

BOYER FARM, BARN  
Barns of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve  
711 South Fort Casey Road  
Coupeville vicinity  
Island County  
Washington

HABS WA-245-A  
WA-245-A

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### BOYER FARM, BARN

HABS No. WA-245-A

Location: Whidbey Island, Island County, Washington

Present Owner: Freeman and Opal Boyer

Present Use: Agricultural storage

Significance: With the passing of the Donation Land Claim (DLC) Act in 1850, Congress agreed to grant land in the Oregon Territory to American settlers willing to farm it. During this time settlement of Central Whidbey Island accelerated and Hugh Crockett claimed 160 acres of prairie south of Penn Cove. Adjoining the DLCs of his brother and father, the area soon came to be known as Crockett Prairie. Hugh Crockett served as the first Sheriff of Island County. He developed his land, building a house and outbuildings. Although undocumented, it is likely that the barn that remains on the property was built by Crockett.

In 1873, the claim was sold to Captain B.F. Loveland and later sold to Christian Kaehler. The Kaehler family kept the land for two generations, raising sheep and growing crops. In 1943, Louise Kaehler, Christian's daughter, sold the property to James L. Houston. Houston sold his land in two pieces to Freeman E. Boyer Sr. in 1943 and 1944. The Boyers continued raising sheep on the land. They also cleared large pastures for crop fields. The property remains in the Boyer family today.

With the destruction of the Crockett house, the site is no longer a representation of the typical cluster plan seen throughout the area. Although the exact date of construction of the barn is unknown, its heavy-timber, mortise and tenon construction with pegs dates it as one of the oldest remaining barns in the area.

## I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### A. Physical History:

1. Date of construction: Second half of the nineteenth century
2. Original owner: Hugh Crockett Donation Land Claim  
  
Subsequent owners: In 1873 the claim was sold to Captain B.F. Loveland. It was later sold to Christian Kaehler and family.<sup>1</sup> In 1943, Louise Kaehler, Christian's daughter, sold the property to James L. Houston.<sup>2</sup> Houston sold a piece of the property to Freeman E. Boyer Sr. on December 21, 1943.<sup>3</sup> Houston sold an additional 153 acres to Boyer on July 3, 1944.<sup>4</sup> When Freeman Sr. retired from farming in 1956 the property was passed to Freeman Boyer Jr. Today it is owned by Freeman Jr. and Opal Boyer, his wife.<sup>5</sup>
3. Original plans and construction: The original barn is a mortise and tenon, heavy-timber construction with wood pegs. Its original dimensions are 30'-1-1/2" x 40'-4". A front gable roof with wood shakes covered the open floor plan.
4. Alterations and additions: Early shed additions were added to the east and west elevations. The addition to the west was removed in the late 1990s after a wind storm blew the roof in. This addition was constructed for machine storage and was accessible via an opening on the south façade. The east lean-to addition is 12'- 4-1/4" wide and runs the full length of the original barn. This addition is accessible from the barn interior and is divided into animal pens and a feeding trough. A hay mow, used for loose hay storage, was removed in 1944 to allow baled hay to stack the full height of the barn.

### B. Historical Context:

"From A.D. 1300 until white settlements in the 1850s, Salish villagers occupied Whidbey and Camano Islands. When the whites arrived, four groups of Salish Indians – the Skagit, Snohomish,

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<sup>1</sup> Jimmie Jean Cook, A Particular Friend, Penn's Cove: A History of the Settlers, Claims and Buildings of Central Whidbey Island (Coupeville, WA: Island County Historical Society, 1973), 29.

<sup>2</sup> Island County Deed Record. File number 58594, Deed Record 57, pp. 635-634.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., File number 59276, Deed Record 58, Vol. 57, p. 228.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., File number 60433, Deed Record 58, Vol. 58, pp. 644-645.

<sup>5</sup> Freeman Boyer Jr., Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd (Coupeville, WA: 20 March 2007), 00:55:16.

