



1987

Jaaska House & Barn

11300 Independence Rd.

Rochester, WA 98579

Year built: ca. 1890s house, 1911 barn

Year placed: 1986

TCHR-86-01

The Jaaska House is one of the best intact examples of a cross-gable vernacular houses in the county built in cedar plank construction. The house and storage building are virtually all that remains of the Finnish settlement at Independence, at the junction of the Milwaukee and Oregon-Washington Navigation Company Railroads in southwest Thurston County. Most of the earliest settlers to the district were of Swedish and Finnish descent, the junction of the two railroad lines, called "Helsing Junction" for their native Helsinki, Finland. On July 4, 1906, railroad tracks from Centralia and Hoquiam met at this spot and workers christened it, "Independence". In 1908 another railroad line came through the valley opening up the valley for logging firms and spur lines along the tracks. The area boasted a section house, depot, Finnish Lutheran Church, post office, meeting hall and mercantile.

Alex Jaaska, a native of Finland, purchased the nominated property in 1903. The house was constructed ca. 1888 by R. M. Paton. Jaaska built a store across the road from the house in Helsing Junction in 1911 and constructed the storage building also on the property. In 1914, the Ninemier-Morgan Mill was started at Helsing bringing an influx of population and mercantile trade. Other small mills and portable facilities located in the valley. Farming and dairying were also part of the local economy. With the decline in the lumber industry, population moved elsewhere. By the 1970's, the church, mercantile, depot, and section house were torn down as was Jaaska's store.



2018



1987

Bronson Resort

4122 S.E. 119th

Tenino, WA 98589

Year built: 1915

Year placed: 1987

TCHR-86-02

Winthrop Bronson purchased the townsite of Offut from the Milwaukee and Corlett railroads and began a resort near the lake five miles northeast of Tenino. Bronson built cottages, a boathouse and dance pavilion from lumber hauled from Centralia. He built small boats from native spruce and tarred them at the lake. From 1915 - 1969, the Bronsons operated Bronson's Offut Lake Resort. Resort goers came by train and horse and wagon. They had swimming, picnicking, camping and a swimming slide at hand and name bands at the dancehall which burned in 1930. The resort catered to school groups and the boathouse was later used for dancing. All that remains of the resort is the ice cream parlor which has been enclosed for a community club and some early homes. There were a number of resorts throughout Thurston County on its lakes and this is one of the most popular and longest lived which has some original structures remaining.



Bell-Bennett House

3800 South Bay Rd.
Olympia, WA 98506
Year built: ca. 1885
Year placed: 1986
TCHR-86-03

The Bell house was built in about 1885 and is of plank construction. Georgiana Thompson married George Bell, who was in religious education. Georgiana died in 1894 and Bell married her sister, Mary Thompson. The Don Bennett family owned the house after Bells from 1910 to 1975. A number of teachers from South Bay School boarded there. The house is a fine example of the pioneer style which has been well maintained and alterations done in the contemporary style of the house. The structure is one of the best pioneer homes in the South Bay area and closely associated with the historic school and grange. Listed on the Thurston County Historic Register.



2018



Kaiser House & Outbuildings

2410 Kaiser Rd. N.W.
Olympia, WA 98502
Year built: 1925
Year placed: 1986
TCHR-86-04

The Kaiser House is one of the best examples of the rural bungalow in the Cooper Point area and is associated with the pioneer Butler family and Kaiser family for whom Kaiser Road was named. Herman Kaiser came to the area from Wisconsin via Copalis and finally to Cooper Point in 1911. He operated a Guernsey business on the dairy farm which was at the site of the original Butler home, which burned in 1905. The present house built in 1925 was constructed by a local carpenter. Herman Kaiser was active on the Butler Cove School Board. His son Elmer Kaiser lived here for many years and it was owned by his wife. Listed on the Thurston County Register.



1985



Thomas Rutledge Farm

13423 Littlerock Rd.

Littlerock, WA 98556

Year built: 1862 house, 1864 barn

Year placed: 1987

TCHR-87-01

The Thomas Rutledge House and Barn are some of the county's earliest extant residential and agricultural buildings and remain virtually unaltered. The barn is the oldest and largest barn in the county. Thomas Rutledge pioneered in the area, founded the post office and named the town of Littlerock. A native of Ohio, Thomas Rutledge came over the Oregon Trail to the Littlerock area, then known as Black River, in 1853 where he settled on a pre-emption claim and built a log cabin. In 1854 he and another early resident, John Shotwell, slashed the first road between Littlerock and Tumwater. Rutledge built the original section of this house in 1861 and added the north wing in 1893. The house had a gravity water system, the first to have running water in the district.

Prior to 1879 the area was called Black River. In that year Thomas Rutledge wanted to establish a post office and placed a large rock in his front yard, intending to name the post office "The Rock", since a "Black River" was already located in King County. Because of objections from the postal department, the name was changed to "Little Rock". In June, 1879, the house was established as the official post office with Rutledge as postmaster. Located here until 1883, the post office records are still at the house. The rock was used as a mounting stone for those who came for their mail on horseback and remains in front of the house. Thomas Rutledge was very active in the Methodist Church and helped construct the first church in Littlerock and later helped re-build the structure when it was moved to the town of Littlerock. Also on the property is perhaps the finest example of early barns in the county which is still in use. Rutledge grew meadow hay on the Black River bottom land and sold it as a cash crop to livery stables and other concerns in Olympia. Rutledge stored the hay in the wide mows of the barn until transporting it by horse and wagon throughout the winter. Agricultural outbuildings of this period are very rare in Washington and this may be one of the oldest in the state. The Rutledge farm is also part of the pre-historic and historic "Black Lake Portage" used by Indians and early explorers as a water and land route from Puget Sound to Grays Harbor. On the property is an indentation still visible from the pulling of canoes by the Indians over this route. The house and barn have been in the Rutledge family since their construction.



1985



2018



1987

Long Lake Recreation Hall Heritage Hall

3054 Carpenter Rd. S.E.

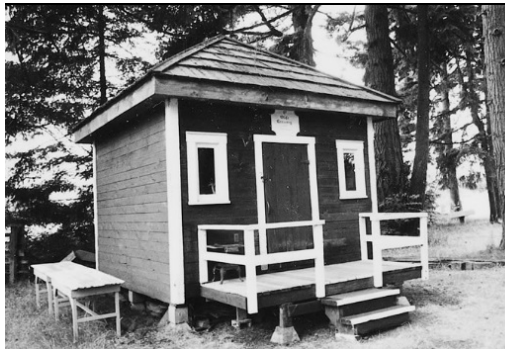
Lacey, WA 98503

Year built: 1933

Year placed: 1987

TCHR-87-02

The Heritage Hall is a longtime area landmark built as a Long Lake Recreation Hall on donated land by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The structure was built of peeled logs with hand-wrought detailing in the rustic style which was the Corps' trademark. Other county CCC projects include a Department of Natural Resources Administration Center, a Black Hills Reforestation Project and Millersylvania State Park. Millersylvania State Park buildings were also constructed in the rustic idiom. The Long Lake Recreation Hall is an excellent example of the nature-oriented type of construction which was featured in CCC structures. The hall reflects the era of the CCC work through its materials and workmanship. The structure has been used by many groups for social gatherings, auctions and other local events. The building is now used as the administration facility for the Thurston County Fair. The first fair in Thurston County was in 1859 and the event traveled widely throughout the county until the 1940's when Long Lake Recreation Hall became the fair site. The property was officially deeded to the county in 1952 and became the permanent administration facility for the Thurston County Fair in 1958, as the "Heritage Hall".



