

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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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 Propertyhistoric name N/Aother names/site number Historic Resources of Unincorporated Thurston County**2. Location** See Individual Inventory Formsstreet & number _____ ☐ not for publicationcity, town _____ ☐ vicinitystate Washington code WA county Thurston code 067 zip code _____**3. Classification** See Individual Inventory Forms

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☒ public-local
☒ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
See <u>individual</u>	<u>buildings</u>
<u>inventory forms</u>	<u>sites</u>
_____	<u>structures</u>
_____	<u>objects</u>
_____	<u>Total</u>

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/ANumber 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.

James E. Mon
Signature of certifying official
Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

April 21, 1988
Date

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:) _____

Amy Schaefer6/23/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use See Individual Inventory Forms

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

7. Description See Individual Inventory Forms

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

walls _____

roof _____

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Setting: Extending southward from Puget Sound in western Washington, Thurston County includes 90 miles of Puget Sound coastline, 6,300 acres of freshwater lakes, and encompasses over 761 square miles. The county has steep bluffs around Puget Sound and a broad central prairie flanked by both the Black Hills on the west and the Bald Hills, foothills of the Cascade Range, on the east. About three-quarters of the county remains forested mostly with second growth Douglas fir and hemlock and some cedar, spruce and red alder. About half of the county is located on a relatively flat central prairie.

Geologically, the county is mostly a drift-covered glacial plain rimmed by low-lying hills with underlying deposits of the Tertiary age. Receding glaciers deposited sand, gravel, boulders, and clay in the county and depressions left by melting glaciers became sloughs, ponds, and lakes.

The three river systems in Thurston County are the Deschutes, the Nisqually, and the Chehalis; the Black and Skookumchuck Rivers serve as tributaries. The Deschutes and Nisqually flow into Puget Sound and the Chehalis into the Pacific Ocean. Originating in Lewis County, the Deschutes flows northerly approximately 48 miles, much of it through Thurston County, ending at Budd Inlet. The Nisqually flows from the Nisqually glacier on Mount Rainier and drains 99 square miles of Thurston County. The Black River flows 19 miles from its source at Black Lake forming 6,500 acres of swamp along its banks. The Skookumchuck flows 34.7 miles in the county before entering the Chehalis River. The Skookumchuck is dammed eight miles upstream from Bucoda. Over 100 lakes (including 28 with over 20 acres of open water) and many small ponds are also located in the county. Wetlands cover 9.6 percent of the county and most agricultural land is reclaimed wetland.

A unique geological feature of the county is the mounds which once extended across almost 30,000 acres. The phenomenon, first reported by the Wilkes Expedition in 1841, has yet to be fully explained although two major theories have been advanced about their formation. One theory holds that the mounds were formed by glacial erosion; the other theory maintains that the mounds were formed by pocket gophers. Because of the non-intensive nature of most agricultural activity in the county--most land is used for stock grazing--many mounds are still evident including some on the nominated properties. In 1961 the State Department of Natural Resources set aside a 435 acre parcel of land containing 4,000 mounds in the southeastern part of the county as a Natural Area Preserve.

Seven hundred eighteen square miles out of a total of 758 square miles of the county are unincorporated. Land use of unincorporated Thurston County is 3.2 percent residential, .1 percent commercial, 1.7 percent roads and road rights-of-way, 57.6 percent commercial

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timber production, and 8.7 percent commercial agriculture. State forestry land encompasses 11.9 percent while federal land includes 4.7 percent of the total. The rest of the land, 25.3 percent, is undeveloped.

Patterns of Historical Development: The physical development of the county, and the cultural resources associated with it, reflect broad patterns of settlement. Three major Indian tribes hunted, fished, and lived in Thurston County. Archaeological sites have been located along some of the inlets of Puget Sound and Indians gathered camas and other seasonal foods on the prairies. The natural prairies (which first attracted American settlers to the county) had been maintained through periodic burning by Native Americans.

