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A) Identification

Historic Name: **Novelty Cemetery**
Common Name: Novelty Hill Cemetery

Address: 28031 116th Street

City: Duvall County: King

B) Site Access (describe site access, restrictions, etc.)

The cemetery is located approximately 3.6 miles south of downtown Duvall, east of the intersection of Hwy 203 and 124th street. The cemetery is located on the east side of 116th.

C) Property owner(s), Address and Zip

Name: Novelty Cemetery Association
Address: 28031 NE 116th Street
City: Duvall State: WA Zip: 98019

D) Legal boundary description and boundary justification

Tax No./Parcel: (1) 302607-9011,(2) 312607-9006,& (3) 302607-9022
Boundary Justification: Approx 5.4. acres and includes the (1) E 418 ft of S 313.5 ft of GL 4 LESS CO RD (2)E 418 ft of N 209ft of GL 1 LESS CO RD, & (3) N 16.5 ft of 418 ft of S 330 ft of GL 4

FORM PREPARED BY

Name: Country Roney
Address: 16819 W Snoqualmie River Rd NE
City / State / Zip: Duvall, WA 98019 Phone: 206-234-1581
Email: noveltyhillscemetery@gmail.com Nomination Date: Feb 14, 2020

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E) Category of Property (Choose One)

☐ *building* ☐ *structure (irrigation system, bridge, etc.)* ☐ *district*
☐ *object (statue, grave marker, vessel, etc.)* ☒ *cemetery/burial site*
☐ *historic site (site of an important event)* ☐ *archaeological site*
☐ *traditional cultural property (spiritual or creation site, etc.)*
☐ *cultural landscape (habitation, agricultural, industrial, recreational, etc.)*

F) Area of Significance – Check as many as apply

☒ *The property belongs to the early settlement, commercial development, or original native occupation of a community or region.*

☐ *The property is directly connected to a movement, organization, institution, religion, or club which served as a focal point for a community or group.*

☒ *The property is directly connected to specific activities or events which had a lasting impact on the community or region.*

☐ *The property is associated with legends, spiritual or religious practices, orlife ways which are uniquely related to a piece of land or to a natural feature.*

☐ *The property displays strong patterns of land use or alterations of the environment which occurred during the historic period (cultivation, landscaping, industry, mining, irrigation, recreation).*

☒ *The property is directly associated with an individual who made an important contribution to a community or to a group of people.*

☐ *The property has strong artistic, architectural or engineering qualities, or displays unusual materials or craftwork belonging to a historic era.*

☐ *The property was designed or built by an influential architect, or reflects the work of an important artisan.*

☐ *Archaeological investigation of the property has or will increase our understanding of past cultures or life ways.*

G) Property Description

Novelty Hills Cemetery lies approximately 3.5 miles south of the town of Duvall and east of the Snoqualmie River in the former community of Novelty. Divided at the south end by NE 116th St, the cemetery is located on a hillside 1/4 west of the intersection of 284th Ave NE. The cemetery occupies a roughly rectangular 5.4 acre property composed of three parcels. It is on a rolling terrain surrounded by second growth Douglas Fir forest, sloping evenly to the NW at a 10% grade. Surrounding parcels are occupied by large-lot rural residential development. The well maintained property is entered through a brick and wrought iron gate in the SW corner. Approximately 1.5 acres of the property are in use for the graves and roadway; much of the rest is graded and planted with lawn.

Landscaping is limited to lawn and a few plantings, almost all to the east of the loop road at the top of the slope.

Structures on site are limited to a small prefabricated steel shed used for storage and maintenance equipment. It is located in the NE corner of the property. A flagpole stands just downhill from the middle upper section of the loop road. At the base of the pole is a small Veterans memorial installed by American Legion Post No. 75. A center lane through the cemetery wide enough for a single vehicle has been graveled following the original, pioneer-era pathway. A majority of the oldest graves are in the farthest east corners of the property. A gate surrounds the property with entry points at the west and south side of the center lane. The hilltop is very peaceful, quiet, and often has a gentle breeze. To the west the cemetery overlooks the Snoqualmie River Valley, to the north the rounded peak of Mt. Baker is visible, and to the south is Mt. Rainer. Currently lush trees are blocking the view of the river; however when the trees are sparse in the fall and winter your view is less obstructed.

