



COMMUNITY PLANNING

Staff Report and Recommendations to the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission

TO: Clark County Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Jacqui Kamp, Planner

DATE: January 27, 2009

FILE: **HST #2009-00001, *The Nelson Farmstead***
Nomination to the Clark County Heritage Register

I. SUMMARY

The **Nelson Farmstead** is located at 12615 NE 5th Avenue, Vancouver WA (Tax Assessor's Parcel # **117894-054**). The building is being nominated to the Clark County Heritage Register (CCHR).

The Nelson Farmstead was built by Emanuel Nelson, an immigrant from Sweden, who moved to America and settled on 40 acres of land north of Vancouver in 1891. The farmhouse, which he designed and built in that same year, represents what remains today of the original farmstead. It also appears to be one of the last remaining farmhouses from the early settlements of the Salmon Creek area. The house is a good example of a vernacular Greek Revival farmhouse of the late 19th century.

Over the past 118 years, the farmstead has changed due to the development of the area and the alterations to the property. Much of the original Nelson Farmstead's 40 acres was sold and developed in 1977 into the residential subdivision known as Woodcreek Edition. Although the land surrounding this historic structure has been developed into an urban neighborhood, the Nelson Farmhouse still stands with its original siding, windows and doors. The farmhouse and the Nelson's history provide an important reminder of the lives of the early settlers of Clark County, specifically those that settled in the Salmon Creek area.

The staff recommends approval of the nomination to the Heritage Register based upon the criteria in 40.250.030(F), and the Rules and Procedures of the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission.

II. CLARK COUNTY HERITAGE REGISTER AND NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES STATUS

The subject building is currently not on any Historic Registers.

III. HISTORIC NAME

The Nelson Farmstead/Route 7

IV. COMMON NAME

The Nelson Farmstead

V. BOARD RESPONSIBILITY

Under Title 40.250.030 (D)(4), the Historic Preservation Commission has the responsibility for hearing and deciding on nominations to the Heritage Register.

VI. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The applicant states that the building's areas of significance are in three areas as identified below and in 40.250.030(F).

Criteria

The Nelson Farmstead...

2. Embodies the distinctive architectural characteristics of a type, period, style or method of design or construction, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;

The house is an excellent example of a Vernacular Greek Revival farmhouse style of the late 1800s with its front facing gable, and clean, dignified lines. This L-plan vernacular architectural style perfectly embodies the late 19th and early 20th century rural American practicality and simplicity. There's a timeless charm to this plain, vertically oriented style, with its steeply pitched gabled roof and repetitive array of tall windows.

Although the area surrounding the Nelson Farmstead has drastically changed from its original agricultural setting, the farmhouse has remained with many of its original features and materials. The siding, windows and doors are all original which retain this structure's historic integrity.

4 Exemplifies or reflects special elements of the county's history;

As stated by the nomination, the history of agriculture in Clark County dates back to the establishment of Fort Vancouver in 1825. The rapid settlement of Clark County between 1850 and 1890, the time of the Oregon Trail, led to the mass-clearing of land for agricultural purposes. Many of these early farms were settled by pioneers from the east coast and immigrants from Europe, like Emanuel Nelson, who traveled north from Vancouver to the area surrounding Salmon Creek.

Since that time, Clark County has retained a long history of small, family owned farms. However, as Clark County continues to rapidly urbanize, we have seen a severe decrease in agricultural activities. Because of that decline, many of the buildings that document the county's agricultural heritage are being demolished.

Emanuel Nelson was probably one of the first settlers of the original 600 plus acres that was homesteaded in the mid 1800s. Nelson purchased his 40 acres in 1891 and utilized the land mainly for prune orchards. According to the nomination, Nelson never had any motorized equipment – he plowed with his two horses. He took his prunes to a prune dryer on the northwest corner of what is now Hazel Dell Avenue and 78th Street. He purchased his farm supplies from a merchant on Highway 99. His family was very involved with the historical Salmon Creek Methodist Church. T

The Nelson Farmstead was most likely one of the first farms of the Salmon Creek area. For the original farmhouse to still be standing today in the middle of an urban residential neighborhood shows how much the area has changed and developed over the past one hundred years. It is an important reminder of the area's agricultural roots.

5. It is associated with the lives of persons significant in national, state or local history;

Although Emanuel Nelson was not the original donation land claim holder for this property, it appears he was the first settler on this land. At the age of 25, Nelson left Sweden for America and lived eight years on the East Coast and Midwest. In 1891, he moved to Clark County and purchased 40 acres of land north of Vancouver. Although no longer existing, staff has a copy of an old Vancouver road map which shows E. Nelson Road just south of Salmon Creek and connecting to present day Highway 99.

An architect by training, Nelson designed and built the farmhouse and other outbuildings that were necessary for the farm. As stated by the nomination, the Salmon Creek Methodist Church, a Clark County Landmark, was also part of his "knowledge and support". The Nelsons were among the first members of the church, therefore intertwined with its history.

It is apparent that Nelson was a well regarded member of the community. In 1943, the Clark County Sun published an article on him which quoted him saying that Vancouver would be ahead of Portland one day because of the city's location on the Columbia as well its "big agricultural country". He further said that Clark County was the "finest place in the world". The article also noted that he was a member of the Washington State Grange for over 50 years and had been a member of the Washington Prune Growers and Cannery since the organization's inception in 1920.

Emanuel Nelson appears to be one of the first settlers of the Salmon Creek area; therefore he is historically significant to the development of the area as well significant to the history of the county's agricultural beginnings.

VII. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The house is a two-story, wood-frame vernacular Greek Revival style farmhouse. It is an L-shaped plan with an open porch on the north side and a gable roof.

The exterior is sheathed with lapped siding between corner boards. The house has a plain frieze under plain boxed eaves with molding at the soffit. Simple molded cornice with returns are located on the gable ends.

The windows are framed, with double hung sash 1-over-1 lights. Decorative carvings are located under each double hung window.

The house is sitting on the original brick foundation under a mud sill bottom plate with balloon wood framing to the roof line.

VIII. STAFF REVIEW AND COMMENT

Nomination Criteria

Clark County Heritage Register:

40.250.030(f), states: "Any building, structure, site, object, or district may be designated for inclusion in the Clark County Heritage Register if it is significantly associated with the history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or cultural heritage of the community; if it has integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association; is at least 50 years old, or is of lesser age and has exceptional importance."

The property must meet the above as well as fall into at least one of the categories identified in CCC 40.250.030(f). The two applicable categories are listed under section VI. *Statement of Significance* of this report.

There are four questions to be answered in order to determine the eligibility of any property. This property must:

- a. be at least 50 years old,
- b. be significantly associated with the history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or cultural heritage of the community,
- c. have integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and
- d. fall into at least one of the categories identified in CCC 40.250.030 (f).

