### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_\_ Page

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 06000731

Hoquiam Olympic Stadium Property Name

Grays Harbor WA County State

Date Listed: 8/22/2006

#### N/A

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

L Signature of the Keeper

Amended Items in Nomination:

8/22/06

Date of Action

#### Significance:

Area of Significance. Government/Politics is added as an area of significance under Criterion A. [The nomination supports a case for the significance of the stadium as an excellent illustration of the enormous contributions of governmental public work programs such as the WPA to local community development during the Depression era.]

Period of Significance. The Period of Significance is amended to read: 1938-1956. [The nomination cites Criteria A and Recreation/Entertainment as the grounds for eligibility of this property. Normally, properties nominated under Criterion A have an extended period of significance that runs beyond the date of the completion of the building to define a broader period of significance that reflects the length of time the property was associated with the important activities which qualify it for listing in the National Register. If that period continues up to the present, the period should be terminated at the 50 year mark. While a part of the significance for the stadium may well lie in its reflection of the significant works efforts of the WPA (see above) during the Depression, it does not seem appropriate to leave the basis for eligibility at that point alone and not recognize the continuing role of the stadium as an focal point of recreational development in the community.]

These clarifications were confirmed with the WA SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION: National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and activity. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter-"N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

Historic name

4.

### HOQUIAM OLYMPIC STADIUM

RECEIVED 2280

Other names/site number

2. Location		
street & number	2811 Cherry Street	not for publication
city or town	Hoquiam	vicinity
State <u>Washingto</u>	on code WA county Grays Harbor code 027	_ zip code98550

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

nomination request for determination of e National Register of Historic Places and mee opinion, the property meets does not	al Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I here ligibility meets the documentation standards for registeri ts the procedural and professional requirements set forth meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that th ally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comment	ng properties in the in 36 CFR Part 60. In my s property be considered
Signature of certifying official/Title	<u>B·i6·06</u> Date	.,
State or Federal agency and bureau	TE HISTONIC PARSENNA	nad affice
In my opinion, the property meets do additional comments.)	bes not meet the National Register criteria. ( See con	tinuation sheet for
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau		
National Park Service Certification		
areby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action



HOQUIAM OLYMPIC STADIUM	1	GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY, WA Page 2	of 4
5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) private X public-local public-State public-Federal	Category of Property (Check only one box X building(s) district site structure object	Number of Resources within Pro (Do not incl. previously listed resource Contributing Non-Contributing 1	s in the count.)
Name of related multiple property lis (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a m		Number of contributing resources p listed in the National Register	reviously
N/A		NONE	
6. Functions or Use			· · · · ·
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	
RECREATION AND CULTU	RE:	RECREATION AND CULTURE	
Sports Facility		Sports Facility	
7. Description	······································		
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions)	
OTHER:		foundation <u>CONCRETE</u>	
		walls WOOD: Shingle	
		roof ASPHALT	
		other	
		••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••	

#### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Record#\_

8. Stat	ement of Significance	
Applic (Mark "	able National Register Criteria x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
property for Natic	nal Register listing.)	ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
<sub>х</sub> А	Property is associated with events that have	ARCHITECTURE
	made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	
В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	·
<u>x</u> c	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1938
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
	a Considerations <" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates
		1938
Proper	ty is:	
A	owed by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person
в	removed from its original location.	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
c	a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation
D	a cemetery.	
E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
F	a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder
G	less than 50 years old or achieving significance	WPA (builder)
	within the past 50 years.	
	ive Statement of Significance in the significance of the property.) SEE CONTINUATION	ON SHEET
9. Maj	or Bibliographical References	
	graphy books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)	SEE CONTINUATION SHEET
Previo	us documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested	State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency
	previously listed in the National Register	Federal agency
	previously determined eligible by the National Register	Local government University
	designated a National Historic Landmark	Other
	# recorded by Historic American Engineering	Name of repository:

