

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| |
|---------------------------|
| STATE: Washington |
| COUNTY: Kitsap |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| ENTRY DATE AUG 28 1973 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Nelson, (Charles F.) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Corner of Nelson and Crescent Valley Roads

CITY OR TOWN:
Olalla

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
#6 Hon. Floyd V. Hicks

STATE: Washington CODE: 53 COUNTY: Kitsap CODE: 035

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Carl V. Nelson

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rt. 1, Box 16

CITY OR TOWN:
Olalla

STATE:
Washington

CODE:
53

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Kitsap County Auditor's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Port Orchard

STATE:
Washington

CODE:
53

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Washington

COUNTY: Kitsap

ENTRY NUMBER: AUG 28 1973

DATE: AUG 28 1973



FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Charles F. Nelson House, and its sloping lawns, are situated on a knoll overlooking Puget Sound's Colvos Passage and an old steamer dock. The 2 1/2 storey house is composed of cedar siding and is painted white.

The front, or east side of the building, has a long veranda running nearly the entire length of the house. In the southeast corner of the veranda is an open cupola with an urn on top. The Nelsons called their home Buena Vista because of the expansive view of Puget Sound that could be observed from this veranda.

A steeple which stands as high as the main peak of the house is located on the southeast corner of the main portion of the building. This five-sided steeple has, appropriately enough, five double-hung windows on both the first and second storeys, plus a ball finial on top. Located at the north-east corner and counterbalancing the steeple is a second-storey belvedere, also with a ball finial. The roofs of both the steeple and the belvedere are five-sided, however, the belvedere is considerably larger around the base. The roof of the cupola, on the otherhand, is entirely round, squatter, and much smaller than either of the other two.

A shed dormer is located on the roof between the steeple and belvedere. All the cornices on the front are plain boxed, with plain frieze.

First-storey bay windows are located on the south side of the building to receive the sun's rays. Just above, a pair of double-hung windows are recessed within the second-storey wall. Interestingly, the wall curves horizontally inward to the right and left of the windows, but remains flat above and below the windows. These windows, as well as all the others throughout the building, have plain moulding.

Completing the south side of the house is a fixed diamond window beneath the gable, and a full length single-stack chimney which passes through the front slope of the roof. The cornices on both the south and north end of the building are plain boxed with returns.

The entry hall in the interior of the house has an oak floor, oak trim, an ornately carved stairway, beamed ceiling, a bevelled oval glass door, and two side windows with leaded and ornamented panes. Each of the two storeys has 2,160 square feet of floor space. Altogether there are twelve large rooms and several small ones, a full basement, and an attic. Other notable interior features include a large window seat, cove ceilings, sliding double-doors, and a beamed dining room ceiling.

The building was renovated and restored to its original appearance by the Nelson family in 1963, and it remains in top condition. Some modernization has been done including; a new kitchen, modern baths, and a new hot water heating system. An old Delco electric light plant was changed long ago. The only noticeable outside change was the installation of large windows on the northeast end of the house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1913

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>local history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Charles F. Nelson was born in Sweden, and came to Olalla, Washington, from Illinois in July, 1889. Olalla (meaning berries in the Indian language spoken in the area) had previously attracted homesteaders as early as 1881, largely because the low shoreline at this spot was the only break in the high banks for miles. These settlers were Scandinavians who later encouraged friends and relatives to move to the area. In fact, Nelson's brother came to Olalla in 1883, and six years later he induced Charles to come also.

During the 1890's Charles Nelson worked on a steamer, in shingle mills, on farms, and at the Tacoma smelter. Nelson shrewdly made loans and trades with people; and became involved with buying and selling real estate. During the Alaska Gold Rush, Nelson enhanced his ever improving financial situation by traveling to the Yukon where he operated a store.

In 1904, Nelson returned to Olalla, bought a store, and soon became the principal merchant in this flourishing little farming community that was becoming famous for its strawberries. Nelson eventually became the town's postmaster, voter registrar (for forty years), and the notary public. During times of war, Nelson also served on the ration board and sold war bonds.

The Nelson House was built in 1913, in a kind of late ~~simplified~~ Victorian style. C.E. Bradshaw designed and built the home with local labor and materials, plus anything available in a catalog. The home was built on a hillside overlooking a dock where as many as seven steamers a day stopped. The Nelsons were music lovers; she played piano and he, violin; and they would usually open their house once a week for community musicals. The wide sloping lawns in front of the home were also used for community picnics and baseball club activities.

When the Nelson House was first built, its three domed roofs and wide veranda stood out distinctly against the background of logging operations, and utilitarian businesses and farms that characterized the local region. Interestingly, here was an imposing landmark in a rural area formerly accessible only by water; and today, the house still remains as the most striking object on the landscape as one approaches by boat.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Holmaas, Adella. "Stately Olalla Mansion Again Attention Center." Tacoma News Tribune, December 25, 1963.

Limberg, Dorothea. "The Grandure of Victorian Era Recalled in Olalla Mansion." Bremerton Sun, November 23, 1963.

McDonald, Lucile. "Old Olalla Landmark is Restored." Seattle Times Magazine, September 26, 1965.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

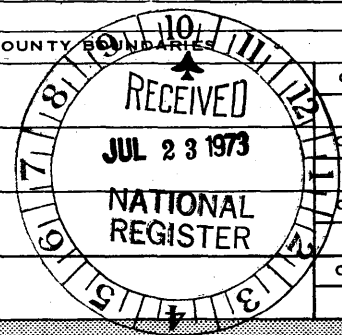
| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 47 25 07 | 122 32 26 | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

10/534670
5251550
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Carl V. Nelson

ORGANIZATION _____ DATE 6/16/72

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rt. 1, Box 16

CITY OR TOWN: Olalla STATE Washington CODE 53

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name Charles H. Odegaard
Charles H. Odegaard
Title Director
Washington State Parks and
Recreation Commission 11/21/72
Date

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

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

Date 8/25/73

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register
Date 8/22/73

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

(Continuation Sheet)

| | | |
|------------------|------------|-------------|
| STATE | Washington | |
| COUNTY | Kitsap | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | | DATE |
| | | AUG 28 1973 |

(Number all entries)

#8 Significance
Nelson (Charles F.) House

A particularly notable feature of the house are the plain boxed cornices with returns located on both the north and south ends of the building. Cornices with returns were once quite popular for country homes during the Nineteenth Century, but have been sparingly used as the Twentieth Century has advanced. In the case of the Nelson House, these cornices have been applied in good taste and add substantially to the overall pleasing appearance that the house gives the viewer. Also interesting to the observer is the large veranda; and the three ~~domed~~ roofs which contrast strikingly against the straight backdrop formed by the main roof.

In conclusion, the Nelson House is an admirable example of what once could be done by a local builder who, despite the problem of being restricted to only local materials and labor, could with his fine skill create a handsome and graceful building.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | | |
|------------------|------------|-------------|
| STATE | Washington | |
| COUNTY | Kitsap | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | | DATE |
| | | AUG 28 1973 |

(Number all entries)

#9 Major Bibliographical References
Nelson (Charles F.) House

_____. Where the Washingtonians Lived. Seattle: Superior Publishing Co., 1969.

Walters, Jim. "The Old Lady of Olalla." Port Orchard Independent, May 3, 1972.