Kikialos, and Clallam – shared the island.”<sup>6</sup> These groups, classified as saltwater or canoe Indians, built three permanent villages along Penn Cove on Whidbey Island. Their lifestyle and settlement patterns relied heavily on salmon, although they also hunted and gathered berries and roots. Along with salmon, their diets consisted of: steelhead, rainbow trout, shellfish, cattail, salmonberries, strawberries, camas, wild carrots, rose hips, bracken ferns, acorns, hazelnuts, crab apples, elk, and deer.<sup>7</sup>

Before white explorers reached the area, the Salish did not cultivate the prairies of Central Whidbey Island, but rather manipulated them to fit their needs. They repeatedly burned the prairie lands and into the surrounding woods. This encouraged the growth of bracken and camas in the prairie, and renewed undergrowth in the woods that became habitat for game animals.<sup>8</sup> The Salish Indians also used the forest wood to build their canoes and villages.<sup>9</sup>

Captain George Vancouver carried out the first effective European exploration of Central Whidbey Island, claiming it for the British Empire on June 4, 1792.<sup>10</sup> In 1833 the Hudson Bay Company explored Whidbey Island in search of game to trap and hunt, and in 1839 the first missionaries reached Whidbey Island.<sup>11</sup> By this time, after contact with sailors, hunters, trappers, and missionaries, the Native populations in the area were devastated by smallpox and syphilis.<sup>12</sup> By the 1850s syphilis was credited with a hundred deaths in the Puget Sound area every year. And in 1852 and 1853 the last great smallpox epidemic to strike the area took the lives of entire villages.<sup>13</sup>

Along with disease, the white explorers and settlers brought potatoes to the area and by 1830 the British at Fort Nisqually recognized potatoes as a staple in the economy and diet of the Salish villages.<sup>14</sup> The potatoes’ easy growing cycle and high production brought the Salish Indians to first cultivate the prairies of Central Whidbey.<sup>15</sup> This cultivation was documented and continued by the first American settlers to the area. Within a few years most Native Americans had moved on to the reservation in La Conner, and by 1904 only a few Salish families remained in Central Whidbey Island.<sup>16</sup>

In 1850 the United States Congress passed the Donation Land Claim Act which accelerated settlement of Central Whidbey Island, Washington. Settlers that were compliant with certain conditions<sup>17</sup> were granted 320 acres if single or 640 acres if married. Colonel Isaac Neff Ebey

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<sup>6</sup> Richard White, Land Use, Environment, and Social Change: The Shaping of Island County, Washington (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1980), 14.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 17-18.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., 20-21.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., 16. “In each village a single row of three to five large cedar houses, together with smaller buildings, faced the water with the forest looming at their backs. Often from 100 to 200 feet long, these buildings normally housed several families who partitioned the interiors into separate living quarters.”

<sup>10</sup> A Particular Friend, 11.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., 11-13.

<sup>12</sup> Land Use, 26-29.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., 27.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., 32.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 33.

<sup>16</sup> Mimi Sheridan, *How Coupeville Grew: A Short History of Town Development: Excerpts from the Town of Coupeville’s Historic Preservation Plan*, (Coupeville, WA: McConnell/Burke, Inc., 1998), 7.

<sup>17</sup> Conditions included: age, sex, nationality, and race, along with the date of arrival in the area, and the agreement to cultivate the land for four years.

was the first to stake a DLC in Central Whidbey Island. On October 15, 1850, Ebey claimed “640 acres on the rich black loam of the prairie that now bears his name.”<sup>18</sup>

In 1851, Ebey’s wife, Rebecca Davis Ebey, the two Ebey sons, Rebecca’s three brothers, and the Col. Walter Crockett family crossed the Oregon Trail to join Isaac Ebey on Whidbey Island.<sup>19</sup> Col. Crockett’s son, Hugh, claimed 160 acres of prairie in the spring of 1852 adjoining the DLC of his father and his brother Samuel Black Crockett. This area soon came to be known by the name “Crockett Prairie”.