The grounds have been maintained by multiple pioneer families and the Novelty Cemetery Association for 100 years. Currently there are seven hundred and thirty-five (735) known gravesites at the cemetery. The oldest grave at the cemetery dates to 1901. Fourteen percent of the resting population (one-hundred and four burials) are Veterans.

In 2019 sonar tests revealed twenty-seven potential additional graves mixed among the existing burial sites. However these are unmarked.

H) Significance

The Novelty Cemetery is historically significant for its direct connection to the early pioneer settlers of the Duvall area. The location of the cemetery, outside the city of Duvall indicates patterns of early development by Euro-American settlers as well as the physical needs and requirements to build a burial ground. Novelty Cemetery is the final resting place for some of the area's most significant settlers.

The initial burial ground for Duvall (at the time called Cherry Valley) was a small half-acre lot behind the Squak Methodist Mission church. Donated by early pioneer and saloon keeper, James O'Leary in 1886, the site was plagued by its proximity to the Snoqualmie River and seepage from the upper slopes. The ground in the cemetery was constantly wet and soggy. It was noted that grave diggers were often furiously bailing out water minutes before an interment. Since it was disconcerting for mourners to see gravediggers bailing several inches of water before lowering a casket into the ground, the site was abandoned as a burial place.

In 1901 a cemetery association was formed to find a new burial site. Members of the association included Horatio Allen, Milo Clark, Alexander Adair, Alfred Pickering, John Dougherty Sr., Daniel McKay and Andrew Peterson (all whom are buried in the Novelty Cemetery). Searching for dry land outside of the city, the association purchased a 5 acre site just east of the community of Novelty from logger Willard Houghton for $1.00 in March of 1901.

At the time the unincorporated town of Novelty included a post office, church, store, dance hall, and hotel. Originally settled in the 1870's, Novelty was named after Novelty, Missouri; the community of town founder James H. Boyce (King Co. Commissioner, 1900-1904).

The first person likely buried at the new cemetery was Smith Philander Benham, buried in early March 1901. Other early burials include Mrs. Abbie McMillan (1901); Albert T. Peterson (1901), Jay F. Benham (1902), and Hannah T. Benham (1905). However there is currently no master list of burials at the cemetery, but research shows that a majority of the burials date to after 1960.

Reportedly when the Great Northern Railroad decided to build a new track down the east side of the Snoqualmie River in 1909, a portion of the Cherry Valley Cemetery in downtown Duvall had to be excavated for the right-of-way. Stories note that about 20 bodies were moved, many to the new Novelty Cemetery.

In 1960 the cemetery tract was redesigned and replatted. W.E. Hawley, a landscape architect from Monroe, was hired to create the new plat which included service drives, walks and boarders for future plantings. At that time the rules and regulations were also updated to meet both state and county regulations. Vern Pickering, then President of the Cemetery Association reported that the burial methods at the cemetery would also be changing. Instead of the above ground stone monuments, the "use of all

tombstone, mounds, monuments and other obstructions above the lawn level would be eliminated". Only bronze markers, level with the ground, were allowed. The Association noted that this method would reduce the maintenance costs at the cemetery, would reduce interment costs and would create a "park-like" unity throughout the cemetery.

Every lot owner was automatically part of the Association and the Novelty-Vincent Ladies Aid club donated $200 to help with the expansion of the grounds in 1960. Volunteer labor was used to create a new loop drive and clear ground for new burial areas, which was then seeded. Other improvement included a new entrance gate. The metal work was done by Custom Metal Works in Duvall, and volunteer laborers built the brick piers, short stem walls, and metal fence panels.

