CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT COVER SHEET

Author: Donald D. Pattee, Bill R. Roulette, and Aimee A. Finley

Title of Report: Archaeological Predetermination Survey for the Proposed Stephens Hillside Farm Subdivision, La Center, Washington


Date of Report: February 5, 2018

County(ies): Clark

Section: 34

Township: 5N

Range: 1E

Quad: 1990 Ridgefield, WA

Acre(s): 28

PDF of report submitted (REQUIRED) ☑ Yes

Historic Property Inventory Forms to be Approved Online? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Archaeological Site(s)/Isolate(s) Found or Amended? ☐ Yes ☑ No

TCP(s) found? ☐ Yes ☑ No

Replace a draft? ☐ Yes ☑ No

Satisfy a DAHP Archaeological Excavation Permit requirement? ☐ Yes # ☑ No

Were Human Remains Found? ☐ Yes DAHP Case # ☑ No

DAHP Archaeological Site #:

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• Submission of PDFs is required.

• Please be sure that any PDF submitted to DAHP has its cover sheet, figures, graphics, appendices, attachments, correspondence, etc., compiled into one single PDF file.

• Please check that the PDF displays correctly when opened.
CLARK COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL PREDETERMINATION SURVEY

Parcel Nos.: 258901000, 258919000, 258922000, 258971000, 258972000

Owner: Perry and Carleen Stephens
Address: 24600 NE 98th Court
          Battle Ground, WA 98604

Owner: Roni and Mark Stephens
Address: 208 NW 348th Street
          La Center, WA 98629

Owner: Merry Rerick
Address: 4311 NE 44th Street
          Vancouver, WA 98661

Project Contact: Ed Greer
                 Greer and Greer, Inc. Land Use Planning and Designs
                 13023 NE Highway 99, STE 7-126
                 Vancouver, WA 98686

File/Permit Number:

Staff Planner:

Date: February 5, 2018

Location: The project area is located in the northern part of the city of La Center, Washington, approximately 0.8 mile to the north of the East Fork Lewis River and 1.4 miles east of I-5 (Figure 1).

Quadrangle: 1990 Ridgefield, WA, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Figure 1).

Township/Range/Section/Quarter Section: NE ¼ and NW ¼ of Section 34, Township 5 North, Range 1 East, Willamette Meridian (WM)

Number of Acres: 42 acres

Description of Proposed Activity: Parcels 258901000, 258919000, 258922000, 258971000, and 258972000 are proposed to be developed into the Stephens Hillside Farm residential subdivision that will include 85 lots of variable size. A proposed 60-foot-wide access road will generally follow the current route of NE 348th Street that runs from east-to-west through the center of the property and connects the lots to NE North Fork Avenue (Figure 2). Due to environmental constraints, approximately 14 acres of the property are not developable for residential housing. The undevelopable acres will either be left as open spaces, be used for a city park, or for stormwater management.

Reason Archaeological Predetermination is needed: To comply with State Environmental Policy Act and Title 40.570.080 (c)(3)(k) of Clark County Code.

Field Inspection: Date of Inspection: January 15 and 16, 2018
Describe the proposed project’s locational characteristics including topography, hydrology, wetlands, and any prominent features located on or near the proposed project. The project area is comprised of five contiguous parcels that form a mostly rectangular-shaped tract that has somewhat irregular edges. It measures maximally 760 feet (ft) north-to-south and 2,600 ft east-to-west. It encompasses approximately 42 acres of which around two acres are currently developed. NE North Fork Avenue runs along part of its eastern edge elsewhere it is defined by property lines. The tract features rolling topography that slopes to the south with elevations ranging from 203 to 360 ft above mean sea level (amsl).

It is located in a semi-rural part of Clark County. Lands directly to its south and east have been extensively developed into residential and commercial properties especially in areas surrounding the urban core of La Center. Lands in other directions have not been as extensively developed and are primarily used for raising crops and grazing livestock. The project area is situated on a broad terrace that is part of the common land surface comprising much of the interior of Clark County. It is less than 0.2 mile from a steep bluff that descends to the East Fork Lewis River, which passes through a narrow, steep-sided gorge before its valley opens up downstream from Paradise Point. The East Fork is a tributary of the Lewis River, which in turn is a tributary of the Columbia River further west. The project area is located between Jenny and Breeze creeks that are tributaries of the East Fork. Two unnamed tributaries of the river flow through the western and southern parts of the tract, outside of the area that would be developed. The tributaries are bordered by 200-foot wide buffers.

