

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

MAY 18 1988

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 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lakeview School  
other names/site number Sunnybeam School

2. Location

street & number Island Crest Way and S.E. 68th Street  not for publication  
city, town Mercer Island  vicinity  
state Washington code WA county King code 033 zip code 98040

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>2</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>2</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.

Jacob E. Johnson May 4, 1988  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Washington State Office of Archaeology & 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. 6/16/88

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

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: school

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: school

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation wood, concretewalls wood: weatherboard

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roof compositionother 

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Lakeview School is a well preserved, two-room frame schoolhouse located on a wooded quarter-acre tract near the south end of Mercer Island, Washington. The schoolhouse was built in 1918 and is distinguished by a pedimented front entry and large banks of multi-paned windows. A small school yard provides a play field in the front of the building and a small, gable-roofed teacher's cottage is located in the rear of the property. The school yard is adjacent to a riding club and is located near a large and heavily wooded park which reflects some of the historic landscape of the area. The school property is one of the few surviving remnants of early 20th century community life on Mercer Island.

The Lakeview School is a one-story structure built on a T-plan with a main rectangular classroom unit that measures 84 feet by 28 feet and a small perpendicular rear wing that measures 22 feet by 28 feet. The schoolhouse rests on a foundation of wood posts and concrete pier blocks and is sheltered by a hipped roof with boxed eaves. The roof has been covered with composition shingles which replaced the original cedar shingles. The school is sided with clapboards; a wood belt course runs beneath the sill of the first story above the clapboard skirting. A plain frieze runs around the perimeter of the structure beneath the boxed cornice.

The pedimented portico, measuring six feet by 20 feet, shelters the central entry and projects from the front facade. The pediment is supported by unfluted Tuscan columns and features a full entablature and a bracketed raking cornice. The portico shelters a double door beneath a multi-paned transom. The doorway and transom are outlined with plain surrounds. The front door is reached by a flight of ten wood stairs. The stairs have a simple wood railing which is not original to the building.

The portico is flanked by the classroom bays, lighted by banks of wood frame windows. The north bay features a band of seven double-hung, nine-over-nine wood sash windows; the south bay features a band of seven 15-light casement windows. The north side of the north bay is lighted by a band of five windows with nine lights each.

The rear wing projects from the center of the west elevation. It is a one story hipped roof cube with a rear double door entry beneath a multi-paned transom. The north and south side walls of the rear wing are lighted by wood sash windows. A nonhistoric flat roof canopy, supported by wood posts, shelters the rear entry. A small shed roof addition is built on the rear of the building at the intersection of rear wing and the south classroom bay.

The interior of the schoolhouse features a large central entry hall with undivided classrooms to either side. The north classroom is reached through two doors while the wall

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separating the hall and the south classroom has been removed. The north classroom features original windows, blackboards, wainscoting, baseboard trim and picture rails, window and door surrounds, and a cloak room. The south classroom has been altered with the installation of a lowered ceiling and new plasterboard walls. The central hall leads to the rear wing, which includes a kitchen and restrooms. All the interior doors have five panels and operable transoms.

The teacher's cottage, located in the northwest corner of the property, was built at the time of the school and is a two-room front-gabled cottage with clapboard siding, double hung wood sash windows, and a gabled porch to shelter the front door. The cottage was altered at mid-century when a nonhistoric shed, moved from elsewhere on the property, was added to the rear of the cottage. Other changes have included re-roofing and the replacement of the original fascia board along the eaves. Several other small sheds, associated with the adjacent horse stables, are located on the rear of the property but do not seriously detract from the integrity of the setting.

**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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Not Known

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Lakeview School is significantly associated with the history of education and community life on Mercer Island, Washington. The well preserved structure, characterized by a pedimented portico and banks of multi-light windows, was constructed in 1918 and served the island's south end school children until World War II. From its inception, the school also served as a meeting place for local clubs and community groups. Today, the school is one of the few resources associated with civic life on Mercer Island in the early 20th century.

**Historical Background:**

Mercer Island, located east of Seattle in Lake Washington, remained sparsely settled throughout the late 19th century, connected to the Seattle mainland only by the ferries of the Mosquito Fleet. In 1888, the first school on the island was established by the Charles Olds family and was held in the ferry dock warehouse at Calkins Landing. Nine students attended the school, taught by Clarissa Colman, daughter of King County Commissioner James Colman. By 1890, the first permanent schoolhouse was constructed on the island's north end; by 1914, four other schools had been built including one for the island's less populated south end.

In 1918, King County School District No. 191, which included Mercer Island, voted to issue local improvement bonds to build Lakeview School, replacing the original south end building (which seated only nine students, according to county superintendent records). The new school featured well-lighted classrooms, a projecting portico, and an ample school yard. To attract teachers to the remote location, the district also built a small teachers' cottage on the grounds. Lakeview School is one of the few in the state to have retained the original teacher's cottage. Similar structures once numbered in the hundreds, reflecting a progressive reform advocated during the tenure (1913-1928) of State School Superintendent Josephine Preston, who made Washington a national leader in the construction of rural teacher's cottages. According to county superintendent's reports, the value of the new property was about \$10,000. The first year, more than 20 students were enrolled in the first, fourth, sixth, and seventh grades and classes were held for nine months. The first eighth grade class graduated the next year and for the next two decades the school enrolled both upper and lower level grammar school students. In 1941, school districts 28 and 191 merged to form District 400, and Lakeview's upper level students were subsequently bussed to the East Seattle school at the north end of the island.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Gellatly, Judy. Mercer Island: The First 100 Years (Mercer Island Bicentennial Committee: Mercer Island, 1977).  
Fellow, Mrs. John. 4043 West Mercer Way, Mercer Island, Interview, January, 1988. Mrs. Fellow is a long-time teacher at Sunnybeam School.  
Reports to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (State Archives: Olympia, 1917-1941).

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property .25

Quadrangle Name: Mercer Island Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

**UTM References**

A 

1	0
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5	5	8	6	5	0
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5	2	6	5	4	7	0
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Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is described thusly:  $E\frac{1}{2}$  of  $NE\frac{1}{4}$  of  $SW\frac{1}{4}$  of  $NW\frac{1}{4}$  less CO RCS por. Exempt  $E\frac{1}{4}$  of  $NE\frac{1}{4}$  of  $SW\frac{1}{4}$  of  $NW$  por taxable.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated parcel includes the entire property historically associated with the Lakeview School.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Leonard T. Garfield, with assistance of Mrs. Cynthia Howe  
organization Office of Archaeology & Hist. Pres. date February 1, 1988  
street & number 111 West 21st Avenue telephone (206) 586-2901  
city or town Olympia state Washington zip code 98504

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Two years after the school opened, the local civic association, the South End Improvement Club, held its first meeting in the Lakeview school, thus initiating the building's tradition as a community center. The improvement club continued to meet there for the next several decades.

In 1958, the Sunnybeam Nursery School began to hold classes in the building (as it still does). The Pioneer Youth Club (an offshoot of the South End Club) continues to own the structure.

Today, Lakeview School is one of two extant historic schools on the island. The brick East Seattle school (constructed in 1914) is located at the north end of the island; its original windows were replaced and later additions were unsympathetic to the original architecture. Lakeview is the last of the half dozen frame schools built prior to 1920 that formed the original Mercer Island school system. It is also the only structure associated with south end civic groups. The property meets the registration requirements established in the Rural Public Schools of Washington multiple property documentation form, retaining its historic form, fenestration, exterior fabric, some interior finishes, and the associated teacher's cottage and schoolhouse lawn.