



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: NORTH CREEK SCHOOL

other name/site number: CANYON PARK COMMUNITY CLUB

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2. Location

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street & number: 22711 - 31st Avenue SE

not for publication: NA

city/town: Bothell

vicinity: NA

state: WA county: Snohomish

code: 061 zip code: 98021

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

W. M. Simpson _____
Signature of certifying official Date

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

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5. National Park Service Certification

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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): _____

Edson H. Beall

5.19.94

Entered in the
National Register

for

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: EDUCATION
SOCIAL

Sub: school
civic

Current : VACANT/not in use

Sub:

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Other: One-room schoolhouse

Other Description: NA

Materials: foundation: wood roof: asphalt
walls: wood other

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A and C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : NA

Areas of Significance: Architecture, Education

Period(s) of Significance: 1902 - 1920

Significant Dates: 1902

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	10	561420	5293240	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ____ See continuation sheet.

Tax parcel number 292705-4-020-0009. Map attached.

Boundary Justification: ____ See continuation sheet.

Boundaries coincide with current ownership and represent the remaining portion of the original school grounds which have been reshaped by street grading.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Marilyn Sullivan

Organization: Preservation Consultant

Date: June 14, 1993

Street & Number: 4004 NE 46th Street

Telephone: (206)522-6686

City or Town: Seattle

State: WA ZIP:98105

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Section number 7

North Creek School

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE #1

The North Creek School faces south from an elevated lot at the northwest corner of 228th Street (old Canyon Park Road) and 31st Avenue SE in Bothell, Washington. A forest clearing at the turn of the century, the school site is now shaped by road grading to the south and to the east which with natural slopes to the west and a ravine to the north, leave the school situated on a knoll.

Long unoccupied and used for storage, the school has suffered minor deterioration which has progressed to a crucial point. The building is virtually unchanged since its construction with only the loss of some decorative detail. However, a deteriorating roof and missing windows now threaten the integrity of this rare architectural example.

The North Creek School is a front-facing gable structure with a full-width hipped roof porch. The center entrance with molded frame and architrave is announced by a pediment over the steps. Porch posts are simple chamfered columns and pilasters. Early photographs document a decorative milled porch balustrade, which is now missing. The school is clad in beveled siding.

Inside, the North Creek Schoolhouse has small cloakrooms on each side of the entrance to the single, large room within. The room has beaded wainscotting and molded chair rail with horizontal board walls above. The north end of the room is raised approximately five inches forming a platform for the teacher's desk. While the blackboard does not survive, a molded wooden chalk tray extends the width of the north wall.

Windows, cased openings and the entrance door are framed with simple molding and plinth blocks.

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Criterion C: Architecture

The North Creek School (ca. 1902) is significant as a rare, intact example of a late 19th/early 20th Century one-room vernacular schoolhouse. It embodies the characteristics most commonly associated with one-room schools including front-facing gable roof, strict symmetry, frame construction and a single interior space. Additionally, the North Creek School is important for surviving interior details that enhance our knowledge of one-room schoolhouse design and construction including a raised platform area for the teacher's desk at one end of the room, molded wooden chalk trays and symmetrical cloakrooms. Construction details such as beaded wainscotting, generous windows with molded frames and heads and decorative porch detail speak to the community's esteem for education.

The only other local school, Bothell's first school built in 1885 and listed in the State Register, has experienced substantial alteration. In spite of its considerable neglect, the North Creek School may receive consideration under National Register guidelines for the nomination of deteriorated properties that nonetheless possess good integrity. The building has exceptional status as the best preserved example of a school building representing the community's early educational system.

Criterion A: Education

North Creek School is significant as representative of the development of education in the Bothell area. The only surviving, intact example of a pioneer schoolhouse on its original site, it represents a period in history, prior to consolidated school services, when each community took responsibility for adopting school policies and providing facilities for its children and when schools were a center of community social life. The period of significance extends to 1920, the year in which the usefulness of the building ceased as consolidation and new school construction was occurring elsewhere in the community.

