

# WASHINGTON HERITAGE REGISTER

## A) Identification

Historic Name: **Hansville Cemetery**

Common Name:

Address: 37900 Hansville Road NE

City: Hansville

County: Kitsap

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

The cemetery is located just north of the intersection of Hansville Road NE and NE Hunt Club Lane. Access to the cemetery is via two gated lanes on Hansville Road NE. The cemetery sits back from the road behind a small, landscaped area.

## C) Property owner(s), Address and Zip

Name: Hansville Helping Hands & Cemetery

Address: PO Box 23

City: Hansville

State: WA

Zip: 98340

## D) Legal boundary description and boundary justification

Tax No./Parcel: The eastern portion of Parcel No. 212802-1-008-2007

Boundary Justification: The nomination boundaries encompass the existing tax lot boundary owned by the association.

## FORM PREPARED BY

Name: Fred Nelson

Address: 4488 NE Twin Spits Rd

City / State / Zip: Hansville, WA 98340

Email: Fredjnelson@centurytel.net

Phone: (360) 683-0000

Nomination Date: July 2024

Date:

# WASHINGTON HERITAGE REGISTER

## 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, or life 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.*

# WASHINGTON HERITAGE REGISTER

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## G) Property Description

The Hansville Cemetery is located at 37900 NE Hansville Road, off of Highway 104, a few miles west of Kingston. It is located on the east side of the Hansville Road just prior to entering the community of Hansville.

The cemetery is a long, narrow parcel that gradually slopes up to the east. A gravel cemetery road encircles the burial sites, making a U-shape from an entrance on the west side. The length of the cemetery extends uphill to the east and the perimeter is bordered by alder, fir, and cedar trees. The cemetery is fenced and the two access points have wrought iron gates that are closed but not locked.

Between the two entrance drives, facing Hansville Road, is a small, landscaped area. This area contains a contemporary wooden "Hansville Cemetery" sign in a flower garden area. A flowering cherry tree shades the lawn on the south side near the entrance, and a large fir tree is positioned further into the cemetery just inside the fenced area.

The cemetery is divided into two sections, with a parking area located in between. "Section A", at the top of the hill (at the end of the "U"), contains the earliest burials. "Section B", at the lower part of the hill (in the open side of the "U"), contains more recent burials and has additional plots available. A metal flagpole is located near the parking area centered in "Section B." There are two stone benches, one centered in each section. A partial split rail fence separates the parking area and the grave sites.

Currently there over 400 known graves. Still an active cemetery, the earliest burial dates from 1911 (Ole Olsen). There are only a few upright memorial headstones. A majority are flush with the ground. Reportedly this became a requirement in later years to allow only flush ground headstones for more efficient lawn maintenance.

## H) Significance

The Hansville Cemetery is historically significant for its direct connection to the early pioneer settlers of the Hansville area and surrounding communities. The location of the cemetery, on the north end of the Kitsap Peninsula indicates a pattern of early development, by many of whom were of Scandinavian descent. The Hansville

Cemetery is the final resting place for some of the area's most significant settlers.

Traditionally the northern portion of the Kitsap peninsula was home to the people of the S'Klallam, Skokomish, Twana and Chimakum tribes. However, on January 26, 1855, Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens signed a treaty with area tribes ceding more than 750,000 acres to the United States. This land included the future community of Hansville. At the time the land was still heavily timbered, and only had a few rough trails through the forest.

Reportedly, the first Euro-American to settle the area were mostly of Finish, Swedish and Norwegian descent. Modern day settlement came after the establishment and construction of the Point No Point Lighthouse, built in 1879. Its first Keeper John S. Maggs and his family, and the Assistant Light Keeper (W.S. Roger and his wife), lived on the north Kitsap Peninsula in isolation. According to the 1880 federal census, they were the only families living in the area. However, by 1900 additional families and single men had joined them, although it only numbered seven additional families. The small grouping was a tight-knit community, and they worked together to establish a better life. They established a school in 1895.

It is difficult to know who was the first, true, Euro-American settler on the north Kitsap Peninsula. Often Hans O. Zachariasen is given that distinction. He was born in Norway in 1854. Hans and his wife Petrina immigrated to the United States in 1881. They moved to the area around 1889 and shortly thereafter Petrina gave birth to a baby girl, Reena, in June of 1890. The first female white child in the area. Eventually the Zachariasen's had 8 children.