Jamestown Granary

7741 James Rd. S.W.

Rochester, WA 98579

Year built: 1884

Year placed: 1987

TCHR-87-03

The Jamestown Granary is significant as the last surviving structure from the original homesite of Samuel and Anna Marie James, who settled on Mound Prairie in 1852. Although it has been moved from its original location and has been altered, it has strong associations with an important pioneering family.

Samuel and Anna Marie were Cornish immigrants whose prospering family ultimately created a community informally called Jamestown, located near Grand Mound in southern Thurston County. By 1920, descendants and others had created a small cluster of homes and businesses near the Chehalis River, roughly between Grand Mound and Scatter Creek. Samuel James built two homes in the area, although both had burned early in the 1900s. The granary still remains from the farm complex established by James. It was used for its original purpose into the 1930s, when it was converted into a tool house. It was dedicated as a James Family Museum in 1960, and is now opened by arrangements for visiting groups and for children attending the nearby Rochester-Grand Mound Middle School.



2018



1985

McKenzie House

14415 George Rd. S.E.

Yelm, WA 98597

Year built: 1893

Year placed: 1987

TCHR-87-04

A fine example of early pioneer architecture, the McKenzie home southeast of Yelm stands little altered since its construction in 1893. Part of the original Abijah O’Neal farm, the land was purchased in 1875 by John A. McKenzie and Alexander McKenzie who were natives of Quebec. Alexander McKenzie was a county commissioner and state legislator. Their brother, Peter, was a longtime farmer in the Mud Bay area. John McKenzie was the county auditor in 1903. John McKenzie owned over 1200 acres in the Yelm Irrigation District and at one time owned all of the land east of the track in the town of Yelm. He also donated land for a nearby school. The house built at a cost of \$1932 has been little altered on the exterior and boasts a central gable over the doorway typical of early pioneer structures. The building has original windows, chimneys and doors. The McKenzie family has owned the house since it was built and refurbished the structure.



1985

Salsich Lumber Co.

Superintendent's House

10808 Vail Rd.

Yelm, WA 98597

Year built: 1910

Year placed: 1987

TCHR-87-05

The Salsich Lumber Company House is a fine example of Colonial Revival architecture as interpreted in the Northwest. It is one of the finest houses in eastern Thurston County and stands as a representative of the McKenna Lumber Company, a large concern in the Yelm area. In 1907 William Salsich, manager of the Ulas Estate, came west from Star Lake, Wisconsin to erect a sawmill at what is now McKenna in Pierce County. He brought along key people from his Wisconsin operation including Adam Cook, general manager, who occupied this house. The company had six sections of virgin timber which they harvested until 1932, when the mill closed. After the death of Cook, William Goodwin Sr., another of the Salsich group, took over the house. His family lived in it until 1954, when Lucy Kalen purchased the property. The Kalens enclosed the sleeping porch for a modern kitchen, rebuilt the fireplace and added modern plumbing. The building was used as a funeral home from 1974 to the late 1980's.



1985

Shincke House

4613 Shinke Rd.
Olympia, WA 98506
Year built: 1929
Year placed: 1987
TCHR-87-06

The Shincke family came from Iowa in 1877 to the Tacoma area and later settled in this area. They built the road which originally ended at the house. The family farmed, logged and had a dairy. William Shincke was on the first South Bay School Board. Later owners had cattle and turkeys. The property was also a bulb and berry farm. A hand-dug well is on the premises. The house took three men one year to build and was built by family members while they were living in an outbuilding. The design was done by Bert Shincke and plastered by Patnude from Olympia. The house represents the pioneer Shincke family in the South Bay area.



2018



Sunshine Hall

20638 Grand Mound Way S.W.
Centralia, WA 98531
Year built: 1857
Year placed: 1988
TCHR-87-07

The Sunshine Hall, although moved many times and altered has been integral to the Grand Mound Community since the 1850's and has been utilized in a number of ways--church, school and meeting hall. Part of the building was built at the closing of the Indian War when the pioneers who had lived at Ft. Henness during the war built on the fort site a small community church and school building with upright wall board and joined rafters, the upper floor was reached by an outside stairway and was used as a Masonic Hall by Grand Mound Lodge No. 3, F. A. & M. Lumber from the structure was rafted from the mill at Claquato to Jamestown on the Chehalis River. In 1877 the building was moved to what was known as Goodell's Point, near the freeway exit, and used as a school house. In 1893 it was again moved to Grand Mound as a school. Next it was moved several blocks west and used as a church, its former site being occupied by the present schoolhouse at Grand Mound. This move was accomplished after World War I. The Sunshine Community Club formed in 1912 finally used the building with additions as their still with plank construction and joined rafters. The structure was enlarged by the Sunshine club adding a kitchen and stage area. The Sunshine Club has long been a social organization for women of the area and has sponsored various community projects and the hall has hosted a number of community projects and the hall has hosted a number of community groups. The Sunshine club sold the hall in 1983 and it is presently home to an antiques and handcrafts shop.



2018



1985

Olympia Country & Golf Club

3636 Country Club Dr. N.W.

Olympia, WA 98502

Year built: 1925

Year placed: 1989

TCHR-87-09

The Olympia Golf and Country Clubhouse has been a social and sports center in Olympia for over 50 years and was the catalyst for the development of the Butler Cove area as a summer resort area. The Golf Club began in the 1910s when golfers played at the old baseball field along Capitol Way. In 1917 the club incorporated and put in a course at the old Chamber's farm at Lacey. In 1923 they purchased a 100 acre area in what was the John Butler Donation Claim adjoining Butler's Cove. Members of the club bought waterfront lots to help fund the clubhouse and dock. A nine hole golf course was begun and the clubhouse opened in 1925. In 1938, facing financial difficulties, the clubhouse and course were sold to Budd Land Co., a consortium of club members who retain a lease on the club and lands. The clubhouse grounds were extensively remodeled and the course expanded in 1957. The clubhouse is a design by Joseph Wohleb, noted local architect many of whose designs are on the National Register. It was substantially renovated in 1988.



