

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 Dungeness School
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 657 Towne Road not for publication
city, town Dungeness vicinity
state Washington code WA county Clallam code 009 zip code 98382

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Rural Public 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.

Paul E. Thor 3-30-88
Signature of certifying official Date
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. 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:)

Alfred E. Beyer Entered in the National Register 5-19-88

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: school

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social: clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: schoolhouse vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls weatherboard: clapboardwood shinglesroof compositionother _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located at a rural crossroads near the Dungeness River (less than a mile south of the shores of Dungeness Bay and one-half mile southwest of the village), the Dungeness School is a two-story frame structure clad in drop siding and characterized by banks of double-hung windows and a picturesque belfry atop the gable roof. The schoolhouse sits on a small lawn, with cedar trees and flowering shrubs, surrounded by farmland. Since its construction in 1892, it has been the most imposing structure on the landscape.

The school is built on a L-shaped plan formed by the original rectangular schoolhouse and a complementary perpendicular west wing built in 1921. The original school has a gable roof (running north-south) and measures 36 feet 6 inches across the front (south) and rear gable ends and 48 feet 6 inches across the sides.

The side gabled wing is recessed 12 feet from the facade and measures 25 feet 3 inches across the north and south elevations and 36 feet 3 inches across the side gable end. A gable roof porch (12 feet square) shelters the main entry at the juncture of the wings.

The frame school rests on a poured concrete foundation, the walls are sheathed with drop siding (trimmed with corner boards), and the gable ends are clad with cedar shingles. In 1987, the school's roof was resurfaced with composition shingles. (The original cedar shingles had been replaced much earlier.)

The eaves of the roof are boxed and the gable ends are treated like pediments with projecting cornices underscored by plain frieze boards. The horizontal divisions of the school are articulated by belt courses between the first and second stories and above the foundation.

Double hung, wood frame windows (generally with six-over six lights) cover much of the wall surface. On the front (south) and rear gable ends, the windows are grouped in banks of five and six respectively, while elsewhere windows are disposed singly or in pairs. Windows on the first story feature three-light transoms. A group of three one-over-one windows with arched heads are placed in the attic wall of the front gable end. All the windows are framed with simple surrounds and have projecting hood mouldings.

The main entry is located in the side wing at the juncture with the original schoolhouse. The double-leaf door has a glazed upper panel, a transom, and sidelights. The porch, reached by a flight of six concrete steps, has a concrete platform, with a balustrade, paired columns, a gable roof (with open eaves and exposed rafters), and an ornamental spindle frieze.

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Perhaps the most distinctive feature of the facade is the belfry which rises above the clipped end of the front gable. The belfry is composed of a balustrade, wood posts with decorative brackets, and a bell-shaped roof. A wooden flag pole is placed at the apex of the belfry.

The interior of the school retains the historic plan and many original features. The panelled double door leads to a broad hall (12 feet wide) which runs the depth of the school. To the east of the hall are the two original classrooms, well lighted by bands of wood frame windows. Each classroom measures about 36 feet 6 inches by 24 feet 3 inches. The south classroom has been modified but the north classroom features the original blackboard, cloak room, wainscoting, and wood mouldings. West of the hall are two restrooms (converted from classrooms) and against the west side of the hall is the stairway leading to the second floor. The hall and stairway feature painted wainscoting.

The second floor includes a large auditorium on the east side above the original classrooms. The auditorium measures 47 feet by 35 feet and includes a stage and cloak rooms. East of the hall are two former classrooms converted to kitchens after the school became a community center.

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

Architecture

Period of Significance

1892-1937

Significant Dates

1892, 1921

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

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.

Constructed at the turn of the century and expanded in the 1920s, the Dungeness School is historically significant for its association with education in Clallam County. The two story preserved schoolhouse was the largest and most expensive built in the rural areas of the county during the period and was the only rural school to offer classes from first grade through high school. After consolidation in the 1920s, the upper class students were sent elsewhere, but grammar school was conducted until 1955. Today, the well preserved school is the most important surviving structure associated with the community life of the Dungeness area and one of the finest examples of school design in Clallam County.

