

From: [Heather Beckmann](#)
To: [PCD](#)
Subject: FW: Quitslund "barn" nomination - followup comment
Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2013 11:34:45 AM

Please include in the HPR11665 file. Thanks!

From: Marcia Montgomery [mailto:marcia@crcwa.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 1:28 PM
To: Heather Beckmann
Subject: Fwd: Quitslund "barn" nomination - followup comment

This is another email from Jerry about the barn. Please add to file.

Is it okay that I am sending these all to you to put in file? I think it is good for COBI to have this information. If you would rather have me print and bring to meeting I can do that in the future.

Marcia

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gerald Elfendahl** <gelfenda@earthlink.net>
Date: Tue, Apr 23, 2013 at 12:45 PM
Subject: Re: Quitslund "barn" nomination - followup comment
To: Marcia Montgomery <marcia@crcwa.com>
Cc: Dave Williams <dwilli1179@aol.com>, Joyce Lhamon <joylha@aol.com>, Glenn Hartmann <glenn@crcwa.com>

Dear Marsha,

Thanks for your comments.

I did lay this all out for Sonja when she began to research the building. I tried to help her and i assume that the HPC must have given her similar guidelines as she was directed to you by me, too. It does not appear that she did take our advise. I suppose that is why it is a bit frustrating.

One reference to strawberries having been seen at the old building that Sonja nominated for listing came from Betty Laes, who (according to her son) as a young girl at the start of the Great Depression, circa 1930-1931, came to the Island with her dad and they lived in this building. "She saw strawberries there." (And I imagine many places in those years!) However what does that really mean? What does that tell us, really?

I am trying to interview her because there is a difference between seeing strawberries somewhere in flats and that being a place where strawberries were either grown, sold, processed, or merely transported from. And since there were non-Japanese farmers in addition to Japanese especially in the Rolling Bay area, if there were berries there, the question is whose they might have been.

Cheers just the same, with gratitude,

jer

PS: Anything else on the HPC agenda upcoming? I see Lovell's is getting a remodel and someone has told them about Ann Combs' humorous book, *Helter Shelter*!

Two items for HPC agenda might be (1) to congratulate the Park District on their effort to put historic markers at Yeomalt Cabin and Island Center Hall (anywhere else?); and (2) putting together a program - process and list - of places that also deserve similar historic markers (or sculptures or relics or ruins) or interpretive panels such as Cannery Cove, West Port Madison Nature Preserve, a few road ends, the WWP ship foredeck, etc.

On Apr 23, 2013, at 10:18 AM, Marcia Montgomery wrote:

Jerry,

Thanks again for this additional information about the Quitslund property. We are in agreement that more information about the historical use and ownership of the property would benefit the nomination and overall historical record. With all of us as volunteers on the commission the expectation is that nominations submitted will provide us with adequate information to make a determination of eligibility for the local register. Though the Quitslund nomination identified several areas of significance, our review of the nomination and site visit led us to the conclusion that the existing information was only enough information to support its significance as a property type representative of a period. We are going to add your information and research ideas to the City's file. It does seem like there is a good deal of research being conducted about strawberry farming and if a real link to the industry can be made at a later date it would be a great time to update the nomination. Also, I don't know if you have communicated with Sonja about your research ideas. She may want to follow up on your research suggestions. We appreciate your input on this.

Marcia

On Mon, Apr 22, 2013 at 1:50 PM, Gerald Elfendahl <gelfenda@earthlink.net> wrote:

Dear Friends,

Per yesterday's email re: Quitslund "barn"

I basically agree with and support your assessment and listing category and find some deficiencies in the nomination.:

IF . . . IF Mr. Phelps of Phelps Road is associated with the building, it should be noted that a photo of the Mr. Phelps of road naming notoriety, is available at the BI Museum. This may or may not be the same W R Phelps indicated on an 1870's-1880's property ownership. And there is a question in my mind whether it was a Phelps who actually built the first building on this property. Mike Mjelde should be contacted to actually determine who most likely built the building, AKA "barn"

Mike Mjelde can be contacted today at:

[360-307-6308](tel:360-307-6308) or [360-479-1535](tel:360-479-1535)

e-mail: mjmjelde38@cs.com

Mike is now associated with Fidelity National Title Insurance Company in Silverdale.

