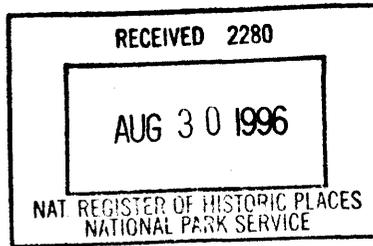


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. 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 an 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 Victor Point School

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1175 Victor Point Road SE N/A not for publication

city or town Silverton  vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Marion code 047 zip code 97381

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James Hannah August 26, 1996  
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO Date  
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Elson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register 9-27-96 Date of Action

Victor Point School

Name of Property

Marion County, Oregon

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

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)

LATE VICTORIAN: Rural Gothic (vernacular)  
Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Rock

walls Wood, weatherboards

roof Asphalt (composition shingle)

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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**VICTOR POINT SCHOOL (1889)**  
1175 Victor Point Road SE  
Silverton vicinity, Marion County, Oregon

**COMMENTS OF THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

**Procedural matters**

A letter of endorsement dated May 1, 1996 and signed by the full Board of Commissioners for Marion County, accompanies this documentation. The property owner, Victor Point School District 42C, was duly notified of the State's review date. The nomination was prepared by the Victor Point Preservation Society.

**Summary review**

The single-story, one-room building of balloon frame construction which was the original Victor Point Schoolhouse of 1889 occupies a parcel of one acre at the northeast corner of the T intersection of Doerfler Road with Victor Point Road in rural Marion County, Oregon. The school parcel, dominated by six stately firs, is located in the rolling Waldo Hills east of Salem, near the upper reaches of Drift Creek, which is tributary to the Pudding River drainage system. Across the road, on the southwest corner of the intersection, stands the modern Victor Point School which was opened after consolidation of adjoining districts in 1947. The proponents have provided detailed information on the school's general condition, its framing system, and the modifications and repairs made over time.

The old schoolhouse stands empty today. Since its closure in 1946, it was used by Victor Point School District 42C chiefly for storage. Electrical service, installed in 1938, has been discontinued. The stove and furniture were removed at the time of closure. Current plans call for restoration of the building as a historical exhibit in place and occasional classroom.

The building has the form and plain finish of characteristic of rural schools and meeting houses. It is composed as a front-gabled main volume with rectangular ground plan measuring 24 x 32 feet. It faces west onto Victor Point Road and rests on a rock pier foundation which is enclosed by a waterskirt at the east and north perimeter, where the ground slopes away slightly toward Drift Creek Canyon. Straddling the roof ridge at the east end, there once was a corbel-capped brick flue of an interior hung stove chimney. The chimney was taken down above the attic when the wood shingle roof was replaced with plywood sheathing and composition shingles in the

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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1980s. Centered on the west front is a 7 x 14-foot vestibule attachment with gable roof which historically was surmounted by an open, pyramidal-roofed belfry. The belfry was removed toward the end of the school's service, sometime after 1943. The original had been replaced by a low, hip-roofed bell cote, now missing. The exterior is clad with shiplap, or drop siding and is simply finished with capped corner boards, freize boards and boxed eaves. The front entry has a pent hood. On the south elevation, siding has been weather-protected by a covering of wood shingles. The rear face is blind. The interior is naturally lighted by tall window openings with double-hung, four-over-four sash. All window framements have architrave molding.

The original fenestration pattern consisted of four regularly-spaced windows on either side elevation. About 1930, acting on instruction that cross lighting was damaging to the eyes, the school district filled the openings in the south wall and moved the window assemblies to the north side to make up a bank of seven contiguous openings. It was at this time also windows were opened in the west front, one on either side of the vestibule. The present front door of the vestibule is not original. The original interior front door hangs in place beneath its transom, or toplight, although the upper units of its four panels are missing. The front step has been replaced by a short wood ramp.

The school interior is finished with shiplap wall and ceiling cover. Original fir tongue and groove flooring is intact. Across the east end of the room is the teacher's platform which also served as a stage for community events. At either corner of the east wall, a doorway was cut about 1930 to provide access to a kitchen lean-to which has since been removed. Within a few feet of the southwest corner of the building, the school's second well water hand pump, a cast iron model manufactured by "Deming Co.," stood before it was stolen very recently. The location of original privy sites is undetermined.

The school meets National Register Criterion C as a well-preserved, well-documented example of a once-common vernacular type. It also meets Criterion A in the area of education and social history as the focal point of the rural unincorporated community of Victor Point from 1889 to 1946. Following a typical pattern, the school served the community for social and civic occasions as well as education. For a time after 1920, when the store and gas station were removed, the old school was the only building standing to mark the center of the community.

Organized as the Victor Point Preservation Society, the proponents have traced development of the Victor Point School District in the context of rural education in Marion County east of Salem. By the 1880s, numerous schoolhouses had been established to serve the scattered farming communities lying between Silverton and Stayton. The original Victor Point School District 112

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was formed in 1889 to acquire an acre of land and construct a school. The school district's records are preserved and offer insight into how expenses were met, the school curriculum, salaries and boarding arrangements of teachers, pupil census figures, and so on. The present Victor Point School District 42C was created through consolidation of adjoining districts in 1947. Since the one-room school remained central to community life until it was superseded by the new school, the historic period of significance is correctly drawn to 1946.

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### GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND SETTING

The old Victor Point School building sits in it's original location, at the intersection of Doerfler Road and Victor Point Road. Since it remains in the public ownership of the current Victor Point School District it has been maintained and is in surprisingly good condition. The last year of operation as a school was 1945-46 and has subsequently been used as a storage building for the school district.

Unlike most small, one room schools, the building has not been seriously vandalized or modified to any great extent since it was built in 1889. The existing building no longer possesses a bell tower, the original tower fell into disrepair and was replaced with a smaller one sometime between 1943 and 1951. This one also fell into disrepair and was removed in approximately 1970. The bell was stolen from the tower sometime around 1958. The only thing that is not original on this building is the front step and the front door which were replaced in approximately 1970 with a slanting plywood ramp and a newer flush type door. In addition the electricity which was originally put in place in 1938 has been unhooked. The old hand pump and well are still in place, and may even work, although the plunger is in need of repair. The exterior has been repainted over the years, and is currently white with light blue trim. The interior appears to been repainted at some time in the distant past. Several of the windows continue to work with their spring-loaded pins not frozen or rusted. With the exception of one pane the glass in all of the windows remains intact. Any original furnishings and wall hangings have been gone for years with the exception of the library case, Robert Humphreys the school clerk since 1947, states that most of original desks were sold shortly after the closure of the school. Since the closing of the school everything stored in the building has been dry and well protected.

Recently the school house was cleaned out by the committee hoping to preserve the building. During this process we found nothing of historic significance. In the attic, there are four clay tiles, approximately 10" in diameter and 3' long. They were sitting on top of the ceiling joists, and appeared to be new. They have a bell at one end and appear to be able to hook together. At first we thought they might be clay tile well casings. The other possibility is that they are a chimney liner, and are extras. It still remains a mystery as to what they are and why they are stored up there. Under the school, in the crawlspace is a pile of three and one-half inch tongue and groove fir boards, with paint that matches the interior wall siding. In the attic of the ante room, were two pair of children's skis and a mop handle.

