

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Washington
COUNTY:	Clark
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	FEB 20 1975

### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
Plas Newydd Farm

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Judge Lancaster Home [preferred]

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: N of Ridgefield on  
Lancaster Road

CITY OR TOWN: Ridgefield W.V.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: #3 - Honorable Julia B. Hansen

STATE: Washington CODE: 53 COUNTY: Clark CODE: 011

### 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"/> Object	<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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Constance Morrow Morgan

STREET AND NUMBER: Lancaster Road (P.O. Box 438)

CITY OR TOWN: Ridgefield STATE: Washington CODE: 53

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Clark County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: 1200 Franklin Street

CITY OR TOWN: Vancouver STATE: Washington CODE: 53

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None

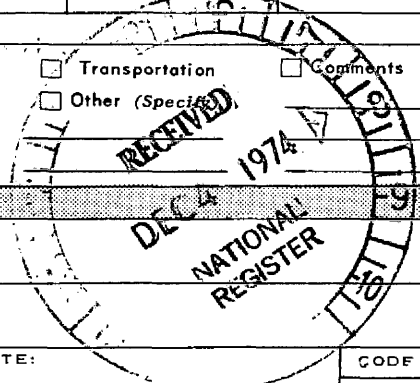
DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:	Washington
COUNTY:	Clark
ENTRY NUMBER	FPR 20 1975
DATE	

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at the edge of a large acreage of cleared farmland, near a stand of tall timber, the Judge Lancaster House is a two story frame structure built in a vernacular Greek Revival style. It was originally 125 yards from the south bank of the Lewis River just east of its confluence with the Columbia; however, it has been moved recently from this site to a new foundation nearby in the same orientation but about 500 feet farther up the hill and away from the neighboring railroad tracks. It now has a full concrete basement, an improved view, and passing trains no longer make it of limited value as a residence.

The house has two front facades, one facing north and the other facing west. The main wing has a medium pitch gable roof shingled in cedar and running east and west. Centered in the north wall is a two story portico with four wooden box columns on each floor supporting a full width second story balcony and the gable roof above it. The columns have a base and capital built up from mouldings, and in between them and returning to pilasters at the wall is a balustrade with handrail, turned balusters, and a base rail a few inches above the decking. This balustrade is omitted between the two intermediate columns on the lower level leaving an opening at the head of a short stairs. Directly behind this and centered in the facade is the main entrance to the house. There is an identical four panel door and transom light just above on the balcony. The spacing between columns is equal to the projection of the porch from the main wing. There is a wide frieze board across the tops of the balcony column with a decorative moulding along the top of it. The frieze is boxed along the bottom and back projecting below the balcony ceiling. At the top corner extremes of the frieze begins the simple triangular gable end and the roof overhang. The porch roof itself has the same run and pitch as the gable over the main wing perpendicular to it, and at the connection their ridges and cornices intersect respectively at the same height.

The southeast corner of the main wing is extended flush along the east wall in back into a second wing. This is perpendicular to the first, offset to one end with its gable roof running parallel but in the opposite direction to the front porch ridge. This wing is somewhat wider than the other with a shallower roof pitch. It extends out a distance equal to the width of the front porch, and a duplicate portico detail is fitted neatly in at the inside corner created where the two wings intersect forming an "L" in plan. This portico faces west, and its roof is parallel and contiguous to the main gable. It is flush in front and on the side with both adjoining gable ends completely filling out a circumscribing rectangle.

There are two chimneys with slightly corbelled caps. They emerge from the roof at points along its ridge, one to each wing.

The siding is five inch clapboards in between corner mouldings, a wide frieze above, and a drip and skirt below.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **About 1850**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <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

Columbia Lancaster was born August 26, 1803, in New Milford, Connecticut. He was christened Thomas Lancaster, a name which remained until his parents learned of the Lewis and Clark expedition to the mouth of the Columbia River. They renamed him after the river predicting, according to an 1895 History of Clark County, that he would "earn fame and make a home [there] in years to come". At the age of fourteen his father experienced business reverses, and the family moved to Canfield, Ohio.

He studied law and taught school until his graduation and subsequent admission to the bar. After moving to Centerville, Michigan, and establishing himself in legal practice, he returned briefly to Ohio marrying Rosanna Jones, of Canfield, on August 23, 1837. During the following years she gave birth to three children.

The Lancasters left for Detroit carrying a letter of introduction to Honorable Lewis Cass, and continued on to St. Louis, their original destination. Along the way Columbia Lancaster became sick with an illness that incapacitated him for an entire year. General Cass, then Governor of Michigan Territory, kindly commissioned him Prosecuting Attorney for the district (presumably St. Louis) and Lancaster was soon elected to the Territorial Legislature which convened in Detroit.