On April 4, 1853, Hugh Crockett was appointed the first Sheriff of Island County by the Board of Commissioners after their first choice, George W.L. Allen, refused the position.<sup>20</sup> Crockett served as Sheriff for two years while continuing to farm his land. In 1863 he married Jessie Rachel Bond<sup>21</sup> also of Island County. That same year the Crocketts built a house on Hugh’s DLC. The exact construction date of the barn on the property is unclear, but its hand-hewn, heavy-timber pieces and pegged mortise and tenon joints suggest that it was constructed at the same time as the house. By 1864, the Crocketts began to sell pieces of their land. On January 20, they sold more than 10 acres to John R. Williamson for \$150.00.<sup>22</sup>

The couple had no children of their own, but in 1869 Mr. James Lyons gave his seven-year-old son to the Crocketts along with \$300.00. The Crocketts were to serve as the boy’s foster parents, providing care, clothing, education, and instruction in the “art or occupation of farming” in exchange for the child to “serve his master faithfully, honestly and industriously.”<sup>23</sup>

In 1873 the Crockett’s left Whidbey for Seattle, selling land from the original DLC to Captain B.F. Loveland. Loveland named the farm “Roselawn” and grew an extensive orchard and rose garden.<sup>24</sup> Loveland sold the property to Christian Kaehler who farmed the land with his wife, four daughters and two sons: H. William, born in 1859; Bertha S. (Jenne), born in 1860; Sophia (Lancaster); Adele J., born in 1868, Louise G., born in 1869; and Christian Jr., born in 1872.<sup>25</sup>

On their land the Kaehlers raised sheep that grazed on wild grasses between stumps on an uncleared portion of their land.<sup>26</sup> In a 1997 interview with Theresa Trebon, the Kaehler’s neighbor, Gus Reuble, remembered that the Kaehler family also raised calves and five or six milk cows. Reuble also spoke of Chinamen shacks on the Kaehler property. He recalled that two or three shacks stood northeast of the Hugh Crockett house on the other side of a fruit orchard on the property. He also remembered a Chinese woman in the shacks, something that was otherwise unheard of in the area.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> A Particular Friend, 19.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, 20.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, 29.

<sup>21</sup> Hugh Crockett’s wife is referenced to with a variety of names. On an 1864 Island County Deed, vol. 3, pp. 96-97, “Hugh Crockett and Jessie R. his wife” are listed as the grantors; in A Particular Friend, Cook refers to her as “Rachel Bond” p. 28, and “formerly Miss Rachel Good” p. 30.

<sup>22</sup> Island County Deed Record. Vol. 3, pp. 96-97.

<sup>23</sup> A Particular Friend, 29.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> “Burial Listings,” Sunnyside Cemetery, Island County Cemetery District No. 2 (<http://www.sunnysidecemetery.org/>), Website accessed 15 May 2007.

<sup>26</sup> Boyer, Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 00:04:10.

<sup>27</sup> Gus Reuble, Transcription of Oral Interview with Theresa Trebon (Coupeville, WA: 7 February 1997), 30.

In 1883, Bertha S. Kaehler left the farm to marry Coupeville's Central Hotel proprietor, Jacob Jenne. Her father, Christian Sr., did not approve of the marriage. Jenne ran a saloon out of his hotel, a controversial act in the eyes of many Coupeville locals, including his fellow Masons. Upon his death in 1921, Christian Sr. left his daughter a mere dollar inheritance. She refused to accept the money, forcing the County Clerk to carry the surplus dollar on her books.<sup>28</sup>

Christian Sr. was preceded in death by his wife, Louise Oldenberg Kaehler, who died in 1904, and his eldest son, H. William who died in 1920. For twenty-two years after their father's death, the remaining unmarried Kaehler children, Louise G., Adele J., and Christian Jr. kept the farm. During this time the land was leased to local farmers. John Le Sourd, of neighboring Ebey Prairie, farmed the Kaehler's land during the depression.<sup>29</sup> After the deaths of her sister and brother, Louise sold the property and moved into town. She sold 153 acres to James L. Houston of Seattle for \$17,000.00 on May 6, 1943.<sup>30</sup>

