Type all entries

1. Name of Property

   Historic: Woodmen Cemetery

   And/or common: Langley Woodmen Cemetery

2. Location

   Street and number: 1109 Al Anderson Avenue

   City: Langley   State: Washington   Zip: 98260

3. Classification

   Category: 
   Ownership: X Public   Private   Both
   Status: X Occupied   Unoccupied   Work in progress
   Accessible: Yes: restricted   Yes: unrestricted   No
   Present Use: Agriculture   Commercial   Museum
               Educational   Entertainment   Park
               Industrial   Military   Residential
               Transportation   Religious   Scientific
               Other

4. Owner of Property (Use continuation page if more than one owner)

   Name: City of Langley

   Street and number: 112 Second Street

   City: Langley   State: Washington   Zip: 98260

   Telephone: 360-221-4433   E-mail: langleymayor@langleywa.org

5. Physical Description

   Condition: X Good   Excellent   Fair   Deteriorated   Ruins   Unexposed

   Check one: Unaltered   Altered
   Check one: Original site   Moved   Date

   Narrative description: (Use one or more continuation sheets for a description of the present and original physical appearance of the property)
6. Significance

**Year built:** 1902  
**Builder/Architect:** NA  
**Narrative description:** (Use one or more continuation pages for a description of the history and significance of the property to Langley’s heritage).

7. Major Bibliographical References

Place bibliography on one or more continuation sheets.

8. Additional Documentation

Place maps and photographs on one or more continuation pages.

9. Geographical Data

**Verbal Boundary Description:** The original Woodmen cemetery occupies the northern 3 (three) acres of the current Langley-Woodmen Cemetery located south of “downtown” Langley on the east side of Al Anderson Avenue.

Beginning at the ¼ corner in the center of Section Three (3); Township 29; North Range thee (3); East HM and running thence South 87°32' East – 687 feet: thence South 7°33' East 198 feet: thence North 87°32' West 678 feet: thence North 7°33' West 198 feet to the place of beginning – Being three (3) acres across the North end of the West half of the N.W quarter of the S.E.; Section three (3); Township 29; North Range Three (3) East.

**Legal Description:** IN NW SE DESC: BG IP CTR 1/4 SEC 3 S86°E ALG NLN SE SEC 3 218.92' S88°E ALG EXIST FENCE LN 463.50' S7°E12.84' TO NLN OF SE SEC 3 S7°E381.10' N87°W679.85' TO WLN SE SEC 3 N7°W ALG SD WLN 396.71' TO CTR 1/4 SEC 3 TPB TGW & SUBJ TO EZ AF#90014004

**Tax Parcel Number:** R32903-251-3120

**Plat Name:** Block: Lot(s):

10. Form Prepared By:

**Name/Title:** Robert Waterman/Chair  
**Organization:** Langley Historic Preservation Commission  
**Date:** 7-30-08  
**Street and number:** 88 Saratoga Creek Lane  
**Telephone:** 360-221-8644  
**City or town:** Langley  
**State:** WA  
**Zip:** 98260

**E-mail:** bobanne@whidbey.com

11. Signature of Property Owner(s):
5. Physical Description (Narrative):
The Langley-Woodmen Cemetery is located approximately 1 mile south of the central business district on Al Anderson Avenue. The original Woodmen Cemetery occupies the northern 3 acres of the current Cemetery. It contains many (topped) Douglas Fir and other species that provide a shaded and peaceful atmosphere. Langley prides itself on being a “Walkable” city, and many people frequent the cemetery as a destination on a walk along Al Anderson Avenue.

6. Narrative Description of History and Significance:
The original cemetery was established by the Modern Woodmen Lodge in 1902; eleven years after the town was platted. It is the oldest cemetery on South Whidbey and contains the remains of many of Langley’s founding families such as the Jensens, McLeods, Hunzikers, Monsons, and individuals such as the first mayor, Frank E. Furman, and first woman mayor, Helen Coe.

On January 22, 1908, Langley’s founder Jacob Anthes and his wife, Leafy, sold the plot of land that houses the original cemetery to Hugh M. McLeod, Trustee for the Langley Camp: Modern Woodmen of America for $600 to be used for “cemetery purposes, and known as the Woodmen Cemetery.”

The Modern Woodmen of America was a fraternal organization founded by Joseph Cullen Root in Lyons, Iowa in 1883. Its purpose was to clear financial problems for members “like pioneer woodsmen cleared the forest to provide for their families.” The group initially operated in 9 central states providing burials and grave markers to members; some elaborately carved with forest themes. Mr. Root broke away from the Modern Woodmen in 1902 to found the Woodmen of the World (“WOW”).

The cemetery was maintained by the Modern Woodmen organization until the Town of Langley incorporated as a municipality in 1913. The Woodmen then transferred the original three acres encompassing the cemetery to the town of Langley on October 18, 1913 for $10 “lawful money.”

The city had a cemetery sexton who was charged with upkeep of the cemetery. Under his direction, the Douglas fir trees were topped in the 1930’s. Maintenance of the cemetery was turned over to then local mortician, Herman Vissser, in the 1980’s. He returned that job back to the city in the late 1980’s.

In the mid 1990’s, faced with declining resources, the City put the cemetery up for sale. Fortunately, a group of concerned individuals led by Carrie Peterson formed a non-profit organization, the “Friends of the Woodmen Cemetery, in 1995. They took over cemetery maintenance and continue to assist the City in caring for the cemetery grounds in conjunction with the Langley Cemetery Board. The city currently contracts out routine maintenance.

7. Bibliography
1. Brochure (“Langley Woodmen Cemetery”), City of Langley, WA. 2008
4. Deeds. Langley City Hall.
5. Debbie Mahler, Langley City Clerk/Treasurer interview. 2008.
8. Additional Documentation (Maps and Photographs):

City plat map (2008).

Google map showing Langley–Woodmen Cemetery.
Historic plat of Woodmen Cemetery.
Soils map (prior to 1984)

Road classification map. 1984.
Photographs of the Original Woodmen Cemetery:

Entrance to cemetery from Al Anderson Ave. Looking east. Photo by R. Waterman. 7/20/08.

N.W. corner of cemetery. Photo by R. Waterman. 7/20/08.

Entrance from Al Anderson Avenue looking northeast. Photo by R. Waterman. 7/20/08.
From east end of cemetery looking west towards the entrance. Photo by R. Waterman. 7/20/08.

Bench and flag pole presented by the Marcus Whitman Chapter NSDAR and American Legion Post #141, October 12, 1991. Photo by R. Waterman. 7/20/08.
Road at south end of the original cemetery. Looking west. Photo by R. Waterman. 7/20/08.

Statue. Photo by R. Waterman. 7/20/08.

Jensen family marker. Photo by R. Waterman. 7/20/08.

Margaret, niece of Helen Coe, and her husband, Peter Camfferman, founded the artist colony called “Brackenwood” west of Saratoga Creek off Saratoga Road. Photo by R. Waterman. 7/20/08.