The following account of Lancaster's political exploits in Michigan appears in the History of Clark County:

During the sojourn of our subject in Michigan, the States of Indiana and Ohio were admitted into the Union, taking with them a strip of land some ten miles wide properly belonging to Michigan. This move the people, headed by Mr. Lancaster, strenuously resented. They took the law into their own hands, drove the Governor into Canada, dismissed the Judges, drew up a Constitution, elected State Officers and demanded of Congress the recognition of the people of Michigan to Sovereign Rights, required her admission into the Union and claimed the restoration of the land diverted

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Alley, B.F., and J.P. Munroe-Fraser. History of Clark County, Washington Territory, Washington Publishing Company, 1885.

Lancaster, Harry Fred. The Lancaster Family -- A History of Thomas and Phebe Lancaster, Columbia City, Indiana, 1902.

McDonald, Lucile. Where the Washingtonians Lived, Superior Publishing Company, Seattle, 1969.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

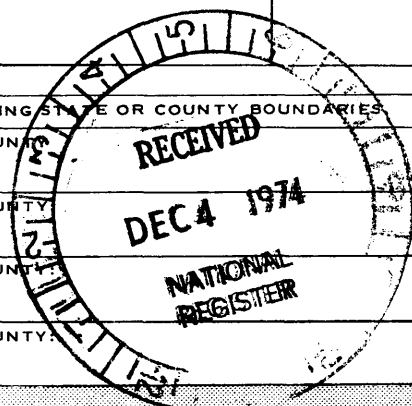
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		45 ° 51' 48 "	122 ° 44' 52 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

10/51951  
507868L  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Five**

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. Mary K. Richards,

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 9/23/74

STREET AND NUMBER: Plas Newydd, P.O. Box 438

CITY OR TOWN: Ridgefield 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 & Recreation Commission

Date Nov. 26, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

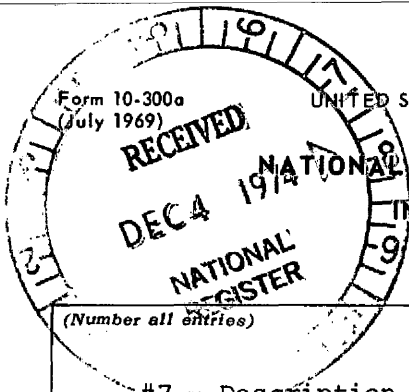
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. R. Winters  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 2/20/75

ATTEST:  
Charles Odegaard  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 2.17.75



Form 10-300a  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Washington	
COUNTY Clark	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 20 1975

(Number all entries)

#7 - Description  
Plas Newydd Farm

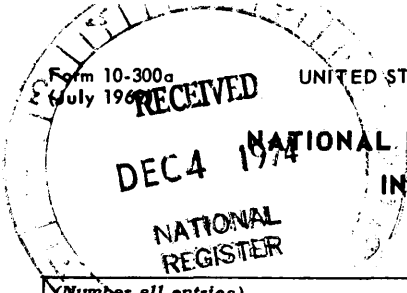
Windows are all tall double hung sashes of <sup>four</sup> eight lights each, symmetrically arranged in vertical and horizontal alignment. There are four windows in nearly every major wall plane, except in the north wall where there are eight. The architrave mouldings include an ogee cornice and a frieze, ? each of these being equal in width to and continuing the lines of the adjacent clapboards. Centered just below the apex of the gable facing south is a fanlight.

The interior partitions were constructed by standing 1 X 12 inch rough cedar boards on end and nailing them to the framing of the floor and ceiling. Lath was in turn nailed to this surface on both sides, and the walls were finished in plaster. The floor system includes hand hewn native oak sills and girders. The joists are cedar and the entire assembly is mortised together. In the attic the roof framing suggests the possibility that the house was constructed as a series of additions, the main wing being first and the porticos last.

An addition was added about 1960 to the south wing by simply extending the wing to about double its original length and extrapolating the fenestration with duplicate windows and mouldings while retaining the fanlight. A small shed roof addition was also attached to the kitchen in back. This work was done with exceptional care by architect John Yeon who sought to expand the living space with an absolute minimum of disturbance to the original design. The interior has been extensively but in general sympathetically redone including the installation of some hardwood floors, an imported marble fireplace, book cases and a partition. An 1895 newspaper article describes the furnishings as they were at that time:

On the floor of the parlor is a finely preserved carpet, of the oldest fashion. It is double width Brussels, with patterns in bright red fully six feet long. The carpet was bought as a wedding present for Mrs. Lancaster, and imported from London. The furniture, or most of it, is of old-fashioned mahogany, with hair cloth seats, and extremely quaint in design. All this furniture and carpet were brought across the plains by ox teams in 1849, and is all good for fifty years or more service.

