Intensive-level Documentation of the Clark County Poor Farm Buildings and Poor Farm Cemetery Remote Sensing Project, Clark County, Washington

Prepared for
Clark County, Washington

Prepared by
SWCA Environmental Consultants

July 2010
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Prepared by

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County: Clark County
Legal Location: T2N, R1E, Section 11
USGS 7.5-minute quad: Vancouver, WA
Type of Project: Intensive-level Historic Properties Survey and Remote Sensing
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Field Notes: On file at SWCA, Portland Office

SWCA Project Number 16314
SWCA Report Number 2010-265
July 6, 2010
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INTRODUCTION

In 2010, Clark County entered into a contract with SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) to conduct an intensive-level documentation and evaluation of the historic-period buildings within the property historically known as the Clark County Poor Farm with recommendations on the buildings’ eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). In addition, Clark County has requested an intensive remote sensing exploration of the Clark County Poor Farm Cemetery, located on the property, for the purpose of assisting the county in determining the extent and locations of burials in that area. During February and May, 2010, SWCA conducted the historic properties documentation and evaluation, followed by the remote sensing exploration, the results of both of which are presented here.

The documentation and evaluation of the Clark County Poor Farm main building and its associated dependent outbuildings (a detached garage and milk house), the bunk house, hog barn, and machine shed were all conducted by Historic Preservation Specialist Jason M. Allen, M.A., who is qualified under the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Standards for qualification in the areas of Historic Preservation, Architectural History, and History. The remote-sensing investigation was conducted by Blake Weissling, Ph.D., with the assistance of archaeologist Selena Roloson. The project Principal Investigator was Charles Bollong, Ph.D., who is qualified under the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Professional Qualifications in the area of Archaeology.

Project Area Description

The Clark County Poor Farm is located in southwestern Clark County, Washington, near the community of Hazel Dell (Figures 1 and 2). The property is found at 1919 NE 78th Street, occupying approximately 80 acres of land south of NE 78th Street. The property is largely open farmland, extending over the north and south slopes of a hill, with several small stands of mixed species of evergreen trees. The main Poor Farm building is located along the south side of NE 78th Street, with several agricultural sheds and greenhouses immediately to the east. A gravel road extends south from the main building parking lot located behind (to the south of) the main building, before turning to the east. Beginning at this turn, along the south side of the gravel road, are a ca. 1930’s machine shed, a ca. 1920’s farm hand’s bunk house, and a ca. 1920’s livestock barn. A modern, concrete block pump house is located to the north of the gravel road, on the inside of the turn. To the east of these buildings, the gravel road bends slightly to the southeast, ascending the hill that transects the property, becoming a dirt two-track road before reaching the eastern boundary of the property. Here it turns south, following the eastern boundary of the property to the northern edge of a wooded area, which is part of the Hazel Dell County Park. The road then turns west, continuing along the north edge of the county park, to the crest of the rise, the north slope of which is wooded, to the edge of the Clark County Farm Cemetery, which is fenced with chain link fencing. The Clark County Poor Farm Cemetery is located along the western boundary of the property, extending from the crest of the hill to the south, encompassing approximately 1 acre of land. The fields immediately adjacent to the Clark County Farm Cemetery (to the east) are planted in vines.
Figure 1. Location of Clark County Poor Farm property.
Figure 2. Aerial view of Clark County Poor Farm and Cemetery property, indicating locations of buildings and cemetery.
Environmental Setting

Most of southern Clark County, including the current project area, is within the Western Hemlock zone (Franklin and Dyrness 1988). This vegetation zone is characterized by subclimax Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), climax western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), and western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*). Subclimax Douglas fir is the dominant species in most of western Oregon and Washington due to extensive logging and/or burning of other types of trees in the past 150 years. Other species present in smaller numbers include grand fir (*Abies grandis*), Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), and western white pine (*Pinus monticola*). Hardwoods such as alder (*Alnus sp.*) and bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) are generally associated with riparian areas or disturbed locations (Franklin and Dyrness 1988).

Historical Background

The property on which the Clark County Poor Farm was created in 1926 was originally a part of the Donation Land Claim of William Reese Anderson and his wife, Sarah Jane Anderson. William Anderson was born in 1822 in Washington County, Virginia, and arrived in Oregon about 1848. In 1851, he married Sarah Jane Sturgess, a young woman of 14 years of age, who lived in Clackamas County, Oregon. After their marriage, they lived in Linnton, Oregon, a small settlement along the west shore of the Willamette River, downstream from Portland. In 1854 or 1855, they secured a Donation Land Claim north of Vancouver, totaling 640 acres, and built a log cabin. The cabin was later moved to the corner of what would become Highway 99 and 78th Street, and was expanded, becoming the Totem Pole Restaurant, operated by Sarah Jane, and standing in that location until it was demolished in 1998 (Schmaltz 2000:3; Clark County Genealogical Society 1989:233).

In 1871, the Andersons forfeited the 100-acre tract on which the poor farm would be established, following judgment against William Anderson. It appears that Anderson took a sheriff’s bond against the property in the late 1860s, and in 1868, he appears to have sold the property to Jared Van Vleet, though Anderson stayed on the property. In 1870, Anderson defaulted on repayment of the bond, and a lien was placed on the property, apparently without the County’s understanding that Anderson was technically not any longer the owner. In 1871 Van Vleet died, and during the disposal of his property, the details of the land transfer became known to the county, which began legal proceedings against Anderson. In October 1871, the court decided against Anderson, nullified the sale of the property to Van Vleet, and seized the 100-acre tract in settlement (Clark County vs. W.R. Anderson 1871).

Clark County Poor Farm

Beginning in 1873, Clark County operated a poor farm on the property. It is unclear when the first building was constructed, but by 1898, a large, two-story Colonial Revival house was located there, at approximately the location of the present building (Figure 3). An 1898 article in the *Vancouver Independent* states that the county had built a house on the property, costing $3,000, and that the superintendent had built a wagon shed “to take care of the wagon which former superintendents have allowed to stand out in the weather until it was all but ruined.” The article does not indicate when the house was built, but the implication is that it was shortly before the 1898 article, suggesting that an earlier structure had been there before the 1890s. In 1922, a fire broke out, completely destroying the building (Harshman et al. 2001:i, xii; Allworth
1976:15). Between 1922 and 1926, residents were housed at the County Poor House on 4th Plain Road, after which they and the furnishings were moved to the new facility.

Figure 3. Ca. 1895 Poor Farm building, east side, view to the northwest.  
*Photo taken in 1921, before the building burned completely the following year. Source: Allworth 1976:15. Photo credit: Olive McCafferty Harris.*

In January 1926, Clark County entered into a contract with the firm of DeYoung and Roald, an active firm in the Portland vicinity between 1920 and 1930, to design a new Poor Farm facility to replace the one that had burned in 1922. A partnership between architects James W. DeYoung (active from 1909 to 1959) and Knud A Roald (active from 1910 to ca. 1960), the firm was responsible for the designs of the New Heathman Hotel, the Rex Arms Apartments, and (with Rapp & Rapp) the Paramount Theater, the Portland Theater (now part of the Performing Arts Center) among many other buildings in and around Portland (Ritz 2002:101, 335). The New Heathman Hotel, at 712 SW Salmon Street in Portland, was built in 1927, and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1984. The Paramount Theater, at 1037 SW Broadway, was built in 1927 and listed in the NRHP in 1976 (Oregon Historic Sites Database 2010). The style that they chose, being a somewhat scaled-down iteration of the Italian Renaissance style, commonly used for government buildings and large-scale commercial buildings seeking to create a sense of responsibility, orderliness, and prosperity in the viewer. This was achieved through the massing and ornamentation of the Clark County Poor Farm main building and its contemporary subordinate structures (Figures 4 and 5).

In March 1926, construction began on the new Poor Farm Building on 78th Street (then called Poor Farm Road). By March 11, the excavation had been completed, and forms for the concrete were in place (*Columbian* 1926a). Construction was performed by Anderson Construction Company of Portland, under a contract for about $21,000. Construction moved quickly, and the building was completed and ready for inspection by County officials on June 15, and residents of the poor house on Fourth Plain Road were moved into the new building on June 21. The former poor house on Fourth Plain was then converted for use as a hospital for contagious diseases
A 1933 article goes on to state that the former “pest house” (an antiquated term for a hospital for those with communicable diseases) at “St. Johns Road and “I” Street was demolished to be replaced by Clark County Hospital” (Landerholm 1960:278). It is not clear if this is the same building as that which had formerly housed the poor before construction of the Poor Farm building on 78th Street.

The 1926 article describing the progress being made on the new building also indicates that that year the Poor Farm had about 50 acres under cultivation in hay, grain and potatoes, and that a large garden was also planned to supply food for the residents. Livestock maintained at the farm included 11 cows, 38 chickens, and hogs (number not reported). The article goes on to explain that all of the labor on the farm including harvesting crops and cutting wood was being performed by county prisoners (Columbian 1926a). The four-bay garage, located immediately to the east of the main building, was also built in 1926, and matches the design of the main building.

Figure 4. View of the 1926 Clark County Poor Farm Main Building, viewed across NE 78th Street (then called Poor Farm Road) towards the front of the building.

*The view is to the southwest. Photo taken ca. 1944, on display in Clark County Poor Farm Main Building.*
In 1936, several improvements were made to the poor farm property, including the construction of a separate milk house to the east of the main building, northeast of the 1926 garage (Figure 6). This building was built to separate the milk-handling from the laundry, where it had been located up to that point. The building was also used for vegetable storage. The same year, the basement of the main building was subdivided into very small individual rooms in which residents slept. Prior to this the basement was a large, open area full of cots. Also in 1936, showers were installed for the first time (Harshman et al. 2001:viii-ix).
In 1938, the management of the poor farm was reorganized, and the operation of the farm was moved from the former Clark County Indigent Department to the newly formed Clark County Welfare Department, under the supervision of the County Institutional Manager, who oversaw operation of the poor farm, county hospital, and county clinic (Clark County Welfare Department 1938). A report from that year covering the period from January 1 to May 1 indicates that the farm then had 12 cows, 21 pigs, 100 chickens, 350 chicks, and two horses. A similar report from the following year indicates that in 1939 the farm cared for 30 residents, had 4 full-time and one part-time employee, and operated at a cost of 70 cents per inmate per day (Clark County Welfare Department 1938; Clark County Welfare Department 1939).

