

OMB No. 1024-0048
MAR 28 1991

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 10-900-a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sekiu School
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Rice Street not for publication
city, town Sekiu vicinity
state Washington code WA county Clallam code 009 zip code 98362

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	—	—
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	—	—
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Rural Public Schools in Washington State 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.
Signature of certifying official *Jacob E. Johnson* Date 3/14/91
Washington State Dept. of Community Development, Office of Archaeology & Hist. Pres.
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. Entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet. 5/1/91
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____
Signature of the Keeper *for* Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: school

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social: civic
Education: school

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls wood: weatherboard
roof other: composition
other brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Sited on a hillside with commanding views east and north over Clallam Bay and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Sekiu School is a well preserved two-room schoolhouse constructed in the Craftsman Bungalow style. The schoolhouse is the visual centerpiece of the community, with a sloping front lawn that overlooks the Sekiu commercial district and waterfront.

Constructed in 1916, the Sekiu School is a one-story wood frame structure built on a cruciform plan, with projecting front bay and perpendicular classroom wings. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation and raised basement. The walls are sheathed in narrow clapboards with corner boards, and the building is sheltered by a low-pitched cross-gable roof with broadly extended eaves. The original cedar shingles on the roof have been replaced with composition shingles. On the gable ends, the open eaves of the roof are ornamented with simple bargeboards and are supported by triangular knee braces. Along the horizontal edges of the eaves, the rafter tails are exposed. Large wood sash double casement windows, with transom lights, surround the building on the front (east) and north and south side wings, providing ample light and ventilation for the classroom area. The windows are set within wood frames with projecting entablature hoods. Windows in the daylight basement include double casements and single light windows, set within wood frames with hood moldings. A double-hung wood sash window lights the rear west wing.

The most dramatic feature of the school is the open-sided front porch created by the extended eaves of the central south gabled bay. The porch is composed of four wooden posts with molded capitals, rising above battered brick piers to a plate which in turn supports triangular knee braces, decorative beams, and a king post truss. The porch deck rests on the concrete basement, with the outer edge of the deck supported by brick piers. (Photographs of the school in c. 1918 indicate that the piers originally rose above the porch deck to railing height, serving as a base for the columns. But the columns were placed on wood plinths, and the railing replaced, by the mid-20th century.) A central flight of stairs (rebuilt in the mid-20th century, rises between the two center piers to the porch deck. (Two sets of side stairs, which originally led to the porch from the north and south, have been removed.) To either side of the central stairs are single leaf doors which lead directly into the basement. Two other single leaf doors, one on the southeast corner and one on the northeast corner, also provide access to the basement. The southeast entries are covered by a plexiglass roof added in recent years. The rear (west) elevation is entered through a single leaf door, and lighted by a single double hung window. Nestled in the southeast rear corner of the building is a garage believed to have been added shortly after construction.

The front entry to the school is located on the projecting southeast bay beneath the porch roof. A central double leaf front door, with multi-pane glazed upper panels, provides access to the building, and

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is framed by a multi-pane transom and sidelights. The door leads to a vestibule. Against the inside wall of the vestibule are two single leaf doors which lead to the large open plan classroom space which spans both the north and south wings. The open interior was divisible, when necessary, into two classrooms through use of a sliding partition. The classroom space still retains the original fir floors, tongue and groove siding with paneled wainscoting, and simple chair rails, window and door surrounds, cornice moldings, and blackboards. Craftsman details include built-in display cases with multi-pane casement windows and gabled hoods. A rear hallway includes a stairway leading to a full basement, which has been remodeled as a meeting hall.

8. Statement of Significance

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

 nationally statewide locallyApplicable National Register Criteria A B C DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Education
Architecture

Period of Significance

1916-1941

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Design attributed to Sverre Nord
George Kuppler, builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Located on a hillside overlooking the town of Sekiu and Clallam Bay, the Sekiu School is historically significant for its association with education and community life in the northern Olympic Peninsula town. The schoolhouse was built in 1916 to provide educational opportunities for children in the logging and fishing town, and remained an educational center in the rural northern Olympic Peninsula for several decades. The building's distinctive design strongly reflects the Craftsman Bungalow idiom of the period, and the building remains the most architecturally distinctive structure in town. Still in use as a community center and meeting hall, the schoolhouse is the best extant reflection of the civic life of Sekiu during the early 20th century, and meets the registration requirements established for the property type in the Rural Public Schools of Washington State Multiple Property Documentation Form.

