

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 16 1979

DEC 21 1979

DATE ENTERED

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Pacific Coast Company House ^{No.} #75

AND/OR COMMON

Baima House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N of Renton at
7210-138th ^{St.} S.E.

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Renton *mc*

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Seventh - Hon. Mike Lowry

STATE

Washington

CODE

053

COUNTY

King

CODE

033

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

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

OWNERSHIP

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

STATUS

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

PRESENT USE

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John Baima et al.

STREET & NUMBER

13419 S.E. 68th Street

CITY, TOWN

Renton

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Washington

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

King County Administration Building

STREET & NUMBER

500-4th Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Seattle

STATE

Washington

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

King County Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1977

__FEDERAL __STATE COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

King County Department of Planning & Community Development

CITY, TOWN

Seattle

STATE

Washington

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pacific Coast Company House #75 is located approximately fifteen miles southeast of Seattle, Washington, in King County.

The rural setting of the small house is unusual considering its proximity to a large metropolitan area. Approaching the area via Interstate 405, the Coalcreek Parkway, and the Newcastle-Renton Road (133rd Avenue S.E.), the topography changes from near sea level to a mountainous terrain which rises to 1,500 feet.

Company House #75 is situated on a one and one-half acre lot in a small valley surrounded by low wooded hills. Several wooden outbuildings are scattered around the property near the main house. These include a barn, a chicken house, and a row of three small gable roofed structures.

The valley is the site of the old mining town of Newcastle, where coal was discovered in 1863. An early description of the townsite was written in 1884 by a reporter who described Newcastle as "Straggling in and out of great dumps of clay and waste that extend like black spurs from the foot of the mountain, the cottages being grouped upon the rocky, stump-infested, forest bound hillside, without an attempt at order or comeliness."

Today, there are about a dozen buildings located in the valley. Pacific Coast Company House #75 is the last surviving house from the old town of Newcastle.

Company House #75 was probably built between 1872 and 1880 by a miner who paid ground rent to the mining company.¹ It represents one of several types of residential structures built in Newcastle. Among them were larger two-story houses, some of which served as boarding houses. Others were small, simple, uniform frame dwellings called row houses, usually occupied by miners who were single.

Company House #75 is a simple Pioneer Style one-story wood frame structure with a rectangular plan which measures 24'x25'. The original box-like structure had front and back porches added in 1928 that ran the length of the house. The front porch is open with roof-supporting posts which are connected by an open railing of wood. A similar porch crosses the back of the house, half of which is enclosed and extends toward the rear.

The medium-gable roof has projecting eaves and a boxed soffit and frieze board. Originally, the roof was covered with cedar shingles which are partially replaced with composition roofing. Corrugated sheet metal covers the north slope of the roof.

The exterior walls have board and batten siding and corner boards.

There are four double-hung windows with six over six lights. The window surrounds include a simple decorative element across the top. Both the front and back doors are panelled with a board enframement.

(continued)

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 16 1979
DATE ENTERED	DEC 21 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

There have been no major alterations to the house except for the replacement of the original wood post foundation with concrete blocks. On the east side, there is an opening to a small dirt cellar beneath the house which was used for food storage.

The interior of the house has four main rooms: a kitchen, living room, and two bedrooms, one of which has been converted into a bathroom. There is also a small pantry next to the kitchen. The walls are shiplap covered with cheesecloth. The ceiling is eight feet in height and the floors are fir.

¹ At the time of its construction, Company House #75 was located on property belonging to the Seattle Coal & Transfer Company. It was not until 1898, when the property was acquired by the Pacific Coast Company (parent to the Pacific Coast Coal Company), that the structure was designated Company House #75. A title abstract shows the following sequence of ownership:

1863 Edwin Richardson
1868 Daniel Bagley
1873 Seattle Coal & Transfer Company
1887 Oregon Improvement Company
1898 Pacific Coast Company
1908 Pacific Coast Coal Company
1920 Andriene Baima

Although no record exists, the date of construction is presumed to be prior to 1880. This assumption is based upon an 1880 photograph of the town of Newcastle which clearly shows several rows of houses essentially identical to Company House #75.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES C.1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built prior to 1880, Pacific Coast Company House #75 is significant as the only surviving structure associated with the early development of coal mining at Newcastle. Basically unaltered on the exterior, it is a rare example of the type of housing available to the hundreds of miners who worked in the coal fields of King County during this period.

