

**DATA SHEET**  
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 8 1979

DATE ENTERED

MAR 9 1979

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Washington Hotel

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

5th Ave and Washington St.  
Fifth and Washington

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Metaline Falls

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th - Thomas S. Foley

STATE

Washington

CODE

053

COUNTY

Pend Oreille

CODE

051

**CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

**PRESENT USE**

AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Ernestine McGowan

STREET &amp; NUMBER

P.O. Box 383

CITY, TOWN

Dayton

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Nevada

89403

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pend Oreille County

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Newport

STATE

Washington

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Washington State Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

November 1974

— FEDERAL  STATE — COUNTY — LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

OA &amp; HP 111 W. 21st Ave. KL-11

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington

98504

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Washington Hotel, located on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Washington Street in Metaline Falls, is rectangular in shape with the longitudinal axis running north-south. The south end faces on Fifth Avenue, the main business street of the town. The site occupied by the hotel slopes downward to the north, and the building is the eastern anchor of Fifth Avenue, which ends at Washington Street.

The building is three stories tall, with the first and second stories built of locally-manufactured bricks on all elevations. The eaves rest on the top of the brick walls on the east and west sides of the structure. The gable roof extends out over the gable facades, which are stucco above the brick walls of the south and north ends. Horizontal and vertical boards overlay the stucco to create a series of squares about three feet on each side.

The roof is composition shingle and is interrupted on the west side of the ridge by a large side chimney and five dormers. There are four small dormers and a large one on the east side. All the dormers repeat the pattern of the gable ends---stucco facing, overhanging eaves, and the roof extending further outward from the building than the facade.

A substantial sloping roof supported by heavy brackets extends across the south facade at the first floor level to form a covered area over the sidewalk in front of the building. This roof turns the corner and extends northward along the east facade to the midpoint. Resting on this roof in the middle of the south facade is what remains of a balcony, to which access is gained by a door off a second-floor suite of rooms.

In addition to the brackets supporting this porch roof, numerous brackets also support the eaves. Although they are less massive, there are more of them. Metaline Falls is subject to heavy snowfall, and the considerable amount of bracketing and other structural details may explain why the building has survived so well.

The different-sized dormers and the various other structural and decorative details present an almost "busy" appearance. This may have been deliberate. The town founder built the Washington Hotel as the focus for the town's development. He would have hoped to convey a feeling of bustle and prosperity. Instead of one building, the illusion of a row of houses of differing sizes is conveyed by the five dormers on the east side. This, too, would have served the purposes of a real estate promoter.

Inside the building the first floor has been somewhat altered by the addition of some temporary walls. The hotel was never an elaborate hostelry, and its lobby, located in the southeast corner, is small and unembellished. The registration area is to the north of the lobby and includes a washroom with a series of laboratories for boarders to use for washing their hands before dining. The original dining room was quite large and occupied a full east-west segment of the building. It has now been divided by a new wall. The original kitchen and an office occupied the north end. The latter was the United States Customs and Immigration Office serving the border crossing to Canada eleven miles to the north.

The second floor is divided into numerous small guest rooms with a central hall. The largest and most attractive rooms occupy the south end and enjoy a view of the town's main street. One has a balcony.

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The third floor has a hall running the entire length of the building on the west side. It is well-lighted by the dormers on this side. There are no bathing facilities on this floor, and there was originally no access to those on the second floor except by exiting on the stairs attached to the rear of the building. This would be a major inconvenience, especially in winter. It is possible that the third floor was designed for offices, rather than guest rooms. A long-time resident confirmed that the builder, L.P. Larson, had his office on this floor. Combining the functions of an office building and a residential hotel is an unusual concept, but this appears to be the most likely explanation for what the designer had in mind. The absence of a stairway between the two floors would thus be an asset, since it would insure privacy and security for occupants of both floors.

The building is in remarkably good condition. Plaster is in place nearly everywhere and the structure itself reflects quality workmanship and solid construction. Although not a major artistic monument, the Washington Hotel is a well-preserved example of a working class hotel from the early twentieth century.