Historical Background: Known as West Clallam until 1920 (because of its location on the west side of Clallam Bay), Sekiu was one of several coastal communities established in the late 19th century on the Strait of Juan de Fuca. While some other towns--dependent on the vagaries of maritime trade--have not survived to the present day, Sekiu had an unusually strong economic base. A Seattle company built a salmon cannery in the 1870s. In 1887, the California Tanning Company established a tanning extract operation (called the Pacific Tanning Extract Company), which employed large crews to harvest hemlock and strip the bark, which was then crushed, steamed and distilled into tanning liquid at the Sekiu plant (completed in 1890). The distilled liquid was barrelled and shipped to tanneries in Victoria and Seattle. A barrel factory was built in East Clallam, and houses and stores were built on both sides during the tanning boom. But by the mid-1890s, changes in the tanning process led to the closure of the mill. During the boom period, however, a school district was organized. In 1890, the West Clallam school district was created (the first district in the county's west end) and school was conducted in a private home until a small frame school could be constructed.

With the departure of the cannery and the collapse of the tanning industry, the community turned to the two industries--fishing and logging--that would sustain it through the 20th century. When large-scale logging operations were introduced to the area in 1907 by the Goodyear Logging Company, the town prospered again. Prominent among Goodyear's early superintendents was Sverre Nord, who had gained a local reputation for his construction abilities. The energetic Nord was civic-minded, and determined to create a stable community for his employees. Nord met with L. G. Wickersham, a teacher at the small Sekiu school since 1905, and together the men promoted a new schoolhouse they hoped would encourage families to stay in the community. Sverre Nord reputedly designed the school and George Kuppler built it in 1916.

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Although a relatively small structure, the building included a large open classroom space that could be divided into two rooms through the use of a sliding partition. The classroom bays were lined with double casement windows, with transoms for additional light and ventilation. On the exterior, the building was a remarkably faithful execution of the Craftsman Bungalow style of the period, with decorative structural ornament, low-pitched gable roofs with extended eaves and exposed rafters, and battered brick piers. It was the most elaborate structure in the community.

When the school opened, it enrolled a student body of about 50 pupils in several grades. In 1931, Sekiu consolidated with the Pysht and Clallam Bay districts, and the Sekiu School enrolled only grade school students. The school remained in operation until 1943, at which time it was closed in a further consolidation of rural school districts in the area. (The schoolhouse remains the property of the consolidated Cape Flattery School District.) Since the 1940s, the building has been widely used as a community center for the Sekiu area, providing meeting space for youth groups, clubs, unions, and senior citizens. It remains the best preserved structure associated with the educational development and civic life of the community during its historic period as a logging center. The schoolhouse was listed in the Washington State Register of Historic Places in 1979.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Jervis, Russell, ed., *Jimmy Come Lately: History of Clallam County*, Clallam County Historical Society, Port Angeles, 1971, pp. 517-520, 533-535.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

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 1.12

UTM References

A	<u>10</u>	<u>403470</u>	<u>5346150</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

That portion of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 19, Township 32 North, Range 12 West, Willamette Meridian, described as follows: beginning at S 89° 24' W and 142.86' distant from the meander corner of Clallam Bay beach, said corner being the section line between Sections 18 and 19; thence S 0° 36' E 225'; thence S 89° 24' W 216'; thence N 0° 36' W 225'; thence N 89° 24' E 216' to the point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the parcel historically associated with the Sekiu School.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title	<u>Pat Neal, 1979; revised and expanded by L. Garfield, 1990</u>		
organization	<u>Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation</u>		date <u>November 1990</u>
street & number	<u>111 West 21st Avenue, KL-11</u>	telephone	<u>(206) 586-2901</u>
city or town	<u>Olympia</u>	state	<u>Washington</u> zip code <u>98504</u>