The first European settlers in present-day Thurston County were employees of the Hudson's Bay Company which began its northwest operations in 1824 and operated a large farm which included land in northeastern Thurston County near Nisqually. The earliest permanent American settlement in the region was established at Tumwater and the surrounding prairies in 1845. Early settlers were drawn to the prairies and to fertile areas along the Skookumchuck, Nisqually, Black, Chehalis, and Deschutes Rivers and Scatter Creek. They also settled near Indian trails and Hudson Bay Company routes.

Thurston County was an early population center for the future Washington Territory; over 250 Donation Land Claims were taken under the 1850 law and 304 of the 1,201 residents north of the Columbia River in 1850 lived in the county. In 1855, Olympia was named territorial capital and in 1861 became the county seat. By 1860, Thurston County had 1,507 residents out of the 11,594 in Washington Territory. In the 1870s, the coming of the Northern Pacific railroad and the discovery of coal deposits precipitated settlement in the southern part of the county.

Economic Geography: The earliest European agricultural activity in the county was undertaken by the Hudson's Bay Company which established the Puget Sound Agricultural Company in 1833. The company raised large numbers of cattle, horses and sheep for their west coast operations. Located on the inland prairies between the Nisqually and Puyallup valleys, much of the ranch's grazing land was in present day Thurston County. The Company also had gardening and dairying operations. The project lasted until 1846 when the boundary between the United States and Canada placed company lands under American jurisdiction.

Early Americans settled south of Tumwater, grew grain on the prairies, and built a grist mill at "New Market" (now Tumwater). By 1852, farm produce such as bacon, lard, wheat, milk, butter and cheese were being offered for sale locally. Settlement grew slowly after 1850; farming was deferred by the Indian Uprising of 1855-56 when residents fled to stockades and men left to serve in volunteer army regiments.

The establishment of railroads and overland roads in the 1870s coincided with a growth in coal mining and the expansion of the lumbering industry. That growth, in turn, created markets for the dairy products, poultry, livestock, and vegetables of local farmers. As a result, farmers during the period began to specialize in commercial crops and animal products. Small marketing centers grew up along the main lines of the railroad and farmers combined their agricultural work with logging, lumbering, and mining pursuits. In 1876 William O. Bush organized an exhibit for the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition featuring Thurston County agricultural products. Bush received a gold medal for the exhibit which

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featured varieties of grains and vegetables. The principal crop of this period, however, was meadow hay harvested from the river-bottom land for livestock. Nurserymen also located in the county during this initial period, bringing a wide variety of fruit trees supplementing the wild berry fruits also harvested as crops.

After the turn of the century, many immigrants from the eastern United States and Europe came to the county to work in the logging and lumbering industry. They bought the logged-off lands for farming, and produced berries and hay as well as dairy products and poultry. In Yelm, an irrigation company was formed and berry growing was initiated there as well as in the Grand Mound and Gull Harbor areas.

Farming in the county reached a high point about 1940 but declined in the following years as the war drew workers away from the fields and berry-growing projects were abandoned.

The shellfish industry has also been an important economic activity since earliest days. By 1868, trade in Olympia oysters was underway between San Francisco and Thurston County. Cultivation of oysters began about 1898 when beds were first established. The industry reached a height in the 1920s, but water pollution destroyed much of the native oyster population in the ensuing decades.

With the abundance of timberlands, logging and lumber processing developed as major industries shortly after initial settlement. The advent of modern techniques and large grants of timberland in the 1880s inaugurated large scale logging operations in the county, especially in the heavily timbered Black Hills. Numerous mills operated throughout the county in the 19th century and often were rebuilt and enlarged through the first part of the 20th century.

Lumber mill company towns became a common feature of the region; in other cases, towns grew up around the mills (and several such communities were platted at the turn of the century). But, as harvestable timber was depleted, logging operations left behind cut-over land or stump farms which were settled by employees of the lumber mills. With the timber gone, the boomtowns became virtual ghost towns. By the early 1940s, most first growth timber was gone and, during the 1950s, the interstate freeways bypassed most of the small towns in the county.

