

# Historic Preservation Commission

## City of Bainbridge Island

2 8 0 Madison Avenue N., Bainbridge Island, W A 9 8 2 2 0 — 2 0 6 . 7 8 0 . 3 7 5 0

## BAINBRIDGE ISLAND REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION FORM

This form is required to nominate properties to the Bainbridge Island Register of Historic Places per Bainbridge Municipal Code 18.76.040. Type all entries and complete all applicable sections. Contact the Historic Preservation Commission with any questions at 780-3750.

### PART 1: PROPERTY INFORMATION

<b>Property Name</b>			
Historic: <b>Historic Suyematsu Farmstead</b> Common: Suyematsu/Bentryn Farm			
<b>Location</b>			
Street Address 9229 NE Day Road, Bainbridge Island      Zip 98110			
Parcel No(s).	Legal Description and Plat or Addition:		
102502-1-052-2008 (portions of)			
<b>Nominated Elements</b>			
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.			
Principal Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Historic Additions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Historic Landscaping, Fencing, Walkways, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Ancillary Buildings/Outbuildings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Interior Spaces/Other (inventory in narrative) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Owner of Property</b>			
Name City of Bainbridge Island	Signature		
Address 280 Madison Avenue N.	City BI	State WA	Zip 98220
Is the owner the sponsor of this nomination?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	(include owner/agent agreement)
<b>Form Preparer</b>			
Name/Title: Mimi Sheridan	Company/Organization: Sheridan Consulting Group		
Address: 3630 37th Avenue W.	City: Seattle	State: WA	Zip: 98199
Phone: 206-270-8727	Email: mimisheridan@msn.com		
Updated by Bainbridge Island Historic Preservation Commission, February 2016			
<b>Nomination Checklist—Attachments</b>			
Owner/agent agreement (if applicable)	Continuation Sheets		
Site Map (REQUIRED)	Historical Plans		
Photographs (REQUIRED): please label or caption <i>photographs and include a photography index</i>	Other (please indicate):		
Last Deed of Title (If available): <i>this document can usually be obtained for little or no cost from a titling company</i>	FOR OFFICE USE		
	Date Received		
11/2008			

## PART 2: PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

### Extent of Changes

*Please summarize the changes to plan, original 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.*

Most of the buildings are very intact, retaining the original materials and details. The house has a rear addition and some replacement siding and windows, which are described below.

### Physical Description Narrative

*Describe in detail the present and original (if known) physical appearance, condition and architectural characteristics (use continuation sheets if necessary). Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.*

#### Summary

The 40-acre parcel that comprised the original Suyematsu Farm has been divided into 5 irregular parcels, which now have three owners. The northern portion, owned by the City of Bainbridge Island, has two parcels totaling approximately 26 acres. The nominated property, within the City's eastern parcel, consists of two groups of buildings and the surrounding land, totaling approximately 5 acres (see attached map). It has an irregular L shape, with the larger eastern section extending 327 feet along the south side of NE Day Road and 527 feet along the eastern property boundary. The narrow arm extends 473 feet farther west on Day Road and 170 feet to the south. (All measurements are approximate.)

There are two groups of buildings and other agriculture-related features on this property. The first group includes the original farm buildings, clustered in the northeast corner (numbered on the attached map).

- Barn (#2, 1928)
- House and surrounding landscaping (#1, 1929)
- Workshop (#4, c. 1930)
- Office/storage (#5, c. 1930-40)
- Shower shed (#7, c. 1940)
- Shed (#10, c. 1950-60)
- Shed (#12, c. 1930-40)
- Spreader shed (#14, c. 1950)

Also in this vicinity are these historic features:

- Gas pump (#9, c. 1950)
- Dog run (c. 1950)
- Earthen loading dock (#11, c. 1950)
- Evergreen trees along the north and east boundaries of the property
- A short segment of Manzanita Creek
- Roads

The second group of buildings includes the bunkhouses and outhouses built in the 1950s to accommodate the migrant workers. These are clustered in the north central part of the property, west of the house and barn and close to NE Day Road:

- Large bunkhouse (#18, c. 1950)
- Two small bunkhouses (#22-23, c. 1950)
- Outhouses (#20-21, c. 1950)

This nomination also includes two berry sheds (#29-30, C. 1940) that are located on the western part of the property, outside the boundaries of the historic area.

