

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUL 7 1987

NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Boistfort High School
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 983 Boistfort Road not for publication
city, town Curtis vicinity
state Washington code 053 county Lewis code 041 zip code 98538

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>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Rural Public Schools in Washington

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.

Signature of certifying official *David E. Iron* Date 6/25/87

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:) _____

Albous Byen Entered in the National Register 8/6/87

Signature of the Keeper *fu* Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: school

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: vernacular hipped roof

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls wood: weatherboard

roof other: composition shingle
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Boistfort High School is a two story frame structure built in 1918 and located in the center of the rural Boistfort Valley in Lewis County. The schoolhouse grounds are surrounded by expansive farmlands, and the south fork of the Chehalis River, which bisects the valley as it runs from the southeast to the northwest, lies 100 yards south of the school. The front (west) facade of the school is partially obscured by large coniferous trees on the front lawn. To the rear of the structure is a gymnasium constructed in the 1960s and to the north of the school is a brick elementary school constructed in the 1930s. Neither of the later school buildings is physically connected to the high school or included in the nomination.

The school is a rectangular building constructed of a wood frame and resting on a concrete foundation. The building has a hipped roof with a flat deck and broadly extended boxed eaves. A single brick chimney rises from the rear slope of the hipped roof. The roof is covered with composition shingles.

The exterior walls of the structure are faced in one-by-six inch cedar clapboards. The central portion of the front facade projects beyond the corner entry bays. On the rear, a narrow central entry bay projects beyond the facade. Twelve-over-one double-hung wood sash windows are disposed regularly across the building and are banded in groups of three, four, and five windows to create banks of light and ventilation.

On the front facade, windows are arranged in three groups of three double-hung windows. The windows on the second story have transoms of six lights. Windows on the rear are grouped in bands of three and four windows on the second story and five windows on the ground story. All the windows are framed with simple wooden surrounds.

Entry to the front facade is provided through the side walls of the two recessed corner entry bays. The original porticoes which sheltered the entries have been removed and the original double leaf doors on the front facade of the bays were closed and replaced with new double doors in the side walls. The doors are accessed by sheltered concrete ramps constructed in the 1960s to accommodate handicapped students. Entry to the rear of the structure is made through double leaf wood panelled doors in the central bay.

The interior plan of the school is organized along wide double loaded corridors on both floors which run parallel to the front facade. On the first floor, a gymnasium dominates the central front bay of the building. The original wood floors in the gym are intact and wood wainscoting still lines the room. Balconies at either end of the gym overlook the floor. Across the hall are several classrooms which retain many original details including wood picture rails, chair rails, and chalkboards. The second floor has a large home economics room and several classrooms along the east wall; a library and assembly hall are on the west side above the gymnasium. The assembly room includes a raised stage at the north end, with small alcoves to either side of the platform. Throughout the school, the original fir flooring, paneled doors, and simple door and window surrounds have been retained.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Education

Period of Significance
1918 - 1937

Significant Dates
n/a

Cultural Affiliation
n/a

Significant Person
n/a

Architect/Builder
C.E. Troutman and C.A. Haynes

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

The Boistfort High School is significantly associated with the growth of public education in the rural Boistfort Valley of Lewis County, Washington. Constructed in 1918, the school was the first structure in the valley built exclusively to accommodate a high school curriculum (and one of only two rural high school buildings in the county at the time). The new school served students from several rural districts that had been consolidated a few years earlier and its construction reflected both an increase in high school attendance and the evolution of the educational system in the early 20th century. When finished, the new school boasted such progressive amenities as an indoor gymnasium with locker rooms and spectator balconies; an auditorium with stage; and up-to-date classroom facilities. The school continued to serve the school district until 1978. Despite alterations to the side entries and the construction of more recent school structures on nearby parcels, the Boistfort High School retains excellent integrity of form, fabric, and association and clearly reflects its role as the leading educational facility in the valley.

Historical Background: The Boistfort Valley, bisected by the South Fork of the Chehalis River, is a fertile farm region first settled by Americans in the 1850s. Prior to agricultural development, the valley featured a treeless prairie about one and one-half miles long (running north to south) and about one mile wide. The South Fork of the Chehalis marked the eastern edge of the prairie; Stillman Creek formed the west boundary. The rest of the valley was tree covered until cleared by settlers.

Blockhouses were built in the valley during the Indian Wars of 1855-1856, but the area saw no violence and farmers gradually settled in. The agricultural economy of the valley boomed in the late 19th century when Herman Klaber cultivated a large hops crop. By 1910, hops were raised on over 900 acres in Lewis County, including 140 acres on Klaber's land.

From 1912 to 1920, the Klaber farm was reputedly the largest hop yard in the county, and thousands of pickers migrated to the area--then known as Klaber Valley--during harvesting season each year. Both Indians and whites picked the crop, as did young and old. In fact, school was postponed during the picking months. Klaber himself did not live to enjoy all the years of prosperity, however; he died on the Titanic in 1912. In the following years, the farm gradually declined due in part to mismanagement and hindered by crop diseases and Prohibition.