Since that time, the greatest growth in the county has been residential rather than industrial, reflecting the dramatic increase in state government offices located in Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater. The rural sections of the county have become increasingly attractive for bedroom subdivisions and the lakes are lined with residences. The more remote Chehalis and Skookumchuck River valleys have resisted this change, but much of the remainder of the county has been subject to this growth. Today, over 60 percent of the county's population resides in unincorporated Thurston County.

General Description of Nominated Properties: The Historic Resources of Unincorporated Thurston County include seven residences, one government institution, one public hall, and three farmsteads. The properties were constructed between 1860 (about fifteen years after initial American settlement) and the 1930s, when the county was struggling to recover from the Depression.

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Throughout the period, builders used locally available materials, most commonly native woods like fir and cedar but also local stone (such as Tenino sandstone and local cobblestones used in the Johnson House) and some locally manufactured brick, usually applied as veneer (State Training School for Girls). Sheathing and roofing materials included hand split shakes; machine sawn shingles; and drop, rustic, and clapboard sidings.

Building construction methods varied according to available resources and building technology. The oldest buildings in the nomination, like those on the Thomas Rutledge farmstead, include houses built of hand hewn cedar planks and barns built with heavy timbers joined by mortise and tenon. Light frame buildings, like the superintendent's residence at Union Mills, were constructed of lumber milled at the area's sawmills. Typically, frame structures rested on post and pier foundations (sometimes replaced by concrete foundations). Because of the early availability of milled lumber, most early log structures were replaced. Consequently, the only log structure included in the nomination is the Long Lake Recreational Hall built in the Rustic Style in 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Because of the abundance of wood, brick masonry is a rarer building material. The State Training School for Girls is the sole example of brick construction in the nomination.

Residences are primarily one to one and one-half stories in height with the Rice House rising to two and one-half stories. The State Training School for Girls and Salsich Lumber Company Superintendent's House are two stories.

The architecture of the nominated buildings reflects a variety of vernacular forms and popular styles. The earliest properties date from the 1860s--the Brewer House, George Rutledge House, and Thomas Rutledge House and Barn--and are farmsteads which include an adjacent barn or other outbuildings. The houses reflect the Greek Revival Style and feature characteristic gable returns, corner boards, and frieze boards. The George Rutledge House is the best example of this genre with a temple front wing and columned porches on the adjoining wings. Fenestration in these examples consists generally of six-over-six lights with narrow mullions. Other examples of 19th century houses in the nomination which reflect common vernacular forms include the Colvin House (a side-gable structure built in 1877 of plank construction with a central gable dormer over the entry) and the frame, side-gable McKenzie House of 1893. The Jaaska House of 1888, also of plank construction, has a cross gable form with decorative porch pillars and square bay window.

After the turn of the century, buildings in Thurston County adopted popular Post-Victorian styles. For example, the Union Mills House is a Dutch Colonial Revival structure, the Salsich Lumber Company House is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival Style, the Rice House is an American Foursquare, and the State Training School for Girls Administration Building reflects the Mediterranean Revival Style tempered by Craftsman influences. The trend toward popular styles continued into the 1920s as reflected in the Foursquare Johnson House and Colonial Revival Sunnybay Plantation (Ewald House). In the 1930s, the Rustic style was employed in the recreation hall at Long Lake, one of the finest examples of Civilian Conservation Corps craftsmanship in the region.

General Integrity of Nominated Properties: The properties included in the nomination have generally maintained good integrity. The most common alterations include reroofing and replacement of porch elements--measures which reflect the wet weather of the area and the tendency toward leakage and dry rot. Metal roofing has replaced original shingles on some

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structures. Some original wooden window sash has been replaced with metal framing. Where additions have been made to nominated structures, they are generally unobtrusive or compatible with the original building.