At its zenith, 1884 to 1898, Newcastle encompassed over 600 houses and the population was said to rival that of Seattle. In the same period, the mines yielded 55% of all coal produced in the territory and 22% of all production on the entire west coast.

Edwin Richardson, a surveyor, discovered coal at Newcastle in 1863 and took out an eighty-acre claim. In 1868, the land was sold to Daniel Bagley, who secured the mineral rights to his own donation land claim and several others surrounding it. After years of financial and organizational difficulties, the Lake Washington Coal Company was formed and mining began in earnest.

The coal vein proved rich but production was slow until the Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad reached Newcastle in 1878. It was during this period of initial growth that Company House #75 is believed to have been built.

Production improved by 1880, but it took the shrewd management of a new owner with international interests to connect with the Northern Pacific Railroad's direct line from Portland to the East. With this move, Henry Villard opened Newcastle's coal mines to a national market, thus signaling the beginning of the production "boom," and in the following years the mines extracted from 400 to 800 tons of coal every day.

By the mid to late 1880's, a series of problems began to plague the Newcastle mining operations. Labor disputes closed the mines periodically and there were several shaft fires, one of which burned for months.

A second period of boom and prosperity continued through the 1890's, with production reaching a total output of 100,000 tons annually. Immigrants, mostly of Welsh, Italian and Finnish ancestry, flocked to the area, as did Americans from the East and Midwest.

The ultimate decline of Newcastle as a coal mining center occurred as a result of increasingly hazardous working conditions, a major shaft fire, a payout of the coal vein, and finally the "Great Strike" of 1921.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Thorpe, Marilyn. "Story of Coal at Newcastle", Pacific Northwest Quarterly, October (1957), page 120.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 0	5 6 3 5 4 0	5 2 6 5 1 0 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Section 27 T 24 N R 5 E Beginning 83.66 ft. South and 1636.56 ft. East of the West Quarter Corner, thence Northwesterly along the Easterly line of 136th Ave. SE 150 ft., thence North 89° 39' 53" East 428.80 ft. to the Westerly line of 138th Ave. SE, thence Southerly along said line 150 ft., thence West 407.23 ft. to the point of beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE King County Sites Survey Staff based upon information submitted by Jean Bacon

ORGANIZATION <u>King County Dept. of Planning & Community Dev.</u>	DATE <u>April 13, 1979</u>
STREET & NUMBER <u>King County Courthouse</u>	TELEPHONE <u>(206) 344-7503</u>
CITY OR TOWN <u>Seattle</u>	STATE <u>Washington</u>

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL
see telephone sheet

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *Jeanne M. Wilson* 10-9-79

TITLE _____ DATE _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

<u><i>Carol D. Skell</i></u> DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	<u><i>[Signature]</i></u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <u><i>Kristin O'Connell</i></u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>12-21-79</u> DATE <u>12/20/79</u>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 16 1979
DATE ENTERED	DEC 21 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

A majority of residences and commercial buildings in the town were owned by the mining company and rented to the occupants. When coal production ended, the miners moved on, and the town was rapidly abandoned. Most of the buildings were demolished for use as scrap lumber, added to, or altered beyond recognition.

The only structure that remains intact is Company House #75. Presently known as the Baima House, its history is closely related to that of Newcastle itself. The Bernard Baima family, immigrants from Piano-Audi in northern Italy, rented Company House #75 from 1906 through 1917. Mr. Baima and four of his sons worked in the Newcastle mines. In 1920, Andriena Baima, then a widow with seven children, purchased #75 three years after her husband's death and remained in the house through the strike period of 1921. It is probably this alone that saved #75 when the rest of the town was dismantled. In 1934, one of the Baima sons, Joe, and his partner Mike Rubatino formed the B.&R. Mining Company and continued to mine the Newcastle hills on a relatively small scale until 1962. Members of the Baima family lived in and retained ownership of #75 until the death of Adolph Baima in 1977.

Pacific Coast Company House #75 is the only recognizable evidence of a settlement that made an important contribution to the early growth of both King County and the State of Washington. It is also significant as an illustration of the living conditions for miners and their families during this period.