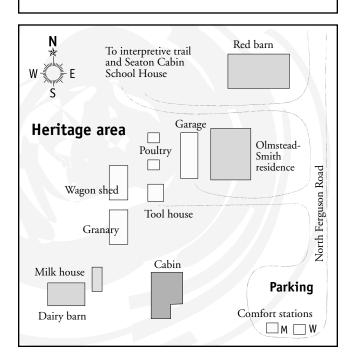
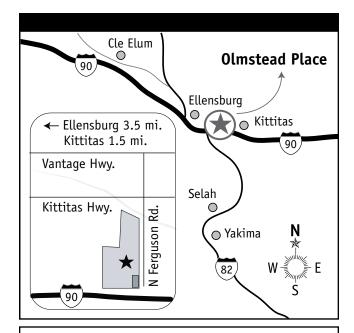
Olmstead Place State Park

Olmstead Place State Park, located four miles east of Ellensburg, is a charming and rustic 217-acre day-use park that celebrates the legacy of the family farm. Open year round, the park's pastoral landscape provides an escape from the hustle and bustle of modern-day life and a rare opportunity to experience a historic pioneer homestead, where part of the work is still accomplished with some of the park's collection of antique implements. Olmstead Place also offers public tours and is perfect for school field trips. The park gives kids an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and learn about rural life. The original 160-acre homestead is a heritage area and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The park's goal is to bring the family farm back to life by allowing visitors to experience a pioneer homestead. The map below illustrates the heritage area, where many historic buildings still stand, complete with original furnishings. As you wander across the park, try to imagine what it was like arriving and settling in the Kittitas Valley in 1875. Try, if for only a moment, to perceive the rewards our ancestors cherished and the hardships they endured.





Olmstead Place State Park

921 N. Ferguson Road Ellensburg, WA 98926 (509) 925-1943

Park hours:

April 1 - Sept. 30, 6:30 a.m. to dusk Oct. 1 - March 31, 8 a.m. to dusk

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission



P.O. Box 42650 Olympia, WA 98504-2650 (360) 902-8500 www.parks.wa.gov

Commission members:

Patricia T. Lantz Joe Taller Fred Olson Cecilia Vogt Rodger Schmitt Lucinda S. Whaley Eliot Scull

Agency director: Rex Derr

All Washington state parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all people.

To request this brochure in an alternative format, please call (360) 902-8844 or the Washington Telecommunications Relay Service at (800) 833-6388.

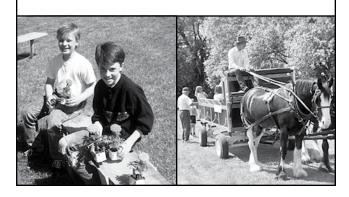
P&R 45-62503-02 (2/2010)



Your guide to

Olmstead Place State Park

Heritage Site



The Olmstead Legacy

Settling in

In 1875, Samuel and Sarah Olmstead crossed the Cascade Mountains on horseback with their young family and were among the first wave of homesteaders in Kittitas Valley. The area attracted the Olmsteads and many early residents with its tall grass for livestock, rich soil, suitable climate for farming and plentiful supply of water for crops and animals.

The Olmstead cabin, though simple and rugged by today's standards, was considered large and comfortable in 1875. With newspaper-lined walls for insulation and a wood cooking stove, the cabin was secure from the cold.

The family built the cabin from cottonwood logs from the Yakima River Canyon. They squared the logs with a broadax, dovetailed them at the corners and held the logs together with round pegs made from small tree limbs. Lumber was cut at a local sawmill and windows were freighted in from The Dalles, Ore.



Visitors may view antique farm implements on display.

The 20th-century farm

The Olmstead farm entered into a period of its greatest development in 1900. It boasted a milk house, dairy barn, wagon shed, granary and tool house. Cream was churned into prize butter for the Seattle market and crops from the farm included hay, wheat and oats.

In 1908, the family constructed a new residence and a red barn for hay storage. The large five-bedroom home is still furnished just as the family left it – the house reflects the heritage of several generations over 70 years.

The little schoolhouse

The Olmstead children once carried tin lunch pails and tablets made of brown wrapping paper as they rode on horse-back to Seaton Cabin School House, where they learned to read and write. The schoolhouse, moved to this site in 1980, was originally built in the 1870s in a meadow several miles away from the Olmstead farm. It's now located at the north end of the park.



Children participate in an interpretive program in the schoolhouse.

A living history

Leta May Smith and Clareta Olmstead Smith, grand-daughters of Sarah and Samuel Olmstead, envisioned a living historical farm that would preserve and interpret an important part of our state's heritage. In 1968, the Smiths deeded the 217-acre farm to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. Olmstead Place remains today much as it was when Sarah and Samuel Olmstead lived on the homestead.



Olmstead-Smith residence

Tours and activities

Free, guided public tours of the park take place noon to 4 p.m. weekends Memorial Day through Labor Day, and by appointment year round. Group tours and school field trips are available for a fee. To book tours and field trips, call the park at (509) 925-1943.

In addition to interpretive activities, the park features 17 unsheltered picnic tables, winter recreation, fishing and wild-life viewing. To reserve picnic tables for group functions, call the state park office at (509) 925-1943.

The three-quarter-mile Altapes Creek Trail runs from the red barn to the Seaton Cabin School House. A trail guide is available to interpret the farm and the plant life growing along the stream bank.

The carefully restored historic gardens are perfect for weddings. To book a reservation, call the park office. Fees vary with size of party.

The park also is open to cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing in winter (no groomed trails).