Several more recent buildings and a Traveleze trailer on the property are not included in the nomination.

- Large sheds (#6, #13, c. 1975)
- Backhoe shed ((#15, c. 1990)
- Traveleze trailer (#17)
- Well house (#25, c. 2000)
- Small storage shed (#26, c. 2000)

### **Property Description**

The farm's landscape has evolved continually as uses and crops have changed over the past eight decades. Currently, most of the land is leased to several farmers who grow a variety of crops. Much of the land in the historic area is vacant, but the area west of the house is under cultivation with hoop houses.

Access to the various buildings is on a system of unpaved roads. Within the historic area is the northern portion of the easternmost north-south road and the center entry on NE Day Road. Near the entry, a very rough side road, with a gate, leads west to the bunkhouses. Approximately 400 feet south of the entry, a secondary road curves east and north, past the tractor sheds, house and barn to a gate on Day Road.



Aerial view of entire farm, 2015 (Google Earth)



Aerial view of historic area, 2015 (Google Earth)

## Building Descriptions

(These descriptions include only the historic buildings, not the more recent ones. All building photos by James McNett, 2015)

### No. 1 House (c. 1929)

The house is 1.5 stories and rectangular in plan, with a simple 12:12 slope gable roof oriented north-south. The east side of the house has a covered deck with a hip roof. The total enclosed area is 1680 feet including 300 square feet in the basement. The exterior materials are painted wood shiplap siding, asphalt shingles on the roofs, and wood double-hung windows. In 1971, a concrete block foundation was constructed and the living room windows were replaced with aluminum sliders. At the same time, an addition was built on the west side, with vertical plywood siding, horizontal sliding windows with bronze anodized aluminum frames and a concrete block foundation.

The house is surrounded by remnants of domestic landscaping, dating back at least to the 1950s and perhaps to before World War II. To the east are several heritage fruit trees with evidence of grafting, as well as a large yew, a weeping willow, shrubs and perennials. North and west of the house are a monkey puzzle tree, a large Japanese maple, lilacs, rhododendrons and other shrubs.

The interior of the house has been remodeled to meet changing needs but it retains its basic character. The first floor plan has been altered slightly and the kitchen has been reconfigured. A passageway on the west end leads to the rear addition, which is essentially a great room with a deck on the north and structural joists in place for an unfinished deck on the south. The second floor has three bedrooms with closets placed within the steep roof slopes on the east and west sides. The construction materials vary but are primarily drywall or lath and plaster. Due to the sloping site, the west half of the basement is above grade, with sliding glass doors on the southwest.



South elevation of house



Front porch; east & north elevations



North elevation

## No. 2 Barn (1928)

The gable roof barn is 24 wide by 30 feet long, oriented north-south, and is divided into three 10 x 24 feet long bays on the east elevation. The foundation consists of embedded 16-inch diameter treated poles, of various lengths, placed with one on each corner, one at each exterior midpoint and one in the middle for a total of nine column supports. Three large half-round 18-inch diameter pole beams connect the columns in the north-south direction. Logs ranging from 6 to 8 inches in diameter are placed at approximately 2 feet on center and connect the half-round beams in the east-west direction. The logs support 2 x 8 inch and 2 x 12 inch planks which make up the floor of the barn. The north, west and south walls have no openings, but the east side of the barn has two 8.5 x 8.5 feet high sliding wood board doors that can open up two thirds of the eastern wall of the barn. The sliding doors are supported by a 2 x 16 inch by 20 feet long header that spans between 3 columns. The entry to the barn is 8 feet 4 inches clear to the underside of the 2 x 16 inch beam. The sliding doors are fabricated from 1 x 8 inch shiplap boards and the remaining 10-foot panel is made of the same boards laid up horizontally. The walls and roof of the barn are supported by 9 log columns that vary from 6 to 10 inches in diameter. The columns are connected horizontally by 4-inch diameter logs which also serve as supports for the exterior wall assembly. The north, west and south walls of the barn are vertical 1 x 12 inch boards with a 1 x 4 inch batten. The roof rafters are 4 inch diameter logs spaced at 4 feet on center. There are 4 log crossties, located 10 feet clear from the floor that stabilize the roof structure and provide a storage space. The 2-foot wide galvanized corrugated steel roof panels are attached to the rafters.