James L. Houston and his wife, Jean T., began selling their land to Freeman Boyer Sr. that same year. On December 21, 1943 Boyer bought a small amount of land from the Houstons for \$150.00.<sup>31</sup> The following summer, James and Jean Houston sold their 153 acres of the original Hugh Crockett DLC to Boyer. On July 3, 1944 Boyer paid \$1,000.00 to the Houstons for their 153 acres, with the remaining \$15,000.00 of the purchase price due on the first of October that same year.<sup>32</sup>

Freeman Boyer Sr. came from Kansas to Whidbey with his family at the age of two. His father, William Boyer, supported the family by chopping and selling firewood before he began masonry work, building chimneys and working with cement. Freeman Boyer Sr. began farming on the original Isaac Ebey DLC before the land was purchased by the Smith family.<sup>33</sup> He married Doris Newcomb in 1915. The couple had four children: Alice, born in 1916; Elizabeth "Betty", born in 1918; Freeman Jr., born in 1921; and Dale, born in 1925.<sup>34</sup>

Freeman Jr. began to farm full time with his father, after he graduated from Coupeville High School in 1939. At this time Freeman Sr. was farming 400 acres of Crockett and Ebey Prairie and the family was living east of the intersection of Engle and Hill Roads. They were raising dried peas and vetch, and oats and vetch for hay. Their crops were sold as green manure which added nitrogen into the soil and was ideal fertilizer for wheat. They also raised 100 bushels per acre of wheat, and three tons of barley.<sup>35</sup>

In 1944 the hay mow was removed from the barn. In a 2008 letter, Freeman Jr. explained this decision.

"The barn, in 1944, contained a hay mow which was for loose hay. The fork and track, of course, was [sic.] for getting it up to the mow. We were beyond that

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<sup>28</sup> A Particular Friend, 86.

<sup>29</sup> Edward Le Sourd, Transcription of Oral Interview with Theresa Trebon (Mt. Vernon, WA: 7 July 1997), 21.

<sup>30</sup> Island County Deed Record. File number 58594, Deed Record 57, pp. 635-634.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., File number 59276, Deed Record 58, p. 228.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., File number 60433, Deed Record 58, pp. 644-645.

<sup>33</sup> Boyer, Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 00:09:20.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid., 00:07:20.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid., 00:14:40.

form of hay storage. We were baling our hay and straw. So we removed the mow, taking out the floor and support members which were laid on the beams. This allowed head room to stack bales high on the main floor.”<sup>36</sup>

When Freeman Sr. bought the Hugh Crockett DLC land, his land on Crockett Prairie spanned from the current Wanamaker Road just south of Patmore Road.<sup>37</sup> The Boyer Family moved into the Hugh Crockett house. Freeman Jr., who was single at the time, lived in the house with his parents for two years. In 1946 Freeman Jr. married Opal Sloth, a Coupeville local. The couple moved into a house south of the Hugh Crockett place.

The Boyers continued the sheep raising practices of the Kaehler Family. Freeman Sr. and Jr. cleared more of the land and planted specific grass ideal for their ewes.<sup>38</sup> In a 2007 interview with Anne E. Kidd, Freeman Jr. explained the benefits of raising sheep,

“We mainly kept sheep because it was good for the farm. Because it forced us to have some [fields] seeded down all the time and then you’d rotate and after you used the pasture for four or five years you’d plow it up and you’d have good hummus and soil because of the sod. We weren’t using commercial fertilizers at that time, so you had to try to help the soil along...which is still a good practice...”<sup>39</sup>

The Boyers moved their sheep operation from Engle Road to the Crockett land in order to have the sheep closer to the family. At this time, the barn at the Engle Road property was transformed to squash storage, but their sheep dip remained.<sup>40</sup> The dip was used to control ticks and external bugs. After sheering off the wool, the sheep were run through a ‘V’-shaped concrete tank built into the ground. Copper Sheep Dip was mixed from a yellow powder into a slurry and added to water in the tank. The sheep were submerged and then moved into a holding pen with a concrete drain that fed back into the tank.<sup>41</sup> At the height of sheep production, the Boyers raised 240 ewes and 300 lambs.