Eventually more settlers moved to the area, mostly loggers and herring fishermen. The lighthouse served as the settlement's first post office beginning in 1893. They built a church in 1909, and another schoolhouse in 1912 on the hill overlooking the bay. The post office was moved from the light station in 1914, and the settlement was officially named Hansville after Hans Zachariasen.

At the time there were still no roads to the area and supplies and freight were brought on a regular basis by Mosquito Fleet boats. Reportedly the shipments for the Point No Point Light Station were continually being mixed up with the freight intended for the other local fishermen and loggers. As a result, Captain Troutman of the steamer DODE began to call the settlement "Hansville" named after Hans Zachariasen and the name eventually stuck.

By 1906, when a plot map of north Kitsap County was first recorded, the families included Michael Claboe, Chris Husby, Anton Husby, P.L. Anderson, Andrew Lee, M.O. Newgard, Ole Olsen, Sivert Perderson, Hans Zachariasen, Alfred Iverson, Andrew Anderson, Edward Scannell, Lewis Morgan, Simon Lilquist, Knute Fredericks, John Fredericks and Henry Tonderrwald. Many of these early settlers would be buried in the Hansville Cemetery.

Alfred Husby, the first postmaster and his brother Henry, built a store in Hansville in 1915. Reportedly they sold it in 1918 to the wife of lighthouse keeper William Cary. She operated the store until 1922, when the newly formed Hansville Grange bought it and ran the store as a cooperative. By then the community had a growing tradition of working cooperatively, organizing a port district in 1918 to build a steamer pier (remnants of which are still visible). In 1923, Hansville farmers and others from the nearby community of Eglon formed the Hansville-Eglon Threshing Association to purchase a threshing outfit.

Although served by steamers of the "Mosquito Fleet" on the Seattle-Kingston-Port Ludlow route through the early 1920s, the settlement still remained relatively isolated until the present road via Ramsey Corner was completed in 1924. The first telephone line to the town was created by private subscription in 1926, and electrical service didn't arrive until 1930. In 1926, the road west from Kingston (State Route 104) was completed, and in the early 1930s, expansion of a regional road system drastically improved automobile access to Hansville. After the roads were completed, Hansville developed as a resort community, featuring numerous boathouses and rental cabins along the shore of Puget Sound. Among the resorts were White's Resort, Erickson's Hansville Resort, Kinkaid's Resort, Nelson's Point-No-Point Resort, Danforth's Orchard Beach Resort and Bruce's Resort.

The early isolation of the community led to the need to create a burial ground, which was initially donated by the families of the Lefstad's, the Bruce's and Pedersen's who all owned adjacent land in 1911. The group allowed local residents to bury their loved ones at the cemetery for no cost. The grounds were cared for by the families of those who were buried there. As the number of those interred at the cemetery increased, the decedents of the three families that owned the land decided they needed to become more formal and organized as a Board of Trustees that could manage the cemetery. The early trustees included: Julia Pederson, Erick and Mable Lefstad, and George and Mabel Bruce. Seeking to hand the cemetery off to another group, on January 11, 1947, the trustees formally deeded the cemetery to the Hansville Ladies Aid Society with the provision that any permanent resident of Hansville could have a burial plot at no cost. The deed included 1.47 acres. While the president and secretary of the Hansville Ladies Aid Society would oversee the management of the cemetery, a specific Cemetery Board of Trustees was established to handle the day-to-day operations.

The Hansville Ladies Aid Society and the Cemetery Board took care of the cemetery for another 70+ years. The Ladies Aid Society had been formed in the 1930s by a group of active women from the local Hansville Church. They initially organized to visit the sick and shut-ins and/or to provide help to any families in need. Often, they relied on the Grange Co-op for food assistance.

In 1999 the Fire District Auxiliary decided to join the Ladies Aid to support their charitable work and the cemetery. The group became a registered non-profit charity within Washington State in 2004. In 2014 the name was changed to "Hansville Helping Hands" and included several men. As of today, there are 30 members.

In 2009 Carl Zimmer donated an additional ½ acre on the west side of Hansville Road for the use of the cemetery; which is currently not used for interment (and is not part of the nominated area). Today there are 415 graves and more than three hundred reserved plots.

Today the Hansville Helping Hands and Cemetery continues to provide burial plots at no cost to those residents that have been a permanent resident of Hansville for one year or more. Their mission continues to assist those in need and to manage the Hansville Cemetery. The all-volunteer organization has more than 20 active members and maintains all record keeping, burial coordination and some cemetery maintenance.