In 1943, negotiations began with Clark County, the Governor’s office, and Washington State College (now Washington State University) to convert a portion of the facility from a poor farm into an experimental farm under the direction of the Washington State College. In September of that year, Washington State College agreed to a lease on 28-acres for that purpose. The transfer took place in 1944, and the poor farm building was remodeled to serve as a nursing home, which appears to have only functioned as such for a very short time. In 1949, Washington State College was deeded the property, moved into the building, and assumed control of all but 21 acres of the original 100-acre tract, which were retained by Clark County. The deed specifically stated that in the event that Washington State College vacated ownership of the property, it would automatically revert to the County. The retained 21 acres included one acre reserved for the cemetery (formally surveyed in 1913) along the western property line, toward the southern end.

Figure 6. View of the 1926 Clark County Poor Farm Main Building (center of photo), 1926 detached garage (middle of three buildings), and 1936 milk house (at right), viewed towards the north.

Photo taken ca. 1944, on display in Clark County Poor Farm Main Building.
of the property, and a twenty-acre portion in the southeastern corner of the property, which was
reserved for a county park (now called Hazel Dell Park) (Clark County 2008; Landerholm
1960:324; Columbianian 1943).

From 1949 until 2008 the property was owned by Washington State University, and operated as
an experimental agricultural station, and the main building was renovated to hold staff offices
and administrative space in the main floor and to provide indoor experimental laboratory space
in the basement (see Physical Description, below). The most notable alteration made during this
time was the removal of the main entrance from the north elevation, after 1955. In the early
1960s, a greenhouse was built to the east of the large barn that stood to the east of the milk
house, along 78th Street. In the late 1960s, the barn was demolished, and two storage sheds were
built on its foundation during the early 1970s. Also during the 1970s, several more outbuildings
were constructed along the south side of the gravel road connecting the rear main building
parking lot to the agricultural fields and storage buildings (a hog barn, machine shed, and bunk
house) to the south. During the 1980s several more storage buildings and greenhouses were
constructed, and by the 1990s, the present collection of seventeen structures was in place to the
east of the historic Poor Farm buildings (see Figures 1 and 2) (main building, detached garage,
and milk house) (Dave Foes, personal communication February 26, 2010).

Clark County Poor Farm Cemetery

The County Farm Cemetery was platted in 1913, measuring 150-feet (east-west) by 300 feet
(north-south), and containing 312 burial plots, each 4x9-feet, oriented east-west. The plat
indicates the plots were arranged in 8 rows of 39 each. Each row is separated by a 6-foot path,
and each grave separated by 3 feet (Figure 7). Records reviewed and collected by Harshman, et
al (2001:xii) indicate that up to about 200 burials took place in the cemetery, and that these were
interred between 1913 and 1937. Not all who were buried there were residents of the poor farm,
and in fact, it appears that the majority were not. Funerals and burial in the county farm cemetery
were provided by Clark County for anyone whose relatives were unable to pay, up to $35. Clark
County had negotiated deals with five local funeral homes to provide a basic funeral service, a
simple, lidded pine coffin, and transportation of the body to the cemetery of the family’s
choosing. If there was no family (or none known), burial was generally at the county farm
cemetery. In cases where the deceased was a resident of another county, that county was liable
for reimbursement of the funeral and burial costs, and arrangement that worked in reverse as well
(Larson 1935).
In 1966, the cemetery was enclosed with chain link fencing, and a monument erected, consisting of a large boulder with a brass plate outlining a brief history of the cemetery and a dedication to those buried there, and another bearing the inscription:

**IN LIFE FORSAKEN**

**IN DEATH FORGOTTEN**

**THESE UNKNOWN PIONEERS**

**BUILT OUR DESTINY**

The dedication plaque states that 200 burials were performed in the cemetery between 1873 and 1935. A 1966 newspaper article reporting the dedication indicates that the burial records were lost before that date, and as such the dates on the commemorative plaque cannot be taken as authoritative. 1873 is the generally accepted date of the acquisition of the property by Clark County (though the court records suggest that it may have been as early as 1871), and the closing date appears to be speculation. Harshman, et al. (2001:xii), in their exhaustive review of death certificates, newspaper obituaries, and funeral home records, have found that burials at the farm continued until as late as 1937.
INTENSIVE-LEVEL HISTORIC PROPERTIES DOCUMENTATION

Literature Review

Prior to fieldwork, a professional archaeologist from SWCA conducted an archival search at the DAHP to determine if known prehistoric or historic archaeological sites are present within or near the project area. In addition to this records search, copies of various historic maps, on file at SWCA, were examined to determine the potential for historic-period archaeological resources that might be present in the vicinity of the Clark County Farm Cemetery, which might represent anomalies other than human burials. None were identified.

Archaeological and Historic Site File Search

A review of available records on file with the DAHP reveals that a total of 89 cultural resource studies have been conducted within a 1-mile radius of the Clark County Poor Farm property, of which seven resulted in positive findings (including historic properties) (Table 1). One of these, conducted by Archaeological Consulting Services in 2009, was within the Clark County Poor Farm property, and included the archaeological survey of 7.7 acres along the south side of NE 78th Street, immediately to the east of the existing greenhouses and outbuildings associated with the Washington State University’s Experimental Station, which are themselves immediately to the east of the Clark County Poor Farm main building. No archaeological resources were observed (Freed 2009).

Previous Documentation of the Clark County Poor Farm and Cemetery

Previous studies of the Clark County Poor Farm buildings were undertaken as part of the Clark County Historic Resource and Inventory, completed in 1999, and reported in 2000 (Freed, et al. 2000). That inventory, which focused on the architectural merits of the buildings, suggested that the Clark County Poor Farm main building, hog barn, and residence (referred to in this report as the bunk house) may qualify for listing in the Clark County Historic Register, Washington Heritage Register, and/or the National Register of Historic Places, achieving a score of 98 out of a possible 100 under the scoring methods used.

An archaeological predetermination report (not included in the DAHP records available online) prepared in 2004 suggested that while the main building may qualify for listing in these registers, the hog barn and bunk house would not qualify, due to their having been moved from their original locations (Cooper 2004). Although the author states that the bunk house was originally located on 78th Street (within the Poor Farm property) and was subsequently moved to its present location “sometime in the latter half of the 20th century” (also stated with reference to the hog barn, though the original location of that building was not suggested), the source of that information is not given, and no evidence confirming this has been found during research for the current project. The hog barn appears in its current location on a 1955 aerial photograph, as well as another structure approximately matching the dimensions of the bunk house, immediately to the west of the machine barn, facing west. Although this cannot be definitively identified as the bunk house, it remains a strong possibility. The hog barn and bunk house have both been evaluated by SWCA in this report.
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Table 1. Previous Cultural Resource Inventories within 1 Mile of the Clark County Poor Farm Property.

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<td>to Construct Six Single Family Residences on 1.67 acres at 9401 NE 25th</td>
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<td>Archaeological Predetermination Report for a Cell Tower to be Constructed off NE 60th Street: Cell Tower NE Vancouver O54XC008</td>
<td>Norman, Leslie K.</td>
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<td>Archaeological Predetermination Report for Holt Homes to Develop 10 Acres into a Residential Development at the NE Corner of NE 94th Street and 39th Avenue, Parcel 097310-000</td>
<td>Mills, Bonnie J.</td>
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Table 1. Previous Cultural Resource Inventories within 1 Mile of the Clark County Poor Farm Property.

