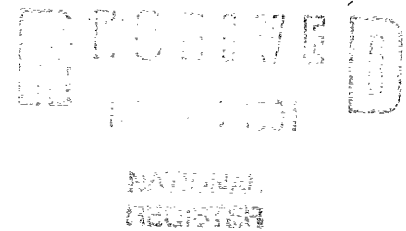


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National Register of Historic Places  
Multiple Property Documentation Form



This form is for use in documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. 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. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

**A. Name of Multiple Property Listing**

Properties Associated with Centralia Armistice Day, 1919

**B. Associated Historic Contexts**

The Legacy of Centralia Armistice Day, 1919

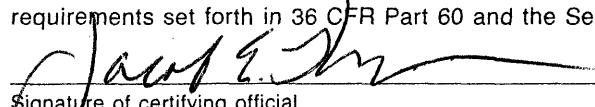
**C. Geographical Data**

Various locations in the State of Washington, with the preponderance of the sites in the vicinity of Centralia, Lewis County, Washington.

See continuation sheet

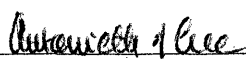
**D. Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Planning and Evaluation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official  
Washington State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

October 14, 1991  
Date

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper of the National Register

12/17/91  
Date

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## E. Statement of Historic Contexts

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**Introduction:** This multiple property statement provides a contextual framework for evaluating and nominating to the National Register of Historic Places properties associated with the events that transpired on Armistice Day, 1919, in Centralia, Washington--events which were nationally significant in American labor history. It identifies one historic context and two historic property types.

**A note of nomenclature:** The events of Armistice Day, 1919, are sometimes known as the "Centralia Massacre." It is not widely understood that this appellation is a partisan term for the events of November 11. The term gained currency in the national press after the day, when anti-radical sentiment was high. Just as the north and south waged a semantic war long after Union and Confederate armies laid down their arms--northerners spoke of the "Civil War" while southerners preferred the unrepentant term "War Between the States"--linguistic battle lines quickly defined right and left in the propaganda campaign that followed the Centralia Armistice Day violence.

Pamphleteers on the right seized the term "massacre" because it made their case simply and vividly: four parading veterans were slaughtered on the streets of Centralia, promiscuously and ruthlessly. Pamphleteers on the left had less success on the semantic front. They tried "Centralia Incident," "Centralia Conspiracy" "Armistice Day Tragedy," and "Centralia Horror", but none fired the imagination like Centralia Massacre. For the purposes of this documentation form, however, all partisan terms for the events will be avoided.

**Chronology of Events: The Riot and Trial.** Although all of the details of Armistice Day, 1919, will never be known with precision or complete certainty, there is now general agreement about the sequence of events and the culpability of the various participants.

The events of Armistice Day culminated in an armed skirmish between members of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), a radical labor union with a militant reputation, and members of the American Legion, a veterans organization recently formed to promote patriotism and anti-radicalism. To mark the first anniversary of the end of the world war, the American Legion's Centralia post scheduled an Armistice Day parade with an unusual agenda: destruction of the local IWW hall.

The plan was an open secret in town for several weeks but unbeknownst to the Legion organizers, the IWW decided not to be intimidated and to defend the hall when attacked. A local attorney assured the Wobblies (as IWW members were commonly and non-pejoratively known) that they had a right to self defense, particularly since the chief of police had declined to provide protection. Emboldened by this advice, Wobblies decided to position armed men in the union hall on the day of the march, as well as at several locations outside the hall.

On the afternoon of November 11, 1919, the route of Centralia's Armistice Day parade took it up the Tower Avenue business district and then north as far as the intersection of Tower and Third, an area of modest boarding houses and workingmen's hotels where the Wobblies operated their union hall. As the marchers reversed direction to return downtown along Tower, members of the Centralia contingent rushed the Roderick Hotel in which the IWW was located. Armed Wobblies opened fire from inside the hall, as well as from two adjacent boarding houses and the summit of a nearby hill. When the gunfire failed to drive off the attacking legionnaires, Wobblies scattered. Three legionnaires were killed on the street near the Roderick Hotel and a fourth was shot by a fleeing Wobbly on the outskirts of town. Almost a dozen others were wounded. Subsequently, the contents of the union hall were dragged into the street and set ablaze.

