NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

214

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

FEB 16 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Selleck Historic District

other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: S.E. 252nd ☐ not for publication

city, town: Selleck ☒ vicinity

state: Washington code: WA county: King code: 033 zip code: 98027

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☒ private	☐ building(s)	19	____ buildings
☐ public-local	☒ district	____	____ sites
☐ public-State	☐ site	____	____ structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure	____	____ objects
	☐ object	19	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official — Date: 2/7/89

Washington State Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action: 3/16/89

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC: single-dwelling	DOMESTIC: single-dwelling
SOCIAL: meeting hall	vacant/not in use
EDUCATION: school	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Architectural class:
bungalow/craftsman
late 19th and Early 20th century American Movements

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete block
walls wood: weatherboard
shingle
roof wood shingles
other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The company town of Selleck was established in 1908 to house the mill workers of the Pacific States Lumber Company. The community was sited just to the northeast of the company's sawmill complex, located in the western foothills of the Cascade Mountain Range in Washington State. The townsite was laid out in the familiar grid pattern, and single-family houses were aligned in rows along the two north-south streets. Of approximately 35 dwellings that once existed in Selleck, seventeen remain today, including the superintendent's house. Also standing are the original community hall and a large school building of 1930 that replaced the earlier school. All of the buildings in the town are of simple wood-frame construction, most covered by gable roofs, and clad with beveled wood siding and wood shingles. The superintendent's house is distinguished by its larger size and Craftsman details. Comparison with historic photographs indicates that the remaining structures are little changed from their original condition, and, except for the loss of some elements, the setting and the relationships between the buildings remain intact.

The Pacific States Lumber Company built the town of Selleck on over 100 acres of logged-off land northeast of the small farming community of Kangley. The site is near the Cedar River and adjacent to what is now the City of Seattle Watershed. The town is located on flat terrain, with wooded ridges rising immediately to the south and east. When Pacific States arrived, the area had already been logged, mined, and farmed for years by the inhabitants of the surrounding communities of Kangley, Cedar Falls, Kanaskat, and others. Logging roads crisscrossed the landscape and two railroad lines, the Northern Pacific and the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific, serviced the area.

Located to the southwest of the townsite was a large elongated mill pond and numerous buildings associated with the mill operations, including a sawmill, planing mill, shingle mill, several drykilns and loading sheds, two incinerators, and a variety of smaller buildings and sheds. Within or near the mill complex were a large hotel or bunkhouse for loggers, a hospital, a company office, store, and cookhouse. Japanese workers were housed separately in an area near Lavendertown, just west of the Northern Pacific tracks. All of these buildings, including the workers' housing, have been demolished or removed, and only insignificant remnants of the mill complex remain.

The small community of Selleck, located northeast of the mill complex, was built to house the mill workers and their families. While the loggers, as single men, were lodged in the company hotel, and the Japanese families were established in segregated housing, the mill workers enjoyed a sense of community in a traditional setting of single-family detached dwellings aligned on two parallel streets. Historic photographs show that the town originally had planked streets and sidewalks with picket fences and gardens for each house. A community hall was, and is, located at the northern edge of the townsite, and a school and

[x] See continuation sheet

teacherage was placed at the eastern entry to the town. The mill superintendent's house was isolated to the south of the workers' housing, near the road that angled southwest toward the mill complex.

All of the dwellings are of similar character: simple wood-frame houses of rectangular plan, all except one covered with gable roofs. They have no basements and are now supported on concrete blocks. Small front porches are generally placed off-center and shallow rear additions are common. Cladding is either beveled cedar siding or shingles or sometimes a mixture of both. Windows are generally double-hung wood-sash, although some are fixed-sash, and all appear to be original. Roofs are covered with cedar shingles or shakes and are being replaced in-kind as needed. All of the interiors reflect a similar plan: a main floor divided by a central wall, with living/dining room and kitchen on one side and two bedrooms on the other side. The small half-story above contains two finished sleeping spaces. Interior finishes include lath-and-plaster walls, fir flooring, and simple fir millwork, which is painted. In a few of the houses, the original wall surfaces have been replaced wholly or partially with modern sheetrock, as necessitated by repairs.

The superintendent's house is distinguished by its location--outside the rows of workers' dwellings, beyond the southern east-west cross street--and by its size and style. A large one and one-half story Craftsman house, it features a full-length covered porch on the northeast facade and a large shed dormer on this slope of the broad gable roof. An exterior brick chimney is centered on the southeast elevation. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation, which encloses a full basement. Exterior walls are clad with beveled siding at the lower story and shingles in the gable ends and dormers. Windows are generally double-hung with multi-paned upper sashes, occurring singly or in groups. The original entry door has been replaced. This spacious residence has a typical Craftsman interior. The living room has a boxed-beam ceiling, built-in bookcases with glazed doors, a large brick fireplace with heavy fir mantel. In the dining room, built-in buffet and cabinetry with leaded glass doors, high tongue-and-groove wainscoting, wide fir door surrounds with shelf heads, and picture molding all reflect Craftsman influence.