2019



1985

Swayne House

6011 Swayne Dr. N.E.

Olympia, WA 98506

Year built: 1912

Year placed: 1988

TCHR-88-01

Oliver Reynolds Swayne, a native of Ohio, moved to Nebraska after his marriage in 1887. The Swaynes first came to Olympia in 1900 but returned to Nebraska in 1903, living in a sod house. In 1912 they again came to Olympia via train and settled in the South Bay area. His large family included 10 children. Swayne built the house from lumber on the acreage rafted to the mill at Puget and rafted back. The property included some 150 to 200 acres and Swayne was an orchardist producing many kinds of fruit on the farm. The Swayne House is an excellent example of the rural foursquare in the South Bay Area and is set on the shores of Henderson Inlet near what may have been an Indian campground.





Lake Lawrence Resort Pavilion

15735 Topaz Dr. S.E.

Yelm, WA 98597

Year built: 1923

Year placed: 1988

TCHR-88-02

The Frank Edwards family (Mrs. Edwards was Jennie Conine) purchased the resort land from the Lindsay family. The lake was named for Lindley and Sam Lawrence who began logging on the lake in 1892. When the Edwards purchased the land in 1906, considerable land had been cleared around the lake. They began renting boats in 1922 and built the pavilion and nearby concession stand in 1923. Designed by J. B. Martin, a bridge builder for the Northern Pacific Railroad, the pavilion was constructed of logs from the property. In 1908-10 the level of the lake was raised to accommodate the Olympia Power and Light generator at the Deschutes Falls in Tumwater and the present Edwards house was moved to its higher location at the time the lake was raised 18 feet. Pilings are still evident near the lake from the outlet to the River. The Edwards built a floating dock for the fluctuations in the lake level. The generating plant was abandoned in 1932-33. The Edwards House was originally the Lindsay farm house built in 1895. Lindsay also had a mill and much of the sawdust and slabs from the enterprise have been evident in the lake over the years. During the heyday of the pavilion dances were held regularly and mothers could leave their babies in individual compartments at the pavilion while they danced away. The pavilion fell into disuse from 1929 to 1954. That year it was re-roofed and re-sided. In 1974 the present subdivision was developed around the lake and the pavilion is still used as a community club.



1985



1985

Lackamas School & Associated Outbuildings

16240 Bald Hill Rd. S.E.

Yelm, WA 98597

Year built: 1917

Year placed: 1988

TCHR-88-05

The Lackamas School is historically significant for its association with public education in rural Thurston County and with the development of the Lackamas community. The school property, which includes the original schoolhouse, gymnasium, teacher's cottage, outhouses and schoolyard, represents the most complete ensemble of historic school buildings in the county. Built as a consolidated facility in 1916, the schoolhouse is an excellent example of the Craftsman style of the period; the gymnasium, built during the Depression by community residents, has an intact interior, and reflects the development of a physical education curriculum; and the cottage is one of the few teacherages known to survive in the region.

The Lackamas district was consolidated with Yelm in 1942, and the school was closed in 1946. The buildings were restored by Dillard & Juanita Jensen and Richard and Mary Johnson.



2019



Erickson Farmstead Vine Maple Farms

16015 Case Rd S.W.

Rochester, WA 98579

Year built: 1893

Year placed: 1989

TCHR-88-06

Andrew Erickson came from Sweden in 1880 first to the midwest and then to the northwest. He bought 40 acres of virgin first growth timber south of Olympia in 1891. He married Johanna Olsen in 1893 and moved to his property along what was the Military Road in 1893. He with his other Swedish friends and neighbors built a two room house with an unheated upstairs. Andrew Erickson worked as a railroad sectionman in Tenino, cut shingle bolts and worked as a carpenter during the 14 years he and his wife worked clearing his land and building up a dairy. In 1902 they built a kitchen and two long porched onto the house. His children Freda, Ray Gladys, Mable and Ann attended a one-room school which he helped build nearby. His daughter Freda named "Violet Prairie."

In 1907 Andrew became Thurston County Road Superintendent and continued to purchase adjacent land.

With the advent on car travel the hilly Military Road adjoining his property became difficult for travel. Erickson donated land and helped cut through the Case Road. In 1915 the house was turned to face Case Road. He added a fireplace and new kitchen a year later. Erickson continued to amass land in 1913 and 1919 for a total of 200 acres. Erickson installed a gravity feed water system in the 1902's when the farmstead had a water tower. Andrew Erickson died in 1936.

The farmstead is still owned by his family. The property illustrates an important part of the history of the county representing the many Scandinavians who came to the county and built up small farms while working in the timber and other industries.



Lackamas School Gym

16240 Bald Hill Rd. S.E.

Yelm, WA 98597

Year built: 1930

Year placed: 1989

TCHR-88-07

The Lackamas Gymnasium was built as a community effort during the depression years by Bald Hills residents. Various community members donated three days per week toward its completion under the direction of Rudolf Johnson. Built on land donated by Cap Longmire, the gymnasium was donated to the community upon the consolidation of the Lackamas District with Yelm in 1942. Since that time the Lackamas Community Club has maintained the building holding regular dances at the site and providing a public meeting place.





Collins School

9901 Yelm Highway S.E.
Olympia, WA 98503
Year built: 1900
Year placed: 1989
TCHR-89-01

The Collins School is historically significant for its association with public education in rural Thurston County and with the development of the Freedom Community. Built at the turn of the century, the structure was the third schoolhouse to serve the district, which was established in 1854, and illustrates the evolution of Thurston County school buildings from log cabin to wood frame schools. The history of the Freedom Community, one of the earliest and most cohesive settlements in the county, is represented only by this building, a nearby grange and a historic marker.

The Freedom Community was an early American settlement on the fertile open prairies of eastern Thurston County, called "polally illihee" by Nisqually Indians. The first American pioneers arrived in 1852, taking advantage of the Donation Claim Act to acquire 320 acres of free land. In 1854, the early settlers formed one of the first school districts in Washington, and the third in Thurston county. Residents constructed a log school with a cobblestone fireplace and stick and clay chimney. Crude homemade desks seated the first nine students.

Shortly after the construction of the school, an Indian Uprising in 1855 prompted residents to build stockades and blockhouses at several local farms, including Fort Eaton, near the school. All regular activity, including schooling, was suspended for a year. When the conflict was over, the district built a new frame school and in 1875 the building was moved on rollers to another location to accommodate changes in population.

At the turn of the century, George Collins donated land for a school at the present site. Generations of area residents were educated in the school for over 60 years, although after 1944, when the Freedom District was incorporated into the Yelm school system. The school continued in operation for elementary students until it was closed in 1960. The building is currently a private residence.



2019



1985

Bigelow House

2002 Friendly Grove Rd.
Olympia, WA 98506
Year built: 1910
Year placed: 1989
TCHR-89-02

The Bigelow House was built on part of the original Daniel Richardson Bigelow claim by his son upon his wedding with Sara Markham in 1893. The Bigelow family is one of the most prominent in the county. D. R. Bigelow came to Olympia in 1851, a graduate of Harvard law school. He played a major part in the early legal, educational and political life of the county. This property was for many years a dairy farm later managed by Sara Bigelow which provided dairy products to Ft. Lewis. The house is a unique design in the county with its two bellcast gables. Except for the addition to the house, the interior retains many of its original appointments.