HOQUIAM OLYMPIC STADIUM

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10. Geographica	I Data							
Acreage of Prope	erty <u>A</u>	pproximately	3 acres					
UTM References (Place additional UT	M References	on a continuation	sheet.)					
1 10 4 Zone Eas	34 600 sting	52 03 Northing	143	3 10 Zone	4 S Easting	34 766	52 03 Northing	143
2 10 4 Zone Eas	34 766 sting	52 03 Northing	952	4 10 Zone	4 S Easting	34 600	52 03 Northing	952
Verbal Boundary (Describe the bounda	•	erty.)	See contir	nuation sł	neet.			
Boundary Justifie (Explain why the bour		lected.)	See contir	nuation sł	neet.			
11. Form Prepare	ed By							•
name/title	James Ta	annahill Larsso	n					
organization					date	Nov. 2005	5	
street & number	717 Bluff				telephone	(360) 532	-8062	
city or town	Hoquiam	1		state	WA	zip code	98550	
Additional Docur	nentation					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		······································
Submit the following i	items with the c	ompleted form:	<u> </u>					
Continuation She	eets							

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner	(Complete this item at the request of t	he SHPO or FP	0.)		
name	City of Hoquiam				
street & number	609 8th Street		telephone	(360) 532-5700 ext. 240	
city or town	Hoquiam	state	WA	zip code98550	

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet – Hoc

HOQUIAM OLYMPIC STADIUM HOQUIAM, WASHINGTON

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### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

Completed in 1938, Hoquiam Olympic Stadium is a heavy-timber utilitarian structure built to house over 10,000 baseball and football fans. Due to alterations, today the stadium can set up to 7,500 people. Standing the test of time, the structure still retains its original use and function. It is located east of the downtown core of the City of Hoquiam, Washington and is owned by the city, which leases the facility to the school district for sporting events and other organizations.

The stadium lies on a 9.2 acre site which is used for a variety of purposes. Besides the large wooden Olympic Stadium, also on site are two concrete block concession/restroom facilities, two maintenance/storage buildings, batting cages and two small little league baseball diamonds with their own grandstands (see attached site plan). The parcel is bounded on the south side by Cherry Street, and on the north by a steep tree-covered hill, known as Beacon Hill. To the west is 28<sup>th</sup> Street, and to the east is the Washington Elementary School. Also on site, just west of the stadium proper is an asphalt parking area.

The City of Hoquiam originally bought the property in 1929 for a public playfield adding to its size in 1938 and 1953. Construction of the facility started on May 23, 1938 and was officially completed in March of 1939.

The physical structure of Olympic Stadium is an old growth fir heavy-timber frame with cedar shingle siding. Built in a truncated U-shape with angled corners, the open portion of the 2½ story grandstand faces east. This orientation was used so that fans and players would be somewhat sheltered from the wind and rain coming off the Pacific Ocean, which lies just 18 miles to the west. The grandstand has a modified hipped roof with composition asphalt shingles. The eaves of the large timber trusses are boxed-in. A large shallow hip roof entrance portico shelters visitors on the southwest corner of the structure where the ticket booths and main doors are located. The timber frame rests on concrete footings.

The stadium measures approximate 390' feet on the south wing, 75' feet on the north wing, and 380' feet on the west wing. Each wing is 40' feet wide and rises to a height of approximately 30 feet. Decorative details on the exterior street façade are limited to rows of cedar shingles, door openings and signage. The south and west elevations have three newer aluminum doors and no windows. Under the entrance portico are seven doors, which allow access to the interior of the stadium, mechanical space and ticket booths. Four windows, which are covered with plywood when not in use, serve as the ticket windows.

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HOQUIAM OLYMPIC STADIUM HOQUIAM, WASHINGTON

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Above the entrance portico, arranged in an arch, is large lettering which spells: "OLYMPIC STADIUM." The letters, made from half round moldings are 31" inches in height and approximately 25" inches in width depending on the letter. Below the lettering is a round logo for Hoquiam High School denoting that the stadium is "Home of the Grizzlies."

At each end of the stadium are newer concrete handicap ramps, and rollup garage-style doors. The field portion of the stadium is generally open. Plain wooden seating extends up 13 rows. Regularly spaced 8"x 8" posts at 8'0" o.c., are found 1/3 of the way up the bleachers to support the roof. The first row of seating begins approximately three feet above the ground giving the fans a good overall view of the field. Here a three foot wide walkway with wooden railings runs across the entire field front of the stadium. Below this raised first row of seating on both the south and west facades, were dugouts for the teams. The south wing dugouts, used for the football teams have since been removed.

