KING COUNTY LANDMARKS COMMISSION
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
201 S. Jackson, Suite 700
Seattle, Washington 98104

Commission Approved
June 22, 2023

LANDMARK REGISTRATION FORM

PART I: PROPERTY INFORMATION

1. Name of Property

historic name: PRESTON MILL DRYING KILN

other names/site number: PRESTON MILL PARK; JIM ELLIS MEMORIAL REGIONAL PARK

2. Location

street address: Preston Mill Park, 30818 Preston-Fall City Road S, Preston, WA 98050

parcel no(s): 689330-0620 and 332407-9013

legal description(s): see p. 2

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:
- ☐ Private
- ☒ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property:
- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

4. Property Owner(s)

name: King County - Parks

street: 201 S Jackson Street, KSC-NR-5702

city: Seattle state: WA zip: 98104

5. Form Prepared By

name/title: Sarah J. Martin, consulting historian

organization: SJM Cultural Resource Services, LLC date: April 2023

Address: 3901 2nd Ave NE #202, Seattle, WA 98105

On behalf of the Fall City Historical Society
c/o Rick Divers, President, P.O. Box 293 Fall City, WA 98024

6. Nomination Checklist

- ☒ Site Map (REQUIRED)
- ☒ Photographs (REQUIRED): *please label or caption photographs and include an index*
- ☐ Last Deed of Title: *this document can usually be obtained for little or no cost from a title company*
- ☒ Continuation Sheets
- ☐ Other (please indicate):

LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS

The nominated building straddles two parcels, described below, that are now owned by King County (figure A3).

Parcel 689330-0620: PRESTON 1ST ADD TO PP ACT 39961552 MOBILE HOME LOT 2 LESS NELY 40 FT & LESS SELY 25 FT THOF & ALL OF LOTS 3 & 4 & LOT 5 LESS NELY 40 FT THOF TGW POR OF TRACT MARKED MILL YARDS ON THE PLAT OF FIRST ADDITION TO PRESTON LY SLY STATE RD #2 & ELY OF SR 90 TGW POR VAC 311TH PL SE AS VAC BY KING CO ORD #10283 LESS POR SD LOT 5 BLK 9 CONVEYED TO KING CO FOR CUL-DE- SAC BY DEED REC #9203101720

Parcel 3324079013: POR OF NW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 LY NELY OF NELY MGN SR 90 & CO RD & WLY OF RAGING RIVER LESS C/M RGTS

BACKGROUND

On behalf of the Fall City Historical Society, consulting historian Sarah J. Martin completed research and drafted this report between December 2022 and February 2023. This nomination incorporates and builds on Martin's recent work with colleague Florence Lentz to document the cultural history of Upper Preston in a King County Landmark nomination for Vasa Hall. Research repositories included Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), Washington State Archives Puget Sound Regional Branch, University of Washington Libraries and Special Collections, Snoqualmie Valley Historical Society, and Issaquah History Museums. Additional research included correspondence with King County Parks staff and King County Historic Preservation Program staff as well as review of secondary-source literature and numerous online collections, including Washington State Archives, Seattle Public Library's *Seattle Times* and *Post-Intelligencer* historical archives, and Newspapers.com.

Martin conducted a field survey of the property on November 3, 2022. Fieldwork included photographic documentation and visual inspection of the setting, former mill property, and drying kiln building. She wishes to thank the Fall City Historical Society and Rick Divers (president) as well as TJ Davis with King County Parks for their assistance gathering information.

PART II: PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

7. Alterations

Check the appropriate box if there have been changes to plan, cladding, windows, interior features or other significant elements. These changes should be described specifically in the narrative section below.

☒ Yes	☐ No	Plan (i.e. no additions to footprint, relocation of walls, or **roof plan**)	☒ Yes	☐ No	Interior features (woodwork, finishes, flooring, fixtures)
☐ Yes	☒ No	Cladding	☐ Yes	☐ No	Other elements
☐ Yes	☒ No	Windows			

Narrative Description

Use the space below to describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance, condition, architectural characteristics, and the above-noted alterations (use continuation sheet if necessary).

Introduction

The Preston Mill Drying Kiln is a rare surviving industrial building associated with the early 20th century heyday of lumbering in eastern King County. Built around 1910, the cast-in-place concrete building functioned as a steam-heat kiln that accelerated the lumber drying process in order to boost company capacity and output.[1] It is located on the site of the Preston Mill Company's planing and shingle plant along the Raging River in the unincorporated community of Preston. The once-busy mill yard was at the center of this Swedish company town, and while the immediate site has changed considerably over time, the surrounding Preston community remains distinctively rural in character.

Location & Setting

The unincorporated community of Preston is approximately 22 miles east of Seattle, in the western foothills of the Cascades (figure A1). It is just east of Issaquah in a forested valley along the Raging River. The settlement developed around the former Preston Mill Company and two historic transportation corridors – the Seattle, Lakeshore and Eastern Railroad (later Northern Pacific) and the 1915 Sunset Highway, today's Preston-Fall City Road. Interstate 90 bisects the still-rural community, which has a residential population of about 500.

Preston is situated on a terraced landscape above the Raging River. The site of the former Preston Mill Company's planing and shingle mill plant is at the lowest terrace between the river and Preston-Fall City Road (figures A2 and A3). This area is now occupied by Preston Mill Park. Northeast of the mill site is a cluster of modest mill-era houses and the 1903 Swedish Baptist church. Overlooking the mill site is middle hill, which includes the 1939 Preston Community Center, the 1904 August Lovegren House and

[1] The building's approximate construction date of 1910 is based on an assortment of information. While several early 20th century photographs provide glimpses of the building (figures D1-D3), the specific dates that the photographs were taken are unknown. The earliest reliably-dated documentation depicting the Preston mill yard are Sanborn fire insurance maps dated 1908 and 1912 (figures C4 and C5). The latter is the first to show the nominated building, suggesting it was constructed between 1908 and 1912.

other mill-era residences, as well as the sites of the former hotel, company store, and post office.[2] The highest ridge is known as top hill and includes the Preston-Snoqualmie Trail that follows the path of the old railroad. An athletic park now occupies the site of the former depot and loading docks.

Site

The planing and shingle plant occupied approximately 16 acres at this location (figures A3, A4, C1, C7 and C8). The property experienced near constant change during the long history of the mill, from its opening at this site in 1896 to its closure in 1989. Mill operations, influenced by rapidly evolving technologies, as well as floods and fires, heavily impacted the landscape and built facilities at the site. In 1997, King County acquired the property and removed most remaining structures. The last of these still standing as of March 2023 include the drying kiln (built ca. 1910), a planer or trimming shed (built 1959-60), and a Quonset hut (built 1959-60). The trimming shed and Quonset hut are to be demolished (figure A4). One log pond survives from at least six ponds that have been excavated and refilled.[3]

Today, the site is characterized by a generally flat grassy open space that gradually slopes from west to east. Trees dot the area along the Raging River and next to the log pond as well as along the edges of the property. The site is currently transitioning to function as a King County park and trailhead. As of March 2023, phase one renovations are nearing completion and include a newly paved parking area, restroom facilities (partially complete), and a walking trail that connects the park with the Preston Community Center on middle hill and the Preston-Snoqualmie Trail on top hill (figures B9 and B10).

Drying Kiln

The drying kiln used steam-heat technology to accelerate the drying of milled wood in order to improve output. This process was accomplished by placing freshly cut green lumber with high moisture content into the kiln, which consists of an enclosed space where air circulation and temperatures could be monitored. After drying, the lumber could be planed into final dimensions or shipped for other end uses. The dimensions of the kiln suggest it was a type of *progressive kiln* in which lumber was loaded at the green end and unloaded at the opposite dry end. (For more on the types of drying kilns, see pages 11 and 12.) Based on early 20th century maps of the Preston mill yard, it seems likely that workers loaded green lumber into the bays at the east end and removed dried lumber at the west end, beyond which sat warehouses for dry lumber storage (figures C5 and C6).

[2] Both the Preston Community Center and the August Lovegren House are designated King County Landmarks.

[3] The log pond is not shown on the 1928 site map (figure C6) but is mentioned on the map with later pencil notes. It is plausible the log pond came into use after the closure of the flume following the devastating flood in 1932 that permanently closed the Upper Preston sawmill.

Exterior[4]

The building footprint measures approximately 42'-7" by 101'-4" and consists of three parallel board-formed, cast-in-place concrete walls that support wood roof trusses and rafters (figures A5, B3, B5 and B11). The walls form two side-by-side bays. The walls run east-west, are spaced roughly 17' and 18' apart, are 16' in height, and vary in thickness between 8" and 16". Vertical buttresses are built into the bases of the north and center walls (figure B4). The walls are situated on slightly wider footings and appear to have been poured in 12" sections. Engineer Marjorie Lund's 2017 structural report on the building calls out a "noticeable segregation of aggregate at the bottom of the concrete pours," (figure B17), and says the walls appear to be reinforced "with twisted square reinforcing bar," both characteristics dating the structure to around 1900. There are no end walls leaving the bays open at the east and west ends (figures B5 and B11).

The roofing material is corrugated metal panels that are intermingled with corrugated polycarbonate panels that allow natural light into the interior (figures B12 and B15). Some roofing material is missing leaving holes in the roof. The north bay has half-gable trusses that rest on the north exterior and center walls (figure B15). The truss framing is finished with board siding above the center wall (figures B14 and B16). The south bay has rafters spanning the south exterior and center walls (figure B12).

Interior

The interior consists of two separate, self-contained chambers. The floor is earth and gravel, and the grade slopes gradually downward from west to east. Much like the exterior, the interior walls are unfinished and consist of the concrete structure, although much of the interior has been covered with graffiti in recent months and years (figures B12 through B15). The only obvious vestiges of the drying kiln operation are in the voluminous space, the few remaining pipes (figure B16), and the cut openings in the wall that facilitated ventilation, lumber storage, or equipment (figure B13).

Change Over Time & Integrity

The drying kiln is one of the last surviving structures of the Preston Mill Company. Built around 1910, it was one of the few concrete buildings constructed in the mill yard and survived near-constant change around it. Analsysis of maps and site plans dating back to 1908 suggest that more than two-dozen buildings have come and gone due to fires, floods, and advances in technology that changed the milling operation. The site was regraded several times to provide level footings for buildings and storage yards. Six float ponds have been excavated and refilled. Flumes that brought green lumber from timber stands upriver have come and gone. Roadways, trams, and planked walkways in and around the mill yard were built and rebuilt. Remarkably, the nominated building remained standing amidst this change. It functioned as a steam-heat drying kiln until it was taken offline in about 1935, when its steam pipes were removed. It was subsequently used for storing vehicles and equipment. Known changes are documented below.

[4] Sources for building measurements include: Jones and Jones Architects, Landscape Architects, and Planners, "Extant Building Survey of Preston Mill for the Preston Mill Park," (Prepared for King County Parks, project no. 30020.308. 2018), 38; and Marjorie Lund, Lund Opsahl, LLC, "Structural Evaluation, Preston Mill Park Concrete Kiln Structure," (June 30, 2017), 2.

- Except for some piping and cut openings in the concrete walls, interior vestiges related to the kiln drying process have been removed. There is no evidence to suggest what the interior would have looked like, but it possibly included a raised floor, extensive piping systems to accommodate the steam-heat and sprinkler systems, louvered openings with some sort of ventilation mechanism, and a flat ceiling perhaps finished in metal.

- Historic photographs, 1930s-era fire safety reports, and Lund's structural report all suggest the roof structure has been modified over time. Photographs from ca. 1910-1912 show the building with a flat roof (figures D1 and D2). A slightly later photograph shows the building with a flat roof and exposed gable trusses (figure D3). A 1974 photograph shows the current gable roof (figure D4).

- Previous site plans show a pond adjacent to the north wall and later a lean-to structure attached to the north wall (figures C4, C5, C6, and D4). No evidence of these is visible.

- End walls once consisted of wood-framing and frame doors, as noted on the 1912 Sanborn and in the 1974 photograph (figures C5 and D4). Today, there are no end walls leaving the bays open at the east and west ends.

The drying kiln remains on its original site, thus retaining its integrity of **location.** While the immediate mill yard **setting** has changed considerably over time, the surrounding Preston community remains rural in character, and the drying kiln retains important associations with nearby historic transportation corridors and the Raging River. Its impressive size, stature, and construction recall the heyday of the Preston Mill Company in the early and middle 20th century, resulting in good integrity of **feeling** and **association**. Good integrity of **design** is reflected in the building's rectangular massing, orientation, and voluminous chambers. Despite decades of minimal use and vacancy, some original and historic construction materials survive resulting in fair integrity of **materials** and **workmanship**.

PART III: HISTORICAL / ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

8. Evaluation Criteria

Designation Criteria:

- ☒ A1 Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, state, or local history.
- ☐ A2 Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in national, state, or local history.
- ☐ A3 Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, style,or method of design or construction or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ A4 Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.
- ☐ A5 Property is an outstanding work of a designer or builder who has made a substantial contribution to the art.

Criteria Considerations:

Property is

- ☐ a cemetery, birthplace, or grave or property owned owned by a religious institution/used for religious purposes
- ☐ moved from its original location
- ☐ a reconstructed historic building
- ☐ a commemorative property
- ☐ less than 40 years old or achieving significance within the last 40 years

Historical Data (if known)

Date(s) of Construction: ca. 1910	Other Date(s) of Significance: ca. 1935	
Architect: Unknown	Builder: Unknown	Engineer: Unknown

Statement of Significance

Describe in detail the chronological history of the property and how it meets the landmark designation criteria. Please provide a summary in the first paragraph (use continuation sheets if necessary). If using a Multiple Property Nomination that is already on record, or another historical context narrative, please reference it by name and source.

Introduction

The Preston Mill Drying Kiln operated at the heart of Preston's bustling mill yard along the Raging River. In use from about 1910 to 1935, the two-chamber kiln increased the Preston Mill Company's capacity to process greater quantities of finished lumber by accelerating the drying time and enabling a quicker turnover of product. It used steam-heat technology to dry lumber that progressively moved through its chambers. Although it was not the company's only drying kiln, it was the largest and only one built of concrete.

The Preston Mill Drying Kiln meets **King County Landmark Criterion A1** through its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of King County history. This rare – and perhaps only – surviving early 20th century lumber kiln in the greater King County area illustrates the heyday of the timber industry in the region, as well as the Swedish-immigrant company town of Preston. The building is among the last tangible symbols of the Preston Mill Company's diversified logging and milling operations, and reflects the company's adaptation of improved technology in order to improve output and remain competitive. It was pivotal to mill operations, providing a rapid drying process that allowed for quicker turnover of capital, less product occupying the yards, and a more flexible operation.