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### EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Victor Point School building is a rectangular, one-story, wood frame, one-room school house, measuring 32' by 24'. Sometime after initial construction of the school, a small ante room measuring 14' wide and 7' deep was added onto the front of the school. Presently we have been unable to locate a historic picture showing the school without the ante room attached. The main building, including the ante room rests on fieldstone, evenly spaced around the perimeter. There are about six stones on each of the long sides, and four across the front and back. Since the building is situated on a slope, there is approximately two feet of crawlspace under the northeast corner. With a flashlight you can see under the entire structure. Everything appears to be in very good, dry and clean condition. On the top of the fieldstone are four large beams, approximately 6" by 10" making up the rectangle of the main building. These are crudely made and hard to measure. Running in a north and south orientation are roughly sawn 2" by 10" boards of slightly varying widths which are spaced 16" on center. On each end where these floor joists meet the main beam, they have been notched to fit. Some local people have thought this to be an unusual construction technique for the time. Three and a half inch tongue and groove fir flooring is nailed to the floor joists, completing the floor structure. There is no ridgeboard, the 2"x 4" simply are cut to but up against each other forming the ridge. The same type of rough sawn 2" by 10" are used for the ceiling joists. They are also spaced at 16" on center. The roof structure is framed with rough sawn 2" x 4"'s, and 1" x 4" roof boards spaced at two inches for wood shingles. The roof is sheathed with plywood and covered with three tab composition shingles, done in the mid 1980's.

In looking under the building several times, we realized that there has been some repair work done to the foundation. Mr. Humphreys also noted that in the school board minutes from the early 1900's, there was some mention of foundation work being done. We thought that this may have meant that the ante room was to be added, but we now believe that additional support was added to the center of the building at that time. Using flashlights, it appears that a fir tree of about twelve inches in diameter was slid under the building and jacked up into place. The tree was flattened on one side (up against the floor joists) and then supported by one large rock and several round oak blocks. There are many scraps and thin shims between the oak blocks and the fir support. To me, this looks very crude, but in talking to several long time residents in the area, things were commonly fixed this way. The fir tree could have been cut on the school property, as at the time of the repair the property was abundantly wooded.

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### EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION CONTINUED

The exterior of the building is covered with it's original eight inch drop siding. The entire south side of the building including the ante room is covered with cedar shingles having a 5" exposure. Corner boards are 1" x 5" and 1" x 4", about fourteen feet high on the main structure. At the top of each cornerboard there is a 2 1/2 inch bed molding topped with a 1" x 4", making up the corner board caps. Square nails have been used throughout the construction. The detail of the eaves is as follows; against the roof edge, a 3 1/2 inch crown molding sits on top of a 1" x 4" fascia board. A 1" x 10" plancia board is nailed at a ninety degree angle to the fascia board. A 2 1/2 inch bed molding covers the junction between the plancia and the 1" x 10" frieze board. The ante eave detail is slightly more simple and consists of a 1" x 4" board, a 1" x 10" plancia board, and a 1" x 8" frieze board. The only visible damage to the eave area is on the north wall, where, on the east side the is about a 4 foot area where the crown molding is missing, due to rot.

There are seven windows on the north side of the building and one window on each side of the ante room, all are of similar design. The window openings measure 5'7 1/2" by 2' 2 1/2". The glass panes in the four over four, double hung sash measure 15 1/2" x 11 1/2". The window openings are framed with 1" x 5" boards with a 3 1/2" crown molding on the top frame. The ante room window openings are 24" x 30" and the side by side panes measure 9 1/2" x 27 1/2".

One of the things noticeable about the old building is how it seems to be leaning toward the north. In measuring we found the following: measuring at the N.E. corner, the north wall is leaning northward about 7 inches out of plumb. Measuring at the N.W. corner, the north wall is leaning northward about 5 1/2 inches out of plumb. Measuring at the N.W. corner of the ante room, the north ante room wall is leaning northward about 2 1/2 inches out of plumb. The building is plumb on the east and the west walls. Measuring at the N.E. corner, the north wall is also leaning westward about 4 inches out of plumb.

In having several people look at the building, it is fairly common in this type of construction (balloon frame) to see this type of leaning. With no cross bracing, and the strong south winds, it is no wonder the building is leaning. In addition, with the freezing and thawing in our area, the fieldstones tend to settle, making each corner of the floor drop.

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### EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION CONTINUED

The well with it's hand pump is still intact, and is located directly south of the corner of the ante room. It is painted red and says "The Deming Co." in cast letters down the side. A 70" x 70" concrete slab surrounds the old pump. There is no date marked into the concrete but some of the older residents state that this is the second well. The original well was north of the school and had a wooden fence surrounding it. Richard Krenz, a local resident who attended the school in the 30's stated that drinking water was carried to the school from the neighbors. He also stated that the water in the well would never "make test".

Probably the most neglected phase of the old Victor Point School was during the 1960's. Larry Kassell, a local newspaper took a picture of the school in 1967, and our committee found a copy of it. The wooden roof had several shingles missing and the building was very weathered. Nearly all the paint was worn off. We think that nothing had been done to the building since 1946, and it probably hadn't been kept up very well near the date of it's closure.

Around 1970 a local resident named Jim Gillham did a great deal of work on the building. He was the stepfather of the current clerk Robert Humphreys, Mr. Humphreys believes that his stepfather put a new beam under the ante room, which had been sagging quite badly. In addition, he installed a new flush type door onto the ante room. To lock the door, there is a simple hasp type affair with a keyed padlock. A picture taken shortly after the school was rejuvenated shows it to be tan in color with white trim and a new wood shingle roof. Since that time the school has been repainted again, this time white with light blue trim and a new composition roof added. A recent windstorm has blown several of the shingles off, and were found in the school yard.

On the south side of the ante room, the electrical meter base remains, along with a ground wire and an anchor screwed into the side of the wall. On the gable of the ante room is a green exterior light fixture and a metal device for holding a flag pole.

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### INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the old school is intact and in very good condition. After prying open the deteriorated front door, one enters the ante room. This small room measuring about 7' x 14', and has an 8'8" ceiling. There is one light socket centered directly overhead, and the light switch is located to the right as they enter the room, exactly four feet above the floor. It is dark brown and may work if the electricity were hooked up. The walls and ceiling are covered with 8" ship lap. The electrical breaker box is located on the south wall, 5' above the floor. Three quarter inch rigid conduit runs up from the fuse box and disappears through a hole in the ceiling. There is a small corner shelf in the northwest corner that at one time held a glass container with a spigot from which students drank. There are still several nails remaining where cups were hung, each student having his or her own. There are three wire type coat hooks still remaining.

There is a door into the main classroom that appears to be original. It is a four panel door in which the upper two panels have been broken out. Heavy strap hinges that look like they came from a barn hold the door. They have been shimmed out with thin pieces of wood. The door measures 33" x 79" and above the door is a transom light measuring 10" x 30" with a 2" wood sash surrounding it. At one time there was an additional door mounted opposite the four panel door, this particular door opened into the classroom and the jam shows where it was morticed for hinges and a striker.

