

LACEY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. For completing Lacey Register of Historic Places registration form, see applicable instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in appropriate space 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. Type all entries.

1. NAME OF PROPERTY -- SITE ONLY

Historic Name Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery
Other names/site number _____

2. LOCATION

Street & number Northeast corner Ruddell Road & not for publication Mullen Road
City, town Lacey vicinity _____
State WA code 34 county Thurston code 34 zip code 98503

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property		N/A
Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	_____	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the Lacey Register _____



manner on the original site.

- k. Is a creative and unique example of folk architecture and design created by persons not formally trained in the architectural or design professions, and which does not fit into formal architectural or historical categories.

sss5:lcm.1

4a. LACEY HISTORIC COMMISSION STAFF RECOMMENDATION

In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet ___ the Lacey Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting staff Date

4b. LACEY HISTORIC COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

In the opinion of the Lacey Historic Commission, the property meets ___ does not meet ___ the Lacey Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of LHC Chair Date

4c. OWNER CONSENT FOR LISTING

I (we) consent ✓ / do not consent ___ to the listing of the above property on the Lacey Register of Historic Places. I (we) also certify that I am/we are the legal owner(s) of the above property.

[Signature] See continuation sheet
Owner signature

[Signature]

5. CITY OF LACEY CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the Lacey Register
___ See continuation sheet
- ___ determined eligible for the Lacey Register. ___ See continuation sheet
- ___ determined not eligible for the Lacey Register.
- ___ removed from the Lacey Register
- ___ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Local Elected Official Date of Action

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Funerary / Cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Funerary/Cemetery

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (enter categories from instructions) N/A

Foundation

Walls

Roof

Other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery is an approximately two acre plot lying just south of Lacey at the intersection of two major roads, Ruddell and Mullen. The rectangular cemetery is located on flat prairie ground and is bisected by a center roadway which divides the north and south sections of the plot and in general, historic burials from the more contemporary burials.

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The cemetery is enclosed on the west, south and part of the east sides by brick pylons which are connected by chains between them. The west side of the cemetery has the main gate which has two large brick piers with adjacent brick wings. It is topped by an arched metal sign which reads "Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery 1852-1916". The north side of the cemetery has a chain link fence with a low laurel hedge adjacent to it in some places. Flanking the entry are four bronze plaques, two on either side affixed to the brick piers. These plaques were originally installed on the earlier cemetery entry. One of the plaques reads "This tablet contributed by the Washington State Historical Society commemorates the spot where are buried many of the first settlers of Thurston County and commends the worthy pioneer who set aside from the acres of his original grant this lot as a free burial plot for his neighbors and their descendants. W. P. Bonney, Secretary." Another plaque reads: "In Memory of his ancestors and with a decent regard for the preservation of their last resting place, the undersigned has erected this fence as a barrier between the irreverent few and the revered ground in closed (sic) and calls upon his posterity and the succeeding generations to respect the bones of the first white inhabitants of this countryside. Gwin Hicks" The other two plaques, a paraphrase of Gray's Elegy were placed on the site by Gwin Hicks on the occasion of the rededication of the Cemetery in 1917.

The earlier gate erected in 1916-17 when the cemetery was rededicated was a series of four cobblestone piers each with the bronze tablet embedded in it. Over the top of an iron piece with arched sections where "Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery 1852 1916" was placed with lettering on a wire grillwork. A wire fence and gates enclosed the property.

Currently, just east of the entry area are four towering fir trees on the north side and six on the south side of the center roadway. These huge trees were reportedly planted by Oliver Beatty, who is buried in the cemetery. Other plantings include a huge maple tree on the south edge of the cemetery near the Parsons plot and two large garry oaks trees on the east end of the cemetery. Other plantings include small bushes, a flowering cherry tree, and a large ponderosa pine tree. The cemetery is covered with grass.

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Although the cemetery is set up in regular rows which run perpendicular to the center roadway, the placement of the stones gives an overall random appearance. The range of stones includes very early marble headstones dating from the 1860's, obelisks, many bevel markers, two zinc ledger markers, small flush metal markers and a few family plot stele markers. Most are handcarved and are mostly made from sandstone. The earliest stone dates from 1854. The burial site of Eliza Jane Leedom Hicks, the first burial, is not known although a marker with "E.J.H." inscribed is located in the Hicks plot. The earliest burials are near the east end of the plot near the Mullen Road which would have been set back from the main thoroughfare, Ruddell Road. About 75 of the burials date from before 1950 and 45 after that date. There are several "Unknown" markers in the cemetery. There are two curbed lots, the largest belonging the Parsons family. A number of the older markers have fallen over. Some of the sandstone markers are badly weathered and are nearly unreadable.

