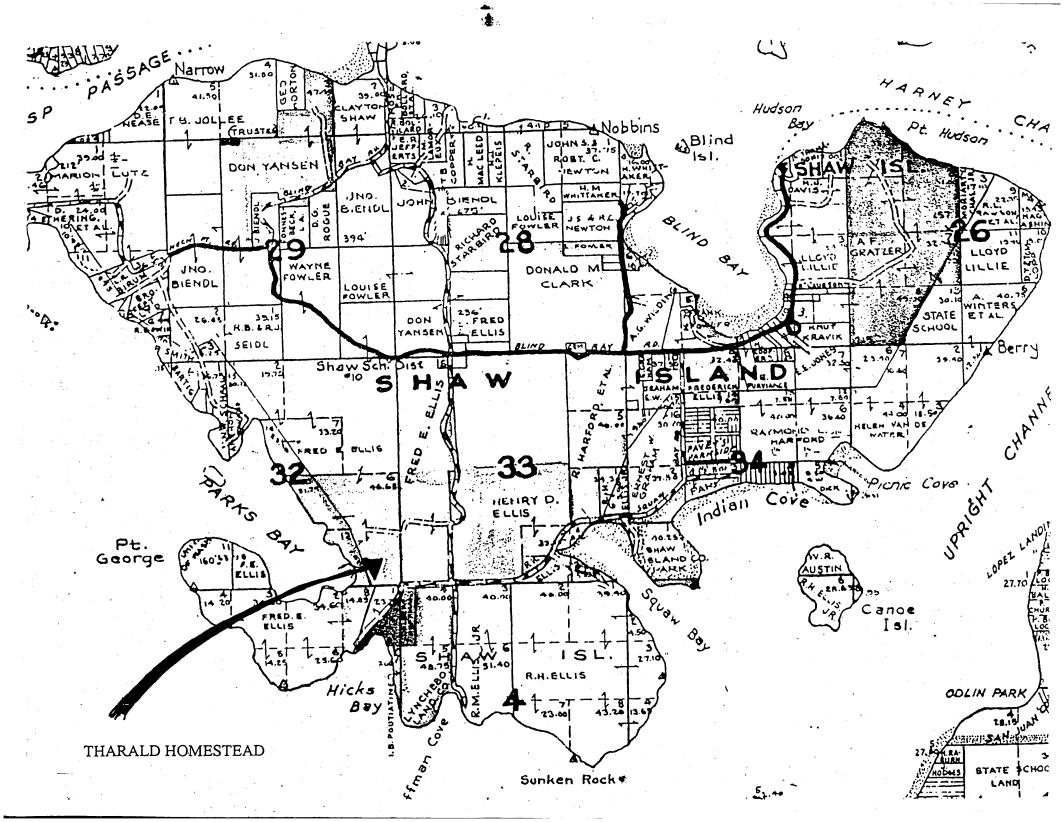
- 22. Log House Interior, north end of Living Room (BCP)
- 23. Log House Interior, southwest corner of Living Room (BCP)
- 24. Log House Interior, southeast corner of Living Room (BCP)
- 25. Log House Interior, Fireplace, west wall of Living Room (BCP)
- 26. View of Property from current access road, looking west (BCP)
- 27. View of Property, looking southwest (BCP)
- 28. View of Parks Bay, looking southeast (BCP)



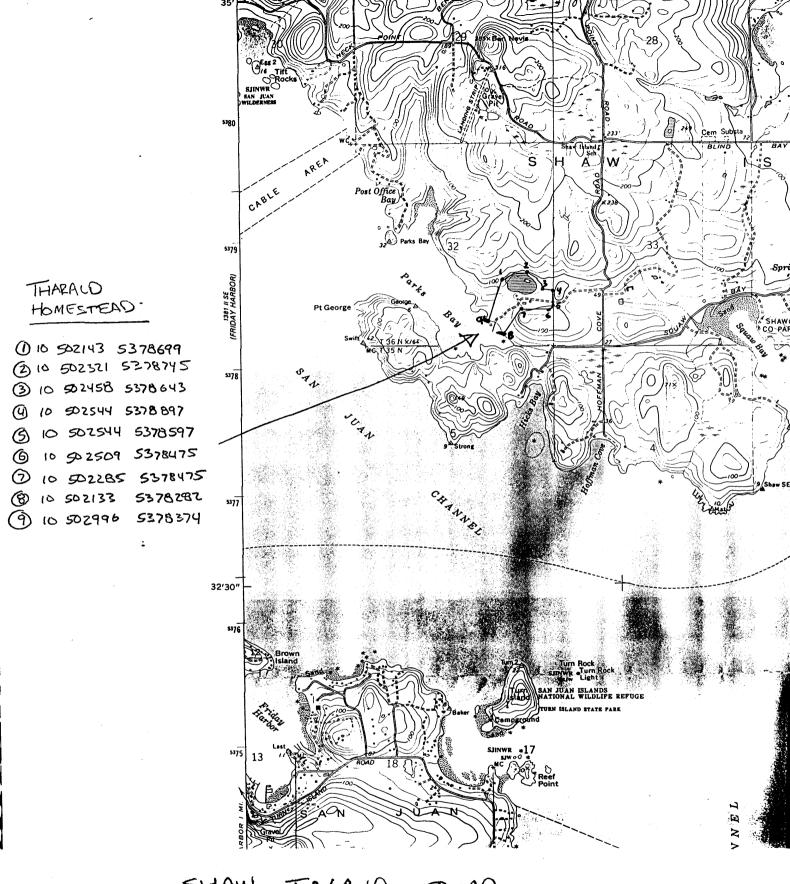




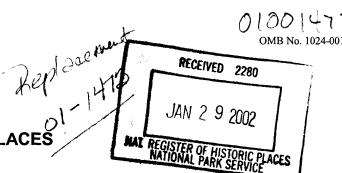








SHAW ISLAND QUAD



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting register of Historic Places Register This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property	
historic nameTHARALD HOMEST	EAD
other names/site numberELLIS FARM	
2. Location	
street & numberHOFFMAN COVE ROA	not for publication
city or town SHAW ISLAND	vicinity
city or townSHAW ISLAND state WASHINGTON codeWA _ county	SAN JUAN code _055 zip code _98286
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act or request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR P National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered s continuation sheet for additional comments.)  Signature of certifying official	for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and lart 60. In my opinion, the property does not meet the significant nationally statewide locally. ( See Date
( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)	-
Signature of commenting or other official	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	1
4. National Park Service Certification	//em
	Signature of Keeper:  Date of Action:  L.12.02

5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) X_ private public-local public-State public-Federal	Category of Property (Check only one box)  building(sX district site structure	s)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)  Contributing Noncontributing  buildings
•	object		sites
•			objects
Name of related multiple			72 Total
property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a			
multiple property listing.)N/A			Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
			NONE
•			
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Cat:DOMESTICAGRICULTURE/ SU Sub:SINGLE DWELLINGAGRICULTURAL OU	<u> </u>	Cat:DO AG Sub:SIN	nctions ies from instructions) MESTIC RICULTURE/ SUBSISTENCE IGLE DWELLING GRICULTURAL OUTBUILDINGS
	•		
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (Einstructions) OTHER: VERNACULAR	Enter categories from	foundation _ roof	Enter categories from instructions) STONE METAL: COPPER WOOD: LOG
		other	
Narrative Description (Describe	the historic and current cor	ndition of the pro	perty on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet

