

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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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 Arletta School
other names/site number Hales Pass Community Center

2. Location

street & number 96th Ave. & 36th St. N.W. not for publication
city, town Gig Harbor vicinity
state Washington code 053 county Pierce code 053 zip code 98335

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>2</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	<u>2</u>	_____ objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Rural Public School Buildings 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.

[Signature] DSHP Date 5-20-87
Signature of certifying official
State Office of Archaeology and 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:)

Signed Jerry L. Rogers Signature of the Keeper
9/28/87 Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social: Meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rustic style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation school & shelter: concrete

walls school & shelter: stone

stucco

roof school & shelter: wood shingle

other log

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Arletta School is a one story, two-room rustic style schoolhouse constructed of stone, log, and wood frame. An open gable roofed play shelter, also constructed of log and stone, is attached to the main building by a covered breezeway. Located on the Gig Harbor peninsula in Pierce County, Washington, the property includes a playfield and is surrounded by forests, small farms and a general store. The school buildings were constructed in 1938 as a Works Progress Administration project using local materials. The school building, play shelter, and grounds retain excellent integrity.

The single story building is rectangular in shape with a gable roof and two projecting cross gable bays on the front (west) facade. The exterior walls are constructed of stone blocks, and the gable ends are wood frame and log faced with stucco. The building has a concrete foundation and half basement. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with wood shingles and a brick chimney rises on the east (rear) slope. On each side of the front (west) facade are cross gables faced with stucco and framed with exposed rounded logs. Below the cross gables are large fixed windows with 40 panes of glass flanked by fixed windows of ten panes. The original glass and muntins of the north bay window have been replaced by new glass and muntins in an eight-pane configuration within the original frame. Three concrete steps lead to a shed roof front entry porch. The porch has stepped stone corner supports as well as log supports on a stone base. The front door has three-pane sidelights and is constructed of vertical boards with a ten-pane glazed panel.

The north and south ends of the building are the same. Both have six-over-six wood frame double-hung sash windows adjacent to rear entries. The rear side entries have gable roofs covered with wood shingles and are supported by paired log posts on a stone base. The entries have panelled wood doors.

The rear (east) of the building has a group of three wood frame six-over-six double-hung sash windows on each side of an entry which shelters a rear stairway. On the interior, a landing leads to stairs up to the classroom and down to the half basement. The wood frame double doors each have a fixed glazed unit with ten panes with a four-pane fixed transom light. The gable porch roof has log supports on a stone base and extends east forming a covered walkway to the open play shelter.

The interior of the schoolhouse consists of a large space that can be partitioned into two rooms by large wooden folding doors (creating a hallway in the middle). Doorways have rounded log moldings or surrounds. The original wainscoting is below the blackboards and along the rear hallway and stairs.

The main building is connected to an open play shelter by the gable roof walkway which is supported by log posts. The log frame shelter has a gable roof with wood shingles and vertical logs in the gable ends. The stepped corner supports are built of stone; elsewhere, the structure is supported by upright logs on stone bases (repeating the feature used on the main entry on the schoolhouse). To the north of the shelter and school is a playfield with a backstop.

6/5/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

The property is owned by the Pierce County Department of Parks and Recreation and is used as a community center and place for religious services. It is well maintained and in excellent condition. The only noticeable exterior or interior alteration is the north window on the west (front) wall which could be returned to original condition by replicating the extant original window on the south bay.

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

1938

Significant Dates

1938

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

Works Progress Administration
Alfred Perry

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

The Arletta School is significant for its association with the history of public education in rural Pierce County. Constructed as a Works Progress Administration project in 1938 (during the last phase of rural school expansion), the school is a well preserved example of the Federal government's involvement in local education during the Great Depression. In addition, the school is the outstanding example of a Rustic style school in the county, incorporating the use of native materials. Finally, the school is the only extant property closely associated with the community life of Arletta and the only remaining schoolhouse in this part of the Gig Harbor peninsula. Although less than 50 years old, the property is of exceptional significance for its strong associations with the educational, community, and architectural history of the area. The school property retains excellent integrity and includes a rustic style play shelter, original school grounds and setting, and a well preserved interior with all the traditional features of a two-room schoolhouse.

Historical Background: Like other counties in the Puget Sound region, Pierce County was settled in the mid and late 19th century by Americans from more eastern states and by European immigrants attracted by the area's vast forests, rich mineral deposits, fertile farmland, and saltwater harbors. Given these physical features, it is not surprising that the economy was dominated by extractive industries--principally logging but also mining, fishing, and farming. Even in the 1930s, when other industries (notably manufacturing) had developed in urban areas, the county's rural economy was fueled by the products of its forests, fields, and the Sound.