The floor in both the classroom and the ante room are 3 1/2 inch tongue and groove, and although worn, seem to be in very good condition. They have never been painted although they have been oiled. About seven feet straight ahead from the classroom door, there is an unworn spot on the floor, measuring 2' x 3'. This marks the location where the stove sat. Above, in the ceiling are five curved steel straps spaced out toward the hanging chimney on the east wall. These held the stovepipe as it ran horizontally above the classroom. The steel straps are made from 1' x 3/16 inch material and the straight portion is about 19" long, and the curved part forms a 8" diameter circle, which is open on the top. They are anchored in the attic. The bottom of the hanging chimney is about 9' off the floor. It measures 28" tall, 18" wide and 13" deep. Bricks are visible through an eight inch hole that were probably thrown down inside when the last roof was put on, while the part of the chimney above the roofline was taken down and sheeted over at the same time. A halo of soot around the opening marks the last fire, probably in the winter of 1945-46.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### INTERIOR DESCRIPTION CONTINUED

Three light fixtures hang from the ceiling, two at the front of the room and one centered in the rear. Chains and a cord hang down about 40", with a 14" diameter glass globe at the bottom. The glass fixture is half moon shaped with a teardrop at the center. The metal parts are bronze colored, and only one glass fixture remains as just the chain and cords hang from the other two.

The walls and ceiling are covered with 3 1/2 inch tongue and groove. On the east wall are two rough cut openings on each end. These mark the location where two doors went into a kitchen, that was built onto the school in about 1929 or 1930. Local resident Wesley Darby told us that it was a lean to, supported by wood blocks. Originally it was a covered stage sitting in the school yard and used by the band to perform under. Mr. Darby stated they it was moved into position on the east side of the school and then framed in. It had no interior finishing, the framing was visible from the inside. A wood cook stove was in place on one end. We believe that the kitchen was torn down sometime around 1960, although we are unsure of this date. Exterior drop siding was fit into place to cover the door openings, but the interior walls were not refitted with siding. We believe the pile of boards under the school were from this project, and that originally they were part of the east wall, being cut out to allow for the doors into the kitchen.

There is a low eight inch stage built across the entire east side, extending out 6'2". It is built out of the same tongue and groove material as the floor. It was sometimes extended a foot or two with a wood riser for community plays or performances.

On the south interior wall of the school, 2 1/2 " wood strips frame the outline of where four windows once were. These were removed and inserted between the existing windows on the north side about the same time that the kitchen was added on. Windows were also added to the west wall, on either side of the ante room. A mandate in the 30's from the State Board of Education made it clear that crosslighting was harmful for the eyes. As we surveyed the school this last winter on a usual overcast day, I pity the poor students who had to sit next to the south wall in near darkness.

Attic access is in the southwest corner of the ceiling and measures 11 1/2" x 23 1/2". It is framed by the same tongue and groove material as the rest of the interior, but the tongue has been sawn off.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### INTERIOR DESCRIPTION CONTINUED

The walls and ceiling have been painted various colors over the years, but presently are a pale green. Various pins and nails are driven in the ceiling and at one time held up various projects and were used to hang student work.

### LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

The school yard itself is very interesting and includes approximately six old growth fir trees. The largest one is about 5' in diameter at the base. One student claimed that in the 20's he climbed this particular tree and stuck a spool over one of the branches. He wondered if it still may be there. When the committee to preserve the old school house was formed, the yard was very overgrown. Part of it has been cleaned up and trimmed, but there is much left to do. The original locations of the outhouses have not yet been identified, but several local people have pointed out roughly where they stood. One lady remembers that they were still there as late as the 1950's.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- 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.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Education

Social History

**Period of Significance**

1889-1946

**Significant Dates**

1889

1946

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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

Name of repository:

Victor Point School District 42C

Victor Point School  
Name of Property

Marion County, Oregon  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 1.0 acres (165 x 264 ft.)

Stayton NE, Oregon 1:24000

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Carol Walker with the assistance of Bruce Duerst  
organization Victor Point Preservation Society date February 28, 1996  
street & number PO Box 278 telephone 503/399-8917  
city or town Silverton state OR zip code 97381

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Victor Point School District 42C  
street & number 1175 Victor Point Road SE telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Silverton state OR zip code 97381

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SUMMARY

The one room school house constructed in October 1889, and occupied for the exclusive use as Victor Point School District #112, is situated in the foothills of the Cascade Mountain Range, overlooking the Drift Creek Canyon, in Marion County. Located between the towns of Silverton and Sublimity the old school house still sits in its original location on its fieldstone foundation. Vacant for fifty years the building has been maintained and used for storage until the winter of 1995-96 by the larger Victor Point District 42C who still own the building and property.

Located east of Salem, between Sublimity and Silverton is the small rural unincorporated community known as Victor Point. In the late 1800's area settlers recognized the need to educate their children, many traveled great distances to reach the nearest school, this resulted in the establishment of the Victor Point District #112. Past history tells how the Victor Point School House established in March of 1889 served as the local community center. In addition this small community was served by a store, gas pump with automotive services, and a bandstand. Years of south wind and rain have caused some leaning of the building and some settling of the fieldstones. The floor has a pronounced crown, and the school leans seven inches to the north.

The old school house is nominated with its entire setting of one acre, measuring 4 chains by 2 1/2 chains which is the precise parcel size dedicated for educational purposes in the last century. There has been very little change to the main structure of the school although there have been three bell towers and ante room and kitchen additions. At present there is no bell tower or kitchen, but the main structure is exactly as constructed in 1889, with the main building measuring 32' by 24' and the ante room addition measuring 14' by 7'.

As we look to the turn of a new century and what it holds in store for us we are also reminded of the need to cherish and preserve our past history. To honor those who have gone before us, and to teach those who will follow after us. To remember a time when a dollar was still worth a dollar. To recall when a days work was back breaking, and times were not so easy, and the lesson we learned was that hard work and determination eventually paid off and instilled in us a strong sense of pride. The times of which we speak are really not so far away and the places are right in our own back yards. I am speaking of course about life in the rural community.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

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### SUMMARY CONTINUED

With the passage of time things have changed, in approximately 1920 the store closed, fell into disrepair and was eventually torn down, the gas station also closed. In 1946 the school house was closed and replaced with a newer and larger school across the street. Eventually, both the old school house and the bandstand began to show signs of age and neglect. In the late 1950's with the roof in a sad shape and the bell tower rotting, some improvements were made, the roof was replaced and the tower removed. Shortly afterwards the bell was stolen from the ante room of the school house and the tower has yet to be replaced. So sits the school.

With the imminent growth of the surrounding area it is vital that we preserve the quality of life and our community character and identity possessed by our small rural areas. Victor Point possesses one of the last publicly owned "one room school houses".

With the new Botanical Gardens now in development, the historical McCleay Inn and the Silver Falls State Park, the Victor Point School House in addition to the recreational and entertainment values contain many Economic benefits to the community and the Marion County and the state of Oregon.