8. State	ment of Significance	
in one or for Nation	ble National Register Criteria (Mark "x" more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property all Register listing)  Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)ARCHITECTUREEXPLORATION / SETTLEMENT
B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
_X_ C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high	Period of Significance1883-19261936-1951
· .	artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Significant Dates18831890
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Person
	Considerations in all the boxes that apply.)	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Cultural Affiliation
B	removed from its original location.	
c	a birthplace or a grave.	Architect/BuilderTHEODORE & THOMAS THARALD
D	a cemetery.	(Builders of Home)_ DEL HOFFMAN (Builder of garage/apartment)
E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	ORCE JONES (Builder of Water Tower) TED COPPER (Builder of Tractor shed)
F	a commemorative property.	
	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	ation charte )

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See Continuation Sheet

THARALD HOMESTEAD (			SAN JUAN, WA
9. Major Bibliographical Refere	ences		
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sour		s form on one or more cor	ntinuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on fil  preliminary determination of listing (36 CFR 67) has be previously listed in the Natio previously determined eligib National Register designated a National Historic recorded by Historic America Survey # recorded by Historic America Record #	individual een requested. nal Register le by the ric Landmark an Buildings	State Historic F Other State ag Federal agency Local governm University X Other Name of repository	y ient : D HISTORICAL MUSUEM
10. Geographical Data	· .		
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UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a  1 10 502143 5378699 Zone Easting Northing 2 10 502321 5378745 Zone Easting Northing	continuation sheet)	Zone Easting 4 10 502544 Zone Easting	5378643 Northing 5378597 Northing
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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the propert See Continuation Sheet	y on a continuation sheel	t.)	
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected See Continuation Sheet	eted on a continuation sho		
11. Form Prepared By			
name/titleNANCY LAR	SEN & BOYD C. PRA	ATT	
organizationSHAW ISLAN	D HISTORICAL MUS	SUEM date	eMARCH 14, 2001
street & number78 REDWING	ROADte	elephone(360) 46	58-2063
city or townFRIDAY	HARBOR	stateWA zip	code98250

THARALD HOMESTEAD	SAN JUAN, WA
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating A Sketch map for historic districts and properties	
Photographs Representative black and white photographs of	f the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.) name DR. FREDERICK ELLIS	

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

street & number PO BOX 130

city or town

SHAW ISLAND

telephone

state

(360) 468-2063

zip code

98286

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division. National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7

Page 1 of 4

THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

### **Narrative Description:**

#### Setting

The Tharald Homestead is located on Parks Bay on Shaw Island, San Juan County, Washington. It was originally accessed by boat from Parks Bay to the south. Today a modern dock leads to a dirt lane that accesses the original homestead site. Today the home can also be reached by means of a driveway off of Hoffman Cove Road, to the northeast, which has changed the point of entry to the main (log structure) house to the north. The area between the ocean and the building complex is forested with a mix of Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), and Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) near the shore, with undergrowths of salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) and fern (various spp.) in moist areas. To the north, a pond has been made (1988) from what was originally a cedar bog, with a short dock (modern) across the road from the carport. The area immediately surrounding the building complex has been landscaped with a large variety of native and imported trees and plants, including cottonwoods, sequoia, red oaks, green beeches, catalpa, rhododendrons, a variety of fruit trees, including figs and a flowering cherry, and a vegetable garden.

There are nine main structures on the property: the log house; a garage/shop/apartment; a water tower; a smoke shed; a tractor barn; a hay barn; a woodshed/carport; a bunk shed; and a covered swimming pool. All are considered contributing elements except for the swimming pool and woodshed/carport, which are either modern or have been so modified as to have lost their historic integrity.

#### Log House (Historic Contributing)

The main house on the property is a log dwelling that most likely was built in three stages, ca. 1883 and ca. 1890, with a modern addition to the north in 1962. The structure, which is L-shaped in plan, is 1 ½ stories with a gable roof. The area of the structure under the main gable roof measures 30' long x 22' wide. A 16' wide, cross-gable section projects to the east another 8', for a total width on the north side of 30'. On the southeast corner of the main gable section is a 7' x 7' recessed entry porch, which is supported by a 6" diameter log column. The porch is paved with flagstone.

Both roofs, which are steeply pitched (12:12), are currently covered with 12" wide, standing-seam copper. The walls are constructed of approximately 12" diameter (cedar) logs that have been hewn flat on the inside surface and slightly flattened (approximately 3") on the outside, leaving a 5 to 6" tall x 3" deep beveled reveal where the logs meet each other. Full dovetail notching occurs at the corners, although where two of the walls butt into straight walls, the notching is a square tenon in a mortise. The interstices between the walls are very tight, with some evidence of oakum chinking wedged into the cracks. Several of the logs are ringed by chiseled grooves that were probably used for attaching ropes for hauling. According to revealed traces, historic photographs, and family stories, the logs were originally whitewashed. Today they are creosoted. The home sits on a fieldstone foundation laid in random rubble. Most of the windows are 6-over-1, wood double hung and approximately 2"-10"

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#### Narrative Description: (Cont'd)

wide by 5'-4" tall, although there are several 1-over-1 double hung windows that are smaller in dimension. All three exterior doors measure 2'-8" and are constructed of 3 vertical planks. Both the doors and the windows are surrounded by simple 1" x 6" wood molding.

On the interior, the ground floor consists of a small entry vestibule, a large living room and a kitchen/dining room. Stairs on the south side of the kitchen lead up to second floor, which consists of two bedrooms separated by closets under the main gable and a bathroom in the cross gable. Most of the downstairs walls are the original flat-hewn logs, with the exception of the west wall of the kitchen/dining room, which consists of rounded logs similar to the exterior. A 1'-5" square chimney is currently located on the west wall of the kitchen/dining room. However, there is evidence of a covered-up hole on the opposite side of the wall (i.e., in the living room); hence the cookstove/chimney might have been elsewhere. A large (3' deep x 6'-8" wide) stone fireplace is located in the middle of the west wall of the living room in main gable section. Photographic evidence indicates that this location was originally a doorway. The installation of the fireplace had been commenced, although not completed, prior to buildings occupancy by the Ellis Family in 1936. The ceiling/floor, which is 9'-6" high, has been modified, although the exterior of the cross gable elevation indicates mortised floor joists at 2' centers.

The actual date and sequence of construction of the log house is not clear. In the Testimony of Claimant for his homestead application, Theodore Tharald mentions a "log house 14 x 16, 1 door, 2 windows" dwelling as well as a "new house partly built—24 x 32." Tharald had first homesteaded in 1883; the Testimony was given in 1890. This might suggest that the older house, built ca.1883, was either abandoned or used as a separate dwelling or storage structure (although there is no above-ground evidence of another log structure on the property) or incorporated into the new house. Given the dimensions of the existing structure, it is possible that one of its sections—the kitchen/dining room or the south portion of the main gable, was incorporated into the new house.

