

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

TN 280

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 Property

historic name Jacob Smith House other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 4340 Yelm Highway city, town Lacey state Washington code WA county Thurston code 067 zip code 98503

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [x] private, [ ] public-local, [ ] public-State, [ ] public-Federal. Category of Property: [x] building(s), [ ] district, [ ] site, [ ] structure, [ ] object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0, Total 1. Name of related multiple property listing: n/a. Number 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. Signature of certifying official, Date, State or Federal agency and bureau.

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:). Signature of the Keeper, Date of Action.

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Mid 19th Century: Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation wood

walls wood: weatherboard

roof other: composition shingles

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Built in 1859, the Jacob Smith House is a one-and-one-half story side-gabled cottage built in a vernacular Greek Revival style and located on a wooded tract on the periphery of Lacey, Washington. The house sits on a rise with a full view of Chambers Prairie and, in the distance, Mount Rainier. A long gravel drive leads to the house; several outbuildings, including a barn and shed built after the period of significance, are located on the property outside the boundaries of the nomination. The house is surrounded by second growth fir trees.

The Smith House is a rectangular structure built of cedar plank construction. The gable roof is covered with composition shingles (which replaced the original wood shingles). The roofline is broken by two brick chimneys with arched caps. A full-width rear extension with shed roof (built in the 19th century) projects from the main rectangle. The walls of the house are sided with clapboards and cornerboards. A recently applied plywood skirting conceals the post and pier foundation.

The Smith House is a side-gable structure (that is, the gable ridge runs parallel to the front facade of the building). The eaves are boxed with a prominent cornice and frieze boards. The cornice across the front (east) facade has shallow returns on the sides, creating the suggestion of a pediment, familiar in the Greek Revival idiom.

A one-story porch spans the full width of the front facade. The engaged hip roof of the porch is supported by pierced posts with sawn brackets. The porch shelters the central entry, which is composed of a panelled door framed by a multi-paned transom and sidelights. On either side of the entry are two double hung wood sash windows with six-over-six lights and plain surrounds with projecting hood mouldings. Other fenestration consists of similar double-hung windows on the first floor and multi-paned casements in the second-story gable ends. A polygonal bay (added in the late 19th or early 20th centuries) projects from the rear of the south elevation. The bay is capped by a hipped roof and is lighted by double hung sash with one-over-one lights. An adjacent oblong kitchen window is of later vintage.

The interior plan of the Smith House is two rooms wide and two rooms deep, reflecting an expanded, or massed, hall-and-parlor arrangement. The central door leads to a "great room", or hall; a slightly smaller parlor is adjacent on the north. At the rear of the hall and parlor is a small hallway that leads to the back door, with a stairway to the upper half-story. On either side of the hallway are rear bedrooms. Fireplaces are located near the gable end walls between the front and rear rooms. A kitchen and storage room is located in the shed roof addition. The interior was altered in the 1950s at which time the surface finishes were changed and indoor plumbing was added.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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A narrow, one story, rear addition was added to the house in the 1950s. The addition extends from the southwest corner of the house, engages with the walls of the old water tower, and terminates on the west with a one-and-one-half-story garage. The wing has a gable roof with cedar shingles and is sided with board and batten siding. The first part of the addition is an enclosed utility room lighted with a fixed, multi-pane window. At the base of the water tower, the addition forms an open breezeway providing a nonhistoric entry to the tower. The tower itself rises above the wing and is capped by a low-pitched hip roof with peaked ventilator and open eaves. The walls of the tower are sided with clapboards. At the west end of the breezeway is a gable-roof, two-car garage with an apartment on the upper level.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

c. 1860  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

n/a  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

n/a  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

The Jacob Smith House is a significant example of the vernacular domestic architecture built by pioneer settlers in the region. The house, constructed of cedar planks, is one of the few extant examples in Thurston County of a side-gabled cottage reflecting the Greek Revival idiom. It is the oldest structure known to be standing in the Lacey area. According to a county-wide historic resources survey conducted by the State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation in 1985, few well preserved examples of the vernacular Greek Revival style remain in the county, none in the Lacey area. Despite an intrusive addition on the rear of the structure, the original house retains good exterior integrity of form, fabric, and setting, and clearly conveys the character of pioneer homesteads of the era.

Historical Background: Northeastern Thurston County was a native prairie attractive to the first American settlers who came in the 1850s, providing one of the few good farming areas in an otherwise heavily timbered region. In 1853, James T. Phillips filed a donation land claim for property that includes the nominated parcel. Four years later, Jacob Smith purchased the property.

Smith was born in Pennsylvania in 1815, and eventually moved to Indiana. In 1851, Smith left Indiana for the far west, followed the Oregon Trail, and settled at Portland and later at Whidbey Island in present-day Washington State. During the Indian Wars of 1855-56, Smith served as a member of the home guards at Fort Steilacoom. In 1857, he came to the Olympia area and purchased the farmland where he built his house a few years later. Located on the Nisqually Trail traditionally used by native Americans, Smith's homestead became a stopping place for travellers between Yelm and Olympia. Smith continued to farm the property for the next two decades. When he died in 1879, the farm and house passed to his son.

In the mid-20th century, the Smith house was purchased by architect Robert Wohleb (son of Joseph) who used the farm as a country retreat. During his ownership, Wohleb modified the interior and constructed a one story rear wing that connected the house with the historic water tower and an adjacent garage. Although the addition detracts from the integrity of the house, it is not visible from the facade and does not alter the essential massing of the original structure. The other outbuildings on the property post-date the period of significance and have no known historical associations with Smith.

See continuation sheet

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Architectural historians have identified the one-and-one half story side-gable cottage as a dominant house form that evolved in the northeastern United States in the early 19th century (evolving from the traditional folk hall-and-parlor form). The cottage was transplanted throughout the United States by westward-moving immigrants and was one of the characteristic house types in the Washington Territory. Typically, the houses were built of plank construction and had allusions to the Greek Revival style. Other outstanding houses of plank construction with Greek Revival detail in Thurston County include the Rutledge House near Rochester (a gable-front temple-form house) and the Brewer House near Grand Mound (a side gabled cottage). The Jacob Smith House is the only surviving example of the type and period known to exist in the northern part of the county and a rare surviving element of the pioneer heritage of the Lacey area.





Jacob Smith House  
Lacey, Washington  
Tom Costantini  
3/21/85

Office of Archaeology  
and Historic Preservation  
Northeast Front Corner  
1 of 3



Jacob Smith House  
Lacey, Washington  
Tom Costantini  
3/21/85

Office of Archaeology and  
Historic Preservation  
Northwest rear corner  
2 of 3



Jacob Smith House  
Lacey, Washington  
Tom Costantini  
3/21/85

Office of Archaeology and  
Historic Preservation  
Southeast Corner  
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