The sheep bred in the fall, and after a five month gestation period, lambed in January. During an unassisted birth, the lambs came out with their front feet first. Freeman Jr. was the primary caregiver to the sheep. In his forty-seven years as a farmer there was only one birthing case he couldn’t solve. A ewe was having twins, and one of the twins was cross-legged. Freeman tried to turn the lamb but couldn’t get it out; in the end, all three died.<sup>42</sup>

After the successful births, castrated and tailless lambs were moved into mixing pens with their mothers. Ten ewes with lambs were kept in each pen to allow the mother and child to familiarize themselves with each other’s smell. Next they were moved to another wing of the sheep barn. For two or three weeks large groups of ewes and lambs were kept together in the barn and fed hay

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<sup>36</sup> Freeman Boyer Jr., Letter to Anne E. Kidd, 20 September 2008.

<sup>37</sup> Jim Houston sold ten acres of land along Patmore Road to his father. Boyer, Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 00:12:14, 00:17:30.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., 00:04:10.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid., 00:13:20.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid., 00:54:40.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., 00:17:10, 00:46:00, 00:47:33.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., 01:08:14.

and oats. Finally they were put into a small pasture around the barn. At this time they were fed outside and left to roam.<sup>43</sup>

The Boyers raised their lambs until they weighed 100 pounds. At this time they were loaded in groups of fifteen onto a truck and sent to Ferndale, WA to the stockyards or slaughterhouse. Those kept for breeding were sent to the dog food processing plant at age six.<sup>44</sup>

During World War II the Boyers went into grass seed production. They raised fescue, orchard, and vent grass. The seeds were shipped off the Coupeville docks by a contract company.<sup>45</sup> The Boyers also began to raise vegetable seeds. Freeman Jr. explained how their first crop of open-pollinated cabbage was labor intensive and low yielding.

“[We] didn’t get too good of yields because there was no control for pod bore [sic].<sup>46</sup> Pod bore [sic.] is an insect that stings the pod and hatches out an egg and it eats some of the seeds in the pod. It reduced your yield about one-third if they ate a lot of the seeds in the pod.”<sup>47</sup>

Later, the Boyers transitioned into hybrid cabbage which was more productive and lucrative. They contracted with the Alf Christianson Seed Company of Mt. Vernon. The seed company furnished the plants, determined when to plant them, contracted bees for pollination, and controlled disease and insects. The grower was responsible for preparing the soil, providing the planting crew, cultivating the rows, side dressing with hoppers, and fertilizing in the fall after a month of growth. Growing hybrid cabbage was a two-year commitment for the fields. They were left unplanted for the first summer months to collect moisture.<sup>48</sup>

In the fall, the Boyers used their transplanter machine to plant the small cabbages provided by the seed company. One person drove the machine while two sat atop it with boxes of plants. The transplanter machine had a shoe to make furrows. The workers alternated putting the plants into a clip that rotated down and into the furrows. The plant was released and the furrows were closed by the machine.<sup>49</sup>

Hybrid cabbage seeds are grown by cross pollinating two types of cabbage plants. The seed company determined when to plant the different types based on their growing speed. The process depended on both types of cabbage blooming at the same time.<sup>50</sup> The growing stages of the cabbage were outlined by Freeman Jr.:

“Cabbage has to go through a dormant stage to have a seed stock. So we plant them [in the fall]. They get a pretty good start before a cold winter...when the warm weather starts in the spring they want to put up a seed stock. If they come to the right stage before hand, [the seed stock will] probably break out and go up. But if they don’t, [the grower has] to get a crew in there to open them up so the

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<sup>43</sup> Boyer, Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 01:04:00.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid., 01:12:15.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid., 00:18:25.

<sup>46</sup> The insect is a pod borer.