Timber Industry Context

This context is adapted from and builds upon information presented in the King County Landmark Registration Form for Vasa Hall in Upper Preston.[5]

The vast virgin forests of Western Washington were long its most valuable natural resource. For generations, Indigenous people had made practical use of tall conifers for shelter, transportation, and tools of all kinds. Maritime fur traders began harvesting trees north of the Columbia River for ship timbers in the late 1820s. The earliest non-native settlers to the Puget Sound region only survived their first difficult years by selling logs to a booming California market fueled by the discovery of gold.[6]

But the dense stands of timber stretching from the Olympic Peninsula to Fort Vancouver offered opportunities for wealth on a much grander scale. From out of San Francisco, well-backed lumber barons of New England acquired massive holdings to the north. At strategic points they carved mill towns out of the wilderness along the shorelines of Puget Sound and Hood Canal at ports Gamble, Ludlow, Blakely, Madison, and Seabeck. Over the next three decades, they shipped by sea a steady supply of pilings, spars, and squared timbers south to the City by the Bay.[7]

This singular California focus was forever altered in the late 1880s by the arrival of transcontinental railroads – along with Washington's statehood, a surge in its population, and the rapid growth of cities on Puget Sound. Up to this point, as historian Thomas Cox suggests, there had been two basic types of lumber mills in the Northwest: large cargo mills shipping product by sea to distant markets and smaller mills serving immediate local markets.[8] Most harvested timber was exported. With the advancement of the railroad came a third type of mill, a sort of amalgamation of the first two types, that connected increasingly remote timber stands with growing regional and distant markets.

The transcontinental railroad was key to advancing the timber industry, bringing change that rippled through the industry nationwide. In the decades after the Civil War, "a third of the nation's [lumber]

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5 Florence K. Lentz and Sarah J. Martin, *Vasa Hall King County Landmark Registration Form*, 2022.

6 Robert Ficken, *The Forested Land: A History of Lumbering in Western Washington,* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1987), xiii.

7 Ibid.

8 Thomas R. Cox, *Mills and Markets: A History of the Pacific Coast Lumber Industry to 1900* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1974), 207.

supply" came from Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, and timber stands there were severely depleted by 1890.[9] Lumbermen and investors from the upper Midwest looked to the Northwest for supply. While the transcontinental railroad was important, it was the network of local and logging railroads that fueled the incredible expansion of the timber industry in the Pacific Northwest.[10]

By the end of the 19th century, newly arrived investors from the Great Lakes region were acquiring timber lands west of the Cascades. Frederick Weyerhaeuser, a German-American capitalist and lumberman based in St. Paul, Minnesota, negotiated the purchase of 900,000 acres of timber from James J. Hill and the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1900. The land deal made Weyerhaeuser's company the second largest private holder of timber in the United States and the dominant force in the forest industry of the Pacific Northwest.[11]

The 1893 financial panic was largely erased in this region by the exuberance of the Klondike gold rush of 1898. The return of prosperity in the late 1890s ushered in unprecedented growth in Western Washington. Tacoma doubled its population, and Seattle and Everett tripled in size. All of this growth resulted in a soaring demand for building materials – framing, siding, sash and doors, moldings, trim, and shingles. The number of sawmills in the state grew from just over 300 in 1899 to well over 1,000 by the end of 1907. These numbers don't count manufactories built to produce the endless variety of wooden objects then used in everyday life: barrels, crates, boxes, and tubs; planking for streets and sidewalks; furniture, tool handles, gutters, and ladders. In 1905, Washington State emerged as the leading producer of lumber in the United States.[12]

Timber Operations in King County

Timber dominated the economy of King County from the 1850s into the first three decades of the 20th century. When Henry Yesler arrived at Elliott Bay from California in 1853, he launched the area's first steam-powered sawmill. His choice of site was critical for the future townsite of Seattle. For some years, the ever-evolving Yesler's Mill provided jobs for a diverse work force, including Indigenous people, as well as building materials for the growing community. Around the county, smaller water-powered sawmills sprouted up in quick succession on Black River, Snoqualmie River, at Lake Sammamish, and around the shores of Lake Washington. Initially, these mills were supplied by local settlers who were also their primary customers.[13]

In the 1870s and 1880s, an enormous new market for timber products emerged in support of King County's developing coal mines and expanding railroad lines. At Renton, Newcastle, and Black Diamond, mining operations required a constant supply of heavy timbers for tunnels and shafts, as well

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[9] Ficken, 59.

[10] Cox, 207-211.

[11] Ficken, xiii-xiv, 88-91.

[12] Ibid., 104-105. Clarence Bagley, *History of King County, Washington, vol. 1*, (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1929), 254.

[13] Bagley, *History of King County,* 243-246. Sharon Boswell, "King County Historic Settlement Context, 1850-1920," (King County Historic Preservation Program, 2017), 100. Accessed Jan. 9, 2023. https://www.kingcounty.gov/~/media/services/home-property/historic-preservation/documents/resources/king_county_historic_context_vol_1.ashx?la=en

as worker housing. The Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad, the incoming Cascade Branch of the Northern Pacific, and finally the Seattle, Lakeshore and Eastern Railroad all required bridge timbers and railroad ties. To log the difficult terrain of these inland locations required new methods and technologies. Teams of oxen gave way to steam-powered donkey engines, and skid roads to narrow-gauge logging railroads. All manner of ingeniously designed chutes, tramways and flumes moved raw timber from the woods, to the mills, and to shipment points on water and rail.[14]

By the mid-1880s, a new demand for sawn cedar shingles from Washington swept the Midwest. The demand coincided with investors and lumbermen from the Midwest like Frederick Weyerhaeuser descending on Washington in search of opportunity. In Seattle, shingle mills sprang up in the growing settlement of Ballard, which soon became known as the shingle capital of the world.[15] Others opened for business in far corners of King County. By 1890, Washington supplied a third of the nation's shingles.[16] Some shingle mills were independent, others associated with sawmills. Shingle milling remained tenuous at best, given the vagaries of over-production, high freight rates, rail car shortages, and worker strikes.[17]

A report in *The Coast* magazine in June of 1909 paints a clear picture of the local industry in a moment of boom and significant investment, prior to corporate consolidations to come. The author wrote:

> *Lumbering is the largest producing industry in King County. Outside of the city of Seattle there are hundreds of mills manufacturing lumber and shingles and large logging operations…. Scattered over hills and valleys between tide-water and the summit of the Cascade Mountains are hundreds of thousands of feet of timber which [h]as not yet been touched by the large operations….*[18]

The same report gives a snapshot of 20 well-capitalized operations in King County, at least six of them with semi-permanent settlements that grew up around a sawmill. These mills employed a relatively high number of workers, with many immigrants from timber-rich countries and the upper Midwest. Company settlements offered cottages for family living, and often boasted a store, a hotel, and other amenities such as electricity. Among them was the Swedish settlement of Preston in east King County. The Preston Lumber Company owned the company town of 500 (with a school, a church, a general store, and two hotels) along with surrounding timber land, three mills, a lumber flume, and a tramway.[19]

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[14] Boswell, 100-101.

[15] Ballard was home to an early and active union of shingle mill workers, who led strikes in 1893, 1906, and 1913. Philip C. Emerson, "The International Shingle Weavers of America," Seattle General Strike Project website, Civil Rights and Labor Consortium, University of Washington, 1999. Accessed Jan. 24, 2023. https://depts.washington.edu/labhist/strike/emerson.shtml

[16] Ficken, 60.

[17] Walt Crowley, "Seattle Neighborhoods: Ballard—A Thumbnail History," (HistoryLink.org Online Encyclopedia of Washington State History, Essay #983, 1999). Accessed Nov. 1, 2022. https://historylink.org/File/983; and Boswell, 102.

[18] No Author, "Lumbering Interests of King County," *The Coast* (vol. XVII, June 1909): 380.

[19] Boswell, 106.

Through the first half of the 20th century, the timber industry in King County closely reflected the ups and downs of the business regionwide. Economic booms and busts, increased competition, over-production, the rise of the labor movement, World War I, and the Depression, all had a direct impact. Small operations gradually disappeared through corporate mergers, bankruptcies, or fires. In 1929 on the eve of the Depression, there were still 200 active operations in King County, including at Enumclaw, Preston, Selleck, Skykomish, and Snoqualmie Falls. The onset of the Depression era was marked by conflicts between labor unions and lumber companies, a struggle "fought amidst deteriorating economic conditions."[20] The timber workers strike of 1935 touched the entire region, with some 300,000 loggers and sawyers stopping work and shutting down operations along the Pacific Coast, including at Preston.[21] The industry rebounded; "Washington's lumber output in 1936 was more than twice the 1932 level, but still well below the production of the 1920s."[22]

Those mill operations that survived the Depression rallied with the demand of World War II, when roughly three-fifths of lumber production in the Pacific Northwest was directed toward the defense effort. Despite this, the percentage of wage-earners working in the lumber industry between 1939 and 1944 decreased from 46 to 17 percent, giving way to employment in shipyards and aircraft plants.[23] The immediate post-war housing boom only briefly sustained some mill operations, and repeated recessions generally characterized the post-war decades. Small operations like that of the Preston Mill Company survived by regularly adapting their plants and processes and by taking specialized small orders that the larger mills would not do. As the importance of pulp and paper manufacturing increased throughout the industry, so too did Preston Mill Company's use of by-products like wood-chips and sawdust. Ultimately, however, urban development, the depletion of virgin timber stands, and a rising conservation ethic signaled the end of the intense resource extraction phase for King County.[24]

Lumber Mills of the Early 20th Century

While the earliest sawmills were located along or near waterways, lumber companies of the late 19th and early 20th centuries usually located their manufacturing facilities near a railroad line or spur and as close to the timber stands as possible. Companies of all sizes had manufacturing plants equipped to process logs from harvest to market. Typical small- and medium-sized mill yards included a dizzying array of crudely-built structures, such as an office, a sawmill, planing mill, shingle mill, blacksmith shop, power house, boilers, conveyors, log and bolt ponds, drying kilns, and lumber storage sheds. Most – but not all – mill buildings were constructed of wood and built as functional and utilitarian structures.

Mill yards like the one in Preston experienced near-constant change due to fires, floods, and rapidly evolving technology dictated by market trends. As a result, few mill buildings and structures of this era in King County have survived and those that have are left with little context to illustrate the full breadth of the milling operation. For example, like the Preston Mill Company, nearly all traces of the

[20] Ficken, 215.

[21] Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau, Unsprinkled Risk Report for Preston Mill Company, Aug. 13, 1935, 1.

[22] Ficken, 215.

[23] Ficken, 224-225.

[24] Bagley, 254 and 258-259.

expansive operation of the Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company are gone except for the power house and brick stack.[25]

Once common in the forested foothills of King County, these manufacturing plants no longer exist as they appeared in early 20th century. Scattered remnants and traces of old mill yards are all that remain, at most usually a building or two like a sawmill or a power house or a kiln. This trend is reflected in historic resource surveys, which note few resources associated with early 20th century lumber manufacturing plants in King County.

Drying Kilns

Lumber manufacturers have long used kilns to season or dry wood. The process of removing moisture from lumber occurs naturally when it is air-dried, but kiln drying can accelerate the process by many weeks or months and better prevent warping, twisting, rotting, and insect infestation. Heat is an essential part of the process as it more quickly pulls moisture out of the wood and evaporates it. Kilns of the early 19th century were basic dry-houses, nothing more than a well-ventilated wood-frame structure with a brick or tile furnace used to radiate heat over loosely stacked lumber or finished goods. Experimentation on the part of manufacturers in New England and the upper Midwest, in particular, led to a flurry of patents in the 1860s and 1870s, resulting in widespread use of refined artificial lumber drying processes.[26]

For milling companies, the accelerated drying process allowed for quicker turnover of capital, less product occupying the yards, and a more flexible operation.[27] A mill's capacity, therefore, was directly tied to its kiln space. Trade journals like *The Timberman* and *West Coast Lumberman* document Pacific Northwest sawmills of all sizes incorporating drying kilns into their operations during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.[28] The *Puget Sound Argus* reported in 1889 that in Washington "181 sawmills, 71 shingle mills, 162 planing mills, of which 30 are sash and door factories; 22 logging railroads and 38 dry kiln plants are in operation, and 5 milling concerns use band saws."[29] By the time August Lovegren opened his sawmill along the Raging River at Preston in 1896, trade journals and lumber companies were regularly advertising the benefits of kiln-dried lumber. These early drying kilns were wood-frame structures. By the 1920s, four building materials were commonly used to construct drying kilns: wood, concrete, brick, and terra-cotta.[30]

Government- and industry-backed studies of the early 20th century observed various types of drying kilns in use, including *progressive kilns*, usually from 100 to 150 feet in length (figure D5), and *compartment* or *stationary kilns*, usually 18 to 50 feet in length (figure D6). With the former, lumber is

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[25] Kris Kirby, "Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Co. Powerhouse & Brick Stack (Power Plant)," King County Landmark Registration Form, (King County Historic Preservation Program, 2005), sec. 7, p. 1.

[26] O. S. Whitmore, "Kiln-Drying Hard Wood," *Popular Science Monthly* 45 (July 1894): 375-377.

[27] Arthur Koehler and Rolf Thelen, *The Kiln Drying of Lumber,* (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1926), 2.

[28] "Washington," *West Coast Lumberman* 32 (June 1892): 4-5; and "Able Treatise on Modern Methods and Science of Kiln Drying Lumber," *The Timberman* (May 1910): 37; and "Blower Kiln Successful in Drying Common," *The Timberman* (Nov. 1919): 119-121.

[29] [No Title], *Puget Sound Argus*, Oct. 17, 1889: 3.

[30] Koehler and Thelen, 228.

put in at one end and progressively moved forward from time to time toward the other end. With the latter, the lumber remains stationary during the drying process and is usually loaded and unloaded from a single end.[31] There were variations and combinations of these types of kilns using blowers, condensing units, heating coils, hydraulic lifts, etc. Mill companies of the early 20th century commonly used progressive kilns, but more specialized compartment kilns were favored later in the 20th century.[32]

Commercial dry kiln manufacturers popped up throughout the country and supplied Northwest lumber companies with wood, concrete, and brick kiln buildings and equipment. Firms in Detroit, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, and New Orleans, for example, advertised kiln manufacturing nationwide, and some had offices and plants in the Northwest. An example of a Seattle firm was the North Coast Dry Kiln Company, which organized in 1904 and touted its connections to the University of Washington and its "group of experienced dry kiln engineers" who were familiar with the region's timber. North Coast advertised its kilns as "more extensively used by the saw mills in the Pacific Coast States than any other type of kiln."[33] Like most kiln manufacturers, North Coast built both progressive and compartment kilns. The company published a promotional booklet in 1921 with basic kiln specifications, boasting its progressive kiln was in use "in probably eighty per cent of the mills on the Pacific Coast."[34] While there is no evidence that North Coast Dry Kiln Company supplied Preston with its drying kilns or equipment, it is clear that Lovegren had ready access to kiln manufacturers given the widespread availability and use of kiln technology in King County as early as 1904.

The massing, dimensions, and openings at each end of the nominated building suggest it was a type of progressive kiln in which lumber was loaded at the so-called green end and unloaded at the opposite dry end (figure D5). Ventilating progressive kilns circulated heated dry air over the lumber, ventilating it through vertical flues. While it is not precisely clear what kiln process was used at Preston, the nominated building likely functioned as a ventilating progressive kiln using a "dry air process" made possible by steam piping.[35] The steam pipes were removed from the building, and the kiln was taken offline in about 1935.