Hanging from the rafters on the south wing is the original press box. It is three bays long and is accessed by open wood stairs which leads to the bleachers. The original broadcasting booth for radio transmission in the northwest corner, was replaced in the early 1980s with a new compatible wooden structure.

Originally used to access the various seating sections within the grandstands, the large spaces under the stadium are mainly closed to the public. Under the west wing is a contemporary office, and various storage and mechanical rooms. A restroom and locker room are also here but are used by the management staff and are not open to the public. At the southwest corner, from which the main entry is located, are spaces for concessionaries.

The fields for the stadium are aligned east to west with the football field on the south side. Adjacent to it on the north side is the baseball field, used for minor league and semi-pro players.

Lighting for the stadium is found on large metal pole on the outside of the stadium, which extend above the roof, as well as within the field area. Installed in 1995 when the city signed a contract with the Grays Harbor Gulls, a professional minor league team, these replaced the original lighting system, which was found on short wooden towers atop the stadium roof (see historic images). In 1999, \$189,000 was spent for a drainage and irrigation system for the fields.

When the stadium was built, tennis courts were found at the north end of the parking area but were paved over in 1997. Adjacent to these on the south end were swings and teeter-

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HOQUIAM OLYMPIC STADIUM HOQUIAM, WASHINGTON

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totters for children. On the north side of the tennis court was a picnic area, complete with an open sided community kitchen. This 20' x 40' structure was constructed of round peeled logs in the tradition of the CCC. The west wing also boasted a space for an apartment for an on-site caretaker. Per historic images a brick chimney, two windows and a door have been removed.

Today the stadium remains an imposing structure in the small town of Hoquiam, WA. While some alterations have occurred to the grandstand to bring it up to modern building codes and use, they do not distract from the overall character defining features of the structure. The stadium still retains its original location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is still being used for its original purpose and serves as a point of pride for the community.

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### **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

Hoquiam Olympic Stadium, in Hoquiam, Washington is historically significant under Criterion "A" for its direct association with New Deal federal relief programs and as an example of the types of projects undertaken in local communities as part of these relief efforts. Furthermore the stadium represents the recreational history of the Grays Harbor area. The structure also meets National Register Criterion "C" as a structure that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a large wooden stadium from the Depression era. Olympic Stadium was built in 1938 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) as a multi-purpose facility. Unique in its use and size, today the structure remains the best-preserved and largest standing wooden grandstand in the United States.

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was a relief measure established in 1935 by Presidential executive order. As the largest agency of President Roosevelt's New Deal relief program congress appropriated \$4,880,000,000 to the program. The WPA was designed to offer work to the unemployed on an unprecedented scale by spending money on a wide variety of programs, including highways and building construction, slum clearance, reforestation, and rural rehabilitation. By March 1936, the WPA rolls had reached a total of more than 3,400,000 persons; after initial cuts in June 1939, employment averaged 2,300,000 people a month. By June 30, 1943, when the program was ended, the WPA had employed more than 8,500,000 different persons on 1,410,000 individual projects, and had spent about \$11 billion. During its 8-year history, the WPA built 651,087 miles of highways, roads, and streets; and constructed, repaired, or improved 124,031 bridges, 125,110 public buildings, 8,192 parks, and 853 airport landing fields.

In Washington State by 1938 the WPA employed 51,300 workers to complete a variety of projects in every county. One-third of the work was done on the construction and improvement of roads, and more than a tenth was invested in parks, playgrounds and other recreational facilities. The average monthly wage for a 110-hour work month was \$56.73. By the end of 1938, over 80 million dollars in WPA funds had been invested for projects in Washington State. Washington State headquarters for the WPA were located in Hoquiam in the Peoples Institute Building.

New deal relief programs began in Grays Harbor County, WPA district #5 (which included Grays Harbor, Mason, Pierce and Thurston counties) began around 1932 when the Washington Emergency Relief Administration (WERA, the state branch of the federal program) started work on improvements at the Port of Grays Harbor and the reservoir in

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Hoquiam. Other work included improvements to roads, bridges, the installation of sewer and water lines, the plotting and grading of a cemetery, and the construction of a fish hatchery near Aberdeen, to name a few.