The Selleck School, built in 1930 to replace the original schoolhouse which burned, is a two story wood building with a basement and flat roof. The main (south) facade is symmetrical. Groups of five tall double-hung windows flank a central bay composed of a recessed entry with two smaller groups of windows above corresponding to the interior stair landings. Vertically grooved pilaster-like elements rise on either side of the entry, and vertical board-and-batten type elements appear in panels in the central bay and at intervals above the second story windows. The remainder of the exterior is clad with beveled siding. In 1967, a covered play area was attached to the rear of the building. The interior remains essentially intact, with large classroom spaces and small office and restroom areas on each floor. Interior finishes are typical lath-and-plaster wall surfaces and simple millwork. The interior remains relatively unchanged. The building has been vacant since 1981. It is surrounded by a large schoolyard.

Community Hall - The community hall is an L-shaped building at the end of the road lined with houses 300-306. It consists of two parts; a 32' x 90' section running perpendicular to the street, and a 30' x 36' section joining at a right angle midway along its length. Drop siding covers the exterior. The roof is gabled and in need of repair. A hipped roof porch sits asymmetrically along the front facade and leads to a single panelled door.

Originally the porch had a low railing that was solid and made of drop siding, but this has been removed. The wing of the building also exhibits a porch and door. Although originally hip roofed with a railing that matched the front porch, it has been altered by enlargement and change to a shed roof, and removal of the railing. The remaining double-hung windows are original; however, some windows along the north side of the building have been removed and their openings closed up in what appears to be the creation of a large sliding door along that facade. The building is badly in need of repair. It was built in 1918.

House No. 201 - House No. 201 was built in 1916 in a modest version of the bungalow style. It is a one-story gable roofed structure 24' x 34' with an 8' x 10' addition off of the rear north corner. Extending from the gable and which faces the street, is a 6' x 12' gable roofed porch with simple post supports and brackets. The entire exterior is gable roofed porch with simple post supports and brackets. The entire exterior is covered in wood shingles. Originally a low shingled wall ran along the porch but this has been removed. Windows are either double-hung or fixed multi-pane, and are original. Apart from the changes to the porch, the house is unaltered and in fair condition.

House No. 203 - This house is gable roofed and rectangular, measuring 24' x 24' with an 8' x 10' addition at the rear, and front and rear porches. Reminiscent of the bungalow style, the front facade is asymmetrical with its porch placed to the right of a small bay with tripartite window. The porch has a shed roof and railing made of wood clapboarding which forms a low wall. Below the lower edge of the windows the house is covered with clapboarding; above the lower window line it is covered with wood shingles. Plain casings surround the windows and the two panel front door. The house was built in 1916 and appears to be unaltered since the 1930s.

House No. 205 - Built in 1916, House No. 205 measures 24' x 34' with an 8' x 10' addition to the middle of its north side. There are two porches; a hip roof front porch with plain post supports and railing wall, and a side porch with shed roof. The exterior of the building and the porch wall is wood clapboarding. Doors and windows remain unaltered, all with plain surrounds. In its overall appearance the building recalls the bungalow style on a modest scale.

House No. 204 - House No. 204 is a single story structure built in 1916. It measures approximately 24' x 34' with an 8' x 8' extension to the south facade and front and rear porches. The hipped roof with two dormers has recently been reshingled in wood. The exterior is drop siding with cornerboards and plain window surrounds. Windows are a variety of sizes; most appear to be original. The front porch has been altered somewhat in that the original wooden steps have been replaced with concrete steps, a hollow-core door replaces the original two panel door with a window, and most of the balustrade is missing. The house appears structurally sound but in need of cosmetic repairs.

House No. 206 - Located just north of No. 204, this house was also built in 1916. It is a one-story bungalow with gable roof and clapboard siding. The house measures 24' x 34' with an 8' x 8' extension to the rear and front porches with shed roofs. The entire roof has recently been reshingled in wood. The front facade is asymmetrical with a porch and entry to the right of a small bay with tripartite window and shed roof. The porch is open with low clapboard walls as railing and a two panel door with glazing. Many of the windows are

double-hung; all appear to be original. Open eaves, exposed rafter ends, and support brackets are details which contribute to the character of the bungalow style to this modest house.

House No. 207 - House No. 207 has a gabled roof and measures 24' x 34' with a 10' x 12' addition off the rear, and a 16' x 12' porch on the south facade. Tucked under the roof of the front facade is a gable roofed porch with railing and steps leading to the front door. Both porch and house roof have exposed rafter ends and bracket supports. The porch railing is a low wall of clapboarding which matches the exterior of the house. Above the eaves the house is shingled on both gable ends. Although a small attic window exists on the front facade, the house is essentially a single story building. There have been no alterations to the building since the 1930s and it is in good condition having recently been reroofed with wood shingles. The house was built in 1916.

House No. 209 - This building, built in 1916, is slightly larger than the others on the same street, nonetheless its design is very similar. House No. 209 measures 28' x 38' with an 8' x 8' addition off the rear, and front and rear porches. The rear porch and addition has a shed roof, the front porch has a hipped roof and low clapboard wall for a railing. The front facade is asymmetrical with clapboarding below the eave line and wood shingles above. The clapboarding appears to be of two widths; narrow from the base of the windows up to the eaves, and wider below the window line. The building is unaltered since the 1930s.

House Nos. 300, 302, 304, 306 - House Nos. 300, 302, 304, and 306 are located in a row and are identical in style. Assessor's records indicate a construction date of 1912, however, an historic photo from about 1916 does not show the houses. A more likely construction date is 1918.