Methodology: A survey and inventory of Thurston County Historic Resources was conducted in 1985 for the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation by Shanna Stevenson and Tom Costantini. During the field survey, 318 properties were identified and, of those, 143 were selected for inventory preparation. Using the National Register criteria, 11 properties were selected from the inventory for inclusion in this nomination. Eligible properties not included in this nomination are archaeological resources and properties included in forthcoming multiple property submissions (including the Rural Public School Buildings MPS and a thematic nomination of state parks).

8. Statement of Significance See Individual Inventory Forms

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

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Architecture
Exploration/Settlement
Ethnic Heritage
Industry
Politics/Government
Recreation
Social History

Period of Significance

See Individual Inventory
Forms

Significant Dates

See Individual
Inventory
Forms

Cultural Affiliation

See Individual Inventory Forms

Significant Person

See Individual Inventory Forms

Architect/Builder

See Individual Inventory Forms

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

The 13 properties included in the Historic Resources of Thurston County are significant for their associations with the architectural, agricultural, recreational, industrial, and governmental development of the Western Washington locale. Built between 1860 and 1936, the buildings represent the evolution of the county as it grew from the site of the first American settlement in Washington to the seat of modern state government. The nominated properties are among the best preserved examples of several phases of the county's history, including early settlement and subsistence farming in the 19th century, lumber harvesting and manufacturing at the turn of the century, and the growth of government in the 20th century.

Historical Overview: Three Indian tribes originally hunted, fished, and lived in Thurston County prior to white settlement. Archaeological sites have been located along the inlets of Puget Sound and historic evidence indicates that Indians gathered camas and other seasonal foods on the prairies of the area.

Europeans arrived as early as 1792 when members of the Vancouver expedition reached the head of Puget Sound at Budd Inlet. In the 1830s, the Hudson's Bay Company established a farm in the county near Fort Nisqually. In 1841, the American Exploring Expedition under Charles Wilkes explored the county and named many of its bays and inlets.

First permanent American settlement on Puget Sound was established in 1845 at the falls of the Deschutes River at what is now Tumwater. Michael T. Simmons and seven other men and their families settled within a radius of six miles of that site. During 1846-47, the small group established a gristmill and sawmill utilizing the water power of the falls. The site of settlement and mill are included in the Tumwater Historic District (National Register, 1978).

The Simmons party was the advance guard of a growing stream of settlers who had come west along the Oregon Trail and followed the Cowlitz River north from the Columbia. An Indian trail used by Hudson's Bay Company traders, which led from Cowlitz's Landing to the Sound, was extended and widened by the Simmons party. Most pioneers settled first on prairies and near streams and rivers where agriculture would be possible in the otherwise forested district. Others settled along Indian Trails near the Black River. Some immigrants were

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Prescott, Edgar. Early Yelm, Folly Press, 1979.

Rathbun, J.C., "History of Thurston County, WA," Olympia, 1895.

Rice, Marie Bauer. James Longmire: His Life, His Family, Longmire Family of Washington, 1982.

Rutledge, Dale. "Early History of Littlerock, WA," from "Good Old Days for Little Rock," privately published, 1971.

Smith, Herndon. Centralia, the First 50 Years, Chronicle, Centralia, 1942.

Stevenson, Shanna. Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater: A Pictorial History, Donning, 1985.

Told By the Pioneers, Vols. 1 and 3, Washington Pioneer Project, 1937.

Washington State Department of Agriculture, "Thurston County Agriculture, Washington," County Agricultural Data Series, Olympia, 1958.

☐ 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 See Individual Inventory Forms

Acreage of property _____

UTM References

A

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

C

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

B

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

D

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See Individual Inventory Forms

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See Individual Inventory Forms

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Shanna Stevenson	date	August, 1987
organization	Thurston County Historic Commission	telephone	(206) 786-5554
street & number	Thurston County Courthouse	state	Washington
city or town	Olympia	zip code	98502

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drawn by the lure of free land offered under the provisions of the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850; still others came after bad luck in the California gold fields caused them to trek northward.

