

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received **OCT 22 1985**

date entered

**DEC 19 1985**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Stella Blacksmith Shop

and/or common N.A.

**2. Location**

street & number 8530 Ocean Beach Highway      not for publication

city, town Stella      vicinity of

state Washington code 053 county Cowlitz code 015

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>n/a</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Stella Historical Society, c/o Pearl Burr, President

street & number 1307 Stella Road

city, town Longview      vicinity of state Washington 98632

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cowlitz County Administration Building

street & number 207 North Fourth

city, town Kelso state Washington 98626

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Washington State Inventory of Cultural Resources has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date April 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Washington State Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

city, town 111 West 21st Avenue, KL-11, Olympia state Washington 98504-5411

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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

The Stella Blacksmith Shop is located on the north side of State Highway 4 near the confluence of Germany Creek and the Columbia River, approximately ten miles west of Longview. Once a part of the thriving town of Stella, today the blacksmith shop is an isolated structure, separated from other buildings in the vicinity by the highway on the south and densely wooded areas on the north, east, and west.

The blacksmith shop is a one story wood frame structure clad in horizontal drop siding. The rectangular building, which measures 36 by 26 feet, has a gable roof with "false front" parapet rising above the roof on the east facade. The original timber pilings were replaced in recent years to help stabilize the structure; but the other structural members remain intact, including the 36 foot, ten by twelve inch timber beams that support the building. The interior of the shop is a single, undivided space with exposed rafters and four by twelve inch timber joists at two foot intervals. The interior walls, which originally were left unfinished, have recently been sided with weathered boards from a former livery stable in Stella to facilitate the display of museum artifacts. The original flooring of three by six foot planks remains in good condition and the shop's historic drill press stands on its original site.

The blacksmith shop is lighted by three nine-over-nine double-hung windows along each side wall and two similar windows on the rear (west) wall. The windows are protected on the exterior by wood shutters added in recent years. Access to the shop is gained through sliding double doors on the east facade that move on overhead rollers. The exterior of the shop is painted white; corner boards and window and door surrounds are trimmed in green. The Stella Historical Society completed restoration work in 1977-1984, during which time a new entry ramp was built and new corrugated tin roof replaced the original tin roof.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

<b>Specific dates</b>	1907 (construction)	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	B. F. Brock
	1907-30 (period of significance)		

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Stella Blacksmith Shop is significant for its role in the commercial history of Stella, Washington, a booming logging center during the early twentieth century. Built in 1907 by B.F. Brock, a prominent area lumberman, the shop provided essential services to both the regional logging industry and to residents and merchants of the town. At the time of the blacksmith shop's construction, Stella was a thriving hub of logging operations along the Columbia River; however, few structures survived the fires and economic changes that led to the town's decline in the mid-twentieth century. Today, the blacksmith shop is the best preserved reminder of the town's early era of prosperity.

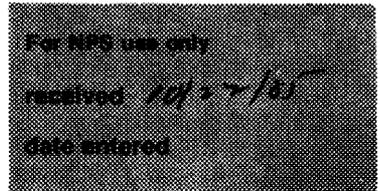
Located on the Columbia River and surrounded by dense forests of Douglas fir, the Stella townsite was originally part of a 320 acre donation land claim filed by John Guizendorfer in the early 1850s. Shortly thereafter, the land was purchased by Henry Lawson, who established a river landing at the site. But real settlement came with the arrival of the Wiest family and other German settlers who homesteaded the area in the 1870s. Almost at once, the Wiest brothers, B.F. Brock, and others began logging operations, hauling logs to creeks and sending them down flumes to the Columbia. The logs supplied local needs and also provided cordwood for the steamboats that landed at Stella to take on fuel. Steamboats also hauled rafts of logs from Stella to Portland and the Pacific Ocean, thus providing a greatly expanded market for the region's product. By the 1890s, the Stella wharf was an important assembly point for the rafts, and in 1895, the first huge "cigar raft" was formed, a cylindrically-shaped raft containing 6.5 million board feet of logs destined for California. By the turn of the century, large national companies, including the Hammond Lumber Company and the Wisconsin Lumber Company, dominated area operations and employed over 1,000 men. In addition to the dock, several stores, hotels, and a mill were constructed in Stella during the boom years. A fire in 1907 destroyed a number of those buildings, but the town was quickly rebuilt and new structures included a community blacksmith shop built by B.F. Brock.

B.F. Brock was among the first and most successful lumbermen in the area as well as a community benefactor who built the local hospital. Brock built the blacksmith shop in Stella in 1907 as an accomodation to the community. The shop shoed horses, repaired wagons and logging equipment, and did general smithy work. Although Brock owned the building and tools, he rented them to other blacksmiths as well. As the only such facility in the area, the shop was vital to the town's economic health. The shop survived the fire of 1921 and even when the local economy declined in the 1920's and 1930's due to changes in the lumber industry, the shop continued to serve the town as an automobile repair shop. In 1977, the shop--one of the few extant structures associated with the town's early history--was leased by the Stella Historical Society, which uses the building as a museum of local history.



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Continuation sheet

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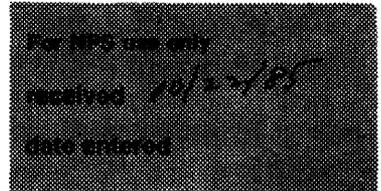
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- Johnson, Dale. "Stella's History Tells of Transformation," Longview Daily News, February 19, 1977.
- McClelland, John, Jr. Cowlitz Corridor: Historical River Highway of the Pacific Northwest, Longview: Longview Publishing Company, 1953.
- Olson, Mrs. Charles. Cowlitz County, Washington: 1854-1948, Kelso: Kelso Chamber of Commerce, 1947.
- Thompson, Loren. "Stella, Oak Point Communities Were Busy at Turn of Century," Longview Daily News, August 19, 1953, p. 14.

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Continuation sheet

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of egress and ingress along said vacated county road from Ocean Beach Highway to the Germany Creek county road, located in Section 12, Township 8 North, Range 4 West, Willamette Meridian, in the County of Cowlitz, State of Washington.

Addendum:

To locate the property and describe its perimeters, BEGIN at the northwest corner of the intersection of Ocean Beach Highway and the Vacated County Road (Section 12, Township 8 N, Range 4 W), and proceed westerly along the north edge of Ocean Beach Highway for 75 feet, then proceed northerly 250 feet (parallel to said Vacated County Road), then proceed easterly 75 feet (parallel to said Ocean Beach Highway) until the western edge of the Vacated County Road, then proceed southerly along the west edge of the Vacated County Road until point of beginning; said property being located in Section 12, Township 8 North, Range 4 West, Willamette Meridian, in the County of Cowlitz, State of Washington.