Small- and medium-sized mill operations like the Preston mill relied on drying kilns to increase their output in order to stay competitive. With the widespread availability of kiln technology in the Seattle area in the early 20th century, many mill companies incorporated kilns into their operations. Despite their once-common usage, no other drying kilns of this type are known to survive in King County.[36]

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[31] Koehler and Thelen, 74.

[32] William T. Simpson, ed., *Dry Kiln Operator's Manual, Agricultural Handbook 188*, (Madison, WI: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, rev. August 1991), 48. Accessed Jan. 17, 2023. https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/treesearch/7164

[33] [Ad], *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, Feb. 19, 1916: 32.

[34] North Coast Dry Kilns, (Seattle, WA, 1921), 7.

[35] Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau, Unsprinkled Risk Report for Preston Mill Company, Sept. 4, 1930, 2; and Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau, Unsprinkled Risk Report for Preston Mill Company, Aug. 13, 1935, 1.

[36] Just one drying kiln – a compartment kiln built in 1964 at the Port of Longview – has been surveyed and recorded in WISAARD (property ID 727676).

Preston and the Preston Mill Company

August Lovegren, a staunch Swedish Baptist immigrant, was instrumental in establishing the community of Preston in the early 1890s. As a carpenter working in Seattle, he recognized the great demand for lumber in the emerging metropolis. He and five other Swedish men sought a tract of timber that was close to Seattle and to a rail line. In 1892, they formed the Preston Mill Company and purchased land and timber in the foothills of the Cascades Mountains from the Jackson and McDougall Lumber Company. They constructed a shingle mill along the Seattle, Lakeshore, and Eastern Railroad (later absorbed by Northern Pacific Railway) east of High Point.[37]

When the financial Panic of 1893 took hold, Lovegren became the Preston Mill Company's sole owner. The first few years were extremely hard, but demand rebounded. In 1896, he moved the operation a few miles east to the small settlement of Preston, also along the Seattle, Lakeshore, and Eastern Railroad. The settlement was named after William T. Preston, an engineer who surveyed the railroad right-of-way through the area. [38] Lovegren built the company's second shingle mill along the Raging River at Preston, where the firm remained headquartered well into the 20th century.

Lovegren was well-connected within King County's growing Swedish community, and his bustling mill attracted newly arrived Swedish immigrants seeking work.[39] Many who came to work at the Preston mill were Baptist and from the Varmland province in Sweden. Clusters of families migrated to the area, reinforcing the cultural and ethnic ties of the community. At the turn of the 20th century, Preston was a small company mill town with a general store, boarding house, grade school, and Baptist church, all within close proximity to the mill site along the Raging River.

The Preston Mill Company regularly adapted to changes in the economy, in technology, and in the availability of timber. After acquiring additional timber stands farther east in the Cascade foothills, Lovegren built another sawmill two miles east at Upper Preston near where Lake Creek meets the Raging River. A logging camp developed at Upper Preston consisting of portable bunk houses, cook house, dining room, and the cook's shack.[40] Completed in 1901, the sawmill flumed rough lumber and shingle bolts to the Preston yard where they were processed in drying kilns and finished into dimensional lumber at the planing mill or into shingles at the shingle mill. A tramway then hauled products a short distance west through a tunnel beneath the Preston-Fall City Road and uphill to the

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[37] The incorporators were August Lovegren, president; L. P. Skoog, secretary; Isak Blomqvist, treasurer; Elof Edwins; Sam Isaacson; and Sven Larson. The company's first shingle mill at High Point was located in the southeast quarter of in Section 30, Township 24N, Range 7E. Eric Erickson, *A Pictorial History of the Preston Mill Company, 1892-1996,* (Issaquah, WA: Issaquah History Museums, 2007), 5-6, and 14.

[38] Mary J. Mathews, "August Lovegren House" King County Landmark Registration Form, (King County Historic Preservation Program, 1994), sec. 7, p. 3; and Robert Smithrud, "Communities of the Wood: The Story of Early Preston and Upper Preston, Washington," (Unpublished manuscript, Bellevue Community College (History 299), 1997), 3.

[39] Lovegren was major contributor to Swedish Baptist churches in the Puget Sound area. He and fellow Swedish industrialist C.J. Erickson were benefactors of Seattle's Adelphia College that was run by the Swedish Baptist Church from 1905 to 1919. Marianne Forssblad, "Swedes in Seattle and King County," (HistoryLink.org Online Encyclopedia of Washington State History, Essay #3473, 2001). Accessed Nov. 1, 2022. https://historylink.org/File/3473

[40] Anna Larson, *The Larson Saga: The Story of August and Maria Larson* (Unpublished manuscript, 1977 typescript), 22. Reproduced, introduced, and illustrated by Ed Holmes. Accessed Jan. 17, 2023. https://edholmes.neocities.org/Saga.pdf

railroad for transport (figures C4, C5, and D3). Following the opening of the sawmill at Upper Preston, a second company settlement developed along what is today's 324th Place SE. Swedish immigrants settled at Upper Preston, too, but these family clusters were mostly Lutherans from Sweden's Jamtland province. The area was and still is quite isolated, with one road in and out. There was no store in Upper Preston, making residents reliant on one another and on their neighbors and the company store in Preston proper.

Table 1. Approximate Number Employed by Preston Mill Company

Year	Approx. No. of Workers*	Year	Approx. No. of Workers
1904	250	1942	40
1912	145	1947	30
1915	140 [x]	1960	20
1930	40	1962	20
1932	30	1974	25
1935	30 (+ 25 loggers)	1989	25
1938	40		

* The totals for 1904, 1912, and 1915 likely include company-wide numbers, including those at Upper Preston. Sources: Eric Erickson, *A Pictorial History of the Preston Mill Company, 1892-1996*, 2-3; WSRB reports, 1930-1962; Roger A. Grisham, "Preston Sawmill," 1974, 2.

x Includes 30 in sawmill; 30 in planer mill; 10 in shingle mill; 50 to 70 in woods and on railroad (Erickson, 2).

Lovegren reorganized the Preston Mill Company in 1903 with himself, his uncle Emil Lovegren, and his wife Hilda Lovegren as the primary stockholders. They bought out D. J. Straight's Raging River Shingle Company and moved its machinery to the Preston mill yard. In 1903, the company shipped 30 rail cars of lumber and 20 rail cars of shingles per month. By the following year, it owned 4,000 acres of timber land, operated one logging camp with 10 horses, 2 steam donkeys, and 250 men.[41]

A 1908 Sanborn map offers the earliest site plan of the mill yard, revealing more than 20 structures including a planing mill, shingle mill, and three steam-heat drying kilns equipped with a fire sprinkler network fed by pipes laid throughout the yard in 1904 (figure C4). Business was good for Lovegren and the Preston Mill Company in the early 1900s, despite fires and floods that forced rebuilding on several occasions. By 1909, the company was on its third sawmill at the Preston mill yard, and the Upper Preston sawmill and flume had already been rebuilt once. Lovegren described the operation as follows:

> *After the trees are cut in the woods they are bucked (sawed) into lengths. About three weeks later the yarding donkey snakes them out on the road where three road donkeys each pull them a little ways all the way from 1,000 feet to 4,000 feet each. They are then dumped into a pond, which holds about 300,000 feet of logs. They go whole into one end of the sawmill, where two band mills and an edger split and cut them up into mostly inch boards and two-inch studding and rafter lumber, when they are dumped into a flume, which carries them two miles to the town property, where they are sorted and piled, run through the dry kilns, then through the*

41 Erickson, *A Pictorial History of the Preston Mill Company, 1892-1996,* 2.

> *planing mill, then hauled up a 1,000-foot tramway and then loaded into cars for all parts of the United States.*[42] [figures D1 and D2]

The business was valued at $230,000. The mill output was 50,000 board feet per day of lumber, 100,000 shingles per day at Preston proper, and 60,000 shingles per day at Upper Preston.[43]

With its diversified milling capacity, the company was on track to remain viable through the first three decades of the 20th century. The company was on strong footing when Lovegren sold it in 1911 – not to a large timber firm but to fellow Swede Charles J. Erickson and his partners Allen G. Peterson and Elof Edwins.[44] Erickson was a wealthy industrialist who owned several businesses, a railroad, and a shipbuilding company. He was known for his large construction projects, including Seattle's Montlake Cut and Denny Regrade as well as the Bremerton dry docks.[45] During Erickson's tenure, the company began railroad logging with lines extending some three miles up the Raging River from Upper Preston. By 1920, the company had sold its logging horse teams and operated four logging donkeys, one motor truck, six miles of rail track, two locomotives, and nine log and one flat rail cars.[46] During this time, the company advertised its products in area newspapers to a King County market (figures D7, D8, and D9).

At the onset of the Great Depression, in September 1930, a fire safety inspector described the Preston mill yard like this:

> *This is a small plant located in a small ravine with a public highway passing by the plant. All buildings with the exception of the dry kilns, which are of reinforced concrete construction, are of light frame construction. The buildings of the plant are mostly closely grouped and interconnected with elevated platforms which also extend out into the lumber yard for which no clear space is provided separating the yard from the mill and underbrush exposures on the south and east of the plant. The buildings are in fair condition and mostly have composition on wood roofs.*[47]

The report noted that there were two drying kiln buildings: the lumber drying kiln, located 100 feet south of the planing mill and the subject of this report, and a shingle drying kiln, with its single bay, which was 70 feet north of the boiler house (figure C7). Plant operations in 1930 were intermittent, with 40 men working a single eight-hour shift about three days a week.[48]

The company was weathering significant setbacks. In addition to the economic fallout of the 1929 stock market crash, the mill company faced continued hardships that forever changed the community. A disastrous flood in February 1932 washed away the flume and took out the bridge crossing the

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[42] Philip Lovegren, "Preston, Washington," *The Coast* (vol. XVII, June 1909): 416-417.

[43] Ibid.

[44] Edwins, Lovegren's brother-in-law, purchased the Lovegren residence overlooking the mill yard and served as the company manager, superintendent, and purchasing agent. Edwins sold his company shares to John A. Lind in 1927. The Lovegrens moved to Washington County, Oregon, where they built a sawmill and established the town of Cherry Grove. Success was short-lived. Lovegren sold the bankrupt Cherry Grove site in 1915. Mathews, sec. 7, p. 5.

[45] Ed Holmes and Monika Nilsson, *The Adventures of a Swede in America: The Journal of Gust Nilsson in Preston,* (self-published, 2021), 51. Accessed Dec. 16, 2022. https://edholmes.neocities.org/Gust.pdf

[46] Erickson, *A Pictorial History of the Preston Mill Company, 1892-1996,* 2.

[47] Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau, Unsprinkled Risk Report for Preston Mill Company, Sept. 4, 1930, 1.

[48] Ibid.

Raging River at Preston. Four months later a fire destroyed the idle sawmill at Upper Preston, forcing its permanent closure. Resident Aina Johnson recalled, "the road to Upper Preston also washed away so someone felled a couple of trees and made a ladder for us to get by… The Red Cross also came up and gave us flour, sugar, canned stuff and a large envelope of vegetable seeds."[49]

With the sawmill at Upper Preston closed for good, the Preston mill yard received a major overhaul, with a new sawmill built in 1934, followed by a new carriage apparatus, green sorters, live rolls, and a power plant. The two-bay drying kiln was taken offline and the steam pipes were removed, leaving the plant with just one drying kiln. Work again resumed at the mill, and activity was noted as "busy" in August 1935, with 40 men working a single eight-hour shift five days a week, although work remained intermittent throughout the 1930s.[50] Logs and shingle bolts that were once flumed to Preston were hauled in by trucks. Mill output in 1939 reached 4,500,000 board feet of lumber.[51]

During the war years of the 1940s, when the company had a contract to supply decking for aircraft carriers, a 15-mile truck haul was required to bring logs to the mill for processing. John Lind served as president of the company at this time, with Alan Peterson as sales manager.[52] Fire safety inspectors noted that the company had made several improvements to the mill yard in the early 1940s including increasing the height of boiler stacks, prohibiting smoking by workers at the plant, ensuring fully working sprinklers, and discontinuing hay storage.[53] Despite these improvements, fires continued to plague the company in the middle and late 20th century – each stopping production and putting workers out of jobs. With each stoppage, the company rebuilt its facilities and equipment in an effort to survive and remain competitive. The sawmill was rebuilt following fires in 1946 and 1950, at which time the mill produced about 50,000 board feet per day of lumber. In addition to the new sawmill, the company had two planers, a sticker, ripsaw, drying kilns, and newly remodeled fire room. Its equipment included donkeys, caterpillar tractors, two lumber trucks, three gravel trucks, a new Ross lumber carrier, a new Gerlinger bull for stacking lumber and loading trucks. In 1958, the company converted its mill from steam power to electric power, except for the active drying kilns. A chipper and de-barker were added to the plant following another fire in 1959. Nevertheless, mill output slipped to 40,000 board feet per day, with just 20 men working at the mill in 1962.[54] By this time, the company had converted the long-shuttered concrete drying kiln to storage for vehicles and equipment. A later-constructed, single-bay kiln remained in use (figure C7).

The Preston Mill Company maintained a workforce of about 25 men through the mid-1970s, at which time work was rotated between the sawmill and planer mill on an odd-even day schedule.[55] Important to the company's survival was its willingness to do specialized small orders that the larger mills would

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[49] Aina E. Johnson, "Upper Preston," Unpublished manuscript, 2.

[50] Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau, Unsprinkled Risk Report for Preston Mill Company, Aug. 11, 1935, 1. Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau, Unsprinkled Risk Report for Preston Mill Company, Aug. 12, 1936, 1.

[51] Erickson, *A Pictorial History of the Preston Mill Company, 1892-1996,* 3.

[52] Erickson, *A Pictorial History of the Preston Mill Company, 1892-1996,* 3.

[53] Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau, Unsprinkled Risk Report for Preston Mill Company, Nov. 27, 1942, 1.

[54] Erickson, *A Pictorial History of the Preston Mill Company, 1892-1996,* 3.