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<td>Mike Fortin to Develop a Subdivision, Grill Meadows II at 4200 NE 56th Street on 93 Acres</td>
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<td>1345578</td>
<td>1/4/2002</td>
<td>Archaeological Predetermination Report for 23 Separate Lots or Parcels Consisting of Approximately 43.18 Acres Owned by Numerous Individuals and Groups for a Commercial Development</td>
<td>Roulette, Bill R.</td>
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<td>1345590</td>
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<td>Archaeological Predetermination Report for Fraser Family LLC to Construct a Shari's Restaurant at 816 NE 98th Circle, Hazel Dell, Parcels 145820-000 and 145822-000</td>
<td>Baker, R. Todd</td>
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<td>1345634</td>
<td>12/7/2001</td>
<td>Archaeological Predetermination Survey Report for Carl Kramer to Subdivide Approximately 6 Acres Into 30 Single-family Lots at 9210 NE 45th Avenue, Parcel 97381-000</td>
<td>No Author (Archaeological Services of Clark County)</td>
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<td>1345639</td>
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<td>Archaeological Predetermination Survey Report to Construct a Subdivision on 26.95 Acres at NE 88th and NE 39th Avenue, Parcel 97350000</td>
<td>DeLyria, David</td>
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<td>Archaeological Predetermination Report for Del Taco, Donald Frazer to Build a Fast Food Drive Thru Restaurant at 8724 NE Hwy 99, Vancouver, Parcel 97972000</td>
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<td>Archaeological Predetermination Report for Karl Winter Construction to Construct a 12-unit Apartment Complex at 9000 NE 15th Avenue, Vancouver, Parcel 145000000</td>
<td>DeLyria, David</td>
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<td>Archaeological Predetermination Report for the First Church of God to Expand Existing Facilities to Include a Family Life Center, Educational Facility and Sanctuary at 3300 NE 78th Street, Vancouver</td>
<td>Gall, Alexander W.</td>
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<td>1345692</td>
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<td>Archaeological Predetermination Report for Erickson Enterprises, LLC to Construct a 78 Unit Apartment Building at 9603 NE Hazel Dell Avenue, Parcel 145806000</td>
<td>Gall, Alexander W.</td>
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<td>1345702</td>
<td>6/15/2002</td>
<td>Archaeological Predetermination Report for Ronald &amp; Alice Dallum to Subdivide 5.88 Acres Into 62 Attached Single-family Residential Lots at NE 82nd St, West of St. John's Blvd, Vancouver, Parcel 144506000</td>
<td>Gall, Alexander W.</td>
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<td>1345712</td>
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<td>Archaeological Predetermination Review for M B. Properties to Construct a 7,964 Sq Ft Retail Building for an Auto Parts Store at 2417 NE 78th Street, Vancouver, Parcel 144722000</td>
<td>DeLyria, David</td>
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<td>1346413</td>
<td>4/26/2005</td>
<td>Archaeological Predetermination Survey for Carl and Becky Kruse to Construct Two Buildings, a Parking Lot and Landscaping at the Intersection of Northeast 65th Street and Northeast 35th Avenue, Parcel 99777-000</td>
<td>Becker, Thomas E.</td>
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<td>Solimano, Paul S.</td>
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<td>Archaeological Predetermination Report at 3700 NE 82nd St, Vancouver, Parcel 097570-000</td>
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<td>Cultural Resource Survey Report for the Roy L. Collins Trust to Remove Existing Homes and Construct Townhouses on NE Hazel Dell Ave, Parcels 147967000, 148046000, 148089000, 148337000</td>
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<td>Section 106 Compliance Report for a Land Review Request (LURR 2005436) Along the Ross-Lexington No. 1 Right of Way</td>
<td>Hughes, Nicole Stute</td>
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<td>1346996</td>
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<td>Archaeological Predetermination Report for Randy Tangen to Build a Garage at the End of One Driveway at 2604 NE 59th Street, Vancouver, Parcel 099776-122</td>
<td>Solimano, Paul</td>
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<td>1347029</td>
<td>1/26/2005</td>
<td>Archaeological Predetermination Report for the Silverado Group to Subdivide Three Parcels into 29 New Single-family Home Sites at 3716 NE 60th, Vancouver</td>
<td>Gall, Alexander W.</td>
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<td>Archaeological Predetermination Report for Jerry Baker to Subdivide a Single-family Residence on Acreage Into an 8-lot Subdivision</td>
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<td>Archaeological Predetermination Report for Vancouver LLC to Short Plat 2.15 Acres Into 3 Lots at 8313 NE Highway 99, Vancouver, Parcels 145249-000, 145373-000 and 145374-000</td>
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<td>1347148</td>
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<td>Archaeological Predetermination Report for Asghar R. Sadri at NE 13th Avenue, Vancouver to Subdivide 22 Acres for Planned Residential Units, Parcels 145516-000, 145514-000, 145526-000, 145527-000, 145528-000, 145530-000, 145530-001, 145530-002</td>
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<td>Archaeological Predetermination Report for Stuart Lindquist to Construct 45 Housing Units and a New Street to Service them East of 2097 NE 68th Street, Vancouver</td>
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<td>Archaeological Predetermination Report for Land Owned by Helen Yinger and Bryan and Christy Lindsay to Divide 9.8 Acres into 56 Residential Lots at 2806 NE 68th Street, Parcels 99490000, 99500000, 99535000, Vancouver</td>
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<td>Archaeological Predetermination Report for Ted Freitas to Subdivide into 6-7 Lots at 4115 NE 60th Street, Parcel 157042-000, Vancouver</td>
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<td>Hudson, Andy</td>
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<td>Archaeological Predetermination Report: Construct the Padden Parkway Business Park in Three Phases Consisting of Nine, 1.5-story Office Buildings with Parking at the Southwest Corner of the St. Johns Road &amp; NE 78th, Vancouver</td>
<td>Freed, Robert A.</td>
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<td>Cultural Resources Survey of the Timbers at Towncenter Phase III Project Area, Vancouver, Parcels 14350-000, 143532-000, 143531-000, 143516-000</td>
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The fourth historic-period building on the property, the machine shed, was not considered to be historic by the author of that report (Cooper 2004). SWCA judges that the building does belong to the historic period, as evidenced by its design and style, both suggesting ca. 1930’s construction, and the presence of the structure in its current location on a 1955 aerial photograph. Consequently, SWCA has included an evaluation of the machine shed in this report.

In 2001, local historians compiled a booklet of information on the Clark County Poor Farm Cemetery, including reproductions of some historical newspaper articles, and compilation of a list of those buried in the cemetery, and biographical information available through searches of obituaries (Harshman et al. 2001). The booklet also included some brief historical information related to the Clark County Poor Farm itself.

**Intensive-level Historic Properties Inventory Methods**

On February 26, 2010, SWCA Historic Preservation Specialist Jason M. Allen conducted field documentation of the Clark County Poor Farm buildings belonging to the historic period, including the Main Building and two detached garages/storage buildings located along the south side of NE 78th Street, as well as the hog barn, bunk house, and machine shed, all located along a gravel road near the center of the parcel, approximately 350 meters (1,149 feet) south of NE 78th Street. The buildings were photographed, alterations noted, and a brief interview was conducted with Dave Foes, who has been employed at the property since 1967. Subsequent research was conducted at the Multnomah County Library in Portland, Oregon, and at the Clark County Museum and Vancouver Public Library, both in Vancouver, Washington.

**Intensive-level Historic Properties Inventory Results**

*Main Building, Detached Garage, and Milk House*

**MAIN BUILDING - EXTERIOR**

The Clark County Poor Farm main building is a large, concrete building in the Italian Renaissance style, built in 1926 (Figure 8). The building has three masses: a two-story, hipped-roofed central mass with one-story, forward-projecting, gabled wings on each side. The building has a rusticated daylight basement, topped by a beltcourse, above which the walls are stucco, and feature brick quoin at all outside corners. Centered on the front (north) elevation of both gabled wings is a large, Palladian-motif window with a central 10-over-10 wood sash window flanked by 2-over-2 wood sash windows, all capped by a heavy entablature. The central window is topped by a molded arch with a brick diamond in the center. The gables have heavy-molded cornices and cornice returns, while the elaborated cornice along the hipped roof of the main central mass features triglyphs and guttae across the principal (north) elevation. The cornice continues across the side and rear elevations of the main mass, but without the triglyphs and guttae. Windows (aside from the Palladian-motif windows) are generally 1-over-1 steel or vinyl windows, though some of the original 6-over-1 wood sash windows remain, as do both original diamond-pattern windows in the second floor, principal elevation of the central mass. All of the original 3-over-1 wood sash basement windows are intact, except the rear elevation, where windows were originally 6-over-1, two out of six of which have been replaced (one with aluminum slider windows and the other with a steel fixed window). Most first floor windows have been replaced with 1-over-1 steel or vinyl windows, though fenestration has not been
altered, and all retain their original brick sills. An exterior fire escape is attached to the second-
floor, east window on the principal elevation of the central mass.

Figure 8. Clark County Poor Farm Main Building, view across the north
elevation (left) and west elevation (right). The view is to the southeast.

Figure 9. North elevation, Main Building, central mass. The view is to the
south-southeast.

*Note the stucco scarring where the original entrance was removed.*
The west elevation of the western wing has a doorway on the first floor. This door is no longer in use, and though the door itself is intact, on the inside, the short staircase that led down to it has been covered over with flooring. Exterior steps from the door have also been removed. On the rear elevation, the east wing is oblong, though based on decoration it is consistent with the rest of the building, and photographs of the elevation dating to the 1940s, appears to be part of the original design (Figures 6 and 10). On the rear (south) of the central mass is a large, rectangular porch with a very low-pitched hipped roof supported by box posts, tripled at the corners. The porch itself is supported by heavy concrete piers, and the porch continues the cornice molding carried by the rest of the building. Aside from concrete infill between the concrete piers and lattice in the rails, the porch appears intact. Flanking the porch on both sides are modern, paired steel basement entry doors. On the south end of the east elevation of the east wing, a smaller, matching porch provides access to the original kitchen area.

Figure 10. View of the Clark County Poor Farm Main Building, south (rear) elevation. The view is to the north-northeast.

MAIN BUILDING - INTERIOR
The Clark County Poor Farm main building has a complete daylight basement and first floor, and a partial second floor, encompassing only the central mass. The daylight basement was originally open space, but was subsequently subdivided into small, private sleeping quarters for inmates in the mid-1930s. At that time, showers were also installed in the basement. Also installed in 1936 was a large, restaurant-size walk-in refrigerator, which remains in the basement today. The character and condition of the basement is essentially as it was after the 1936 alterations, with the exception of a rear staircase that allowed direct access from the kitchen area to the basement. This stairway was removed in 1980, and the staircase (which was located behind a door in the kitchen) converted into a kitchen storage closet. The main stairway to the basement, located in the central entrance hall, is intact. Throughout the building, the original steam radiators are all intact.
The first floor was altered during the Washington State University ownership, most notably by the removal of the recessed entry at the center of the central mass. The northern part of the central entry hall has been enclosed for use as a reception office (Figure 11). To the south of this, the main stair to the second floor apartment is intact, as are the French doors leading to the east wing, and the arched doorways that lead to the west wing and the east dining room (Figures 12, 13, and 14). In the east wing, south side, the living room area retains the original brick fireplace and carved wood mantelpiece, as well as the French doors from the center hall (Figure 15). The kitchen, located in the southeast corner of the building, retains some of the original built-in cabinets, though some of the food preparation areas have been modified. The original flue for the range is intact, though the range itself is not. In the dining room, original window trim at the Palladian-motif window is intact, as is most of the interior window, door, and wall trim.

Figure 11. Interior view of central entry hall.

The reception office is located where the main entrance once was. This view is looking north, and the window in the rear is where the main doors were.
Figure 12. Interior view of central entry hall, reverse view from Figure 11, facing south.

The stairs to the right ascend to the upstairs apartment.

Figure 13. Interior view down the western corridor, main building.
Figure 14. Interior view down eastern corridor, main building.

Figure 15. Interior view, south recreation room, view to the southeast.
The second floor apartment is quite intact, retaining original window, wall, and door trim, all original doors, and all but one original window. The kitchen retains the original cabinetry, and the bathroom retains the original sink and fixtures. The stairway and hall are intact.

**DETACHED GARAGE**

To the east of the main building is a four-bay garage building (built 1926) with a hipped roof and stylistic details to match the main building, including stucco finish, brick quoins and molded cornice (Figures 16 and 17). The garage retains excellent integrity, including all original 3-over-1 wood sash windows, and what appear to be original wood bay doors on the north elevation, the center two of which are upward operating, and the outer two of which are sliding doors.

*Figure 16. Detached garage, built 1926. North elevation, view to the southeast.*
Figure 17. Detached garage, built 1926. South (left) and east (right) elevations, view to the northwest.