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Initially, the violence was reported as an act of IWW terrorism against unarmed servicemen. Typical of the deep feelings unleashed across the country by news of the apparently unprovoked atrocity was the view of one citizen who demanded revenge on all Wobblies:

“Let our physicians and surgeons ignore them in their hour of sickness and death. Bar them from all kinds of labor and let them feed upon each other; refuse them admittance to our schools and churches....Let the merchant refuse to sell them merchandise....Brand as a shyster any lawyer who defends them and bar him from any further practice before the bar of justice.”

War hero John J. Pershing argued that “too drastic measures cannot be taken to rid the country of the class of criminals who inspire or commit such crimes.” In Chicago, even the general secretary of the IWW was appalled by the initial reports and sought to disassociate the union from the events in Centralia. Only later did the Centralia Wobblies have a chance to tell their side of the story: that the incident was a defensive response to the threat of mob violence. But for weeks after the riot, public outrage inspired reprisals against Wobblies in the Northwest and elsewhere. Nationally, hundreds of IWW members were rounded up and scores of Wobbly halls were raided or destroyed by vigilantes.

The bloodiest reprisal occurred in Centralia. On the evening of Armistice Day, a group of men entered the city jail in the darkness of a pre-arranged municipal black-out, and a Wobbly prisoner named Wesley Everest was removed from his cell. The mob mistakenly believed it was abducting the local IWW secretary, the presumed architect of the day’s violence. The prisoner was taken to a bridge outside of town and hanged. Several days after the violence, the roundup of suspected Wobblies in the Centralia area led to a sixth casualty, when one search posse mistook a fellow vigilante in the woods for a Wobbly and shot him dead.

An integral part of the story of the events of Armistice Day was the response of the American justice system. Vigilante justice prevailed initially, with no legal consequences for mob participants. No member of the mob that broke into the Centralia jail was ever charged for the lynching of Wesley Everest. The shooting death in the woods that claimed a sixth death was ruled an accident. In contrast, Wobbly actions came under close scrutiny from the criminal justice system.

In January, 1920, the official prosecution of the Wobbly prisoners began when eleven were tried in a neighboring county for the murder of one of the legionnaires. An intimidating setting and prejudicial trial procedures made it difficult for the defense to present its case to an impartial jury. Uniformed legionnaires were paid to pack the courtroom as spectators, while soldiers camped near the courthouse in view of the jury, for example. In a two-month trial, eight Wobblies were convicted of second degree murder and sentenced to stiff prison terms of between 25 and 40 years. Remarkably, two years after the trial, seven of the 12 jurors voluntarily repudiated their verdict. The convictions became a cause celebre for the American left, chiefly through publicists working for the release of the imprisoned men. Appeals and subsequent investigations moved public opinion but not state authorities. Eventually, one Wobbly died in prison, six were released in the early 1930s, and the last was freed in 1939.

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Despite the court verdict, the weight of public opinion has shifted over the decades regarding the culpability of the IWW in the Armistice Day violence. Today, the legionnaires are generally viewed as the instigators of the confrontation on November 11. Most commentators now see the Wobbly decision to take up arms as a defensive strategy formulated in response to the widely known plans to attack the union hall in the course of the Armistice Day parade. The anticipated attack would have seemed to Wobblies yet another salvo in a string of conflicts between the IWW and anti-radical elements in Centralia stretching back almost five years. More provocative was the Wobbly strategy of stationing men outside the hall, to catch the would-be attackers in a crossfire. The current view of the Wobblies as victims of the violence, rather than its perpetrators, also rests on the questionable circumstances of their trial and the lengthy prison terms they received.

**A Radical Labor Union: The IWW.** To understand why a premeditated attack on a union hall could seem like an act of patriotism to members of the American Legion, why mob rule and vigilante justice went unpunished in Centralia, and why the courts went to such lengths to imprison members of the IWW, it is useful to look at the activities and reputation of the Industrial Workers of the World in the United States in 1919.