1985

Delphi School

7601 S.W. Delphi Rd.

Olympia, WA 98502

Year built: 1910

Year placed: 1989

TCHR-89-03

The Mud Bay Logging Company established its operations in the Delphi area beginning in 1900, bringing an influx of population by 1910 and with it a store, post office and school. Mud Bay Logging shut down operations here in 1919. The Delphi School represents the bygone logging era of the Delphi area. Built on land donated by the Mud Bay Logging Company in 1910, the Delphi School retains its exterior and interior features down to its blackboards and cloakroom. The school closed in 1941 and is presently used as a community gathering place. The school is one of the best preserved one-room schools in the county.



2014



2011

Mima Prairie Pioneer Cemetery

8844 Gate Rd. S.W.

Olympia, WA 98502

Year built: 1869

Year placed: 1989

TCHR-89-04

The Mima Prairie Pioneer Cemetery, located on 2.28 acres of the John Laws Donation Land Claim. The cemetery is one of the earliest in the county and buried there are a number of persons prominent in local history. The cemetery represents a distinctive part of Thurston County's past as early pioneers sought to honor their dead by setting aside land on their own farms so that they could be buried near their homes and families.

The cemetery was deeded to Thurston County in 1869 by John and Polly Laws for one dollar, to be used solely and exclusively for a cemetery. In 2011, the cemetery was closed for future burials.



1985

Colvin House

16828 Old Highway 99

Tenino, WA 98589

Year built: 1877

Year placed: 1990

TCHR-90-01

The Ignatius Colvin House is a well-preserved example of an early pioneer home built in Thurston County by one of the largest land owners of the area. Colvin, an area pioneer, participated in many of the important events of the early county. Colvin settled the Grand Mound area in 1854 where he took up a donation land claim on Scatter Creek and built a home a quarter mile from the present house. Colvin later acquired almost 3000 acres in the vicinity of the house which is actually on the William Martin Donation Claim. Colvin also owned considerable land in adjoining Lewis County. The present house, built in 1877, was a sometime way-station on the stage coach route, according to family members. The first floor bedrooms open out onto the porch so visitors could leave without disturbing the rest of the household.



1985

Chambers Prairie School (Old East Olympia School, Now Waldorf School)

8126 S.E. Normandy Dr.
East Olympia, WA 98540
Year built: 1914-1915
Year placed: 1990
TCHR-90-02

The Chambers Prairie School (now East Olympia School) was built during 1914-1915 and opened in 1916. The school reflects the growth in this area of the county as the result of the promotion of railroad land. The school served about 50 students in two rooms with eight grades. Teachers boarded with area families. The bell was a special source of pride since it was purchased by community collections. During the 1920's the school was a meeting place for the Church of the Brethren and the site of community dances. The school did not originally have any running water. During the early 1930's the parents started a soup kitchen to serve hot lunches at the school. Because of confusion over passengers coming to the Chamber's Prairie depot and wanting to go to Olympia, the name of the station was changed and the school followed, becoming "East Olympia" when it was formally organized as a district in 1937 consolidating Spurgeon Creek. In 1938, the south wing was added to the school. An influx of population during World War II necessitated another addition on the school. Presently the Waldorf School teaches students from toddler through eight.



2019



1985

Nisqually School

341 Nisqually Cut-Off Rd. S.E.
Olympia, WA 98513
Year built: 1911
Year placed: 1990
TCHR-90-03

The first schools in Nisqually were conducted in the homes of the McAllisters and Packwoods, early settlers to the area in 1852. They were taught by Miss Elizabeth White and by 1853 Nisqually Bottom settlers had formed a district. Their first building was a log school in this same location. A one room lumber school was built in 1883 across the road. The present school was built in 1911. In 1962 it was consolidated with the North Thurston School District. About 16 families had children who attended the school. The school is on property donated by the Koenig and Hachmann families who owned the original Packwood donation claim. The school has been purchased by the Nisqually Indian Tribe for preservation. The school represents the first areas of settlement of Thurston County by members of the Simmons party outside Tumwater and has long been a landmark in the Nisqually area.





Schneider Prairie Oak Tree

6716 N.W. Sexton Drive

Olympia, WA 98501

Year built:

Year placed: 1990

TCHR-90-04

The Oak tree is a long time landmark in the county. The tree was cited as a "Bearing Tree" in 1855 when the initial survey of the county was done. The surveyors often noted natural landmarks including trees in setting "corners" or section lines since few other reference points were available. The surveyor, Thomas F. Perry, set a post for a quarter section corner between two white (garry) oak trees which were at that time 18 inches in diameter. The tree, at the time of placement on the historic register, measures 60 inches in diameter. The landmarks were important in case the wooden corner posts were lost or stolen, the corner could be readily identified by natural reference points.



Gunstone House

12742 Case Rd. S.W.

Olympia, WA 98502

Year built: 1901

Year placed: 1991

TCHR-91-01

The house was built by George Gunstone in 1901. He homesteaded this property purchasing 450 acres. He was a dairy farmer. His son Lloyd, who later owned the property was a professional butcher 1929 through 1950. The farm raised beef and dairy cattle with a large orchard. The Gunstone family owned the property for 88 years.

The original dairy barn remains but is no longer part of this property. The orchard remains. The house was connected to Maytown by a plank road. Some of the timber for the house was from Long Bell mill in Longview Washington and was brought to the site by horse drawn wagon. Site only - demolished.



1985

Old Boston Harbor School

310 72nd Ave. N.E.
Olympia, WA 98506
Year built: 1937-1938
Year placed: 1991
TCHR-91-03

Former location: 7300 Zangle Road. The Boston Harbor School was built in 1938 with the assistance of the Works Progress Administration and was originally two rooms with a partition and stage. The basement was the cafeteria. Later the gym area was added and more additions followed in the 1950's. Eight grades attended the school which was also used as a community center for dances, plays and get-togethers. The district was consolidated with Olympia in 1964. Boston Harbor first settled in 1864 by Isaac Dofflemeyer was the scene of a flurry of activity around the turn of the century when promoter C. D. Hillman sought to establish a port to rival its namesake in the east at the peninsula. Promised was a railroad, smelter, ships and mills. The area did once have a hotel. Several other promoters have planned settlements in the area but no planned settlement resulted. The school was moved in 1991 to Boston Harbor and incorporated into a single family home.



2018



Poncin Estate Art Gallery

9934 Point View Rd. N.E.
Olympia, WA 98506
Year built: 1906, 1946
Year placed: 1992
TCHR-92-01

Gamma Poncin was president of the Yesler Estates in Seattle, which managed numerous properties of Henry Yesler, founder of Seattle. Poncin was taken with the beauty of Johnson Point and purchased a large piece of property and built a vacation compound there just after the turn of the century. Most outstanding was the large concrete art gallery to house his art treasures. He built a wooden home adjacent to the concrete facility and built a large barn on the property, green houses and guest houses.