MILK HOUSE
To the northeast of the garage, east of the main building, is the ca. 1936 milk house, now used for fertilizer storage (Figures 18 and 19). Although built later than the main building and garage, this building is designed with similar stylistic attributes, including a hipped roof, molded cornice (slightly different in profile from the garage), and brick quoins, though the brick used here is raked, while that on the 1926 buildings is smooth-faced. The windows on this building appear to be the original 1-over-1 wood sash windows. The paired wood vehicle doors on the west elevation of the milk house appear original, as does the entry door on the east elevation.
Immediately to the east of the milk house is the concrete foundation and loading ramps of the large gambrel-roofed barn, evident in the ca. 1944 photographs. It was demolished some time after 1955, since it appears in aerial photographs taken that year. According to Dave Foes,
employee at the farm since 1967, the barn was demolished before he started working there (Dave Foes, personal communication, February 26, 2010). This foundation is partially built upon, holding a ca. 1965 storage shed (Figure 20).

![Figure 20. View of agricultural storage buildings and greenhouses to the east of the main building, built by WSU between 1960 and 1995. The view is to the east-northeast.](image)

**Bunk House, Hog Barn, and Machine Shed**

These three buildings are located approximately 400 meters (1,300 feet) southeast of the main building, along a gravel access road that continues to the south fields and the cemetery.

**BUNK HOUSE**

The bunk house, located immediately to the east of the machine shed, is a ca. 1925, front-gabled building with two front entry doors, both once covered with a gabled entry hood supported by kneebraces (Figure 21). It is approximately 22-feet by 22-feet, and is oriented north, with the doors on that elevation. The entry hood over the west door (leading to the kitchen area) is no longer present. The building is clad with v-matched shiplap siding and the roof is clad with asphalt shingle. Windows are 1-over-1 wood frame windows, and all are intact, though covered over with sheets of corrugated fiberglass. The interior is divided into two rooms, with the kitchen occupying the northwest corner of the building, and then the rest of the building, which is open. The interior walls are clad with beaded tongue-in-groove, and the kitchen appears to retain its original cabinetry. The building is set on concrete blocks and structural tile – an informal approach to keeping it away from ground moisture. Overall, the bunk house is in poor condition, with significant leaking in the roof causing decay in the ceiling, which is beginning to show signs of failure. The building is currently used for storage.
HOG BARN
The ca. 1920 hog barn is located to the east of the bunk house, and is approximately 80-feet long and 25-feet wide (Figure 22). It is oriented east-west, and is set upon wood posts. It is clad with coved shiplap (or, “drop”) siding with cornerboards, and has 4-by-4 wood slider windows on all four elevations. Exposed rafter tails extend from beneath the eaves. The roof is clad with corrugated steel, which replaced the original wood shingle roof in 1990 (Dave Foes, personal communication with Jason M. Allen, February 26, 2010). The barn has sliding wood vehicle doors at both ends. The building is now used for storage.
MACHINE SHED
The machine shed, built ca. 1930 is the only building of the three that appears to be in its original location (Figure 23). It is a three-bay, side-gabled machine shed with v-matched shiplap siding, cornerboards, and exposed rafter tails. The building has a dirt floor, and rests on a concrete stem-wall foundation. It has 4-light wood windows on the south (rear), east and west (side) elevations, including a four-light window in both of the gable peaks. The roof is clad with corrugated steel.
The hog barn and machine shed both appear in their present positions on a 1955 aerial photograph (Figure 24). In addition to these, there are two smaller structures on the south side of the gravel road, but neither of these matches the dimensions of the bunk house. There is a small structure to the north of the gravel road, on the inside corner of the turn where the road changes from north-south to east-west that appears to match the dimensions of the bunk house, but it is not known if this is the same building. In addition, there is a shadow of approximately the same dimensions on the south side of 78th Street, just to the west of the main building, but writing on the aerial photograph obscures this, and it is not clear whether this is the bunk house, another structure, or even a mature tree. A 2004 archaeological predetermination report states that the bunk house was originally located along 78th Street, near the main building, but the statement is unattributed, and cannot be confirmed. It is known that the bunk house has been in its present location since at least 1967 (Dave Foes, personal communication, Feb. 26, 2010).
NRHP-Eligibility Evaluation

MAIN BUILDING
By far, the most significant alteration to the Clark County Poor Farm main building is the removal of the central front entrance. A sidewalk, visible in the 1955 aerial photograph, leads from the parking area east of the main building to the center of the front elevation, suggesting that at that time the front entrance was still being used. It is unclear when this entrance was removed. The original entrance was recessed into the façade, surrounded by an entablature and capped by a molded arch with a large medallion in the center. The doors themselves were paired, and the doorway was flanked by half-round columns and was accessed by concrete or brick stairs. This entrance was removed and stucco applied, with a multi-light fixed window inserted into its place. Behind this window is the main reception office, inserted into the original entry hall. Despite this alteration, and the comparatively minor integrity-diminishing replacement of many of the original 1-over-1 wood sash windows with 1-over-1 modern steel windows, the building retains good overall integrity.

The main building and its dependent structures (garage and milk house) at the Clark County Poor Farm, built in 1926, is recommended to be eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C. Although the building has been altered, and suffers from somewhat reduced integrity as a
result of the removal of the main entrance, and to a lesser degree through the replacement of many windows with modern steel windows, the building retains sufficient integrity to convey its original design, and is clearly identifiable as a historic building dating to the 1920s. The loss of the main entrance is severe and regrettable, however, the rest of the building, including interior features, has been largely retained in historical condition, and it is felt that the critical associations overcome the impact of the entrance removal on the building with regards to eligibility.

The main building and its dependent, matching outbuildings are recommended to be eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A, through their association with the late-nineteenth and early twentieth century poor farm relief programs maintained and operated by counties across the United States during that time. This was a system that was reorganized during the 1930s, before being largely done away with as a result of redundancy following the passage and implementation of social security legislation by the Roosevelt administration in the mid- to late-1930s. Clark County operated a poor farm at this location from as early as 1873 through 1944. The building is representative of the commitment to poor relief that was shouldered by counties prior to the assumption of those responsibilities by the federal government.

In addition, the buildings are recommended to be eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C as highly representative of the Italian Renaissance style of architecture, a distinctive, and relatively rare style in Clark County, and especially in this area of the county, which historically, has been dominated by rural farming uses. This building, as a relatively high-style expression of a building style rarely seen in Clark County, has served as a visible landmark in the area for over 80 years. In addition to this, the building is recommended to be eligible under Criterion C as a representative work by the architectural firm of DeYoung and Roald, an important architectural design firm in the Portland area during the 1920s. This building was designed at the height of the firm’s activities, and is contemporary with other Portland-area buildings which they designed, and which are now listed in the NRHP. While the milk house was not designed by that firm, but was added to the farm in the 1930s, it belongs to the period of significance, and closely follows the design of the original buildings and should be included under Criterion A.

BUNK HOUSE
The bunk house appears to have been built ca. 1920, and may be contemporary with the main building or predate it. It has been in its current position since it was moved there some time between 1955 and 1967. Its original position has been reported as being next to the main building, along the south side of NE 78th Street, but this cannot be confirmed. SWCA recommends that this building is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C as a representative example of farm-related domestic buildings of the early 20th century, and under Criterion A through its association with the agricultural functioning of the Clark County Poor Farm, to which it contributes historical significance and integrity. The building itself retains good integrity, despite having been moved to its current position. Because it is believed that the building was moved from its original position somewhere else on the property, SWCA recommends that the building retains sufficient integrity of location and setting to remain eligible for listing in the NRHP.

HOG BARN
The hog barn appears to have been built ca. 1920, and may be contemporary with the main building or predate it. It has been in its current position since at least 1955. It has been reported
that this structure was moved to its current location, however, this has not been confirmed, and the impression may simply be a result of the structure currently standing on clearly newer posts, possibly a relatively recent stabilization effort. It is known that the Clark County Poor Farm activities included raising pigs, suggesting that this structure may be original to the farm. SWCA recommends that this building is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C as a representative example of farm-related livestock barn of the early 20th century, and under Criterion A through its association with the agricultural functioning of the Clark County Poor Farm, to which it contributes historical significance and integrity.

MACHINE SHED
The machine shed appears to have been built ca. 1930, and may be contemporary with the main building. The machine shed does not appear to have been moved from its original location, nor does it appear to have been much altered from its original appearance. SWCA recommends that the machine shed is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C as a representative example of farm-related machine shed of the early 20th century, and under Criterion A through its association with the agricultural functioning of the Clark County Poor Farm, to which it contributes historical significance and integrity.

Intensive Level Survey Conclusions and Recommendations

SWCA recommends that the Clark County Poor Farm main building, detached garage, milk house, bunk house, hog barn, and machine shed are all eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. These buildings would also, therefore, be eligible for listing in the Washington Heritage Register and Clark County Heritage Register. As Clark County considers options on how to best utilize these buildings, SWCA strongly recommends that Clark County consider the historic significance of these structures as part of ongoing planning and program development. SWCA further recommends that Clark County consider restoration of the main entrance as part of any adaptive reuse program intended for the main building, if at all practicable. SWCA recommends that the bunk house, hog barn, and machine shed be incorporated into the planning for the parcel, and that their retention be made a part of any new program implementation. Until that time, SWCA recommends stabilization of these structures against water infiltration to prevent further degradation of their condition.

REMOTE SENSING

In 2004, GeoPotential, Inc. conducted a remote sensing survey of the Clark County Poor Farm Cemetery, using ground-penetrating radar (GPR). That survey identified high concentrations of graves near the top of the hill around the existing cemetery monument, as well as along the western boundary of the cemetery. In addition to the high-concentration areas, the survey identified additional burials to the south and east of the high-concentration areas (Tzetos 2004).

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) was contracted by Clark County, Washington, to conduct remote sensing geophysical surveys at the Clark County Poor Farm Cemetery for the purpose of detection and potential delineation of the location and extent of historical burials. Three geophysical methods, ground penetrating radar (GPR), magnetic gradiometry (MG), and electromagnetic induction (EMI) were utilized in this investigation to examine the near-surface environment for presence/absence of burial remains or other cultural resources associated with
internments. SWCA geophysicist, Dr. Blake Weissling, with the assistance of archeologist Selena Roloson, conducted the surveys and field work the week of May 17 – 21, 2010. Data post-processing, interpretation and analysis were conducted at SWCA’s San Antonio, Texas office.