Findings:

- a. The Nelson Farmstead was built ca 1891, thus making it over 50 years old.
- b. As is stated in the statement of significance, the Nelson Farmstead is significantly associated with the architecture and cultural heritage of the community, specifically regarding the county's agricultural history and the Salmon Creek area.
- c. The building has strong integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, location, and association.
- d. The house falls into three of the categories identified in section VI, above

IX. STAFF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

Staff finds that the nomination of the Nelson Farmstead meets all four of the criteria and the adopted Rules and Regulations of the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission. Staff recommends the

Clark County Historic Preservation Commission
CCHR Nomination – Nelson Farmstead
February 3, 2009

listing of the Nelson Farmstead on the Clark County Heritage Register with the suggestion that it be known as the Nelson Farmhouse since that is all that remains of the original farm.

X. EXHIBITS

- A. Nomination Form
- B. Photographs
- C. Resources
- D. Site Plans/Maps

H:\LONG RANGE PLANNING\PROGRAMS\HISTORIC\COMMISSION\STAFF_REPORTS\2009\Nelson

Clark County, Washington
Historic Preservation Commission



Clark County Heritage Register Nomination Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb16a/>. Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. **This form is similar but not exact to the National Register of Historic Places nomination form. Some sections of the National Register form were not applicable to the local register therefore were not included. When using the National Register Bulletin 16A to fill out the form, look for the section names for information on completing the specific section.** If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets. Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Nelson Farmstead Farmhouse
Other names/site number Route 7

2. Location

street & number 12615 NE 5th Ave parcel #: 117894-054 not for publication
city or Vancouver, vicinity
town _____
State WA code _____ county Clark code _____ zip code 98685

3. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)
 private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)
 building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not incl. previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the Clark County Heritage Register

NA

4. Owner Consent for Nomination, Designation and Listing

I (we) consent do not consent to the nomination, and designation of the above property on the Clark County Heritage Register. I (we) also certify that I am/we are the legal owner(s) of the above property.

Mary R. Furland
Owner signature

1/13/09
Date

Dana Fairland
Owner signature

1/13/09
Date

5. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic single dwelling, working farm

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic single dwelling

6. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular Farmhouse or ~~Prairie~~

Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Lath, some drywall

roof Newer plywood, shingles

other Original novelty wood siding, trim,
windows and doors

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

The condition is excellent. Mostly original structure with some alterations.

See continuation sheet.

7. Statement of Significance**Applicable Clark County Heritage Register Criteria****Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1891-1964

Significant Dates**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion 2 is marked above)

Emanuel Nelson & family

Cultural Affiliation

Swedish

Architect/Builder

Emanuel Nelson (Nilsson)

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property.)

See continuation sheet

(Explain the significance of the property.)
 See continuation sheet

8. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- A. Berry, Gregory **THE NELSON HOMESTEAD** for Pacific NW Hx 239 class, Aug 1991
- B. Tower, Corinne **LETTER** 1994, oldest daughter of Anna Nelson (Galbraith)
- C. Clark County Heritage register
- D. Clark County Historical **Museum**
- E. Clark County **SUN PAPER ARTICLE**, Friday August 27, 1943
- F. Eastman, M. **PHOTOS**

Previous documentation on file (CCHR):

Primary location of additional data:

- Preliminary determination of individual listing has been requested
- Previously listed in the Clark County Heritage Register
- Previously determined eligible by the Clark County Heritage Register
- Recorded by Clark County Cultural Resources Inventory Survey # _____

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository:**

9. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 0.28 AC

UTM References

(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.)

1	10	5 26 013	50 62 156	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Per Corrine Towers letter (B) * 40 acres: 25 surrounding home, 10 north of Nelson Rd. (NE 129th) and 5 acres on NE corner of Nelson Road & Hwy 99.

Need current boundaries

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

10. Form Prepared By

name/title Gary & Dana Farland
organization Current owners date January 2009
street & number 12615 NE 5th Ave telephone 360-903-7630
city or town Vancouver state WA zip code 98685

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the CCHPC Staff)

Property Owner

name Same as (10. Prepared by)
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

4b. CLARK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION STAFF RECOMMENDATION

In my opinion, the property meets / does not meet the Clark County Heritage Register criteria. (See continuation sheet.)


Signature of commenting staff

1/27/09
Date

4c. **CLARK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION / DECISION**

IN THE OPINION OF THE CLARK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, THE PROPERTY MEETS / DOES NOT MEET THE CLARK COUNTY HERITAGE REGISTER CRITERIA. (See continuation sheet.)

Andrew J. Gregg
CHAIRPERSON,
Clark County Historic Preservation Commission

2/3 / 2009
Date

Clark County Heritage Register Continuation Sheet –

PROPERTY NAME: NELSON FARMSTEAD
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 6 Page 1 of 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The original donation land claim for the Nelson Farm consisted of over six hundred acres of land which was bounded by the Salmon Creek Valley Greenbelt in the northeast, Interstate 205 to the north, 129th St. NE to the west, and the greenbelt again in the south and southeast. The land was used as rolling pasture land for livestock and for fruit orchards, primarily plums. Today, all of the original pasture and orchard lands are covered by residential housing and urban commercial developments. Presently, all that remains of the original farm is the farmhouse.

The Nelson Farmhouse was built by Emanuel Nelson who moved to America from Sweden in 1883. At the age of 25 after studying to become an architect, he left his home country of Sweden for America. The trip took nine days and his passage was paid by shoveling coal. He arrived in America and spent eight years in the East and Midwest finally settling in Vancouver, Washington.

Around 1891, Nelson bought forty acres in Clark County seven miles north of Vancouver. He designed and built the two-story wood frame vernacular farmhouse. It is of balloon frame and stands on the original site and sits on the original brick foundation. The exterior is sheathed with lapped siding between corner boards. The siding is the original wood, and of novelty style. There are plain friezes under plain boxed eaves with moldings at the soffit, and simple molded cornices with returns at the gable ends. The windows are tall and of varied sizes with double hung sashes, one over one lights, single pane glass, plain surrounds, narrow shelf heads and decorative carving underneath – all original. The interior doors and windows have fluted trim with corner blocks – all original. On the north (front) elevation, the porch remains, though the turned support posts have been replaced. The interior of the house features lath-and-plaster.

A key landmark of the Nelson Farm was a row of nine poplar trees which the Nelsons had planted south of their house. After the trees had grown to full height they were used by people in the area as a landmark for navigation purposes. In addition to the poplar trees, the Nelson farmhouse was always surrounded by beautiful flowers and well-trimmed hedges. The farm was also noted for its assortment of apple and walnut trees. One of its walnut trees was reputed to be the oldest living walnut tree in Clark County prior to its being cut down in 1978.

Over the past one hundred eighteen years, the Nelson Farmstead has changed due to the development of the area and alterations to the property. The area surrounding the Nelson Farmhouse was first developed in 1977 by Van Heflin, a local real estate developer who had the financial backing from his father-in-law, Robert Stevens. Together they developed the residential area called the Woodcreek Edition. It was at this time that the developers realized that a portion of the Nelson property was within the property line of their land. Unfortunately, the distinctive hedges that stood for years along the Nelson home lot were unceremoniously bulldozed during the construction of two streets serving the subdivision – NE. 5th Court and N.E. 127th Street.

