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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**NATIONAL  
REGISTER**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See Instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the Instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Floral Hall  
other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number Forest Park  not for publication  
city, town Everett  vicinity  
state Washington code WA county Snohomish code 061 zip code 98201

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	— buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	—	— sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	—	— structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	— objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
 See continuation sheet.

*Paul E. [Signature]*  
Signature of certifying official

3/16/90  
Date

Washington State Department of Community Development Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)

*Melissa Byers*  
Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the  
National Register 4/20/90  
Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Social: meeting hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Social: meeting hall

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**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rustic Style

foundation concrete  
walls wood: log

roof wood: shake  
other

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Floral Hall is a one-story Rustic Style timber and log structure built in 1939-40 and located on the crest of a wooded hill in Everett's Forest Park. Constructed as a WPA project, the building is a strong reflection of Depression-era public works in the city, and an important element of the city's premiere park. The structure is sited on a promontory, overlooking the rest of the park, which was transformed during the period with a master plan that included specimen and native plantings; pasture for deer, elk, and bison; terraced hillsides, and extensive trail systems. Although portions of that plan have been compromised with alterations and new construction, Floral Hall retains its original character and is the most important structure in the park.

Floral Hall was built of unhewn timbers in the classic National Parks Rustic Style. The overall plan of the structure, and its construction techniques and decorative elements, conform to the specifications promulgated for community halls of the period. The building is a one-story timber hall with a 12 foot deep veranda on the north and west sides. (The veranda on the west side has since been enclosed.) The building has a rectangular plan, and the overall dimensions of the building are approximately 76 feet by 51 feet. The height of the hall, which is open to the roof rafters, is approximately 26 feet from floor to ridge pole.

Floral Hall is framed with native, peeled cedar logs ranging in size from eight to 24 inches in diameter. The roof structure is a simple log truss utilizing mortised cross members and a system of iron tie rods. The exterior walls are clad with stained cedar shingles and the shake-covered gable roof has overhanging eaves with exposed rafters and round log purlins. The exterior chimney is executed in river rock with quoins of chipped granite. An auxiliary brick chimney is located in the south wall, which once serviced a central heating system that was located beneath the raised stage at the south end of the hall. The window surrounds are also constructed of peeled cedar logs. The double doors on the north and west sides have been embellished with lavish black iron strap hinges and hardware.

The logs used in the construction of the hall were treated in a manner suggested by a National Park Service manual that called for "pleasingly knotted" surfaces, "with the knots not completely sawed off. The textural surface of the log after removal of the bark is duly appreciated and preserved." The logs in Floral Hall are varnished to provide a durable, unchecked finish.

The interior of the hall is a large open space with exposed roof rafters, a fireplace at one end, and a raised stage at the other. The large brick fireplace was constructed in the center of the east wall. Wagon wheels, evoking the barnlike rustic theme of the interior, were employed as lighting fixtures and as a control device for the flue of the main fireplace. The south end of the hall is spanned by the stage, which measures 13 feet deep. The remainder of the hall is covered with maple flooring and is used for dances, exhibitions, and other park events.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

 nationally     statewide     locallyApplicable National Register Criteria  A    B    C    DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A    B    C    D    E    F    G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ArchitectureRecreation

Period of Significance

1939-1940

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

WPA-funded labor (see text)

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State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Built in 1939-40 with funds provided in part by the WPA, Floral Hall is an enduring legacy of the federal public works during the Great Depression. The log and frame structure reflects the Rustic Style of the period, closely following the precepts of federal park architecture. When completed, the hall was a home for Everett's garden and flower clubs as well as a public meeting hall for various social events. It was also a centerpiece of Forest Park, which had been redesigned at the same time as part of a large scale WPA project. Other elements of the park have been compromised by additions or modifications, but Floral Hall retains its original character and continues to serve as a site for community events.

