

CUSHMAN NO. 2 HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANT,
OPERATOR'S HOUSE
Spanning the North Fork Skokomish River
Hoodsport vicinity
Mason County
Washington

HAER WA-192-D
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
FIELD RECORDS

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

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Location: Spanning the North Fork Skokomish River, Mason County, Washington
USGS Quad – Hoodsport, Washington (Northern Section)
USGS Quad – Skokomish Valley, Washington (Southern Section)

UTM Coordinates: 5246628N
487591E

Legal Description: T22N, R4W, S26

Construction Date: 1930

Engineer/Architect: Tacoma City Light;

Builder: Tacoma City Light

Present Owner: City of Tacoma

Historic Use: Dwelling

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Cushman Hydroelectric Plant No. 2 is significant as an example of state-of-the-art high-head hydroelectric technology from the late 1920s and early 1930s. It is associated with Tacoma's burgeoning industrial and commercial growth, and with projected demands for electric power beyond the capacity of Cushman No. 1 Power Plant, built in 1926. Additionally, Cushman Plant No. 2 includes an architecturally significant powerhouse, designed on a monumental scale in the Neoclassical style. In 1988, Cushman No. 1 and No. 2 Hydroelectric Power Plant Historic Districts were listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The last remaining operator's dwelling was originally one of several in a residential community adjacent to the Power Plant, which housed plant engineers and operators, and their families. The communities were designed and built by TPU.

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Physical Description:

This currently unoccupied structure is a modest, one-story Craftsman-style house, sitting on a large lot adjacent to a forested area. It has horizontal cedar cladding and a composition gable roof, with eaves supported by knee braces with exposed rafter tails. The casement windows have metal sashes. The two windows that frame the front door, and the two nearest the façade on the side elevations, are double hung with multi-pane over plain glass. The foundation is concrete block (Figure 50).