



Community Planning & Economic Development

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Thurston County Historic Register Nomination Form

This form is required to nominate properties to the Thurston County Historic Register of Historic Places. Type all entries and complete all applicable sections. Contact the Historic Preservation Office with any questions at 360-867-2117.

Staff Use Only	Date Stamp
LABEL	

PROPERTY INFORMATION

1. Historic Property Name: Jamestown Granary
2. Historic Property Address: 7741 James Rd. SW
3. Tax Parcel Number: 09410011002

PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION

Owner: Kristi James and Massimi Tumini Taxpayers: Dwight and Sylvia James Email:

Address: 7741 James Rad SW, Rochester, WA Zip Code 98579

Signature: _____ Date: _____

FORM PREPARER

Name: Shanna Stevenson Phone: 360-798-8778 Email: heritageservicesolympia@hotmail.com

Address: 3515 Kensington Ct. SE City: Olympia State: WA Zip Code: 98501

Signature: _____ Date: August, 2024

NOMINATED ELEMENTS

Please indicate below significant elements of the property that are included in the nomination by checking the appropriate box(es) below. These elements should be described specifically in the narrative section of this form.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Principal Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Additions	<input type="checkbox"/> Accessory Buildings/Outbuildings
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Interior Spaces/Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Landscaping, Fencing, Walkways, etc.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

EXTENT OF CHANGES

Please summarize the changes that have been made to the original plan, exterior, materials, cladding, windows, interior, and other significant elements by selecting the choices below. If the property has been previously documented, these may be indicated on the Washington State Historic Property Inventory Form. These changes should be described specifically in the narrative section of this form.

ORIGINAL MATERIALS INTACT

Plan (i.e.: no additions to footprint , relocation of walls, or roof plan)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Original cladding/exterior materials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Windows (no replacement windows or replacement sashes)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Interior (woodwork, finishes, flooring, fixtures)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Other elements	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION NARRATIVE

Describe in detail the original (if known) and present physical appearance, condition and architectural characteristics of the site (context, location), exterior (all four walls), and interior. Please include a list of known alterations and their dates (use additional sheets if necessary)

The Jamestown Granary is a small single-story building about 14 feet square; it is built of cedar planks in double wall construction. It was originally located on James family property about one quarter mile west of the present site, but was moved to the town of Rochester. It was moved to its present location in 1974, and served as the James family museum. All of the original planking for the interior and exterior walls as well as the flooring were cut at the Ben Armstrong mill, the first sawmill in Grays Harbor County. Although some of the original exterior wall planks have been replaced, the original square nails were reused when possible. Two rectangular two-by-four foot windows flank the front entrance. These windows as well as the three-by-four foot window on the rear wall were added in 1928. Although not the original, the front door was reconstructed in a vertical plank design identical to the first. The granary now rests on concrete block and wood post footings at each of the four corners, replacing the original square wood posts. The pyramidal shake roof was added in 1979; however, care was taken to duplicate all details of the former roof. Verge boards frame the 16-inch eave overhang. Originally the granary had three steps leading to the front door. These steps have been replaced with a small porch extending across the entire front facade. Horizontal cedar planks also form the interior walls which extend to the open rafters of the roof. All of the original rough-cut planks vary in thickness, and attention to craftsmanship is shown in arranging each board on an even plan to achieve a level surface on both walls and floor. The interior and exterior walls have been stained and painted to preserve them. Pitch sealant on the smoothly worn fir floorboards, double wall construction, and elevated foundation provided an efficient and economical structure for the storage of grain.

The Jamestown Granary is located on the northern bank of the Chehalis River, approximately 1.5 miles due west of the town of Grand Mound in the SE, SE, SW Section 10, Township 15N, Range 3W. The northwest corner of the square-shaped property which contains the granary is located 75 feet due south of a point on the James Road which is .7 of a mile west of the intersection of James Road and State Highway 9. The northern boundary line runs from this northwest point due east 50 feet to the northeast corner; thence due south 50 feet to the southeast corner; thence due west 50 feet on a line parallel to the northern river bank to the southwest corner; thence due north 50 feet, returning to the northwest corner.

Historic Features from Thurston County Register Placement:

1. Single-story building 14 feet square.
2. Cedar planks in double wall construction.
3. Two rectangular two-by-four foot windows flanking the front entrance (1928).
4. Three-by-four foot window on rear wall (1928).
5. Vertical plank door.
6. Pyramidal shake roof with verge boards framing a 16-inch eave overhang.
7. Elevated foundation.

Features That Would be Desirable to Restore to the Original

1. Square wood post footings.
2. Original front facade configuration.

HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION

The County Historic Register recognizes properties that are at least 50 years old (or of lesser age if of exceptional importance), and which are important for one or more of the following reasons:

- Historical Importance -- the property is: the site of an historic event with an effect upon society; identified with a person or group who had some influence on society; or exemplifies the cultural, social, religious, economic, political, aesthetic or engineering history of the county.
- Architectural Importance -- the property is: (a) an individual building that embodies those distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type, period, style or method of design or construction; is the work of an architect or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the county; or (b) a group of buildings that may lack distinction individually but together are easily distinguished as a unit and characterize an earlier era, way of living, and construction of the built environment.
- Archaeological Importance -- the property has yielded or may be likely to yield archaeological information important in pre-history or history.
- Birthplaces, Graves, Cemeteries -- the property is: a birthplace or grave of a person of outstanding historical importance; or a cemetery significant because of its age, distinctive design features or association with historic events or cultural patterns.