Wall & ceiling of barn



West elevation



Interior detail

## No. 4 Workshop/Garage (c. 1930)

The combination garage/workshop/office structure is located 100 feet southeast of the barn. It is 30 x 44 feet long, oriented north-south, and is divided into two parts, the 20 x 30 feet wide northern garage and the 24 x 30 feet wide workshop area. The garage portion is covered by a shed roof that slopes down at 3:12

from north to south. The roof is supported by 2 x 10 inch rafters spaced 2 feet on center which are covered by 1 x 6 inch boards laid horizontally and nailed to the rafters. The north end of the structure is an open garage area and is 11 feet clear under the three 2 x 12 inch members nailed together to form the built-up beam that spans the 20-foot opening. The east and west walls and the 10-foot long fin wall are typical 2 x 4 inch at 2 feet on center framing that sit on a 14 x 16 inch beam resting on the concrete floor. The south side of the garage has two pairs of 6 x 8 feet high doors that open into the workshop area behind. The east, west and partial north walls are clad with 1 x 8 shiplap boards. The western wall has a 5.5 x 8 feet long fixed window with 18 lights and wood muntins which brings light into the garage area.



West elevation of workshop



Footing



Tractor storage area

#### No. 5 Woodshed/Storage Building (c. 1930-40)

This storage building is located 15 feet south of the house. The structure is 16 x 20 feet long, is oriented north-south and has a 2:12 slope gable sheet metal roof. It is constructed with 2 x 4 inch studs at 2 feet on center. The roof is supported by 2 x 4 inch built-up trusses spaced 2 feet on center and covered with 1 x 6 inch boards laid up horizontally. The exterior walls are clad with 1 x 6 inch shiplap wood siding. The east elevation has a 12 x 16 feet deep open storage area with a dirt floor and a 6 x 8 feet high opening on the east. The north third of the structure is an enclosed space with a wood plank floor. The east wall has an 18-light wood door measuring 2 feet 6 inches wide x 6 feet 8 inches high.



Northeast elevation



Office area



Storage area

#### No. 7 Shower Shed (c. 1940)

The shower shed is a simple wood frame structure feet 8 x 10 feet long. It is oriented north-south and has a 4:12 slope gable roof clad with asphalt shingles. It is constructed with 2 x 4 inch studs at 2 feet on center. The roof is supported by 2 x 4 inch rafters and cross ties spaced 2 feet on center and covered with horizontal 1 x 6 inch boards. The exterior walls are clad with 1 x 6 inch shiplap wood siding. The door on the north side opens to a room with a 2'8"x2'8" metal shower enclosure and a water heater. The foundation is not embedded into the ground and sits one foot above grade.



Southwest elevation of shower shed

#### No.10 Shed 1 (c. 1950-60)

The northernmost shed (shed 1) is a half-open structure, oriented north-south. The main 2-bay central space is 48 x 25 feet deep, has a 3:12 gable roof and a dirt floor. The south, west and north walls are made of 1 x 10 inch boards and 1 x 3 inch batten attached to 2 x 4 inch studs at 4 feet on center. The three walls sit on 6 x 6 inch beams supported by regular footings. The gable roof is supported by 2 x 4 inch built up trusses spaced at 4 feet on center. The trusses are supported by two 2 x 12 inch members nailed together to form the built up beams on both sides. The metal roof is attached to 1 x 6 inch boards. The main central bays are flanked on the north and south sides by two identical shed structures (13 x 21 feet deep) that slope to the north and to the south. The 3:12 shed roofs are supported by 2 x 4 inch rafters at 3 feet on center. The metal roofing and the end and side walls of both sheds are similar construction to the central two-bay structure.