The Wobblies were radicals. The IWW embraced a revolutionary and a militant class consciousness, rather than the pragmatic “bread and butter” unionism of the more conservative American trade unions. Founded in Chicago in 1905, the IWW was intended to be an industrial union that would organize the entire working class, skilled and unskilled laborers alike, into “One Big Union” that would abolish capitalism through a worker revolution. The preamble to its constitution proclaimed, in part:

“The working class and the employing class have nothing in common....Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system....Instead of the conservative motto, ‘A fair day’s wage for a fair day’s work,’ we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, ‘Abolition of the wage system.’”

Wobblies were always a bit vague on the details of the new society they envisioned, but they were confident it would rise “within the shell of the old.” Their philosophy was rooted in a millenarian faith in the coming of a glorious new world, Darwinian ideas about progress and social evolution, and the Marxists logic of the class struggle.

Tactically, the IWW eschewed electoral politics for direct action: strikes, civil disobedience, and passive resistance. While Wobbly rhetoric employed a vocabulary of violence that stressed the utility of bullets and dynamite in the class war, their actions showed considerably more restraint than their words suggested. In its first 12 years, the IWW was involved in notable strikes among immigrant workers in the steel towns and textile mills of the Northeast, mill hands in the southern pine industry, iron miners and rubber workers in the Midwest, and copper miners and farm laborers in the West. The IWW led

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numerous strikes among the field hands and lumberjacks in the farming and timber districts of the Pacific Northwest.

In addition to the strike, the free speech fight was a favorite Wobbly tactic, and countless towns became scenes for actions in which IWW members would insist on the rights of free speech and assembly, often in violation of municipal ordinances designed to curb radical activity. As with civil rights activists of a later generation, Wobblies hoped their arrests would stir the public conscience. The sabotage attributed to the Wobblies seldom took the form of the destruction of property that their critics claimed, consisting instead of "soldiering" on the job to give the boss only eight hours of work during a ten-hour day, for example. The effectiveness of this tactic was illustrated by the common employer complaint that the initials IWW stood for "I won't work." Violence and bloodshed did follow the Wobblies in their strikes and free speech fights, but usually this was the result of others' efforts to attack and intimidate the IWW, rather than a commitment to violence on the part of the union. Nevertheless, their radical vision and the rhetoric of their speeches and songs gave Wobblies a reputation as hell-raising militants.

For their tactics and their political analysis, Wobblies drew from a reading of European intellectuals and American socialists but chiefly from their own experiences as outcasts and outsiders in the United States. The Wobbly philosophy appealed to those on the margins of society, the alienated and disenfranchised. Consistent with its egalitarian philosophy (and unlike the more conservative trade unions), the IWW did not exclude from membership blacks, Mexicans, Asians, women, or recent immigrants. Occupationally, Wobblies were usually unskilled or semi-skilled laborers who worked in industries employing seasonal labor forces, like agriculture, timber, mining, and construction. Wobblies found their most enthusiastic followers among migrant laborers and itinerants, often men without homes or families. In the Pacific Northwest, Wobbly recruiting was effective among migrant farm workers and hard-rock miners but especially among loggers in timber camps and lumber mills.

If the IWW's appeal was similar to that of a militant religion, as some commentators have suggested, then its union halls were the churches of the movement. The meeting hall provided a place for Wobblies to congregate, read radical literature, gripe about the boss, and talk about the coming revolution. For members who found the kinship of family in the idea of "one big union," the hall also served as a social club, mess hall, and mail drop. Located in low-rent districts, often in storefronts near the railroad tracks, Wobbly halls were modest places, furnished perhaps with labor and socialist newspapers, a table with a few comfortable chairs for playing cards and chatting, and a stove for heat and cooking.

The IWW hall offered a congenial meeting place for men without permanent jobs who moved frequently and had no homes. But as a locale where Wobblies gathered, it was also an obvious and attractive target for adversaries. It was not by chance that the Armistice Day attack on the IWW sought the destruction of the Centralia union hall.

