

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000575 Date Listed: 6/1/92

Burlingame School
Property Name

Cascade MT
County State

Korpivaara MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for *Antoinette Rice*
Signature of the Keeper

6/10/92
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: Architecture is added to the Areas of Significance. The Period of Significance is amended to read 1903-1942. Criteria consideration A should be checked.

This information was confirmed with Pat Bik of the Montana State historic preservation office.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Burlingame School

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number

not for publication: X
vicinity: X

city/town

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Maurelle Stapp MT SHPO 4-10-92
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register
 see continuation sheet

Antoinette Lee 6/1/92

 determined eligible for the
National Register
 see continuation sheet

 determined not eligible for the
National Register
 see continuation sheet

 removed from the National Register
 see continuation sheet

 other (explain): _____

Burlingame School
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public - local

Category of Property: Buildings

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 2 </u>	_____ building(s)
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u> 2 </u>	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Korpivaara, Cascade County, 1890-1945

6. Function or Use

Historic function:

Current function:

Education: school
Religion: religious structure
Social: meeting hall

Vacant: not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Materials:

Other: Vernacular

foundation: concrete
roof: wood
walls: wood

Narrative Description

The 18 x 24' frame Burlingame School and teacherage was built in 1903. [REDACTED]

The vernacular building is frame, with a gabled roof covered in standing seam metal. It is in good condition. The school is clad in beveled lap siding, and has a shed roof teacherage attached to the southeast elevation. The school stands on a fieldstone and poured concrete foundation. An internal brick chimney projects from the gable at the northeast end of the building. The walls are painted white with green window surrounds, cornice boards and soffit boards. The windows on the main body of the building have been covered with plywood, but appear to be in two sets on the northeast and southwest elevations. The teacherage entrance is a paneled and glass pane door on the southwest elevation. The glass has been covered with plywood. Three two-over-two double hung windows are on the southeast elevation. Wooden steps lead down from the road to the building. A wooden flag pole stands before the southwest corner of the building.

The contributing, shed roof outbuilding is located northwest of the school. It is partially hidden by bushes. It is clad in horizontal boards painted red, with white door and window surrounds, and white cornerboards. Two windows are on the southwest elevation, and a door is found on the southeast elevation.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C	Areas of Significance:	Education Religion Social History
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a	Period(s) of Significance:	1903-1974
Significant Person(s): James Burlingame	Significant Dates:	1903
Cultural Affiliation: n/a	Architect/Builder:	A. L. Crane - builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

The school gains its primary importance from its associations with the creation of this ethnically homogenous community, and for its historical and cultural associations with the Finnish homesteaders of the area. The school not only served as the place of education for the homestead children, but also as the most important location for both the strengthening of the Finnish culture and the assimilation of American culture.

The unused Burlingame school and contributing outbuilding are significant according to National Register Criterion A as the central focus of the developing Little Belt Creek Community. It is also important for its namesake, a U. S. Commissioner who had homesteaded in the area, and later was integral in the homesteading process. It is also significant according to National Register Criterion C as a representative of the vernacular rural schools which once dotted the Montana countryside.

Burlingame School was named for James M. Burlingame, who had offered the first structure--his granary--as the community's first school house in 1901. The school was built in 1903 on land donated by Lars Nevala, at a cost of \$34.00 by contractor A. L. Crane. The attached teacherage is indicative of the dedication of rural teachers in Montana's early decades of the 20th century. Following the thousands of homesteaders to their remote locations, the instructors lived among and often with the students during the entire school year, which lasted between eight and nine months. Burlingame School was one of seven rural schools that developed in the area of the Highwood Mountain foothills between the years 1896 and 1926. Teachers made \$85.00 per month by 1917, which included pay for janitorial work. The next year, the education board deducted \$1.00 for the teachers retirement salary fund.²

James Burlingame was a lawyer and native of New York. The Civil War veteran had married Mary Louise Burlingame in 1866 in Illinois, and operated a law practice at Owatonna, Minnesota, until 1897. The Burlingames, including James' brother Ernst homesteaded in the Korpivaara area, in the last decades of the 1890s. James and Mary Louise later moved to Great Falls, where Burlingame turned his attention to civil affairs, and achieved the office of U. S. Commissioner. He died on a trip to California in 1915.³

As discussed in Section E, "The Homesteading Era and Korpivaara Farmstead Development: 1890s-1930s," the school was the social, educational, religious and political focal point for the community for over 70 years. Burlingame School was a community center which bound the immigrant homesteaders together. Vivian (Heikkila) Urick, who met her husband Frank at one social gathering, recalled that "any time the community needed a meeting, that's where it was. School, you name it, it was done at the school."⁴ It was the first building built by the homesteaders for the benefit of the fledgling community, revealing their optimism for the future, and intentions of remaining in the area. It also reflects the Finnish concern for a proper education which resulted in one of the highest literacy rates among European nations. The building was also used for several years by traveling Finnish ministers--an important connection to Old World customs for the first generation immigrants. The assimilation with American customs can further be seen in the building's use as ballot headquarters.

Burlingame School
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

9. References

See the Historic Contexts Bibliography for Korpivaara.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: [REDACTED]

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing
 H [REDACTED]

Verbal Boundary Description:

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the school and outbuilding that maintain historic integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Dena Sanford

Organization:

Street & Number: 2415 Highland Blvd.

City or Town: Bozeman

State: MT

Date: September 13, 1991

Telephone: 406/587-4155

Zip: 59715

Property Owner

Name: Matt and Anna Nevala

Street & Number: 1008 Willow Creek Road

City or Town: Belt

State: MT

Zip: 59412

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8

Burlingame School - Korpivaara MPD

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Architecturally, the school is a good example of the vernacular frame buildings once constructed for educating rural population. Its lightweight materials--stud walls, milled siding and manufactured windows that allowed for fast construction--were important considerations for a community desiring immediate educational services for its children.

END NOTES

1. Bertha Maki, "Rural Schools," in Kennedy and Stober, Belt Valley History (Great Falls: Advance Litho Printing, 1979), 492.
2. Ibid.
3. Carroll Power, personal correspondence with author, 26 February, 1991; Carroll Power, "James M. and Mary Louise Burlingame," in Kennedy and Stober, 463.
4. Vivian Urick, interview by author, 1 July, 1991.