HISTORICAL DATA (IF KNOWN)

Date of Construction: ca. 1884 Other Significant Dates: moved in 1974
Architects: _____ Builder: Samuel James 2d Engineer: _____
Architectural Styles: vernacular
Materials: wood

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Describe in detail the chronological history of the property and how it meets the criteria for the Register of Historic Places. Please provide a summary in the first paragraph that lists the relevant criteria (use additional sheets if necessary). This section should include a thorough narrative of the property's history, context, occupants, and uses. If using a Multiple Property Nomination that is already on record, or another historical context narrative, please reference it by name and source

The Jamestown Granary is significant as the last surviving structure from the original home site of Samuel (1805-1866) and Anna Maria Foxwell James (1806-1879), who settled on Mound Prairie in Thurston County, in 1852.

The granary, according to the family, was built by Samuel James 2nd and Clara Minnie Heel James. Although it has been moved from its original location and has been altered, it has strong associations with an important area family of immigrant settlers. Samuel and Anna Maria James were Cornish immigrants whose prospering family ultimately created a community informally called Jamestown, located near Grand Mound in southern Thurston County. By 1920, descendants and others had created a small cluster of homes and businesses near the Chehalis River, roughly between Grand Mound and Scatter Creek. Samuel James Jr. and his wife Clara Minnie Heel James built two homes in the area, although both had burned early in the 1900s. The granary still remains from the farm complex established by James. It was used for its original purpose into the 1930s, when it was converted into a tool house. It was moved and dedicated as a James Family Museum in 1960. The Jamestown Granary serves as a touchstone for the descendants of Samuel James, a numerous group which for many years held an annual reunion in Jamestown Grove.

Samuel James 2d, was born in Cornwall, England and went to Wisconsin with his parents and on to Grand Mound in the early 1850s. He was part of the larger colony of the James family. He was in the Washington Volunteer Militia during the Puget Sound Indian War of 1855-56 and shipped beef and mutton to Victoria B.C. besides serving as Thurston County Assessor. Samuel James Jr. married Clara Minnie Heel in Victoria, B. C., in 1862. They eventually had seven children. The James Family also claimed land on Grays Harbor where, according to David James, they “raised market beef,” for several years.

Handwritten information from David James Cultural Resources Inventory Form ca. 1984:

“Now rare, an original grain storage building typical of pioneer farm life in Washington Territorial Days. After Samuel James, Sr. became the first white settler on Grand Mound Prairie, Thurston County, Oregon Territory, in 1852, his children matured, married and settled at Grand Mound forming a 17-home colony called, “Jamestown.” Samuel James 2d, (1834-1906) [and wife Clara Minnie Heel James] (1844-1935) built the granary to store threshed grain for community farms. It served this purpose into the 1930s and later became a storehouse.

The granary originally stood one-quarter mile west of the present location and was moved in 1960. The building’s interior contains cedar boards sawed in Benjamin Armstrong’s sawmill on Cedar Creek Falls about 10 miles west of Grand Mound in 1853. This was the first operating sawmill in Grays Harbor County. These cedar boards are believed to be the last to survive of lumber cut 131 years ago.”

Listed on the Washington State Heritage Register in 1984 and on the Thurston County Historic Register in 1987. The property is also identified in the National Register Multiple Property Documentation “Agriculture in Thurston County: First Settlement to 1851,” 2002.

Bibliography:

David A. James, *From Grand Mound to Scatter Creek*, Olympia: State Capitol Historical Association, 1980.

<https://www.historylink.org/File/7390>

Autobiography of John Roger James : Thurston County—1850,” United States, Works Progress Administration: *Told by the Pioneers: tales of frontier life as told by those who remember the days of the territory and early statehood of Washington*: [Olympia?]: publisher not identified, 1937-1938. 59-94.

Letter from David James to Washington State Archaeology and Historic Preservation 1984.

Herndon Smith, *Centralia: The First Fifty Years 1845-1900, Bicentennial Edition*. Tumwater, WA: H. J. Quality Printing, 1975.

<https://www.washingtonruralheritage.org/digital/collection/pioneers/id/45/rec/3>

James Family Papers at the University of Washington. <https://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:80444/xv53366>

<https://www.thurstontalk.com/2021/09/02/community-farm-land-trust-purchases-29-acre-portion-of-the-pioneer-james-familys-1852-donation-land-claim/>

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Lucille McDonald, "Century Old Letter Tells of Jameses' Pioneering at Grand Mound," *Sunday Seattle Times Magazine*, July 20, 1952, 2.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/30003851/anna-maria-james>

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https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/30004618/samuel_james

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/30004249/clara_minnie_james

A.C. Todd with David James, *Ever Westward the Land*, Exeter, U. K.: University of Exeter, 1986.

"Agriculture in Thurston County: First Settlement to 1951," accessed at:

<https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/71204105-a8aa-4566-9afc-3b28885d84b3>