The project area is in the interior, upland part of the Portland Basin, which comprises a part of the northern half of the Willamette Valley physiographic province (Franklin and Dyrness 1973:15). The Portland Basin is one of several topographic and structural basins that as a group comprise the Puget-Willamette trough. The basin begins where the Columbia River debouches from its gorge through the Cascade Mountains in the neighborhood of Washougal. It extends to the north and west to the Longview-Kelso area where the Columbia River begins its westward turn through the Willapa Hills of the Coast Range. The basin includes the Columbia River floodplain, which because of a minimal river gradient, features numerous lakes, islands, marshes, drainage channels, and sloughs. The project area is elevated above the floodplain in a topographic sub-area of the basin that includes the tablelands of interior Clark County.

The tablelands are the main land surface in the interior part of the county. They are composed of an extensive terrace that has the appearance of a rolling plain. The current appearance of the tablelands was shaped toward the end of the Pleistocene by the Missoula floods. An unknown number of flood events occurred between about 17,000 and 12,700 years ago (Clague et al. 2003; Waitt 1994). The floodwaters originated in glacial Lake Missoula, a body of water formed when the Purcell Trench Lobe of the Cordilleran ice sheet blocked the Clark Fork River in Montana. When the waters of Lake Missoula breached the ice dam, the resulting floods rushed across the landscape scouring the surface and eroding and plucking away the bedrock. These floods created the scablands of eastern Washington and changed the profile of the Columbia River Gorge. Exiting the gorge, a 700-foot-tall wall of water spilled out into the Portland Basin where it dispersed and inundated everything below about 400 ft amsl. As the water moved across the interior part of Clark County they surged down existing stream valleys, including the valley of the East Fork, creating oversized channels. As the floodwaters continued downstream, they were blocked by a narrowing of the Columbia River valley. As a result, they backed up into the basin and spilled over into the Willamette Valley. Bed load material dropped from the initial surge of each flood as it entered the Portland Basin. The material is coarsest near the gorge and finer with distance from it. When the surge slackened due to the downstream constriction, massive quantities of finer-grained material dropped from the impounded waters. The pre-flood land surface in the La Center area in which the project area is situated was scoured repeatedly by the floodwaters. It was mantled by finer-grained slack-water flood deposits (Evarts 2004).
The soils mapped in the largest part of the project area are members of the Hillsboro soil series found on slopes ranging from 8 to 65 percent, and Gee silt loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes (McGee 1972; Sheet 15).

Both Hillsboro and Gee series soils have generally been thought to have formed in flood slack water deposits (Evarts 2004). However, it is now believed that they formed in aeolian deposits (O’Connor et al. 2016; Punke et al. 2009). Such deposits mantle many upland areas in Clark County. They are massive and unconsolidated bodies of sand and silt with minor lithic fragments. They likely were formed by easterly winds entraining cataclysmic-flood deposits and Columbia River beach and bar sand. The accumulation of the aolian deposits (i.e., loess) appears to have continued into early- and mid-Holocene times (Punke et al. 2009).

A typical profile for the Hillsboro series consists of an A horizon that is about 7 inches and composed of dark brown (when moist) silt loam. Hillsboro soils are extensively used for agriculture and the upper part of the A horizon is a plowzone (Ap horizon). Beneath the A horizon are a series of B horizons that extend to a depth of more than 4.5 ft. The uppermost B horizon is dark brown (when moist) silt loam that is similar in appearance to the overlying A horizon but which has greater structure. It overlies a sequence of heavy loam to silt loam layers (McGee 1972:17-18).

A typical soil profile for Gee silt loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, includes an A horizon that is about 14 inches thick. When moist its upper part consists of a 9-inch-layer of very dark grayish brown, silt loam over a 5-inch-layer of dark grayish brown silt loam. Below the A horizon is an 8-inch thick AB horizon. The A part of this horizon is composed of faintly mottled dark grayish brown and dark brown silt loam, while the B part consists of faintly mottled dark brown and dark grayish brown silt loam. Variable amounts of small, very dark brown concretions are common throughout the A and AB horizons. Below the AB horizon is a pair of BA horizons that extend to a depth of 72 inches below surface and are composed of mottled dark brown, silty clay loam. Gee series soils are found in some of the most intensively farmed areas of Clark County and are commonly cultivated for raising truck crops, small grains, hay, and pasture grass. In a typical profile the upper part of the A horizon is a plowzone (McGee 1972:13-14).