Historical Background:

The availability of federal assistance during the Great Depression spurred Everett's civic leadership to identify and undertake a variety of local projects with substantial sums going to public parks improvements. Receipt of \$600,000 in government funding in 1938 provided the opportunity to initiate the Everett Parks Project, one of the largest endeavors of its kind in the state, which included the redesign of Forest Park on the southeast edge of the city. The nucleus of the park was a 40-acre tract given to the city by William Swalwell in the early 20th century. The remainder of the land was purchased by the city in 1909. The WPA project transformed the park with a redesigned landscape of native plantings, winding trails, and several structures including Rustic Style Floral Hall. At project's end, Forest Park was the most ambitious in the city park system.

The evolution of Floral Hall can be traced to late 1938 when the Snohomish County Gladiolus Society pointed out the need for a public exhibition hall, preferably in a city park, where flower and garden clubs could hold their annual shows. The idea was warmly received by the Everett Parks Board and preparations quickly fell into place. The new hall was estimated to cost just over \$6,000 and was to be sited in Forest Park on a knoll near the buildings housing the community's zoo. The design of the buildings called for a raised stage, a fireplace, and a veranda running the length of the north and west walls of the building. In announcing the project, the city also revealed that the building would be constructed using labor funded by the WPA and the design would employ the Rustic Style of federal park architecture, using specially selected logs from the Three Lakes area east of Everett.

The official ground breaking ceremony was held on February 6, 1939, with Mrs. George Carter, president of the Gladiolus Society, turning the first spadeful of earth in the presence of a distinguished group that included park superintendent Walter Hall (whose visionary plan led to the transformation of Forest Park) and Mrs. Oden Hall, widow of the recently deceased previous park superintendent and an honorary member of the park board.

But these beginnings proved something of a false start. Work had barely advanced at all as late as the summer of 1939, a period of considerable turmoil and controversy for the WPA during which time cutbacks, closure of the Everett office, and a Workers Alliance strike inflicted delays on the Floral Hall project. Garden clubs in the city used the hiatus to stage a fund raising effort to furnish the new facility.

Finally, in the fall of 1939, a full crew of eight carpenters and a number of helpers took up the construction in earnest. By the first week of October they had begun work on the roof trusses and ridge pole assembly, which were cut, fitted, and bolted together on the ground, then hoisted into place. Though work stretched into 1940, Everett's new exhibition hall was soon ready for use.

See continuation sheet

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

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Initially used as an exhibition hall, Floral Hall evolved through the years as a multi-purpose facility. As public social events, dances, and reunions occurred with increasing frequency, the hall's simple amenities, which originally consisted of little more than a drinking fountain and restrooms tucked under the stage, were deemed inadequate. To gain more interior space, the west porch was enclosed and modified into a modern kitchen. The south end of the same porch has been converted into restrooms because the original facilities presented problems of access for the elderly and handicapped. Despite these alterations, the hall retains its basic integrity and the rustic character of the structure is well preserved. In 1942, a bronze plaque honoring former superintendent Oden Hall was installed in the north wall of the structure. This is a distinctive memorial with a low relief portrait of the man who was the first superintendent of the city's park system.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Everett Daily Herald. "Work Launched on Floral Hall," February 8, 1939.  
Everett Daily Herald. "Floral Hall Work is Begun," February 6, 1939.  
Everett Daily Herald. "Floral Hall Begins to Take on Shape," October 4, 1939.  
National Park Service, Park Structures and Facilities, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1938.  
Tweed, William C. National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-42. National Park Service, 1977.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 Record #

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

A	<u>10</u>	<u>558340</u>	<u>5311830</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is a rectangular parcel, the boundaries of which are shown as the dotted line on the accompanying survey base map, drawn to a scale of approximately 1" = 200'.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