The north side of the Pioneer Cemetery is primarily devoted to 20th century graves of which most have either bevel or flat markers. A few are distinctive stele markers including a newer one with for a Vietnamese grave. To the east of this cemetery is another section of the cemetery which is all new. It lies on lower ground and is not evident when the cemetery is viewed from the main gate. This section of the cemetery which contains a funeral home, fountain and columbarium is not being nominated.

The cemetery, although active, probably conveys its historic appearance especially on the south side. Many of the historic markers are in place although some are displaced and fallen. The cemetery was not a highly landscaped property since it evolved over time. The huge douglas fir trees, maple and ponderosa pine bespeak the age of the sparse landscaping. In addition, some historic concrete curbing is in tact.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

Nationally Statewide Locally

1. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, state or local history.
2. It embodies the distinctive architectural characteristics of a type, period, style or method of construction, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
3. It is an outstanding work of a designer, builder or architect who has made a substantial contribution to the art.
4. It exemplifies or reflects special elements of the City's cultural, special, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering or architectural history.
5. It is associated with the lives of persons significant in national, state or local history.
6. It has yielded or is likely to yield important archaeological information.
7. It is a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the only surviving structure significantly associated with an historic person or event.
8. It is a birthplace or grave of a historical fixture of outstanding importance and is the only surviving structure or site associated with that person.
9. It is a cemetery which derives its primary significance from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events or cultural patterns.
10. It is a reconstructed building that has been executed in an historically accurate manner on the original site.
11. It is a creative and unique example of folk architecture and design created by persons not formally trained in the architectural or design professions, and which does not fit into formal architectural or historical categories.

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Social History

Period of Significance

1852 - 1943

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Stephen D. Ruddell

Architect/Builder

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

The Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery is significant for its associations with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local history. It illustrates the close interrelationships of some of the earliest American settlers to Washington Territory as they staked claims on the natural prairies of what is now Lacey. Stephen D. Ruddell, Urban Hicks, Gwin Hicks, William Parsons and others significant in the early years of Washington Territory are buried here. Its importance was illustrated by the statewide notice given its rededication in 1917. Also important is the continued

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stewardship of the descendants of the Ruddell, Hicks, Parsons and other families of the cemetery over 140 years.

Earliest permanent American Settlement on lower Puget Sound commenced in 1845 with the arrival of the Simmons-Bush Party at Tumwater that year. By the early 1850's they were joined by over 1000 American settlers. The Chambers Family for whom the prairie was named came in 1847 and many others followed. Stephen D. Ruddell was originally from Kentucky but moved to Missouri in the early 1840's. He had his family come west in 1851 and spent the first winter on the Cowlitz River and by the Spring of 1852 had located at Chamber's Prairie. Here he built a log house and later included a log palisades with log roof and tool house enclosing an area about 200 feet square. It was known as the Ruddell Stockade and housed several families during the Indian War of 1855-56. This blockhouse stood about 40 rods from the cemetery.

Ruddell was prominent in early territorial politics. He was a delegate to meetings at Monticello petitioning for the formation of a separate Washington Territory. He also served as first territorial assessor, taking office in 1853, a Thurston County Commissioner and a member of the Washington Territorial Legislature. He died September 10, 1891.

The Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery was established in 1852 according to accounts from the Ruddell and Hicks families. It has been an active cemetery since that time.

The unexpected death of a young woman in 1853 who was a step-daughter-in-law of Stephen D. Ruddell was reason for the founding of the cemetery. Eliza Jane Leedom Hicks died of consumption at the Ruddell Home in late 1853 and this cemetery was set aside to accommodate her burial near the Ruddell homesite. Several burials followed in subsequent early years including George Guthrie and his infant daughter in 1854, Paul Ruddell also in 1854, Mrs. Winaford [Winnifred] Ruddell wife of Stephen D. Ruddell in 1856, Janette Croghan Phillips (step-daughter of Stephen D. Ruddell) in 1855, William White, a casualty of the Indian War in 1855 and William E. Klady and Gideon Thompson also before 1860. An infant, son of Mrs. Ruddell in 1870 and Mary Himes in 1879, Tyrus Himes and Horace Himes were buried there in 1879 but reburied sometime later in the Olympia Odd Fellows Cemetery.