He is the former editor of PNW Maritime Historical Society's "Sea Chest" magazine and

author of maritime histories. He is a long time friend of Island history and historic preservation. He has never charged us for any inquiries such as what we suggest. Rick could take a look at the photo identification sheet to determine the name of the Phelps Road Phelps to determine that Phelps' name, age, age of his truck and such. However, in the photo of a Mr. Phelps and his brush sales truck at the BI Museum, the man in that photo is standing beside his truck used to haul product in his door-to-door brush sales business. If this is the name Phelps or son of subject historic building owner "W. R. Phelps" he likely used the building as a garage and warehouse for goods sold. So, until further research is done, there is a real question in my mind as to whether or not and who a person or persons of significance may have been in relation to this building.

Sonja should contact Mike with the property tax number, and preferably a copy of the KC Assessor's original paper record copy for the property and get Mike's sense of year built. That has been the standard that we have used since 1987, that and trying to have at least two historic resources for each nomination fact.

With gratitude,

Jerry

PS: I have forwarded a copy of this to Kay Nakao, Frank Kitamoto, BIJAC president, Larry and Vern Nakata, and Vivian Hwang who is researching Island farm history and Japanese berry farms.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Gerald Elfendahl <gelfenda@earthlink.net>

Date: April 21, 2013 11:31:49 PM PDT

To: Marcia Montgomery <marcia@crcwa.com>

Cc: Rick Chandler <curator@bainbridgehistory.org>, Glenn Hartmann <glenn@crcwa.com>, Joyce Lhamon <joylha@aol.com>, Dave Williams <dwilli1179@aol.com>

Subject: Re: Quitslund nomination

Thank you, Marcia.

Here are a few comments, corrections and possible additions to the listing nomination pdf you emailed me recently:

The BI Historical Society was incorporated in 1975. The County Historical Society was formed in 1949. While Mr. and Mrs. Johan Quitslund were island oldtimers of note and significance, they were more likely a part of a group that Katy Warner told me used to gather to periodically discuss local history at John Fay's residence before Fay gave his land for Fay-Bainbridge State Park.

If Mr. Phelps of Phelps Road is associated with the building, it should be noted that a photo of Mr. Phelps is available at the BI Museum. In it he is standing beside his truck used to haul

product in his door-to-door brush sales business.

Sonja took an interest in restoring her "barn" during the time period when the State Office of Historic Preservation received funding from the State Legislature to preserve many of the large barns that were falling into disrepair from the agricultural industry uses of days gone by. We promoted barn preservation here noting a few very special ones here, especially the 1887 Bucklin Barn (State Registered), the Koura Strawberry Farm barns south of Sunset Hill Rd. at Meadowmmer, and the remarkable all split cedar Grow Barn on PollyAnna Rd, beyond Sands. I don't believe that the subject building here was ever a "barn" and funds never did spread to benefit preservation of barns on the Island. Nonetheless, I applaud Sonja's diligence over the past four years or so to restore the building that was had a variety of uses. I suspect these uses included shop, warehouse, storage and even a residence during the Depression's early years (Herb Brown, Betty Laes).

The building was built in the 20th century, not the "19th century", i.e.; any 1900 numbered year is a 20th century year just as any 2000 numbered year is a 21st century.

I note NO written resources listed - none? That is an INCOMPLETE and unsubstantiated declaration and description.