**Background of Geophysical Methods**

Ground penetrating radar (GPR) was selected as the primary technique for near-surface imaging of the cultural resources in the Clark County Poor Farm Cemetery. GPR is one of the most commonly deployed remote sensing or geophysical methods in archeological investigations. It is capable of detection and delineation of near-surface targets with a high degree of confidence. GPR is based on the transmission and reflection of an electromagnetic wave in the 50 MHz to 1 GHz frequency range (the frequency range of microwave radar). When a microwave pulse emitted by a transmitting antenna reaches a subsurface layer or boundary represented by a contrast in the velocity of the radar wave (such as the soil/metal interface of a casket), a portion of the microwave energy may be scattered and/or reflected. It is the reflected energy that is collected and recorded by the receiving antenna. The collection of continuous microwave pulses from a moving antenna generates continuous profile data of the subsurface, significantly aiding the interpretation of subsurface geology as well as subsurface cultural resources. Given optimal site conditions (dry, non-conductive soils), GPR is most suited to the detection and delineation of internments, as the combination of the burial casket (coffin), the human remains themselves, and the disturbed soil are highly likely to generate radar reflections.

The second technique selected for assessment of cultural resources at the cemetery was magnetic gradiometry (MG). Modern magnetometers can measure the most subtle change or perturbation in the earth’s ambient magnetic field due to the influence of near surface magnetized objects. Modern magnetometers can detect weak magnetic fields arising from some archeological resources to less than one part in a half million of the strength of the earth’s field. A magnetometer in gradiometer mode employs two separate but identical magnetometers, mounted and aligned on a carrying apparatus (see photo below) at a fixed distance apart (usually 0.5 – 1 m). As the magnetic field strength of a magnetized object falls off as the cube of the distance, magnetization changes in the near surface environment will influence the bottom sensor more than the top sensor. Differencing the two measurements is the basis of the gradiometer. A significant advantage of the gradiometer is the cancellation of any magnetic noise that is likely to affect both sensors equally such as natural fluctuations in the earth’s magnetic field. Subsurface cultural resource conditions in a cemetery that are most likely to be sensed by the magnetometer would be the presence of ferrous and some non-ferrous metal objects, and quite possibly the burial excavations themselves, depending on the soil mineralogy and remnant soil magnetization.

The final geophysical technique selected was electromagnetic induction (EMI). EMI utilizes low frequency radio waves to induce electrical currents in near-surface electrically conductive objects or materials. These weak electrical currents (called eddy currents) induce a secondary magnetic field that is sensed and recorded by the EMI instrument. Conductors may be metallic objects (both ferrous and non-ferrous), soil minerals (eg. clays), and soil water or other fluids. EMI results, not unlike MG results, are generally displayed as map-view information. Depending on the transmitting frequency and coil spacing (instrument length), the maximum depth of investigation is typically 5 – 6 m. Subsurface cultural resources in a cemetery that are most likely
to be sensed and mapped by an EMI instrument are any metal objects, burial remains themselves depending on age and degree of decomposition, and possibly burial excavations if fill material was different than the surrounding soil.

**Instrumentation**

The primary instrumentation utilized for the cemetery survey was a GSSI Inc. (http://www.geophysical.com) SIR-3000 ground penetrating radar (GPR) system with a 400 MHz antenna. The SIR-3000 system, during data acquisition, is most commonly towed across the ground surface, or when site conditions are appropriate, mounted and pushed in a wheeled cart. Spatial location of the instrument along the survey lines can be monitored and recorded by either Global Positioning System (GPS) technology or by a calibrated survey wheel attached to the housing of the antenna. The second geophysical instrumentation deployed on this survey was a Geometrics, Inc. (http://www.geometrics.com) G858 cesium vapor magnetometer (MG), operating in dual sensor, gradiometry mode. This instrument has a nominal depth sensitivity of approximately 1.5 meters depending on site conditions and target composition. The third geophysical instrumentation deployed was a Geonics, Inc. (http://www.geonics.com) EM-38 Electromagnetic Induction (EMI) meter. The hand-portable EM-38 is sensitive to inductive anomalies to depths of 1-2 meters.

In addition to the field instrumentation, the production of subsurface profiles, depth slices, and plan-view maps requires post-processing of raw field data using geophysical analysis software. All GPR field data were post-processed utilizing RADAN for Windows, developed by GSSI, Inc. Three processing techniques were applied to all GPR profiles: removal of horizontal banding (spatial filtering), application of an automatic gain control (AGC) filter, and a zero line datum adjustment. The first technique, horizontal band removal, filters out antenna “ringing” (a common problem with GPR antennas) that may overwhelm or hide underlying geologic structure. The second technique, AGC, accounts for the loss of energy, and thus reflection strength, with depth. The last technique eliminates time delay in the antenna system and sets the first radar return (from the air-ground interface) to time zero. Initial processing of both the EMI and MG datasets was accomplished with MagMap2000, developed by Geometrics, Inc. This software decodes the raw instrument datasets according to pre-set survey designs, and outputs the data in formats for subsequent analysis in geographic information systems (GIS) or other graphics and visualization packages such as Surfer.

**Survey Design**

The perimeter of the survey project site encompassed an area of approximately 330 feet (100 m) (north-south) by 165 feet (50 m) (east-west). The rectangular shape and the relative absence of large obstructions facilitated a survey design based on a grid of north-south transect lines running generally parallel to the western property line (Figure 25). Transects were spaced at approximately 3.3 foot (1 m) intervals on the west side of the dividing chain-link fence, and at 4.9 foot (1.5 m) intervals on the east side. The east side spacing was chosen to match the row spacing of the agricultural rows/trellises present. The initial survey site corner points were located at least 5 m outside of the mapped plat of the cemetery, where space allowed.
Figure 25. Survey area map showing location of GPR survey lines (in white).

 Individual grids are marked.
The accuracy of transect placement was assured with metric survey tapes affixed and stretched between survey stakes at the corner points. Three 82 x 62–foot (25 x 19 m) and one 115 x 62–foot (35 x 19 m) survey blocks (grids 1–4) were established on the west side. One 330 x 100–foot (100 x 30 m) survey block (grid 5) was established on the east side. All survey block corner points were staked and subsequently geolocated with sub-meter GPS with a UTM WGS 84 coordinate and datum system.

Remote Sensing Results

Survey site environmental conditions (electromagnetic noise and weather) did not allow for the full use of all 3 geophysical instruments. The presence of the chain link fence, the metal wires of the east side trellises, and the residential properties immediately adjacent to the west side property line precluded the use of the magnetometer and hampered the use of the conductivity meter due to excessive electromagnetic noise and interference. In addition, periods of rain on the second day shorted out the conductivity meter during its use on the west side. The only environmental conditions that were regarded as impediments to the collection of the GPR data were the fence line, a few trees, and areas of high grass (predominately on the east side). Fortunately for the latter issue, the grass and overgrown brush were mowed during the field session on the east side within the agricultural field. This greatly facilitated the collection of GPR data between the trellises. In summary, GPR data was collected in all 5 grids. A small amount of EMI data was collected in grid 4 only. No MG data was collected.

In general, the quality of the GPR data on the west side was considered to be good to excellent, with generally low noise levels. The primary source of noise expected from this site was generated from inconsistent ground contact of the antenna due to the un-mown grass. Although the grass had been cut on the east side just prior to the survey, the ground surface was considerably rougher due to the agricultural activity (ruts from tractors, etc.). Noise levels on the east were correspondingly higher.

Geophysical survey results

The GPR survey consisted of 110 individual radar profiles comprising approximately 4,200 linear meters of data. In addition to the standard display profile (cross-section view) of the subsurface, the grid format of the survey blocks enabled the processing of the data as a 3-D data cube. This cube can then be viewed in plan-view as time or depth slices of the subsurface. Eight depth slices of each survey grid were produced with the first slice at ~0.75 foot, and the last at ~6 feet, a depth consistent with standard burial excavations. The interval between slices is ~0.75 foot. The data in each plan-view slice represents the radar reflection amplitude at that depth level. It should be noted here that depth information on both GPR profiles and data cubes is based on an estimate of the radar propagation velocity for the subsurface soils at the project site. Any error in anomaly depths is likely to be systematic across the whole project area, and is also likely to be conservative (potentially deeper than noted). It must also be noted that while the depth slice depicts the amplitude of radar anomalies, it gives no information on the shape or morphology of the anomaly. That information can only be obtained from analysis of the radar profiles. The combination of analyzing both views (profile and depth slice) afforded the best opportunity to interpret the results.

What is immediately apparent from the interpretation of the radar profiles is that numerous anomalous features were being detected in the depth range of ~1.5–5 feet (0.5 to 1.5 m), with
spacings ranging from ~5–9 feet (1.5-2.7 m). The feature spacings would be consistent with the burial spacings described on the 1913 cemetery plat map (Figure 7), that of ~7 feet, plot-to-plot in the north-south direction (Figure 26). The feature depths, considering that the radar reflection would be predominately from the top of the burial remains, are also consistent with common burial practices of a 6-foot excavation. The shapes of these anomalies, in profile view, are generally seen as mounded structures (the remains of the coffin and/or body), although some appear as depressions (soil settling from coffin collapse?). Line 127 of grid 3 (west side) shows clearly a series of anomalies, both mounds and collapses, at depths ranging from 2–4 feet (Figure 26, top panel). This may seem fairly shallow but the assumption is that 6-foot holes were dug. Another possibility for the observed depths is that some soil loss may have occurred in the area—a likelihood considering the hill slope nature of the cemetery and the known agricultural activities that have taken place on the cemetery.

The cemetery plat map describes the spacing between adjacent plots as 3 feet (north-south) and between plot rows as 6 feet. Line 129 was located 2 m east of 127, and should fall within this 6-foot gap between burials (Figure 26, bottom panel). Compared to line 127, this line does not show the characteristic mounds or collapse features that we interpreted as associated with the burials.