Although the IWW never attracted a large membership among American workers, it enjoyed some influence nationally in the first two decades of the 20th century. The height of IWW influence in the

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Pacific Northwest occurred in 1917, when the Wobblies led a major wartime strike in the timber industry. From the perspective of the IWW, the issues were low wages and long hours for dangerous work, as well as the squalid conditions in the lumber camps. The bunkhouses of the impermanent settlements that moved with timber operations seldom provided running water, ventilation, or sanitary sleeping space for loggers, which made for conditions where perennially soggy work clothes could neither be shed nor dried, stench prevailed, and bunks were overrun with lice and bedbugs.

In 1917, striking loggers demanded an eight hour day and company provision of showers and clean bedding, among other issues. To labor, the war seemed to offer unique negotiating leverage, but others saw the strike as tantamount to subversion. From the perspective of government officials and lumbermen, the strikers were menacing radicals who undermined the war effort. The production of military aircraft, dependent at that time on Sitka Spruce as a construction material, seemed especially vulnerable. In addition, the lumber industry was long accustomed to the use of a large rootless labor force and had little sympathy or financial inclination to meet strike demands. The wartime labor dispute made the IWW a feared and hated union and inspired countless charges of treason.

The lumber strike in the Northwest intensified the campaigns of official and unofficial persecution already being directed at the IWW nationally. Repressive legislation, police raids, judicial convictions, and vigilante violence inaugurated a pattern of suppression after 1917 that came to be called the "Red Scare." The fervent patriotism of a nation at war, together with paranoia generated by the communist triumph in the Russian Revolution, bred an intolerance of dissent and an erosion of civil liberties at home.

The IWW became a primary target of the anti-radical mood. On September 5, 1917, the federal government raided every IWW hall in the country and, two weeks later, indicted 166 Wobbly leaders. Federal wartime measures like the Espionage and Immigration acts were used to imprison or deport those perceived as home-front enemies. On the state and municipal levels, criminal syndicalism laws became a favorite device for persecuting Wobblies, through outlawing seditious speech and writing or simply membership in the IWW. Acts of private retaliation represented an unofficial form of repression that eschewed the formalities of laws for clubs, guns, and rope.

The IWW itself never really recovered from the Red Scare, although it has continued to exist to the present time in reduced form. The persecutions and prosecutions of the war years took their toll but so too did internal dissension and organizational problems, a newfound fascination among the American left with communism, and the appeal of unions affiliated with the nascent Congress of Industrial Organizations after the 1930s.

**The IWW in Centralia:** The events of the Centralia Armistice Day of 1919 were reflections of the mob violence that epitomized the anti-radical hysteria of most of the country at the time. As with Americans elsewhere, attitudes about the IWW in Centralia were shaped by wartime patriotism and an intolerance toward domestic dissenters. But events closer to home also encouraged antagonism toward Wobblies.

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By 1919, the IWW was well-known in the Pacific Northwest, through its strikes (as far back as the Portland action in 1907) and its free speech fights (as early as a conflict in Spokane in 1909). The so-called Everett Massacre in 1916 had been particularly violent, and the regional lumber strike of 1917 won the Wobblies few friends among employers in Centralia. The Seattle general strike in February, 1919, also inflamed anti-union, anti-radical feelings, even though the IWW had not played a major role.

The Armistice Day events in 1919 represented the bloody culmination of a five year pattern of local confrontation between Wobblies and their adversaries in Centralia. As in many communities in western Washington in the first decades of the 20th century, life in Centralia revolved around the lumber industry. Timber was pivotal to the municipal economy, and lumber interests dominated local politics. Both Wobbly recruiters and the city's business establishment recognized the potential appeal of the IWW to the loggers and sawmill hands who made up a sizable portion of the region's workforce.