[55] Roger A. Grisham, "Preston Sawmill," (Student Papers on the Architecture of Puget Sound: 1959-1970s Collection, Architecture and Urban Planning Library, University of Washington Libraries, 1974), 2-3.

not do, such as cut-to-order big timbers and construction lumber. Additionally, the company evolved with the industry to find other uses for sawmill by-products, particularly as pulp and paper manufacturing increased throughout the industry.[56] Wood-chips became particle board, while sawdust and wood pulp were sent to processors for various uses.[57] A University of Washington student observed and described the Preston mill operation in 1974 like this:

> *Logs are brought in by truck and off loaded into the mill pond where they are floated until ready for sawing. This protects the wood from drying out too fast and splitting and insect damage. Logs are floated to the bull chain, which drags them up an incline to the sawing deck. The bark is first removed by the de-barker and then rolled one at a time to the carriage, which moves them to the saw. Here the logs are first slabbed or squared up and then cut into rough boards. After being trimmed to length the boards move into a large conveyor where it is sorted according to grade. Refuse is routed to bunkers or run through the chipper and to a chip bin… Lumber is then seasoned, or dried, reducing future shrinkage and warping. This is done in the dry kiln where temperature, relative humidity, and air velocity are controlled. In air drying the lumber is stacked in the yard to dry. The planer mill smooths the rough lumber to a finished surface, by passing it through rotating knives. Here lumber can also be grooved for flooring, or shaped for siding, or for moulding or other wood trims.*[58]

The railroad, which had been so instrumental in the placement of the mill town in the late 19th century, ended its freight service to Preston in 1975. Despite challenge after challenge, the mill at Preston continued to produce finished lumber through the late 1980s (figure C8). The construction of I-90 through unincorporated Preston enabled the community to transition after the closure of the mill to function largely as a suburban community to the tech hubs of Redmond, Bellevue, and Seattle to the west. In 1997, the property was sold to Non-Profit Trust for Public Land and transferred to King County for use as a park. A collaborative effort between King County, the State Department of Natural Resources, the Preston community, and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust led to the future vision for this park complex. As president of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, attorney, conservationist, and civic leader Jim Ellis took particular interest in advancing the vision of turning the former mill site into a park connected to the greenway. On June 3, 2022, King County Parks celebrated the renaming of the King County Parks complex, which includes Preston Mill Park, Preston Athletic Fields, and the Preston Community Center, as the Jim Ellis Memorial Regional Park.[59] The kiln building stands within the future park as a towering reminder of the community's past.

Summary

The drying kiln is a remarkable vestiage of the the Preston Mill Company's once-bustling mill yard along the Raging River. Its use from about 1910 to 1935 reflects the heyday of the company, the Swedish company town, and the timber industry in King County. The kiln illustrates the company's effort to diversify its operations, improve output, and remain competitive in an era when small- and medium-

[56] Ficken, 225.

[57] Grisham, 2-3.

[58] Grisham, 3. The drying kiln Grisham notes is not the nominated building but rather "a later constructed one." See figure C7.

[59] A video recording of the renaming ceremony is online at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XheKxn7_DYM

sized mills were giving way to large corporate firms. Despite their extensive use throughout the Pacific Northwest in the early 20th century, no other drying kilns of this type are known to survive in King County.

LIST OF FIGURES

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Figure D2	Preston Mill Company's Planing & Shingle Mill Plant, taken btw 1904-1912
Figure D3	Preston Mill Company's Planing & Shingle Mill Plant, undated ca. 1920
Figure D4	Drying kiln building, 1974
Figure D5	Drawing of a progressive kiln, 1926
Figure D6	Drawing of a compartment kiln, 1926
Figure D7	Preston Mill Co. advertisement, 1922
Figure D8	Preston Mill Co. advertisement, 1930
Figure D9	Preston Mill Co. advertisement, 1938

Section A – Maps, Aerial Images, and Site Plans

Figure A1. Map of King County region showing location of property, 2023.

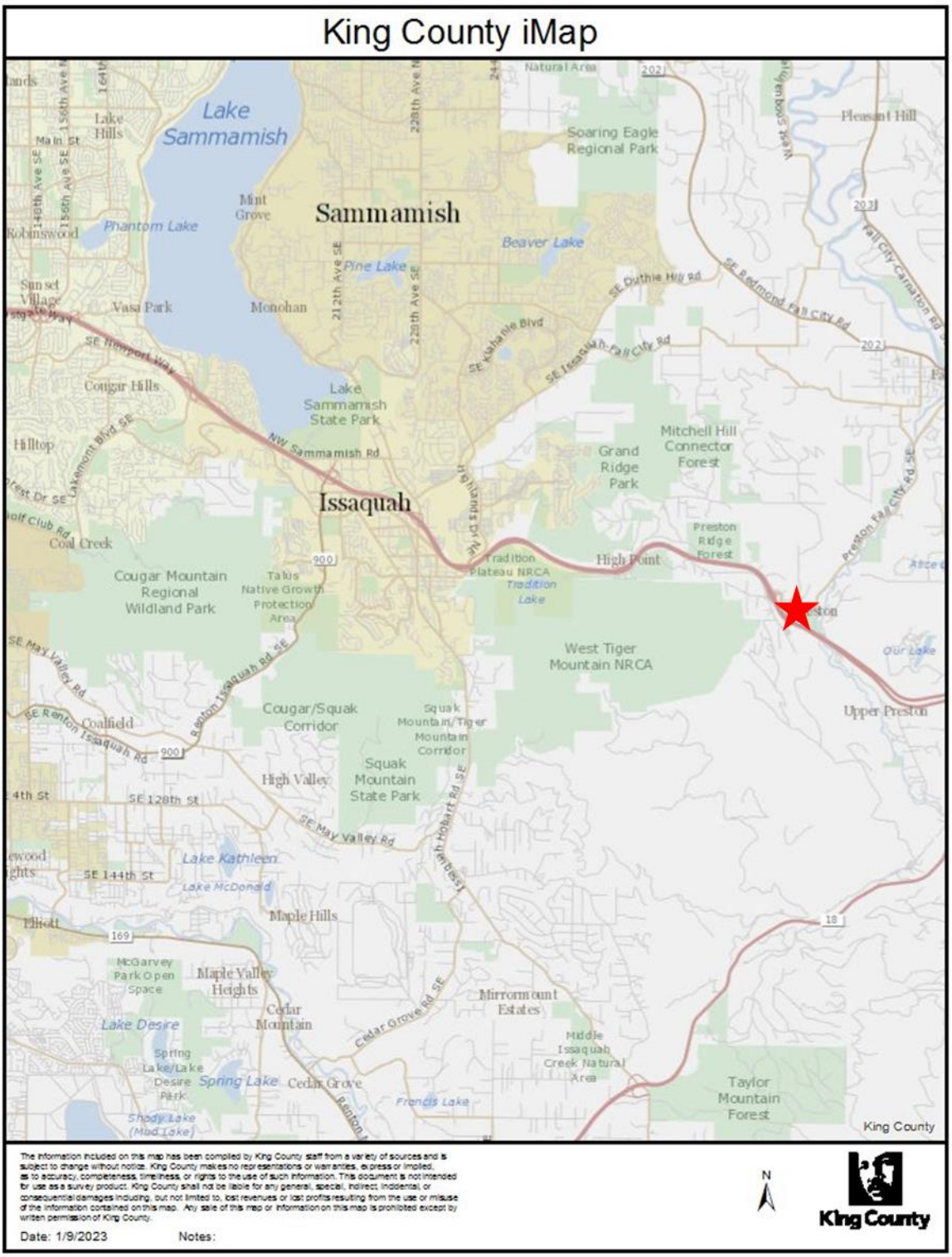


Figure A2. Map of Preston vicinity showing location of property and topography, 2023.

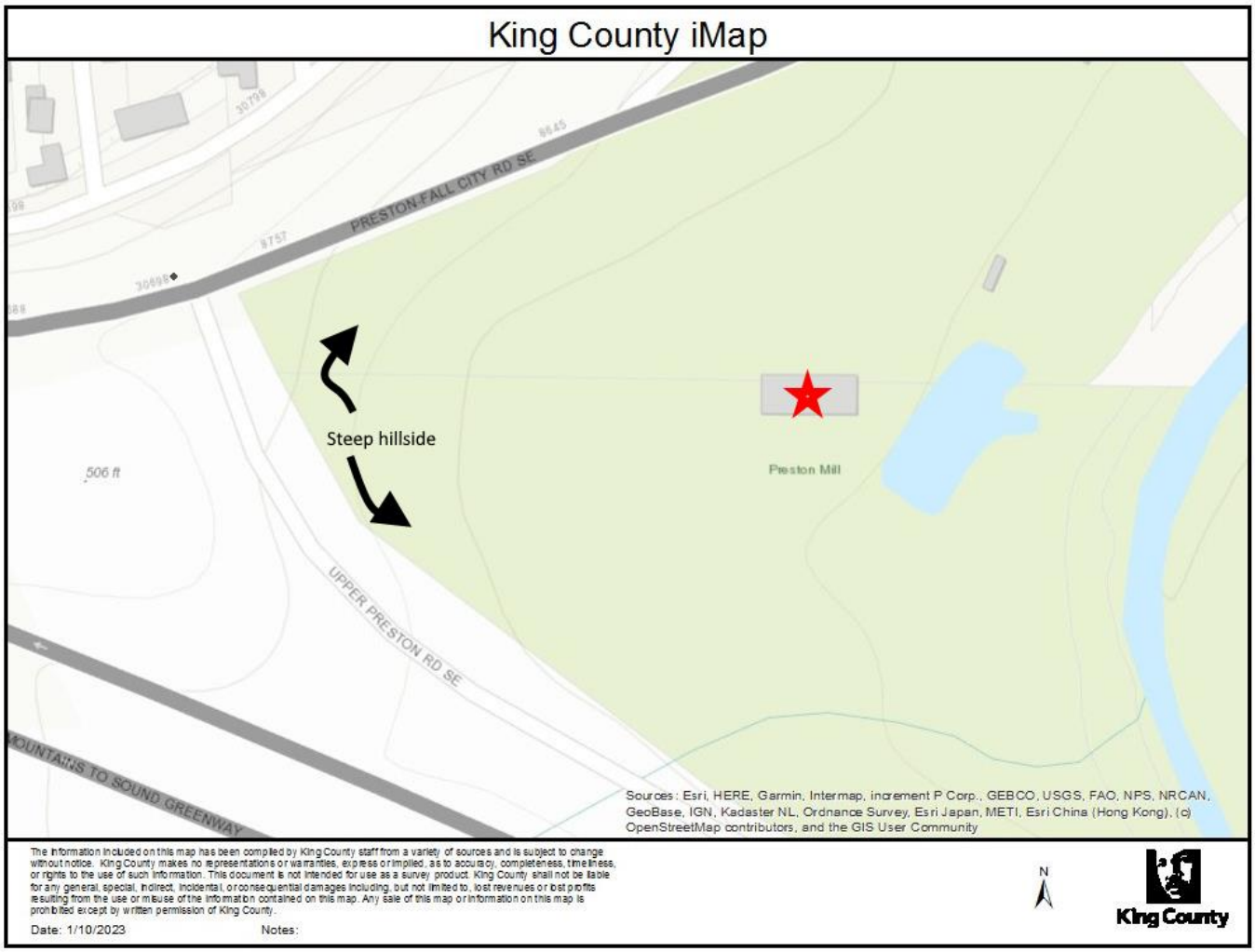


Figure A3. Aerial image of Preston, with I-90 at lower left. Two Preston Mill Park parcels are outlined in purple. The nominated building straddles the center parcel line. Image date 2021.

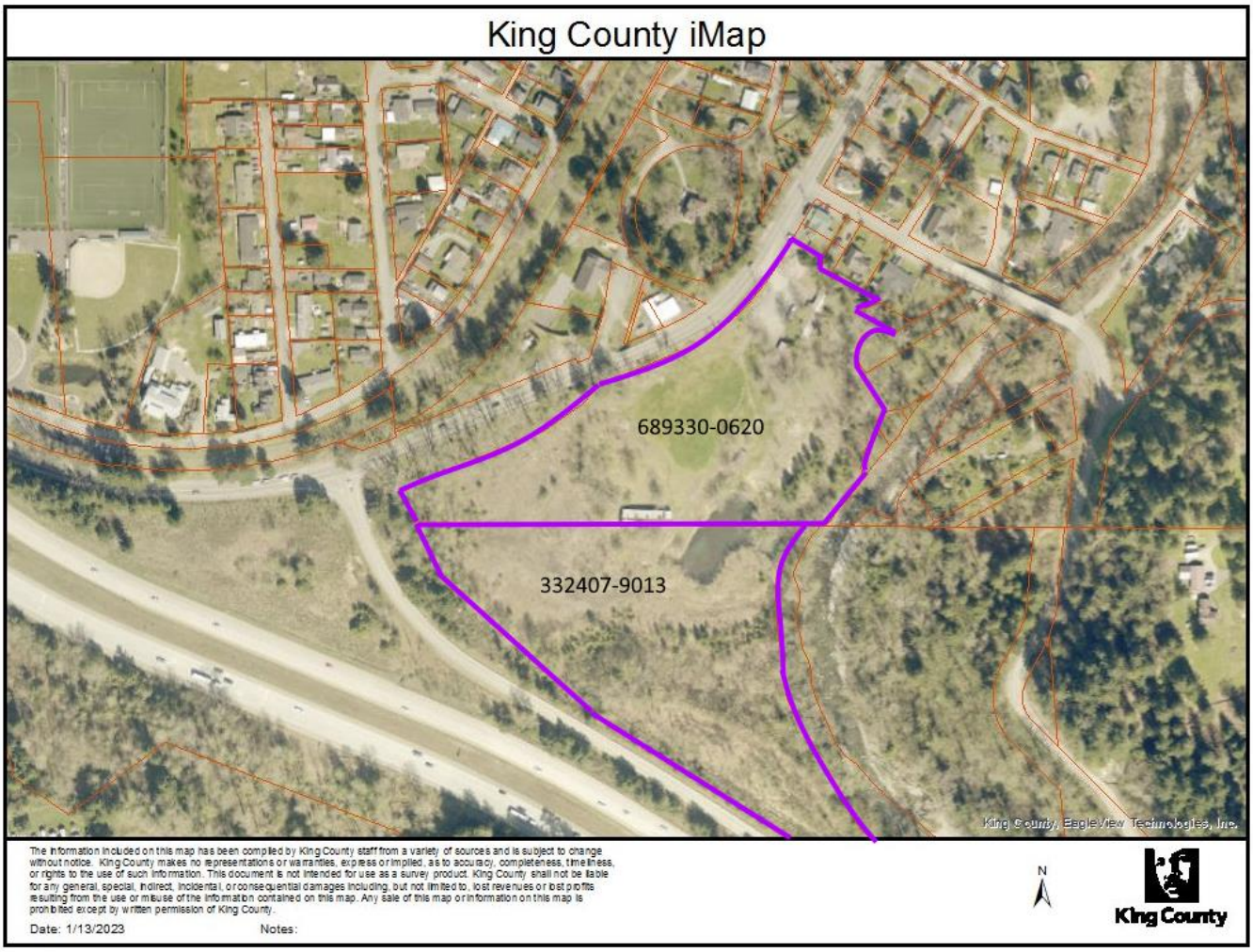


Figure A4. Aerial image of Preston Mill site. Blue-shaded buildings are to be demolished. Image date 2021.