Each house is rectangular, measuring 26' x 40', with recessed corner porches in both front and rear. All four houses are gabled roofed with exposed rafter ends, open eaves, and support brackets. Full size windows at the upper level indicate that each house is 1 1/2 stories. The exteriors are drop siding with cornerboards and plain casings for all windows and doors, which are original. Although in varying conditions, the houses are unaltered except for some modifications to the front steps of each.

House No. 301 - House No. 301 is a small one-story gable roofed structure with drop siding and wood shingled roof. The front facade contains a hipped roof porch with a partially closed railing running the full length of the facade. The original windows are double-hung occurring singly and in pairs, with simple surrounds. The only alteration to the house is a change in porch railing from entirely solid to open on one side with a double rail running lengthwise along the porch and down the steps forming a handrail. The house was built in 1918.

House No. 29 - House No. 29 was built in 1916 to face the road which led to the mill. Since 1940 it has been extensively altered with the entry moved to the east facade via a sliding glass door, rear additions, removal of the front porch, and window replacements. The house originally measured 30' x 40' with a 6' x 12' front porch. Rear additions have slightly increased its size today. The exterior is a combination of clapboarding and dropsiding. The house is in poor condition and bears little resemblance to its original

form especially since its entry is no longer oriented to the road as all the other houses entries are.

House No. 500 - House No. 500 is situated near the entrance to Selleck from Southeast 252nd. It is a one-story bungalow with a gable roof and front porch, both recently reshingled in wood. The house measures 24' x 34' and has a 10' x 12' addition to its south side as well as front and rear porches. The front facade is asymmetrical with the porch tucked under the main roof. A low railing of clapboarding extends around the porch which leads to a multi-panelled front door. The porch its supported by plain wood posts. The gable end of the porch is detailed with a horizontal beam and support pieces; some of which have been removed since the 1930s. Although rafter ends are exposed on the roof and porch, there is little of the detailing that characterizes some of the other company houses. To the left of the front porch is a tripartite window with two double-hung windows flanking an upper sash in the center. The building is in good condition and unaltered since the 1930s.

House No. 502 - One-story gable roofed built in 1916, House No. 502 measures 24' x 26' with front and rear porches and a south side addition. The exterior is clapboarding with a variety of single pane and double-hung windows. Centrally placed on the front facade is a hip roofed porch with four square support posts and a low clapboard railing. Three steps lead to the front door which is flanked by two double-hung windows. The house appears unaltered since a 1940 photograph, although it is in need of repairs.

House No. 512 - House No. 512 measures 24' x 26' with a 6' x 12' front porch, 8' x 8' north side addition, and 6' x 8' rear porch. The front porch has a gabled roof and is placed asymmetrically on the west facade. The main roof is gabled with exposed rafter ends. Drop siding with cornerboards comprise the building's exterior. All windows, single pane and double-hung, are original with plain surrounds. The original porch railing was a low wall of drop siding; this has been removed and replaced with plywood in what appears to be a makeshift repair. Assessor's records indicate the house was built in 1916.

INTEGRITY

Although about half of the original residences in the company town have been removed, sufficient buildings remain, including all the major structures, to convey a strong sense of the physical layout and social character of the town. In addition, no new structures have been constructed within the village limits since the schoolhouse was built in 1930. Today, the Selleck historic district is a cohesive company town, a discrete historical resource, and the only significant extant property associated with the history of the Pacific States Lumber Company.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Industry	1909-1939	N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: Not known

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Selleck Historic District is significant as an extant example of a company town whose remaining buildings are virtually unaltered and whose history reflects one of the most important industries in the Pacific Northwest. Established by the Pacific States Lumber Company in 1908 and wholly dependent on it for the first thirty years of its existence, Selleck provides evidence of the structure and layout of a company milltown during the heyday of the timber industry in Washington State. Named for the company's general manager, Frank Selleck, the town provided housing, education and community activities for the families of the men who worked in the sawmill complex, located a short distance to the southwest. In the 1920s, 35 families lived in the town, sent their children to the Selleck school (rebuilt in 1930), and shared social activities in the community hall. Although Pacific States was one of the largest inland mills in western Washington, it closed in 1939 following labor unrest and the debilitating effects of a depressed market. While the mill buildings and attendant structures have disappeared, the town itself has remained as a viable community. Single ownership has prevented the disintegration that has been the fate of other company towns. The school, community hall and sixteen of the original houses, including the superintendent's residence, remain intact. All buildings except the school are occupied and maintained.

Adjacent to the village, but clearly separated by vegetation, the mill site today consists only of fragmentary foundations, building ruins, and the remnants of the millpond. But the village remains a discrete historic entity, with a well preserved sense of the original physical layout, built environment, and social character of the company town. While many of the village cottages have been torn down, no new structures have been constructed since 1930 and the small community retains all the major buildings, a representative collection of cottages, and the street plan from the period of significance. As a result, the Selleck Historic District is considered among the best preserved examples of a lumber company town in western Washington.