Finally, there is another puzzling feature of the log house, which is the floor plan. The recessed corner entry porch suggests a more modern style than a 'simple' homestead log cabin. Perhaps Theodore Tharald and his brother influenced by current architectural fashions while working for Pope and Talbot at Port Gamble. Or there may have been other Old World (Norwegian) precedents. The research literature on American log structures and their Old World origins has mainly focused on the East Coast and the Midwest (Jordan 1985; Kniffen and Glassie 1986), although some studies have discussed Western regional traditions (Dole 1974; Wilson 1984). While these studies associate full dovetail notching and flat hewing with a FennoScandanavian Old World tradition, they do not mention floor plans specific to that group. Furthermore, this example does not fit the two- and three-room traditional Norwegian house type as outlined by Henning (1986). There is, however, an intriguing example of a "Norwegian gallery or sval" house illustrated by Noble (1984), which seems to show a recessed corner porch as the residuum of the long gallery (often containing stairs leading to a second floor) that would typically run along the side of a house. Unfortunately, there is not enough evidence at this time to draw firm conclusions.

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### Narrative Description: (Cont'd)

At some point prior to Thomas Tharald's death in the 1923, an 8'wide x 16'long, lean-to porch was added to the north side of the log structure. In 1962, a one-story, low-pitch gable-roofed bed and bathroom addition was built to the northwest corner of the log house. The addition, which was designed in a very minimalist Northwest Regional Modern Style, is neither visually dominant nor structurally intrusive.

#### Garage/Shop/Apartment (Historic Contributing)

This structure, which consists of a garage and shop on the ground floor and apartment above, was built in 1938 by Del Hoffman, whose family operated a sawmill and were also boat builders in nearby Hoffman Cove. This historic contributing structure is 1 ½ stories with a footprint of approximately 20 by 33 feet. The roof, which is covered with 12" wide copper standing-seam metal, consists of two gable roofs with small gable dormers over the second floor entry to the south and a bay window to the north. The building is clad in large (20" reveal) cedar shingles with board-and-batten sections around the upper apartment unit. The windows are a combination of 6-over-1double hung and multipane fixed sash units. On the south side, stairs lead up to the entry of apartment unit. The structure rests on a concealed concrete foundation. The style is a Pacific Northwest variant of Modernism, with little decoration and straightforward detailing that accentuates the form and structure.

### Water Tower (Historic Contributing)

Classified as Historic-Contributing, the Water Tower was built in 1938 by Orce Jones, a railroad trestle engineer who worked for the Northern Pacific. It is a tall, square structure that tapers down from a base of approximately 17'x 17' to a platform holding an octagonal, 3,000-gallon water tank. The tank was made by the Federal Tank Company in Seattle. The hip roof is covered with cedar shingles. The structure consists of 2" x 8" fir studs at 16" on center. The tower is clad with large (21"-reveal) cedar shingles under 1"x7" diagonal underlayment. The lumber was reportedly milled on Blakely Island and rafted over by fishing boat. The structure was raised by means of gin poles and block-and-tackle. On the west side, a 5-panel door leads to the interior space. The structure used to have several windows, which have subsequently been covered by matching siding.

#### Smoke Shed (Historic Contributing)

This structure is probably contemporaneous with the log house c. 1890, and was used for smoking various meats. It is a simple, one-story 5'x 4" square structure, with a cedar shake gable roof. The shed is clad with 2" vertical laid boards. A low door, constructed of the same material, is located on the south side.

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Narrative Description: (Cont'd)

### Tractor Barn (Historic Contributing)

Built by Ted Copper, a neighboring carpenter, the barn was constructed in 1941. The barn measures 89' x 26', and has four bays. The gable roof is covered with galvanized, corrugated roofing on 2" x 4" nailers attached to 2" x 8" rafters. The walls are 1" x 12" board and 1"x 4" batten siding. The foundation is concrete, but there are dirt floors in the bays. This structure was used for storage of vehicles and assorted farm equipment.

#### Hay Barn (Historic Contributing)

This barn was built by the Tharalds circa 1900. It is a large structure, 40 feet by 62 feet, and has a gable roof with sheds on the east and south sides. The roof is galvanized, corrugated metal. The structure consists of tall, round log posts supporting cross joists that help brace the sides. The siding is 1" circular-sawn cedar planks of random (11-20") width. A concrete floor was poured over the dirt at a later date by the Ellis Family. On the west gable, a hayloft door is attached to cables and counterweighted by wooden boxes filled with gravel. There are also sliding-rail doors on the west and north sides.

### **Bunk Shed** (Historic Contributing)

The bunk shed is an L-shaped structure remodeled from a woodcutter's bunk shed that was probably built in the 1920s or 1930s. The one-story, gable-roofed structure has a cedar shingle roof with board-and-batten cedar siding.

#### Woodshed/Carport (Historic Non-Contributing)

The woodshed/carport consists of two attached structures: the original (late 1800s) woodshed of approximately 12 by 34 feet with a 20 by 18 foot carport added in the 1970s. Both structures have cedar shingle-covered gable roofs. The woodshed has board-and-batten cedar siding, while the carport has a post-and beam structure sided by wood open-lattice work.

### Covered Swimming Pool (Non-Historic Non-Contributing)

The covered swimming pool was constructed in the 1970s. Similar to the Bunk Shed and Woodshed/Carport, it is a one-story, gable-roofed structure with a cedar shingle roof and cedar board-and-batten siding.

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THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

#### Statement of Significance

The Tharald Homestead is historically significant under criterion A as an intact pioneer farm on Shaw Island in San Juan County. The homestead is a representative example of a typical pioneer Scandinavian settlement in Washington State and is noted for its use of "Nodic" style architecture under criterion C. Moreover, the homestead is one of the best and oldest examples of its kind to survive in all of San Juan County, Washington. The homesteads period of significance covers the homesteading years of 1883 to 1926, the 43 period when the property was owned by Theodore Tharald. The homestead also has a second period of significance from 1936 to 1951, a period signifying a second wave of construction and development. In 1936, Dr. Fredrick Ellis and his family purchased the property and added several contributing buildings to the resource. Since 1951, the Ellis Family has continued not only to preserve the original architectural character of the farmstead, but has also established easements on some 400 additional surrounding acres of property to permanently conserve a wildlife habit on the site, while protecting old growth forest on Shaw Island. Additionally, a peninsula that encloses this pristine bay was donated to the University of Washington as a biological preserve by Fred Ellis, owner of the nominated property.

When Theodore Tharald, a Norwegian immigrant, claimed this land in 1883, he was part of the first wave of Scandinavian immigrants to settle in the San Juan Islands. Tharald, like many homesteaders throughout San Juan County, improved his holdings by first carving out farmland from a dense forest, and then clearing a cedar bog for lumber to build a log house. With his brother Thomas, who joined him in 1885, he constructed two barns, a smoke shed, woodshed, and chicken house. The nominated parcel includes the original twelve acres on which the Tharalds raised sheep and grew crops. This farm is particularly significant locally because, unlike many of the county's original homesteaders, the Tharalds spent the rest of their lives on the site. Thus it can be said that the Tharalds maintained a pioneering or homesteading way of life from 1883 to 1926.

In 1936, the homestead was purchased by Portland physician, Robert H. Ellis. The Ellis family re-established the homestead as a working farm and made a concerted effort to preserve the historic character of the log house and original buildings. The Ellises proceeded to add significant outbuildings to improve farming operations and enhance the site as a residence. Additions included a water tower, a garage with shop and living quarters, and a tractor barn. Through the 1950s, the Ellis family continued the agrarian traditions and practices established by the parcel's original homesteaders, following a historical pattern common to the San Juan Islands.