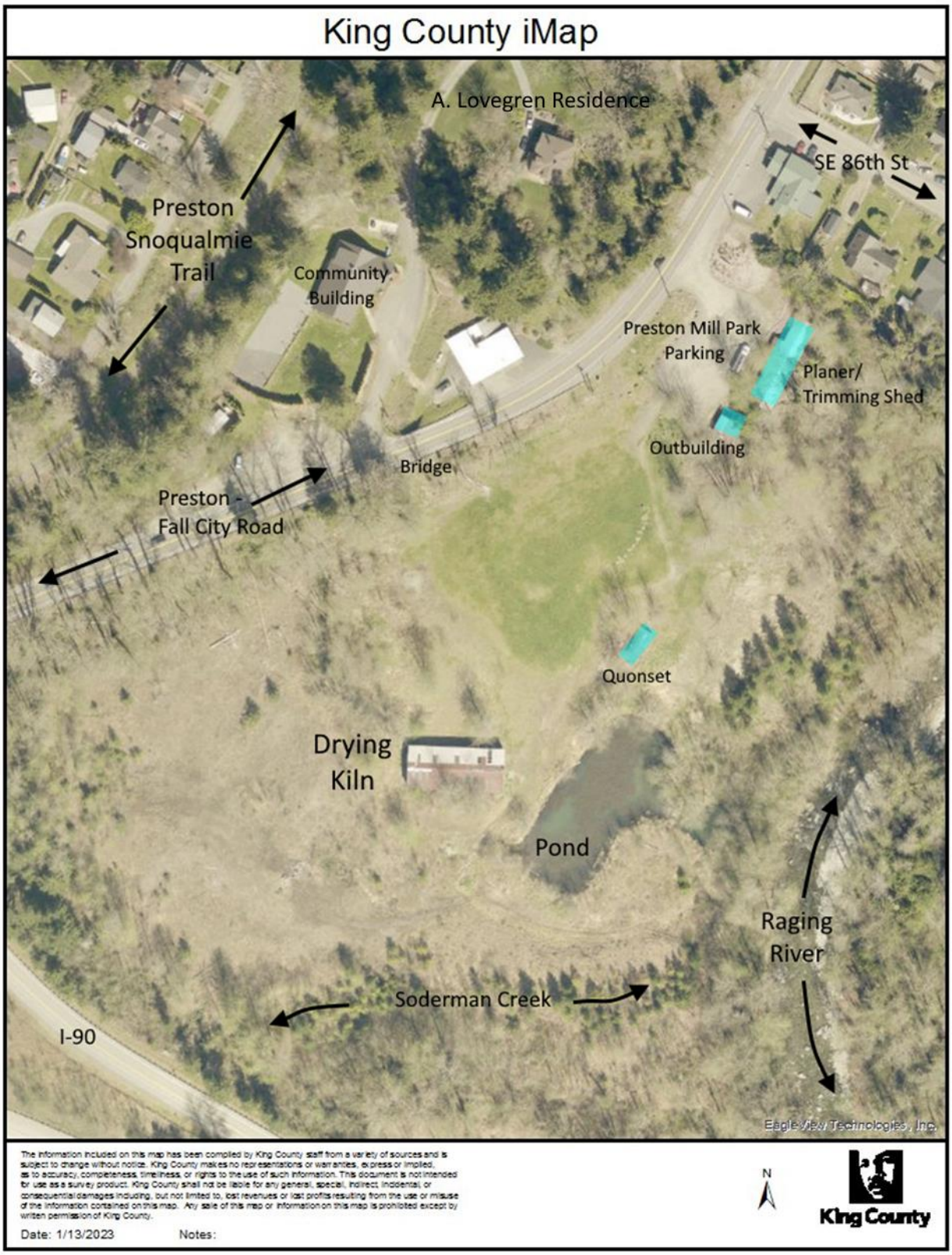
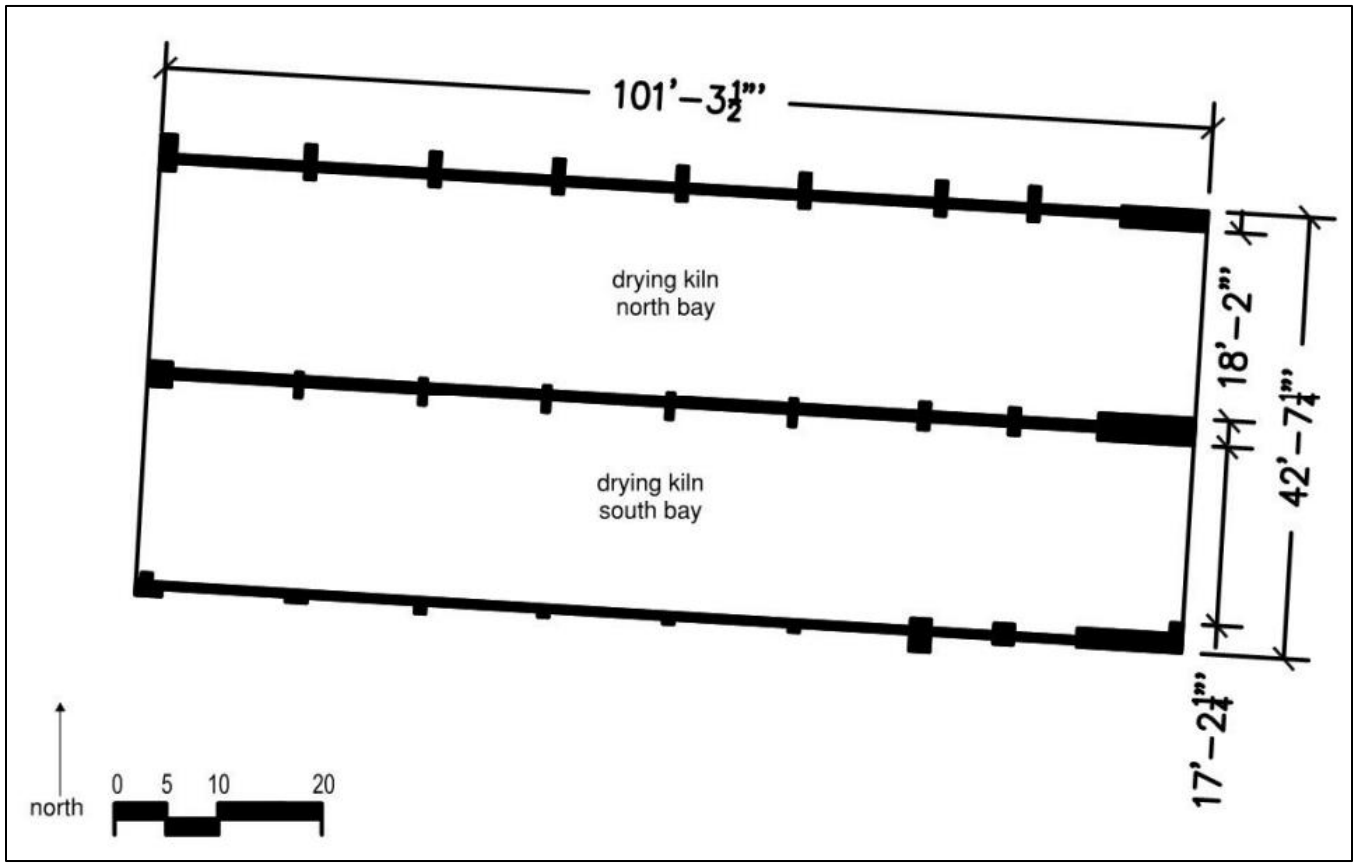


Figure A5. Drying kiln building plan showing overall dimensions. *Source*: Jones and Jones Architects, Landscape Architects, and Planners. "Extant Building Survey of Preston Mill for the Preston Mill Park." Prepared for King County Parks, project no. 30020.308. 2018.



Section B – Recent Photographs (taken by Sarah Martin on November 3, 2022)

Figure B1. Drying kiln and setting, camera facing SW

Figure B2. Drying kiln and immediate environs, camera facing SW

Figure B3. East gable end and north (side) elevation, camera facing WSW

Figure B4. Concrete buttresses on north side, camera facing W

Figure B5. West gable end, camera facing E

Figure B6. South side and immediate environs, camera facing N

Figure B7. View NE from drying kiln, with log pond at left and Raging River beyond, camera facing NE

Figure B8. View north from drying kiln, with Preston Community Center and bridge tunnel in the distance at left, camera facing N

Figure B9. View from former mill yard showing new trail, passing through the bridge tunnel, and connecting with the community center, camera facing W

Figure B10. View from renovated bridge tunnel with the drying kiln in the distance, camera facing SE

Figure B11. East gable end, camera facing W

(continued on next page)

Figure B112. Interior of south bay showing roof rafters, camera facing W

Figure B13. North interior wall of south bay, camera facing NW

Figure B14. North interior wall of south bay and clerestory windows, camera facing NW

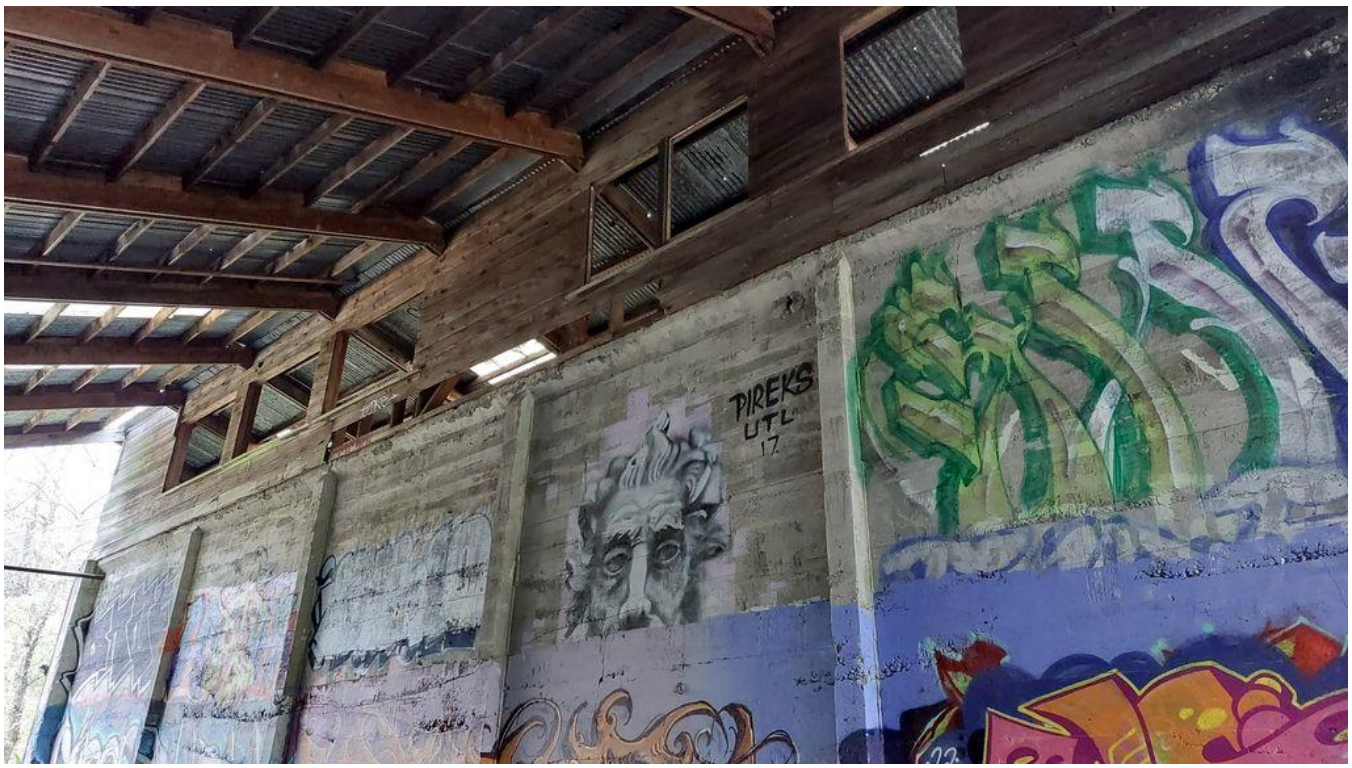


Figure B15 (left). Interior of north bay showing roof trusses, camera facing W
Figure B16 (right). Opening at west gable end, camera facing NE

Figure B17. West end of interior concrete wall, camera facing E

Section C – Historic Maps

Figure C1. Plat filed in 1905 by August Lovegren, president, and Emil Lovegren, secretary, of the Preston Mill Company, which owned the land. The mill yard occupies the SW corner of the plat.

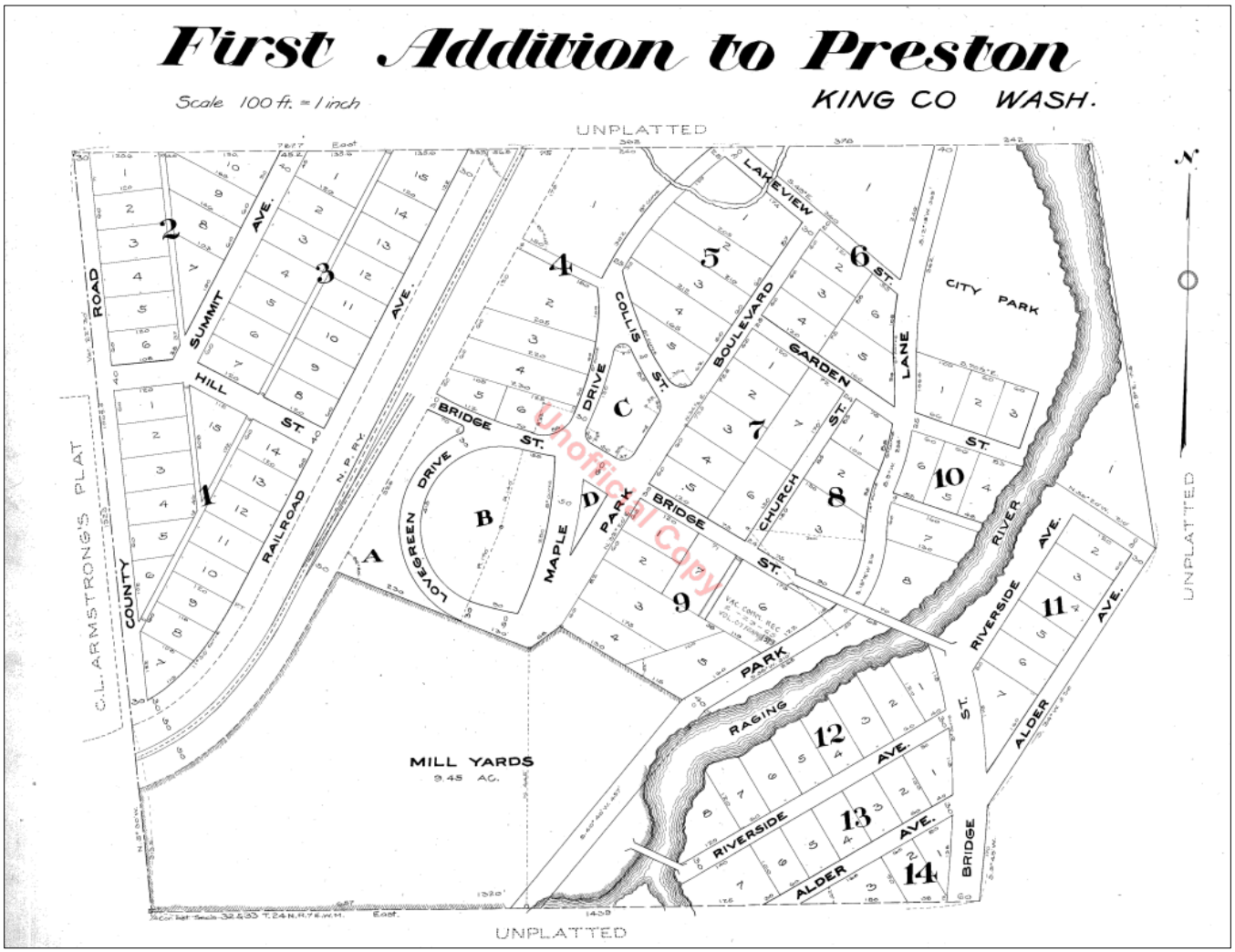


Figure C2. Partial image of Township 24, Range 7E, with arrow pointing to approximate location of the Preston Mill Yard. *Source*: Anderson's King County Atlas, 1907.