In addition to these mound-like anomalies, there were a significant number of near-surface (< 1-foot depth) anomalies that show up on the radar profiles with a characteristic hyperbola shape (Figure 27). These are referred to as diffraction anomalies, and are characteristic of radar reflections from small, highly reflective targets. A metallic object, like a buried can, or a pipe (if the radar line crossed at right angles to the pipe) may give rise to these anomalies. Given recent information that many of the grave sites were originally marked with metal information plaques, it is entirely possible that these radar anomalies may represent those plaques buried just below the ground surface.

The subsequent mapping of all mound or collapse anomalies evident on all GPR profiles can be seen in Figure 28, overlain on the 2009 aerial photo image of the project site. Each marked anomaly shown should not be directly related to an individual burial, since a single burial could have been detected 2-3 times by adjacent GPR transects. The abrupt cessation of anomalies along the western edge of the project area coincides with the edge of the radar survey. This may or may not indicate the western extent of the anomalies (eg. burials) although the close proximity of the property line does suggest that this is the western extent or the last row of burials.

The top 6 depth slices from the 3-D processing of the GPR data (from 0.75–4.50 feet) are shown in Figures 29 and 30. Depth slices 5 (at 5.25 feet) and 6 (at 6.00 feet) are not shown as they are redundant with slice 4. The color scales for the slices are based on relative amplitude of anomalies versus the background amplitude. Depth slice 1 reveals a very interesting linear anomaly that transects the project area from north to south, while running parallel to the existing fence. This anomaly in profile view can be seen in Figure 31 as the high amplitude radar reflector at position 12-14 on profile line 90. As can be seen, this anomaly is just under the surface and most likely originates from compacted soils. Our interpretation of this anomaly is that it represents a historical road surface. A portion of this anomaly, seen in Figure 29 (depth slice 1) just above the bend in the fence line, clearly shows two parallel tracks of the road surface. We found the distance between these tracks to be 5–6 feet, which would be entirely consistent with the wheelbase of most cars and trucks. Figure 32 shows depth slice 1 with a
semi-transparent overlay of a 1955 aerial photo. Our road anomaly coincides perfectly with the roadway seen in the photo, with the exception of the northern end. Where the 1955 road turns eastward above the agricultural field the road anomaly continues on to the north. This suggests that the anomaly pre-dates the 1950’s, and is quite likely the access road into the historical cemetery.

Depth slices 2 and 3 begin to show the presence of higher amplitude point anomalies. The amplitude and quantity of these anomalies increases with each successive depth slice. Many of these anomalies (especially at depth levels 3-4) are likely associated with burials. However, from amplitude alone, we cannot distinguish between burial features and sub-surface features associated with tree roots, bioturbation, cultural trash from agricultural activities, etc. At slice 2 and 3 there are far more of these anomalies on the east side of the project area than on the west side, likely a result of the decades of agricultural activities (the 1955 image shows a tree farm or orchard on the east side) that have taken place on the east.
Note the apparent collapse features associated with the underlying mounds.

Figure 26. Radar profile line 127 (top) of grid 3 showing anomalies consistent in both depth and spacing with burials. White rectangle depicts approximate dimensions of burial excavation, with width (4 feet) matching width of collapse feature. Line 129 (bottom) shows a relative absence of mound or collapse type anomalies.
Figure 27. Beginning portion of radar profile line 152 of grid 4 showing two strong diffraction anomalies (within white ovals) that are likely associated with near-surface metallic objects. 

*Black circles show mound anomalies that are consistent with burials.*
Figure 28. Survey area map showing location of radar anomalies interpreted as burials. Note: Figure 33 (below) indicates these results relative to the extent of the GPR survey.
Figure 29. GPR plan-view depth slices 1, 2 and 3.

Legend

- Fenceline
- Property boundaries
Figure 30. GPR plan-view depth slices 4, 5 and 6.
Figure 31. GPR line 90 (grid 1) showing high amplitude, near-surface radar anomaly interpreted as compact earth from a roadway.

Inset shows location of radar line crossing anomaly.
Legend

- Fenceline
- Property boundaries

**Figure 32.** Survey area map showing depth slice 1, roadway anomaly, and 1955 aerial photo as an overlay.
Remote Sensing Conclusions and Recommendations

The combination of the locations of the anomalies that we interpret as burial features and the position of the road anomaly has allowed us to geo-locate the 1913 plat map of the cemetery with respect to these anomalies as well as to the property line (Figure 33). By aligning the western edge of the plat map (as the designated property line of the cemetery) with the current platted property line, we achieved a remarkable match of the road radar anomaly with the north-south interior road as mapped in 1913. Then, by making the assumption that the bend in the road toward the south represented the exit point of the cemetery, we were able to finalize the position of the cemetery in the north-south direction. An examination of the spatial pattern and positions of the burial anomalies on both the east and west sides shows a reasonable and consistent match with the platted burial plots. The gaps between burial plot rows, especially in the middle of the west side, align very well with gaps in burial anomaly locations. However, there are some inconsistencies in the platted plots and the radar anomalies, especially on the north end of the cemetery (both east and west sides). Some of these anomalies may be attributed to tree roots and bioturbation, as the west side hilltop has a number of significant sized trees. It is conjectured that the apparent randomness in anomaly location on the hilltop might also reflect an earlier phase of burials (pre-1913), before the cemetery was platted and formalized as part of the Clark County Poor Farm.

The success of the utilization of ground penetrating radar for detection and delineation of burial locations and extent at the Clark county Poor Farm Cemetery has been clearly demonstrated by this geophysical survey effort. It can be reasonably asserted that the boundaries of the platted cemetery have been located to within a few feet. As such, it is highly probable that the roadway anomaly located immediately west and adjacent to the existing interior fence represents the historical interior roadway of the cemetery. As that historical roadway most likely did not impinge on existing burials, it may serve in the present context as the most favorable route for visitor ingress and egress to the site.
Figure 33. Final location map of Poor Farm Cemetery 1913 plat with GPR burial anomalies and cemetery access road anomaly.
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The investigations completed by SWCA for this project have been undertaken at the request of Clark County with the goal of creating a clearer understanding of the historical significance and physical manifestations of the County Poor Farm and its associated cemetery. The evaluation of the Poor Farm buildings remaining on the site (Main Building, Detached Garage, Milk House, Machine Shed, Bunk House, and Pig Barn) has found that the buildings represent a tangible connection to a significant part of the history of Clark County, and that they retain sufficient integrity to convey that association successfully. SWCA recommends that all of the above-evaluated buildings are eligible for listing in the NRHP, and that proper consideration be given to the possible impacts of future projects on them, both directly (physical impacts) and indirectly (significant changes to the setting).

Geophysical investigations at the Clark County Poor Farm Cemetery have determined that the present chain link fence thought to surround the cemetery does not reflect the true boundaries of the cemetery in terms of the platted cemetery boundary, nor the locations of interments. Rather, the fence line appears to encompass only the western half of the cemetery, while the eastern half has been subject to agricultural practices for more than 50 years. SWCA has found that interments in the cemetery conform to the plat diagram for the cemetery, and that the plat generally represents an accurate view of burial locations. SWCA recommends that the fence around the cemetery be moved to represent the proper boundaries of the cemetery in order to properly protect the integrity of the burials. In addition, SWCA recommends that the now-determined extent of burials be used in future project planning in order to avoid disturbance of burials.
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**Historic Property Inventory Report for**

**Clark County Poor Farm Building** at **1919 NE 78th St, Vancouver, WA 98665**

**LOCATION SECTION**

- **Field Site No.:** 16314-1
- **OAHP No.:**

**Historic Name:** Clark County Poor Farm Building

**Property Address:** 1919 NE 78th St, Vancouver, WA 98665

- **County:** Clark
- **Township/Range/EW Section:** T02R01E 11 NW NE
- **Quadrangle:** VANCOUVER
- **Coordinate Reference:**
  - **Zone:** 10
  - **Spatial Type:** Point
  - **Sequence:** 1
  - **Easting:** 527133
  - **Northing:** 5058366

- **Tax No./Parcel No.:** 148084000
- **Plat/Block/Lot #:** #185 W R Anderson DLC
- **Supplemental Map(s):**

**Identification Section**

- **Survey Name:** Clark County Poor Farm Documentation Project
- **Field Recorder:** Jason M. Allen
- **Date Recorded:** 2/26/2010

**Owner's Name:** Clark County

**Owner Address:**

1300 Franklin St., STE 650

City/State/Zip:

Vancouver, Washington 98660

**Classification:** Building

**Resource Status:** Survey/Inventory

**Comments:**

**Within a District?** No

**Contributing?**

**National Register Nomination:**

**Local District:**

**National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:**

**DESCRIPTION SECTION**

**Historic Use:** Domestic - Institutional Housing

**Current Use:** Government - Government Office

**Plan:** H-Shape

**No. of Stories:** 2

**Structural System:** Post and Beam

**Changes to plan:** Intact

**Changes to interior:** Moderate

**Changes to original cladding:** Intact

**Changes to other:** Extensive

**Style:** Beaux Arts - Italian Renaissance Revival

**Form/Type:** Multi-Family

**View of** Clark County Poor Farm Main Building, view to the southeast taken 2/26/2010

**Photography Neg. No (Roll No./Frame No.):**

**Comments:** north (left) and west (right) elevations
In January 1926, Clark County entered into a contract with the firm of DeYoung and Roald to design a new Poor Farm facility to replace the one that had burned in 1922. DeYoung and Roald was an active firm in the Portland vicinity between 1920 and 1930. A partnership between architects James W. DeYoung (active from 1909 to 1959) and Knud A Roald (active from 1910 to ca. 1960), that firm was responsible for the designs of the New Heathman Hotel, the Rex Arms Apartments, and (with Rapp & Rapp) the Paramount Theater, the Portland Theater (now part of the Performing Arts Center) among many other buildings in and around Portland (Ritz 2002:101, 335). The New Heathman Hotel, at 712 SW Salmon Street in Portland, was built in 1927, and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. The Paramount Theater, at 1037 SW Broadway, was built in 1927 and listed in the NRHP in 1976 (Oregon Historic Sites Database 2010).

In March 1926, construction began on the new Poor Farm Building on 78th Street (then called Poor Farm Road). By March 11, the excavation had been completed, and forms for the concrete were in place (Columbian 1926a). Construction was performed by Anderson Construction Company of Portland, under a contract for about $21,000. Progress moved quickly, and the building was completed and ready for inspection by County officials on June 15, and residents of the poor house on Fourth Plain Road were moved into the new building on June 21.