#### **General Setting**

An archipelago of great natural beauty, the San Juan Islands occupy a prominent location in North Puget Sound, at the confluence of three important waterways: the Strait of Juan deFuca, Haro Strait, and Rosario Strait. To the north, the Strait of Georgia marks the boundary of the archipelago's outermost islands. During low tides as many as 780 islands are evident; when the tides are high, 456 remain above the surface of the water. 172 of these are named, with the four largest islands being Orcas, San Juan, Lopez, and Shaw. (Shaw Island was named during the Wilkes Expedition in 1841)

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#### Statement of Significance: (Cont'd)

for an American naval captain, John D. Shaw.)

The San Juan Islands enjoy a mild maritime climate and a long growing season. Winter temperatures generally hover around 41 degrees. The average summer temperature is 57 degrees, on warm days climbing into the 80s. Rainfall varies from nineteen inches a year at the south end of San Juan Island to 30 on the northeastern reach of Orcas Island.

The islands are known for their rocky shores and their small inlets and bays. The northern reaches are densely forested with Douglas fir, cedar, and hemlock, while Madrona and Garry oak are typical of sunnier locales with rocky and dry soil. Southern slopes are covered with an abundance of wildflowers in the spring. Valleys contain open meadows and fields, some of which are natural prairies; others were cleared by the early settlers for farmland. Shaw Island is considered to have been the most densely forested of the inhabited islands, with natural meadows for farming. It took tough-minded men like the Tharald brothers, who were used to hard physical work, to establish a productive homestead on Shaw Island.

The homestead that Theodore Tharald claimed and settled on in 1883, and "proved up" over the next seven years, is a prime example of pioneer homestead settlement and architecture. The nominated parcel includes the original twelve acres where Theodore Tharald raised sheep and grew crops, primarily hay and vegetables, and cleared land to build a sturdy log house, a barn, and a chicken house. Later joined by his brother Thomas, Theodore spent the rest of his life farming this acreage. The homestead and the structures the brothers erected, the log house, barn, and smokehouse, are intact and retain their original character. Still in use, the log house provides remarkable evidence of pioneer life.

According to Shaw Island Historical Society historian, Cherie Christensen, this homestead is particularly significant in that the Tharalds did not sell their holding after "proving up." Instead, these two Norwegian bachelor brothers remained on their homestead until they died, Thomas in 1923, Theodore in 1926.

The Robert H. Ellis family obtained the farm in 1936, adding a cluster of buildings, a water tower, a garage with a shop and apartment overhead. These newer buildings provide a sense of cohesion for the property and are evidence of the virtually unbroken farm activity that continued on the site from 1883 until 1961. The Ellises continue to occupy the log house, having made only minimal interior alterations. As of the writing of this nomination, the living room area still has no electricity.

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THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

#### Statement of Significance: (Cont'd)

#### Historical Background

There was once a strong Native American presence in the San Juan Islands. Among the Coast Salish people, the Lummis maintained seasonal fishing camps in the islands as well as a few permanent settlements at the north end of San Juan Island. A favorable climate and an abundant food supply—salmon, shellfish, waterfowl, deer, and plentiful native fruit, berries, and other plants, like camas—provided the island's earliest inhabitants with life's basic necessities.

Spanish explorers made several voyages to the Northwest and to the Puget Sound between 1774 and the early 1790s. They charted and named many waterways and islands in the San Juan archipelago. The British also made their way into the region during the 1790s with an expedition led by Captain George Vancouver. British and American traders soon followed, the powerful Hudson's Bay Company establishing fur trading centers and markets. The British began to expand their territory as well as their commercial ventures throughout the early 1800s, especially after the War of 1812. Americans began to trickle into the Northwest, and it wasn't long before Britain and the United States began to disagree on the boundaries of the territory each had declared as their own. In June, 1846, the two governments signed a treaty to establish a boundary line between the United States and Canada at the 49th Parallel. The San Juan Islands were caught in an unusual predicament as they are situated between Vancouver Island and the American mainland: the demarcation or boundary line between the two countries was not clearly specified in the treaty. Since there are three channels running through this chain of islands, it was long unclear as to which country could claim ownership of the archipelago.

The Hudson's Bay Company had established a farm and salmon-fishing station on San Juan Island as early as 1846. Throughout the 1850s, this venture was expanded to include the grazing of large flocks of sheep. At the same time, American prospectors began to flock into the region, most on their way to the Fraser River to seek their fortunes in gold prospecting. Miners making their way north from Victoria and Port Townsend frequently stopped in the islands, with many preferring to "squat" instead of venturing into the unknown. Other miners later returned from the gold fields to claim land in the islands' favorable location. British residents in the islands eventually clashed with these American squatters, and what ensued was a joint occupation of the islands from 1859 until 1872, when the long-standing boundary dispute was turned over to Emperor Wilhelm of Germany for arbitration. Wilhelm decided in favor of the United States, awarding the ownership of the islands to the American government in that same year. Two years after the boundary between the United States and Great Britain was settled, the islands were surveyed by the federal government. Settlers in the islands began filing homestead claims. From 1875, when the official survey was completed, to circa 1920, a total of 749 claims were filed, the majority occurring between 1890 and 1894. A significant number of those filing claims were of Scandinavian origin.

Shaw Island's early history closely parallels that of San Juan County, although it was settled later than Orcas, San Juan, and Lopez Islands. Very little is known about the island's earliest settlers. A federal land survey in 1874

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### Statement of Significance: (Cont'd)

indicated that Shaw Island contained "good land for small farms, but the larger portion is only fit for sheep pastures." The survey map delineated sites of United States Military Reservation, noting a few settlements. The 1880 census revealed that Shaw Island had the distinction of having been settled almost entirely by men. In 1883, the island population comprised twelve men, all but ten of them bachelors, including two pairs of Norwegian brothers. One of the two married men, the Norwegian fisherman Christian Olsen, took a Native American woman as his wife. Among the twelve was the wool smuggler Alfred Burke, a Danish immigrant. The Norwegian brothers—Theodore and Thomas Tharald, and Hans and Christian Christensen (in later years changed to Lee)—established subsistence farms. According to island lore, the Norwegian contingent held regular meetings for many years so they could speak their native tongue together.

The first Shaw Islanders settled along the shore, traveling by sail or rowboat back and forth to Friday Harbor, Orcas, Port Townsend, Victoria, and further south to Port Gamble, Port Blakely, and Seattle. These early settlers clung to their pioneering ways somewhat longer than the rest of the county, in part because no village was established on the island. The Post Office on Shaw Island wasn't established until 1885. The island's first dock was built at the head of Blind Bay in 1892, and the first store in 1899. Until then, residents sailed or rowed to Friday Harbor or Sweeney's Store on Orcas Island for mail and supplies. As on the other islands, and indeed in rural communities all across the US, the community's gathering place was the one-room schoolhouse. The school was built in 1892 and was located where Hoffman Cove Road meets Neck Point Cove Road.

Homesteaders on Shaw Island, like those who staked claims all over San Juan County, first turned to subsistence farming and later to the occupations that have traditionally sustained islanders until the last 20 years—lumbering, fishing, boat building, and quarrying limestone.