West elevation of Shed 1

#### No. 12 Shed 2 (c. 1930-40)

The southeastern shed (shed 2) is an open structure, oriented north-south, It is 20 x 48 feet long with a 6:12 gable roof and a dirt floor. The south wall is made of 1 x 10 inch boards and 1 x 3 inch battens. The main structural members are eight assorted poles that create three 16 x 20 foot bays. The gable roof is supported by 2 x 3 inch built up trusses spaced at 2 feet on center. The trusses are supported by two 2 x 12 inch members nailed together to form the built up beams on both sides. Separate footings support the poles. The roof is a palimpsest of historic layers including the original 1 x 6 inch boards, covered with asphalt sheeting, the occasional plywood panel and the most recent corrugated steel roofing.



West elevation of Shed 2



Storage area



Roof trusses

#### No. 18 Large Bunkhouse + No. 20 Outhouses (c. 1950)

The large bunkhouse or pickers' cabin is located in the northwest of the developed farm structures. The north-south oriented gable roof cabin is 16 x 36 feet long and divided into four roughly equal rooms. It uses typical western framing with 2 x 4 inch studs at 2 feet on center. The roof framing is 2 x 4 inch rafters and 2 x 4 tie members also spaced at 2 feet on center. The exterior walls are made of 4 x 8 feet sheets of particle board nailed on top of continuous horizontal 1 x 8 inch boards. The cabin sits on individual 6 x 6 inch footings, three on the short sides and four on the long sides and down the middle. The walls and the 2 x 6 inch floor joists spaced at one foot on center, sit on two 2 x 6 inch members nailed together to form the built-up beams on both sides. Three of the rooms have a 2 feet 6 inch x 6 feet 6 inch door on the east side. All four rooms have a 4 x 4 foot two-light sliding aluminum window on the west side. The north and south end walls have no openings. The gable roof has a 6:12 slope and has metal roofing on top of asphalt sheeting which is attached to continuous 1 x 6 inch boards attached to the roof rafters. The cabin has two 16 x 16 x 8 inch concrete block chimney stacks located seven feet above the floor.

Near the large bunkhouse are two sets of double outdoor toilets, each with a pair of 2 feet x 6 feet doors. The toilet sets are 4 x 6 x 7 feet high and made of simple wood framing. The exterior walls are 1 x 8 inch boards and 1 x 2 inch battens and the roofs are made of corrugated metal. Two diamond shaped holes have been cut in the walls for easy relocation.



East elevation of bunkhouse



Outhouses



West elevation

#### Nos. 22 + 23 Small Bunkhouses (c. 1950)

The small bunkhouses (No. 22, 23) are located in the far northwest corner of the developed farm structures. The north-south oriented gable roof cabins are each 16 x 24 feet long and divided into two equal rooms. They have typical framing with 2 x 4 inch studs at 2 feet on center. The roof framing is 2 x 4 inch rafters and 2 x 4 tie members also spaced at 2 feet on center. The exterior walls are made of 4 x 8 feet sheets of particle board nailed on top of continuous horizontal 1 x 8 inch boards. The cabins sit on individual 6 x 6 inch footings, three on the short sides and three on the long sides and down the middle. The walls and the 2 x 6 inch floor joists, spaced at one foot on center, sit on two 2 x 6 inch members nailed together to form the built up beams on both

sides. Each cabin has two 2 feet 6 inch wide x 6 feet 6 inch high doors on the east side and two 2x2 foot four light fixed windows (No.22 has one fixed and one aluminum 2x3 slider). The north and south end walls have no openings. The gable roofs have a 6:12 slope and have asphalt shingles on top of the continuous 1 x 6 inch boards attached to the roof rafters. There is a 16 x 16 x 8 concrete block chimney stack.

Near the small bunkhouses (#No. 21) are two sets of double outdoor toilets, each with a pair of 2 feet wide by 6 feet high doors. The toilet sets are 4 x 6 x 7 feet high and made of simple wood framing. The exterior walls are 1 x 8 inch boards and 1 x 2 inch battens and the roofs are made of corrugated metal. Two diamond-shaped holes have been cut in the walls for easy relocation.