Beginning in the 1910s, Wobbly recruiters moved into the Centralia area; police and vigilante groups responded quickly and decisively to the perceived threat. In 1915 deputized Centralia citizens rounded up 40 men believed to be Wobblies and ran them out of town with warnings not to return. In 1917, an attempt to set up an IWW union hall in Centralia was met with total hostility and eviction after the landlord learned of the affiliation of his tenants. In May, 1918, in a raid that prefigured the Armistice Day events the next year, a second IWW hall in Centralia was attacked and destroyed during a war-related Red Cross parade. Marchers in 1918 successfully used a tactic since known as a "scorpion sting" to raid the union hall: as the parade doubled back on itself, those on the tail end swung out to strike the hall. Furnishings and union records were dragged into the streets and burned; Wobbly occupants were beaten and ordered out of town. Shortly after the 1918 raid, a blind news vendor who sold union papers and was known as an IWW sympathizer, was kidnapped and dumped in a ditch in the next county.

It was against this background of intimidation that the IWW opened a third hall in September, 1919. Two and one-half months later, this office, too, was destroyed by the Armistice Day marchers. An IWW hall was reestablished in Centralia at a fourth location in the 1920s.

**The Significance of the Riot and Trail:** For the IWW. While the Armistice Day events and subsequent trial dramatically affected the individual lives of Wobblies in the Centralia area, the events in themselves had little impact on the union as a national organization. The attack on the hall did not affect any strike or free speech fight in which the union was involved, nor did it permanently close the Centralia affiliate.

For the IWW, the significance of the event was largely symbolic. It revealed to the union the lengths to which public officials and private citizens would go to stamp out radicals. The Armistice Day events are sometimes singled out as the beginning of the end for the IWW in the Pacific Northwest, although by 1919 official suppression at the federal level was already taking its toll.

For the City of Centralia: The events gave Centralia a reputation as a city of violence and transformed the community into a town with a secret. Well into the 1950s, for example, the Centralia Public Library

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was not allowed to keep books or clippings related to the controversial events of the day. And the subject of the violence even dropped out of private conversation. The knowledge that public authorities chose to look the other way as residents, including members of prominent families, sponsored and participated in mob violence placed a cloud over the community that has not yet entirely lifted.

Patterns of Violence: The day illustrated the historic role of violence in American society. In initiating mob violence against the IWW, the citizens of Centralia drew on a tradition of vigilante justice associated with the American frontier stretching back to the colonial period. The violence had more recent precedents as well, in the confrontations and bloodshed that had come to characterize American industrial relations in the decades immediately prior to the Armistice Day events.

Intolerance of Dissent: The violence and trial represented the epitome of the Red Scare, the national crusade against radicalism that coincided with wartime fears of subversion and that continued into the post-war years. In the attack on the IWW hall on November 11, and in the lynching of Wesley Everest that night, we see how public officials conscripted the law to the cause of official suppression. The abridgement of civil liberties, sanctioned in the name of national security, is one of the legacies of the anti-radical mood of the period.

The Failure of the Justice System: The failure of the justice system to protect the innocent (or punish the guilty) after the riot is now widely acknowledged. While prominent Centralia citizens involved in the lynching went free, Wobblies defending their property were tried and sentenced to the maximum penalties. The Centralia Wobbly trial of 1920 is often likened to other celebrated American court cases in which radicals were unfairly convicted and imprisoned like Tom Mooney in California (1917) or executed like Sacco and Vanzetti (1921) in Massachusetts.

Legacy of the Armistice Day Events: The history of the Armistice Day events did not end with the conviction of the Wobblies in 1920. Its legacy has continued to politicize and polarize observers as well as participants. In the 1920s, as misgivings began to grow about the culpability of the Wobblies, the right adopted an increasingly defensive posture. Seeking to justify the actions of the American Legion, partisans produced a series of impassioned histories and, in 1924, erected a memorial in Centralia that interpreted the violence as a lesson in patriotic vigilance. It is the only official acknowledgement of the events of the day.

