

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received AUG 14 1985

date entered SEP 12 1985

1. Name

historic Thunborg, Jacob and Cristina, House

and/or common Shoemaker, George and Jane, House

2. Location

street & number Chicken Point

N/A not for publication

city, town Hayden Lake

☒ vicinity of

state Idaho

code 016

county Kootenai

code 055

3. Classification

Number of contributory buildings: two

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment
☐ object	N/A in process	☐ yes: restricted	☐ government
	N/A being considered	☒ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
		☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☒ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name George W. Shoemaker

street & number 824 ONB Building

city, town Spokane

N/A vicinity of

state Washington 99201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kootenai County Courthouse

street & number 501 Government Way

city, town Coeur d'Alene

state Idaho 83814

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Idaho Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1982 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Idaho State Historical Society

city, town Boise

state Idaho

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☒ original site
☒ good	☐ ruins	☒ altered	☐ moved date <u>N/A</u>
☐ fair	☐ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Jacob and Christina Thunborg House is a log structure situated at Chicken Point on the east shore of Hayden Lake. The building consists of three principal elements: an original one-and-one-half-story gable-roofed, hewn-timber full dovetail notched log structure; a one-and-one-half-story single-pen saddle-notched round-log wing; and a one-and-one-half-story log-framed and wood-shingled shed addition.

Construction of the house was begun by Jacob Thunborg in 1893, during the first year of his homestead activity at Chicken Point and continued intermittently for approximately ten years while the round-log wing and rear shed addition were completed. The building stands today in all essential respects as it did at the time of its completion shortly after the turn of the twentieth century.

The building's most notable exterior architectural details include: finely hewn exterior log surfaces; uniformly jointed and chinked round wall logs; exceptionally well-crafted full dovetail and saddle corner notching; snug fitting mortise-and-tenon joinery at the intersection of the interior partition and exterior hewn log wall; wood-shingled roofs, gable ends, and shed addition; log and wood frame front and rear porches; ornamentally scalloped wood shingle starter courses on all gable ends; decoratively carved porch ceiling beams; and a mortared stone foundation.

The building's interior finish work shows an equally high level of craftsmanship. Noteworthy examples include tongue-and-groove ceiling boards; vertically grooved wainscoting in the kitchen staircase; tight-fitting stair tread and riser joinery; wood paneling with natural finish on dining room wall surfaces; paneled upper-story walls framed in about eighteen inches from the exterior wall surfaces; decoratively carved interior ceiling beams matching the pattern of the south porch ceiling beams.

The building's most significant alteration involves the removal by the current owner of an original double-hung window on the west wall of the square-hewn log structure and its replacement with a pair of glazed doors. A set of three brick steps was installed leading from the double doors to the original rustic patio-like area at grade level. The original opening was replaced with a similarly glazed set of doors; the wood trim around the doors is similar in type and dimension to the original moldings found around the structure's other unaltered window and door openings.

Other alterations include the removal of a formed concrete "cooler" (or larder) that was attached to the north wall of the rear shed addition and the replacement of the original brick-faced chimney stack with a concrete block flue enclosure. None of these alterations impair the building's effectiveness in conveying a clear feeling of the period when it achieved significance.

Although the Thunborg homestead originally comprised an earlier temporary log residence, the Thunborg house, a second log cabin, a barn, a detached root cellar, a large woodshed, an icehouse, and a brick manufacturing yard, the Thunborg house and root cellar are all that remain today. The root cellar is included in the nomination as a contributory building.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates	ca. 1893–1902	Builder/Architect	Jacob Thunborg
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Jacob and Christina Thunborg House, built in about 1893–1902, is significant for its historic associations with the initial white settlement of east Hayden Lake, for its representation of excellent log craftsmanship, and for its exemplification of the work of a man recognized by his peers as a local artist and skilled craftsman.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Early Folks of Hardy Stock." Coeur d'Alene Press. Clipping on file at Hayden Lake Library, Hayden Lake, Idaho.

Conversations with Frances Thunborg, 6 July 1984; Steve Cramps, 19 July 1984; and Gladys Berglund, 20 July 1984. Notes on conversations in Dave Osterberg private collection, Rathdrum, Idaho.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property about one-half acre

Quadrangle name Hayden Lake

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nomination includes the Jacob and Christina Thunborg House and the property on which it stands, beginning at the southwest corner of lot 16, Gem Shores Subdivision Unit No. 1, thence (see continuation sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

state	code	county	code
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Osterberg, Historic Preservation Officer

organization Kootenai County Historic Preservation

date September 13, 1984

Program

street & number Route 4, Box 854

telephone (208) 687-0002

city or town Rathdrum

state Idaho 83858

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Mark Wells

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 29 July 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9/12/85

f. Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Jacob and Christina Thunborg House
Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

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By the end of his 33-year residence at Chicken Point, Jacob Thunborg had acquired a reputation as a resilient and resourceful homesteader, a respected craftsman in wood and masonry, and a trustworthy and successful family man. The significance of the Thunborg House is based in part, therefore, on its association with the life of this notable and accomplished early Hayden Lake settler.

Jacob Thunborg was born in 1854 in Ljustorp, Sweden, a small community near the Gulf of Bothnia, about 250 miles north of Stockholm. Little is presently known of his early life, the occupational training he acquired as a youth in Sweden, or why he emigrated to the United States. By the late 1880's, he had taken up residence in Spokane, Washington, and shortly thereafter sent for his wife-to-be, Christina Nelson, whom he married in 1890. After a brief stay in Post Falls, Idaho, Jacob, Christina, their two-year-old daughter Lena, and six-week-old son Frank moved in December 1892 to establish a homestead at Chicken Point on the east shore of Hayden Lake. Thunborg was granted a patent for the homestead in 1910 and continued to live there until his death in 1925 at the age of 71.