Formed in 1852 while still under the governmental jurisdiction of the Oregon Territory, Thurston County was the third county in what was to become Washington Territory and at first encompassed most of Western Washington extending east to the crest of the Cascade Mountains and north to the Canadian border. In November 1853, Washington became a separate territory and the temporary capital was located at Olympia. The new status insured that the county would be at the center of the region's early development.

The influx of settlement was destined to create problems with the native population. In the winter of 1854, newly appointed Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens negotiated his first treaty which led to the opening of Indian land to white settlers. The treaty making session was held in Thurston County. But the treaty, coupled with the increase of white settlement, brought Native Americans and settlers into the conflict which resulted in the so-called Indian Uprising of 1855-56. Settlers gathered in blockhouses, pioneer log fortifications that became small towns during the period. Many of the blockhouses were located near the pioneer farmsteads included in the nomination. The conflict was short-lived, however, and further treaties promulgated by Stevens opened up land throughout Washington for American settlement.

As the site of the territorial capital, the county held a disproportionate amount of social, economic, and political clout in the region. For example, Thurston County was the site of the first newspaper, churches, schools, governmental activities, fraternal organizations, and cultural activities in the territory. The county witnessed some of the first transportation activity with the earliest steamboat port on Puget Sound. County flour and lumber mills out-paced all other territorial development. In fact, Thurston County led in territorial development until the advent of the transcontinental railroad in the 1870s.

Throughout the Puget Sound region, the 1870s was the era of the railroad. The Northern Pacific, the first transcontinental line, reached southern Thurston County in 1872. Although Olympia actively worked for and was promised the terminus for the Northern Pacific, the honor was instead granted to Tacoma, stunting the growth of the capital area. But, with the arrival of railroad service, several towns were platted in the southern part of the county and plans were made for paper municipalities elsewhere.

The coming of the railroad stimulated the regional economy as well. By the 1880s, logging and lumbering had increased throughout the county, opening up new settlement areas. By 1889, 40 logging camps were operating in Thurston County. With the advent of statehood in 1889, several Thurston County communities were platted and began to be served by railroads. Rochester, Gate, Grand Mound, and Rainier were platted in 1890, followed by Littlerock and Nisqually.

The development of railroads allowed access to more of the Black Hills and other prime logging areas. The depletion of eastern and midwest timberlands brought outside timber firms to the northwest. The first decade of the new century was one of continued development throughout the county. New mills were begun at Rainier and Bordeaux and by the Mud Bay Logging Company. Delphi, Independence, Maytown, and Bucoda were all supported by the

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lumber industry. Near Yelm, the Wisconsin Salsich Lumber Company built a company town in 1908. Smaller operations were scattered throughout the county.

The lumber industry attracted immigrant job seekers (often from the Scandinavian countries) who found employment in the region's mills and created small farms on the cut-over land. A less attractive result of the industry was the fires that raged in the early teens in such mill towns as Bucoda, Gate, Yelm, and Rochester.

The growth of the lumber industry and mill towns created a strong market for the products of local farms, and more farmers began to move into large scale specialty farming, harvesting hay and grain crops for horses and other livestock as well as fruits and vegetables. After 1910, new attempts at irrigation and large scale farming were made at Yelm, Sunnybay Plantation, and Rochester which featured primarily fruit growing for canneries which shipped their products via the railroad and through the Port of Olympia, organized in 1922. At McKenna, the McKenna Lumber Company initiated a cooperative venture for its employees in 1916 to grant them land, machinery, animals, and seed at low or no cost.