Historical Background:

Public education in Clallam County dates to June 11, 1859 when county commissioners first levied a two mill tax for the support of a common school system. But the organization of districts and construction of schools awaited the growth of settlement.

By April 16, 1892, School District 29, serving students in the Dungeness area, was established with William Ward, Thomas Evans, and Robert Woods as directors. The directors held their first meeting on May 10, 1892, at Evans' home and voted "that it was necessary to build a good and sufficient school house and furnish same." That summer and fall, the two-story frame school was built at a rural crossroads near the village of Dungeness.

The school opened in February of the following year and in his first report to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, county superintendent A.B. Dorsey reported that the new structure served 64 students, employed one teacher (at \$75 per month) and held classes for four and one-half months. According to Dorsey's report, the two room school enrolled 21 students in the "first reader"; 9 in the second; 11 each in the third, fourth, and fifth; and one student in an "advanced course." The \$3000 school property was the most valuable of the 23 frame and 4 log schools in the county at the time.

The following year, the district expanded its school year to eight months and enrolled students in sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth grades. The Dungeness School offered the most extensive curriculum of any rural school in Clallam County and was one of the few exceptions to Dorsey's complaint that "few [Clallam County] students stayed past fifth grade."¹

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (State Archives: Olympia, 1893-1925).
Deeds, #5819, Clallam County, WASHINGTON, Volume 37, Page 207, William Bishop, Jr. to School District #29, Dungeness, Washington, August 25, 1892.
Records of Clallam County, Washington, Deeds, #69880, Deeds, Volume 96, Page 200, Annie Davis and George H. Davis, and School District #29, August 18, 1915.
"History of Dungeness Valley Schools, Clallam County, Washington" by Mrs. Livona Moore Lotzgesell, 1961, from her manuscript.
Records of Clallam County Superintendent of Schools, Clallam County, Washington.

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

Acreeage of property less than one
Quadrangle Name: Dungeness Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM References

A 10 490540 5331970
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property includes the Dungeness Schoolhouse and adjacent lawn and can be described thusly: beginning at the northwest corner of the intersection of Marine Drive and Towne Road, proceed west along the north edge of Towne Road approximately 250 feet, proceed northerly to Marine Drive, proceed southeasterly along the edge of Marine Drive to point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leonard T. Garfield, with research assistance by Mrs. Shirley Hill
 organization Office of Archaeology & Historic 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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By the early 20th century, the Dungeness School held classes for grades one through 12 and employed three teachers (one for high school students). Of more than 40 rural schools in the county, only the Dungeness School offered a full high school curriculum. In 1921, a new classroom wing was added, the value of the school property jumped to \$10,000, and a fourth teacher was hired.

Despite the new wing, high school classes at Dungeness School were never accredited and in 1923, high school students were transferred to the Sequim School. From 1923 until 1940 the Dungeness School held classes through eighth grade. But in 1940, junior high students were transferred to Sequim and in 1955, the remaining elementary school was closed when the entire district was consolidated with Sequim School District No. 323.

After the school closed, the building was leased by the newly organized Dungeness Community Club, whose stated mission was to "promote the civic and social welfare" of the community. (Interestingly, the district stipulated in the lease that the school building should "remain intact and available for school purposes should future emergency require.") In 1967, the club purchased the building outright; in the ensuing years, the club has used the structure as the site for a wide variety of civic activities. Recently, a successful campaign to refurbish the school has resulted in exterior painting, re-roofing, and other repairs, helping to insure the preservation of this significant landmark.

The Dungeness School was listed in the Washington State Register of Historic Places in 1971 in recognition of its historical significance. In 1987, the property was evaluated for listing in the National Register applying the registration requirements established in the Rural Public Schools of Washington Multiple Property Documentation Form. The Dungeness School meets the requirements because of its historical associations and its integrity of form, fabric, fenestration, and setting. Architecturally the school is the finest extant example of a two story frame schoolhouse in the county, and reflects the considerable skills of local builders. The two story structure is distinguished by its size and form, and by its belfrey, banded windows, and classical trim.

1. Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1895.