OVERVIEW OF THE NORTHWEST TIMBER INDUSTRY, 1880 TO 1940

Beginning in the 1880s a number of factors combined to eventually create an unprecedented boom in the timber industry of the Northwest. The Northern Pacific Railroad completed its line to Washington in 1882, the Interstate Commerce Commission granted Northwest businessmen lower freight rates to Eastern markets in 1894, and in 1914 the Panama Canal

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

American Lumberman, January 1916.
Camp and Mill News, Seattle (various issues: December 1921, May 1924, June 1930, January 1932).
Dembo, Jonathan, Union and Politics in Washington State 1885-1935, New York and London, Garland Publishing Co. 1983.
Directory of the Lumber Industry Pacific Greater West, Portland, Oregon, The Timberman, 1927.
Fahey, John, "Big Lumber in the Inland Empire", Pacific Northwest Quarterly, July 1985.
Ito, Kazuo, Issei A History of Japanese Immigrants in North America, Japan Publications, Inc. 1973.
Leighton, George R., "Seattle, Washington: The Edge of the Last Frontier", Harpers, February-March 1939, Parts I & II, pp. 306-328, 422-440.
"Lumbering in Washington", Argus, Seattle, December 15, 1917.
Menefee, Seldon, "How the Lumber Strike Was Broken", Nation, September 4, 1935, pp. 275-276.
Olson, Ronald LeRoy, The Orientals in the Lumber Industry in the State of Washington, University of Washington, 1924.

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 18 acres Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

Quadrangle Name: North Bend Quadrangle Name: Eagle Gorge

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	10	585460	5247450
B	10	585660	5247450
C	10	585660	5247230
D	10	585460	5247230

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

From the northwest corner of the intersection of S.E. 252nd Street and the westernmost N-S road in Selleck, proceed west along the northern edge of 252nd STreet approximately 200 feet. From this point of beginning, proceed north approximately 200 feet, then proceed east approximately 450 feet tot he western edge of the easternmost N-S road, then proceed north approximately 200 feet, then proceed east about 250 feet, then proceed south 900

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The historic district includes the entire extant village of Selleck, defined by the historic community street plan and the surviving historic buildings. The mill site itself is not included because it has completely lost integrity and is a discrete area.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cheryl Cronander, edited by Shirley Courtois, OAHP
organization King County Historic Preservation Office date _____
street & number 506 Second Avenue telephone (206) 340-4782
city or town Seattle state Washington zip code 98104

opened which further reduced freight costs and opened doors to new markets. By this time, America's lumbermen had nearly exhausted the supply of timber in the South and Midwest, and set their sights on the vast stands of Douglas Fir, Western Hemlock, Western Red Cedar, and Sitka Spruce contained in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. The situation was ripe for speculation. Various homestead acts, loosely written and enforced, allowed lumbermen to purchase large tracts of forest land to hold in reserve as timber supplies diminished in other parts of the country. Although the acts were originally drafted to encourage homesteading, many settlers realized a quick profit by proving up their claims and selling to timber companies. Some timber companies lined up sailors and drifters for phony land claims which eventually reverted to company ownership. In addition, the railroads had been granted enormous amounts of land by the Federal government, much of which was sold to timber companies. In 1897, Frederick Weyerhaeuser purchased 900,000 acres of timber in Washington from James J. Hill of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

Tempering the boom somewhat was a concurrent effort by the U.S. Forest Service to adopt conservation practices in American forests. One man in particular, Gifford Pinchot was alarmed by the false homesteading that was occurring and looked with dismay at the gutting of forests that had prevailed until then. He sought to remedy the situation by setting the Forest Service on a policy of conservation utilizing reforestation and selective logging practices. In 1891, President Cleveland declared 21 million acres of forest reserves, which later became our National Forests, largely due to Pinchot's efforts. The relatively new concept of conservation created an outburst from lumbermen who were used to operating under a "cut it and get out" philosophy. Logistically, the vast and rugged terrain of the Northwest presented problems in carrying out conservation practices of saving young trees and planting new ones, and the old ground-lead method of logging left a path of destruction in its wake. It wasn't until the advent of high-lead logging that selective logging could practically occur. In spite of their protests, lumbermen did agree on the need for conservation measures to combat the ever-present threat of fire and later formed the Pacific Northwest Forest Protection and Conservation Association.

Although the Panic of 1893 brought the timber industry to a near standstill, by 1897 the Klondike Gold rush stimulated the local economy once again. Washington has characteristically been a magnet for men drawn to the seasonal work offered by mining, fishing, and logging, and this available pool of labor increased when the men who stopped in Seattle on their way to and from the Gold Rush picked up work in the logging camps and lumber mills as well. In addition, immigrants attracted by the booming economy poured into the state to work as miners, farmers, fishermen, and loggers. During this time companies were busy supplying national and foreign ports with timber to build new cities and rebuild fire-stricken ones such as San Francisco in 1906. Production was highest in Washington in 1928 or 1929, although King County experienced its peak year much earlier, before WWI. Nonetheless, by the end of the 1920s a host of problems began to plague the lumbermen including decreased demand for lumber, world wide depression, and labor agitation.