After Poncin's death in 1922, the estate fell into some disrepair until it was purchased by Henry Stumer, developer of the Alderbrook Inn on Hood Canal. Stumer developed a spa called Beacon Beach Resort at the site, which included a number of cottages and tent houses. The cement art gallery was opened by windows and French doors extending onto the terrace. The property was involved in a legal dispute and the resort closed in 1935.

The property was purchased and an additional concrete wing was added. In the 1990's Calvin Brack purchased the property and requested the Art Gallery be added to the Historic Register.



Bush Butternut Tree

8400 Old Highway 99

Olympia, WA 98501

Year built: Planted in 1845

Year placed: 1994

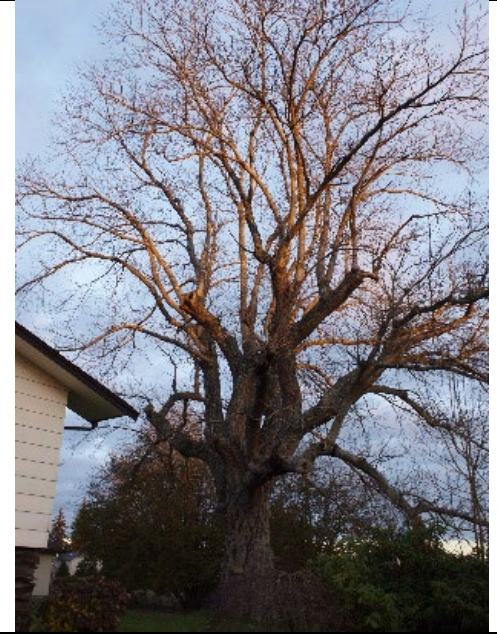
TCHR-94-01

According to family recollections, the tree was planted in 1845 when the Bush's reached this area after coming west to Fort Vancouver and north to the Puget Sound country. The story is that the tree was carried in a bucket over the trail. According to the present owners, the tree is located about 100 feet away from the original home.

The Bush family came with the first permanent American settlement to Tumwater in 1845, settling just east of this marker along the Deschutes River. George Bush settled in Tumwater in 1845 with his wife Isabella and five sons as part of the first permanent American settlement on Puget Sound. He was a highly respected and expert farmer.

As some of the earliest American settlers on Puget Sound in 1845, George and Isabella Bush with their family played a vital role in the beginnings of Washington Territory. Bush's story is even more remarkable because he overcame prejudice and discrimination to succeed as one of the areas most beloved figures.

Beloved by his neighbors and friends, Bush died in 1863 and was followed by his wife in 1866 but their legacy continued with their sons who continued to live on the land.



Otto House

6340 123rd Ave. S.W.

Olympia, WA 98512

Year built: 1935

Year placed: 1995

TCHR-95-01

Located on a rise adjacent to the Black River and overlooking the Black Hills just north of Littlerock, the Otto House has been a landmark in the area for many years. The house was built by Henry and Johanna Otto, who came to this country around the turn of the century from Germany and reflects their German roots. The house was built over a period of years using available materials and workers from the Bordeaux Mill, with the mill workers working for food and lodging. The Otto's had a large currant farm and built chicken houses. They sold the currants, eggs and chickens in Olympia. The house was originally extensively landscaped and featured a pond, lawns and fruit trees. The house is a very large, distinctively built rectangular structure which features a large basement or foundation area built of hand-poured concrete, which had a garage, large laundry, root cellar, workshop and swimming pool. The house originally featured large pillars in the front of the house, a wrap-around balcony and several smaller balconies off the upper floors of the house and large brackets on the side of the house. The Otto's had four children and built the structure to house an extended family. One son, Alfred Otto and his wife lived in the house until 1960 and then re-purchased the house from one of the daughters of the family. The house was empty for many years and fell into disrepair. Various owners have subsequently done work on the house. The current owner is interested in gradually restoring the structure and as a first step is rebuilding the front overhang and pillars and re-roofing the building.



Jonas Erickson Farm

13121 S.W. Independence Rd.

Rochester, WA 98579

Year built: 1895

Year placed: 1996

TCHR-96-01

Located on a rise adjacent to the above the Chehalis River in the southwestern corner of Thurston County, the Erickson Farmstead is significant for its associations with the settlement of this area of the county and the ethnic traditions of the Finns and Swedes who settled in this area in the 19th century. Jonas Eriksson (Erickson), a Swede-Finn, was born in Finland in 1853 and married Maria Lovisa Henriksdotter from a nearby village. Jonas came to the U.S. in 1889 and worked in Arizona on the railroad for five years. His wife and son, Jonas Alfred, who was then 18 years old, joined Jonas in 1895. Jonas and his family came to the Independence area probably to join others from their homeland who had already settled there. They lived adjacent to this farm and in 1897 purchased the original 80 acres of the family farm from Sarah, B. F. and Ida Whitelock and Lillie B. and Samuel Daniel for \$1200. They enlarged the farm over the years to 180 acres.



2018



Erickson Farmstead Land

16015 Case Rd. S.W.

Rochester, WA 98579

Year built: open land

Year placed: 1997

TCHR-97-01

Andrew Erickson came from Sweden in 1880 first to the midwest and then to the northwest. He bought 40 acres of virgin first growth timber south of Olympia in 1891. He married Johanna Olsen in 1893 and moved to his property along what was the Military Road in 1893. He with his other Swedish friends and neighbors built a two room house with an unheated upstairs. Andrew Erickson worked as a railroad sectionman in Tenino, cut shingle bolts and worked as a carpenter during the 14 years he and his wife worked clearing his land and building up a dairy. In 1902 they built a kitchen and two long porched onto the house. His children Freda, Ray Gladys, Mable and Ann attended a one-roof school which he helped build nearby. His daughter Freda named "Violet Prairie."

In 1907 Andrew became Thurston County Road Superintendent and continued to purchase adjacent land.

With the advent on car travel the hilly Military Road adjoining his property became difficult for travel. Erickson donated land and helped cut through the Case Road. In 1915 the house was turned to face Case Road. He added a fireplace and new kitchen a year later. Erickson continued to amass land in 1913 and 1919 for a total of 200 acres. Erickson installed a gravity feed water system in the 1902's when the farmstead had a water tower. Andrew Erickson died in 1936.



Congregational Church

4909 Boston Harbor Rd. N.E.

Olympia, WA 98506

Year built: 1928

Year placed: 1997

TCHR-97-02

Located along Boston Harbor Road in an area known at the time it was built as “Germantown,” the wood frame church is a land mark building in north Thurston County.

The area around Gull Harbor became a mecca for Germans in the teens and twenties. Many were Volga Germans who were from Eastern Washington around the Odessa and Ritzville areas. After World War I, wheat farming became uneconomical. Drawn by a German real estate agency according to Ervin Bausch, long-time resident, many families came to the area. Many had small acreage’s where they grew berries for the Olympia Canning Company. They grew chickens, sold eggs and many worked at the mills on the Port of Olympia or as longshoremen. Some worked at the cannery ranch which began about 1915 and encompassed about 300 acres of berries and fruit trees. Many children worked picking berries. Boston Harbor Road was lined with German residents and the area became known as “Germantown”. The church was built about 1928 as part of the German Congregational Church.