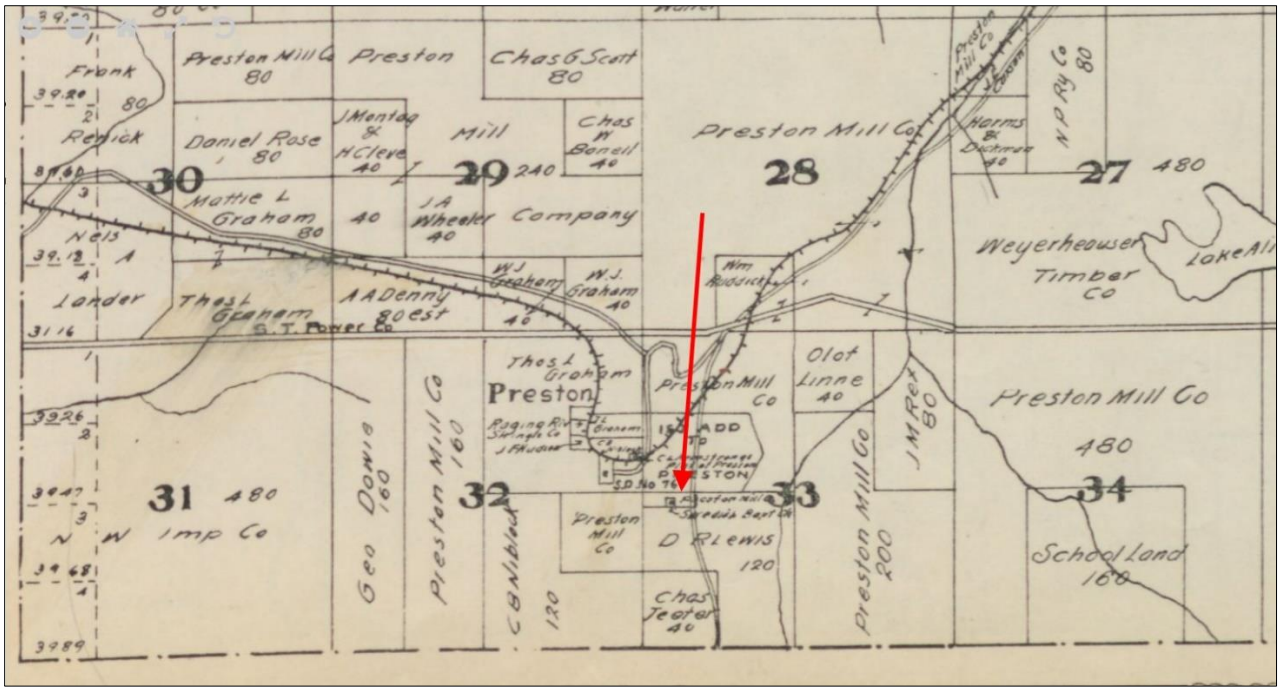


Figure C3. Partial image of Township 24, Range 7E, with arrow pointing to approximate location of the Preston Mill Yard. *Source*: Metsker's King County Atlas, 1936.

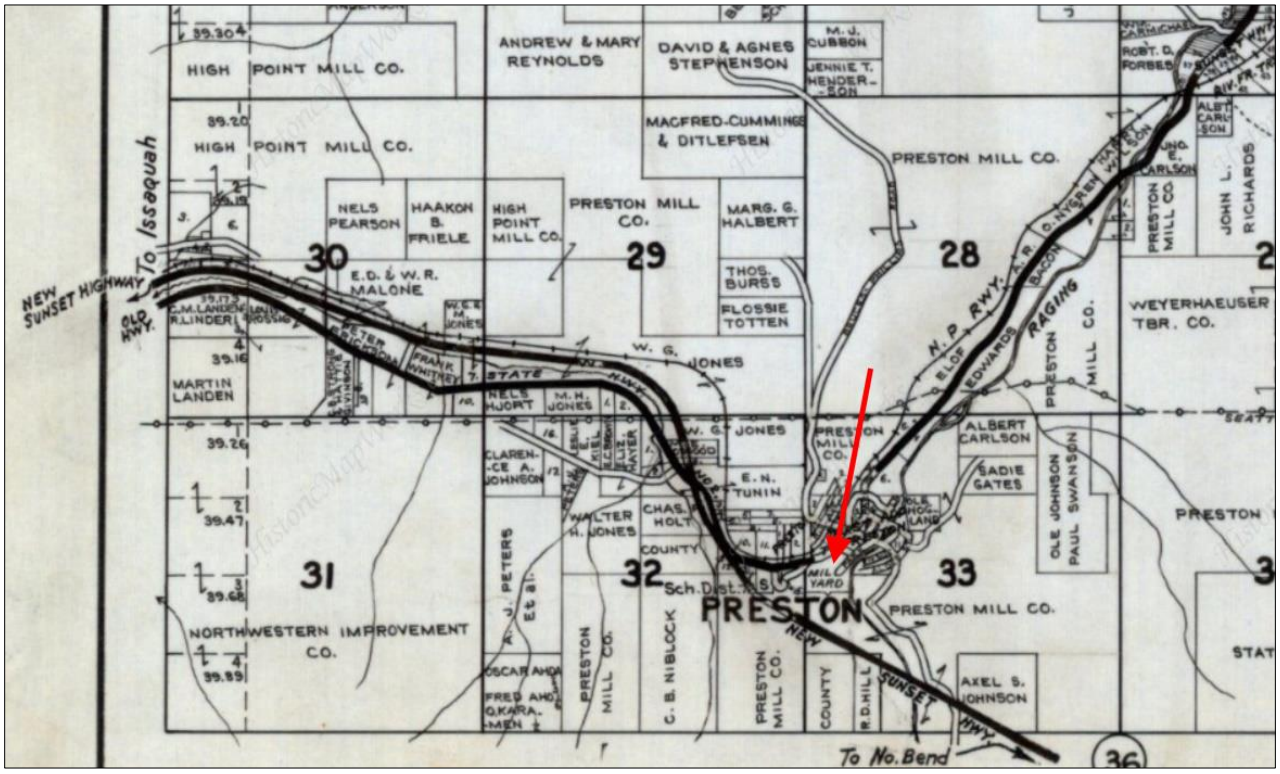


Figure C4. Sanborn Co.'s fire insurance map, Preston, 1908. Buildings shaded in yellow are built of wood. The star marks the location of the nominated building but shows an earlier wood-frame drying kiln.

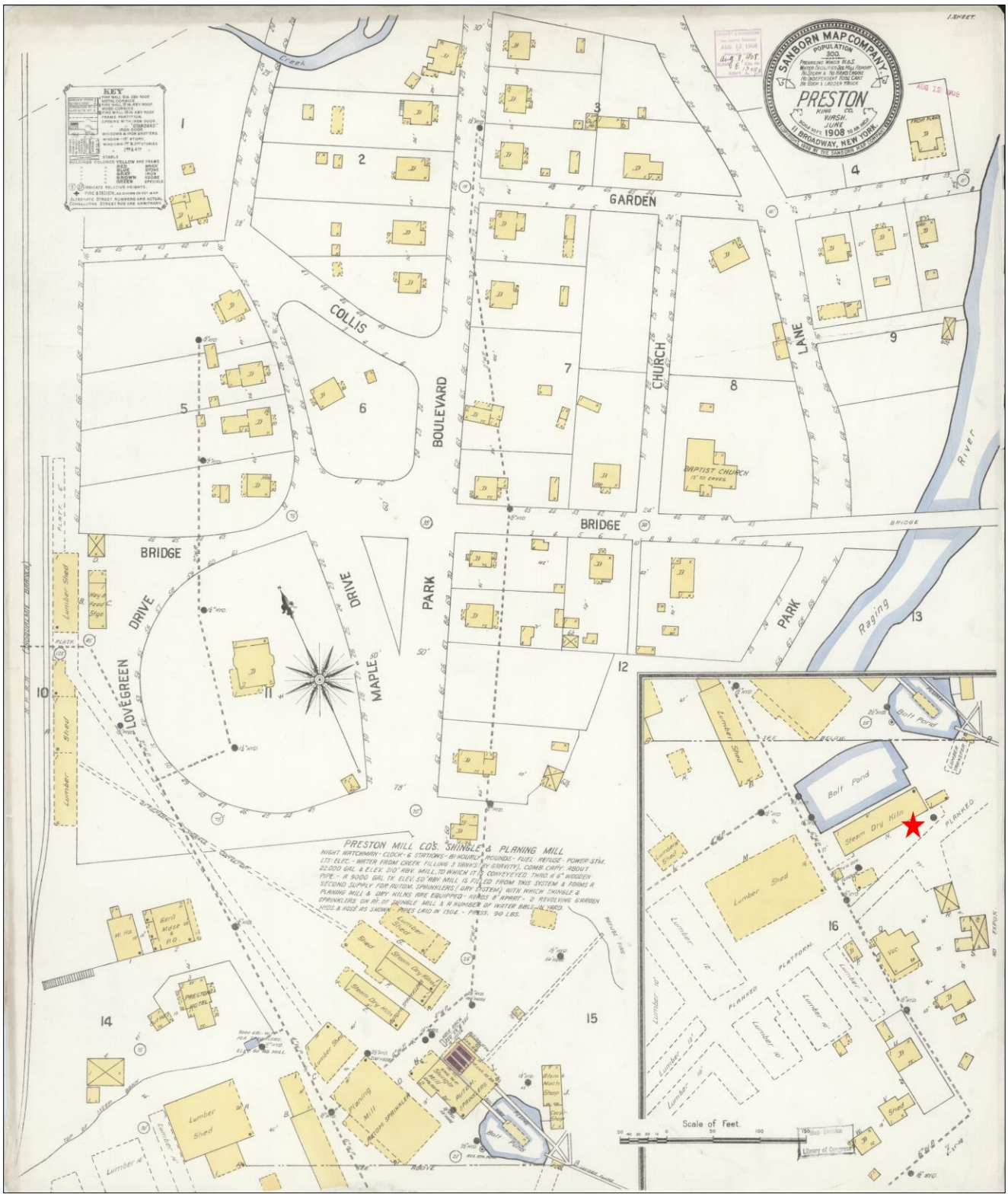


Figure C5. Sanborn Co.'s fire insurance map, Preston, 1912. Buildings shaded in yellow are built of wood. Those shaded in blue are stone or concrete. The star marks the location of the drying kiln.

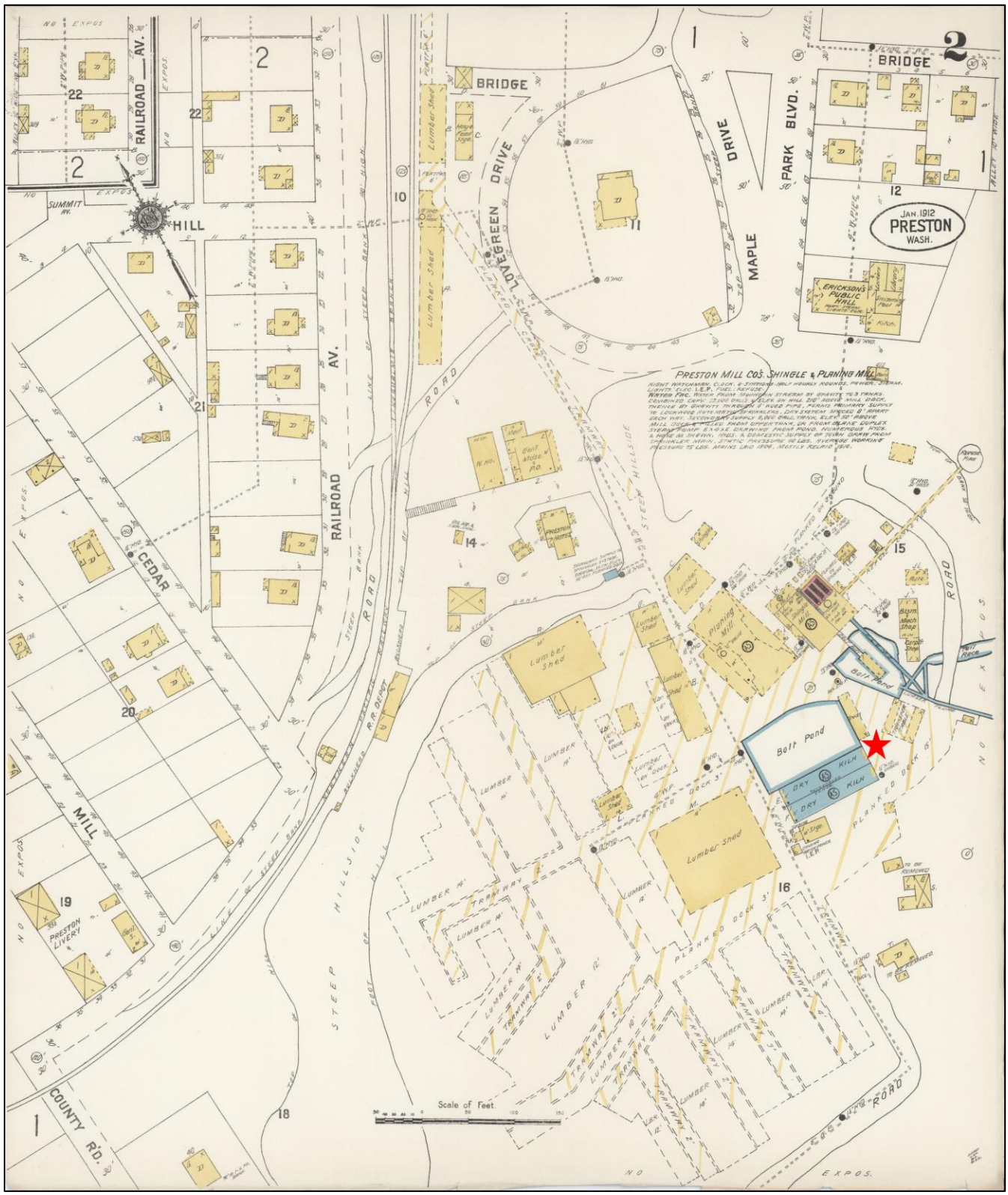
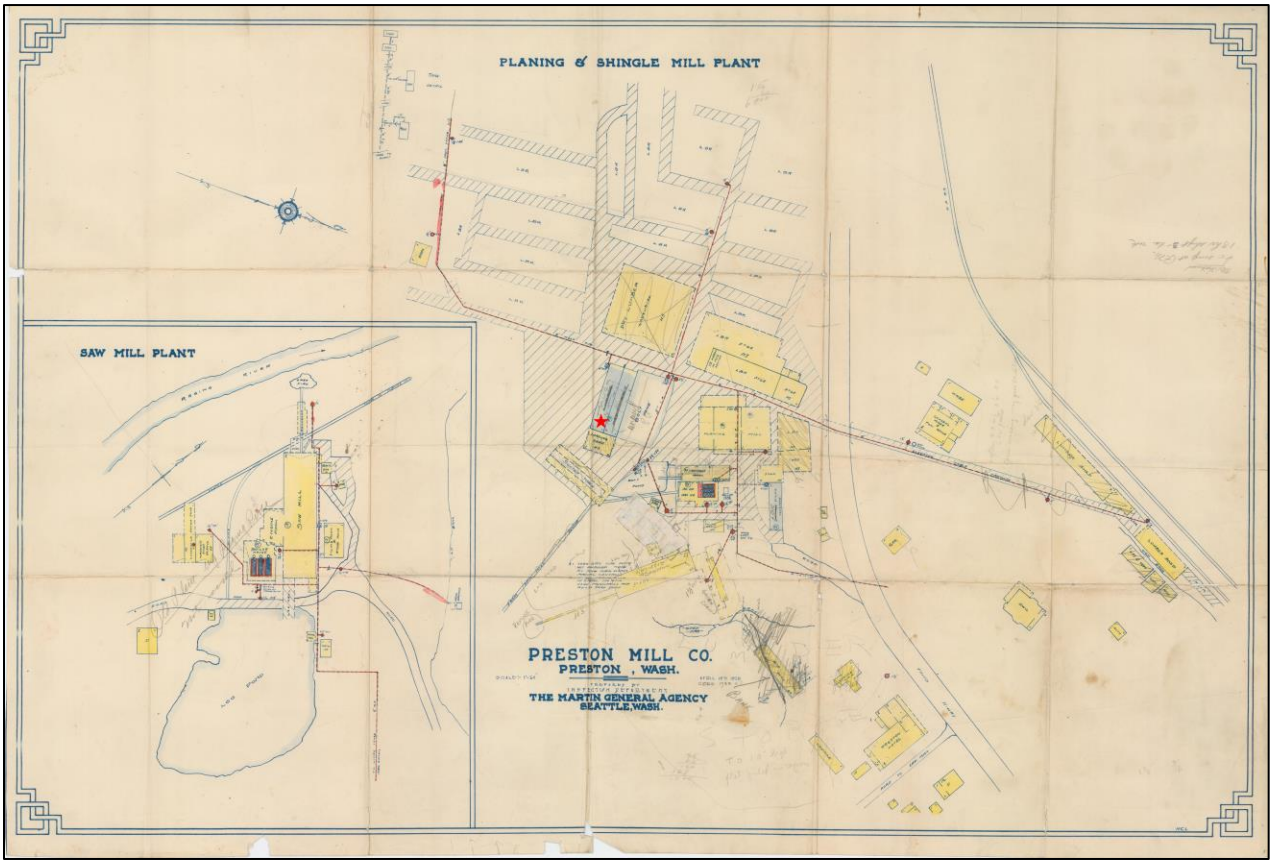