One of the main New Deal relief projects in Grays Harbor County was the construction of Olympic Stadium which began in earnest when Hoquiam applied for and received a CWA (Civil Works Administration) grant in 1932 for the construction of a community stadium which would be shared between Hoquiam and Aberdeen. Despite the grant and some ground clearing activities, no action was taken and the idea of constructing a community stadium slipped to the back burner. Two years later, in 1934 the two cities were still debating the location of this intercity athletic park with Electric Park, which sat between the city limits of Aberdeen and Hoquiam, as the most likely contender. R.V. Rosenbaum, then WERA public works director for the Grays Harbor area, was ready to bring in relief workers to Electric Park for construction of a large stadium, but for reasons unknown construction was not begun.

Then on December 3, 1935 it was announced that \$258,000 for Hoquiam and \$260,000 for Aberdeen had been "allocated at Washington, DC for unannounced work projects". These funds were awarded from the newly created WPA, which was a direct outgrowth of the FERA. The next day, at a meeting between Hoquiam Mayor Ralph Philbrick, Aberdeen Mayor Herbert Horrocks and County Commissioner R.J. "Dick" Ultican, it was decided to appoint a committee to survey possible sites for a community stadium. The committee would then make a recommendation to the federal government for additional WPA funds for the stadium project. The site proposed by the committee was west of Myrtle Street in Hoquiam. However, with a long-standing rivalry between the two cities, Aberdeen was apparently not willing to spend their money for anything on Hoquiam property. Once again, plans were set aside.

In February of 1937, the WPA headquarters for the Grays Harbor area was moved from Aberdeen to Hoquiam. Donald G. Abel, the State WPA Administrator, who was a Hoquiam High School graduate and active sports fan, appointed fellow teammate and Hoquiam alumni "Dick" Graham, as the local supervisor for all WPA projects in Grays Harbor County. Graham, at the time, was also on the Hoquiam Park Board and in later years noted that it was one his "prize dreams" to build a large civic stadium in Hoquiam.

Grahams connection to the city, on top of the bitter rivalry between the two cities may have resulted in the construction of Olympic Stadium as a sole project by the City of Hoquiam. On April 12, 1938, a nine-page project proposal for a large sports stadium was presented to the City of Hoquiam. The proposal listed everything needed down to the last nut and bolt

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and the price of each item. The idea was to complete a city-wide playfield improvement project which included constructing and installing playground equipment and a broadcasting booth, tennis courts, fences, bowling greens, bleachers, score boards, backstops, wading pools, archery ranges, store room buildings, kitchens, tables, benches, clearing and excavating, installing sprinkling and lighting systems and other incidental work. The total project cost was estimated at \$69,453.61. Over forty-one thousand was to be furnished by the WPA and another \$28,000 had been pledged by the city and local businesses in materials and truck equipment. The community was very excited about the allotment and two-thousand, three hundred dollars was raised at a local meeting at the Hotel Emerson on May 11, 1938. The architect for the stadium, WPA project # 665-93-2-169, is unknown, but the plans list "A.A.O." as the drafter. No information has be found to date on these initials.

On May 23, 1938 the stadium project began with work on the site. By June the WPA had 160 carpenters, 25 helpers, and 200 laborers and five foreman on site. The turf for the stadium was brought in from the Beachway Golf Course in Aberdeen. A half a million board feet of lumber, which was donated by the Polson Lumber & Shingle Mills, was used in the construction of the stadium. The old growth fir was reportedly logged in Clallam County around Quillayute and was brought into Hoquiam for milling before being transported to the site.

As construction on the stadium progressed, it was soon realized that the WPA project bid was under estimated. On October 6, 1938, the WPA approved an additional \$51,912 for the project, bringing the total cost at this point to \$123,664. The project finish date had been set for Thanksgiving so that the Hoquiam and Aberdeen annual football game could be held at the new stadium. When it was realized that this date would not be met with the present construction crew, a night crew of WPA workers was put on the job site. They worked under flood lights to ensure that the project would be finished by the big game.

On November 12, 1938, Hoquiam park board officials announced a contest to name the new playfield. The weeklong contest was open only to residents of Grays Harbor County. Much discussion ensued regarding the use of names of living persons, the use of "Hoquiam" in the title, and the use of quantifiers such as: bowl, stadium, playfield, park, arena, hippodrome acres, hollow and field. More than 750 entries were received. Six anonymous judges chose the winning entry. Stanley Erickson won the contest with the name "Hoquiam Olympic Stadium", and won a free three-year pass to all events held at the facility.