Mounting Stone



Hand Dug Well

Tibbetts Property

10910 Case Rd. S.W.

Olympia, WA

Year built:

Year placed: 1998

TCHR-97-03

Located along the Case Road near what was historically McCorkle Road (113th Ave SW), the Scott/Wright Property has a cobblestone well. The mounting stone was previously in county right-of-way and has now been moved to the Tibbetts' property. According to an Abstract of Title owned by the Tibbetts, the property was Homesteaded by Joseph M. and Nancy Scott. The Tibbetts' operated a dairy, grew loganberries, sold eggs and grew turkeys on the property.

The Tibbetts planted the large trees on the property including the black walnut tree (next to Case Road), chestnut tree and the butternut tree. Mr. Tibbetts recalls that the black walnut tree blew down during the Columbus Day Storm in 1962 and he righted the tree and it continued to grow. The Tibbetts used the well on the property for a time and have since dug a well adjacent to the original hand-dug cobblestone well and filled the old well in. The original well could date from the ownership of the Scott family at the site. The mounting stone and horse ring probably date from the period of ownership of the Wright family since they are concrete. Albert Wright the oldest son was married to Ruth Bigelow. Mary Ann Bigelow recalls visiting the house and that the mounting stone was near the road.



2019



Gardner House

10911 7th Ave. S.E.
Olympia, WA 98513
Year built: 1933
Year placed: 1998
TCHR-98-01

Located in the Nisqually Valley near Old Pacific Highway, the Gardner House is a good example of an English Builder style home. Set on a large wooded lot and fronted by a hedge, the house retains its original features. It is also associated with one of the longtime families of the Nisqually area. The Gardners came to the Nisqually area, then known as Sherlock in 1901. Ole Gardner was postmaster and operated a general store. He was succeeded by his stepson Fred (Lorenzen) Gardner who also operated a store and was postmaster. In 1933, Fred Gardner married Ethel Neilson whom he had met at a grange dance. That same year, they built this house. Mrs. Gardner recalls that her brother Robert S. Neilson, an architect, designed the house based upon ideas that she liked. Mrs. Gardner was a registered nurse and recalls that she gave shots to local residents in her kitchen. She was active in the community, especially in the PTA at the Nisqually School. Mr. Gardner died in 1985 and Mrs. Gardner continues to live locally.



Endicott Black Walnut Tree

9291 Delphi Rd. S.W.
Olympia, WA 98502
Year built:
Year placed: 1998
TCHR-98-02

From available records, it appears that the tree was on the J.R. and Cynthia Endicott Property. Endicott was from Indiana and came to this area in the 1880s and settled in Delphi. According to the family, they came west by train to Vancouver and traveled to Olympia by boat. He was a farmer and a Civil War Veteran. According to the family, the Endicotts brought this tree with them when they came from Indiana and planted it here. Their home was also originally in this location. There is also an old orchard nearby. In 1998, Wes Niemi, a local forester has measured the tree. At that time it was 90 feet high, 20.15 feet in circumference and had a 123 foot wide crown. He believed it to be a state champion black walnut tree.



McAllister Springs

2345 Old Pacific Highway

Olympia, WA 98513

Year built: 1949

Year placed: 1999

TCHR-99-01

Located in the northeast part of the county near Old Pacific Highway, McAllister Springs are named for the James McAllister Family who settled in the area. The springs may have traditional cultural significance to the Nisqually. The springs were a recreational area until 1947 when the springs were acquired by the City of Olympia as the city's water source. At that time the city constructed the well pump house, platform and reservoir which were completed in 1949. The springs were covered in 1977. Ownership of the springs was transferred to the Nisqually Indian Tribe in 2017.



Black Lake School

6011 Black Lake Blvd.

Olympia, WA 98512

Year built: 1910

Year placed: 1999

TCHR-99-02

W. O. Thompson, called “Black Lake” Thompson, an early settler on the lake donated land for a school at the present grange site, built through volunteer labor. A second larger building went up about 1903 with donated labor, with the first structure becoming the teacher’s cottage. The present structure was built in 1910 and the 1903 building became the community hall. The WPA added a second school room and a kitchen and removed the belfry. The district consolidated with Tumwater in the 1930’s. The Black Lake Grange was organized in 1927. The Grange was instrumental in sponsoring a second drainage ditch to keep a fixed level for Black Lake.



Kinnebrew House

7924 61st Ave. N.E.

Olympia, WA 98516

Year built: 1939

Year placed: 2000

TCHR-00-01

Located on a bluff overlooking Puget Sound and Big Slough in northern Thurston County, the Kinnebrew House is a rare example of a historic log home in Thurston County. According to available records the property was originally part of the C. A. Jones property for whom Jones Beach (later Tolmie Park) was named. Jones sold the property to J. E. and Stella Kinnebrew in 1939. The Thurston County Assessor lists the date when it went on the tax rolls as 1939. The property was purchased in 1946 by Haskin and Evelyn Anning of Tacoma in 1946 and they owned until the current owners purchased the property in 1978. Richard Anning, son of the family recalls that he believes the house was built about 1938-39 and that it was built from logs cut from the property. He noted an artesian well on the beach provided the water which was pumped up of the hill to a water tank.



2018



Ada’s Resort (Offut Lake Resort)

4005 120th Ave. S.E.
Tenino, WA 98589
Year built: 1939
Year placed: 2000
TCHR-00-02

Located on the south shore of Offut Lake, the resort appears to have been built in about 1939. The primary historic structure is the former restaurant building which is located on the shore. It is a one story building with a wrap around deck on west side and is partially enclosed on the east side. Also on the property are a cobblestone outdoor fireplace and cobblestone walk ways and lake edge. Newer cabins, tent cabins and an RV park are part of the property.

From available records it appears that the property was owned in the teens by J.E. Corlette, and sold to Peter and Flora West in 1918. Other areas of the property were owned by Bronsons and sold to Victor Mattson in 1926. Charles and Ada Short bought land from West and Mattsons in 1938. The restaurant building on the lake is listed as being built by the county assessor's records in 1940. The resort was known for many years as "Ada's Resort" for Mrs. Short. She died in 1953 and Charles Short sold the land to Mayme and Leo Bender in 1954. It was later owned by a succession of owners including Busy Bee Industries and William and Carol Klaus. The building was known as the "Lady of the Lake" at one time.