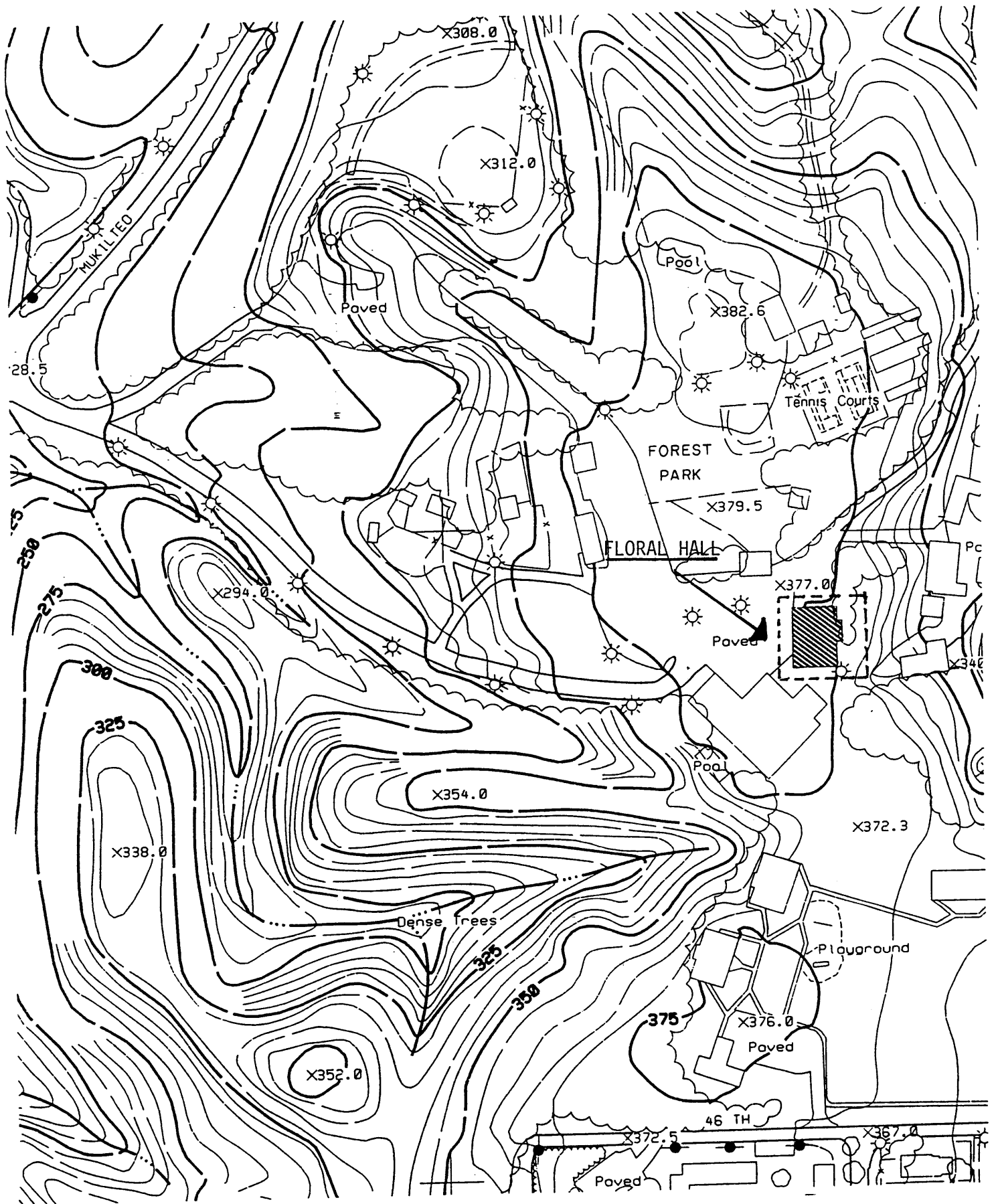
The nominated parcel includes Floral Hall and its immediate lawn. Because the structure has discrete historical and architectural associations, no other parts of Forest Park are included in the nomination.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/title David Dilgard  
organization Everett Historical Commission  
street & number Everett Public Library, 2702 Hoyt  
city or town Everett

date July 14, 1989  
telephone (206) 259-8790  
state Washington zip code 98201



--- = boundary

# FLORAL HALL

Everett, Snohomish Co., WA