

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only  
received SEP 22 1980  
date entered NOV 22 1980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Curlew School  
and/or common Old Curlew School or White School

**2. Location**

street & number off WA 4A not for publication  
city, town Curlew vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district #5  
state Washington code 53 county Ferry code 019

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Storage

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple, represented by Mr. Everett Collier (see attached sheet)  
street & number Box 238  
city, town Curlew vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Washington 99118

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ferry County Auditor  
street & number P.O. Box 498  
city, town Republic state Washington 99118

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Washington State Cultural Resource Survey: Ferry County has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date April 16, 1980  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Ferry County Planning Dept.  
city, town Republic state WA

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Curlew School is basically a rectangular, hip-roofed, frame structure resting solidly on a foundation of mortared native stone. Its main facade is dominated by a gable-roofed entry opening onto a small railed, gable-roofed porch. The building is surmounted by a striking hip-roofed bell cupola.

The earliest available photograph of the Curlew School is dated "about 1908" and is captioned "The new White School building, shortly after completion." This photo shows a building differing from the modern one in only four obvious respects: The three windows north of the entry are not present in the older photograph (it is reasonable to assume that three similar windows on the opposite side of the building's south end are contemporary with these). A small, box-like shed-roofed addition under the innermost of the front windows is also missing from the earliest picture, as is a large brick chimney. The roof, although its shape has not changed, is now surfaced with a different material. The current roof is corrugated metal, while the original appears to have been a roll roofing. The most significant difference between this early picture and all later photographs is the absence of the bell cupola. A later photograph, dated 1912, shows the cupola as it exists today, except for the presence of a flag staff which no longer surmounts it. County records mention some "additional work" on the school in 1908. Perhaps this refers to the addition of the cupola.

Other apparent additions are the large brick chimney, and a small, hip-roofed dormer beside it. A shed-roofed addition at the rear of the building houses restrooms and, according to former students, has been there at least since the 1920's.

Most of the features which give the building its distinctive style have survived intact. These include the shingle siding on the gable end of the entry, the pierced bargeboards along the edges of the entry and porch roofs, the multipaned doors and tall, entablatured windows.

Alterations to the interior of the building have been equally slight. The entry appears to be essentially unchanged since the original door stops are still in place. The building is, and apparently always has been, divided into two main class rooms with a block of smaller storage and utility rooms between them. Few substantial alterations appear to have taken place in the two larger rooms. The northernmost room's entablatured window and door surrounds match those on the building's exterior except for the newer windows in the main facade, which are not so elaborate. The southernmost room displays the simpler wood work throughout but former students report that it has been in place at least since the 1920's. Most of the interior alterations, addition of a drinking fountain, changing of ceiling heights and installation of paneling and modern windows, has taken place in the central block of small rooms. These alterations probably included a substantial change in the school's heating system, evidenced by a blocked chimney opening in a back wall and a new (1976) furnace in the basement.

On the whole, the Curlew School has changed very little through the years and provides a detailed and valuable glimpse of early education in northern Ferry County.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1907 **Builder/Architect** W. McNee and W. Bonthron

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Curlew School, often referred to as "The White School" to distinguish it from the neighboring red brick high school, has a two-fold historical significance. It was, until its closure in 1979, the oldest continuously functioning school building in Ferry county. Its construction in 1907 by a Canadian firm epitomizes the close ties between northern Ferry county and southern British Columbia which existed in the early years of this century.

This school is a member of the county's "second generation" of schools and is considerably more elaborate than its predecessors and most of its contemporaries. Most of these were simple, one and two room structures of log or frame construction, sometimes constructed by the local residents whose children used them. Many of them have been destroyed, moved to nearby ranches for use as outbuildings.

The warrants which paid for the school's construction are made out to "W. McNee and W. Bonthron" (Register of School Warrants 1899 to 1908, page 123) and a local newspaper states that "McNee and Bonthron, Grand Forks, have the Contract" ("Curlew Items" Republic News-Miner, Friday, October 4, 1907), but local residents state that the style and craftsmanship evident in the building are unmistakably the work of Angus McDougall, also of Grand Forks, British Columbia. (William Helphrey, interview #69 12-5-79). Both contractors are well known in the "Boundary Country" of British Columbia, but Mr. McDougall's work seems to have been better known in the United States, and several structures associated with his career still stand in the Danville area. He is known to have built the now-vanished Danville School, very nearly identical to the Curlew School, in 1909. Mr. Bonthron's work, on the other hand, is better known in Canada where examples of his bridges, schools and railroad section houses still stand (Colett - Bonthron - Mrs. Jan, telephone interview 11/28/79). The Curlew School is his only known work in the United States.