Figure C6. Map of Preston Mill Company, 1928. The star marks the location of drying kiln. *Source*: Martin General Agency, Seattle, Wash.



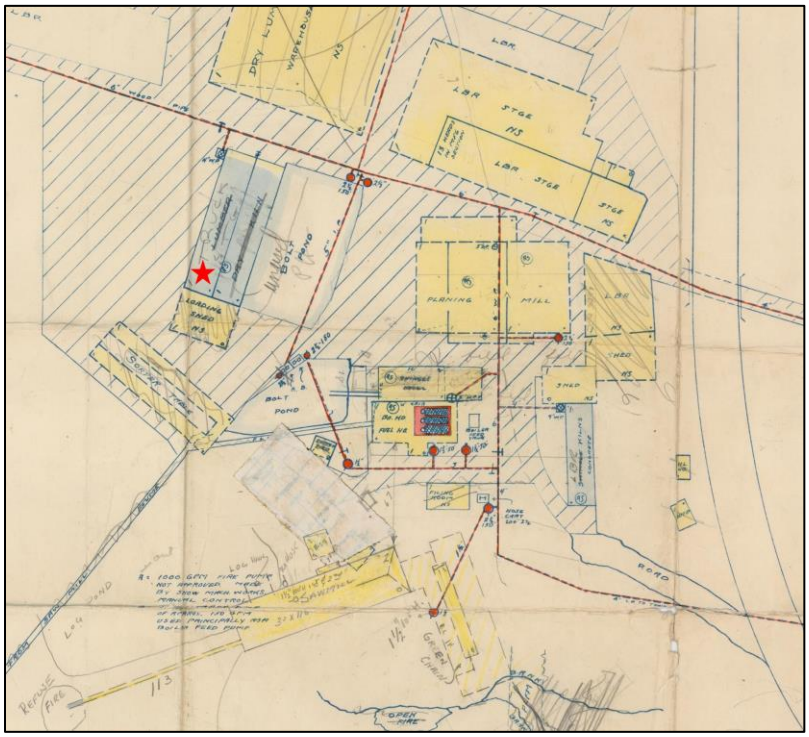


Figure C7. Preston Mill site sketch map, 1957, showing drying kiln (blue, left) used as truck storage. *Source*: Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau. Unsprinkled Risk Reports for Preston Mill Company, 1960.

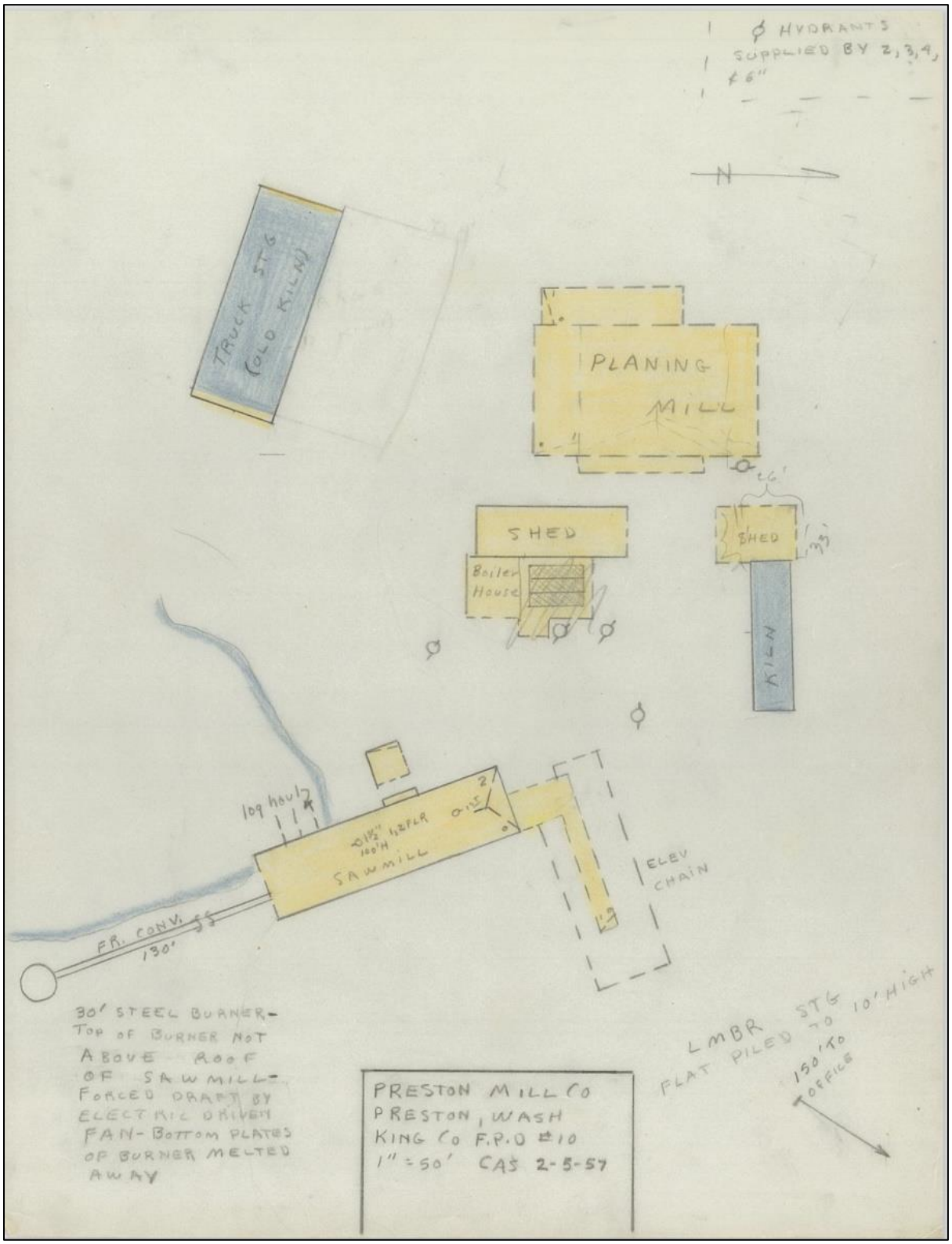
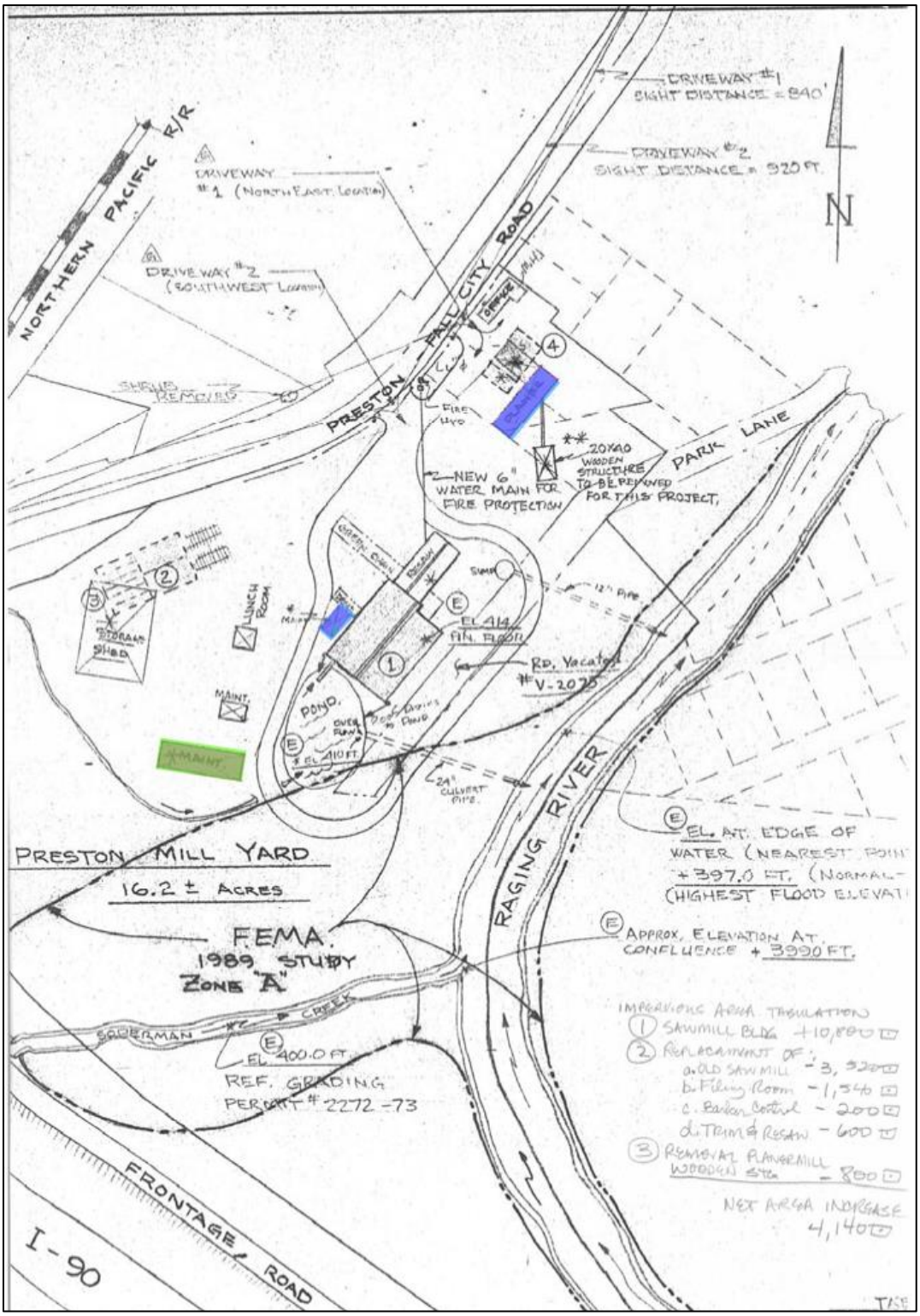


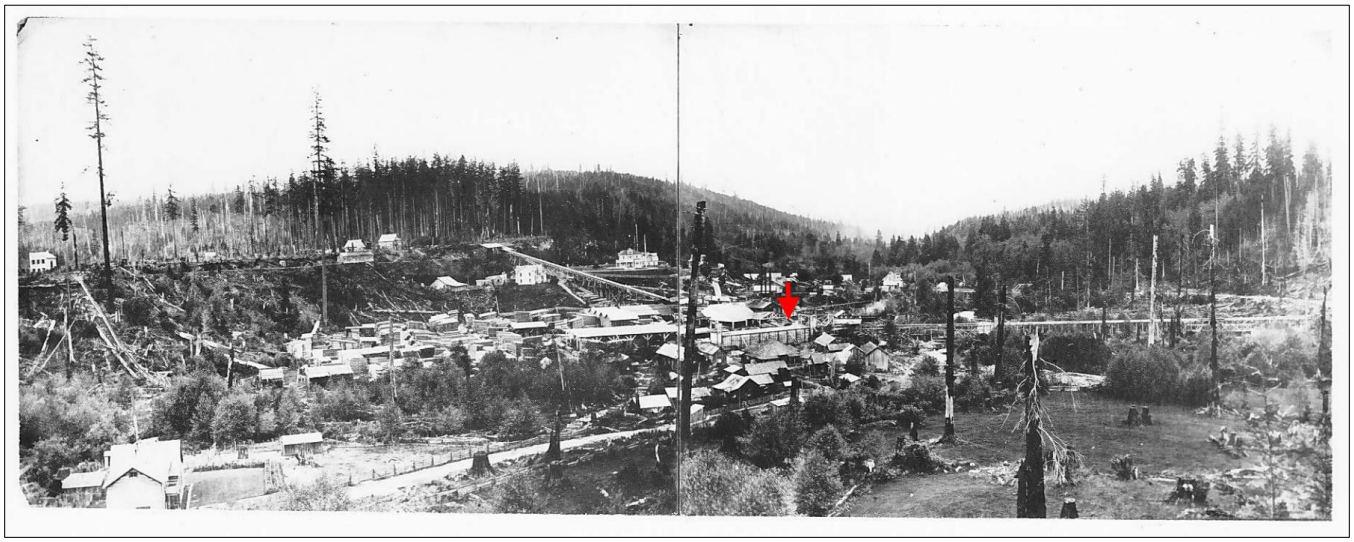
Figure C8. Preston Mill Yard, 1989. The drying kiln is shaded green. The blue-shaded buildings were still standing as of February 2023 but are to be demolished. *Source:* King County Tax Assessor records.