This economic base led to the creation of widely scattered rural communities (usually unincorporated) close to natural resources but often inaccessible to urban areas except by difficult water or overland transportation. While Tacoma had a diversified economy based on heavy industry, trade, and transportation, the sparsely settled rural areas were independent and isolated communities characterized by a single economic mainstay.

Without exception, each of these small rural communities established a school district shortly after the first settlers arrived. As elsewhere in the state, the creation of a district and the construction of school buildings signalled the formation of a community and reflected a belief in both the importance of universal education and the permanence of the community itself. The school buildings were often the first and sometimes the only public structures in the area, and thus served as social and cultural centers as well as centers of education. The typical schoolhouse served all school age children in the area and often doubled as a meeting place for their parents. Between

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Along the Waterfront: A History of the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula Areas, Peninsula School District, Gig Harbor, 1975.
Auditor's Annual Exhibit, Pierce County, Washington, Bell Press, Tacoma, 1910.

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:

Pierce County Dept. of Planning & Development, Tacoma, Washington

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one

UTM References

A

1	0	5	2	5	2	4	0	5	2	3	7	2	0	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Quadrangle name: Fox Island

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Arletta School is located on the southeast corner of 96th Avenue and 36th Street in Arletta. It is in Section 22, Township 21 North, Range 1 East, W.M., legally described as Parcel No. 01-21-22-3-012.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire parcel that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Caroline Gallacci, Preservation Planner</u>	(Edited by <u>L. Garfield, OAHF</u>)
organization	<u>Pierce County Planning Division</u>	date <u>December 20, 1986</u>
street & number	<u>2401 S. 35th St.</u>	telephone <u>206/591-7172</u>
city or town	<u>Tacoma</u>	state <u>WA</u> zip code <u>98409</u>

6/5/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

1853, when Washington became a territory, and the 1940s, when rural school consolidation resulted in the construction of larger schools serving several communities, the small community schoolhouses were the primary public structures on the Pierce County rural landscape and today they often are the only surviving evidence of the once thriving rural communities that dotted the county.

Pierce County's rural schoolhouse construction reflected three general periods of development. Shortly after initial settlement, a one-room log or frame schoolhouse was constructed on land usually donated by an early homesteader. As the community grew, two or four-room frame schoolhouses were constructed, indicating increased community stability, the growth of the school age population, and the expansion of the school curriculum. Schools built between statehood (1889) and World War I often reflect this second period of growth and expansion. A third phase of growth is reflected in buildings constructed after World War I, when many frame buildings were replaced by larger brick structures and ancillary structures--including gymnasiums and play shelters--were constructed adjacent to the schoolhouse. This period, which lasted through the 1930s, included structures built by the federal Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression. This third period ended by 1940 when the last WPA projects were constructed and the move toward full-scale rural school consolidation was well underway.

Settlement on the western shore of the Gig Harbor peninsula began in the 1870s and ultimately seven communities were formed in the vicinity of floating or permanent docks. All seven had their own school districts. Because the land was highly forested, logging was the main economic activity during the first years of settlement. This was gradually replaced by diversified farming, primarily fruit production. This rural atmosphere was maintained until the completion of the second Tacoma Narrows bridge in the 1950s when the area gradually changed into a suburban bedroom community for those working on the Pierce County mainland.

Arletta was first settled in the late 1870s and early 1880s and by 1886 enough families lived there to establish a school district. The post office was created seven years later. Early settlers engaged in logging, fishing, and trapping but ultimately turned to diversified farming. By 1905, after a permanent dock was constructed, a small business district evolved including a store, warehouse, and dogfish fertilizer factory.

To the east of Arletta the community of Warren was established around a floating and later permanent dock. From 1886 until 1905, these two communities shared the same school building. The first, constructed in 1887, was a rough board shack on the beach near an old Indian campground midway between Arletta and Warren. Later, a frame one-room schoolhouse was built closer to Warren. In 1905, Arletta constructed its own one-room wood frame schoolhouse on the site of the present playfield.

In 1938, the school was too small for the Arletta community and WPA funds were obtained to construct a new two-room building. Both the stone and logs used in the new building came from the area surrounding Arletta. A local mason from nearby Cromwell did the stone work. Alfred Perry supervised the project. At the completion of the project, the community sent a letter to Perry commending him for the "constant and intelligent supervision besides considerable actual work...to say nothing of the time and expense of rounding up materials and attending to the many details of the work," all completed within budget. (See letter of appreciation to Perry from Horsehead Bay Improvement Club, April 2, 1939.)