Falkner/Kolze House

7503 Holmes Island Rd. S.E.
Lacey, WA 98503
Year built: 1938
Year placed: 2000
TCHR-00-03

The Falkner/Kolze House is significant as a good example of housing that was constructed in the Lacey area between World War I and World War II. The residence was built by William and Marcelle Falkner. William Falkner, an Army captain, met his wife in France during World War I. In 1938 the Falkners constructed their Colonial style home on Holmes Island at Long Lake. They used a set of purchased house plans called "The Benson." The structure's dormers are said to have been built as a reminder of Mrs. Falkner's French heritage. In 1954 William died. His son (William Falkner, Jr.) and daughter-in-law (Alice Falkner) sold the house to William and Margaret Kolze in 1955. Since then the Kolzes have owned the residence. They have maintained the historical integrity of the house, adding only the finishing touches of an exterior concrete patio and stairway (1958) and pillars on the lakeside porch (1960s). On the grounds are two outbuildings. One is a structure that was built by the Falkners as a temporary home while they were constructing their new home. Later it served as their garage. The building was moved by William and Margaret Kolze in 1956 to its current location, and was eventually converted into a workshop. The Kolzes constructed another outbuilding on the property in 1958 near the road for use as a garage.



Holmes Island Water Tower

7515 Holmes Island Rd. S.E.

Olympia, WA 98503

Year built: 1938-1939

Year placed: 2000

TCHR-00-04

Emil and Anna Johnson bought property on Holmes Island in the mid 1920s. They moved there in 1933 and built the house which is near the water tower. It was one of the first permanent homes on the island. Emil Johnson worked as a filer for Union Mills. He was a friend of Albin & Viola Holmes. They had settled on the island just after the turn of the century. Johnson built this water tower for household water supply in the late 1930s. It was later used for water to irrigate the garden and lawn. The pump could be converted to electricity in case of a long dry spell and no wind. Mr. Johnson was later a filer at the Springer Mill was for 30 years head filer at Simpson Timber. The trees eventually grew on the north side of the island blocking the wind and the water tower became harder to maintain. The blades and storage tank were removed to preserve the existing tower. The owners note that the tower was used during World War II for location purposes and is still on the maps at McChord Field.



Gregory House

Thurston County Chicken Hatchery

3016 10th Ave. N.E.

Olympia, WA 98506

Year built: ca. 1925

Year placed: 2002

TCHR-02-01

The Gregory House was built by Orrin Gregory who operated the Thurston County Chicken Hatchery at the site. Chicken growing and egg production was a common small farm occupation in the 1920s and 1930s in Thurston County and in the South Bay Area in particular. This house is still on the same size acreage as the Gregory property although the chicken raising related outbuildings are no longer extant. The property was later the longtime home of Charlotte & L. F. Query.





Adams House

12622 Littlerock Rd. S.W.

Olympia, WA 98512

Year built: ca. 1928

Year placed: 2003

TCHR-03-01

Located in Littlerock on a large landscaped parcel, this English Builder style home was built in 1928 for Bruce and Hazel Shuman as part of the Everett's Viora plat which was established ca. 1902. For a time Littlerock was known as Viora. The Adams began their residence at the property in 1943 and completed the purchase of the property in 1946. They operated "Jacks Pot Roast Chicken" a chicken cannery across the road during World War II which canned beef and chicken since canned meat was not rationed during the war. They sold their product to local small grocers until the advent of larger grocery chains. Jack Adams continued working building small portable sawmills and well drilling. The house is an excellent example of the English builder style which retains its character and setting.



Violet Prairie Grange

17028 Violet Prairie Rd. S.E.

Tenino, WA 98589

Year built: ca. 1935, 1938

Year placed: 2003

TCHR-03-02

The Violet Prairie Grange was organized in October, 1931 first meeting in the Ladies' Clubhouse on Scatter Creek (Sunshine Hall). A building site was donated by F. W. Wichman. The grange hall was built in two parts through volunteer help and membership fundraising. The first section is now the kitchen and dining area and the second is the main hall equipped with a stage. The group was active in socials, dances, 4-H, fairs, bazaars and at Tenino Labor Day activities and other fund raisers.



2018



McVitte / Duckwitz / Hughes House

18421 or 18311 Bald Hill Rd. S.E.

Yelm, WA 98597

Year built: 1902

Year placed: 2003

TCHR-03-03

The house is a rare example of a squared log house built with a distinctive roofline in the rural area of southeast Thurston County at the turn of the 20th century. The house may have been built in the 19th century and have associations with the Hudson's Bay Company. It is known that the house is associated with two early Yelm families—the McVittie's and the Duckwitz's and a later family, the Hughes. According to available sources, the land was part of a land patent granted to Joseph Sumpter in 1900. He sold the land to James and Alfred McVittie in 1902. From timber cruise records at the State Archives, the house was located on the property by 1908. The McVittie's had come from Scotland. James died in 1907 and his wife in 1911. Alfred sold the property in 1913 to Pete and Vincent Duckwitz. They were brothers from Wisconsin who were bartenders and saloonkeepers. During Prohibition according to Yelm Pioneers and Followers, they were bootleggers joined by Peter's wife Florence. They owned the property until 1946 when it was sold to Ralph and Josephine Rickenbacker Hughes who came to Yelm from Tacoma. They operated a dairy here for many years. The property also has several of the barns built for the dairy in the 1950s.



Kaiser Dairy Barn

2331 Kaiser Rd. N.W.

Olympia, WA 98502

Year built:

Year placed: 2004

TCHR-03-04

Located in the rural area of Thurston County west of Olympia, the Kaiser Barn is located on 22 acres of the original Kaiser Farm.

Herman Kaiser came to the area from Wisconsin via Copalis and finally to Cooper Point in 1911. He operated a Guernsey business on the dairy farm which was at the site of the original Butler home, which burned in 1905. The present house built in 1925 was constructed by a local carpenter, Ernest Meeker. Herman Kaiser was active on the Butler Cove School Board. His son and his wife, Elmer and Roberta Kaiser lived in the house for many years. It is now owned by Joann Kaiser Harper. The Kaiser House just north of the barn is listed on the Thurston County Register.

E. H. Kaiser built this barn to replace an earlier structure in the 1940s. It was built of clear cedar in what is called a “monitor roof western barn” style. The barn measures 45 feet by 100 feet. Kaiser operated Kaiser Guernsey Dairy here. The Kaiser's milked 75 cows. The barn had a milking parlor and before the requirement for pasteurization, the family sold their own milk and cream in glass bottles on regular routes around Olympia. They later built a holding tank in the small building adjacent to the road and sold the milk to Darigold until the 1960s.



Dye Property

4735 5th Ave. N.W.
Olympia, WA 98502
Year built:
Year placed: 2005
TCHR-04-01

This site is a 15 acre property located on Mud Bay just off Delphi Road. The site is near a named site associated with the Salish people identified by T. T. Waterman in 1920. A creek on the eastern side of the inlet, one and one-half miles from the old village, K a x o a b q e d, "the one who bears lots of food, head of." Salmon were taken from this stream in enormous numbers. The stem ka signifies "plenty, abundance."