Section D – Historic Photographs and Clippings

Figure D1. Photo of the Preston Mill Co.'s planing and shingle plant at Preston, taken probably between 1908 and 1912. *Source*: Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum, PO.219.0005.1.

Note the kiln's long rectangular massing, flat roof, and end-wall parapet framing.



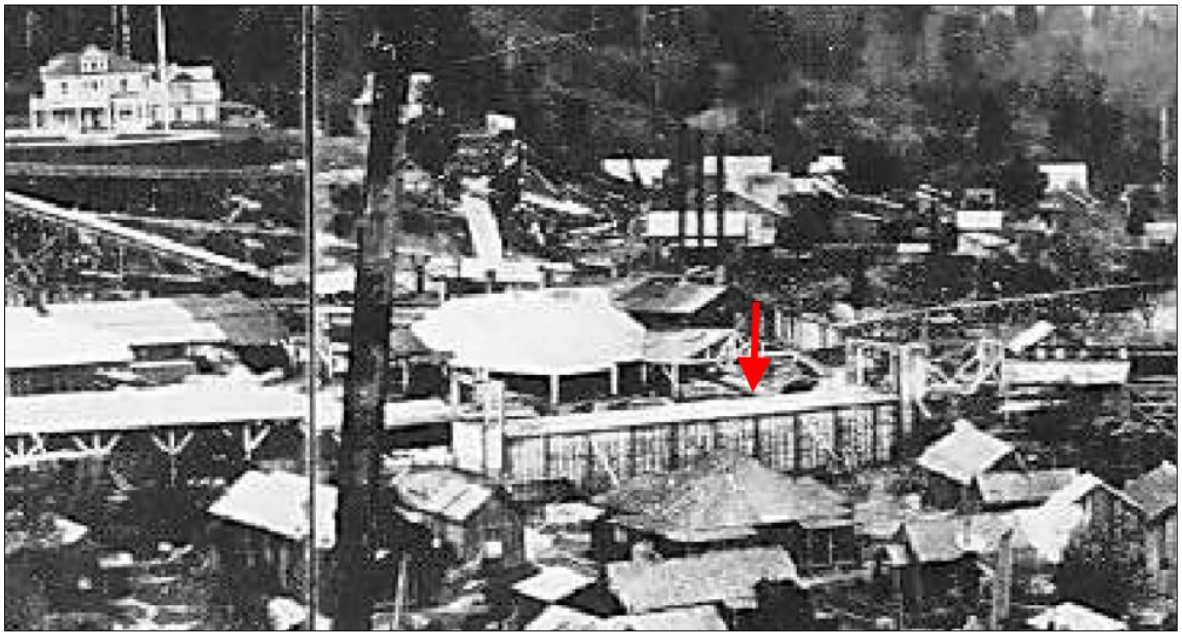


Figure D2. Undated photo of the Preston Mill Co.'s planing and shingle plant at Preston, probably between 1908 and 1912. *Source*: Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum, PO.219.0007.

Note the kiln's long rectangular massing, flat roof, and end-wall parapet framing.

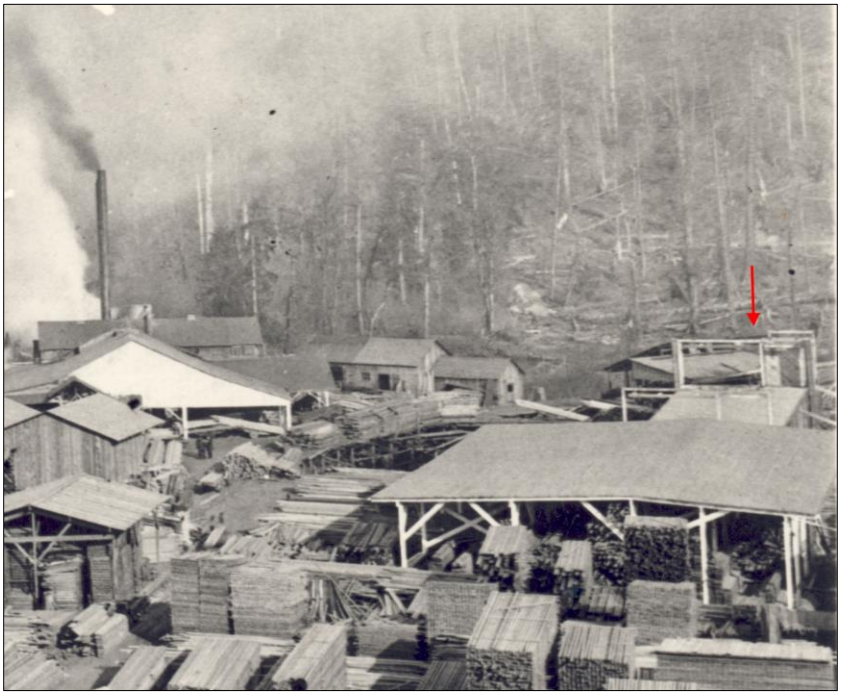


Figure D3. Undated photo of the Preston Mill Co. plant at Preston, showing the concrete drying kiln building labeled #4. *Source*: Eric A. Erickson, *A Pictorial History of the Preston Mill Company, 1892-1996* (Issaquah, WA: Issaquah History Museums, 2007), 33.

Note the kiln's long rectangular massing, flat roof with exposed gable trusses, and steam vents. Also, another similar kiln building with a single compartment is shown just below label #3.

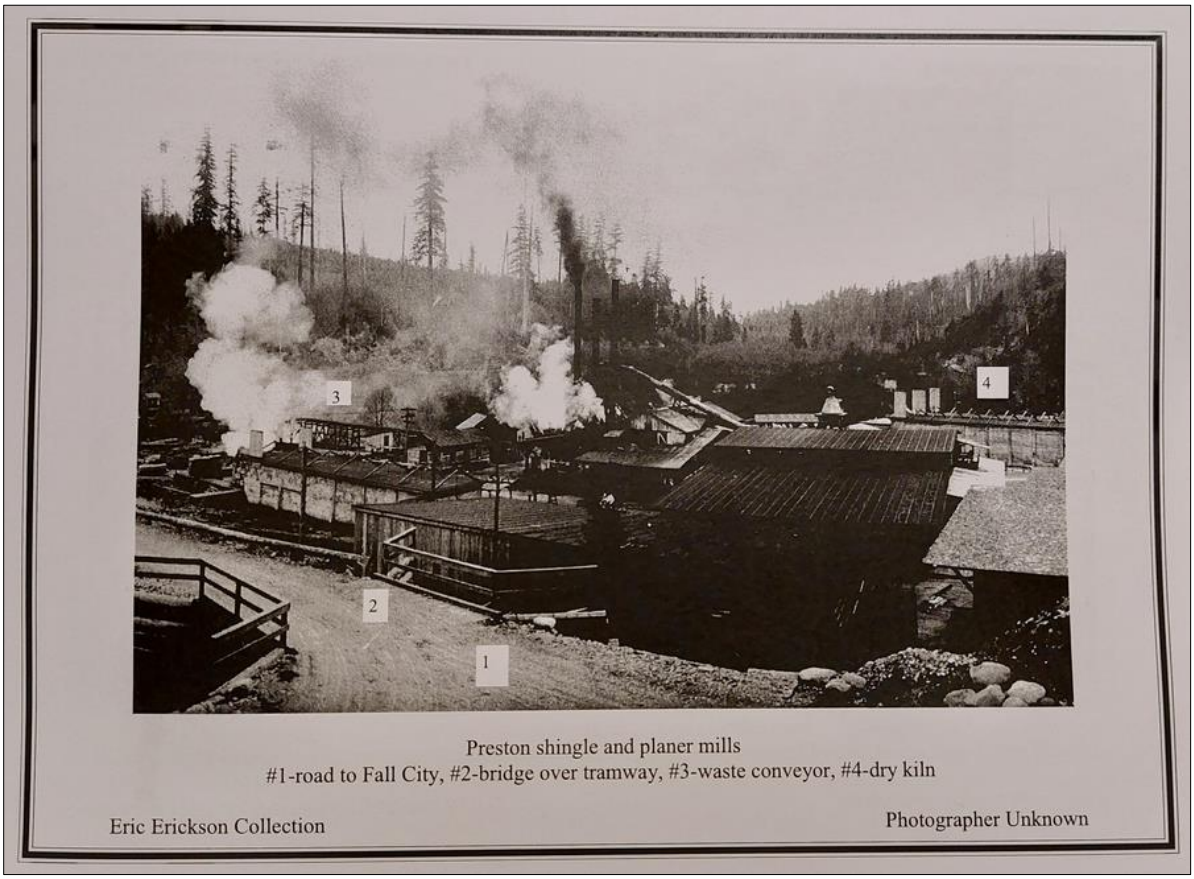


Figure D4. East elevation of drying kiln, 1974. *Source*: Grisham, Roger A. "Preston Sawmill." Student Papers on the Architecture of Puget Sound: 1959-1970s Collection. Architecture and Urban Planning Library, University of Washington Libraries. 1974.

Figure D5. Example of a progressive kiln. *Source*: Arthur Koehler and Rolf Thelen, *The Kiln Drying of Lumber*, (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1926), 78.

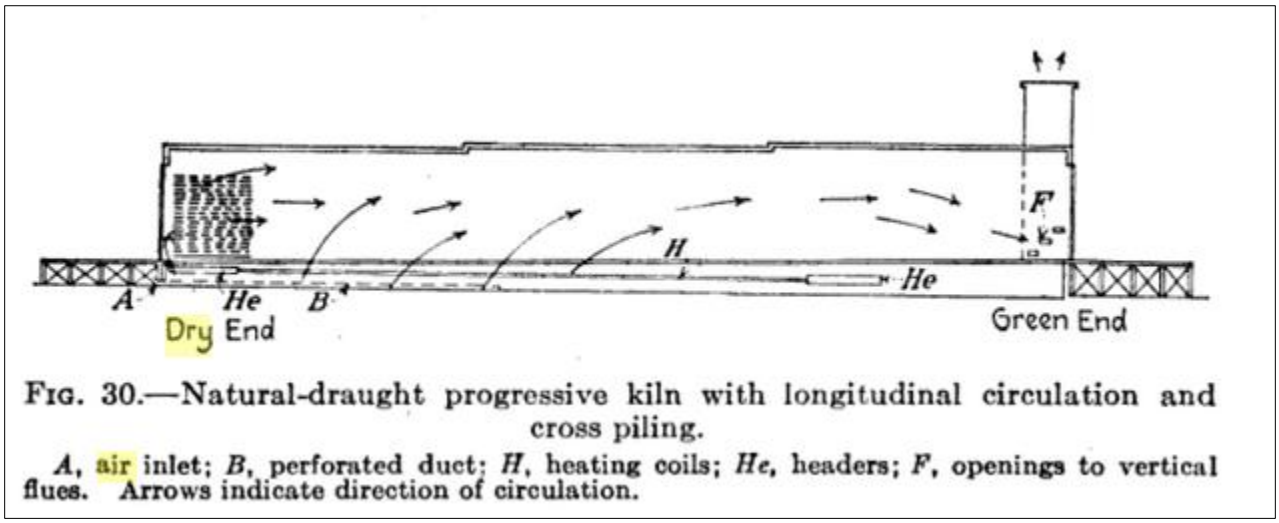


FIG. 30.—Natural-draught progressive kiln with longitudinal circulation and cross piling.

A, air inlet; *B*, perforated duct; *H*, heating coils; *He*, headers; *F*, openings to vertical flues. Arrows indicate direction of circulation.

Figure D6. Example of a compartment kiln. *Source*: Arthur Koehler and Rolf Thelen, *The Kiln Drying of Lumber*, (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1926), 80.

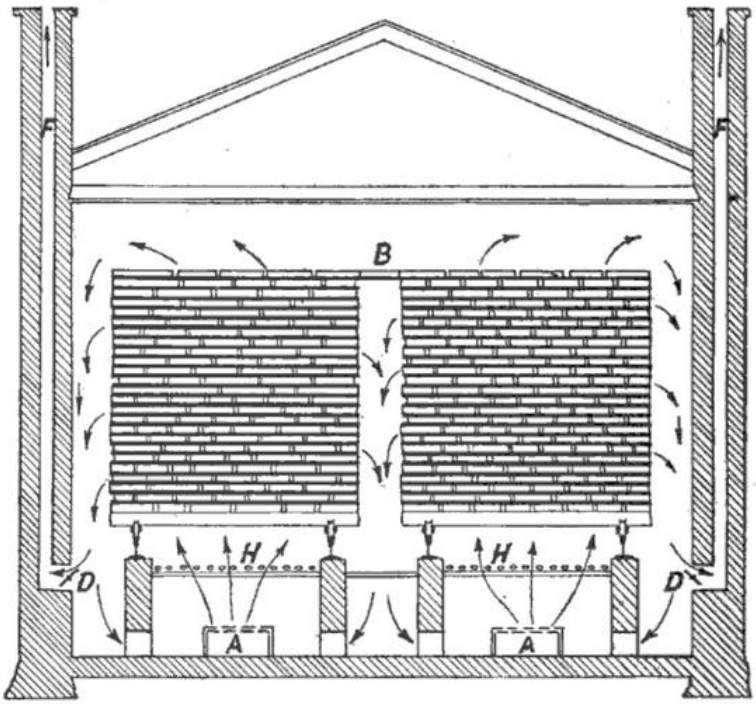


FIG. 32.—Cross-section of natural-draught compartment kiln with end-piled lumber, the stickers running crosswise.

A, entering air ducts; *F*, leaving air flues; *D*, dampers; *H*, heating coils; *B*, baffle to prevent short-circuiting of air currents.

Figure D7. Advertisement, *Seattle Times,* Feb. 22, 1922: 18.

Figure D8. Advertisement, *Issaquah Press,* Oct. 2, 1930: 6.

Figure D9. Advertisement, *Seattle Times,* Feb. 20, 1938: 19.

PART IV: MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

9. Previous Documentation

Use the space below to cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form (use continuation sheet if necessary).

Previous documentation on file:

- ☒ included in King County Historic Resource Inventory
- ☐ previously designated a King County Landmark
- ☐ previously designated a Community Landmark
- ☐ listed in Washington State Register of Historic Places
- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing
- ☐ (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings, Survey #:
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering, Rec. #:

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ King County Historic Preservation Program
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other (specify repository)

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