This building is the last landmark to identify that which remains of the history in this strong tight knit community of just over 1000. It has been a desire of many community residents for some time now to restore the community pride and preserve the history and a rural set of values possessed by this local area for future generations. In the fall of 1995 a group of concerned residents gathered to discuss the need and desire to reconstruct and restore the lost history of Victor Point. Hence the establishment of the Friends of Victor Point and The Victor Point Preservation Society. This committee is in the process of obtaining the necessary documentation for non-profit status and funding to complete this project. This restoration project has already received a very favorable initial survey with regards to placement on the National Registry of Historic Places from the State Historical Preservation Office.

Our work here is just begun, but more important is... We must all remember of that from which we came, to reclaim our past, our pride, our values, our community identity, our history, so we can remember, so our children can remember.

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### HISTORY

The old Victor Point School is significant under Criteria A for its association with public education in rural western Oregon. The Victor Point School symbolizes a way of life in the Willamette Valley in the 19th and 20th Centuries. The school perhaps was one of the most significant buildings for the community. It served as a Sunday School, community gathering area for meetings and speakers. "It also provided livelihood for young educators who usually boarded with nearby residents. There is controversy as to the establishment of the very first school in the rural area east of Salem. Some say it was the location known as Lebanon (not to be confused with the existing town in Linn County) located on the Hunt Donation Land Claim adjoining the present Warren (Mt. Hope) cemetery on the south, near the intersection of East State Street and 119th. Or was it a school taught by Ralph Geer? It is well documented that Daniel Waldo held a subscription school in his home in a more south-westerly direction. By 1855 schools were beginning to spring up in the rural areas of the foothills east of Salem. Silver Cliff and Willard Schools were organized in 1855, McAlpin and Union Hill in 1856. (Union Hill reorganized in 1865.) Even with these added schools, children were required to walk long distances to attend the nearest school. The information is not clear as to how the movement to form another district began. The only source of taxation available from agriculture and timber land possessing a low value. The entire valuation from the area was not enough to sustain the schools already in operation and it appears they were confronted with much opposition. However the original Victor Point District #112 was formed in October 1889, although originally organized on March 9, 1889, carved out of portions from the Silver Cliff, McAlpin and Union Hill districts. In addition the question was asked as to how Victor Point received its name, the story tells of Mrs. Mary Darby, a local mother is credited with the naming of the district. Out of a rather heated meeting of interested people of the entire settlement, it was her rationalization and suggestion that the decision was a victory, and the local people had won their point, hence the name Victor Point evolved.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### HISTORY CONTINUED

There is a great deal of confusion over where the one acre of ground that the school is built on originated. Most of the local people state that J.J. Krenz donated one acre for the purpose of building the school. In publications "School Days II" Bernita Jones Sharp wrote a history of Victor Point stated that J.J. Krenz donated the land. Also in "History of Early Schools in Silverton Country" written by Minnie Engeman she also stated that one acre of land was donated by J.J. Krenz from his land claim. In a 1989 Silverton Appeal newspaper article, commemorating the 100th year anniversary of the old school, it stated " the acre of ground on which the school house was built was purchased from Al Coolidge and his wife S.F. McClaine-Coolidge. The deed is dated October 18, 1889, and \$25 was paid for the property.

In reviewing a copy of the actual deed it states that Al Coolidge and S.F. McClaine his wife and F. McClaine and S.E. McClaine his wife were the grantors of the property. One explanation was offered by Richard Krenz, he thought the Krenzes had bought the property from Coolidge and McClaine but the title hadn't been transferred. It appears that maybe Coolidge and McClaine held the mortgage on the property, and were able to sell it. There is no mention of the Krenzes in the original deed, although the property was part of Krenz farm at one time. More investigation is needed in this area.

Information concerning attendance and procedures can be found in the volumes of the permanent school records of the Oregon School Register and Record, there are 15 known volumes for the Victor Point School, for the earlier period of the school's history.

The first school in the newly formed district was held in October 1889, taught by Linnie Lewis with an enrollment of 21 students ranging in ages 5 to 18 years of age. The fall term was approximately three months long, followed by another three month term in the spring. The teachers in the early years of Victor Point were paid \$35.00 per month as their salary. There appear to have been a great number of teachers hired, most only staying for one term. Some may not have measured up to the expectations of the district or may have chosen not to return because of their inability to cope with the difficulties of rural life. Many of the teachers were not much older than the students they taught, and many of them were also away from their families for the first time, living under primitive and trying conditions. Usually road conditions were so bad, as there were no improved roads at that time. Still they might have a long walk to the school through the woods, often in the rain, mud, or snow.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

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### HISTORY CONTINUED

Sometimes the tax money would not cover the expenses of the school, at which time special taxes were levied. It appears that the largest expense with the exception of salaries were glass for the windows, which were frequently broken by children playing baseball a favorite sport of the times, chalk, as the children did much of their work on the blackboard, and many cords wood for the wood stoves which was the only source of heat of course.

Instructional aids in the classroom were almost nonexistent. There was no evidence of even a dictionary in the school until 1900. In the late 1920's the library consisted of a homemade cupboard with fewer than 50 books all having been read and reread many times over. That same library cupboard still sits in the school house today. The curriculum consisted of the following subjects...

Penmanship

Reading through the fifth grade

Orthography (Spelling)

Advanced Mental Arithmetic

Rudiments of Written Arithmetic

Written Arithmetic

Primary Geography

Complete Geography

Language Lessons

Grammar

Vocal Skills

Physiology and Hygiene

For several years the children furnished many of their own books.

Between the years of 1891 and 1894 there was a growth in the school population of the Victor Point School. In 1893 the census listed thirty children between the ages of 4 and 20. Many of the students who attended Victor Point in the early years returned years later as teachers.

Victor Point School as well as many other district schools served as a social center for the area residents. Christmas programs were always quite elaborate as was the preparation for them. A huge Christmas tree always stood beside the stage, decorated with garlands of cranberries and popcorn, homemade ornaments, and real lighted candles. Every child had some part in the program. They also had box suppers, benefit chicken dinners, pie socials, year end picnics, with races and games, as well as community gatherings such as 4th of July, community dances etc. The school was also used as a meeting hall, and for Sunday school classes.

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### HISTORY CONTINUED

Victor Point was never considered a large school, it always remained a one room, one teacher, school house. Over the years attendance seems to have dwindled in all of the surrounding districts as well as Victor Point. For many years the earliest families stayed in the community as home owners, generation after generation. Some of the children are descendants of at least five generations who have lived here continuously.

Exactly when the change in the composition of the community actually occurred or began is difficult to surmise. Clearly during the years of World War II changes seemed very obvious. Some moved away when they grew up, many young men went off to war which disrupted their operation of the home farms, older residents died, while yet others pursued careers and ventured into things other than agriculture. Many new families moved into the area, bought land and built homes, and families were not quite as big as they use to be.