<sup>47</sup> Boyer, Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 00:20:50.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid., 00:38:20.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid., 00:36:00.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid., 00:38:20.

seed stock can break out what would be a head. But they're not trying to raise cabbage heads, they're trying to raise seeds, so you open the head and the seed stock makes a big plant.”<sup>51</sup>

In the spring the plants are also staked every 12-15' and a string is run around the stakes on both sides of the plants to stabilize them in the wind. Bees are brought to the fields once the cabbage plants bloom to help with cross pollination. The plants are ready for harvest when the seed pods turn a red color. The stakes are then removed and the plants are cut by hand and placed in rows. They are picked up and threshed by a combine.<sup>52</sup>

When Freeman Sr. retired from farming in 1956, the family business passed to Freeman Jr. who continued to farm. At this time Freeman Sr. and Doris moved out of the Crockett house, and Freeman Jr. and Opal moved in with their three children: Gail, born in 1947; Gary, born in 1949; and Theodore, born in 1955. This move allowed Freeman Jr. to be close to the sheep that were housed on that land.<sup>53</sup>

By 1960, Freeman Jr. built a new hay barn on the property east of the house. The Hugh Crockett barn was designed for loose hay storage. Using it to store hay bales became very labor intensive. Instead it was used to store straw and old equipment. The Boyers used the lean-to on the east for livestock, including the draft horses and family cows. The lean-to on the west was used for vehicle parking.<sup>54</sup> After several years Freeman Jr. built wings onto the 1960 hay barn and used them for lambing. A 20' addition was added to the south end for hay storage in the loft with pass through openings into the pens.<sup>55</sup>

In the late 1970s farming changed in Central Whidbey. The Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve was established by an act of Congress in 1978 in order “to preserve and protect a rural community which provides an unbroken historic record from nineteenth century exploration and settlement of Puget Sound up to the present time.”<sup>56</sup> The reserve encompasses 17,400 acres, including Penn Cove, Coupeville, and surrounding land of Central Whidbey Island; 5,500 acres are agricultural. At this time, the National Park Service made a deal with Freeman Jr. The Park Service gave Freeman Jr. 50 acres south of Wanamaker Road for the development rights on 142 acres of Boyer's land.<sup>57</sup>

Toward the end of his farming career Freeman Jr. built a machine shed, bulk grain storage shed, and tractor shed west of the house. The bulk grain storage was built in 1980 for \$20,000.00 and held 200 tons of wheat.<sup>58</sup>

Freeman Jr. planned to retire in 1986, the same year his father died. He sold his sheep that year and planned to lease his land to Edwin and Dale Sherman, Ebey Prairie farmers. However, the Shermans told Boyer that they'd need a year to prepare before taking on an addition 350 acres.

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<sup>51</sup> Boyer, Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 00:38:20.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid., 00:29:30.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid., 00:56:10.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid., 01:15:53.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid., 01:02:20.

<sup>56</sup> Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve (<http://www.nps.gov/archive/ebla/lpp/lpp1.htm>), Website Accessed April 2007.

<sup>57</sup> Boyer, Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 01:48:30.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid., 01:19:50.

Freeman Jr. decided to farm one more year, postponing his retirement. He contracted with the Alf Christianson Seed Company to grow cabbage with a fixed price for his yield. The company underestimated his yield, and included nothing in the contract to limit how much they would buy from Boyer. On just 10 acres of cabbage Freeman Jr. was paid \$80,000.00. He claimed that in his unplanned last year of farming, "I did better than I ever did my whole life farming."<sup>59</sup>

After retiring, Freeman Jr. and Opal moved out of the Hugh Crockett house. For a few years it was used as a rental, and in the late 1990s it was donated to the fire department as a drill house. The fire department used the house for two years and then burned it.<sup>60</sup> Just after the house was burned, the east lean-to of the barn was blown over in a windstorm and removed by Dale Sherman, who was leasing the land.<sup>61</sup>