Northwest lumbermen were prospering between 1897 and 1925, yet there was growing discontent among the workers themselves over poor working conditions and low wages. The discontentment led to the formation of various labor unions. Seattle eventually became a stronghold for the I.W.W.s, or Wobblies, who arrived in 1905 and proceeded to agitate loggers into on-the-job strikes and several industry-wide strikes. The lumbermen subsequently formed the Loyal Legion of Lumbermen of Loggers (4-L), an industry-wide joint

organization of employers and employees. Although the 4-L did manage to introduce the eight-hour day and cleaner camps, it never gained much of a following among loggers who considered it primarily a voice for management. In 1925 mill lumber prices fell below production costs and accelerated the tensions between workers and management over wages. With the crash of 1929, working conditions had become so bad that loggers organized their own union, an affiliate of the AFL called the Sawmill and Timber Workers' Union. In an effort to unionize the industry and crush the 4-L, forty thousand workers went on strike in May of 1935 and had to be subdued by the National Guard. By this time, the industry was in deep trouble with hundreds of small mills going into vastly reduced production or complete shutdown. The boom and bust cycle which had always been a part of the timber industry, reached an all-time low. Organized labor found itself split between those who favored a compromise on wages and working conditions, and those who didn't; nonetheless both sides remained united against the 4-L. In 1940 the AFL workers joined with one half of the CIO International Woodworkers of America to create the most solidified labor movement in the timber industry since the 1930s. Again, wages and working conditions were at issue. Approximately 100 major mills and 700 smaller mills were affected by a strike which threatened to tie up some 200 million board feet of Douglas Fir on order for national defense needs. Although the wartime economy was strong, the labor unrest of the 1920s and 1930s, along with reduced market demand had left literally hundreds of mills financially crippled. The heyday was finally over, and the timber industry would never again experience the boom of the early years.

COMPONENTS OF NORTHWEST TIMBER OPERATIONS

By the time the industry was booming in the Northwest, a number of advances in technology had already been made to increase production rates and capabilities. Waterpowered mills had been replaced by steam and electric-powered mills, circular saws replaced or supplemented straight saws, and teams of oxen were replaced by "donkey" engines to bring newly cut logs out of the woods. Nonetheless, the Northwest presented unique challenges to the industry which led to further innovation of equipment and logging techniques. Foremost among the challenges was the rugged terrain which presented obstacles to the easy removal of felled logs. Northwest lumbermen responded by employing a number of methods to convey felled logs to the mill including logging by high-lead, and using skids and flumes. Once the logs were brought to the mill, their enormous sizes required large millponds for storing and handling, and machinery versatile enough to accept the variety of lengths and diameters of logs. Lastly, because green lumber was heavy with moisture and therefore more expensive to freight, most companies placed milled lumber in drying yards or kilns before shipping. In the humid Northwest climate, lumber that was left to dry in the open dried very slowly; therefore, most companies utilized quick and even kiln-drying in spite of its cost.

Washington quickly became the leading state in the nation for lumber production, holding that position from 1905 until into the 1940s, with the exception of 1913 when Louisiana took the lead. The Timber Workers Employment Guide of 1915 lists no fewer than 86 mills in King County alone, and there may have been even more not listed. The mills were of varying sizes and capabilities, but typically were structured with a logging operation supplying timber to the sawmill operation. Some mills did not do their own logging but purchased their timber from independent loggers instead. Of the total number of workers in the

industry, roughly one-third worked in logging camps, one-third in sawmills, and one-third in manufacturing plants and related occupations.

The logging operation involved the cutting and transport of previously selected stands of timber to the mill. Camps and railroad spur lines were set up near the timber harvesting areas. Usually the camps contained crude log and shake bunkhouses and a cookhouse with long trestle tables, and, since camps moved as the forest were cut, buildings were put up quickly with little attention to detail. Some camps were truly portable; set up as narrow bunkhouses atop railroad cars on tracks that followed the logging operations. Regardless, the conditions were very primitive often with lice infested straw mattresses and little or no sanitary facilities. The workers who made up the crew were a diverse group: Scandinavian, Asian and Canadian immigrants, thwarted Klondikers, restless adventurers, stump-ranchers, and part-time farmers. In the early days most were single men, although by the 1920s and 1930s many more were family men who lived in town, travelling up to the harvesting areas daily.

Very specific skills were needed to harvest timber stands and bring the logs to the mill. Long before any cutting was done, timber cruisers had evaluated the stands for cutting based on the age of the trees, type of trees, conditions of the terrain, and estimated board feet of lumber contained in the stand. Next came the loggers who felled the trees, high-riggers who prepared the spar tree for high-lead logging, chokers who set the cable around each log, whistlepunks who signalled the donkey engine for pick-up, engineers in the donkey engine, men who built and cleared the skids and flumes, and many more. Working conditions were extremely dangerous and nearly intolerable as foreman "high-balled" their men until they quit in exhaustion. In 1914, the average camp turnover was reputed to be 500%. Loggers joked that camps always had three shifts; one working, one coming, and one going. Accidents were so common that they were almost considered part of doing business. Men not killed immediately in an accident often died soon after for lack of medical attention in their remote forest locations. Many others were left crippled for life with no compensation in an industry that literally used up men.

The men who worked in sawmills often had more comfortable living conditions--hot and cold water, cleaner bunks, access to the amenities of town--but no less dangerous working conditions. The interior of a sawmill was rife with hazardous situations. Large straight and circular saws, wide fan belts and conveyors, deafening noise, and tons of lumber moving at various speeds are but a few examples. Again, accidents were numerous and infrequently reported. Company journals and newsletters of the industry made sporadic note of deaths in cryptic terms, but there was no organized effort to impose safety standards until the labor unions gained strength in the 1920s.