In the 1940's districts in the area talked about school consolidating, rather than continue with so many small schools of dwindling population, transporting students to one centrally located school was more cost effective than maintaining and hiring teachers for the seven area schools. So in 1947 joining consolidation were Valley View, Silver cliff, Union Hill, Oak Grove, McAlpin, Center View, and Victor Point. Victor Point was selected as the sight for a new and modern school and the new district was named Victor Point Consolidated District #42C. School was held for two terms at the McAlpin school location while the new school house was being constructed.

The original Victor Point School still stands. There have probably been a total of three different bell towers on the old Victor Point School. When the school was first built we know that there was no ante room, therefore the bell tower must have been built on the main structure. We have been unable to locate a picture of this to date, but just inside the main door of the classroom, in the ceiling is a hole bored through the tongue and groove boards. It is exactly like the hole in the ante room where the rope hung down.

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### HISTORY CONTINUED

We have no reason to believe that there was not a bell in the original structure. The second bell tower was in place as early as 1910. We have a picture of the structure with this tower in place. It was built on the ante room and abuts the main gable end of the west school wall. It is unknown as to the date in which it was taken down. The third bell tower was much smaller, and again built on the top of the ante room. When the roof was replaced the belfry was removed because the bell was stolen. Research is ongoing as to the whereabouts of the original bell. Local residents say that it has a handmade clapper rather than a factory made one. It also reportedly has a very beautiful tone, that could be recognizable to some.

The Victor Point School is significant under Criteria C as an exceptionally intact one-room, turn of the century school building. Its vernacular style of construction is consistent with the schools used in rural communities throughout the United States for the period covering the 18th Century through the second World War.

### RECENT HISTORY

In 1989 the school board granted an easement to GTE, to allow them to construct a phone switching computer on the Northwest corner of the old school property.. The station sits on a concrete pad it is in a metal case about 3' wide and 15' long and stands about 5' tall. It has its own power source with an electrical meter , designed with heating and air conditioning to keep the temperature constant throughout the year. It is partially hidden from the road and does not interfere with the historic setting of the old school. The building has been kept up and painted and until January of 1996 had been used as storage after the new school was built. In the fall of 1995 a committee of concerned citizens gathered to make plans to try and preserve the old school house.

A local farmer residing near the old school contacted the committee in early February of this year and stated to us that he may have one of the original outhouses used at the school. He said it was built in 1933 or 1934 by the WPA and had a cement base. He has also offered to donate it to the school.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### RECENT HISTORY CONTINUED

In August of 1995 the Victor Point School District #42C Board Members met and discussed the future of the old school house. It was decided that a group should be formed to discuss the possibilities for the school house with regard to possible preservation. Shortly afterwards on October 19, 1995 a group of concerned local citizens gathered to discuss ways to protect the old building. It was clear that there is a strong desire to restore, preserve, protect, as well as maintain this building as a historical site. The group now known as The Victor Point Preservation Society and The Friends of Victor Point since then they have developed bylaws, elected a Board of Directors and all other necessary requirements to file for nonprofit status.

It is the mission of The Victor Point Preservation Society to Preserve, Restore, Rehabilitate, Reconstruct and maintain the Old Victor Point School House to depict the form, features, and character of the building and property as it appeared in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

At the date of this writing it is uncertain as to whether the old school will remain in public or private nonprofit ownership. There are uncertainties, there will be continued meetings with the school and the public will help determine the direction of the old school.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Blumenson, John J., Identifying American Architecture, American Association for State and Local History, Tennessee, 1977.

Darby, Wesley, Personal Communication, 1995 (lived next door to school and attended all eight years).

Dietrich, Clarence, Personal Communication, 1996 (carpenter and authority on older construction).

Doerfler, Ernie, Personal Communication, 1995 (former student of Victor Point between 1920 and 1927).

Doerfler, Johnny, Personal Communication, 1995 (began attending Victor Point in 1919).

Doerfler, Nora, Personal Communication, 1995 (her grandfather bought the former Victor Point store in 1904, and sold it in 1912 to the McClellans).

Engeman, Minnie, History of Early Schools in Silverton Country, 1993.

Fox, Floyd Junior, Personal Communication, 1996 (Mother was school board member when new district was organized in 1949).

Grossnickle, Marie, Personal Communication, 1995 (began school at Victor Point as a fourth grader in fall of 1924).

Harris, Cyril M., Dictionary of Architecture and Construction, McGraw Hill, 1975.

King, Verl, Personal Communication, 1995, (attended Victor Point all eight years).

King, Vale, Personal Communication, 1995 (her father attended school at Victor Point (Jim Rogers), and her grandfather owned the store across the road from the school between 1904 and 1912).

Krenz, Richard, Personal Communication, 1995, (former student of Victor Point School, 1930-1938).

Lierman, Lucille, Personal Communication, 1995, (attended Victor Point all eight years).

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY CONTINUED

Marion County Historical Society, School Days II, 1984.

Miller, Annis, Personal Communication, 1995, (Mrs. Miller is age 91 and her husband attended Victor Point in the early 1900's).

Qualey, Bernice, Personal Communication, 1995, (began attending Victor Point in 1922).

Qualey, Norman, Personal Communication, 1995 (former student of Victor Point).

Scott, Vera, Personal Communication, 1995, (taught at Victor Point School in 1929 and 1930).

Silverton Appeal Tribune, June 14, 1989 issue, (Victor Point Elementary Marks 40th, 100th year).

Silverton Appeal Tribune, September 27th, 1995 issue, (One Room School House is not Forgotten).

Statesman Journal, February 12th, 1995 issue, (One-Room Schoolhouse Grounded in History).