Comparably elaborate memorials were not within the financial means of IWW partisans, but throughout the 1920s and 1930s, the left churned out a steady stream of pamphlets and speeches demanding release of the prisoners. Mysteriously and anonymously, a modest granite marker came to be placed on the pauper's grave of Wesley Everest sometime in the late 1930s. It is the only physical monument to the Centralia Wobblies.

In subsequent decades, the painful events of the past were seldom discussed in Centralia. Neighbors did not talk about the events, the library collected nothing, and the subject virtually disappeared from local



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accounts of municipal history. Recent efforts at heritage promotion in Centralia have also tended to ignore the Armistice Day events. In a colorful attempt several years ago to advertise itself as the “City of Historical Murals,” Centralia decorated downtown buildings with paintings of quilting bees, pioneer loggers, railroads, and other conventional subjects for a western farming and lumbering town. Absent was any reference to the one event in local history with national significance. Even the county-wide historical museum in neighboring Chehalis, a popular destination for school trips and tourist buses, offers no exhibits on the events. Generations of Centralia students have grown up unaware that events of national significance occurred in their city. Some Centralia adolescents first hear about the Armistice Day violence only when they go off to college in another town.

The shared silence is as much a part of the story of Armistice Day 1919 as the violence and subsequent trial. From this perspective, the final chapter in the history of the event is still being written--again, by the community itself. One indication that the climate of opinion may be more open than ever before to a frank discussion of local history is a booklet published in 1987 by the Centralia School District, entitled “Centralia Tragedy Remembered.” This intriguing synopsis of the events was prepared for the city’s eighth graders by two Vietnam veterans who became history teachers in Centralia. The authors saw a parallel between the on-going struggle of Americans to comprehend the Vietnam legacy and their own community’s difficulty in confronting its past. They wrote their history not “to open old wounds but to make new generations aware of what happened through a balanced account.”

Indeed, in the broadest sense, the events of Armistice Day 1919 are about the process of historical reconciliation and the difficulties of acknowledging the dark side of history. While Centralia may prefer not to be linked with the events that occurred there, it is unlikely the past will ever disappear.

As novel as it may seem from within, the events of 1919 in Centralia were neither unique nor exceptional, and an important part of the local story is how community history fits into the national pattern. As a powerfully illustrative episode in the social history of the United States, the events of Armistice Day have much to say about the ways in which wartime passions can go awry and create conditions where violence, prejudice, and vindictiveness prevail. Perhaps its most enduring legacy, then, is the lesson that Armistice Day 1919 offers about the utility of non-violence, tolerance, and justice in a diverse society.

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## **F. Associated Property Types**

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### **I. Name of Property Type Contemporaneous Buildings**

#### **II. Description**

Contemporaneous Buildings are historic properties directly and concomitantly associated with the events related to Armistice Day, 1919, in Centralia, Washington. Although the properties will vary widely in physical characteristics, they are commonly characterized by their close historical associations with Armistice Day events. This category ranges widely to include the Union Loan and Trust Company building at 395 North Tower Avenue in Centralia, where the Elks Club had a lodge. The assault on the IWW hall was planned in these upper story rooms--rooms which are still largely intact. The building itself is a Classical Revival brick commercial building, erected in 1907 and considered the largest in town at the time of the events.

Another contemporaneous property is the Tower Avenue Historic District in Centralia. The Tower Avenue district is the business corridor of the community and served as the route of the Armistice Day parade. At the northern end of the corridor, the intersection of Tower Avenue and Second Street retains considerable historical interest as the destination of the Armistice Day marchers and the scene of three of the killings, although few structures still survive from the time of the violence. This northern end of the business district went into decline after 1919 and is no longer an integral part of the main commercial zone. The present structure at 807 Tower Avenue replaced the historic Roderick Hotel, location of the controversial Wobbly Hall, in the 1930s and is not associated with the riot, although the site itself is listed in the Washington State Register of Historic Places.

A final identified contemporaneous site associated with the events is the Grays Harbor County Courthouse in Montesano, which was the location of the IWW trial between January and March, 1920, in which eight Wobblies were convicted of second degree murder on Armistice Day, 1919. A change of venue moved the trial from Lewis County to Grays Harbor County, but the passions of the event were in full play at the Montesano courthouse. Other, as of yet unidentified, contemporaneous buildings may include the houses of significant figures associated with the events or other structures closely associated with the planning and execution of Armistice Day activities.