# WASHINGTON HERITAGE REGISTER

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## I) Documentation

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

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

Kitsap Sun Newspapers

Bremerton Daily News Newspaper

“The Hansville Cemetery: A community Asset and a Benefit to Living Here” – The Greater Hansville Log July 2015, Vol. XXIII, Issue 7.

*Oral History/Interviews:*

None

## J) Map and Photographs

Attach copies of historic maps or photos if available, and current photos (min 5 x 7 digital images, 300 DPI). Include a current map – appropriate Google Earth/U.S.G.S. map and parcel map – with the location of the property and its boundaries clearly marked. (see instructions)

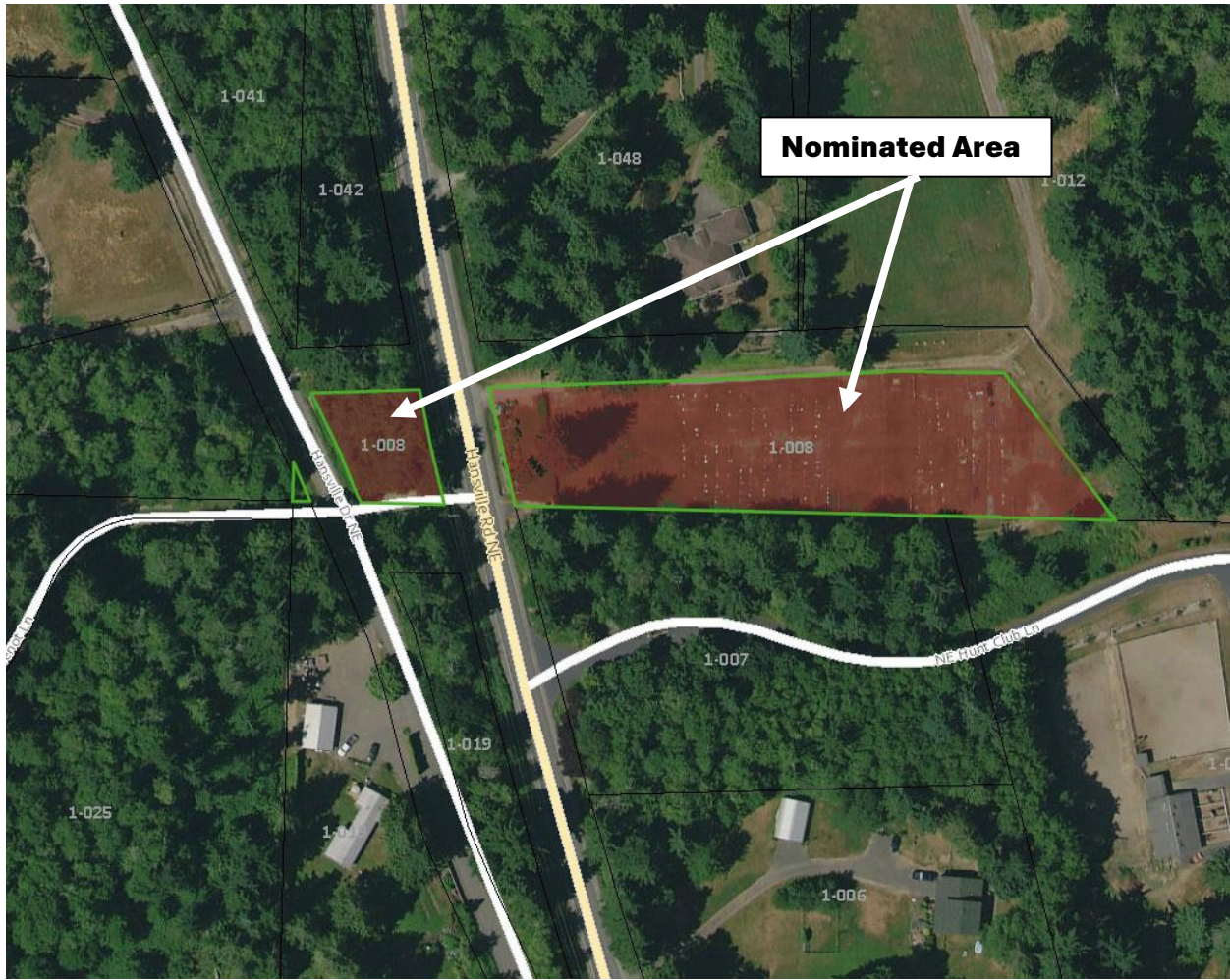


### **Kitsap County Assessor Map**

Hansville Cemetery

Parcel No. 212802-1-008-2007

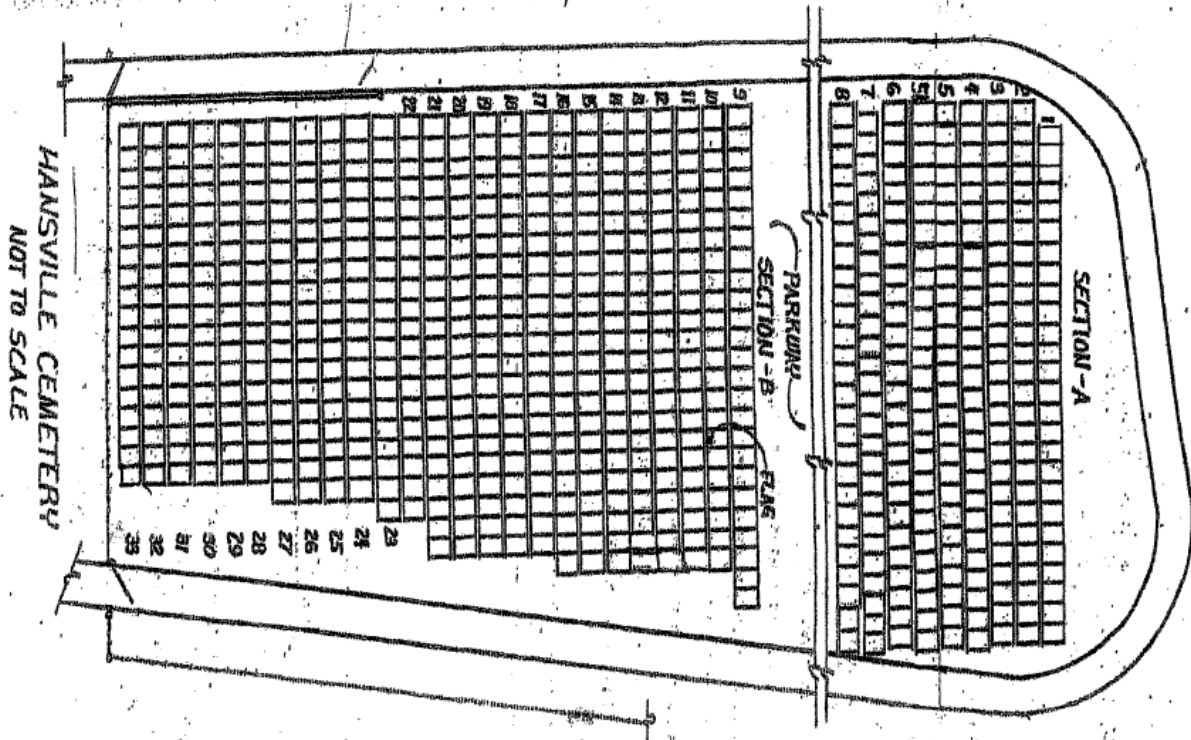




**Aerial Map**

Hansville Cemetery

Parcel No. 212802-1-008-2007



**Plat Map**

Hansville Cemetery  
 37900 Hansville Rd NE  
 Hansville, WA

*(Note two sections of cemetery separated by parking area)*



Entry sign detail.



Cemetery "Section B" looking north.



Cemetery "Section B" looking east.



Elisabeth Eide headstone looking west.



Cemetery "Section B" near road looking east.



Cemetery "Section B" near flagpole looking west.



Details of entry landscaping.



Bench with unknown graves.



Elisabeth Eide (1846-1920)



Bernice Endresen (1919-1985) and Carvel Endresen (1944-2011)



Sam Aune (1888-1925)



Hilda Erickson (1879-1961)





Auther Halver (1907-1935)



Erick Lefstad (1886-1966) and Mable Leftstad (1900-1956)



Ole Olsen (1853-1911) and Ingeborg Olsen (1854-1926)



Jonas Udd (1869 - 1935)



Patrina Zachariasen (1854-1921)



Otto Zachary (1895-1978)