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National Park Service

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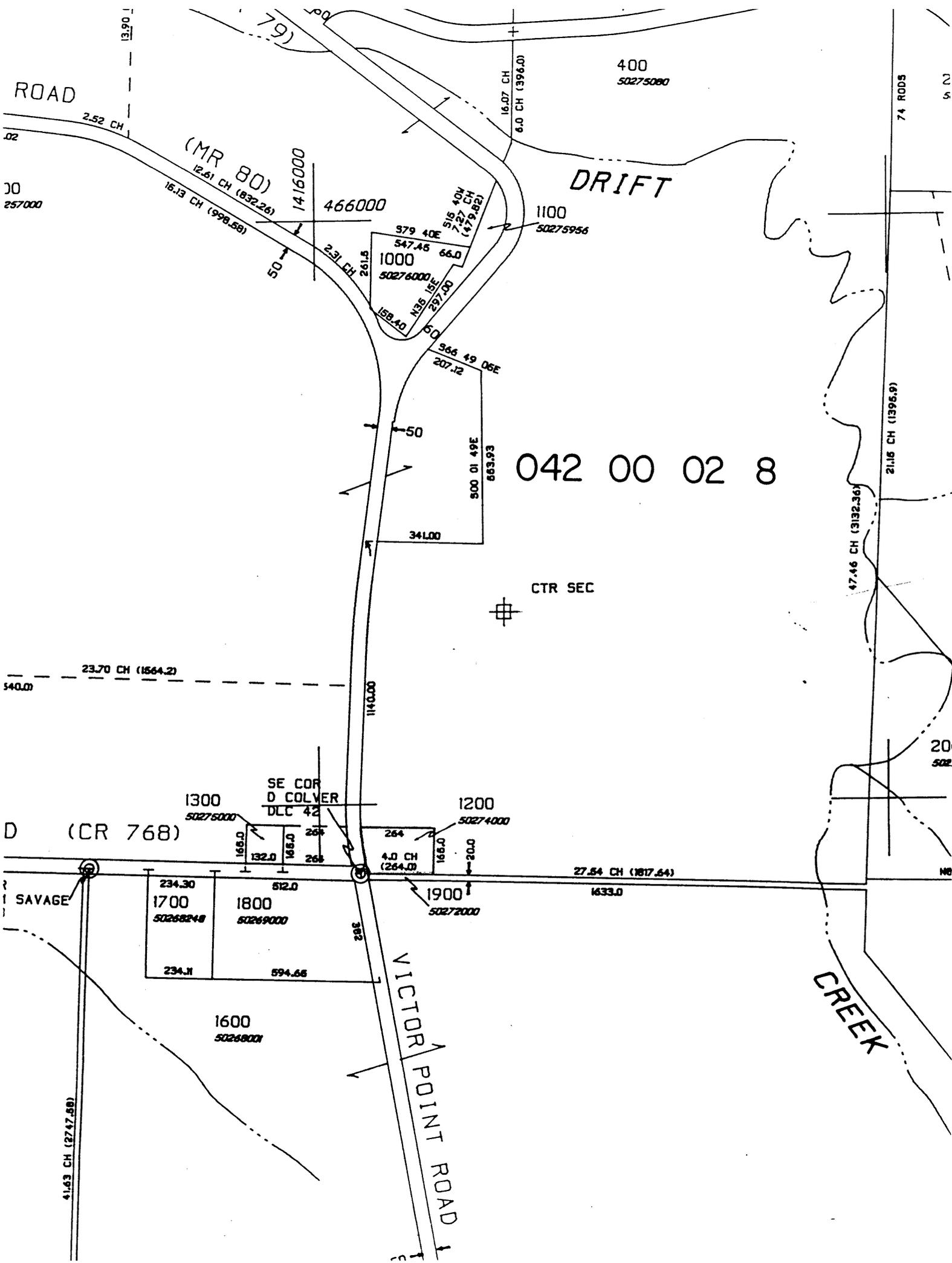
### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commencing at the southeast corner of the Donation Land Claim of David Colver and wife in township number seven south of Range one West Willamette Meridian. Thence East four chains, thence north two and one half chains, thence west four chains, thence south two and one half chains to the beginning and containing one acre and situated in Marion County and state of Oregon. This conveyance is made upon the condition agreed to by both grantee and grantor that when the herein described premises ceases to be used for school purposes viz.: the site of a school house or in that connection they shall revert to the grantors Coolidge and McClaine provided they are the owners of the land surrounding or adjoining it.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries given are those of the acre of land sold to Victor Point School District #112 in 1889 by Coolidge and McClaine.

The nominated property of one acre is located in Sec. 36, T7S, R1W, Willamette Meridian, in Marion County, Oregon. It is otherwise identified as Tax Lot 1200 at said location, and its bounds are more particularly described above.



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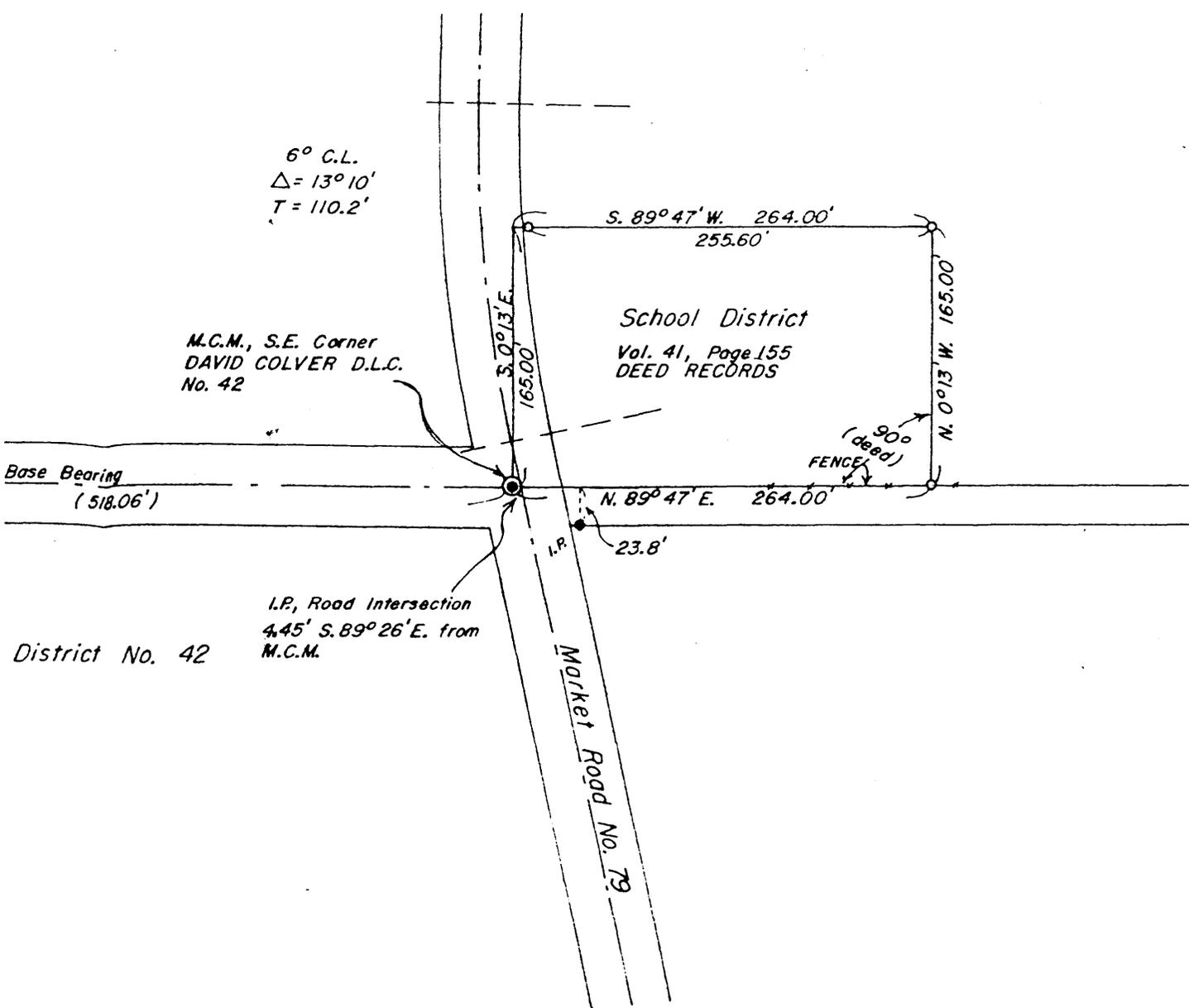
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District No. 42

I.P., Road Intersection  
4.45' S. 89° 26' E. from  
M.C.M.