SELLECK AND THE PACIFIC STATES LUMBER COMPANY

In November of 1908 a group of businessmen including W.M. Ladd, Edward Cookingham, John Bagley, E.M. Hayden, Edward Shields, and J.G. Dickson, decided to build a lumber mill. The men were already operating the North Coast Timber Company and selling logs on the Tacoma market when they approached Frank L. Selleck, who had been manager at the Kapowsin mill, about moving into the manufacturing end of the timber industry. After several conferences the men formed the Pacific States Lumber Company from holdings of the North Coast Timber Company, and named Edward Cookingham as President. Cookingham, a resident of Portland,

Oregon, had recently been made Vice-President of the Ladd and Tilton Bank and was also active in several other civic organizations in Portland, as well as President of the Seattle Southeastern Railway Company formed in 1906. Other officers in the Pacific States Lumber Company included Frank Selleck, Vice President and General Manager; and J.D. Dickson, Secretary-Treasurer, both from Tacoma. Dickson also served as Treasurer for the Seattle Southeastern Railway Company. The land owned by Pacific States was located near the small community of Kangley along Taylor Creek not far from the Cedar River. Frank Selleck supervised the purchase of additional lands and the construction of the mill. Unfortunately, the first site selected had to be abandoned when it was discovered to be located within the City of Seattle watershed. Pacific States had already invested approximately $1,000 toward construction of a millpond when the city ordered all work stopped. After much negotiation, Pacific States sold their holdings to Seattle for $50,000 while retaining their cutting rights. Also by agreement, Pacific States agreed to operate camps and build logging roads within the watershed under strict sanitary controls.

A new site for the mill was selected which proved troublesome almost from the start. The new site was located along a small creek which did not provide as much water as the old first site at Taylor Creek, and also was unable to retain water in the millpond until workmen constructed a clay liner for the pond. In spite of those efforts, the pond gave out in the spring of 1910 after only a few months of operations and had to be rebuilt. The land itself had been heavily logged but remained thick with stumps which had to be blasted out with dynamite and burned before construction of buildings could begin. The mill began operation in October of 1909 even before all the facilities were built. In his memoirs Frank Selleck notes that the years 1910 and 1911 were difficult ones because of a depressed lumber market and the inability of other Pacific States stockholders (who knew little of the lumber business) to understand why the mill was not immediately showing a profit. Selleck argued that even in better times, profits would have to go into improving the mill before being paid out as dividends.

By 1911, after such an inauspicious beginning, the mill was producing cut lumber at the rate of 175 thousand feet per ten hour shift and the town contained a population of 500. The post office and the railroad station which had been located at Kangley, shifted to Selleck (as the town was now known). Many Kangley residents continued their work as farmers and part-time loggers, while some capitalized on the influx of people to Selleck by opening small stores and saloons. One early settler, John Lavender, operated a general store, saloon, and post office in a location between the towns of Selleck and Kangley. Eventually this area housed many other families, including Japanese millworkers, and became known as Lavender Town. Sometime in 1911 John Lavender sold 40 acres of virgin timber to the Pacific States Mill and used the proceeds to build a new house across the street from his store. Occupational listings in the 1911 Polk Directory indicate the diversity of work performed by mill employees including such positions as : painter, plumber, tinner, planer, dogger, foreman, finisher, blacksmith, donkeyman, laborer, bolter, sawyer, timekeeper, carpenter, brickmaker, cook, electrician, oiler, grader, setter, washer, fireman, millwright, scaler, edgeman, dry kiln operator, waiter, tallyman, roller, stockkeeper, hookman, logging superintendent, night watchman, engineer, piler, trimmer, boomman, lather, and more. William F. Clare was then serving as superintendent of the mill.

Between 1911 and the end of World War I, the Pacific States Lumber Company completed construction of all mill buildings, made improvements to the company houses (adding bathrooms in 1918), and generally concentrated on increasing business and improving production. In 1912 the Seattle Southeastern Railway Company dissolved as a common carrier and sold some of its holdings to Pacific States, thereby increasing their assets. In 1914 the entire mill burned to the ground. Although none of the houses were affected, the damage nonetheless amounted to $200,000, of which only three-fourths was covered by insurance. Pacific States decided to rebuild and immediately hired Arthur Pracna of Seattle to design a new mill. By 1919 lumber journals of the period were reporting on how modern and efficient the new mill at Selleck was and how it had become not only one of the largest, but also one of the best mills in that part of the state. Among the improvements made in the new mill design were the construction of huge 600' long loading sheds and thoroughly planked streets and loading docks that enabled millworkers to transport lumber in varying stages of production with a minimum of handling. The lumber moved along on tracks from place to place all under cover from weather. Although business was somewhat slow between 1916 and 1918, Pacific States managed to operate a branch office out of Minneapolis with sales representatives in Billings, Montana; Fargo, North Dakota; and Sioux City, Iowa. Output from the Pacific States mill was handled jointly with output from another mill, the Mineral Lake Lumber Company, through an office in Tacoma staffed by sales manager J.S. Dickson (the same Mr. Dickson served as Secretary-Treasurer for Pacific States, Treasurer for Seattle Southeastern Railway, and Vice President and Manager for Mineral Lake). Dickson and his sales representatives were well acquainted with lumber buyers on the east coast and therefore focused their energy on the eastern retail market.