Although the building was moved a short distance and enlarged, very little destruction of original work took place. The decorative exterior details all remain unaltered, and the form and lines of the structure maintain a similar balance and unity.



Form 10-300a  
July 1966

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DEC 4 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Washington	
COUNTY	
Clark	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

#8 - Significance  
Plas Newydd Farm

from her bounds. While the document setting forth these requisitions was before Congress a force to maintain their rights was raised by the citizens and Mr. Lancaster appointed Colonel in command of a thousand men who were determined to resent any attempt made to deprive them of their, to them, just pretensions. It was found, however, that Congress could not dispossess Indiana and Ohio of the strip of land given to them, therefore a bill was passed to that effect, but, at the same time it approved a resolution granting to Michigan a large tract of territory on the north that included the great copper mines on Lake Huron, which was duly accepted by the people in convention, and Michigan became one of the great States of the Union.

In March, 1892, Lancaster began the overland journey to Oregon accompanied by his wife and daughter intending to connect in Missouri with a large party that included many of the more prominent early pioneers. His daughter died and his wife became ill, forcing the Lancasters to return to Michigan where they remained for about six more years.

On March 4, 1847, the Lancasters departed Centerville, Missouri, with a party headed by Judge Waite and a Mr. Van Dusen.

Lancaster was elected captain of a train with 82 wagons which he served in this capacity until the company separated. The Lancasters arrived in Oregon City September 15, 1847, then the seat of the provisional government prior to the establishment of Oregon Territory. Two months later on November, 23, Governor George Abernethy appointed Columbia Lancaster the Chief Justice of the Provisional Supreme Court of Oregon, the position being vacated by J. Q. Thornton, who had departed for Washington, D.C. via Cape Horn. The following year President Polk signed the bill establishing Oregon Territory and Lancaster was succeeded by a presidential appointee.

In 1851, as a Democrat, he was elected Joint Councilman in the Territorial Legislature for Clatsop, Lewis, Clark, and Pacific counties.

#8 - Significance (2)  
Plas Newydd Farm



Again, quoting from the History of Clark County:

. . . while in that position he discovered a flaw in the bill passed at a former session locating the capitol at Salem. It was found that the Act contained more subject matter than its title accorded -- locating State Prison, Schools, etc. -- and this being contrary to law the Judge at once proceeded to Oregon City, convened a meeting of eight members of the Legislature on his own responsibility, elected the proper officers to conduct it, placed himself in the chair, and had the matter rec-  
tified. This was afterwards recognized by Congress as the true session of the Legislature.

In 1853, Lancaster was elected the first delegate to Congress from Washington Territory.

In December, 1849, the Lancasters established their residence near the south banks of the Lewis River, receiving a patent on a Donation Land Claim of 640 acres the following year. The exact date of construction for their house that still stands on that property is unknown, although it is believed to have been started around 1850. It was reportedly the finest residence in Washington Territory when it was completed.

At one time Lancaster owned a partnership in a coal mine, which he sold for a large share in a salt mine near Portland that paid him well. Later, business reverses forced the abandonment of these holdings at a considerable loss.

Lancaster's daughter is said to have told a story of her father receiving Chief Umtuch and members of his tribe on the porch of his home. The chief was an impressive sight dressed entirely in white, and the judge put on his quilted smoking jacket and fez to present a formidable appearance.

Local tradition has it that before the establishment of the Lancaster's land claim, the Hudson's Bay Company operated a creamery there. It is also said that the first telegraph line running north from Portland passed through the house on Lewis River, and one of Lancaster's sons learned to operate it.

Failing health caused the Lancasters to sell their claim and retire to Vancouver in 1883, where the judge died ten years later.

After Columbia Lancaster's death in 1893, there remained stacks of his books and documents in the attic of his former residence. Some of these were franked to him by the government for distribution to his constituents. Historian Edmond S. Meany discovered and retrieved this material in 1895, adding approximately sixty volumes to his library.

#8 - Significance (3)

Plas Newydd Farm

Lancaster house is significant as the principal residence of character important in the early political history of Washington Territory. It is also significant as a fairly large, complex work of architecture constructed with mostly native materials under the quite primitive conditions prevailing at the time. Built around 1850, it is probably the oldest frame mansion in the State of Washington.