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The cemetery plot adjoined the main trail from Chambers Prairie to Yelm on a branch of the Olympia to Nisqually Road and was just yards away from the schoolhouse which was built in the area known as "Five Oaks". This area was relatively heavily settled probably because of the farmland, its proximity to the roads, and the open prairie which made it attractive to settlers who did not wish to clear the heavy forests for farming. In the immediate area were homes of the Ruddell, Hartsock, Thomas Chambers, Andrew McMillan and William Pattison as seen on the 1855 survey map of the area.

The nearly three acre plot [some accounts give five acres but the 1871 deed cites three acres] was officially set aside in 1871 when Stephen D. Ruddell and his wife Margaret Stewart White Ruddell sold 160 acres of property to his son Stephen L. Ruddell excepting these three acres for "a burying ground" which he said at that time were "now laid out and located on said premises." The appearance of the property is unknown at this early period but grave markers from this period are evident at the site.

Around the turn of the century, the Ruddell property was foreclosed and sold in a sheriff's sale to an Ethel Strahlund who in turn sold the entire north half of Section 33 Township 18N Range 1 West to James Southwick for \$6000 in 1904. Southwick later conveyed part of the cemetery property south and east of the present cemetery to Eltham and Wilma Bagley in 1912, excepting the two acres of the cemetery. No official conveyance has been found of the remainder of the property from James Southwick to the Cemetery Association. That document may have been destroyed in a fire in the 1930's which destroyed many of the cemetery records. Descendants of Stephen D. Ruddell quit claimed the cemetery site to the Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery Association in 1913.

The pioneer section of the cemetery is remarkable for the interwoven relationships of the internments and their relationship to Stephen D. Ruddell, its founder. Many of the early burials were as was noted relatives of Stephen D. Ruddell and his wife who had been married three times and had three families. Likewise S.D. Ruddell also was married three times and had children from three marriages. These descendants married into many of the adjacent families on Eaton and Chambers Prairie.

Other area families, most notably the William S. and Mary Keys Parsons Family also buried members there. Parsons was a Methodist minister who came west in 1852 and in 1853 took up a claim east of Long Lake. His children married into many of the adjacent families including the Fleetwood's, Kagy's and Barnard's, whose descendants are buried in the cemetery.

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The Hicks family were descended from Stephen D. Ruddell's second wife, Mrs. Winaford [Winnifred] (Kelley) Hicks-Croghan. Her son, Urban East Hicks and his young wife Eliza Jane Leedom Hicks, came west with the Ruddell Party and it was upon her death that the cemetery was set aside. Urban East Hicks married a member of the Hartsock family, India Ann, after his first wife's death in 1853. The Hartsock's who are buried in the cemetery had a donation claim adjacent to the Ruddell property. Urban East Hicks was a prominent newspaperman and printer, (reputedly a contemporary of Mark Twain) and a noted participant in the Indian War of 1855-56, Fort Hicks in what is now Pierce County was named in his honor. His son, Gwin Hicks also became a prominent printer and politician. Gwin Hicks served as state printer, deputy collector of internal revenue, newspaper editor, commissioner of the Washington building during the Panama California Exposition and was the only Washington-born member of the Washington State Constitutional Convention in 1889. Gwin Hicks is buried in the cemetery as are two of his wives who both have distinctive zinc ledger coverings on their graves inscribed with poetry.

It was Gwin Hicks who led the effort in 1916 to re-dedicate the cemetery. "The Ruddell Cemetery Association" who officially incorporated in 1914 by Dell Kagy, W. W. Fleetwood, Gwin Hicks, G. A. Steadman, W. S. Shaser, M. F. Neat, Walter Barnard, David Fleetwood, Frank Wood and Annie Cruikshank descendants of the Ruddell, Parsons and other pioneer families. The charter specified that "Burial Permits in this corporation's cemetery shall be limited to members of this corporation, their families, and pioneers of Thurston County and their descendants. Permits shall be granted when necessary by the President and Secretary, or by the Board of Trustees. Permits shall be free."