Since the mid 1960s, the old walnut tree was cut down as well as four of the original nine poplar trees. The house itself went through an interior modernization and renovation process during the 1980s. In 1985, a two-car garage, separate from the house, and a new paved driveway were built. In 1986-1987, a wooden deck was added to the eastern side of the house.

Clark County Heritage Register Continuation Sheet –

PROPERTY NAME: NELSON FARMSTEAD
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 7 Page 1 of 2

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#2: *It embodies the distinctive architectural characteristics of a type, period, style or method of design or construction, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.*

The house is a perfect example of a farmhouse style in the late 1800s –which seems to be rapidly disappearing here in Clark County as well as across the nation. It is a two-story, wood framed, vernacular farmhouse. It is of balloon frame and stands on the original brick foundation. The exterior is sheathed with lapped siding between corner boards. The siding is original wood and of novelty style. There are plain friezes under plain boxed eaves with moldings at the soffit, and simple molded cornices with returns at the gable ends. The windows are tall and of varied sizes with double hung sashes, one over one light, single-pane glass, plain surrounds, narrow shelf heads and decorative carving underneath – all original. The interior doors and windows have fluted trim and corner blocks – all original. Most of the doors and hinges are original. The front porch remains, though the turned support posts have been replaced. *Concrete*

#4: *It exemplifies or reflects special elements of the county's history.*

The agricultural history of Clark County stretches back to the establishment of Fort Vancouver by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1825. Several hundred acres near present-day Vancouver were sown with hay, grain, fruit and root crops. The rapid settlement of Clark County between 1850 and 1890 led to the mass-clearing of land for agricultural purposes, and many farms were started by American settlers from the east coast and immigrants from Europe. As Clark County continues to grow at a rapid rate, these agricultural lands are constantly being replaced by urban land uses. As this happens, many of the buildings that document the county's agricultural heritage are being lost.

The Nelson Farm was referred to as "40 acres" by the family. Twenty-five acres surrounded the farmhouse, ten acres were on the north side of E. Nelson Road (presumably named after Emanuel Nelson), and five acres were located on the northeast corner of E. Nelson Road and Highway 99. The "25 acres" surrounding the home were used mainly for the prune orchard and necessary outbuildings of a working farm. The "10 acres" on the north side of Nelson Road was used for growing fodder for the two working horses and two cattle. The "5 acres" at one time had prunes but not tended as well because of distance.

Emanuel Nelson never had any motorized equipment – he plowed with his two horses and at time had a neighboring farmer help him with his tractor to work the orchard. At harvest time a crew came in to reap the prunes. Nelson's son would make the boxes- and a flat bed truck from the crew would take the boxes of prunes to a dryer on the Northwest corner of what is now Hazel Dell Avenue and 78th Street. Supplies for the farm were purchased from merchants on Highway 99.

Water for the farm animals was via a pump in a spring on the west side of where the barn used to be. On the east side of the barn was a tap which filled a water trough. Water for the home was via a pump in a spring in the gulch south of the poplar trees. A water storage tank was about where the street is opposite the breakfast nook. At that

time the nook was a workroom and only cold water came from the tap. A tap and sink were in the kitchen but hot water was heated on the stove.

#5 It is associated with the lives of persons significant in national, state, or local history.

Emanuel Nelson (AKA Nilsson) was the earliest settler for this property. Emanuel was born in Vermland, Sweden where he studied to become an architect. At the age of 25, he left Sweden for America. His trip from Sweden took nine days and he paid for his passage by shoveling coal aboard the ship. He arrived in America and spent eight years on the East Coast and Midwest before settling in Vancouver, Washington. In 1891, at 33 years old, he purchased the 40 acres in Clark County, seven miles north of Vancouver. The road leading west from Highway 99 was called E. Nelson Road. At that time, the farmhouse he built was called Route #7. He was still a single man when he finished building the house. Soon after, he mailed to Sweden for his girlfriend Marie to come to Vancouver. They were married in Portland, Oregon. They had four children: Arvid, Anna, Robert and Jennie.

Emanuel Nelson's architectural training shows in the design of the farmhouse he built, as well as the several outbuildings which supported the farm. According to his granddaughter, the original Salmon Creek Methodist Church was also a part of his "knowledge and support". According to the church records of the Salmon Creek Methodist Church, the Nelsons were among the first members of the church located on Highway 99. In many respects, the history of the Salmon Creek Methodist Church and the Nelson family are intertwined.

The Pioneer Chapel of the Salmon Creek United Methodist Church has been a Clark County landmark since 1900. The history of this church goes back another 50 years to the original pioneer families that came to the area. According to the History of Clark County, the church is either the third or fourth oldest Methodist church in Washington State. Although Mr. and Mrs. Nelson were avid church goers, neither held any official positions within the Salmon Creek Methodist Church. However, Jennie, their youngest daughter was noted as being the church organist for many years. After the death of her parents, Jennie lived alone in the house until she married the Reverend Charles Docksteder, the minister of the Salmon Creek Methodist Church, circa 1952.

Nelson was proud of his community and must have been well regarded since the Clark County Sun wrote an article about him in August of 1943 at the age of 85. According to the article he predicted that Vancouver was going to be the "metropolitan city", ahead of Portland some day because of the city's integral location along the Columbia, its tributaries and because of the "big agricultural country". He was quoted as saying that Clark County was the "finest place in the world". The article also states that he had received a golden sheath that signified he had been a member of the Washington state grange for 50 years and had been a member of the Washington Prune Growers and Cannery since that organization started in 1920.

1895-1896



NELSON HOMESTEAD

1895



1936





Looking at the front - North side



Looking at front and garage from
Northeast corner



Looking at garage and west side



Looking at garage and west side



Looking at Garage and covered patio
west side



Looking at breezeway to garage on
Northwest side (new)



Looking at West side



Looking at West side
2nd Story



Looking at East side



Window Detail - East side



Covered front porch North side



Looking at trim of front windows
North side



Looking at trim detail of windows on front - North side



Door on front - North side



South side



Backyard - South side
Looking at Greenway behind



Brick Foundation (Top) South side



**Brick Foundation (Top) & Mud Sill
South side**

The Nelson Homestead

by

Gregory L. Berry

Pacific Northwest History 239

Dr. Andrew J. Gregg

August 5, 1991

Table of Contents

	Page
Forward	1
Background	1
The Nelson Family	2
Owners 1966-1991	3
The Nelson House and Lot	4
The Nelson House Through the Years	5
Conclusions	6
Endnotes	8
Bibliography	11

The Nelson Homestead

Foreword

Within the scope of this paper, my intention is to discuss the history of one of the Salmon Creek area's original homesteads -- the Nelson Homestead.¹ I wanted to research the history of this homestead for two reasons: (1) the Nelson home is located across the street from my house, and (2) I feel that recording the oral history of the home will benefit all those interested in the history of the Salmon Creek area.