Whoever its Canadian creator, this American school built by a Canadian firm is a vivid reminder of the close ties linking Ferry County and the "Boundary Country" in the days of early settlement. Crossing the international boundary at that time was no more complicated than crossing a street and residents of both nations crossed "the line" regularly for shopping trips, social events, medical care and business. This practice has continued to a limited extent but Prohibition and the need to control the traffic in illegal liquor from Canada changed the casual nature of border crossings and added to the complexity of duties and inspections. Close relationships and a lively commerce still exist across the border, but the easy laissez faire which produced the Curlew School has passed.

As a reminder of the old days of easy international commerce, and as an education facility in continuous use since 1907, the Curlew School has had a significant effect on the character of the town.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bjork, Harry, Interview #50, Ferry County Cultural Resource Survey 6/14/80.

Collet, Mrs. Jan (Bonthron), Telephone Interview 11/28/79.

(See attached continuation sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property Under one acre

Quadrangle name Curlew

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A 

1	1	3	8	2	8	5	0	5	4	1	5	2	0	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B 

1	1												
Zone		Easting						Northing					

C 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

D 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

E 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

F 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

G 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

H 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

## Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property consists of Short Plat Lot 2 of Curlew Public School District No. 50, a parcel of land located in Section 14, Township 39 N, Range 33 E, W.M. in  
(See attached continuation sheet)

## List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Madilane A. Perry, Historic Preservation Planner

organization Ferry County Planning Department date 10 April 1980

street & number P.O. Box 305 telephone (509) 775-3161

city or town Republic state Washington

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

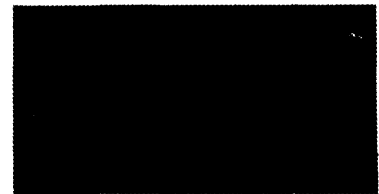
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Jeanne M. Welch

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/8/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Carol D. Shell</u>	date <u>11-28-80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Carl Dubie</u>	date <u>11/26/80</u>
Chief of Registration	

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Other owners are: Mr. Jay Stein, Mr. Durlin Gibson,  
Mr. Gene Johnson. All of whom may be reached by mail at  
21715 N.E. 72nd Ave., Battle Ground, Washington 98604.

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"Curlew Items", Republic News-Miner, Friday, October 4, 1907, P1, col. 5; Friday, October 18, 1907, P1, col. 1; Friday, November 1, 1907, P1, col. 1.

Curlew School administrators, Interviewed 12/5/79.

Helphrey, William, Interview #69, Ferry County Cultural Resource Survey 12/5/79.

Kettle River History Club, Reflections of the Kettle River Region, The Orris Press, Grand Forks B.C. 1976.

Lempkie, Tillie, Interview #24, Ferry County Cultural Resource Survey 2/6/79.

Lindsay, Carl, Interview #10, Ferry County Cultural Resource Survey 7/13/78.

Smith, Mrs. Catherine, Interview #70, Ferry County Cultural Resource Survey 12/5/79.

Treasurer's Register of school warrants, Ferry County 1898-1908.

Wheaton, Mr. Bernard A., Interview #68, Ferry County Cultural Resource Survey.

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Ferry County, Washington, described as follows:

Commencing at the Southwest corner of Block Eleven of the Townside of Curlew, as per Plat Volume 1, page 55, records of Ferry County, thence S. 68° E. 119.5 feet, thence S. 25° 28' W. 195 feet, thence S. 64° 32' E. 70 feet, thence S. 25° 28' W. 780 feet to the place of beginning, being the Northwest corner of Block 32 of an unrecorded plat, Curlew Townsite; thence S. 64° 32' East 65 feet to the true point of beginning of this description; thence continuing S. 64° 32' East 180 feet; thence S. 25° 28' West 180 feet; thence N. 64° 32' West 180 feet; thence N. 25° 28' East 180 feet to the true point of beginning of this description. Together with and subject to easements for access and utilities as shown on the Short Subdivision Plat establishing this parcel.