Describe current use of the proposed project area: The project area generally consists of a series of open, agricultural fields that were once used to graze dairy cattle (Figure 4). It contains eight structures, of which four are located in its eastern part, two in its central part, and two in its western part. Those in its eastern part include two single-family residences each with an associated detached garage. According to Clark County Tax Assessor’s records, two of the structures in its eastern part (a house and a detached garage) were built in 1928 (Figures 5 and 6). The six other structures located on the properties are modern. All existing structures are to be removed prior to the development of the subdivision.

Describe Vegetation: Based on the main types of soil that are mapped in it, and under the historical climatic regime, native vegetation in the project area and vicinity would have consisted of a mixed coniferous and deciduous forest with Douglas-fir, grand fir, bigleaf maple, western dogwood, redcedar, Oregon white oak, and red alder as the major overstory species with an understory of red huckleberry, ferns, vine maple, salal, and Oregon grape (McGee 1972:13, 15, 17). Currently, the vegetation throughout the project area consists of pasture grass, patches of Himalayan blackberry brambles, and various weeds and forbs. The areas located along the two tributaries in the southern and western parts of the property were forested and included mixed stands of cedar, Douglas-fir, maple, and alder trees. In addition, the areas around the residences featured a scattering of similar trees but also included oak trees and ornamental trees and shrubs.

Records Review: Background research included a thorough search and analysis of site inventory record forms, historical maps, and literature pertaining to archaeological research conducted in the vicinity of the project area. A review of records on file at the Washington State Department of Archaeology and
Historic Preservation (DAHP) indicates that the project area has not been previously surveyed and contains no archaeological resources.

Twenty three cultural resource investigations have been conducted within one mile of the project area (Table 1). The projects have consisted mainly of predetermination and formal surveys that together have examined several hundred acres of nearby lands. As a result of the studies, ten archaeological resources located within one mile of the project area have been identified. The resources include pre-contact sites 45CL674, 45CL1122, 45CL1234, 45CL1235, pre-contact isolates 45CL680, 45CL692, 45CL693, 45CL743, multi-component site 45CL1238, and historic-era site 45CL532.

Most of the isolates consist of a small number of pieces of lithic debitage (which represents byproducts from the manufacture and maintenance of stone tools) but 45CL743 also contains a cobble chopper. Sites 45CL674, 45CL1234, and 45CL1235 were identified during predetermination surveys and were investigated further during subsequent formal surveys. Site 45CL674 contained 24 lithic artifacts that included 22 pieces of debitage, a core, and a biface fragment (Gall 2006a, 2006b). Sites 45CL1234 and 45CL1235 consist solely of pieces of lithic debitage (Pattee and Roulette 2017). Sites 45CL1122 and 45CL1123 were identified during formal surveys in advance of habitat restoration work along the East Fork River floodplain. The first contains four fragments of fire cracked rock (FCR) and the other contains six basalt flakes (Solimano et al. 2015). Multi-component site 45CL1238 was also identified along the banks of the East Fork Lewis River. Its pre-contact component consists of lithic debitage and FCR. Historic-era artifacts identified at the site include a square-cut nail, a .22-caliber cartridge casing, and a saw-cut animal bone (Fortin and Smits 2016).

Other than the pre-contact archaeological resources, historic-era site 45CL532 is also located within one mile of the development area. It consists of a scatter of historic era architectural and household debris. The scatter has been interpreted to represent the remains of Brevik’s Garage, a doctor’s office, and the La Center Post Office, which were destroyed by fires in 1930 (Mills 2002).

The historical La Center cemetery is located to the southeast of the project area and has been recorded as cultural resource 45CL870H (Anonymous 1999). The cemetery was founded in 1897 by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F) who organized Lodge #92 in La Center. Notable burials include six of the “Boys of La Center and Vicinity” who were killed in World War 1 as well as two families that died in the Lewis River Forest Fire on September 12, 1902 (Anonymous 1999).

No developments or improvements are in the project area on nineteenth-century maps (Downing 1883; General Land Office 1854). Project lands do not appear to have been included in a donation land claim (General Land Office 1863). Habersham’s 1888 map of Clarke (sic) County shows them as owned by J. Banger (Habersham 1888). They later were owned by W.E. Stephens (Metsker 1937).