In 1936, several improvements were made to the poor farm property, including the construction of a separate milk house to the east of the main building, northeast of the 1926 garage (Figure X). This building was built to separate the milk-handling from the laundry, where it had been located to that point. The building was also used for vegetable storage. The same year, the basement of the main building was subdivided into very small individual rooms in which residents slept. Prior to this the basement was a large, open area full of cots in which the men slept. Also in 1936, showers were installed for the first time (Harshman, et al. 2001:viii-ix).

In 1938, the management of the poor farm was reorganized, and the operation of the farm was moved from the former Clark County Indigent Department to the newly formed Clark County Welfare Department, under the supervision of the County Institutional Manager, who oversaw operation of the poor farm, county hospital, and county clinic (Clark County Welfare Department 1938). A report from that year covering the period from January 1 to May 1 indicates that the farm then had 12 cows, 21 pigs, 100 chickens, 350 chicks, and two horses. A similar report from the following year indicates that in 1939 the farm cared for 30 residents, had 4 full-time employees and one part-time employee, and operated at a cost of 70 cents per inmate (Clark County Welfare Department 1938; Clark County Welfare Department 1939).

In 1943, negotiations began with Clark County, the Governor’s office, and Washington State College (now Washington State University) to convert a portion of the county farm from a poor farm to an experimental farm under the direction of the Washington State College. In September of that year, Washington State College agreed to a lease on 28-acres for that purpose. The transfer took place in 1944, and the poor farm building was remodeled to serve as a nursing home, which appears to have only functioned as such for a very short time. In 1949, Washington State College was deed the property, and moved into the building and assumed control of all but 21 acres of the original 100-acre tract, which were retained by Clark County. The deed specifically stated that in the event that Washington State College vacated ownership of the property, it would automatically revert to the County. The retained 21 acres included one acre reserved for the cemetery (formally surveyed in 1913) along the western property line, toward the southern end of the...
Clark County Poor Farm Building

Historic Property Inventory Report for

Clark County Poor Farm Building at 1919 NE 78th St, Vancouver, WA 98665

property, and a twenty-acre portion in the southeastern corner of the property, which was reserved for a county park (now called Hazel Dell Park) (Clark County 2008; Landerholm 1960:324; Columbian 1943).

From 1949 until 2008 the property was owned by Washington State University, and operated as an experimental agricultural station, and the main building was renovated to hold staff offices and administrative space in the main floor and to provide indoor experimental laboratory space in the basement (see Physical Description, below). The most notable alteration made during this time was the removal of the main entrance from the north elevation, after 1955. In the early 1960s, a greenhouse was built to the east of the large barn that stood to the east of the milk house, along 78th Street. In the late 1960s, barn was demolished, and two storage sheds were built on its foundation during the early 1970s. Also during the 1970s, several more outbuildings were constructed along the south side of the gravel road connecting the rear main building parking lot to the agricultural fields and storage buildings (hog barn, machine shed, and bunk house) to the south. During the 1980s several more storage buildings and greenhouses were constructed, and by the 1990s, the present collection of seventeen structures was in place to the east of the historic Poor Farm buildings (Figure X) (Main Building, detached garage, and milk house) (Dave Foes, personal communication February 26, 2010).

NRHP Evaluation

Main Building

By far, the most significant alteration to the main Poor Farm Building is the removal of the central front entrance. A sidewalk, visible in the 1955 aerial photograph, leads from the parking area east of the main building to the center of the front elevation, suggesting that at that time the front entrance was still being used at that time. It is unclear when this entrance was removed. The original entrance was recessed into the façade, surrounded by an entablature and capped by a molded arch with a large medallion in the center. The doors themselves were paired, and the doorway was flanked by half-round columns and was accessed by concrete or brick stairs. This entrance was removed and stucco applied, with a multi-light fixed window inserted into its place. Behind this window is the main reception office, inserted into the original entry hall. Despite this alteration, and the comparatively minor integrity-diminishing replacement of many of the original 1-over-1 wood sash windows with 1-over-1 modern steel windows, the building retains good overall integrity.

The main building and its dependent structures (garage and milk house) at the Clark County Poor Farm, built in 1926, is recommended to be eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C. Although the building has been altered, and suffers from somewhat reduced integrity as a result of the removal of the main entrance, and to a lesser degree through the replacement of many windows with modern steel windows, the building retains sufficient integrity to convey its original design, and is clearly identifiable as a historic building dating to the 1920s. The loss of the main entrance is severe and regrettable, however, the rest of the building, including interior features, has been largely retained in historical condition, and the critical associations overcome the impact of the entrance removal on the building with regards to eligibility.

The main building and its dependent, matching outbuildings are recommended to be eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A through their association with the late-nineteenth and early twentieth century poor farm relief programs maintained and operated by counties during that time across the United States, a system that was reorganized during the 1930s, before being largely done away with as a result of redundancy following the passage and implementation of social security legislation by the Roosevelt administration in the mid- to late-1930s. Clark County operated a poor farm at this location from as early as 1873 through 1944. The building is representative of the commitment to poor relief that was shouldered by counties prior to the assumption of those responsibilities by the federal government.

In addition, the buildings are recommended to be eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C as highly representative of the Italian Renaissance style of architecture, a distinctive, and relatively rare style in Clark County, and especially in this area of the county, which historically, has been dominated by rural farming uses. This building, as a relatively high-style expression of a building style rarely seen in Clark County, has served as a visible landmark in the area for over 80 years. In addition to this, the building is recommended to be eligible under Criterion C as a representative work by the architectural firm of DeYoung and Roald, an important architectural design firm in the Portland area during the 1920s. This building was designed at the height of the activity of that firm, and is contemporary with other Portland-area buildings designed by that firm, and now listed in the NRHP. While the milk house was not designed by that firm, but was added to the farm in the 1930s, it belongs to the period of significance, and follows closely the design of the original buildings and should be included under Criterion A.

Description of Physical Appearance

Main Building - Exterior

The Clark County Poor Farm Building (main building) is a large, concrete building in the Italian Renaissance style, built in 1926 (Figure X). The building has three masses, a two-story, hipped-roofed central mass with one-story, forward-projecting, gabled wings on both sides. The building has a rusticated daylight basement, topped by a beltcourse, above which the walls are stucco, and feature brick quoins at all outside corners. Centered on the front (north) elevation of both gabled wings is a large, Palladian-motif window with a central 10-over-10 wood sash window flanked by 2-over-2 wood sash windows, all capped by a heavy entablature. The central window is topped by a molded arch with a brick diamond in the center. The gables have heavy-molded cornices and cornice returns. The elaborated cornice along the hipped roof of the main central mass features triglyphs and guttae across the principal (north) elevation. The cornice continues across the side and rear elevations of the main mass, but without the triglyphs and guttae. Windows (aside from the Palladian-motif windows) are generally 1-over-1 steel or vinyl windows, though some of the original 6-over-1 wood sash windows remain, as do both original diamond-pattern windows in the second floor, principal elevation of the central mass. All of the original 3-over-1 wood sash basement windows are intact, except the rear elevation, where
windows were originally 6-over-1, two of which (out of six) have been replaced (one with an aluminum slider windows and the other with a steel fixed window). Most first floor windows have been replaced with 1-over-1 steel or vinyl windows, though fenestration has not been altered, and all retain their original brick sills. An exterior fire escape is attached to the second-floor, east window on the principal elevation of the central mass.

The west elevation of the western wing has a doorway on the first floor. This door is no longer in use, and though the door itself is intact, on the inside, the short staircase that led down to it has been covered over with flooring. Exterior steps from the door have also been removed. On the rear elevation, the east wing is oblong, though based on decoration, consistent with the rest of the building, and photographs of the elevation dating to the 1940s, this appears to be part of he original design (Figure X). On the rear (south) of the central mass is a large, rectangular porch with a very low-pitched hipped roof supported by box posts, tripled at the corners. The porch itself is supported by heavy concrete piers, and the porch continues the cornice molding carried on the rest of the building. Aside from concrete infill between the concrete piers and lattice in the rails, the porch appears intact. Flanking the porch on both sides are modern, paired steel basement entry doors. On the south end of the east elevation of the east wing, a smaller, matching porch gives access to the original kitchen area.

The Clark County Poor Farm main building has a complete daylight basement and first floor, and a partial second floor, encompassing only the central mass. The daylight basement was originally open space, but was subsequently subdivided into small, private sleeping quarters for inmates in the mid-1930s. At that time, showers were also installed in the basement. Also installed in 1936 was a large, restaurant-size walk-in refrigerator, which remains in the basement today. The character and condition of the basement is relatively as it was after the 1936 alterations, with the exception of a rear staircase that allowed direct access from the kitchen area to the basement. This stair was removed in 1980, and the staircase (which was located behind a door in the kitchen) converted to a kitchen storage closet. The main stair to the basement, located in the central entrance hall, is intact. Throughout the building, the original steam radiators are all intact.

The first floor has been altered during the Washington State University ownership, most notably the removal of the recessed entry at the center of the central mass. The northern part of the central entry hall has been enclosed for use as a reception office (Figure X). To the south of this, the main stair to the second floor apartment is intact, as are the French doors leading to the east wing, as are the arched doorways that lead to the west wing and the east dining room (Figures X, X, and X). In the east wing, south side, the living room area retains the original brick fireplace and carved wood mantelpiece, as well as the French doors from the center hall (Figure X). The kitchen, located in the southeast corner of the building, retains some of the original built-in cabinets, though some of the food preparation areas have been modified. The original flue for the range is intact, though the range itself is not. In the dining room, original window trim at the Palladian-motif window is intact, as is most interior window, door, and wall trim.

The second floor apartment is quite intact, retaining original window, wall, and door trim, all original doors, and all but one original window. The kitchen retains the original cabinetry, and the bathroom retains the original sink and fixtures. The stairway and hall are intact.

Detached Garage
To the east of the main building is a four-bay garage building (built 1926) with a hipped roof and stylistic details to match the main building, including stucco finish, brick quoins and molded cornice (Figure X). The garage retains excellent integrity, including all original 3-over-1 wood sash windows, and what appear to be original wood bay doors on the north elevation, the center two of which are upward operating, and the outer two of which are sliding doors.