Background

The Nelson Homestead was founded by a family of Swedish immigrants who moved into the Salmon Creek area and ^{added onto} constructed the house circa ¹⁸⁹¹ ~~1890~~.² The family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Emile Nelson and their four children: Arved, Robert, Anna, and Jennie.³

The original homestead consisted of over six hundred acres of land which was bounded by the Salmon Creek Valley Greenbelt in the northeast, Interstate 205 to the north, 129th St. N.E. to the west, and the greenbelt again in the south and southeast.⁴ In addition, the land which currently houses the Salmon Creek Shopping Plaza was also a part of the Nelson Homestead.⁵ This part of the homestead was sold by the Nelsons to a second party who eventually sold the land to the modern day developer, a sale which occurred circa 1938.⁶

The lands of the original homestead were used as rolling pasture land for livestock and for fruit orchards, primarily plums.⁷ Existing today on the corner of my lot are

three plum trees that were part of one of the Nelson orchards.⁸ Today, most of the original pasture and orchard lands are covered by residential housing developments. Most of the development has occurred since 1977.⁹ Today, all the remains of the Nelson Homestead is the original house at 12815 N.E. 5th Avenue (see attached picture).

The Nelson Family

Based on the information I have gathered from interviews from long-term residents of the Salmon Creek area, the Nelson's were a hardworking, church-going farming family, typical of the early settlers in the area.

According to the church records of the Salmon Creek Methodist Church, the family were among the first members of the church which is located on Highway 99.¹⁰ In many respects, the history of the Salmon Creek Methodist Church and the Nelson family are intertwined.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson, although avid church goers, did not hold any official positions

within the Salmon Creek Methodist Church.¹¹ Arved, Anna, and Robert also attended church regularly; however, soon after they came of age they moved away from the area.¹² However, their youngest daughter, Jennie, who remained at the homestead, was noted as being the church organist for many years.¹³

Viola Stewart, formerly Viola Betz, and Minnie Molyneux (a former schoolmate of Jennie's) were both friends of Jennie Nelson and were interviewed by me. Both women had visited the Nelson Homestead on numerous occasions and remarked on how beautifully she played the organ.¹⁴

Jennie Nelson lived in the Nelson home all of her life and took care of her mother and father until their deaths in the late 1930's.¹⁵ After the death of her parents, Jennie lived alone in the house until she married the Reverend Charles Docksteder, the minister of the Salmon Creek Methodist Church, circa 1952.¹⁶

The Dockstedeers lived in the Nelson house until Jennie died of multiple sclerosis in December 1964.¹⁷

Owners 1966-1991

After the death of his wife, the Reverend Docksteder continued to live in the house for a few more years, then he sold the house to Andrew Eckein in 1966 and moved to California.¹⁸ Mr. Eckein was a retired captain of the Washington State Patrol and lived in the house until 1972 when he sold the house to Bill and Betty Ritchie and moved to Olympia.¹⁹

The Ritchies lived in the home for four years. Coincidentally, Bill Ritchie was the new minister for the Salmon Creek Methodist Church.²⁰ During their tenure on the Nelson homestead, the Ritchies made no major changes to the house or lot.²¹ The

Ritchies sold their home to a Mr. Van Heflin, a real estate developer, in 1977 for approximately \$50,000 and then moved to a different home in the Salmon Creek area.²²

Mr. Van Heflin, noted for his role in the development of the Woodcreek Edition subdivision, lived in the house for less than two years. After building his first house, he and his family moved out of the Nelson home and sold it to Jeff and Kathy Newport in 1979.²³

Mr. Newport was a principal in the Vancouver School District. He and his wife, Kathy, lived in the house for ten years.²⁴ During that time, the couple renovated the house as discussed below. In July 1989 the Newports sold the Nelson home and moved to Issaquah, Washington where Mr. Newport continues to work in education.²⁵ Attempts to reach the Newports for information on the Nelson home have been unsuccessful.

The Newports sold the Nelson home to the current owners, Gary and Dana Farland for \$112,000.²⁶ The Farlands love their home and are determined to keep its original character. This summer, the Farlands have been busy doing a variety of projects around their house including re-roofing the patio, replacing the root cellar door, and improving the garage attic.²⁷ According to both of them, other projects await in the wings given time and money.²⁸

The Nelson House and Lot

A key landmark on the Nelson Homestead was a row of nine poplar trees which the Nelsons had planted south of their house.²⁹ After the trees had grown to full height,

they were used by people in the area as a landmark for navigating around the area.³⁰ My neighbor, Mrs. Joyce Wilde, showed me a picture painted by her sister which features these popular trees.³¹

In addition to the poplar trees, the Nelson home was always surrounded by beautiful flowers and well-trimmed hedges. The homestead was also noted for its assortment of apple and walnut trees. One of its walnut trees was reputed to be the oldest living walnut tree in Clark County prior to its being cut down in 1978.³²

I was not able to obtain a picture of the original Nelson home.³³ However, according to long-time residents, the outward appearance of the home has not changed.³⁴ None of the long-time Salmon Creek residents I interviewed had been inside the house since Jennie's death in 1964. At that time, the interior remained unchanged from its original appearance.³⁵ However, since 1964 the house has been renovated.

The Nelson House Through the Years

Over the past one hundred and ten years, the Nelson Homestead has changed. These changes can be grouped into two areas: (1) development of the area, and (2) additions and deletions to the home or lot. Most of the alterations to the home and lot have occurred since 1977.³⁶

The area surrounding the Nelson home was first developed in 1977 by Van Heflin, a local real estate developer who had the financial backing from his father-in-law, Robert Stevens. Together they developed the residential area called the Woodcreek Edition. It was at this time that the developers realized that a portion of the Nelson home lot was within the property line of their land.³⁷ Consequently, the distinctive

hedges that had stood for years along the Nelson home lot were unceremoniously bulldozed under during the construction of two streets serving the sub-division -- N.E. 5th Court and N.E. 127th Street.³⁸

Several other significant changes to the Nelson home lot have occurred since the mid-sixties when the house left the family's possession. In addition to the old walnut tree being cut down, four of the original nine poplar trees have been cut down.³⁹

An old plum-drying shed which originally stood on my property was moved in 1975 to the western side of the Nelson house.⁴⁰ The shed was used as a workshop by the Reverend and Mrs. Bill Ritchie who owned the Nelson house at that time.⁴¹ Later the shed was torn down.