The stadium officially opened to the public on November 24, 1938, the day of the big game. State WPA Administrator, Don Able was asked to present the new Hoquiam Athletic Field to the city. The grand dedication ceremonies also included addresses by the Mayor Reuben

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Sandstrom, Governor Clarence Martin and congressman Martin F. Smith, as well as a flag raising ceremony held by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, and the combined bands of Hoquiam and Aberdeen high school playing "The Star Spangled Banner." At 12:15, the name of the new stadium was announced. As both teams came out on the new field the Aberdeen rooters club performed marching drills. At 1:00pm, the bands played "America" while a large flag was unfurled, followed by fireworks and the release of pigeons, signifying the beginning of the game.

Hoquiam fans were seated at the east end of the main stadium, and the Aberdeen fans were seated in the west stands. Much to the delight of the local crowd, the Hoquiam Grizzlies won the game with what was then called an "easy 12-0 victory."

The game was held in the afternoon due to the fact that the lighting for the stadium was not finished. Almost a year had passed when in August 1939 the new system was completed. Well worth the wait, the high quality lighting system consisted of one-hundred and sixty-two, 1500 watt globes mounted on a system of poles and towers. This number was well above the minimum required for league play, but set the facility at the cutting edge of stadium design. During WWII, the lights sat dark, due to the fear of enemy bombing attacks.

When Olympic Stadium first went into use, there were four gates on the south side (Cherry Street) and three on the west side (28<sup>th</sup> Street). These were accessed via double doors under the main entry, which then branched into long corridors out under the bleachers amidst the intricate structure of the stadium. High School students from various clubs would take tickets at the door. Fans entered the stadium via the long corridors (which were lit by small windows (now removed), then up a short ramp and directly into the section in which you would sit. Before entering the long corridors, fans would pass a small concession area.

The far eastern end of the Cherry Street portion of the stadium was open to the ally with a fence that could be opened or closed during and after games for easy exit of the stadium. On the east end of the north portion of the stadium was an area for storage. Also under the stadium were public restrooms and locker rooms for the home and visiting teams. These separate rooms have been removed due to fire and safety issues.

The stadium continued to be used for a variety of events for the next forty-five plus years. Through the 1940s, the stadium was home to a local 8-team baseball circuit called the Industrial League. Then the semi-pro Harborites team used the stadium through the 1950s and 60s. Vice President Henry Wallace commanded a crowd of 5,000 to Olympic Stadium in 1948 for an ill-fated campaign for the presidency. Soccer, conventions, Forth of July fireworks displays, Loggers Playday, and a variety of name bands utilized the stadium. In

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1965 the facility played host to the Northwest Regional Babe Ruth world series tournament. In the 1970s the stadium served as home to a variety of official minor league teams including the Grays Harbor Ports (1976), and the Grays Harbor Loggers (1977-80). By the late 1970s however, the stadium and grounds began to show signs of deferred maintenance.

In 1980, a \$1.5 million dollar bond was passed by Hoquiam voters to rehabilitate Olympic Stadium. Improvements included a new roof, reinforcement of the roof truss, the construction of restroom and concession facilities in new buildings, foundation repairs, entrance modifications, sprinkler system, electrical improvements, sanitary storm sewer installation, some exterior wall improvement and in the construction of handi-cap ramps. Most of the work was designed by the local firm of Berglund, Lenius & Schmidt.

Today the Stadium is still used by Hoquiam High School teams, Grays Harbor College teams, Little League teams and their World Series event. In addition the stadium is used for a variety of community events such as circuses, concerts, heritage festivals, carnivals, antique car rallies, and high school graduation ceremonies.

#### CONCLUSION

Olympic Stadium has made significant contributions to the historic, cultural, social and architectural fabric of Hoquiam and Washington State. From 1935 to 1940, the WPA in Washington state built 555 public buildings and reconstructed and modernized 880 other buildings. The Stadium, owned by the City of Hoquiam, is the best example of the work of the WPA in the community and is the last standing of its kind in the state.