I had advised Sonja months - over a year or two ago - to obtain copies of the following in order to write a proper historic property (building) description and narrative of significance and a BIBLIOGRAPHY that includes:

1. -- a list of property ownership maps used to support history (There are three or four that would be of interest)
2. -- cite an Abstract of Title if one exists or legal documents held by family or otherwise by County or title insurance company
3. -- Contact Michael J Mjelde, land title expert and historian. He can determine (from increases in land value) under whose ownership a building was first erected on the property, and thus provide a great help in establishing year built.
4. -- Obtain a copy of the original Kitsap Assessor's records that would have included the "Year Built", building description, site plan and other details of ownership and use, and often even a photograph circa 1920's or 1930's.
5. -- Review and compare KC Assessor record, specifically the original paper record that is accessible easily as postal copy or email copy from State Archives in Bellevue where older records are stored (and not the computer abbreviated KCA form used for contemporary buildings in Port Orchard or on the county's web site.
6. -- Compare County records with title company's., i.e.; Mjelde's observations and best estimate.
7. -- List names of oral informants
8. -- List of archaeological resources supporting any of the descriptive or narrative statements.

9. -- List history books that reference building or persons of significance associated with property, i.e.; B. Thru Bifocals, Marriott; Kitsap County - A History; etc.)books

10. -- Add Ron Laes letter and statement about circa 1930 building use as residence in B. Islander, 4/19/2013 to Bibliography.

Objective statements for descriptions and narratives deserve better than phrases such as "perhaps", "conflicting" information, "may have been", . The require more than one and in cases of property such as this, written sources.

I see no proof that the building was built for or was associated itself with agricultural uses at all, or that it associated itself with the strawberry industry.

This is not a primary property associated with Sonja's grandparents, Johan and Sigrid Quitslund, who were early Sunrise Drive settlers.. Their two residences, farms and true barns are elsewhere.

The list of property owners I believe came from a few maps in my possession including the 1909 Kitsap County Plat Map.

I have interviewed two 93 year old former strawberry farmers' children and both were surprised at an alleged strawberry association at that location. Did the applicant take her inquiry to the BI Japanese American Community to ask those who may best know whether her claim was correct or even likely? We think not. I spent two decades working with the BIJAC heritage project steering committee during which time Tats Moritani and I inventoried and mapped former berry and other agricultural farms and that site never was mentioned in any capacity associated with strawberry farming. Further, I spent two years researching extensively the history of the strawberry industry and i believe you received a copy of a NHR nomination for the old cannery site. Strawberry buying stations were noted on Island but never on Sunrise Drive. We also did extensive research on the Filipino Farmers for their community hall. And my wife and I lived in residences of Ford and later Jim Quitslund (his father's first home that has since been moved to the Knight property) when we first came to the island. Phelps Quitslund was Ford and Jim's brother. All that having been said, farmers sometimes relied upon others to transport berries. And there were a few non-Japanese strawberry farmers in the Rolling Bay area. And there were at least three early Japanese farmers on what is today Day Road East - one where Wilkes is located, Syematsus', and Hyakataro Moritani west of Suyematsu. Maybe Vivian Hwang in her research has learned something that can support Sonja's story about shed use for berries..

Check maps and Island road histories (Berg, BI Museum) for roads and road development chronology. My circa 1926 Kroll property ownership map indicates a road (Sunrise Drive) going all the way to near Point Monroe.

What are the three (3?) archaeological sites alleged to be on the property? Glenn, is the statement given correct? From what is she quoting?

Again, I applaud Sonja Quitslund for her enthusiasm, perseverance, love of the island, family and this old building. Mike Brundige saved something similar - an old work shop building - on the old Brauer residence across Madison Ave. N. from Wilkes School. The photo in the Bainbridge Islander of the plaque on this old building with the drawing of one of the large

gambrel-roofed barns hardly seems appropriate to this old building. The historic Quitslund residence and barn of Sonja's grandparents still are in use, I believe. They would be more worthy, though I can't off hand recall any gambrel roofed barns here except some contemporary ones.

Sounds like a tour of Island historic barns may be in order or at least a good set of photographs..

With gratitude,

Jerry
Gerald Elfendahl
7823 Westerly lane NE
B. Is., WA 98110

On Apr 19, 2013, at 1:34 PM, Marcia Montgomery wrote

Hi Jerry,

I had mentioned that I would send you a copy of the Quitslund Barn nomination. Here it is. Though this original nomination identifies several areas of significance, the HCP only identified it as eligible for the local register as a distinct property type representative of a period.

Best to you, Marcia

<quitslund app.pdf>