Today the Novelty Cemetery is the final resting place for many prominent area pioneers and generations of family members. These include the Roney Family. Cora Roney (1877-1959) was second female Mayor of Duvall. Her son, Ward Roney Sr. (1903-1984), also buried at Novelty, was the longest tenured King County Superior Court Judge. Duvall's first female mayor, Mable E. Bourke (1883-1976) is also buried at the cemetery. Bourke's primary project while in office was to plant trees along five streets in downtown Duvall, many of which remain today. Emmitt Minaglia (1912-1993), another former mayor Duval and his wife Ruth (1916-2003) are also buried at the cemetery.

Other internments include Horatio Lynsander Allen (1851-1916). Hariatio was on the school board and was on the Board of Directors of the Duvall State Bank. He was also one of the members of the Novelty Cemetery Association who founded the cemetery. Prominent local citizen Alva "Alvie" Miller (1892-1979) is also buried at Novelty as well as George M. Anderson (1915-1993). Anderson installed the electrical system for the Town of Duvall and later became a councilman.

Other names prominent local families buried in Novelty Hill include: Taylor, Bird, Stewart, Virginia, Cherry, Stella, Kennedy, Richardson, Brown, Dorothy, Park, Valley, Stephens and Burhen.

The cemetery is also home to 104 veterans who served in the Spanish-American War and World Wars. The Renton-Pickering Post No. 79 of the American Legion has erected a memorial to these men. Veterans include Stanley A. Bourke Pvt. Cl. 7 U.S. Vol. Sig Corp (?- 1943); John L. Batton, Pvt. US Marine Corp WWI (1888-1957), Albert Westman, Pvt 315 MG BN 80 Div (1896-1938); Charles Bosdoc, Pvt 39 MG BN (?-1941); Carl J. Adolfson, US Navy (1935-1993); Robert M. Fields, F2 USNRF WWI (1895-1967); and George E. Myers, Co. H 6th Calf Inf, Spanish American War (1863-1938). Additionally to the men that served and buried at Novelty are several women volunteers that manned the 12'x12' aircraft spotter station for the civil defense department. These include Verle Bowe (1916-2015).

I) Documentation

Xerox and attach any information or evidence that supports the property's significance.

Written Sources *(books, articles, newspapers):*

"Real Estate Transfers: Willard Houghton et ux to Novelty Cemetery Association…" Seattle Daily Times – March 15, 1901.

"The funeral of Mrs. Abbie McMillan was held yesterday…" Seattle Daily Times – November 11, 1901.

"The Local Seen: Novelty Cemetery" The Carnavall Reporter - June 2, 1960.

"Entrance Gate Add Beauty to Novelty Cemetery" The Carnavall Reporter - October 1, 1960.

"Volunteer Workers Improve Cemetery" The Carnavall Reporter - October 1, 1960.

"Complete Change in Organization Planned at Novelty Cemetery" The Carnavall Reporter - December 1, 1960.

Find-A-Grave website for Novelty Hills Cemetery: http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=tr&CRis=246666 , accessed September 18, 2010

Just Cogitating: Stories of Old Duvall. Duvall Historical Society, 1989 Page 3. Author Don Funk

King County Assessors data for parcels 3026079006, 3026079006,& 3026079011

King County Interactive mapping system (1936 & 2007 aerial photos)

http:///www.kingcounty.gov/operations/GIS/Maps/iMAP.aspx
Ancestry.com (various family trees)

Oral History/Interviews:

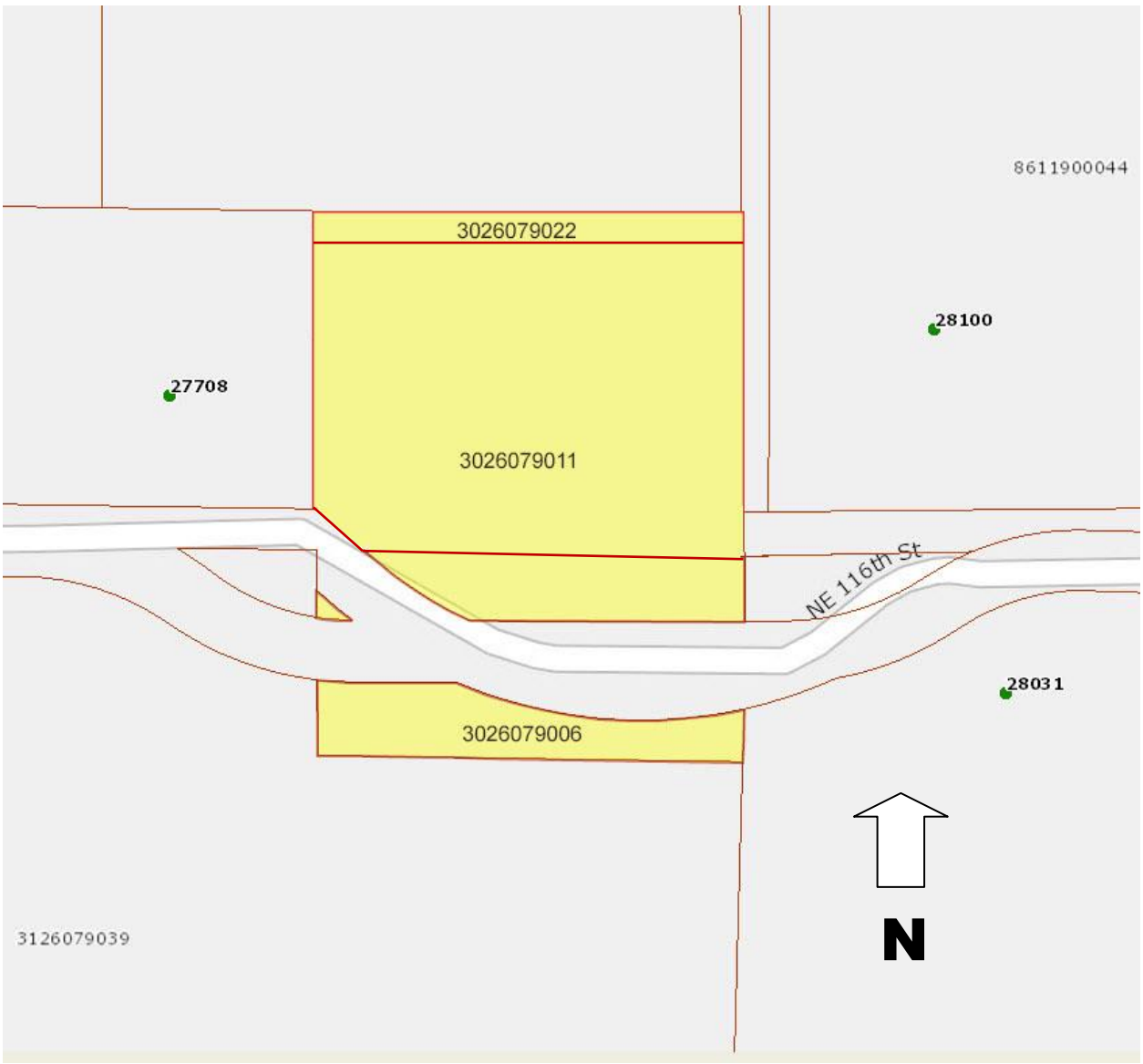
None

J) Map and Photographs

Attach copies of historic maps or photos if available, and current photos (5 x 7 B & W). Include a current map – appropriate U.S.G.S. map and parcel map – with the location of the property and its boundaries clearly marked. (see instructions)