Southwest elevation of bunkhouse



Interior



Northeast elevation

### No. 29 Berry Shed (c. 1940)

This Berry Shed (No. 29) is 10 x 10 feet and walled on three sides with vertical 1 x 6 boards and battens attached to 3 x 6 horizontal members located at the top bottom and middle of the wall. The 2:12 metal panel shed roof slopes up west to east and is held up by four quarter log portion posts set in each corner which support a structure of 2 x 4 joists spaced 2 feet on center.



Front and side of berry shed

### No. 30 Berry Shed (c. 1940)

This Berry Shed (No. 30) is 10 x 10 feet and walled on all sides with vertical 1 x 10 boards and 1 x 4 battens attached to 3 x 6 horizontal members located at the top bottom and middle of the wall. The north wall has a 5 foot opening at the mid-point of the wall. The 2:12 metal panel shed roof slopes up west to east and is held up by four quarter log portion posts set in each corner which support a structure of 2 x 4 joists spaced 2 feet on center.



SW elevation

### PART 3: HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

#### Criteria for Designation

*Bainbridge Island Municipal Code recognizes twelve criteria of eligibility for inclusion on the Bainbridge Island Register of Historic Places. Please select any that apply to this property, for which there is documentary evidence included with this nomination form. Though properties can meet more than one criterion only one criterion is necessary to be eligible for the Bainbridge Island historic register. The property must retain integrity or its ability to convey its significance and be at least 50 years of age, or if of a lesser age possess exceptional importance.*

The Suyematsu Farm is more than 50 years of age, has a very high degree of integrity, and meets the following five criteria:

- *Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history; or,*

The Suyematsu Farm, established in 1928, is closely associated with the establishment and expansion of berry farming in Kitsap County and the Puget Sound region. Agriculture, especially berry farming, was a major economic activity on Bainbridge Island before World War II. Kitsap County estimated that 3,500,000 pounds of strawberries were produced on the island in 1940, and the Suyematsus were a major part of this effort. The farm is also associated with First Nations workers and the use of migrant labor.

- *Exemplifies or reflects special elements of the city's cultural, special, economic, political, aesthetic or architectural history; or*

The Suyematsu Farm depicts the resilience of the Japanese families on Bainbridge Island who succeeded despite numerous obstacles. To establish the farm, the family had to face alien land laws and difficult financial conditions. In 1942, they were forced to abandon the farm they had spent 14 years cultivating. After returning from internment, the Suyematsus were among the few families who chose to restore and replant their fields, finally achieving prosperity despite economic setbacks.

The farm's connection with Japanese-American history is reinforced by the fact that Bainbridge Island is also the location of the Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, a national recognition of wartime internment.

- *Is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or*

Akio Suyematsu, a key figure in Bainbridge Island's Japanese community, was born nearby at Port Madison and moved to this farm with his family at the age of 7. He worked on the farm continuously, except for the period in the 1940s when he was interned and serving in the U. S. Army. When he died in 2012, this was the longest continually operated Japanese-owned farm on Bainbridge Island, and he was the last active Japanese farmer on the island.

- *Is a creative and unique example of folk architecture and design created by persons not formally trained in the architectural or design professions, and which does not fit into formal architectural or historical categories; or,*

The historic buildings on the Suyematsu Farm were built by family members, assisted by laborers and members of the local Japanese community. The barn, and possibly other buildings, were built using timber harvested on the property. The economy used to build and repair the buildings over time exhibits the practical approach to farm management that was crucial to the success of the enterprise in challenging times. The house (1929) and its 1971 addition particularly express this practicality and frugality in using readily available materials to improve their living conditions.

- *Is listed on the National or State register.*

The Suyematsu Barn is listed on the Washington Heritage Barn Register.

#### **Historical Data (if known)**

Date(s) of Construction: 1928 - 1971

Other Date(s) of Significance: 2012

Architect(s): None

Builder: Suyematsu family

Engineer: None

#### **Statement of Significance**

*Describe how the property meets the criteria for the Register of Historic Places. Please provide a summary in the first paragraph (use continuation sheets if necessary). Identify one or more of the above criteria for which the property is associated and support this association with historical references such as those listed on the cover letter.*

The Suyematsu Farm is a rare and largely intact example of a Japanese-owned berry farm. It is closely associated with Bainbridge Island's agricultural history and its Japanese community. The property includes 13 highly intact pre-1972 buildings as well as other historic features related to the farm operation.