Once established, Shaw Island farmers exported sheep, wool, cows, dairy products, chickens, eggs, fruits and berries. In the 1930s, a few farmers experimented with growing ginseng. While farming was the principal occupation for Shaw Islanders, it wasn't unusual for the farmers to supplement their income by working in sawmills or quarrying lime on the island and elsewhere. A small lime quarry opened on the island in 1894. Owned by Puget Sound Paper & Pulp Company in Everett, it was operated by L. D. Hix for whom Hicks Bay was named.

Succeeding generations of the Hoffman family, still in residence on Hoffman Cove, ran a sawmill, shipping lumber to Friday Harbor and elsewhere in the islands. Del Hoffman was a renowned boat builder in the islands, supplying Island Packing Company (the salmon cannery in Friday Harbor) with six fishing boats in 1895.

There was regular boat traffic between Shaw Island and Friday Harbor, where the island's farmers took their livestock, dairy products, poultry, grain, and fruits and vegetables for shipment to Seattle and other Puget Sound markets. During the 1890s, the county's farmers regularly met on Shaw because of its central location. Like most

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### Statement of Significance: (Cont'd)

Shaw Island farmers, the Tharalds had their own sloop and regularly plied the islands, making a weekly trip to Friday Harbor for supplies, social life, and to deliver produce.

The 1920 census reports a population of 101 residents, with five residents noting that their mother tongue was Norwegian or Swedish, and eight residents claiming Scandinavian descent.

With 23 subscribers, Shaw islanders established the only cooperative telephone company in San Juan County. In 1930, ferry service began on regular basis. It wasn't until 1951, that the island obtained power; until then residents used kerosene lamps to light their homes, thus maintaining remnants of pioneering days far longer than residents of San Juan Island and Orcas Island. Today the island boasts only a few amenities: a small grocery store, post office, library, museum, and an historic one-room schoolhouse with a recent addition. (The Little Red Schoolhouse, as it is known on Shaw Island, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.)

#### Tharald Homestead

Theodore Tharald was part of a great wave of Scandinavian immigrants who made their way to the Pacific Northwest after first stopping in the upper Midwest, some settling in Minnesota and Wisconsin for as long as ten years before moving on to the Dakotas and further west. According to Marianne Forsblad, director of the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle, who has written extensively on Scandinavian immigration, the Tharald brothers' migration to Washington was in keeping with what is known as the "secondary migration," a trend that brought large numbers of Scandinavians from the Midwest to Puget Sound from 1880 to 1920. Indeed, according to Forsblad, between 1883 and 1920, Scandinavians were the largest of all ethnic groups in the Northwest. Figures cited in Carlos Schwantes' interpretive history, *The Pacific Northwest*, show that in 1880, 4,651 Scandinavians had settled in Washington; by 1890, when Theodore Tharald received the patent to his Shaw Island homestead, that number had climbed to 32,192. Twenty years later, nearly 100,000 Scandinavians called Washington state their home.

Theodore Tharald settled on Shaw Island in 1883, filing a homestead claim thirteen years after arriving in the United States from Norway. (He was not the only Norwegian on Shaw Island to have hopscotched across the country: His neighbor Christian Christensen, who settled on Shaw Island in 1879, lived first in Wisconsin, then headed for Seattle with his brother in 1874.)

It is not clear how many Tharald family members had arrived together in Minnesota, but an Abstract for Title prepared for E.B. Bruns, who eventually assumed ownership of the Tharald homestead, shows that a sister remained in Minnesota while three brothers gradually worked their way across the country. In 1885Thomas Tharald joined his brother Theodore on Shaw Island, and the two remained on the homestead for the rest of their lives. Their younger brother, Ole Berg, called North Dakota home before arriving on Shaw in 1924 to care for the aging bachelors. His son, Oren, and daughter, Atlanta, eventually joined him. Oren later settled in Friday Harbor.

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### Statement of Significance: (Cont'd)

Shortly after Theodore Tharald died in 1926, his niece married Eber Bruns, a member of an early Shaw Island family. Eber Bruns and Atlanta Berg Bruns occupied the Tharald's farm for a short while, later moving to Orcas Island where their descendants continue to live today.

It wasn't unusual for early settlers of the San Juan Islands to subsidize their homesteads and farms by seeking employment in the lumber and fishing industries, some even lured to the far north by tales of the Klondike bonanza. Like countless Norwegians and Swedes, Theodore Tharald worked in Puget Sound sawmills. When he filed homestead papers in 1883, the 38-year-old noted that he had been living at Port Gamble and was working in the sawmill established by Pope & Talbot Co., the Puget Mill Company.

On September 11, 1883, Theodore claimed 152.95 acres, after having lived on the site since May. By then he had built a log house. Seven years later, in 1890, he listed further improvements to the claim, including a partly finished log house, a barn, a chicken house, picket fencing—presumably around the house—and split rail fencing to confine livestock: twelve sheep and one cow and calf. During this same time, it appears that Theodore was a regular commuter between Shaw Island and Port Gamble, no doubt rowing or sailing the boat he kept in Parks Bay. He left his homestead for up to four months a year "to earn money to live on and to improve my claim," he wrote. Tharald noted on his homestead papers that between 1887 and 1890, he had been working for S.G. Simpson in Little Skookum, Mason County, as a "common laborer."

Like the early farmers all over San Juan County, the Tharald brothers grew timothy and small grains, averaging fourteen tons of hay a year during the 1880s. An undated photograph of the two brothers shows them standing with a hired hand in front of a thresher that made its way around the island during the summer. Settlers promptly established large vegetable gardens and orchards, planting apples, cherries, plums, and pears, and so did the Tharalds. According to Cherie Christensen, the Tharalds were known for raising sheep rather than dairy cows. Since Shaw Island farmers worked their farms cooperatively, it is likely that the Tharalds made the rounds from farm to farm just as the thresher did.

Newspaper accounts and Shaw Island lore portray the two brothers as quiet, retiring men who liked to visit their neighbors. They participated in the social events of the community, and sailed weekly across San Juan Channel to Friday Harbor. The first Shaw Island Postmaster, Bert Tift, a homesteader who arrived the same year as Theodore Tharald, was known to be a good friend and neighbor to the Therald brothers. Tift noted in his dairy on December 16, 1883: "Park and Tharald were here to dinner." An entry on February 12, 1890, shows that "Tharald proved up today." The lives of these men were typical of the rhythm in the islands, lives circumscribed by geography, and constrained by the demands of farming and geography. Rural life in the islands has been punctuated by hard work, cooperation, and neighborliness, as well as a fair amount of tolerance and goodwill. When Thomas, age 69, died suddenly in 1923, the *Islander*, a local newspaper declared that "the sympathy of the entire community is extended to this brother (Theodore) who is now left alone after all the years of companionship."

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Statement of Significance: (Cont'd)

#### Dr. Ellis Family

Dr. Robert "Fred" H. Ellis, a Portland physician, his wife, Blanche, and their four children discovered the Tharald Homestead in 1936 after sailing into Parks Bay with a local fisherman. An avid sailor, Robert had cruised throughout the San Juan Islands in 1916. Twenty years later he was looking for his own place in the islands, and Parks Bay offered protected anchorage.