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The rededication of the cemetery in 1917 was an occasion of statewide importance which was documented in the Tacoma New Tribune and the Transactions of the Oregon Pioneer Association. The Washington State Historical Society provided a plaque and was represented by Gen. Hazard Stevens. Also on hand was P. D. Moore a pioneer of 1862, and J. W. Brislawn representing Governor Lister. George Himes who had grown up in the area and was then Secretary of the Oregon Pioneer Association gave the main address reminiscing about the area and giving his recollection of the cemetery formation and earliest interments. The cemetery had recently been cleaned according to the article and enclosed with a woven wire fence. Large cobblestone posts had been installed at the entryway along with an ornamental gateway. Gwin Hicks, current Lacey resident and grandson of his namesake recalls that members of pioneer families including his own gathered these cobblestones from the adjacent prairies for the posts. It may have been at this juncture when the date for Eliza Jane Hicks death was given at 1852 when it in fact was in 1853. It is unknown whether or not that affects the actual date of when the property was set aside by Stephen D. Ruddell.

The Cemetery Association decided in 1967 to convey the cemetery to Tim and Ann Burgman, operators of a funeral home and adjacent property because of the difficulty of a volunteer group to maintain the property. During these years, Hazel Hicks O'Keefe, daughter of Gwin Hicks, was the main proponent of upkeep of the cemetery and lead many chicken suppers and bake sales to raise funds to maintain the plot. The conveyance was made with the understanding the Burgmans would provide a \$25,000 for endowment care. In addition the front gate of the structure was to be preserved. The conveyance also mandated that the plots would be provided to eligible pioneers free of charge and that the south half of the property would be reserved exclusively for pioneer burials. The eligibility would continue to be provided by the Cemetery Association.

In 1976 the new brick entryway and pylons were installed under the auspices of the Cemetery Association. The Cemetery Association continues to be maintained by descendants of the 1917 incorporators.

The nomination is to recognize the site only and does not require approval by the Lacey Historic Commission for ordinary burials or maintenance.

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"Last Resting Place of First Pioneers Rededicated," Tacoma Sunday News Ledger June 3, 1917.

Abstract of Title Prepared by First American Title Insurance Company for Gwin Hicks, June, 1993.

Interview with Robert Southwick, September, 1993.

Barrows, Florence I. (Jessup), "The Ruddell Story", unpublished manuscript from a notebook provided by Gwin Hicks.

Obituary for Eliza Jane Hicks, The Columbian, November 19, 1853.

Plat of Pioneer Cemetery, Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery Association.

Information from Thurston County Auditor Recordings.

"Souvenir of the Second Annual Reunion of the Ruddell-Himes Families," pamphlet in the biographical file at the Washington Room at the Washington State Library.

Contris, Mike, "Chambers Prarie Pioneer," Daily Olympian, May 17, 1965, p.4.

Reminiscence by Lela Parsons Kagy, Washington State Library.

Interviews with Gwin Hicks and Emeline Ruddell Kilber, September, 1993.

Information from the Urban East Hicks Collection, Washington State Historical Society.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (LHC):

- Preliminary determination of individual listing has been requested
- Previously listed in the Lacey Register
- Previously determined eligible by the Lacey Register
- Recorded by Lacey Inventory of Historic Places
Survey # L2-74

Primary location of additional data:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State historic preservation office | <input type="checkbox"/> Other State Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Local government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> University | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Specify repository:

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreeage of property 1.74 acres

UTM References

A	[1][0][]	5 [1][4][7][2][0][]	5 [2][0][6][0][0][0][]
	Zone	Easting	Northing
B	[][][]	[][][][][][][]	[][][][][][][][]
C	[][][]	[][][][][][][]	[][][][][][][][]
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	[][][]	[][][][][][][]	[][][][][][][][]

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Section 33 Township 18 North Range 1 West Willamette Meridian
North $\frac{1}{2}$ of the northeast $\frac{1}{2}$ east of Ruddell Road and North of
Mullen Road and westerly of line as described in parcel
#11833120800

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This includes the area historically associated with the Pioneer
Cemetery.

See continuation sheet

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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