#### **Suyematsu Farm History**

The Suyematsu Farm was established in 1928 by Yasuji and Mitsuo Suyematsu. The couple has initially leased land at Rolling Bay, where their daughter, Kimiko, was born in 1920. They later moved to a leased 10-acre farm on Sunrise Road at Port Madison. It was here that their oldest son, Akio, was born in 1921. Over the next decade, they had five more children: Isamu (1923), Toshio (1925), Yoshimitsu (1928), and Eiko (1929). Another son, Yasuo, died at the age of 9 (Shibayama n.d.; US Census 1930; Suyematsu 2014: Segment 1).

At that time, state law prohibited residents ineligible for citizenship (Asians) from owning land, so they put the farm in the name of their oldest son, Akio, a native-born U.S. citizen. The property was covered with second growth timber, which they had logged. The family cleared the stumps gradually, using horses and dynamite. They used a frugal approach in developing the farm complex, adding buildings as money allowed.

The Suyematsus first built the barn to allow them to work the land and store equipment while they continued to live on their leased property. Soon thereafter, they built the house and moved the family to the new farm. Over the years, fruit trees and ornamental trees and shrubs were planted around the house, and a kitchen garden was established to the west. Several other structures were added in the 1930s to make the farm more functional, including a workshop, a woodshed/storage building and a packing shed. A shower shed was built near the workshop. (Selvar 2015).

By 1941, approximately 10 acres had been cleared and planted. The Suyematsus raised strawberries primarily for sale to the cannery in Winslow, but they also sold to markets and to individuals. To diversify the crops and increase their income, the family also raised peas, boysenberries and Olympic berries, a locally-popular raspberry-blackberry cross. (Suyematsu 2014:Segment 5). On March 30, 1942, the entire family was removed, first to the Puyallup detention facility and then to the Manzanar internment camp in the Southern California desert. They were later transferred to the Minidoka camp in Idaho. In 1945, both Akio and Toshio were drafted and, after the war ended, served as military police in Germany until 1947. (Shibiyama n.d.)

The late 1940s was a period of rebuilding and struggle to overcome the economic impacts of internment. Upon their homecoming after the war, the Suyematsus found their house had been looted and the fields had become overgrown. Akio remained with his parents on the farm, while his siblings moved away. They cleared and replanted the fields, but all their earnings went toward paying off the mortgage interest that had accrued during internment. They could not afford a tractor and continued to plow the fields with a team of two horses until 1953 (Suyematsu 2006:Segment 4). Discrimination also contributed to financial difficulties. After the war, Akio applied to join the grange, which offered farm insurance policies. However, the organization turned down Japanese and Filipino farmers for membership (Suyematsu 2006:Segment 17).

By the 1950s, most of the land had been cleared and planted, and the family hired additional workers for assistance. Many of these were First Nations individuals who came down from British Columbia year after year to work on the harvest. Several bunkhouses (called pickers' cabins) and outhouses were built to accommodate them. Additional storage sheds were also constructed to handle the increased harvest. Although this decade was generally one of growth, freezing weather in 1955 resulted in the total loss of the crop and income for the season. The family again avoided foreclosure through the leniency of their mortgage holder.

Through the 1950s-1960s, the farm continued to focus on strawberries. However, in the 1970s, Akio planted raspberries and non-berry crops, including Christmas trees, ornamental nursery stock and a two-acre vineyard. In the late 1970s, Gerard and Jo Ann Bentryn leased the western portion of the property and expanded the vineyard. They later purchased half of the property, and built a house and winery. In 1997, one of the farmers, Betsy Wittick, purchased 2.5 acres in the center of the farm from Akio. She built a house and continues to raise vegetables and to operate the winery since the Bentryns have retired. In 2000, the City of Bainbridge Island entered into an agreement to purchase 14.76 acres from Akio Suyematsu upon his death. This parcel contains the historic farm structures. In 2004, the city purchased approximately 10 acres of the Bentryn property (west of the Suyematsu parcel) as well.