REGISTERED  
PROFESSIONAL  
LAND SURVEYOR

*David L. Bascue*  
OREGON  
JULY 14, 1967  
DAVID L. BASCUE  
783

PREPARED FOR, AND AT THE REQUEST OF

KRENZ, R. J.

LIABILITY FOR THIS SURVEY IS EXPRESSLY LIMITED  
TO SAID PERSON OR PERSONS.

LOCATION:

¼ SEC. 36 T. 7 S. R. 1 W. W.M.

MARION COUNTY, OR

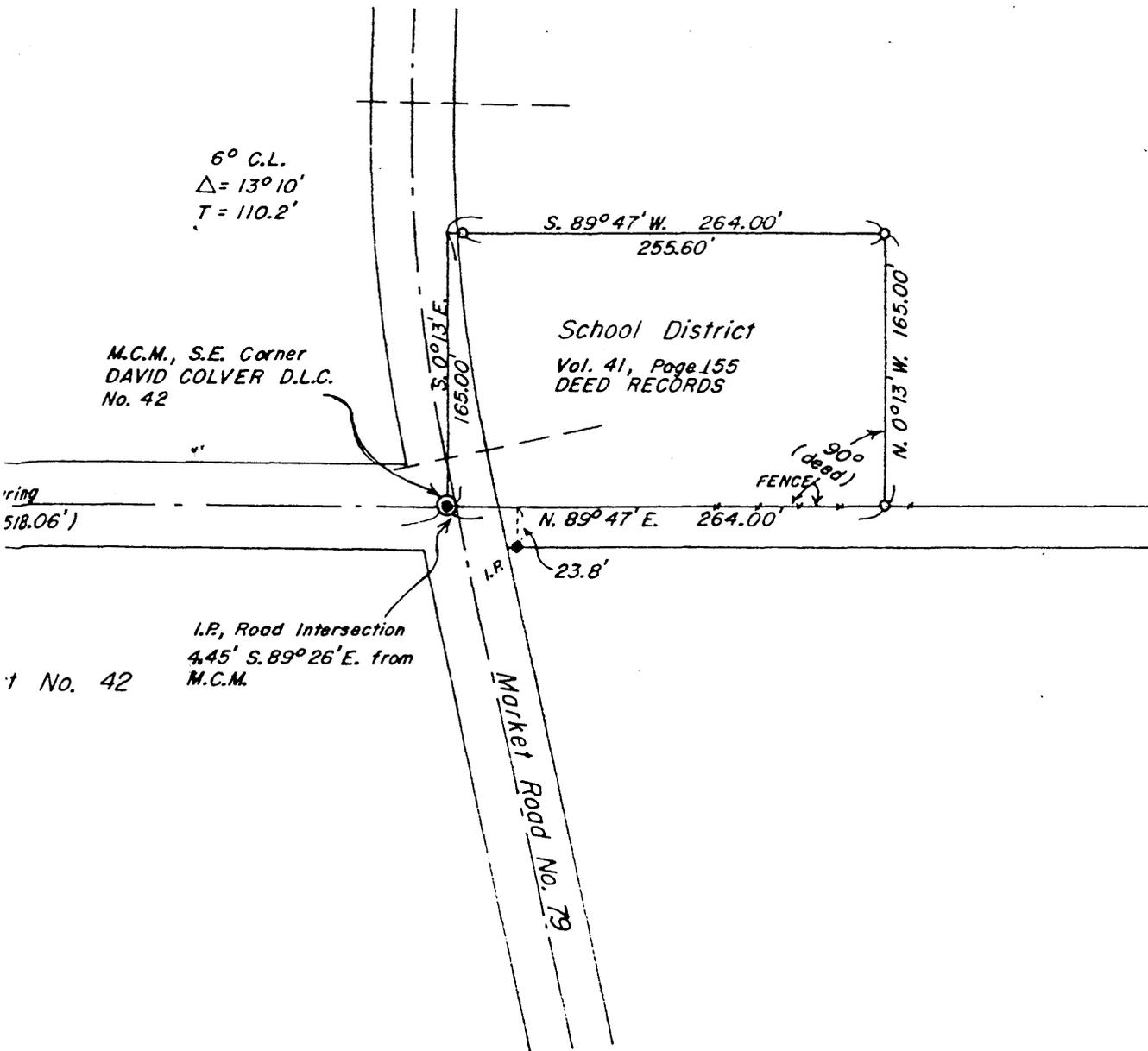
**BARNES SURVEYING & ENGINEERING, INC.**