As noted above, Clark County Assessor’s records indicate that a house and garage were built on the property in 1928. The house first appears on a 15-minute topographic map published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1940, but which based on aerial photography taken in 1937 (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1940). On the map it appears in the same general location as the extant home known to have been built in 1928 (Figure 7).

Describe search procedures: The surface of the project area was surveyed on January 16, 2018. The surface survey employed a series of north-to-south oriented pedestrian transects spaced no more than 20 meters (m) apart. Skies were clear and it was sunny at the time of fieldwork.
Table 1. List of Cultural Resource Studies Conducted Within 1 Mile of the Project Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s) of Report/Year</th>
<th>Type of Investigation</th>
<th>Size of Project Area (in Acres)</th>
<th>Findings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DeLyria and Donald 1998</td>
<td>Predetermination survey</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>No archaeological resources identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper 2001</td>
<td>Predetermination survey</td>
<td>1.5 acres</td>
<td>No archaeological resources identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mills 2002</td>
<td>Predetermination survey</td>
<td>5 acres</td>
<td>45CL532 identified and documented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson and Mills 2005</td>
<td>Predetermination survey</td>
<td>3.87 acres</td>
<td>No archaeological resources identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryant and Gall 2006</td>
<td>Predetermination survey</td>
<td>36 acres</td>
<td>45CL692 and 45CL693 identified and documented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gall 2006a</td>
<td>Predetermination survey</td>
<td>14 acres</td>
<td>45CL674 identified and documented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gall 2006b</td>
<td>Formal survey</td>
<td>7 acres</td>
<td>Expanded the site boundaries of 45CL674 in all directions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holschuh 2006</td>
<td>Predetermination survey</td>
<td>22.6 acres</td>
<td>45CL680 identified and documented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easton 2007</td>
<td>Predetermination survey</td>
<td>12.6 acres</td>
<td>45CL743 identified and recorded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freed 2007</td>
<td>Not listed</td>
<td>0.27 acre</td>
<td>No archaeological resources identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson 2007</td>
<td>Predetermination survey</td>
<td>20 acres</td>
<td>No archaeological resources identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson 2008</td>
<td>Predetermination survey</td>
<td>5 acres</td>
<td>No archaeological resources identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd-Jones et al. 2008</td>
<td>Formal survey</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>No archaeological resources identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gall and Hudson 2009</td>
<td>Predetermination survey</td>
<td>6 acres</td>
<td>No archaeological resources identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith and Gall 2011</td>
<td>Formal survey</td>
<td>3.75 acres</td>
<td>No archaeological resources identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mastrangelo and Holschuh 2014</td>
<td>Formal survey</td>
<td>3 acres</td>
<td>No archaeological resources identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freed 2015</td>
<td>Predetermination survey</td>
<td>16.6 acres</td>
<td>No archaeological resources identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holschuh 2015</td>
<td>Formal survey</td>
<td>1.6 acres</td>
<td>No archaeological resources identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munsell and Chaney 2015</td>
<td>Formal survey</td>
<td>0.2 acre</td>
<td>No archaeological resources identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solimano et al. 2015</td>
<td>Formal survey</td>
<td>138 acres</td>
<td>45CL1122 and 45CL1123 identified and documented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fortin and Smits 2016</td>
<td>Formal survey</td>
<td>2 acres</td>
<td>45CL1238 identified and documented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fortin and Tisdale 2017</td>
<td>Formal survey</td>
<td>3.27 acres</td>
<td>No archaeological resources identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pattee and Roulette 2017</td>
<td>Formal survey</td>
<td>43.59 acres</td>
<td>45CL1234 and 45CL1235 identified and documented</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Indicate the percent of mineral soils exposed in the survey area: In areas that were not obscured by existing structures, ground surface visibility was essentially zero percent due to thick vegetation. Soil exposures were limited to rodent burrowing backdirt piles, bare patches surrounding trees and existing structures, and in areas that had been disturbed by some sort of excavations, presumably percolation test trenches (Figure 8). Surface visibility in such areas was around 100 percent.