Intermittent European/American settlement began in the Bothell area in the 1870s but progressed slowly through the 1880s perhaps limited by the difficulty of reaching the area. Development of logging operations and the establishment of Brackett's logging camp and landing on the present site of Bothell, however, generated more interest in the area. The burgeoning lumber industry attracted steamboat service to the area and newly logged lands were appealing to settlers who wished to farm. By 1887 a railroad had been constructed and the Sammamish River basin was no longer attractive to only itinerant loggers and land speculators but to families looking for homesteads.

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Settlements sprang up in the area of Brackett's landing, north and east in the North Creek Valley, southeast in the vicinity of Ira Woodin's property and north in the vicinity of August Bartelson's property. Each of these settlements early-on assumed responsibility for "schooling" their children.

For example, the children of Brackett's landing and the Woodinville areas attended school in the Woodin's home as early as 1881. And by 1885, the year David Bothell platted the town of Bothell, that community was making efforts to establish its own school.

It appears that simultaneously, a North Creek school was organized near the confluence of North and Pearl Creeks and in operation by 1887. Additionally, by the turn of the century, there were one-room schools serving the Cottage Lake area, the Grace Shingle Mill area, the present Hollywood Hills area and Kenmore. While the original 1885 Bothell School has been moved and extensively renovated, the North Creek School is the only example of these community schools that survives intact on its original site.

Tradition holds that the current North Creek Schoolhouse replaced the ca. 1887 structure. While sources suggest that it was built about 1906, the tax account records a date of 1902. The most vivid first-hand account available at this writing suggest that the earlier date is most accurate.

Lela Jacobus McCullough whose family pioneered the area, wrote a poetic account of her "Recollections Centering Around North Creek School." Arriving in the Valley in September of 1905, she recounts seeing the "dim NPS form 10-900-a outline of the schoolhouse standing on the ridge after they crossed North Creek. She said by the light of the next day, it appeared as "a pure, white gem" gleaming "against a background of green." Inside the school she described the sun's play through eastern and western windows and said it seemed "bright and peaceful...with curtains and walls of snowy white."

McCullough's lengthy poem recollects all of her years in school with no mention of new construction. Presumably the "pure, white gem" she saw in 1905 was the new North Creek School.

Lela McCullough's poem gives us something else. It speaks to the significance of the community school as a center of social life in pioneer days and gives us a glimpse of early education that included intimate contact with the natural world around the schoolhouse, interaction of all ages of students and small class sizes.

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"Large and small like one big family teacher and pupils soon became, Never more than a 'bakers dozen, so few that all played every game."

The first teacher at North Creek School was Edgar Turner who subsequently taught at Woodinville. Another early teacher, and perhaps the most famous locally, was Charles Beardsley who came to the area in the late 1880s from New York. School children remember that they fished with Beardsley at recess. He later organized the Bothell Cornet Band, was one of the founders of the Bothell State Bank and took an active role in the Commercial Club.

Consolidation of outlying community schools began in the early part of the century and by 1910 construction of major school facilities was underway in the City of Bothell. In 1922 a large high school was completed and with the simultaneous development of better roads and the popularization of automobiles, the nature of education became only one of the many changes in society in the 1920s.

The North Creek School closed about 1920 and tax photographs of the mid-1930s show that the building continued as a community social center as home of the Canyon Park Community Club.

One long time resident remembers that the sense of community surrounding North Creek School prevailed up until "television came along." The Community Club survived until about 1950. (Interestingly, that date coincides with the burning of the Canyon Park Inn which was east of the school from about 1925 until about 1950.) After that the little schoolhouse was used as storage for the Canyon Park Trout Farm and then for the owner.

Despite deterioration from missing windows and some porch roof damage, the North Creek School retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and offers us a rare glimpse of early life and education in the Bothell area.

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Bibliography

Bothell Schoolhouse, Local Register of Historic Landmarks Nomination Form, Department of Community Development, City of Bothell, 1993.

"Northshore Citizen", Special Supplement, Wednesday, October 9, 1985, p.3.

"Recollections Centering Around North Creek School", undated poem by Lela J. Jacobus McCullough from Jacobus/McCullough papers and photographs provided by Peter Pecht, current owner of the Jacobus Residence, 3112 - 228th Street SE, Bothell.

Snohomish County Tax Records

Stickney, Amy Eunice and McDonald, Lucile. Squak Slough. Evergreen Printing Co., Seattle, 1977.