2565 STATE STREET • SALEM, OREGON 97301 • PHONE 581-0911

DAVID L. BASCUE LAND SURVEYOR	ELMER E. SEAY LAND PLANNER	WILLIAM F. RINGNALL REG. ENGINEER
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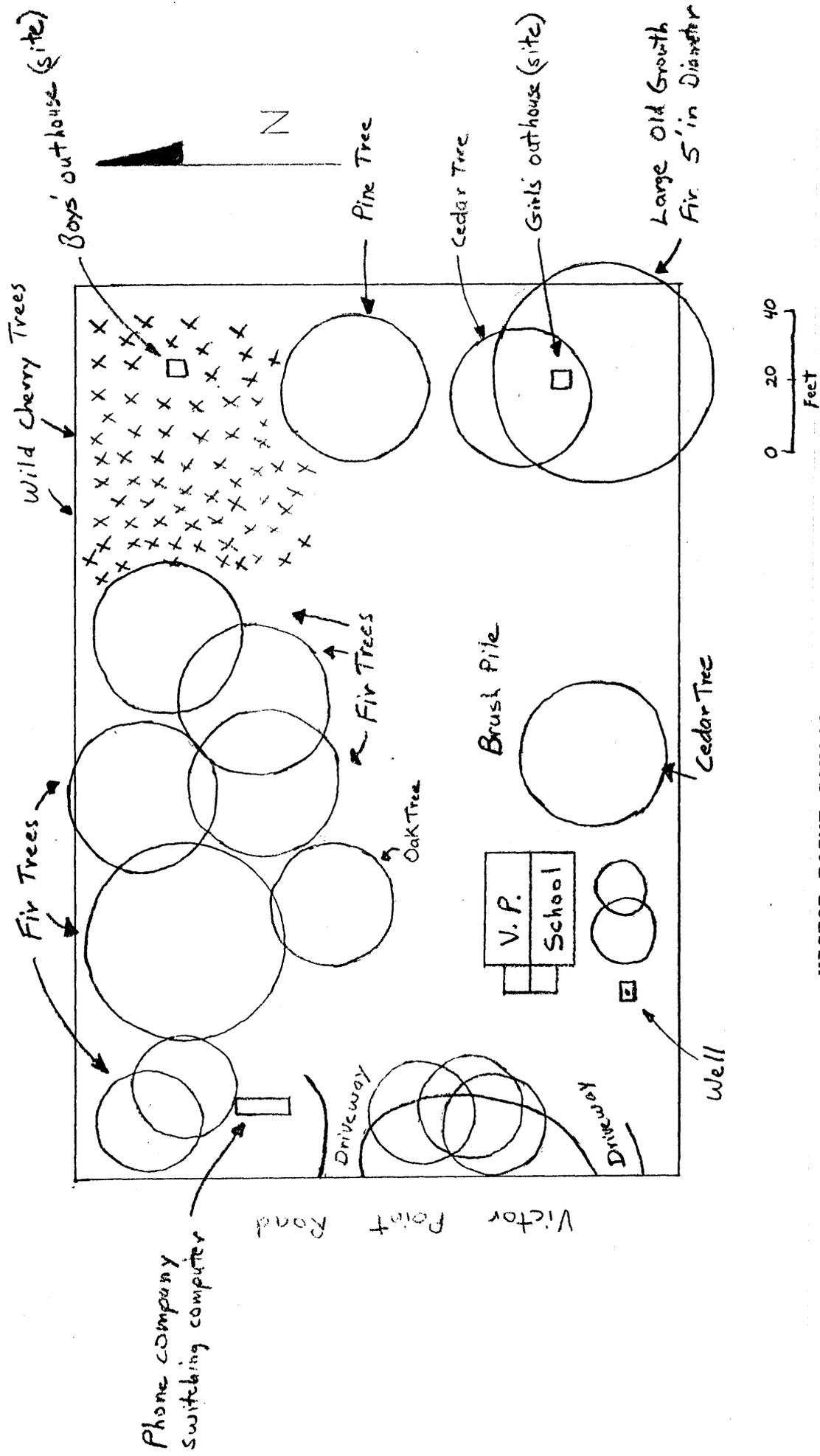
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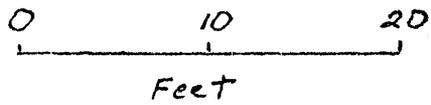
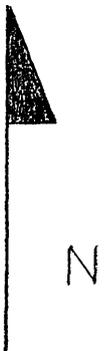
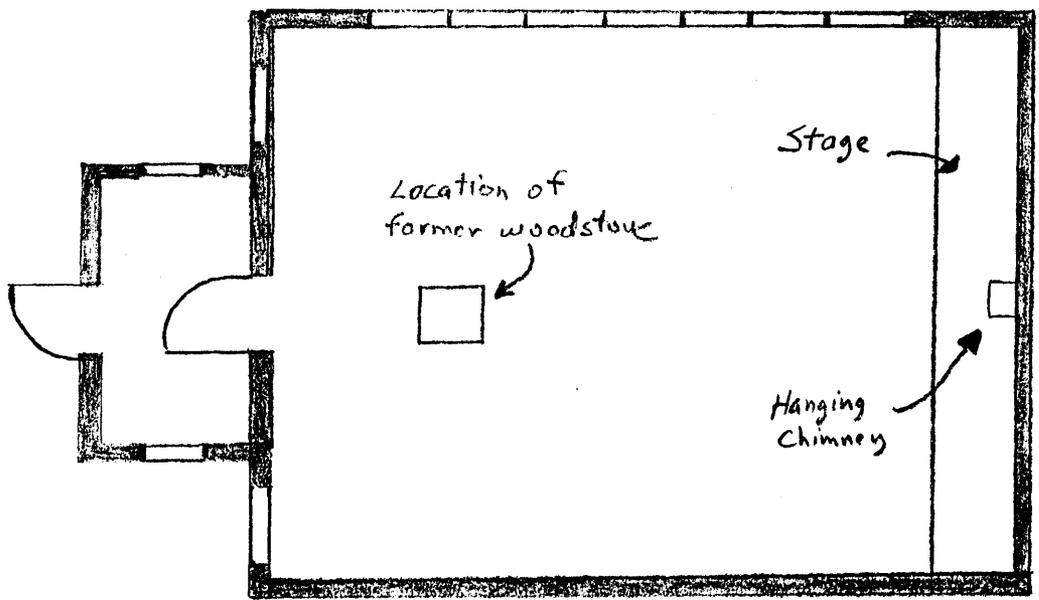


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<p>REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR</p> <p><i>David L. Bascue</i></p> <p>OREGON JULY 4, 1967 DAVID L. BASCUE 783</p>	PREPARED FOR, AND AT THE REQUEST OF		NO.	75 - 6 - 206
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<p><b>BARNES SURVEYING &amp; ENGINEERING, INC.</b></p> <p>2565 STATE STREET • SALEM, OREGON 97301 • PHONE 581-0911</p>				
DAVID L. BASCUE LAND SURVEYOR		ELMER E. SEAY LAND PLANNER		WILLIAM F. RINGNALDA REG. ENGINEER



VICTOR POINT SCHOOL  
SITE PLAN



VICTOR POINT SCHOOL

FLOOR PLAN

25

6

7

9

5

12

15

Location of former woodstove

Stage

8 13

14

17

19

20

18 23

11

N

16

Hanging Chimney

21

22

24

Pump

0 10 20

Feet

3

2

4

VICTOR POINT SCHOOL

10

FLOOR PLAN

Note: Circled numbers refer to photographs.

1

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 1

## VICTOR POINT SCHOOL #112

All photographs are of the old Victor Point School, located on Victor Point Road S.E., Silverton, Marion County, Oregon.

The negatives of all the photographs, including the historic view (#25) are located at 13663 Doerfler Rd. S.E., Silverton, OR 97381. This is the address of Bruce Duerst.

Photographs numbered 1-24:  
Photographer = Bruce Duerst  
Date Taken = January 1996

Photographs numbered 25 (historic view):  
Photographer = not known  
Date Taken = 1951

.....

1. Photographer standing on Victor Point Road looking north toward Silverton.
2. Photographer standing in parking lot of new school, looking across Victor Point Road.
3. Southwest side of school, with old pump to south.
4. Southwest side of school.
5. West view of school with row of windows on north side.
6. The north side of school.
7. North and east sides of school.
8. Front of school.
9. North side of anteroom.
10. Shingled south wall of school.
11. East wall of school with brush pile in foreground.
12. Close up of north anteroom wall.

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Section number Photos Page 2

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### VICTOR POINT SCHOOL #112 CONTINUED

13. Close up of roof gables. Note missing crown molding where bell tower once rested. Also note exterior light fixture and angle iron bracket for holding flag pole.
14. Looking through anteroom at door into classroom.
15. Interior north wall of anteroom. Notice corner shelf, coat hooks, and attic access into anteroom attic.
16. South and west interior anteroom walls. Note breaker box and conduit.
17. View through anteroom door to outside. Light switch on wall on left. Not original door molding.
18. Interior West classroom wall. Square spot on floor indicates where stove sat. Note the one original light fixture remaining.
19. Interior east wall showing stage and hanging chimney. Note two doors that once went into kitchen, and light fixtures and chains. The structure underneath the chimney is a homemade cupboard that was attached to the south wall. It was called "the library", and contained about fifty books.
20. South and west interior walls. Note metal straps that were once supporting the stovepipe.
21. South wall showing where windows were removed and patched in. Square outline on wall is original location of the "library" as mentioned above.
22. Attic access.
23. Close up of hanging chimney. Small rectangle area below and to left of chimney is a mark where the hanger for gas lantern was located.
24. Close up of hand pump.
25. Historic photo taken in 1951.