At that time, the owners of the Tharald Homestead were Earl and Marjorie Hoffman. The Hoffmans, though well ensconced in the life and history of Shaw Island, were ready to move. The log house was haunted, they claimed. It was run down, drafty and cold, the roof leaked. The Ellises, however, saw a "swan in the making," as Fred Ellis puts it. Thus began the family's preservation efforts. From the beginning, the family intended to preserve the log house, adding only minimal improvements. From 1936 to the present, Fred Ellis has followed his parents' vision, dedicated to both preservation and conservation, gradually acquiring contiguous properties for preservation of habitat and open space, 400 acres forever set aside in conservancy.

When Fred Ellis purchased the farm it consisted of the log house, two barns (one derelict), a wood shed, and a privy. The log house had been white washed and the Ellis children were given the task of scraping it away over the course of several summers. The cedar logs were then coated with creosote.

For the first few years, the farm was used as a summer recreational cabin. Water was hauled in milk buckets from a shallow dug well. During the summer of 1937, the family brought the farm into another era by drilling a well and building a water tower with a 3,000-gallon redwood water tank to provide the house with water for the first time. A railroad trestle builder, Orce Jones, built the structure with lumber milled from Blakely Island.

The Ellises have never changed the configuration of the log house. There were two bedrooms upstairs as well as a catch-all room that served as a root cellar. This room was eventually turned into bathroom. The living room was the centerpiece of the house. Robert Ellis acquired an enormous oak couch from Henry Vuillard's Portland Hotel prior to its demolition and brought it to the farm. The effort to install a five-ton couch in the living room was considerable, the family vowing never to move it again. It has remained in place since that day.

Often full in the summer, the log house proved quite small. As a result a garage with living quarters above was built for the Ellises by Del Hoffman in 1937-38 to accommodate the many family members who came for the summer. During 1939 and 1940, the Ellis family made countless trips to Sucia Island for sandstone to make walkways in the muddy yard around the house. The sandstone was so plentiful that they picked it off the beach, loaded it into a cedar dingy, and hefted it onto Art Hoffman's fishing boat, only to reverse the process once they returned to Parks Bay. Each stone was handled eight times, Fred Ellis exclaims. These walkways still surround the pioneer log house.

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### **Statement of Significance: (Cont'd)**

During the late 1930s, the property was still used as a working farm, and the Ellises set about increasing its productivity. They not only built new fences, but later blasted the cedar stumps that Theodore Tharald had left in the bog. They re-roofed the barn, adding a concrete floor, and kept sixteen Guernsey cows. The separator was kept in the Tharalds' woodshed, which is still standing. (A carport was added to this woodshed in the 1970s.)

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, dairy farmers in the islands sold their milk and cream to a cooperative, the San Juan County Dairyman's Association in Friday Harbor. The creamery provided regular pick-up service to farms on San Juan, Orcas, Shaw and Lopez. This was the heyday of dairying in the islands; the Creamery, as it was called, had the reputation of producing cream with the highest butterfat content in the state.

Over the years, the Tharald farm evolved and changed as all farms did in the rest of the county. Beef cattle—Herefords—replaced diary cows after WWII. During the 1950s, as agriculture in the islands began a steady decline, a number of Shaw Island farmers sold out. It was during this time that the Ellis family began to acquire nearby farms. They continued to raise cattle until the early 1960s, at which time they sold their herd and eventually turned to safeguarding habitat as an endeavor creating a beautiful preserve for old-growth fir and cedar.

#### **Concluding Comments**

San Juan County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state of Washington. Voter registration lists for the last presidential election show that more than a third of voters were new to the islands since the election in 1996. Population increase has brought significant and permanent change to the rural landscape and way of life in the islands. The Tharald Farmstead, at the head Parks Bay, Shaw Island, still echoes the earliest patterns of settlement and life in San Juan County. Much remains virtually unchanged and continues to bear witness to the homesteading way of life.

The Tharald brothers not only represent an historical pattern of Scandinavian immigration and settlement in America, but also reflect a common island history and experience. This is evident in the development and architecture of their homestead. With the exception of the Krumdiack Homestead on Waldron Island, a National Register listed site, the Tharald Homestead is the most intact example of homesteading life in the San Juan islands. A vast majority of the pioneer cedar log cabins built in San Juan County have been demolished, moved, substantially altered, or allowed to fall into a state of disrepair. The fact that the Tharald house has been continuously occupied and cared for since 1883 is also noteworthy.

The outbuildings constructed by the Ellises have served a useful function over the years, and do not detract from the integrity of the log house, the barn, or from the historic character of the nominated parcel. Indeed their very functionality, coupled with building materials that have weathered over time, enhances the original homestead.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

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THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

### Statement of Significance: (Cont'd)

The Ellis family represents another historical pattern: that of summer residents who then made the San Juan Islands their permanent home. What makes the Tharald Homestead important both locally and nationally is that it represents a full circle of human endeavor: the evolution of a site from pristine wilderness, to a homestead carved out of the woods by two hard-working Norwegian immigrants, to a working farm run by an energetic and conservation-minded family, to a place where evidence of both the pioneer era and the succeeding farming years. The homestead is a well preserved 20-acre enclave set in the midst of a surrounding landscape returning to its natural splendor.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9

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THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

### Bibliography: (Cont'd)

#### **Archival Materials**

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Tift, Bert. Shaw Island homesteader and postmaster. Diary entries: December 16, 1883, and February 12, 1890. Homestead map of the 1880s and 1890s. In the collection of the Shaw Island Historical Museum.

#### **Personal Communications**

Christensen, Cherie. Historian, Shaw Island Historical Society.

Forssblad, Marianne. Director, Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle, WA.

Ellis, Dr. Frederick E. Property owner, Shaw Island.

Schroeder, Dr. Tom. Local historian.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10

Page 1 of 1

THARALD HOMESTEAD SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The Tharald homestead is located on Parks Bay on the west side of Shaw Island in San Juan County, Washington. The homestead was originally accessed by boat from Parks Bay. Today there is a long dock with a dirt road leading up too the original homestead site. The dirt road winds through dense forest, which forms the border of the nominated parcel on all sides. The site is located in parts of Section 32 and 33 of Township 36N Range 2W.

#### UTM Cordinates Cont'd:

5)	10	502544E	5378597N
6)	10	502509E	5378475N
7)	10	502285E	5378475N
8)	10	502133E	5378282N
9)	10	502996E	5378374N

#### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The nominated property comprises of the 12 acres that Theodore Tharald first cleared and improved upon, as well as approximately 18 acres of the original 152.95 acre homestead. The boundaries, which are irregular, define the area of historic use of the property. This includes the historic building cluster, the dirt road linking the site to Parks Bay, a large pond, and open field, and a portion of the modern dirt roadway that connects the site to Hoffman Cove Road.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 19

### Tharald Homestead, Shaw Island, San Juan County, Washington

#### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photographers: Nancy Larsen (NL) & Boyd C. Pratt (BCP)

Dates: NL April 2000; BCP January 2001 (up to 20), April 2001 (20-28) Negatives: Fred Ellis Collection, Shaw Island, San Juan County, WA