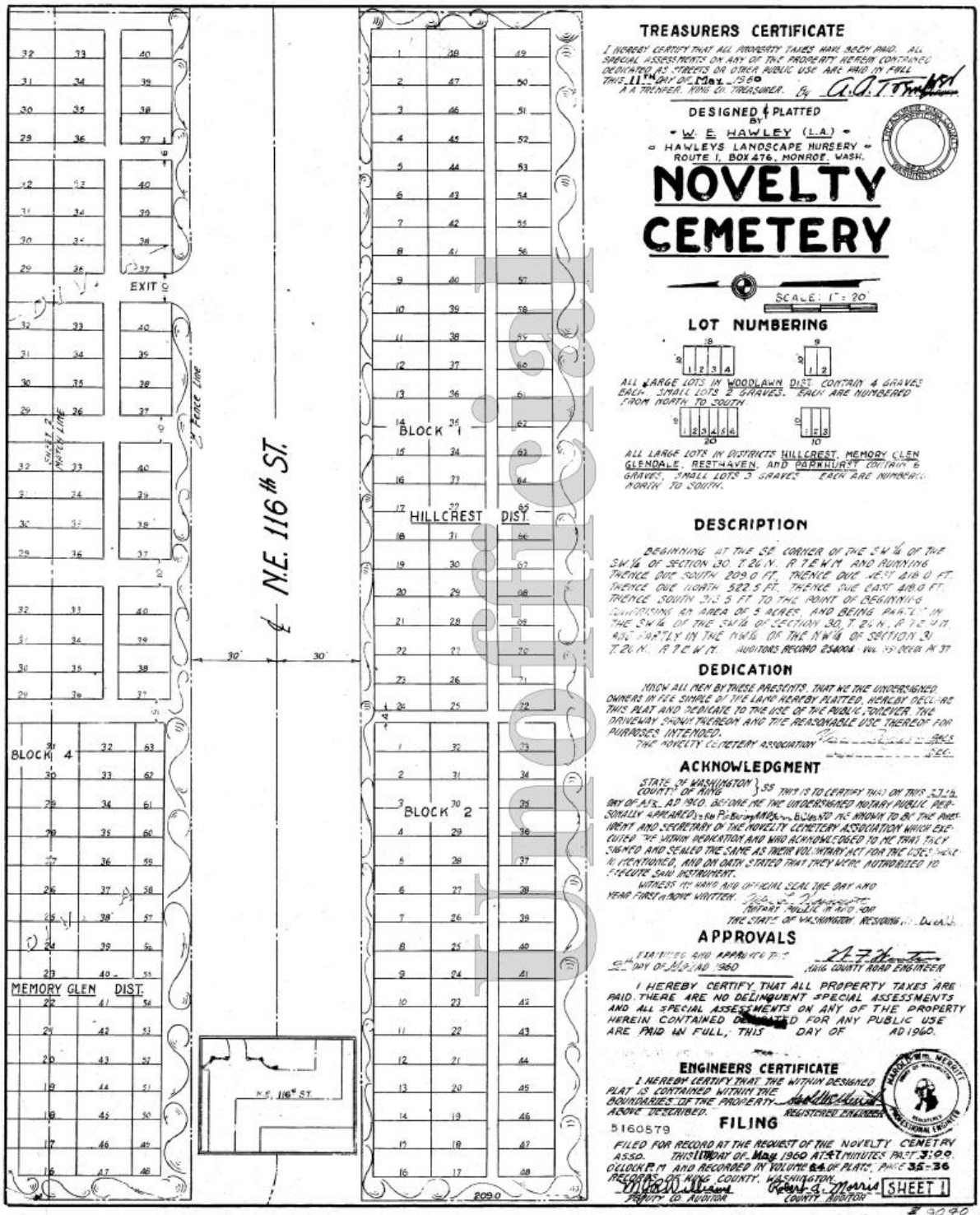
Google Earth Map
Novelty Cemetery

Cemetery Boundaries



Parcel Map
Novelty Cemetery

Parcel Numbers: (1) 3026079011, (2) 3126079006 & (3) 3026079022



Novelty Cemetery Plat
Drawn by W.E. Hawley – May 1960

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