Jacob and Christina Thunborg were among the earliest permanent white settlers on the east side of Hayden Lake. Although they were preceded by perhaps a dozen homesteaders and squatters who inaugurated the white settlement of east Hayden Lake in the 1880's, by the time of the Thunborgs' arrival at Chicken Point in late 1892, at least half of these initial claimants had already left the area. According to one informant who was born in 1906 and raised on the east shore of Hayden Lake, Thunborg was among the first settlers to establish a farm and remain.

Aside from his status as one of the first successful homesteaders on the east shore of Hayden Lake, Jacob Thunborg also contributed to the initial settlement of the adjacent farm lands by contracting his services as an accomplished mason. At a time when well digging was an arduous and risky undertaking, Thunborg helped further the establishment of dry-land farming on the Rathdrum Prairie by building many underground water cisterns out of hand-mixed concrete. He also acquired a reputation for building attractive and heat-efficient fireplaces. According to an informant who was born at Hayden Lake in 1903 and grew up with one of the Thunborgs' sons, unlike most fireplaces of today Thunborg's fireplaces efficiently reflected heat into the room.

Like many early settlers, Thunborg needed to earn a certain amount of cash each year but was not always able to find work in his chosen field. When hard economic times reduced the demand for his services as a mason, Thunborg would travel to the Palouse Country to work in the seasonal harvest. According to his daughter-in-law, however, he would always return home for the winter to live and continue the work on his Hayden Lake home place. Before his productive work years were over, Jacob Thunborg's farmstead improvements included clearing and planting ten to twelve acres and constructing his log house, a second log house, a concrete-walled root cellar, a large woodshed, an icehouse, a barn and a manufacturing yard for brick. Only his log house and the root cellar remain.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Jacob and Christina Thunborg House

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

For NPS use only

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The Thunborg House is also significant for its representation of a higher order of refined log construction and its exemplification of the work of a man recognized by his contemporaries as a skilled craftsman. As noted earlier, Jacob Thunborg acquired a reputation as a skillful mason--the occupational calling that he pursued while still living in Sweden. Although apparently lacking in any formal training in woodworking, he also gained renown for the exacting and aesthetic standards that he followed while constructing his log home. Shortly after Jacob Thunborg's death, his son and daughter-in-law, Frances, took up residence in the Thunborg house and continued to live there until 1960. During that period Frances Thunborg recalled the house being admired frequently by others.

Notwithstanding over eighty years of changing North Idaho seasons, the Thunborg House remains today with plumb walls, level floors, and virtually all the architectural details that, for earlier generations, set this log house quite apart from most other log cabin residences in the Hayden Lake area. Among the architectural features that continue to lend the Thunborg house the distinction of representing a high order of refined residential log construction are finely hewn exterior log surfaces; snugly fitting full dovetail and saddle corner notching; uniformly jointed and chinked round wall logs; ornamentally scalloped gable-end wood-shingle starter courses; and decoratively carved porch ceiling beams matching similarly carved interior ceiling beams. Notable interior features include finished wall and ceiling surfaces; grooved staircase wainscoting and tight-fitting stair tread and riser joinery; and double wall construction in second-story bedrooms.

The most significant alteration in the Thunborg house involves the replacement of an original double-hung sash window by a pair of glazed doors on the building's east facade. This intervention constitutes only a marginal compromise of the building's overall historical and architectural integrity. Two other alterations, the removal of the rear "cooler" and the replacement of the brick-faced chimney stack with concrete block, do not impair the building's effectiveness in conveying a feeling of the historical period during which it achieved significance.

The building's association with the period of initial white settlement around Hayden Lake conveys a sense of the typical style that homestead housing took when manufactured building materials were scarce and the early settler was constrained to rely on his or her own skills to provide the family's shelter requirements. The wing and rear shed addition further our understanding of this historical period by its exemplification of how the homestead house evolved in form and style to meet the emerging needs of the homestead family.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Jacob and Christina Thunborg House
Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION (continued):

N 58° 34' W, 35 feet; thence S 32° 51.7' W, 48.93 feet to True Point of Beginning; thence S 50° 14.3' E, 58.63 feet; thence S 22° 23.2' E, 55.48 feet; thence S 31° 12.6' W, 67.70 feet; thence N 64° 03' W, 100.14 feet; thence N 75° 21.7' W, 110.39 feet; thence N 07° 58.1' W, 60.37 feet; thence N 85° 01.7' E, 175.26 feet to the True Point of Beginning; all in Section 10, T51N, R3W, Boise Meridian.



Thunborg, Jacob and Christina, House
Chicken Point
Hayden Lake vicinity, Kootenai County, Idaho

Photograph by Dave Osterberg
16 June 1984

Negative on file at the Idaho State Historical
Society, Boise, Idaho

View from northeast

Photograph 1 of 2



Thunborg, Jacob and Christina, House
Chicken Point
Hayden Lake vicinity, Kootenai County, Idaho

Photograph by Dave Osterberg
16 June 1984

Negative on file at the Idaho State Historical
Society, Boise, Idaho

View from northwest

Photograph 2 of 2