By the 1920s, the county's lakes became popular recreational destinations and, with access provided by automobiles, second homes and summer resorts began to develop. But the 1930s were a difficult economic period in Thurston County as in the rest of the nation. The county did benefit from a number of projects of the Roosevelt administration to promote building and jobs. The legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps included the reforestation of the Black Hills, the creation of Millersylvania State Park, and the construction of the Long Lake Recreational Hall.

By the 1940s, most of the lumber had been cut from the Black Hills and the huge operations of Mud Bay Logging and the Bordeaux Brothers had closed, leaving the land for reforestation. Stagnating growth in most of the county worsened in the 1950s when the interstate freeway cut many communities off from main line traffic.

However, as the historic industries of the county have declined, state government has grown and a number of government structures have been constructed in the area (although mostly in the incorporated cities of Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater). Most of the recent growth in county population, housing, and employment has resulted in large measure from the expansion of government. Recent growth in the county has been phenomenal. Thurston County grew 71.6 percent in population from 1970 to 1980 and continues to out-pace most areas in the state. Most of this growth has occurred within the unincorporated sections of the county.

Architectural Significance: The Historic Resources of Unincorporated Thurston County reflect the architectural evolution of the built environment and include significant examples of both vernacular and high style design. The earliest structures--the Miller-Brewer, Thomas Rutledge, and George Rutledge Houses--are vernacular examples of the Greek Revival Style, built of vertical cedar planks. These houses reflect the earliest building technology and style in the state, illustrating the adaptation of traditional design on the frontier. The Colvin House of 1877 is another example of cedar plank sidewall construction and reflects a side-gable vernacular form while the Jaaska House, built in 1888, is a cross-gable house of plank construction.

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Two frame houses in the nomination--the Union Mills House and the Salsich House--were built as the residences of mill superintendents, and exhibit a higher degree of architectural sophistication reflecting their role in the company towns in which they were located. The Union Mills House is a Dutch Colonial Revival design and the Salsich Lumber Company Superintendent's House is an outstanding example of the Colonial Revival Style. Each is illustrative of the types of wood products produced at the respective mills.

The Mediterranean Revival State Training School for Girls Administration Building with its unique interior was designed by architect Watson Vernon as the centerpiece of the institution whose mission it was to put girls back on the straight path; the building is reflective of that high-minded goal, combining the formalism of classical institutional design with the domestic character of the Craftsman Style. It is the only brick structure included in the nomination.

The unusual Johnson House, a lodge built of native cobblestone, was designed by Holger Jensen in an American Foursquare Style in 1927. One of only two cobblestone structures in the county and an unusual interpretation of the style, the house is an architectural achievement in solid masonry construction. One of the finest examples of the Rustic Style in the county is the Long Lake Recreation Hall, built of peeled logs and hand crafted details by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Agricultural Significance: Agriculture was the economic mainstay of the first American settlers in the county and pioneer homesteads were located on the open prairies where the settlers pastured livestock. The Thomas Rutledge and George Rutledge properties are associated with some of the earliest livestock farms dating from the 1860s. Their barns also date from this period and represent the relatively large scale type of livestock operation which was primarily located adjoining a water source (in this case the Black River). The Colvin Farm was the headquarters for a large landholding of open prairie used for livestock raising. Another early agricultural activity which accounts for the large barns on the Rutledge Farmsteads was the harvesting, curing, and storage of meadow hay which grew abundantly along the river bottom of Scatter Creek and the Black River. This feed was stored and sold commercially to livery stables, logging companies, or used as winter fodder for livestock.

The later berry growing enterprises which required irrigated lands and large labor forces are represented by the Sunnybay Plantation House which was the superintendent's residence for a large berry and fruit growing operation which supplied a cannery in downtown Olympia. The Rice House was the home of Lewis Rice who was one of the founders of the Yelm Irrigation District. In the early part of the century, this association built a large irrigation system with flumes and other facilities to water another berry-growing area in the county. Rice was also a renown horse trader and breeder who supplied horses for area logging operations.