Today Olympic Stadium is the only known WPA constructed football/baseball grandstand known to be standing in the state. The WPA constructed many facilities across the state. By 1940 the WPA reported they had constructed 48 new stadiums, grandstands and bleachers with an aggregated seating capacity of 80,360. This included the construction of 83 new athletic fields. Reportedly 14 grandstands/bleachers were completed by the WPA in King County alone. However all fourteen have been demolished. Olympic Stadium was the crown jewel of such facilities in size and capacity. For instance the Issaquah facility held 1,500 fans, while the stadium in Enumclaw held 2,500 fans. The closest facility in size was the grandstand in West Seattle, but at a capacity of 3,800 people, was far short of Olympic Stadium's capacity of 10,000+ fans.

Olympic Stadium also holds the distinction of being largest standing example of a large WPA era wooden grandstand in the nation. Amateur ballpark historians Eric and Wendy Pastore, who are the undisputed experts on ballparks across the nation according to the Baseball Hall of Fame, have visited 280 standing ballparks across North America. The Pastore's note that

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Hoquiam Olympic Stadium to their knowledge, is the largest all-wooden grandstand in the United States and maybe in the world. Once prominent, all-wooden ballparks from any era are disappearing rapidly from the built environment. Among the lost large wooden ballparks are Johnson Field in Aberdeen, South Dakota (1936, demolished in 1975). The park held approximately 2,000 fans however, far shy of the capacity of Olympia Stadium. Other WPA era wooden ballparks include Memorial Park in Quakertown, Pennsylvania, but it only holds 850 fans. Cardines Field in Newport Rhode Island, while large in size and built by the WPA, like many stadiums it incorporates other non-wooden materials, such as stone and concrete. Bristol Municipal Stadium in Bristol, Tennessee was also built by the WPA but the exterior is stone. The WPA built Roosevelt Stadium (1937) in Union City, New Jersey is stucco sheathed bricks. Carson Park Baseball Stadium (1936) in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, is steel concrete and sandstone.

The only known comparable WPA constructed all-wooden stadium is Jay Littleton Ballpark in Ontario, California. Constructed in 1935-37, the all-wooden park houses 3,500 fans and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The grandstand is about half the size of Olympic Stadium, most likely due to the use of the facility for baseball purposes only. Olympic Stadium with a 10,000+ seating capacity encompasses both a baseball diamond and separate football field. Other differences include the fully enclosed grandstand seating wall at Olympic (which was constructed to shield the harsh winds and weather from a nearby coastal inlet) vs. Littleton Ballpark's open stadium seating wall (which was left open for air circulation to cool fans on the hot summer days of the California sun).

The uniqueness of Hoquiam Olympic Stadium is two-fold. Its large size was most likely precipitated by the need to create a facility which could house both baseball and football games. Other larger communities such as Seattle would have been a more likely candidate for such a large facility, yet the stadium was constructed in Hoquiam, a community of just 10,835 people in 1940. As such the stadium could almost hold the entire population of the city when it was constructed. The large size of the facility may have been the result of political favoritism on the part of WPA administrator for Washington State, Don Able. Able was a Hoquiam High School graduate and avid sports fan.

General WPA guidelines and architectural review stressed modern designs and materials for construction projects. An overly-large all-wooden stadium was most likely the result of the facilities location; in a timber rich region such as Grays Harbor County. Furthermore, WPA Administrator Abel touted the economic use of rough and finished lumber from Washington mills in the construction of a variety of WPA projects. He noted that in excess of one million dollars for lumber had been expended by sponsors of WPA projects. "Not only does WPA use lumber on an extensive level, but maximum application is made of the material

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purchased. Whenever feasible, temporary construction material is salvaged for similar purposes later, or for hidden construction work on a new building or on permanent improvements" said Able in a April 30, 1939 WPA press release. The news release noted that the largest amount of lumber used on WPA projects was for the erection of athletic facilities in dozens of communities throughout the state. The press release mentions notable projects in West Seattle, Hoquiam, Bellingham, and Everett. In Hoquiam, the lumber for the stadium was donated by the local lumber yard.

Hoquiam Olympic Stadium is significant for its direct association with New Deal federal relief programs. The stadium is a rare surviving example of the types of projects that were undertaken by local communities as part of these relief efforts. Unique in its use and size, today the structure remains the best-preserved and largest standing wooden grandstand in the United States. The stadium embodies the distinctive characteristics of a large wooden stadium from the Depression era.

