



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: Thomas and Louisa Shotwell Rutledge House and Barn
2. Historic Property Address: 13423 Littlerock Rd., Littlerock, WA 98589
3. Tax Parcel Number: 13611100000

PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION

Owner: Joanna Bryan; Thea Schnase; Sean Croke Email: _____

Address: 13423 Littlerock Road, Rochester, WA 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessory Buildings/Outbuildings
<input type="checkbox"/> xSite	<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 checked="" 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)

Fronted by a board fenced lawn, the L-shaped house is an excellent example of the vernacular Greek Revival Style of architecture. The original wing, a one and one-half story structure of wood plank construction, sits on a post and pier foundation. The steep gable roof covered in wood shingles terminates in a molded boxed cornice with prominent returns. Walls are clad with drop siding and corner boards with wide frieze boards and cornice boards at the roofline. Horizontal boards skirt the foundation. Windows are double-hung sash with six-over-six lights, narrow mullions, and plain surrounds with prominent head moldings. The panelled entry door on the front (east) facade has narrow five-paned sidelights with blind lower panels and a six-paned transom. Broad plain surrounds on the doorway are topped by a prominent head molding. To the north, a two-story wood frame wing built in 1893 meets the older wing at right angles. The wood-shingled hip roof is broken at the ridgeline by a brick chimney and terminates in a plain cornice fascia. Walls are clad with drop siding and corner boards and the poured concrete foundation is skirted with horizontal boards. A one-story porch, approached by central wooden steps, spans the front facade of this wing. The porch has a shingled hip roof supported by simple square posts with broadened capitals. The porch shelters the kitchen entry door. An enclosed porch on the west facade connects the wing to an outbuilding. Fenestration is double-hung sash with two-over-two lights and plain surrounds. The interior of the house retains many of the original appointments including woodwork, flooring, fireplace, and plan. Only the kitchen and bathrooms have been significantly modernized.

Several hundred feet to the north of the house is the barn. The Maryland style barn, built in 1864 by the Rutledges, is one of the largest in Thurston County, measuring over 125 feet long and 75 feet wide. The barn is constructed of hand-hewn timbers with crossbeams pegged with mortise and tenon joints. The massive rectangular building is set on a stone and wood pier foundation. The gabled hip roof is clad with wood shingles and the walls are clad with vertical board siding. Smaller gables extend from the main gables on the front (east) and rear facades above the tall, hinged doors leading to the haymow; flanking smaller doors lead to the stalls. The low north and south walls each have five small four-paned windows which light the stalls. The remaining outbuildings are associated with later members of the Rutledge Family.

Historic Features Thurston County Historic Register Placement:

House (original wing)

1. One and one half story structure of wood plank construction on a post and pier foundation built in vernacular Greek Revival style.
2. Steep gable roof with molded, boxed cornice with returns.
3. Walls have drop siding cladding and corner boards, with wide frieze boards and cornice boards at the roofline and horizontal skirting boards at the foundation.
4. Double-hung sash windows with six-over-six lights, narrow mullions, plain surrounds, and prominent head moldings.
5. The panelled entry door has narrow five-paned sidelights with blind lower panels and six-paned transom. The door has broad plain surrounds topped by a prominent head molding.

House (1893 wing)

1. Two story wood frame wing with hip roof terminating in plain cornice fascia built at a right angle to the original dwelling.
2. Drop siding cladding and corner boards.
3. One story porch approached by central wooden steps on front facade. The porch has square posts with broadened capitals.
4. Enclosed porch on west façade connecting the wing to an outbuilding.
5. Double hung sash windows with two-over-two lights and plain surrounds.

Barn

1. Rectangular building measuring 100 feet long of timber frame construction on a stone and wood pier foundation.
2. Gabled hip roof covered with wood shingles.
3. Vertical board siding as cladding.
4. Smaller gables extending from main gables and the front and rear facades.
5. Tall hinged entry doors to the haymow. Flanking smaller doors leading to stalls.
6. Five small four-paned windows on north and south walls lighting the stalls.
7. Hand-hewn timbers with mortise and tenon joints secured by wooden pegs.