Describe and quantify the amount of subsurface probing and/or manual surface exposing activities that were carried out: Thirty STPs were excavated across the project area on January 16 and 17, 2018. Skies were clear and it was sunny during the excavations. The STPs were between 30 and 40 centimeters (cm) in diameter and were excavated to a minimum depth of 50 cm below surface (cmbs). The STPs were placed opportunistically in a more or less grid-like fashion to provide representative coverage of the project area. STPs were not placed in areas featuring moderate slopes, those that had been previously disturbed, or within the 200-foot-wide buffer surrounding the two tributaries (Figure 3).
Were soils screened? If yes, indicate screen mesh size: 1/4- and 1/8-inch

Describe soils: Soil profiles observed in STPs 2-7, 12-21, 25, 26, 29, and 30 included a 30- to 40-cm-thick layer of dark brown silt loam over a 10- to 20-cm-thick layer of yellowish brown sticky silt loam with clay content increasing with depth. Soil profiles observed in STPs 8-11, 22-24, 27, and 28 consisted of 30- to 40-cm-thick layer of dark brown silt loam over a 10- to 20-cm-thick layer of reddish brown silt loam with clay content increasing with depth. Sediments in STP 1 consisted of a 25-cm-thick layer of very gravelly, dark brown, fill. The STP was terminated early. Excluding STP 1, excavated sediments contained little to no rocks.

Results: No artifacts were identified on the surface or in the STPs.

The two historic-era buildings that will be removed as part of the project have not previously been evaluated. As part of the current project they were evaluated and added to the DAHP’s WISAARD under project 2018-01-00742, with the identification number 554583, and added. They have been assessed as not eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Recommendations: The excavation of thirty STPs within the approximately 26-acre developed part of the property represents thorough coverage that AAR believes would have resulted in the identification of archaeological resources had they been present. For that reason, AAR recommends no further archaeological work within the project area.

Although considered unlikely, there is always a possibility than an archaeological resource may be discovered during future development activity on the property. For that reason, the applicant and any contractors that may work on the property need to be aware that under Washington State law, RCW 27.53.060, it is unlawful to knowingly damage, deface, or destroy an archaeological site on public or private land in Washington. Washington State law RCW 27.44.040 also makes it a class C felony to knowingly remove, mutilate, deface, injure, or destroy any cairn or grave of any native Indian. Thus, in the event that archaeological materials, Indian cairns, or human remains are encountered during the development of the property, all construction activities must stop in the vicinity of the finds and the Clark County Archaeological Permit Coordinator and the DAHP should immediately be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed. Procedures outlined under WAC 25-48 will be followed and work will not resume until mitigation measures have been agreed upon.

As for the extant buildings on the property that are demonstrably 45 years of age or older it is AAR’s opinion that they do not meet the registration requirements for listing on the NRHP, and should not be considered to be historic properties when assessing impacts of the proposed project. All available and pertinent information for them was collected during the predetermination survey. No further work is recommended as it is unlikely to provide additional information of a nature that would change their eligibility status.

Name(s) of archaeologist(s) completing this form: Donald D. Pattee, M.A., RPA 32246885, Bill R. Roulette, M.A., RPA 11132, and Aimee A. Finley, M.S.
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1998  

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1883  

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2007  

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2004  

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Metsker, Chas F.  

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Punke, Michelle, Terry Ozbun, Jo Reese, and Brian Buchanan  

Smith, Michael, and Alexander Gall  

Solimano, Paul, Kanani Paraso, Breanne Taylor, Matt Goodwin, and Donald Shannon  

United States Army Corps of Engineers  

Waitt, R.B., Jr.  
Wilson, Meredith, and Bonnie Mills

Figure 1. Location of the project area.
Figure 2. Configuration of the proposed Stephen’s Hillside Farm development area.
Figure 3. Configuration of the project area showing the location of the historical structures, excavated STPs, and transects walked.
Figure 4. Representative overview of the project area showing typical vegetation at the time of fieldwork. View is north.

Figure 5. Photographic overview of the 1928 home located in the eastern part of the project area. View is east.
Figure 6. Photographic overview of the 1928 detached garage associated with the 1928 home located in the eastern part of the project area. View is west.

Figure 7. Configuration of the project area as depicted on a map published by the United States Army Corps of Engineers in 1940 showing the historical structure in its eastern part.
Figure 8. Photographic overview of a disturbed area that likely marks the location of a percolation test pit that had been backfilled prior to fieldwork. View is east.