## II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This barn's hand-hewn heavy-timber pieces, pegged mortise and tenon construction, and meager size make it unique in the area. Although early additions were added to the east and west, the original form and historic features are apparent.
2. Condition of fabric: The barn is in fair condition. The roof is failing. Because of this, the sill logs are rotting. The shed addition's floor is also showing decay. However, the heavy timber construction is intact and shows no sign of sag or twist.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 42'-5-3/4" by 40'-4"
2. Foundations: The barn sits on sill logs.
3. Walls: The walls are clad in unpainted 1" vertical planks. On the north, east, and west walls of the original construction, 1" x 3" battens have been added on the interior. These battens vary in height, but do not stretch the full height of the walls.
4. Structural systems: The barn is constructed of heavy timber post and beams with mortise and tenon joints and wood pegs. The posts are chamfered on all four sides, and are held in place by diagonal braces attached to the sill logs.

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<sup>59</sup> Boyer, Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 00:33:18.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid., 00:51:00.

<sup>61</sup> Dale Sherman, Oral Interview with Anne E. Kidd (Coupeville, WA: 30 March 2007), 00:10:20.

5. Openings:
    - a. Doorways and doors:

The original barn is constructed with a set of double doors on the north and south façades that open to the exterior. The doors are constructed of 1" vertical wood planks with horizontal and diagonal braces.

The barn's shed addition also has door openings on the north and south walls. These doors are operable by sliding metal tracks mounted to the exterior of the building. The doors are also constructed of 1" vertical wood planks with horizontal and diagonal braces.
    - b. Windows:

All the window openings in the barn are unadorned. They have no sills or frames. Mismatched single sashes are nailed into place and vary in shape and light configuration.

In the original barn, there is a window opening on the south façade to the west of the double doors. This opening is boarded from the inside. On the north façade of the original barn there is a window opening to the east of the double doors. The frame of a window sash remains, nailed over the opening, but its lights and muntins have been removed.

One window opening on the south façade of the lean-to addition is covered with a two-over-two-over-two-light single-sash window nailed into place.
  6. Roof:
    - a. Shape, covering: 

The barn has a front gable roof covered in wood shakes. The addition to the east has a shed roof and is also covered in shakes.
- C. Description of Interior:
1. Floor plans: 

See measured drawings HABS No. WA-245-A for complete plans of this barn. It has a rectangular floor plan that reads as two separate spaces. The original barn remains open in plan for loose hay storage. The floor space of the addition is divided into animal pens and a feeding trough.
  2. Flooring: 

The barn has plank flooring that runs from east to west. The boards are 1' wide and laid flush.

3. Wall and ceiling finish: There is no finish on either the walls or ceiling. The posts, beams, joists, and rafters are all exposed.

D. Site:

1. Historic landscape design: The barn sits in Crockett Prairie near Crockett Lake. It is south of Coupeville. The site is accessed off Fort Casey Road by a dirt drive running east to west. The Hugh Crockett farmhouse on the property was burned in the late 1990s. Today only the chimney remains. The site also includes four additional farm buildings, hedgerows, crop fields, and fencing.

### III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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### IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Boyer farm property was documented by Anne E. Kidd, candidate for Master of Science in Historic Preservation at the University of Oregon, (Kingston Heath, Director) during the 2006 and 2007 school years. The project was executed as a terminal project under the guidance of Donald Peting, Professor Emeritus in Architecture at the University of Oregon, Hank Florence, National Park Service Historical Architect, Leland Roth, Professor of Art History at the University of Oregon, and Dan Powell, Professor of Art in Photography at the University of Oregon. The National Park Service and the Student Conservation Association sponsored the project. Anne E. Kidd performed the field recording, large format photography, and historical documentation. Karen L. Kidd assisted with the field recording. Ebey's Landing National

Historical Reserve and the community of Coupeville, Washington, provided additional support and assistance.

ADDENDUM TO:  
BOYER FARM, BARN  
Barns of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve  
711 South Fort Casey Road  
Coupeville vicinity  
Island County  
Washington

HABS WA-245-A  
*HABS WA-245-A*

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001