## **Building Significance**

**No. 1 House (c. 1929)****Historic Contributing**

The farmhouse was the second building constructed, shortly after the barn was completed. Yasuji and Mitsuo and their two daughters and five sons lived in this house until March 30, 1942, when they were interned during World War II. The house was unoccupied during the war. After the war, Akio, the Suyematsu's eldest son lived with them until the 1960s, when he purchased another property. The elder Suyematsus lived here until their deaths. In recent years, the house has been used as a temporary residence by farming interns, but it is currently vacant.

The interior retains much of its original unembellished character, including kitchen cabinets built by Akio and his brother at the school wood shop as a Mother's Day gift to their mother (Garfunkel 2013). The house and the 1971 addition particularly express practicality and frugality in using readily available materials to improve their living conditions.

**No. 2 Barn (1928)****Historic Contributing**

This barn was the first structure built on the farm, and is the foundation from which the Suyematsu farm complex developed. It was used for horses and equipment and has continued to be used for equipment storage until recently. It is a rare remaining example of a pole barn on Bainbridge Island. The round treated logs, half logs and poles are original and intact. The exterior cladding also appears to be original. The roof material, galvanized corrugated steel sheets has been in place for many years and is in good condition. The barn is one of few historic barns associated with Japanese farming that is listed on the Washington Historic Barn Register.

**No. 4 Workshop/Garage (c. 1930)****Historic Contributing**

This building served two purposes: providing workshop space in the south half of the building and a garage to the north. In recent years it has been used for storage of infrequently used tools and equipment. It is one of the oldest and most heavily used structures in the farm complex. The workshop area contains farm and shop materials and tools that have accumulated since the building was first built. It is an intact example of a working shop from an era when many tools and devices had to be repaired and even created by the farmer. It is unlikely there are many equivalents on Bainbridge Island.

**No. 5 Woodshed/Storage Building (c. 1930-40)****Historic Contributing**

Based on available information, this building was probably constructed before World War II, in the late 1930s. It was and is used for storage of equipment and wood. This building is significant as one of the farm's older buildings and for its role in expanding and maintaining the farming operations.

**No. 7 Shower Shed (c. 1940)****Historic Contributing**

Based on available information, the shower shed was built before World War II, about 1940, and was used by both seasonal and regular workers. The shower shed is one of the older structures on the farm and was an important part of maintaining the work force that made the farm successful.

**No.10 Shed 1 (c. 1950-60)****Historic Contributing**

This half-open storage shed was built in the 1950s to store the increasing amount of equipment needed as farm operations expanded. This structure was built during the farm's most active period to support increasing planting and harvesting activities

**No. 12 Shed 2 (c. 1930-40)****Historic Contributing**

This open shed was built in the 1930s and has been used for storage of equipment since that time. This is a very early farm structure, which has been added onto and repaired on an ad-hoc basis. This results in an unusual palimpsest of materials and patinas reflecting the history of local agricultural structures.

**Nos. 18 + 20 Large Bunkhouse & Outhouses (c. 1950)****Historic Contributing**

The bunkhouses (known as pickers' cabins) and accompanying outhouses were built in the 1950s to accommodate temporary laborers who enabled the farm to expand its operations. Many of those who came each year were First Nations workers from Canada. The buildings have been unused for many years. There were originally two large bunkhouses, one of which has been demolished. The bunkhouse is a rare example of bunkhouses constructed for First Nation workers who came to harvest crops on Bainbridge Island and is one of the most significant structures on the farm. Few of these discrete bunkhouses remain on the island. These examples remain in their original locations and have maintained a high level of integrity.

**Nos. 212 + 23 Small Bunkhouses & Outhouses (c. 1950)****Historic Contributing**

Like the large bunkhouses, these structures were built about 1950 to house First Nation workers who came from Canada to harvest crops on Bainbridge Island. They have been vacant for many years. Like the large bunkhouses, these are among the most significant structures on the Suyematsu farm. There are few of the discrete bunkhouses remaining on the island and the two types on the farm are still in their original locations and have maintained a high level of integrity.