Milk House
To the northeast of the garage, east of the main building, is the ca. 1936 milk house, now used for fertilizer storage (Figure X). This building, though built later than the main building and garage, is designed with similar stylistic attributes, including the hipped roof, molded cornice (slightly different in profile from the garage), and brick quoins, though the brick used here is raked, while that on the 1926 buildings is smooth-faced. The windows on this building appear to be the original 1-over-1 wood sash windows. The paired wood vehicle doors on the west elevation of the milk house appear original, as does the entry door on the east elevation.
Additional Photos for: Clark County Poor Farm Building at 1919 NE 78th St, Vancouver, WA 98665

View of Clark County Poor farm Main Building, view to the northeast taken 2/26/2010

Photography Neg. No (Roll No./Frame No.):
Comments: south elevation

View of Clark County Poor Farm Main Building, view to the south taken 2/26/2010

Photography Neg. No (Roll No./Frame No.):
Comments: Central Mass, north elevation (original entry removed from center)

View of Clark County Poor Farm Detached Garage, view to the south taken 2/26/2010

Photography Neg. No (Roll No./Frame No.):
Comments: north elevation

View of Clark County Poor farm Milk House, view to the northeast taken 2/26/2010

Photography Neg. No (Roll No./Frame No.):
Comments: west (left) and south (right) elevations
Historic Property
Inventory Report for

LOCATIONS SECTION
Field Site No.: 16314-3
OAHP No.: 

Historic Name: 

Property Address: 1919 NE 78th St, Vancouver, WA 98665

County: Clark
Township/Range/EW: T2R1E
Section: 11
1/4 Sec: NE
4 1/4 Sec: NW

Quadrangle: VANCOUVER

Coordinate Reference
Zone: 10
Spatial Type: Point
Sequence: 1
Easting: 527325
Northing: 5058032

Tax No./Parcel No.: 148084000
Plat/Block/Lot: #185 W R Anderson DLC

Supplemental Map(s)
Acreage: 78.92

IDENTIFICATION SECTION
Survey Name: Clark County Poor Farm Documentation Project
Field Recorder: Jason M. Allen
Date Recorded: 2/26/2010

Owner’s Name: Clark County
Owner Address: 1300 Franklin St.

City/State/Zip: Vancouver, Washington 98660

Classification: Building
Resource Status: Survey/Inventory
Comments: 

Within a District? No
Contributing?
National Register Nomination:
Local District:
National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Domestic - Institutional Housing
Current Use: Vacant/Not in Use

Plan: Rectangle
No. of Stories: 1

Structural System: Balloon Frame

Changes to plan: Intact
Changes to original cladding: Intact
Changes to interior: Unknown
Changes to other: Extensive
Style: Vernacular

View of Clark County Poor Farm Bunk House, view to the southwest taken 2/26/2010

Photography Neg. No (Roll No./Frame No.):
Comments: east (left) and north (right) elevations

Form/Type: Other
The bunk house appears to have been built ca. 1920, and may be contemporary with the main building or predate it. It has been in its current position since it was moved there sometime between 1955 and 1967. Its original position has been reported as being next to the main building, along the south side of NE 78th Street, but this cannot be confirmed. SWCA recommends that this building is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C as a representative example of farm-related domestic buildings of the early 20th century, and under Criterion A through its association with the agricultural functioning of the Clark County Poor Farm, to which it contributes historical significance and integrity. The building itself retains good integrity, despite having been moved to its current position. Because it is believed that the building was moved from its original position somewhere else on the property, SWCA recommends that the building retains sufficient integrity of location and setting to remain eligible for listing in the NRHP.

The Bunk House is a ca. 1925, front-gabled building with two front entry doors, both once covered with a gabled entry hood supported by kneebraces. It is approximately 22-feet by 22-feet, and is oriented north, with the doors on that elevation. The entry hood over the west door (leading to the kitchen area) is no longer present. The building is clad with v-matched shiplap siding and the roof is clad with asphalt shingle. Windows are 1-over-1 wood frame windows, and all are intact, though covered over with sheets of corrugated fiberglass. The interior is divided into two rooms, the kitchen, occupying the northwest corner of the building, and the rest of the building, which is open. The interior walls are clad with beaded tongue-in-groove, and the kitchen appears to retain its original cabinetry. The building is set on concrete blocks and structural tile – an informal approach to keeping it away from ground moisture. Overall, the bunk house is in poor condition, with significant leaking in the roof causing decay in the ceiling, which is beginning to show signs of failure. The building is currently used for storage.

Foes, Dave (long-time employee on property)
Historic Property
Inventory Report for

at 1919 NE 78th St, Vancouver, WA 98665

LOCATION SECTION
Field Site No.: 16314-4
OAHP No.: 

Common Name: Clark County Poor Farm Hog Barn

Historic Name: Clark County Poor Farm Hog Barn

Property Address: 1919 NE 78th St, Vancouver, WA 98665

County: Clark
Township/Range/EW Section: T02R01E 11 NE NW
Quadrangle: VANCOUVER

Field Recorder: Jason M. Allen
Date Recorded: 2/26/2010

Owner’s Name: Clark County
Owner Address: 1300 Franklin St., suite 650
City/State/Zip: Vancouver, Washington 98660

Classification: Building
Resource Status: Survey/Inventory
Comments:

IDENTIFICATION SECTION
Survey Name: Clark County Poor Farm Documentation Project

Tax No./Parcel No.: 148084000
Plat/Block/Lot: #185 W R Anderson DLC

Supplemental Map(s) Tax No./Parcel No.: 148084000
Acreage: 78.92

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Identification Section

DECLARATION SECTION

DECLARATION SECTION

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Agriculture/Subsistence - Animal Facility
Current Use: Agriculture/Subsistence - Storage

Plan: Rectangle
No. of Stories: 1

Structural System: Unknown

Changes to plan: Intact
Changes to exterior: Unknown
Changes to original cladding: Intact
Changes to interior: Unknown
Changes to other: Extensive

View of Clark County Poor Farm Hog Barn, view to the southeast taken 2/26/2010

Photography Neg. No (Roll No./Frame No.):
Comments: north (left) and west (right) elevations

Form/Type: Agricultural
The Hog Barn appears to have been built ca. 1920, and may be contemporary with the main building or predate it. It has been in its current position since at least 1955. It has been reported that this structure was moved to its current location, however, this has not been confirmed, and the impression may simply be a result of the structure currently standing on clearly newer posts, possibly a relatively recent stabilization effort. It is known that the Clark County Poor Farm activities included raising pigs, suggesting that this structure may be original to the farm. SWCA recommends that this building is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C as a representative example of farm-related livestock barn of the early 20th century, and under Criterion A through its association with the agricultural functioning of the Clark County Poor Farm, to which it contributes historical significance and integrity.

The ca. 1920 Hog Barn is located to the east of the bunkhouse, and is approximately 80-feet long and 25-feet wide. It is oriented east-west, and is set upon wood posts. It is clad with coved shiplap (or, “drop”) siding with cornerboards, and has 4-by-4 wood slider windows on all four elevations. Exposed rafter tails extend from beneath the eaves. The roof is clad with corrugated steel, which replaced the original wood shingle roof in 1990. The barn has sliding wood vehicle doors at both ends. The building is now used for storage.

Foes, Dave (long-time employee on property)
Historic Property Inventory Report for

Field Site No.: 16314-2
OAHP No.: 

Common Name: Clark County Poor Farm Machine Shed

Historic Name: Clark County Poor Farm Machine Shed

Property Address: 1919 NE 78th St, Vancouver, WA 98665

Tax No./Parcel No.: 148084000

Plat/Block/Lot: #185 W R Anderson DLC

Supplemental Map(s): Acreage: 78.92

LOCATION SECTION

County: Clark
Township/Range/EW: T2R1E
Section: 11
1/4 Sec: NW
1/4 1/4 Sec: NE
Quadrangle: VANCOUVER

Coordinate Reference
Zone: 10
Spatial Type: Point
Sequence: 1
Easting: 527313
Northing: 5058033

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Recorder: Jason M. Allen
Date Recorded: 2/26/2010

Owner’s Name: Clark County
Owner Address: 1300 Franklin Street
City/State/Zip: Vancouver, Washington 98665

Classification: Building
Resource Status: Survey/Inventory
Comments:

Within a District? No
Contributing? No
National Register Nomination:
Local District:
National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Agriculture/Subsistence - Storage
Current Use: Agriculture/Subsistence - Storage

Plan: Rectangle
No. of Stories: 1

Structural System: Balloon Frame

Changes to plan: Intact
Changes to original cladding: Intact
Changes to interior: Intact
Changes to other: Other - Agricultural

View of Clark County Poor Farm Machine Shed, view to the southwest taken 2/26/2010
Photography Neg. No (Roll No./Frame No.):
Comments: east (left) and north (right) elevations

Form/Type Agricultural
Historic Property
Inventory Report for

at 1919 NE 78th St, Vancouver, WA 98665

NARRATIVE SECTION

Date Of Construction: ca. 1930

The ca. 1930 machine shed is associated with the Clark County Poor Farm, established ca. 1873, and operated on this site until 1949, when the property was transferred to Washington State University for use as an experimental agriculture unit. The machine shed maintains good integrity. The machine shed is recommended to be eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A through its association with the Clark County Poor Farm, a county-funded social program designed to alleviate poverty and provide food for the farm residents and for other county programs as well. The system was made redundant by the introduction of federally-operated social security programs in the mid-1930s, and operations were ceased in 1949 with the sale of the property to the State of Washington. In addition, it is recommended to be eligible for listing under Criterion C as an intact part of a farming ensemble that dates to the first decades of the twentieth century.

Description of Physical Appearance

The machine shed, built ca. 1930 is the only of the three that appears to be in its original location, with no evidence that it has been moved (Figure X). It is a three-bay, side-gabled machine shed with v-matched shiplap siding, cornerboards, and exposed rafter tails. The building has a dirt floor, and rests on a concrete stem-wall foundation. It has 4-light wood windows on the south (rear), east and west (side) elevations, including a four-light window in both of the gable peaks. The roof is clad with corrugated steel.

Major Bibliographic References

Foes, Dave (long-time employee on property)

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: Yes

Property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local): Unable to Determine

Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local):

Statement of Significance