During the 1920s, business was good and the town of Selleck thrived. There were 150 men being housed in the company hotel, 35 families living comfortably in company houses, children attending school at Selleck, and Tacoma bands playing in the dance hall on Saturday nights. Some of the increased activity was due to the new method of harvesting Pacific States had begun using in 1921 to harvest formerly unreachable stands of timber. Sky-line logging was often put to use on very steep slopes to increase timber output through flexibility and speed of cutting, and to reduce the need for building extensive railway lines bringing donkey engines and flatcars into the timber. In 1922 the Mineral Lakes mill burned down and was not rebuilt. Sales Manager J.G. Dickson then redirected his energy toward gaining more wholesale trade as opposed to the previous concentration on eastern retail markets. Perhaps as a consequence of this shift in emphasis, Pacific State received its biggest order; that to supply lumber to rebuild the City of Tokyo after its disastrous earthquake in 1923. The order was so large that Japanese workers were actually brought to Selleck to help with production. Japanese men and their families lived in makeshift shanties beyond the mill and railroad tracks between Selleck and Lavender Town. In 1925 Pacific States built a railroad trestle across the Cedar River that was for many years the highest in the world, rising to 204 1/2' above the river. The bridge was designed by W.R. Van Campen, engineer, and P. Cavanaugh, logging superintendent, and built by Pacific States men in 110 days. All logs brought to the mill passed over this bridge. Again, industry journals reported on the engineering feat of the Cedar River trestle and the modern logging methods being used at Selleck. In 1931 although many other companies were laying off workers, Pacific States capital stock increased from $900,000 to $1,200,000 and was used to purchase additional timber and extend railway lines. Also in 1930 the school burned down and was rebuilt, and Pacific States successfully fought the City of Seattle who attempted to cancel a long-standing timber contract and claim damages. Since

Pacific States had been logging in the Seattle watershed for years under strict supervision and observation of protection measures, the court declared that they had operated in good faith and the contract would stand.

Although during the 1930s several articles appeared in industry journals touting the efficiency and outstanding quality of fire protection at the Pacific States mill, Selleck was not immune to the pressures that existed in the timber industry at that time, namely increased labor agitation and a depressed market. The 1941 WPA Guide to Washington State describes Selleck as a milltown which had been the scene of protracted labor strife in recent years. In 1936 when a new planing mill was built at Selleck Pacific States was one of the largest inland mils in western Washington. Yet by November of 1939 the company filed bankruptcy papers and those same industry journals were carrying ads for the sale of all Pacific States Lumber Company assets.

Two former mill employees, Mr. Coukas and Mr. Qualley, bought the town for $3,000 in 1940. They salvaged machinery and rented out the houses during World War II. Undoubtedly those Japanese who remained after the mill closed in 1939 were relocated during the war. As other millworkers moved on to find work, Selleck's population declined. Since 1940 the town has had several owners. The current owners purchased the town in 1970 and have been renovating the houses for residential use.

In summary, the remaining houses and buildings at Selleck offer a glimpse of the structure and layout of a company town during the heyday of the Northwest timber industry. Selleck's isolated location has spared it from modern development and thus has allowed the town to survive nearly unaltered since 1939. Because the Pacific State Lumber Mill Company experienced many of the same successes and failures that other mills did, it is a resource that is representative of the industry. The impact of the timber industry on the culture and history of the Northwest is immeasurable; our understanding of it is heightened through the documentation of Selleck and towns like it.

The Portland Spectator, vol. 48, p. 5, 10, January 3, 1931, Portland, Oregon.
Polk, R.L. and Co., King County Directory 1911-12, Seattle.
Reeves, Belle and National Youth Administration, The Lumber Industry in Washington, WPA 1939.
Silcox, F.A., "Boom and Bust" Reader's Digest, September 1936, p. 63.
The Timberman, Portland, Oregon, (various issues: November 1909, November 1918, August 1924, January 1927).
"Timber Trouble: Widespread Shutdowns in Northwest's Lumber Industry" Business Week, December 7, 1940, p. 14.
Timber Workers Employment Guides 1915-1916, Seattle, Timber Workers Publishing Co., 1915.
"Union or 4-L? Pacific Northwest's Lumber Strike", Business Week, June 29, 1935, p. 16.
West Coast Lumberman, (various issues: April 1914, September 1919, June 1921, September 1922, December 1926, January 1931, April 1931, April 1936, July 1936, November 1939, June 1940).
Writer's Program of the WPA Washington: A Guide to the Evergreen State, Portland, Oregon: Binfords and Most, 1941.

Interviews:

Baker, Clara, 4218 North Lexington, Tacoma, November 13, 1986.
Lavender, Cliff, 19227 - 127th Northeast, Bothell, October 15 and 22, 1986.
McDougall, Alex, 1766 Harding, Enumclaw, October 17, 1986.
Nystrom, Laura, 12623 N.E. 199th, Bothell, November 21, 1986.
Schaefer, Tim, 24025 S.E. 162nd, Issaquah, various meetings.

Verbal Boundary Description Continued:

feet, then proceed west 650 feet, then proceed north to the point of beginning. The boundaries are illustrated on the accompanying sketch map, drawn to a scale of 1' = 100'.