- 1. Log House, looking northeast (NL)
- 2. Log House, looking northwest (NL)
- 3. Log House, looking northwest (BCP)
- 4. Log House, looking west (NL)
- 5. Detail, Full Dovetail Notching & Groove for Log Hauling, Log House (BCP)
- 6. Detail, Logs and Field Stone Foundation, Log House (NL)
- 7. Addition to Log House, looking northeast (BCP)
- 8. Garage/Shop/Apartment, looking southwest (BCP)
- 9. Garage/Shop/Apartment, looking northwest (BCP)
- 10. Water Tower and Smokehouse, looking southeast (BCP)
- 11. Smokehouse, looking northeast (BCP)
- 12. Tractor Barn, looking south (BCP)
- 13. Tractor Barn, looking northeast (BCP)
- 14. Hay Barn, looking southwest (BCP)
- 15. Hay Barn, looking east (BCP)
- 16. Hay Loft Door, Hay Barn, looking east (BCP)
- 17. Detail, Counterweight for Hay Loft Door, Hay Barn (BCP)
- 18. Wood Shed/Car Port, looking southwest (BCP)
- 19. Wood Shed, Log House, and Addition, looking south (BCP)
- 20. Bunk Shed, looking southwest (BCP)
- 21. Covered Swimming Pool, looking southeast (BCP)

HPE Form 10-900-4 (E-46)

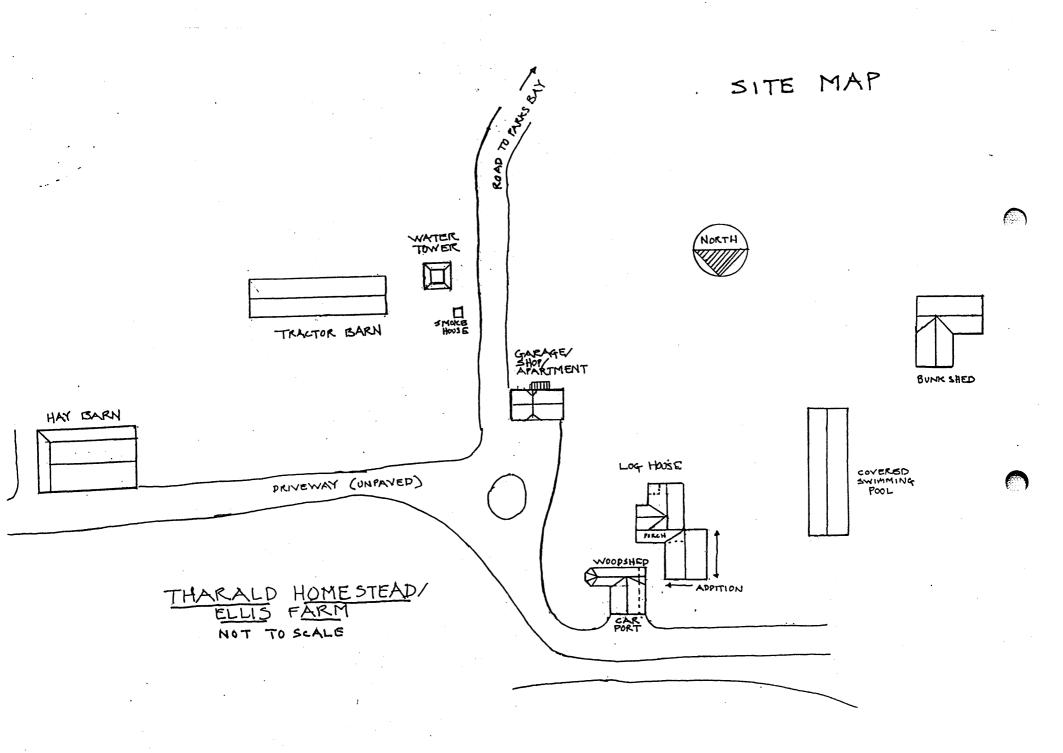
# United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

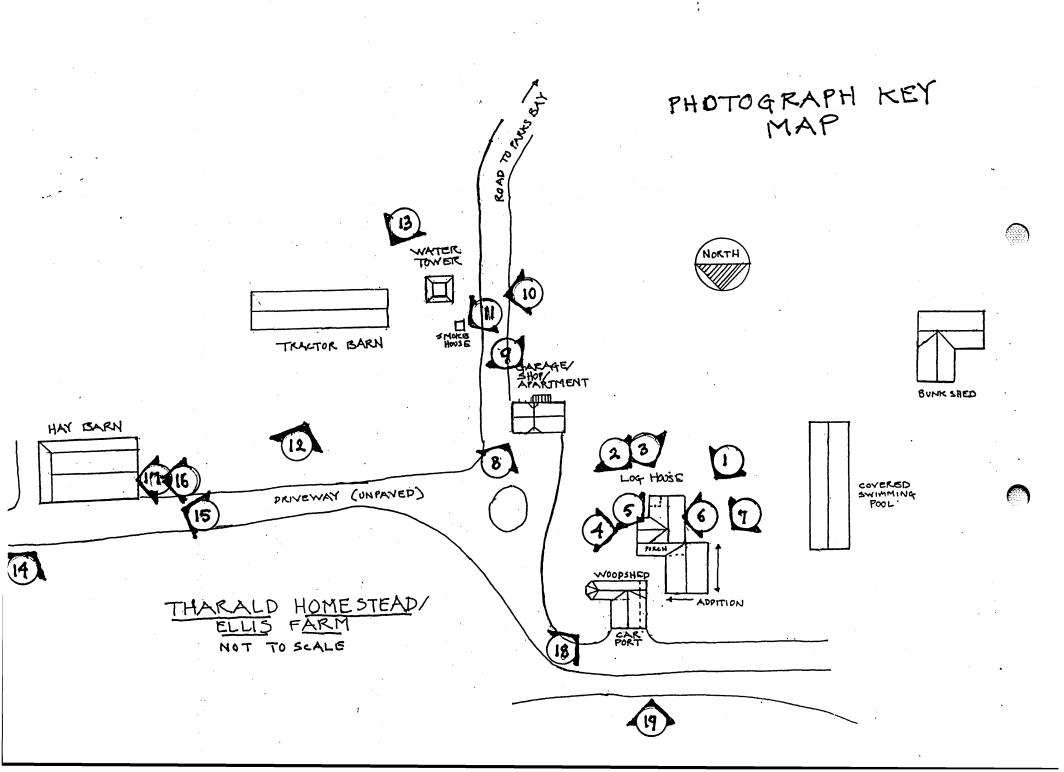
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