The house itself went through a modernization and renovation process during the 1980's with the addition of wall-to-wall carpeting, new kitchen appliances, and new electrical fixtures.⁴² In 1984 a new bathroom was added to the second floor. An architect was hired to design the bathroom to match the style of the rest of the house.⁴³ In addition, a breakfast nook, which had a clear view of the Salmon Creek Greenbelt, was added to the kitchen.⁴⁴

In 1985 a two-car garage, separate from the house, and a new paved driveway were built on the Nelson lot.⁴⁵ The most recent addition was made in 1986-1987, when Jeff and Kathy Newport added a wooden deck to the eastern side of the house near the breakfast nook.⁴⁶

Conclusions

It is clear that the Nelson family and their homestead played an important role in the

history of the Salmon Creek area. At one time, the Nelson family owned a large amount of Salmon Creek land. Today, when passing through the Salmon Creek area, few vestiges of the old homestead remain. During the last twenty years, the Salmon Creek area has developed its own business district and an increasing number of residential sub-divisions. Many of these are located on property originally owned by the Nelsons. However, the beautiful historical Nelson home still remains and can be seen at 12615 N.E. 5th Ave.

Endnotes

¹Gregory L. Berry. Personal Interview with Minnie Moyneux, Vancouver, WA, July 25, 1991.

²Ibid.

³Gregory L. Berry. Personal Interview with Viola Steward, Vancouver, WA, July 18, 1991.

⁴Gregory L. Berry. Personal Interview with George and Joyce Wilde, Vancouver, WA, July 8, 1991.

⁵Berry, Personal Interview with Moyneux.

⁶Ibid.

⁷Berry, Personal Interview with the Wildes.

⁸Ibid.

⁹Gregory L. Berry. Personal Interview with Bill Ritchie, Vancouver, WA, July 10, 1991.

¹⁰Gregory L. Berry. Personal Interview with Chuck Scheren, Vancouver, WA, July 25, 1991. Note: the original Salmon Creek Methodist Church is still standing and being used today for special events.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²Berry, Personal Interview with Molyneux.

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴Berry, Personal Interviews with Molyneux and Stewart.

¹⁵Berry, Personal Interview with Molyneux.

¹⁶Ibid.

¹⁷Ibid.

¹⁸Berry, Personal Interview with Ritchie.

¹⁹Ibid.

²⁰Berry, Personal Interview with the Wildes.

²¹Berry, Personal Interview with Ritchie.

²²Ibid.

²³Berry, Personal Interview with the Wildes.

²⁴Ibid.

²⁵Ibid.

²⁶Gregory L. Berry. Personal Interview with Dana Farland, Vancouver, WA, July 3, 1991.

²⁷Ibid.

²⁸Ibid.

²⁹Berry, Personal Interview with Ritchie.

³⁰Berry, Personal Interview with the Wildes.

³¹Ibid.

³²Ibid.

³³To date, a picture of the original Nelson house has not been located. However, the Farlands have been trying to contact the Newporters for a promised copy of a picture of the house.

³⁴Berry, Personal Interview with Molyneux.

³⁵Ibid.

³⁶Berry, Personal Interview with the Wildes.

37Berry, Personal Interview with Ritchie.

38Ibid.

39Berry, Personal Interview with the Wildes.

40Berry, Personal Interview with Ritchie.

41Ibid.

42Ibid.

43Berry, Personal Interview with the Wildes.

44Berry, Personal Interview with Farland.

45Berry, Personal Interview with the Wildes.

46Ibid.

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WA, July 8, 1991.

January, 1994

1

Hi — my name is Corinne Fowler, oldest daughter of Anna Nelson Galbraith. My sister Margaret Eastman made a copy of the Nelson Homestead by Gregory L. Berry & left it with me in late October 1993. What a flood of memories it brought back & Mr. Berry indeed did a splendid job. My mother was devoted to her family & we spent much time on the farm. Every Sunday it was pot roast dinner after church & then to grand ma & grandpa's for coffee, homemade breads & cookies. Also many summers my sister & I spent on the farm. Jennie being twelve years older than I was like a "big sister".

Because I am unfamiliar with current streets, may I preface the area with what is now N. E. 129th St. and revert it to the E. Nelson Road as I knew it. Prior to that it was Route 7.

Always the farm was referred to as "40 acres"; 25 acres surrounding the home, 10 acres on north side of Nelson Road, and the 5 acres on N. E. corner of Nelson Road & Highway 99. The 5 acres was eventually deeded to Jennie Nelson who sold it in the mid 50's.

Emanuel Nelson (Nilsson) at the age of 25 after studying to become an architect, left Sweden for America. Spending eight years in the east and west coast & his mind was changed, & his own mind & decided to stay.

After purchasing the "40 acres" in 1891 & clearing to start the farm & home, he went to Sweden for my grandmother & they were married in Portland, Oregon. There were four children - Arvid, Anna, Robert & Jennie.

Upon returning from WWI Arvid settled in Portland, purchased a small neighborhood grocery store which he and his wife operated. When a large supermarket was developing nearby, Arvid walked to the development & was hired immediately as the first Fred Meyer employee of the chain's expansion in that area!

My mother Anna and father Corry M. Galbraith, a Vancouver Post Office clerk, met & married in the original Methodist Church. From the Nelson farm looking south to what is now Hazel Dell Ave. & N.W. 114th St., you could see my father's family farm. Two of the original Galbraith family homes are still resided in in that area.

Robert after his marriage had a small chicken ranch just west of the "10 acres" on the Nelson Road to supplement his income as a truck driver for the county. After his death his wife sold the property & with the two children left the area.

Returning to his first love, farming, Emanuel Nelson's architectural training shows in the

designing of the original home which he built and also the several outbuildings which supported the farm. The original Salmon Creek Methodist Church was also a part of his knowledge and support.

The nine poplar trees were planted by my grandmother the year she arrived from Sweden, 1893. She always took pride in her flowers & yard.

The 25 acres surrounding the home were used mainly for the prune orchard & necessary outbuildings of a working farm. The 10 acres on north side of Nelson Road was used for growing fodder for the two working horses & 2 cattle. The 5 acres at one time had prunes but not tended as well because of distance.

My grandfather never had any motorized equipment - plowed with his 2 horses and at times had a neighboring farmer with his tractor work the orchard. At harvest time a crew came in to reap the prunes - my father would make the boxes - and a flat-bed truck from the crew would take the boxes of prunes to a dryer on the N.W. corner of what is now Hazel Dell Ave. and 78th St. Supplies for the farm were purchased from merchants on Highway 99 across from the Stage Coach Inn (not in existence at that time.)

Water for the farm animals was via a pump in a spring on the west side of where the barn used to be. On the east side of the barn was a tap which filled a water trough. (George Wilde may be able to identify the location of that pump.)

Water for the home was via a pump in a spring in the gulch south of the poplar trees. A water storage tank was about where the street is opposite the breakfast nook. At that time the nook was a washroom & only cold water from a tap was available. A tap & sink were in the kitchen but hot water was heated on the stove. I remember a few times going down the "gulch" to restart the pump which operated by the gravity of the spring's water. Sometimes grit would stop the action of the plunger.

Jennie, the youngest child was noted in the area for her piano playing. Her piano was where the fireplace is now. Upon the deaths of my grandparents in the late forties, Jennie remained in the home until her death in 1964.