# 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Lewis P. Larson

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Washington Hotel lies in the fact that it is an unaltered example of an early twentieth-century working class hotel and in its close association with Lewis P. Larson, the founder of Metaline Falls.

Lewis P. Larson, who was born in 1876 in Denmark, became a notable prospector, miner, metallurgist, promoter, financier and industrialist. After coming to the United States in 1895, he worked at various jobs in the West. As early as 1904 he explored the Metaline area around the Pend Oreille River. This remote valley in the foothills of the Rockies was unsettled, having no railroad, roads, or even trails. Attracted by the undeveloped mineral resources he found in the area, Larson energetically began promoting its development in several ways. By 1911 he had already accomplished a great deal. Because of his encouragement, the Idaho and Washington Northern Railroad, now the CMSP&P, was extended at great expense to Metaline Falls. He organized the Pend Oreille Mines and Metals Company, which is now a division of the Bunker Hill Company. He promoted the development of a cement plant for the area and succeeded in persuading the Inland Portland Cement Company, now Lehigh Portland Cement Company, to build a plant in Metaline Falls. He incorporated the Metaline Falls Light and Water Company to insure adequate supplies of electricity and water for the new town. Finally, he founded the Larson Realty Company, which platted the town of Metaline Falls and built a hotel appropriate for the near-term dreams he had for the town.

Larson was a pioneer in the field of metallurgy. His company, the Pend Oreille Mines and Metals Company, was the first in the United States to use the Tainton Electrolytic process for reducing zinc ore, and a subsidiary company pioneered the Hybinette-Cary vacuum processing for smelting zinc, lead and cadmium.

At a cost of \$15,000 in 1910, the Larson Realty Company built the Washington Hotel as the start of the town's commercial district. For a new town, the hotel had impressive proportions and was praised for its steam heat and the fact that it had porter service. It, along with Larson's fine home, remains a tangible reminder of the area's greatest entrepreneur.

The hotel enjoyed a long history of service to the people of Metaline Falls and their visitors, but not under Larson's ownership. Because of his debts to the cement company, the Washington Hotel passed into their corporate ownership in 1914 and was operated by them until 1956. Larson later suffered the further indignity of being evicted from the hotel he had built. His fortunes recovered, and he began construction in 1930 of another hotel in Metaline Falls. Local tradition says that he wanted to avenge his eviction by putting the Washington Hotel out of business. Unfortunately for Larson, his fortunes again declined, and he was unable to complete the newer, grander hotel. Ownership of the half-finished building also passed to the Lehigh Company, which completed the building in 1949 and now operate it as an apartment

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached sheet.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Metalline Falls

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1: 24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 11 47,29,5,0 5,41,20,0,0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                 
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots #12 and 13, Block 7, Plat of Metalline Falls, Pend Oreille County, Washington

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J.H. Vandermeer, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

DATE

September, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

111 W. 21st Ave. KL-11

TELEPHONE

(206) 753-9685

CITY OR TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington 98504

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Jeanne M. Welch*

TITLE Dep. S.H.P.O.

DATE 12-25-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*for Charles [Signature]*

DATE 3-9-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
ATTEST: W. Ray Luce  
for CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 3/8/79

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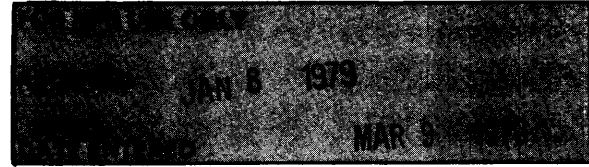
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house. Larson's company experienced the ups and downs of the market for zinc, but, at his death in 1955, Larson was again a wealthy man.

The Washington Hotel was purchased from the Lehigh Portland Cement Company in 1956 by Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Lowe, who operated it as a hotel and boarding house until 1974. Since then it has been owned by Ernestine McGowan and is now vacant.

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Kinney, L.M. "Lewis P. Larson" Unpublished typescript at Office  
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