

STAFF REPORT

DATE: March 24, 1994

TO: Honorable Mayor
Council Members

FROM: Lacey Historical Commission
Jim Sheler, Director
Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Nominations to "Lacey's Register of Historic Places"

Objective:

Placement of the Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery on "Lacey's Register of Historic Places".

Present Situation:

1. The Lacey Historical Commission has prepared a background report on the cemetery and has found that it meets the requirements necessary to place it on the Lacey Register. (reports attached)
2. The nomination and the referral to the City Council for placement on the Lacey Register is in accordance with Ordinance 796. (attached)
3. Written approval for placing the property on the register has been obtained from the owner, Southwick, Inc. (Tim and Ann Burgman).
4. Results of approving the nominations: (page 15, Ordinance 796)
 - a - Honorary designation
 - b - Outside of ordinary repairs, modification requires a "Certificate of Appropriateness" from the Commission. The Commission may delay the permit process up to 30 days for review. Should work proceed without the certificate, the property may be removed from the register.
5. If the nomination is approved, it will be the fourth property placed on the Lacey Register. The others are the The Bowker House, The Ruddell House and the Gallagher House.

Advantages:

1. An addition is made to the "Lacey Register of Historic Places".
2. The criteria of Ordinance 796 is adhered to.
3. A fourth important historic property in Lacey is officially recognized.
4. The designation is honorary and must be approved by the property owner.

Disadvantages:

1. Once the property is on the register, any modifications may be delayed up to 30 days by Commission review and the modification may also result in the property being removed from the register.

Action:

Request Council approval of the nomination of The Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery to the Lacey Register of Historic Places.

STAFF REPORT

Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery

Public Hearing:

Staff Report Prepared by: Shanna Stevenson

Application Number:

Name of Property: Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery

Location of Property: NE corner Ruddell & Mullen Roads
Lacey, WA

Owner: Southwick, Inc.
P. O. Box 3276
Lacey, WA 98503

Date Built: Established 1852

A. Criteria for Designation:

1. Category of Historic Property: Private Site

2. Context for Evaluating Property:

The property should be evaluated in the context of Lacey History and development of the mid 19th Century.

3. Level of Significance: Local Level of Significance

4. Integrity of the Property:

The Cemetery continues to have new interments. However many of the early stones, landscaping, curbing and grave arrangement are still evident. The 1916 era cobblestone gateway has been replaced with a newer brick gate and series of

pylons around the perimeter of the cemetery. The 1916 dedication plaques were re-installed when the 1976 brickwork was done.

5. **Statement of Significance/Criteria:**

The Cemetery is significant under Criterion #9 as a cemetery which derives its primary significance from age, from distinctive design features, and from association with the historic events of the earliest permanent American settlement to the area. Its overriding importance is as part of this early development as well as illustrating settlement patterns and family relationships so vital in the early years of this area.

6. **Additional Considerations:**

- A. What area of the cemetery should be designated, the north and south or only the south part which has the majority of the old interments as well as distinctive markers and best exemplifies the interrelationships among the burials which add to the significance of the cemetery.
- B. What kind of review for additional interments should be given by the Lacey Historic Commission if the cemetery is designated. Currently the Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery Association reviews the proposed burials on the south side. This plots are free to pioneer families or those so considered by the Cemetery Association. The plots on the north side of the center road are sold by the cemetery.

B. **Significant Historical Characteristics:**

These are the features that contribute to the property's historical significance and which should be preserved and maintained as it is kept up over the years.

- 1. Original gravemarkers, curbs and arrangement of graves.
- 2. Landscaping features including landmark fir trees, maple tree, ponderosa pine.
- 3. Historic plaques mounted on front gates.

Note that this nomination is to recognize the site only and does not regulate the historic features of the cemetery but it is strongly recommended that they be retained.

C. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends placement of the Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery on the Lacey Historic Register under criterion #9.

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING DESIGNATION TO THE LACEY HISTORIC REGISTER

(Section 5.1. of Ordinance #796)

Any building, structure, object, site or district may be designated for inclusion in the Lacey Historic Register if it is significantly associated with the history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or cultural heritage of the community, has historical integrity; is at least 50 years old, or is of a lesser age and has exceptional importance, and if it falls in at least one of the following categories:

- a. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, state or local history.
- b. Embodies the distinctive architectural characteristics of a type, period, style or method of design or construction, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- c. Is an outstanding work of a designer, builder or architect who has made a substantial contribution to the art.
- d. Exemplifies or reflects special elements of the City's cultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering or architectural history.
- e. Is associated with the lives of persons significant in national, state or local history.
- f. Has yielded or may be likely to yield archaeological information important in pre-history or history.
- g. Is a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event.
- h. Is a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance and is the only surviving structure or site associated with that person.
- i. Is a cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events, or cultural patterns.
- j. Is a reconstructed building that has been executed in a historically accurate

Note that this nomination is to recognize the site only and does not regulate the historic features of the cemetery but it is strongly recommended that they be retained.

C. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends placement of the Ruddell Pioneer Cemetery on the Lacey Historic Register under criterion #9.