In the latter years of my grandparents lives and with Jennie working in town, my parents helped very much. My father saw to it that there was plenty of wood for the kitchen stove split & stored in the woodshed. Mother helped with the housework, took laundry home to be returned the following week. They also

kept the lawn mowed & roses trimmed. They also saw that a good supply of staples was in the pantry.

My mother was the guest of Bill & Betty Ritchie in Feb. 1973. She was so pleased at visiting the home again she sent me a letter, which I still have, describing the improvements that had been made. My husband & I visited the home in 1988 when the Newport's had it on the market.

May I thank Mr. Barry for inspiring me to put in writing precious memories of the farm. And I thank you Mr. & Mrs. Farland, for the tender loving care you are devoting to a home my grandfather built.

Corinne G. Tower
2575 Roberts Rd.
Medford, Oregon 97504-2163

Clark County Sun

VANCOUVER, CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON,

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1943

SECTION ON

iforms

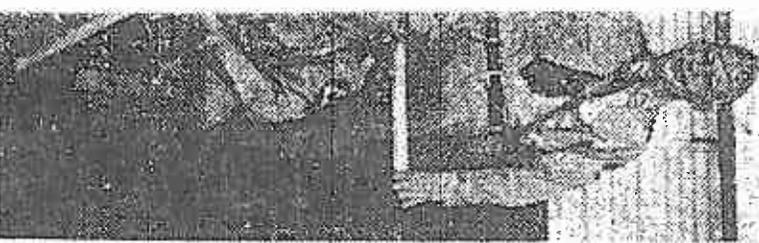
LOAN TO HEAD 3RD WAR FUND DRIVE IN AREA

Odlin, State Chairman, Says

C. E. Loan of Vancouver, Wash., was announced this week as Clark county chairman of the newly organized state war finance committee, United States treasury. This committee has taken over the duties of both the war savings staff and the victory fund committee.

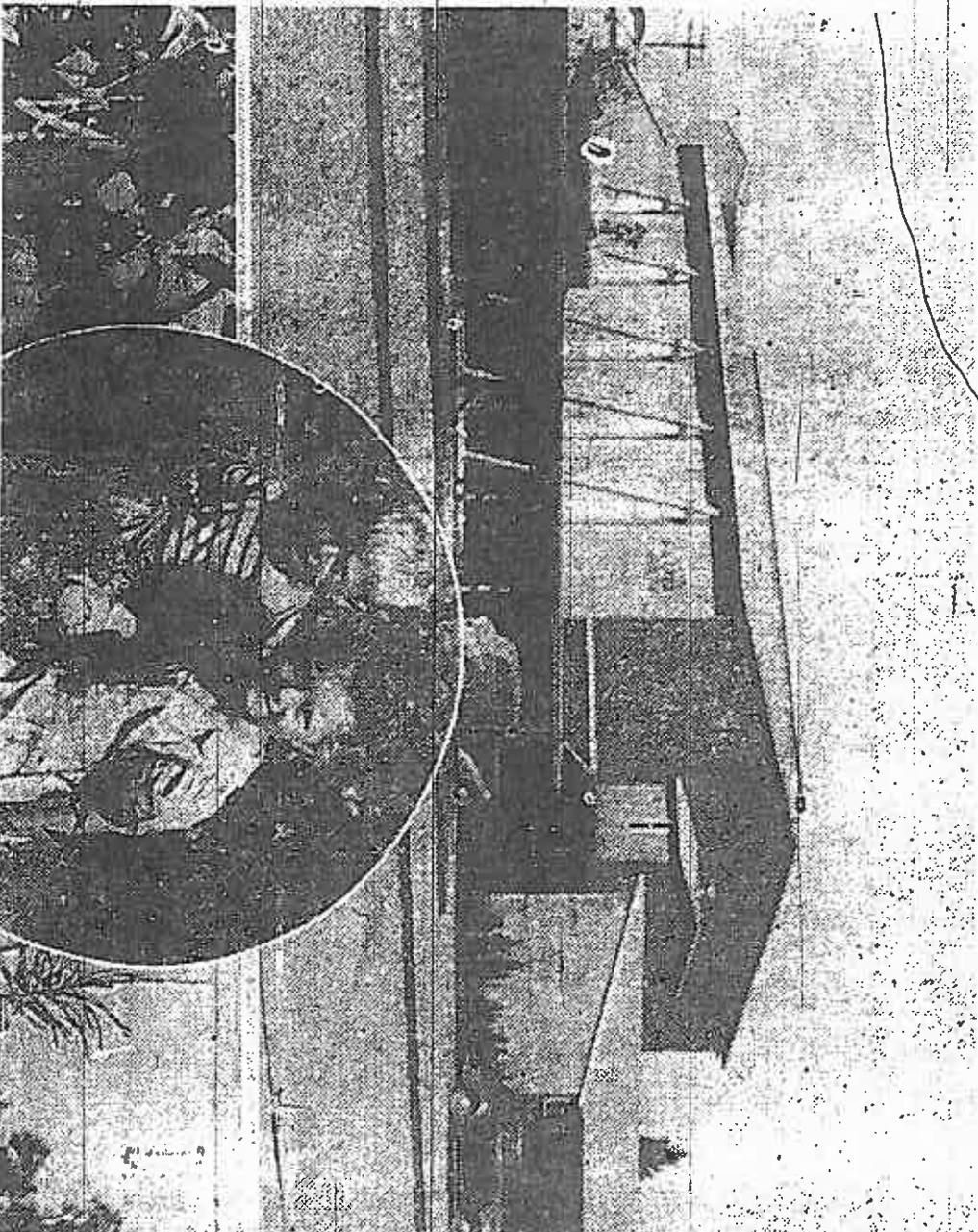
The announcement was made by Reno Odlin, who was recently appointed Washington state war finance chairman, and four-starred general in this state for the Third War Loan campaign.

"We are grateful to Mr. Loan for accepting the heavy responsibility of county chairman of the war finance committee," said Odlin. "No more tremendous challenge has faced Americans than raising 15 billion dollars 'To Back the Attack' in the three weeks of



ry, policemen
hours of time
factory police in

Transplanted Youths in Fine Victory Gardens



County Sun

SHINGTON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1943

SECTION TWO

THROW OLD DIRECTORY OUT IS REQUEST

Now that Vancouver telephone subscribers have all received their new July, 1943, directory, they are again reminded by representatives of the telephone company that it is important to make sure all old directories are destroyed and entirely removed from possible reference use.

"Few things make more confusion in telephone service than calling from old lists, especially when so many changes have been taking place as in this city during the past year," commented an operator who has been identified for years with the Vancouver exchange.

"We shall certainly appreciate the co-operation of our customers in using the new directory, only, and also in looking up the numbers before calling," added the young lady.

---Write to Your Boy---

GAS MASKS HERE

The local office of civilian defense received 420 gas masks Monday, replacing the old style masks recently called on by the OCD officials, Vern B. Anderson, coordinator, said. A number of the first masks to be distributed to auxiliary firemen and other volunteers are still out, Anderson said, and must be returned before new ones may be issued.