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HOQUIAM OLYMPIC STADIUM HOQUIAM, WASHINGTON

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HOQUIAM OLYMPIC STADIUM HOQUIAM, WASHINGTON

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet – Hoc

HOQUIAM OLYMPIC STADIUM HOQUIAM, WASHINGTON

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The nominated area is located in Section 07, of Township 17, Range 09, east of the Willamette Meridian in Grays Harbor County, Washington. It is legally described as HOQ AC TAX 2 of Hoquiam, WA. It is otherwise known as Assessor's Parcel Number: 517090721004.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The nominated property includes the footprint of the building and the two athletic fields. It does not include the newer intrusions on the parcel, like the metal storage buildings, the concession stands and the batting cages (see attached map).

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet - Hot

HOQUIAM OLYMPIC STADIUM HOQUIAM, WASHINGTON

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#### Photo Log Historic Phot

listori	c Photos:	
1.	Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "Olympic Stadium under construction" Circa May 1938 Photographer unknown	Grays Harbor County
2.	Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "Stadium under construction" Infield view Circa May 1938 Photographer unknown	Grays Harbor County Olympic
3.	Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "Olympic Stadium Dedication Ceremony" November 1938 Photographer unknown	Grays Harbor County
4.	Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "Olympic Stadium Night Game" Circa 1940 Photographer unknown	Grays Harbor County
5.	Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "Postcard View" Circa 1942 Photographer unknown	Grays Harbor County
6.	Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "Ariel View of Olympic Stadium looking NW' April 20, 1941 Stan Spiegle Photographer	Grays Harbor County
7.	Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "Ariel View of Olympic Stadium looking SE" April 20, 1941 Stan Spiegle Photographer	Grays Harbor County
8.	Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "Ariel View of Olympic Stadium looking Wes October 12, 1948 Stan Spiegle Photographer	Grays Harbor County t″
9.	Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "Ariel View of Olympic Stadium looking East October 12, 1948 Stan Spiegle Photographer	Grays Harbor County ."

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Current Photos:
17. Hoquiam Olympic Stadium
2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA
"Boiler Room"
May 25, 2006
Cecil L. Herrington Photographer
21. Hoquiam Olympic Stadium
2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA
"SE corner of Stadium"
May 25, 2006

Hoquiam Olympic Stadium
 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA
 "View of infield towards NE corner"
 May 25, 2006
 Cecil L. Herrington Photographer

Cecil L. Herrington Photographer

- 23. Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "Infield view towards west facade" May 25, 2006 Cecil L. Herrington Photographer
- 24. Hoquiam Olympic Stadium
  2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA
  "Detail of Roof Canopy"
  May 25, 2006
  Cecil L. Herrington Photographer
- 25. Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "Infield View" May 25, 2006 Cecil L. Herrington Photographer
- Hoquiam Olympic Stadium
   2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA
   "Infield View"
   May 25, 2006
   Cecil L. Herrington Photographer
- 27. Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "NE Corner of Stadium" May 25, 2006 Cecil L. Herrington Photographer
- 28. Hoquiam Olympic Stadium
  2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA
  "NE Corner of Stadium"
  May 25, 2006
  Cecil L. Herrington Photographer

Grays Harbor County

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29.	Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "View Down West Facade" May 25, 2006 Cecil L. Herrington Photographer	Grays Harbor County	
30.	Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "View Down North Facade" May 25, 2006 Cecil L. Herrington Photographer	Grays Harbor County	
31.	Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "Detail of Exterior Facade" May 25, 2006 Cecil L. Herrington Photographer	Grays Harbor County	
32.	Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "Close-up of Main Entry" May 25, 2006 Cecil L. Herrington Photographer	Grays Harbor County	
33.	Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "Main Entry" May 25, 2006 Cecil L. Herrington Photographer	Grays Harbor County	
34.	Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "Main Entry" May 25, 2006 Cecil L. Herrington Photographer	Grays Harbor County	
35.	Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "Main Entry" May 25, 2006 Cecil L. Herrington Photographer	Grays Harbor County	
36.	Hoquiam Olympic Stadium 2811 Cherry Street, Hoquiam, WA "Detail of Signage" May 25, 2006 Cecil L. Herrington Photographer	Grays Harbor County	





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