

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

RECEIVED  
JUN 13 1990

# 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 Gate School  
other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number 16925 Moon Road S.W.  not for publication  
city, town Rochester  vicinity  
state Washington code WA county Thurston code 034 zip code 98579

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input 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	—	— objects
		<u>1</u>	— Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Rural Public School Buildings in Washington State  
0

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

### 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.

Jacob G. [Signature] Date 6/1/90  
Signature of certifying official  
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. Entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. 7/19/90  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

---

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: school

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social: meeting hall

---

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: gable roof vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls wood: weatherboardroof metal: tin

other

---

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located 20 miles south of Olympia in southeastern Thurston County, the Gate School is a well preserved frame structure sited on the original schoolyard adjacent to a main road. The one story, one-room school retains its original form, fenestration, and cladding, and is simply ornamented with bracketed eaves, exposed rafters, and the original belfry.

The frame building is rectangular in form, has a gable roof, and rests on a poured concrete foundation. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal roofing, the eaves have exposed rafter tails, and gable-end fascia boards are supported by ornamental brackets. The roofline is broken by a simple brick chimney at the rear and a square, louvered belfry with a pyramidal roof which is flush with the front (east) facade.

Walls are clad with drop siding and cornerboards, and vertical boards skirt the foundation. The roof extends down at the southeast corner to cover the projecting entry vestibule. The vestibule is entered through a panelled door and is approached by a recent handicapped-access ramp with wooden railings. A small shed-roofed porch on the west facade shelters a rear entry door.

Fenestration consists of groups of tall, narrow, double-hung sash with six-over-six lights on the north facade and four-over-four lights on the east facade. The windows have plain surrounds. They are all intact but boarded over (except for one on the north side) to prevent vandalism.

The interior retains its historic appearance including a drinking fountain in the foyer, the original blackboards, room arrangement, flooring and beaded wainscoting. The only interior alteration is the installation of toilet rooms in the former cloakroom space.

---

**8. Statement of Significance**

---

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)

Education

Period of Significance

1910-1939

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

---

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

The Gate School is historically significant for its association with rural public education in Thurston County and the development of the community of Gate. The simple frame school, with decorative brackets, large windows and belfry, is characteristic of early 20th century school buildings in Thurston County. Sited on the original grounds, the school is one of the few remaining structures from the once thriving town of Gate, and the only public building from the town's significant period of growth. The schoolhouse is exceptionally well preserved and continues in use as a community center. It meets the registration requirements established for the property type in the Rural Public Schools multiple property documentation form.

Historical Background: The town of Gate was founded in 1881 but came to life during the later part of the 19th century with the extension of the railroad through the area. The townsite was platted in 1890 by Sam Woodruff of Olympia. When the Northern Pacific extended its line to Grays Harbor in 1890 and 1891, a junction was made here to build to Centralia and connect with the Portland line. This junction was called at first "Gate City" and later "Gate" because it was considered the "Gateway to the Coast."

The Northern Pacific secured the gravel for its ballast near Gate on the Mima Prairie and operated its own quarry and sawmill just west of Gate. North of Gate in the Black Hills were numerous logging camps both before and after the turn of the century. Gate was also a chief trading station for the Chehalis Indian Reservation which adjoined the town two miles to the southeast. Gate City Lumber Co. had a sawmill, planing and shingle mill at Gate and Ferndale Lumber shipped from Gate. Several businesses which welcomed Black Hills loggers and a railroad station lined the tracks. But fires in 1902 and 1918 destroyed much of the town which suffered further decline with the depletion of timber and closure of mills.

The schoolhouse was built in 1910 on land donated by Ty Mounts as a one-room school, replacing an earlier structure at another location. The school housed grades one through four in District 9. The building was also used as a meeting place for community events and for the Gate Homemakers Club. Consolidation with the Rochester School District in 1941 led to the closure of the school, after which the building was used as a community center.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Rathbun, J.C., History of Thurston County, Washington. Olympia, 1895.  
The Coast, March 1909, p. 207.  
Wheat, Dan, "Gate? Yes, But Memories of Old Logging Town are Fading Fast". Olympian,  
April 9, 1978.  
Material from the Gate Homemakers Club.

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 2.25 acres

UTM References

A	<u>10</u>	<u>489480</u>	<u>5187025</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 26 of Township 16 North, Range 4 W.W.M. Commencing 796.5 feet south of the northeast corner, south 358.5 feet, west 273 feet, north 385.5 feet, east 273 feet. Parcel No.: 14626410200.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire parcel that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/title Shanna Stevenson, Preservation Planner  
organization Thurston County Historic Commission  
street & number 2000 Lakeridge Drive S.W.  
city or town Olympia

date May 1989  
telephone (206) 786-5554  
state Washington zip code 98502

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

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

Section number Photographs Page 1

---

Gate School  
Rochester vicinity, Thurston County, Washington  
Photo by: Tom Costantini  
March 25, 1985  
Negative at: Washington State Office of  
Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
111 West 21st Avenue, KL-11  
Olympia, Washington  
Southeast corner  
Photograph No. 1 of 1