EMANUEL NELSON, 85, THINKS VANCOUVER AHEAD OF PORTLAND

Here's a Man Who Has Been Around; Still Likes This Area

Vancouver is going to be the "metropolitan city," is the prediction of Emanuel Nelson, 85, Vancouver. Nelson thinks that Vancouver will be ahead of Portland some day, that there is not a city on the coast that has the opportunity of Vancouver.

Why? "Because of the power of the Columbia, its tributaries, and because of the big agricultural country."

Vancouver's population was only 1,000 when Nelson came here 52 years ago. That was in 1891. There was big timber where the Clark general hospital now stands.

At the age of 33 Nelson, a bachelor, purchased land in Clark county seven miles out of Vancouver, which he cleared. He has been a Clark county residence ever since.

From Vermland, Sweden, he came to America 60 years ago. The trip took eight or nine days. He spent eight years all over the east and middle west before coming to Clark county which is the "finest place in the world." A short time later he wrote to the girl, in Vermland, Sweden, and they were married in Portland.

Nelson states that he has had a great many experiences in farming, that for a good many years it was all right, but now

"it is worse than nothing." He has a big garden this year but is doing the work himself, with the hoe.

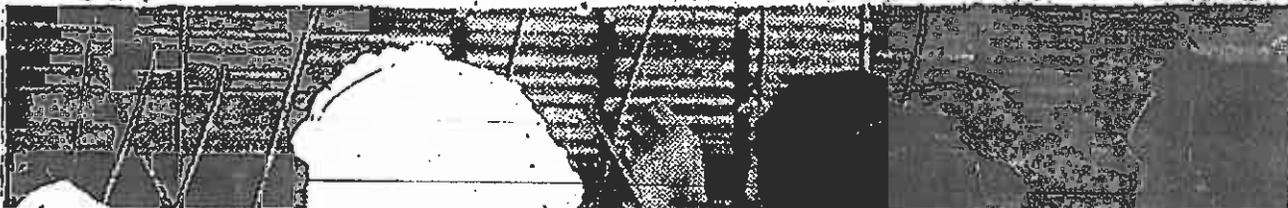
"The only thing I can figure out for people now, is to have a small place that they can take care of themselves." Nelson is for a general pension plan for people of a certain age, "to keep people of a certain age, or

He attributes his health to the fact that he has not allowed himself to become idle. From morning until night, at the age of 85, he shovels, hoes and rakes. He is sure that if he were stay-

ing in town, "walking up and down," he would not be happy. He has always liked to read and ever since he was a youngster has read everything he could get hold of.

Nelson has received his golden sheaf which signifies that he has been a member of the Washington state grange for 50 years, and has been a member of the Washington Prune Growers and

(Continued on Page 6)



Sergeant Hazen Surprises Home Folk with Visit

FARGHER LAKE — Staff Sergeant Lynn M. Hazen surprised his family and friends when he arrived home on a 36-hour pass last Tuesday. His plane landed in Spokane for repairs. Sergeant Lynn is stationed at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.

Word was received by Mrs. L. W. Brown that Pvt. Lowell W. Brown is stationed at Buckley field, Colorado. Private Brown is the only son of J. A. Brown.

Mrs. Lewella Curtis and Ollis of Portland, Ore., were weekend visitors at the H. L. Hazen home.

Many friends were saddened to hear of the death of "Joe" Stone of Red Bluff, Calif. Mr. Stone lived in this district for many years. All of his family but one daughter, Mrs. Ed Wickman, live in Oregon and California.

The Craig and Hartley peppermint distilling got into full swing last week. There was a slight interruption when the rain came, but after letting Mother Nature get it off her mind all is well again. The crew this year includes J. A. Brown, foreman; O. J. Brown, Harold Brown; Harold Coons; Harvey Blair; Lincoln Roberts; Dale Hazen; Mr. Wetheral, C. E. Cofer; Ed Thornquist;

Jamy, -50, -route-6, -box-70, -Vancouver, Wash., and Vera A. Kump, 43, 362 Ogden Meadows, Vancouver, Wash.

Brown Michaels — Dale E. Brown, 22, Apt. 5, Ogden Meadows, Vancouver, Wash., and Thelma M. Michaels, 23, 4480 51st, San Diego, Calif.

Scott-Gregory—James W. Scott, 25, route 2, Washougal, Wash., and Jane K. Gregory, 25, 1908 N. W. 6th, Camas, Wash.

Carson-Kotosek — Byrl David Carson, 21, 1541 Ogden Meadows, Vancouver, and Gertrude Odellia Kotasek, 20, same address.

Frank Beseda; Jimmy Tenold; Melvin Eaton; Jack Holcomb; Frank Gretsch; Dorothy Brown; Helen Grantham; LaVerna Brown; Geraldine Coons; Grace Keith and Helen Hazen.

Captain Craig visited his father, R. W. Craig, at the mint ranch last week. He is stationed at Ft. Lewis.

About three months ago Miss Louise Higgins joined the WAC's. Though she was then living in Portland, she had spent most of her life in Fargher Lake. Since then her only brother, "Bobby" has joined the merchant marines and is stationed at San Diego, Calif. They are the only children of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Higgins.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray McIntyre and children, Mrs. M. K. Maltzen and Janet, and Miss Fern Skoog, all of Doris, Calif., visited Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Brown last week.

Mrs. D. E. Coons and twins, Ronald and Donald, are visiting with Mrs. Coons' aunt, Mrs. John Hardy, at Salem, Ore.

— Write to Your Boy —

Thinks Vancouver Ahead of Portland

(Continued from Page 1)
Canners since that organization started in 1920.

When Nelson left Sweden in

1883 he was one of 32,000 young men and women leaving that country for America. If he had the money to take a trip back after the war he would go, to visit a brother 79 years of age, but "I would come back. America is the finest country in the world."

— Write to Your Boy —
The difference between a cake that melts in your mouth and the one that is a failure may be careless measuring.

