



## Historic Property Report

**Historic Name:** Eastern State Hospital Livestock Barn

Property ID: 706413

### Location



**Address:** 21385 W Espanola Rd, Medical Lake, Washington, USA

**GeographicAreas:** Spokane, Spokane County, T24R40E12, MEDICAL LAKE Quadrangle

### Information

#### Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1930	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Number of stories:** N/A

#### Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Agriculture/Subsistence	Agriculture/Subsistence - Storage

**Historic Context:** Architecture

## Photos



SRS-30a.JPG



SRS-30i.JPG



SRS-30h.JPG



SRS-30g.JPG



SRS-30f.JPG



SRS-30e.JPG

## Historic Property Report



SRS-30d.JPG



SRS-30c.JPG



SRS-30b.JPG





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### Inventory Details - 7/17/2016

**Common name:** Eastern State Hospital Livestock Barn  
**Date recorded:** 7/17/2016  
**Field Recorder:** Stephen Emerson  
**Field Site number:** SRS-30  
**SHPO Determination**

### Detail Information

#### Characteristics:

Category	Item
Foundation	Stone
Form Type	Barn
Roof Type	Gable - Side
Roof Material	Wood - Shingle
Cladding	Stone - Ashlar/Cut
Structural System	Masonry - Stone
Plan	Rectangle

### Surveyor Opinion

**Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places:** Yes  
**Property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local):** Yes  
**Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local):** Yes

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**Significance narrative:** When Washington became a state in 1889 it had only one mental hospital, the Western State Hospital for the Insane at Fort Steilacoom. This presented a transportation problem for patients located on the eastern side of the state. A Board of Commissioners had been appointed in 1886 to select a location for a new facility. Aside from Medical Lake, sites considered included Spokane Falls, North Yakima, Dayton, Pomeroy, Waitsburg, and Colfax. Prominent locals, such as Stanley Hallet of Medical Lake and D.F. Percival of Cheney, promoted the Medical Lake site. Donated land and ease of transportation access made the location tempting.

But what may have tipped the scales in the decision making process was the supposed medicinal properties of the waters of Medical Lake. Health spas and resorts thrived along its shores. This source of well-being was considered so important that when the first hospital wards were built, both fresh and lake water were plumbed into the rooms. Although Eastern State Hospital for the Insane was created by legislative act in 1888, the first building was not constructed until 1890, the same year Medical Lake was incorporated as a town, and the first patients did not arrive until 1891.

John M. Semple, M.D., was selected as the first superintendent. In May, 1891, the first 20 patients arrived from Western State Hospital for the Insane and over 100 more came in July. By 1918, when the facility's name was changed to the more sensitive Eastern State Hospital (ESH), there were over a thousand patients living on the grounds. As the number of patients increased, more facilities were created to accommodate the influx. A second wing for men was built in 1894. This process continued until, by 1932, the main hospital structure had mushroomed into a long line of connected wards facing east toward the town of Medical Lake. Other wards and utility buildings were located behind (west of) the main structure, including Semple and Linden Hall, Pine Lodge, and the auditorium, all of which still stand today. Most other early hospital buildings were demolished prior to 1948.

During the earliest years, a prime mission of ESH, as well as its companion institution Lakeland Village, further south, was to provide for its own subsistence needs by cultivating crops and raising livestock. Indications of the success of such endeavors can be found in a survey of Washington State mental institutions issued in 1948. The report states that "Eastern State Hospital is situated on a plot of 1,600 acres: 810 in cultivation, 45 in buildings and grounds, the balance in native pasture (rocks and brush)." Water for irrigation was pumped from West Medical Lake. The primary use of land was probably as grazing pasture for livestock. In more recent decades, ESH has departed from its role in providing its own sustenance, and most of the agricultural and grazing land has been either leased or kept vacant.

The Eastern State Hospital Livestock Barn is eligible for placement on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, as an outstanding example of the use of mortared cut granite blocks in architecture, using locally acquired materials. It is also eligible under Criterion A, as a contributing component of a future Eastern Washington NRHP District as one of two state institutions that has been at the forefront of psychological medical care.



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- Physical description:** This building is a long narrow stone building with a side gabled roof. Most of the roof is covered with wood shingles, although portions are covered with corrugated metal. Along the ridge line are five gabled cupolas with louvers and shingle roofs. The moderately wide eaves feature exposed rafter ends and fascia boards in the gables. Besides the end gables, gabled wall dormers are centrally placed on both sides of the roof. The gable faces are clad with horizontal wood planks. The walls are constructed of blocks of rough-cut granite of various sizes and randomly placed with mortar. Square window openings are evenly spaced along each of the length-wise walls and in the upper portions of the gables. Double sets of wooden doors are situated below each dormer face. The foundation is probably granite.
- Bibliography:** Emerson, Stephen. A Historic Property Inventory of Rock Structures in Spokane County, Washington. Archisto Enterprises, 2016.