#### **III. Significance**

Contemporaneous Buildings are significant for their association with the Armistice Day, 1919, an important event in American labor and social history. These structures have the ability to convey in physical form the important events that preceded the day, transpired on the day, and occurred on subsequent days and in the following years. They are the only tangible properties actually associated with the players and passions of the era as the events unfolded. Properties of significance to the theme should be evaluated for local or national levels of significance, depending on the degree to which they manifest direct and profound associations with the events.

#### **IV. Registration Requirements**

To be considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register, a Contemporaneous Building must meet the following requirements. First, the property must be significantly associated, in direct and documented ways, with the actual events or important persons connected with the Centralia Armistice Day of 1919. Secondly, the property must retain integrity, which implies retention of basic elements of original form, exterior facade, and interior character. Because the property type is distinguished primarily by its historical associations, some loss of historic fabric is acceptable if the dominant and characteristic features of the property from the period of significance are intact.

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I. Name of Property Type Commemorative Sites and Objects

II. Description

Commemorative Sites and Objects are historic properties that are associated with the legacy of the Centralia Day Armistice of 1919, and erected subsequent to November 11 as political expressions that cogently reflect the ideological confrontations of the era. Only two such Commemorative Objects are known to exist. The *Sentinel* is a heroic bronze statue of a World War I veteran resting on a massive granite base, with inscriptions to the slain legionnaires and their cause. The simple gravesite marker of lynched Wobbly Wesley Everest is a granite stone that is inscribed with his name, a terse epitaph, and the emblem of the IWW.

III. Significance

Commemorative memorials represent an important chapter in the story of the Centralia Armistice Day of 1919. These objects significantly illustrate the ideological confrontation of the day, and the perpetuation of that confrontation in the following years as partisans on both sides sought to win the battle in American public opinion and in the judgement of history. The *Sentinel* statue --dramatically sited in the city square--and the Everest grave marker--humbly but defiantly placed in a graveyard on the outskirts of town--are the sole reflections of the ideological passions as well as the political implications of the day's events. They mark the two sides that divided the town, and reflect national divisions during the era. As cogent symbols of a significant chapter in labor history in which ideology played a large role and for which standing structures do not as strongly reflect the partisan issues, the commemorative properties are of national significance.

IV. Registration Requirements

To be considered eligible for listing in the National Register, a memorial site or object must be evaluated according to four requirements. First, the property must be a significant example of memorial architecture erected with serious ideological intention or political purpose, with the goal of interpreting the history of the events of Armistice Day, 1919. Secondly, because commemorative properties are usually not listed in the National Register, an eligible commemorative property must have achieved significance by reason of its distinguished design or symbolic value. Thirdly, because gravesites are not usually listed in the National Register, an eligible gravesite must be the only extant site of significance associated with a person who, in turn, must be a historical figure of outstanding importance in the events of Armistice Day. Finally, the property must retain integrity, including a high degree of original form, fabric, and general character.

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**G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods**

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Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.

This multiple property nomination was initiated to encourage preservation of sites significant in American labor history. Dr. Robert R. Weyeneth assembled the current document, with assistance from Centralia citizens and encouragement from the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. The thematic focus of the historic context statement was designed to include the entire history of the Armistice Day Riot: the events of 11 November 1919, but also the early planning for the controversial Centralia parade, the trial of the Wobblies in Montesano, and the subsequent commemorations in the 1920s and 1930s. The two property types were derived from an assessment of the legacy of the riot. While contemporaneous architecture illustrates the events linked directly with the riot and trial, efforts to erect commemorative architecture reflect the ideological confrontation (and the propaganda battle in the arena of public opinion) that continued on both sides well after 1919.

See continuation sheet

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See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional documentation:

- State historic preservation office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency

- Local government  
 University  
 Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**I. Form Prepared By**

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