The Dye family owned the property into the 1950s. They have many stories of the interaction of their family with the Mud Bay Indians of the Squaxin Island Tribe. They recalled that their property was a location where the Indian people crossed Mud Bay. According to the family, the Indian people would leave their horses tied in Dye’s yard. They would come by canoe to the Dye property and then take the horses to Olympia. The family recalls that the Indian people would collect the wind-fall fruit on the property. They also recall that there was conflict between the Indian people and the Dye family which gradually dissipated over time.



Bowman Farmstead

21128 Backman Rd. S.W.
Rochester, WA 98579
Year built: 1906
Year placed: 2005
TCHR-04-02

The Bowman farm is located in the southwest corner of Thurston County near the Grays Harbor and Lewis County lines in the Independence area. It is set on rolling hills and includes nearly 10 acres of the original Bowman property. The farm was cleared of timber and the residents were part of the settlement of Swede-Finns in the area. The house was built by Edward Bowman for his family when they came from Sweden in 1905. Bowman descendants lived there until 1967.



Meadowview Farm Swayne Barn & Orchard

6016 Swayne Dr. N.E.

Olympia, WA 98516

Year built:

Year placed: 2005

TCHR-04-03

Oliver Reynolds Swayne, a native of Ohio, moved to Nebraska after his marriage in 1887. The Swaynes first came to Olympia in 1900 but returned to Nebraska in 1903, living in a sod house. In 1912 they again came to Olympia via train and settled in the South Bay area. His large family included 10 children. Swayne built the house from lumber on the acreage rafted to the mill at Puget and rafted back. The property included some 150 to 200 acres and Swayne was an orchardist producing many kinds of fruit on the farm. The Swayne House is an excellent example of the rural foursquare in the South Bay Area and is set on the shores of Henderson Inlet near what may have been an Indian campground.



Strong House

1619 Abernethy Rd. N.E.

Olympia, WA 98516

Year built: 1912

Year placed: 2005

TCHR-05-01

This property is located on an elongated nearly five acre parcel in the South Bay Area in a rapidly developing, formerly rural area. The house faces Abernethy Road with a garage and shed behind it. The site has large maple trees and fir trees. The house was built ca. 1941 by Curtis and Cora Strong. Strong had come his parents from Nebraska in the 1930s in a Model A and lived on the west side of Olympia. Cora Strong was from the Spokane area. They married in 1940. Don Strong stated that his father and uncles built the house with lumber from area mills since they worked for the Veneer Mills in Olympia. Curtis served in Asia during World War II. The Strongs had cattle, chickens, pigs, and a milk cow on the property. There was formerly a barn on the site. They had a large garden and grew hay on the five acres.





**Order of Runeberg Hall
(Swede Hall)**
18543 Albany St. S.W.
Rochester, WA 98579
Year built: 1935
Year placed: 2005
TCHR-05-02

Many of the early residents of southwestern Thurston County were of Swedish descent. They formed an organization known as the Order of Runeberg. The group which began in 1922 built their first hall on Independence Road In 1939 because of an increase in membership, members decided to construct a new hall closer to more populous Rochester. The hall was built through volunteer labor. Members purchased warehouses in Malone from a defunct sawmill and used that timber for the building. They also incorporated lumber from their former hall into the structure. Over 50 men worked on the hall and contributed ideas for its construction. The structure was built for about \$5,000. The hall has been used as a community center for meeting of the Order of Runeberg and other groups, dances, political meetings, weddings and is currently used for senior citizens groups and the Runeberg organization.



2018



Lost Lake Log Cabin
1546 Reservation Rd. S.E.
Olympia, WA 98513
Year built: 1906
Year placed: 2015
TCHR-15-01

The cabin was built in approximately 1920 and appeared to be used as a cabin or summer cottage. The Rustic Style cabin was common in the early 1900's, and the structure was constructed of, a stone chimney, heavy window and door, and decorative trim incorporating natural materials from the surrounding area.



1940

Yelm Cemetery

11540 Cemetery RD. S.E.

Yelm, WA 98597

Year built: 1881

Year placed: 2000

TCHR-20-01

The Yelm Cemetery is a public cemetery located on a 9.17 acre parcel of historic significance to Thurston County. The Cemetery has at least 1,923 interments, dating back to 1881, Mary Powell being the first. At least 765 of the interments took place prior to 1970. New interments are continuing to take place in the cemetery. James Longmire donated a portion of his land to create the Yelm Cemetery and is one of the more notable interments there. Longmire was one of the earliest European settlers to settle in the Yelm Prairie and was instrumental in establishing the Yelm School, Cemetery, and church.

The White House

10815 Morris RD. S.E.

Yelm, WA 98597

Year built: 1926

Year placed: 2001

TCHR-21-01

Located in Yelm, the “White House” is a 1 ½ story single residential home which reflects the Bungalow/Arts and Crafts style in a rural farmhouse setting. It was built in 1926 by Mr. White, and the neighboring property that is nearly identical was built a few years later. The McNetts were the original owners of the home and were well known in the Yelm area. The Brown family owned the neighboring house and later purchased “The White House”. The back porch was enclosed in the 1940’s to create an indoor bathroom, prior to that there was an outhouse behind the home. New siding has been placed over the original cedar siding preserving it.



Lucas Harding Residence

3620 Country Club RD NW

Olympia, WA 98502

Year built: 1930

Year placed: 2021

TCHR-21-01

The Lucas Harding Residence was built in 1930 and is an excellent example of French Eclectic-Style architecture made of brick masonry and wooden frames and concrete poured foundation. Built by a prominent local figure and former Olympia Mayor, Clarence J. Lorde, as a wedding present for his daughter, Helen Lord. A well-known architect in the Northwest, Joseph Wohleb designed the home. The California native designed many other significant buildings in Olympia and the Northwest including the 1930 Thurston County Courthouse, Shelton City Hall, the Grand Mission Elk Lodges in Centralia and Bremerton and the American Legion halls in Olympia and Shelton. He also designed several buildings on the Capitol Campus. Adolph Schmidt JR from the Schmidt brewing family purchased the home in 1951.



Grand Mound Schoolhouse

20604 Grand Mound Way SW

Centralia, WA 98531

Year Built: 1922

Year Placed: 2022

TCHR-22-01

The Grand Mound Schoolhouse was built in 1922 by Newton C. Gauntt, an architect who was well known for his expertise in developing and constructing educational facilities as well as other significant buildings in Washington State and Oregon.

The Schoolhouse served the community as the K-8 school in the area from 1922 until the schoolboard decommissioned it in 1970. Since then the building served the community as a church, temporary crisis center and a Red Cross safe house. The silhouette, mass, and structure of the building represent a significant part of our local history.





Pruitt Barn

13810 148th Ave SE

Yelm, WA 98597

Year built: 1901

Year placed: 2023

TCHR-23-01

The Pruitt barn is a 1901 two-story loft barn that has a footprint of 1248 sq ft and has a gambrel roof. It has the original floorboards, original hand split cedar shakes that are visible from the inside of the barn, the exterior is covered with a metal roof to preserve the original materials. The barn is in the Yelm area and embodies of the image of what farm life was like over 100 years ago.