Rudolf W. Evens

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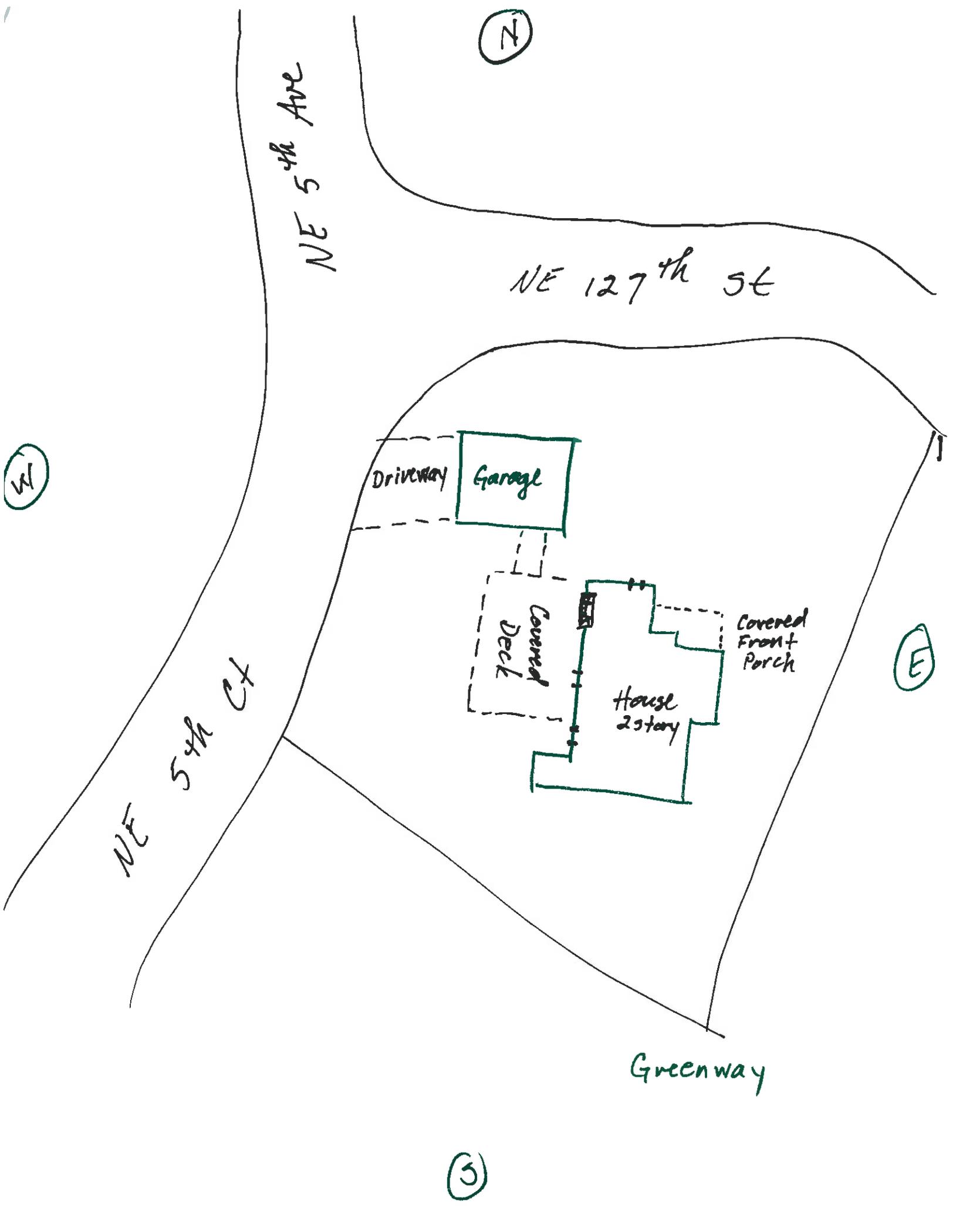
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REGULAR COURSE, an EMERGENCY COURSE or a REVIEW COURSE.

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Phone 1760

704 1/2 Main St.



NE 5th Ave

NE 127th St

NE 5th Ct

Greenway

Driveway

Garage

Covered Deck

House 2 story

Covered Front Porch

(N)

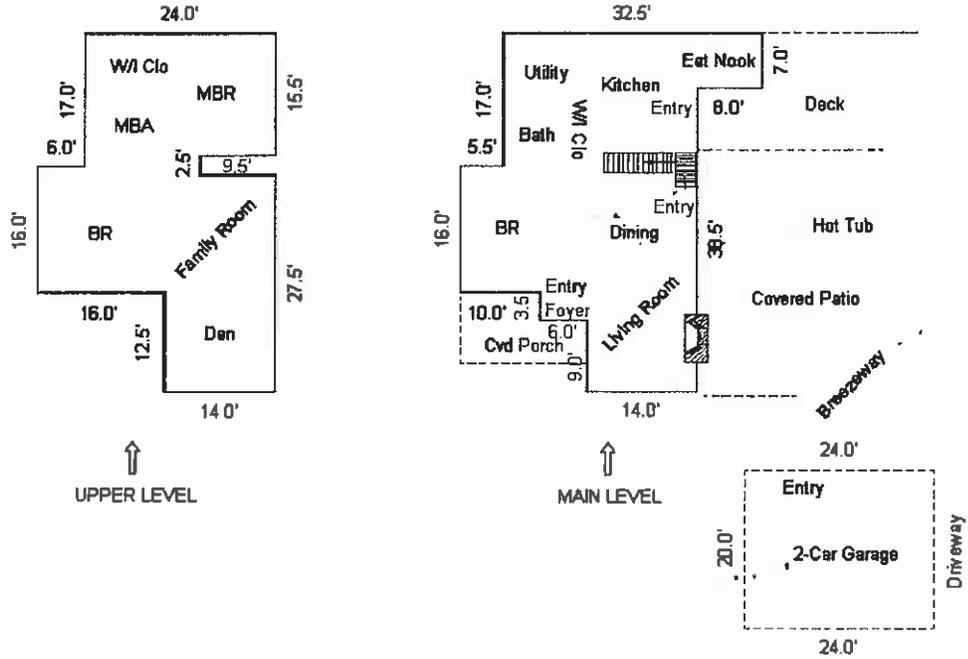
(S)

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Building Sketch (Page - 1)

Borrower/Client FARLAND, GARY & FARLAND, DANA				
Property Address 12615 NE 5TH AVE				
City VANCOUVER	County CLARK	State WA	Zip Code 98685-3068	
Lender FARLAND, GARY & FARLAND, DANA				



Circle by Area by Inc.
Comments:

AREA CALCULATIONS SUMMARY			
Code	Description	Size	Net Totals
GLA1	First Floor	1168.50	1168.50
GLA2	Second Floor	1038.25	1038.25
GR	Garage	680.00	680.00
TOTAL LIVABLE (rounded)			2188

LIVING AREA BREAKDOWN		
	Breakdown	Subtotals
First Floor:		
	19.5 x 20.0	390.00
	10.0 x 15.0	150.00
	9.0 x 14.0	126.00
	17.0 x 24.5	416.50
	7.0 x 8.0	56.00
Second Floor:		
	14.0 x 27.5	385.00
	15.0 x 16.0	240.00
	1.0 x 20.5	20.50
	14.5 x 17.0	246.50
	0.5 x 19.5	9.75
10 Calculations Total (rounded)		2188

Home » Satellite View of My House

Satellite View of My House

Note: This free street level "Find My House" service is available for addresses in the USA, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. Additional countries will be added as Google Maps launches in other countries.

Example USA entry: 1234 MyStreet, MyCity, MyState Zipcode
12615 NE 5th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98685

Go!

NEW! Drive by Your Home with
vPike.com Your Virtual Turnpike

Street and Aerial Views
Find Lot Size

↓ Tick marks zoom in and out.

Map-Satellite-Hybrid selects view.



