

Date: Feb. 6, 1999

Lacey Historical Commission
Property Nomination for Register

Application Number: LHR - 97 - 1

Name of Property: Huntamer House

Location of Property: 834 Lacey St.
Lacey, WA 98503

Owner: Nick Adams
606 Columbia St. NW, Suite 104
Olympia, WA 98501
943-5079 Ext. 205

Date Built: c1940 - 1942

A. Criteria for Designation:

1. Category of Historic Property: Domestic/Residence

2. Context for Evaluating Property:

The property should be evaluated in the context of Lacey economic, political and social history from the early 20th century to the present.

3. Level of significance: Local level of significance

4. Integrity of Property:

On November 25, 1997 the Huntamer House was moved from its original location at 4624 Lacey Boulevard SE to its current location of 834 Lacey St. SE. Since then the structure has been repaired. The house's significant historical characteristics have been preserved or restored.

5. Statement of Significance/Criteria:

The Huntamer House is significant more for its association with two generations of the Huntamer family than for its architectural value. For much of the twentieth century the Huntamers played an important role in the development of Lacey. The farmhouse was built by L.C. Huntamer in c. 1940 in a vernacular style, possibly using some salvaged materials from Union Mills. The Huntamer purchased the property from Frank Robbins soon after their arrival in Lacey in 1910. On the property there existed an older dwelling where the family lived until the current house was built.

Lawrence Cleveland (L.C.) And Ellen Callant Huntamer came to Lacey from Madison, South Dakota in 1910. Here they joined L.C.'s parents (John and Mary Hare Huntamer) and brother and sister-in-law (John and Ethel McCreedy Huntamer). The family quickly became part of the local community. In 1910, for example, L.C. played football for Saint Martin's College.

The Huntamers purchased property from the Robbins family, and eventually owned forty acres in what is now the heart of downtown Lacey (from the intersection of College Street and Lacey Boulevard north along College to 6th Avenue). At one time Lacey Boulevard was even known as Huntamer Street.

Like most of the residents of the Lacey area at the time, L.C. was a farmer, raising cattle, hogs and variety of crops. He was also a small contractor and with his equipment helped others to plow their fields, build their houses, and install their septic systems.

During the summer months when other wells ran dry, the Huntamers' well remained productive. At the request of neighbors, L.C. started to lay pipe and provide water to them. Over time, this practice grew into the Huntamer Water Service, reaching close to 3,000 customers. This company became the main water supply for the City of Lacey in 1968.

L.C. Huntamer served his community well by being the Thurston County Sheriff for eight years (1934-1942) and being active in the Lacey P.T.A. Mary Ellen Huntamer, while raising twelve children, was very involved in the Lacey School P.T.A., 4-H, and other community affairs.

For 32 years there was at least one Huntamer child in the Lacey School. In 1973 when Mary Ellen Huntamer died in Lacey she had over 100 living descendants. The children and grandchildren of L.C. and Ellen carried on the Huntamer tradition of community participation. They have been involved in the areas of education, recreation, church, government, business, and fire department.

B. Significant Historical Characteristics

Although the house was built in a vernacular style of its period, it has several features which contribute to the property's historical significance. These features should be preserved and maintained.

1. One and one-half story side gable wood frame structure .
2. Wood clapboards, wide on lower level, narrower near upper windows.
3. Various sized and divided wooden windows.
4. Side door with pediment entryway.
5. Front door.

Historical features that have been restored:

1. Pediment for front door entryway.
2. Enclosed porch in back.
3. Two wooden windows on current northeast corner of the house.

Non-historic additions:

1. Cinderblock foundation.

The property currently has its most essential elements of historic integrity. Staff recommends that the Huntamer House be placed on the Lacey Historical Register.