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

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

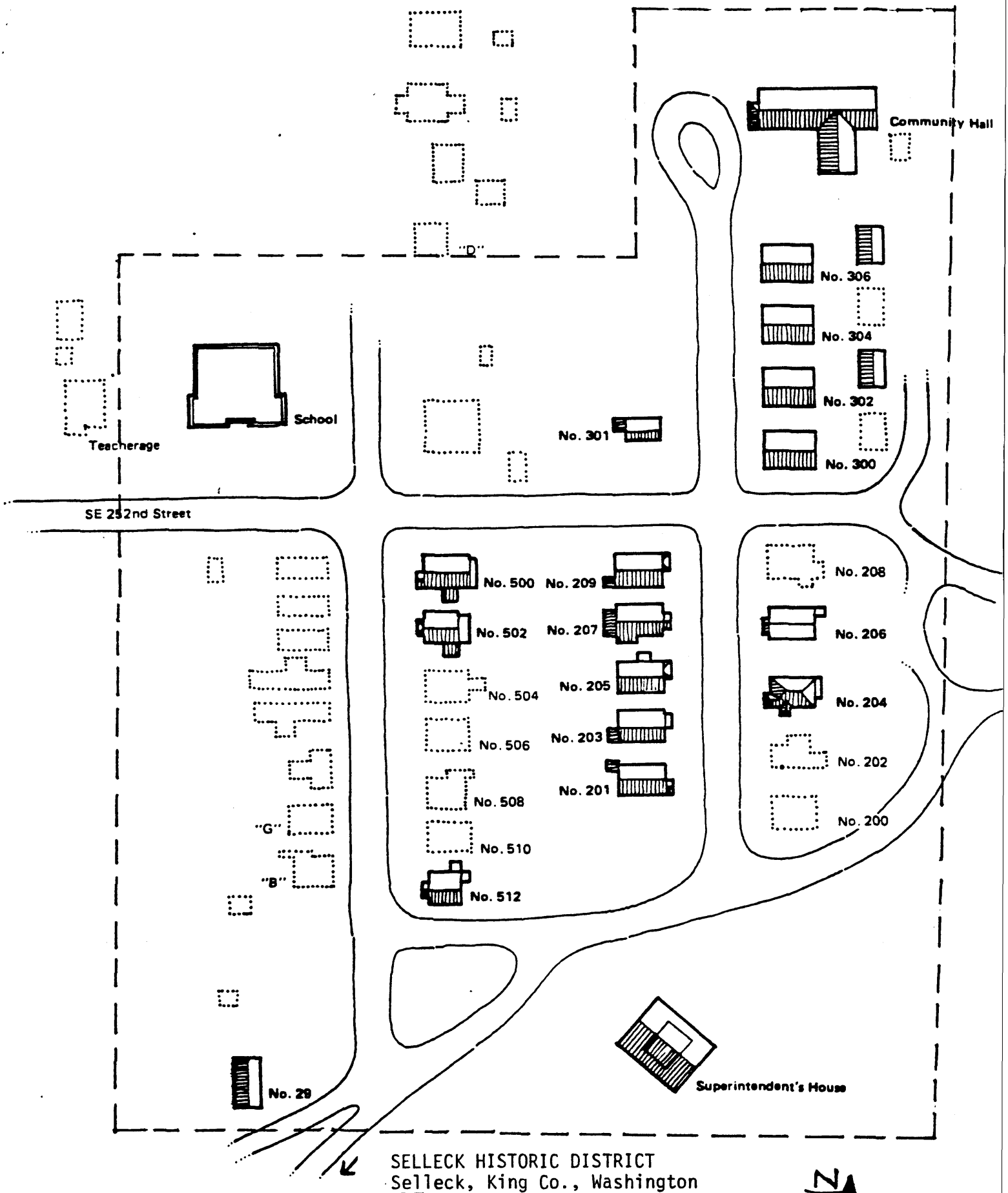
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Piaces Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo **Page** 1

Selleck Historic District
Selleck, King County, Washington
Photo: Shirley Courtois, August 1988
Negatives: OAHP

Photo No. 1: Superintendent's House, front facade, looking S.W.
No. 2: Superintendent's House, side rear, elevation, looking S.E.
No. 3: Buildings #201 (foreground), 204, 206, looking N.E.
No. 4: Building #204, looking N.E.
No. 5: Building #206, looking N.E.
No. 6: Buildings #201-209 (left), 300-306 (right), looking north
No. 7: Buildings #209-203, looking S.W.
No. 8: Building #201, looking N.W.
No. 9: Building #207, looking N.W.
No. 10: Building #209, looking N.W.
No. 11: Buildings #201-209, rear elevations, looking north
No. 12: Buildings #500 (right) 209-205 (left), rear elevations, looking S.E.
No. 13: Buildings #300-306, looking N.E.
No. 14: Building #304, looking N.E.
No. 15: Community Hall, looking N.E.
No. 16: Building #301, looking west
No. 17: Buildings #301 & 300 (foreground), rear elevation, looking east
No. 18: Buildings #500-502, looking east
No. 19: Building #502, looking N.E.
No. 20: Building #512, looking N.E.
No. 21: Schoolyard, with (left to right) buildings #302, 301 (rear), 209 (rear), looking east
No. 22: Schoolhouse, looking north
No. 23: Schoolhouse (on left), Buildings #502, 500 (on right), looking north



SELLECK HISTORIC DISTRICT
Selleck, King Co., Washington
= Extant contributing structures
= Site of demolished structures
= District boundaries
Scale 1" = 100'