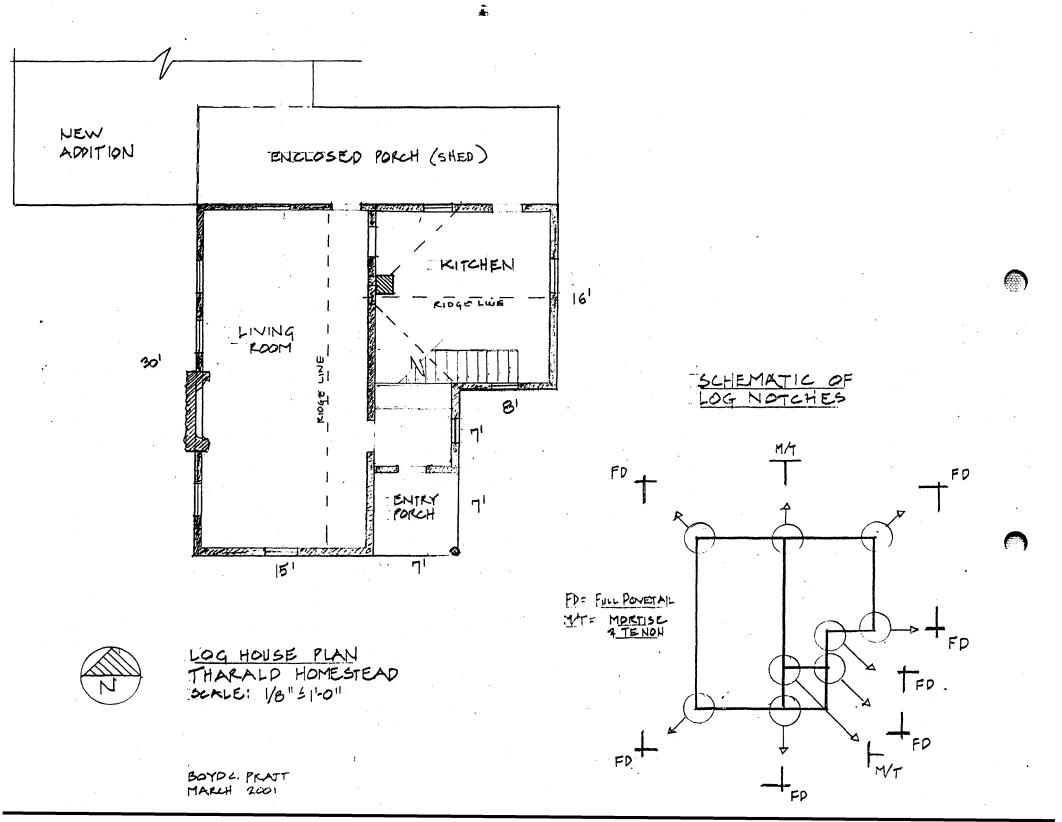
Section number Photos Page 20

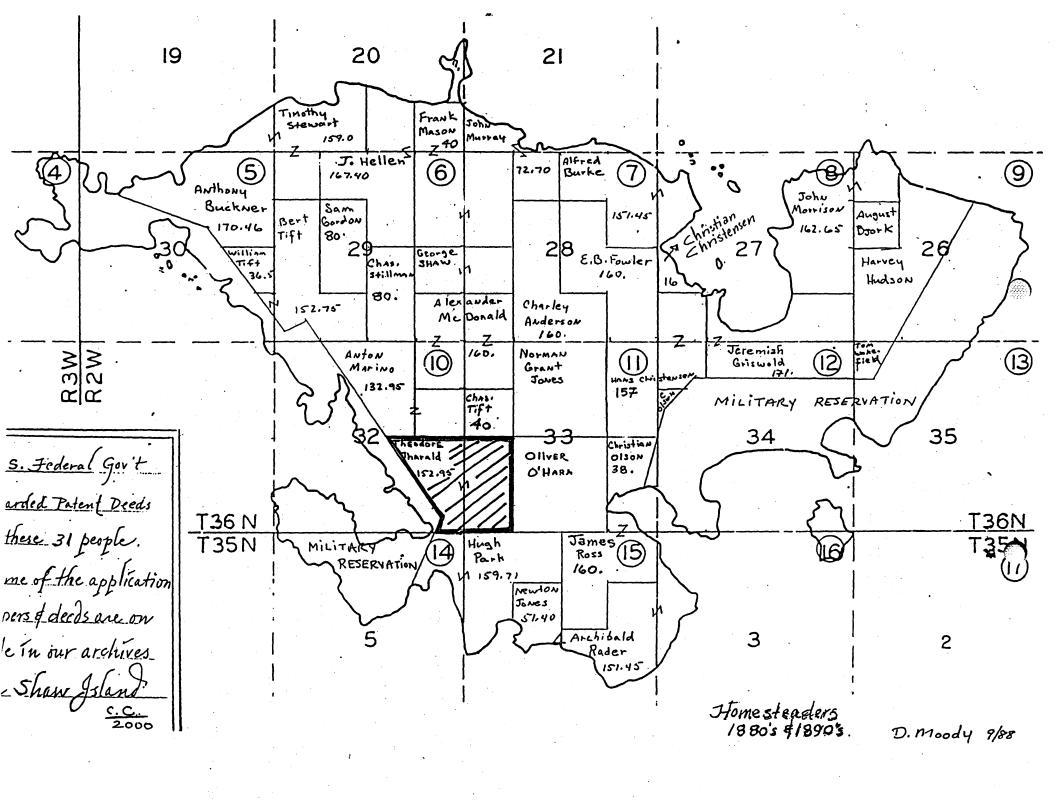
### Tharald Homestead, Shaw Island, San Juan County, Washington

- 22. Log House Interior, north end of Living Room (BCP)
- 23. Log House Interior, southwest corner of Living Room (BCP)
- 24. Log House Interior, southeast corner of Living Room (BCP)
- 25. Log House Interior, Fireplace, west wall of Living Room (BCP)
- 26. View of Property from current access road, looking west (BCP)
- 27. View of Property, looking southwest (BCP)
- 28. View of Parks Bay, looking southeast (BCP)

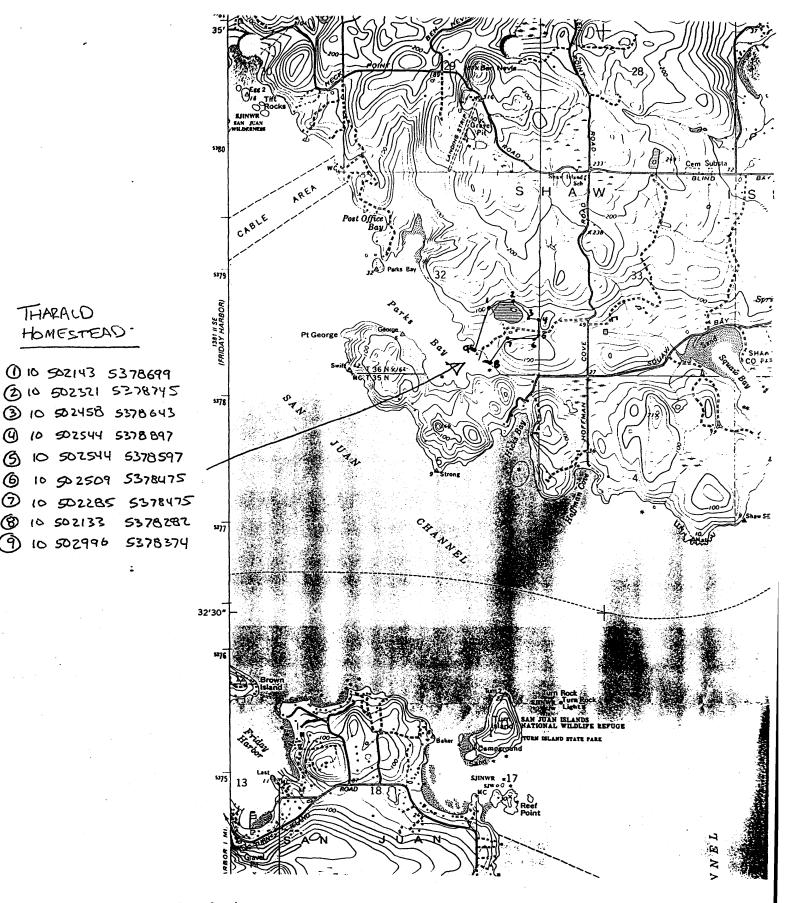












SHAW ISLAND

THARALD

HOMESTEAD.

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