Ethnic Heritage Significance: The Jaaska House and Warehouse is significant for its association with the small Finnish community at Independence. The last significant extant property associated with the town, the Jaaska buildings reflect the important role of immigrants attracted to the region in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Immigrants provided a labor source for the lumber companies and railroads, and established small farms on the cut-over land left behind when the timber was depleted.

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Exploration and Early Settlement Significance: Several of the nominated properties (including the Miller-Brewer, Rice, Colvin, Thomas Rutledge and George Rutledge Houses) are significant for their associations with the earliest settlers in the county. These properties are indicative of the type and location of settlement which was first evident in the county on the prairies and river-bottoms of the area. Their builders and owners opened up the county for settlement and played important roles in the development of early county government and commerce.

Industrial Significance: The Salsich Lumber Company Superintendent's House and the Union Mills Superintendent's House are the important remaining resources in the county which represent its important logging and lumbering industry. The mills, logging trestles, worker's cottages and other representations of that era have been mostly altered or destroyed. These two houses, which are important landmarks of large logging operations, through their construction represent the products of those mills and the locations of the company towns which were related to the logging and milling facilities.

Politics, Government, and Social Significance: As the seat of state and territorial government, Thurston County has a significant number of resources relating to the theme. Most of the properties, however, are located within incorporated cities and are therefore outside the purview of this nomination. The State Training School for Girls at Grand Mound is one of the oldest public institution buildings in the state and is a significant reflection of public social services in the early 20th century. The institution also provides a revealing glimpse of the view of women during the era as state officials sought to return incorrigible girls to the right path. Its open courtyard design and other features make it a landmark as the first young women's institution in the state.

The Brewer House and Thomas Rutledge Houses were both early post offices in the county. The George Rutledge House was the site of the county Poor Farm from 1893-1901. Both the McKenzie and Brewer Houses are associated with men prominent in local and state politics.

Recreation Significance: Long Lake Recreation Hall was built as a community center and recreation hall by the Civilian Conservation Corps and reflects the role of the federal government in enhancing the quality of rural life and recreational opportunities during the Depression.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Thurston County MRA
State Thurston County, WASHINGTON

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

Cover

Substantive Review

Keeper

Amy Schlager 6/23/88~~Determined Eligible~~

Keeper

Amy Schlager 6/23/88

Attest

~~Determined Eligible~~

1. Ewald House

Substantive Review

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION2. Rutledge, George Washington,
House

Substantive Review

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Amy Schlager 6/23/88

Attest

~~Determined Eligible~~3. Rutledge, Thomas, House
and Barn

Substantive Review

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Amy Schlager 6/23/88

Attest

4. Colvin House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

for Melvyn Byrum

Attest

5. Jaaska House and Warehouse

Substantive Review

Keeper

Patrick Andrews 6/24/88

Attest

6. Johnson House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

for Melvyn Byrum 6/23/88

Attest

7. Long Lake Recreation Hall

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

for Melvyn Byrum 6/23/88

Attest

8. Miller--Brewer House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

for Melvyn Byrum 6/23/88

Attest

9. Rice, L.N., House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Patrick Andrews 9/23/88 25

Attest

10. Salsich Humber Company
Superintendent's HouseEntered in the
National Register

Keeper

for Melvyn Byrum 6/23/88

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Thurston County MRA
State Thurston County, WASHINGTON

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. State Training School for
Girls Administration Building
Entered in the National Register

for Keeper *Meloma Byrum* 6/23/88
Attest _____

12. Union Mills Superintendent's
House
Entered in the National Register

for Keeper *Meloma Byrum* 6/23/88
Attest _____

13.

Keeper _____

Attest _____

14.

Keeper _____

Attest _____

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Keeper _____

Attest _____

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Keeper _____

Attest _____

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Keeper _____

Attest _____

18.

Keeper _____

Attest _____

19.

Keeper _____

Attest _____

20.

Keeper _____

Attest _____