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: 1861; 1864; 1893 Other Significant Dates: _____
Architects: _____ Builder: _____ Engineer: _____
Architectural Styles: Greek Revival; Maryland style barn
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 Thomas Elliot and Louisa Shotwell Rutledge House and Barn are some of the county's oldest and best-preserved buildings associated with 19th emigrant settlement and agricultural activity in Thurston County. The buildings include a significant example of the Greek Revival Style and one of the largest timber barns in the county.

The buildings remain virtually unaltered and were in continuous use by the Rutledge family from their construction until they were sold in 2018. The current use of the property relates to a plant medicine operation.

Thomas and Louisa Rutledge, early residents in the area, established a post office at the site, named the area "Littlerock," and owned one of the largest hay farms in the county. A native of Ohio, Thomas Rutledge came over the Oregon Trail to the Littlerock area, then known as Black River, in 1852 where he settled on a preemption claim and built a log cabin. The farmstead is on the prehistoric and historic Black Lake portage, a Native American and non-Native explorer route to the Pacific Ocean from Puget Sound.

In 1854 Rutledge and another early resident, John Shotwell, slashed the first road between Littlerock and Tumwater. Thomas Rutledge (1831-1909) married Louisa Margaret Shotwell (1839-1877) in Black River in 1856. She had come over the Oregon Trail from Ohio in 1853 with her parents, John and Eleanor Leonard

Shotwell. She died in 1877, the mother of nine children. Thomas later married Nancy Luella Miles (1844-1925) in 1882. The couple had two more children.

The Thomas Rutledges built the original section of this house in 1861 and added the north wing in 1893. The house had a gravity water system, the first to have running water in the district. Prior to 1879, the area was called Black River. In that year Rutledge wanted to establish a post office and placed a large rock in his front yard, intending to name the post office "The Rock," since a "Black River" was already located in King County. Because of objections from the postal department, the name was changed to "Little Rock." In June 1879 the house was established as the official post office and Rutledge was named postmaster. Located there until 1883, the post office records remained at the house for many years. According to the entry in "Centennial Farms," Rutledge was also a doctor of sorts, he pulled teeth and even vaccinated his family against smallpox. After Louella Rutledge's death in 1925, the farm was owned by son Thomas Albert (1883-1974) and wife Olive Wilson Briggs Rutledge (1885-1977). Their son Dale and his wife Mary owned the farm from 1977 until 2013. The property then passed to another Rutledge family member before being sold in 2018.

The rock in front of the house was used as a mounting stone for those who came for their mail on horseback and remains in front of the house. Rutledge was active in the Methodist Church and helped construct the first church in Littlerock; later, he helped rebuild the structure when it was moved into town. In addition to his role in the early settlement of the community, Rutledge was an important farmer who built a large timber barn to store the meadow hay he harvested from Black River bottom land and sold as a cash crop to livery stables and other concerns in Olympia. Rutledge stored the hay in the wide mows of the barn until transporting it by horse and wagon throughout the winter. Agricultural outbuildings of this period are very rare in Washington and this may be one of the oldest in the state.

The property was listed on the Thurston County Historic Register, 1987. The property was determined eligible for the National and State Registers under Criteria A and C as part of the National Register Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) "Historical Resources of Unincorporated Thurston County, 1988." The property was also noted in the MPD Document, "Agriculture in Thurston County: First Settlement to 1951," in 2002.

The Thomas Rutledge Homestead was recognized as a Centennial Farm in 1989, when 331 acres of the original farm remained. The property now is 25.47 acres. Dale Rutledge (1920-2013) and his wife Mary Wagner Rutledge (1922-1983) who were married in 1946 lived in the house and property throughout their lives along with their family. They maintained the history and historic character of the property.

Bibliography:

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