**Nos. 29 + 30 Berry Sheds (c. 1940)****Historic Contributing**

These sheds, located in the fields, were built before World War II and were used for sorting and packing the berries and for storing equipment such as boxes and harvest supplies.

## References

Dwyer, J. D.

1956 Kitsap County Agriculture, Washington State Department of Agriculture.

Garfunkel, Jonathan

2013 Tour of Suyematsu Farm conducted on September 26, 2013 for Bainbridge Island Historic Preservation Commission, Friends of the Farms, commercial farmers and Suyematsu family members.

Kitsap County

2014 Current and Historical (1952) Department of Assessment property files, accessed April

Selvar, Karen

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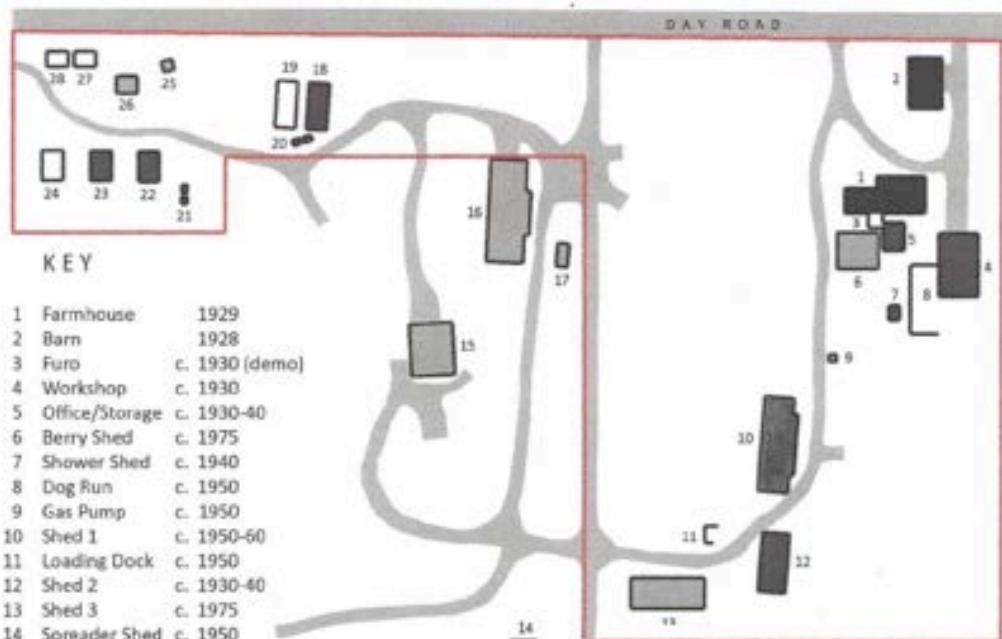
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## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **Map of Historic Area**

## SUYEMATSU FARM



### KEY

1	Farmhouse	1929
2	Barn	1928
3	Furo	c. 1930 (demo)
4	Workshop	c. 1930
5	Office/Storage	c. 1930-40
6	Berry Shed	c. 1975
7	Shower Shed	c. 1940
8	Dog Run	c. 1950
9	Gas Pump	c. 1950
10	Shed 1	c. 1950-60
11	Loading Dock	c. 1950
12	Shed 2	c. 1930-40
13	Shed 3	c. 1975
14	Spreader Shed	c. 1950
15	Backhoe Shed	c. 1990
16	Green Shop	c. 1985
17	Traveletez	c. 1960
18	Lge Bunkhse 1	c. 1950
19	Lge Bunkhse 2	c. 1950 (demo)
20	Lge Outhses	c. 1950
21	Sm. Outhses	c. 1950
22	Sm. Bunkhse 1	c. 1950
23	Sm. Bunkhse 2	c. 1950
24	Sm. Bunkhse 3	c. 1950 (demo)
25	Well House	c. 2000
26	Storage Shed	c. 2000
27	Storage Shed	c. 1950 (demo)
28	Chico's House	c. 1950 (demo)
29*	Berry Shed 1	c. 1940
30*	Berry Shed 2	c. 1940

\* Off map