Education in the Valley: The educational history of the valley began shortly after first settlement. In 1855, the territorial government set aside land for the future

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Bibb, Thomas, History of Early Common School Education in Washington, University of Washington Press, Seattle, 1929.
- Bowden, Angie Burt, Early Schools of Washington Territory, Seattle, 1935.
- Report of the Lewis County School Superintendents to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1916-1920, State Archives, Olympia.
- "University of Washington Might Have Been Boistfort's" and "Boistfort Valley Was Home to Hops," Chehalis Daily Chronicle, Thursday, April 23, 1987, p. A-8.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

State Archives, Olympia

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one

USGS Quad: Boistfort (7.5'), WA Scale: 1: 24,000

UTM References

A

1	0	4	8	9	8	8	0	5	1	5	4	9	2	0
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 located on Lewis County Assessor parcel #16019 (Lot 8, south 1/2, J.H. Hogue Donation Land Claim) in Section 1, Township 12 North, Range 4 West, W.M., and is verbally described thusly: Beginning at the northeast intersection of the Boistfort Road and the McDonald Pe Ell Road, proceed northerly along the Boistfort Road approximately 1,180 feet to the southeast corner of the intersection of the Boistfort Road

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the high school and its immediate front lawn. The nominated property does not include any other grounds or structures on the parcel. The original grounds have been altered with the construction of later school buildings and a parking lot.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ina Greear (edited by L. Garfield, OAHF)

organization n/a date Rev. May 1987

street & number General Delivery telephone 206/245-3768

city or town Curtis state WA zip code 98538

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University of Washington in the Boistfort Valley. Three years later the action was rescinded, and a tract in Seattle was selected for the university. But local education had a more successful start. In 1853, the first school was organized and taught by Mrs. Mary Buchanan Newland in her home. Her husband, Thomas W. Newland, was the county school superintendent from 1854 to 1856. By 1855, a schoolhouse of spilt cedar planks had been built and was used for classes during the summer months. The first students provided their own books and slates.

In the following years, a new schoolhouse was built closer to the center of the valley and pupils came from as far as five miles away to attend District One school. In the ensuing decades of the 19th century, districts were formed throughout the area and a variety of one-room schoolhouses were constructed. By the early 20th century, school districts 1, 34, 39, 65, 67, 70, 71, and 94 served children in the valley.

In 1910, these eight rural school districts were consolidated into District No. 204 (known variously in the county superintendent's records as the Klaber Consolidated District and the Boistfort Consolidated District), one of the first consolidated districts in Lewis County. Lower grades continued to be taught at various schoolhouses but eighth grade through high school classes were held at the Boistfort Church. In the summer of 1912, a three room schoolhouse, with room for both lower grades and high school classes, was built across the river from the first schoolhouse and the first high school diplomas were awarded to valley students in 1916. But the facility proved too small for the growing high school population.

In the summer and fall of 1918, the present high school was constructed, built exclusively to accommodate high school students in the valley. It was an important event in the history of public education in the county. In 1920, the county superintendent reported that of more than 100 school houses under his purview, the Boistfort School was one of only three high school buildings, and one of only two located in a rural district.

The increased value of school property in district No. 204 clearly reflected construction of the new high school. In 1916, prior to construction, the total value of the ten schoolhouses and grounds in the district was \$10,200. In 1919, with the high school complete, the value of the district's property rose to \$34,229, an increase due almost entirely to the new structure.

The increased value is not surprising. The school featured a wide range of facilities including an unusual indoor gymnasium with dressing rooms, a second floor auditorium with stage, and well lighted and ventilated classrooms. By 1919, the first students moved in.

The new high school served the entire valley. Students came from miles around by foot, horseback, bicycle, and wagon. Even a few early cars in the area were employed to transport students. Several car loads of students drove south from Curtis to Klaber to the high school. One enterprising person even outfitted a flatbed truck with benches to serve as a primitive school bus, illustrating the importance of good transportation in a consolidated district.

The high school continued to serve valley school children through the 1920s and 1930s. In 1933, a larger school district was finalized--District No. 234--which included communities as far away as Meskill. The Boistfort school continued to serve as the high school for that enlarged district. In addition to its role in education, the school was a meeting place for many organizations, including the 4-H, athletic groups, and others. Although two newer school structures were built in later years (including an elementary school in the 1930s and a gymnasium in the 1960s) the high school itself continued to serve the district until the late 1970s and today remains a well preserved example of the educational history of the area.

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and the Boistfort High School drive. From this point of beginning, proceed easterly along the edge of said drive to a point 25 feet beyond the rear (easterly) wall of the nominated structure; proceed southerly along a line parallel to the rear facade of the structure to a point 25 feet beyond the south wall of the structure; proceed westerly along a line parallel to the south wall of the building to the east edge of the Boistfort Road; proceed northerly along the Boistfort Road to the point of beginning.