6/5/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

The Arletta schoolhouse and covered play shelter are architecturally distinct in Pierce County. While the interior exhibits features typical of small rural schoolhouses, the exterior Rustic design incorporates an unusual combination of local materials--stone, log, timber, and stucco--and is unique among schoolhouses in Pierce County (although the WPA-constructed play shelter at Wollochet and the gymnasium at Longbranch reflect a similar style). The schoolhouse was used for classes until 1959 when it was replaced by a newer school structure. The building was then purchased by the Hales Pass Improvement Club which was an offshoot of the Horsehead Bay and Warren-Arletta Improvement Clubs. In 1974, the property was donated to the Pierce County Department of Parks and Recreation which continues to maintain the building.

Criteria Consideration: The Arletta School is less than 50 years old but has exceptional importance in Arletta history because of 1) an association with the development of schools in the area; 2) an association with the WPA program of the Great Depression era; and 3) as an example of Rustic style architecture using local materials and builders. Specifically:

1) The Arletta School is the only remaining school building in either Arletta or Warren. Earlier schools in both communities have been demolished. The school is also the only extant property strongly associated with the larger community life of the area. The community hall from the period has been demolished. Also demolished are structures associated with the community's economic and social history including the original store, warehouse, and dogfish fertilizer plant. At Warren, only the deteriorating piers that once supported the community dock reflect the activity of that historic community.

2) The school is one of five Works Progress Administration school projects in the county. All five school buildings were constructed between 1934 and 1939 and all five were built in communities on the Gig Harbor peninsula in anticipation of increased settlement following the construction of the Narrows Bridge (a major WPA project in Pierce County). The bridge, however, collapsed shortly after its construction in 1940 and the school buildings remain the only testimony to federal government involvement in the development of the area during the last years of the Great Depression. The Gig Harbor communities were not connected to the mainland of Pierce County (except by auto ferry) until a second Narrows Bridge was completed in the 1950s.

Methodology: The project of surveying and documenting Pierce County's rural schools was conducted by James Widrig, architect of the Pierce County Landmarks Board, and Caroline Gallacci, Preservation Planner for Pierce County. The nominated schools were drawn from a list of 84 school buildings and associated sites included in the countywide historic sites survey. The project followed federal survey guidelines and the results are filed in the Washington State Inventory of Cultural Resources at the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation in Olympia. Each property was physically evaluated to determine its integrity. In addition, traditional research methods were used to place the building in its local historic context as well as to evaluate the property within the statewide context of rural public education.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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1. Name of Property

historic name Arletta School
other names/site number Hales Pass Community Center

2. Location

street & number 96th Ave. & 36th St. N.W.
city, town Gig Harbor
state Washington code 053 county Pierce code 053 zip code 98335

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: Rural Public School Buildings 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.
Signature of certifying official: State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Date: 5-20-87

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper
Date of Action: 9/28/87

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social: Meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rustic style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation school & shelter: concrete

walls school & shelter: stone

stucco

roof school & shelter: wood shingle

other log

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Arletta School is a one story, two-room rustic style schoolhouse constructed of stone, log, and wood frame. An open gable roofed play shelter, also constructed of log and stone, is attached to the main building by a covered breezeway. Located on the Gig Harbor peninsula in Pierce County, Washington, the property includes a playfield and is surrounded by forests, small farms and a general store. The school buildings were constructed in 1938 as a Works Progress Administration project using local materials. The school building, play shelter, and grounds retain excellent integrity.

The single story building is rectangular in shape with a gable roof and two projecting cross gable bays on the front (west) facade. The exterior walls are constructed of stone blocks, and the gable ends are wood frame and log faced with stucco. The building has a concrete foundation and half basement. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with wood shingles and a brick chimney rises on the east (rear) slope. On each side of the front (west) facade are cross gables faced with stucco and framed with exposed rounded logs. Below the cross gables are large fixed windows with 40 panes of glass flanked by fixed windows of ten panes. The original glass and muntins of the north bay window have been replaced by new glass and muntins in an eight-pane configuration within the original frame. Three concrete steps lead to a shed roof front entry porch. The porch has stepped stone corner supports as well as log supports on a stone base. The front door has three-pane sidelights and is constructed of vertical boards with a ten-pane glazed panel.

The north and south ends of the building are the same. Both have six-over-six wood frame double-hung sash windows adjacent to rear entries. The rear side entries have gable roofs covered with wood shingles and are supported by paired log posts on a stone base. The entries have panelled wood doors.

The rear (east) of the building has a group of three wood frame six-over-six double-hung sash windows on each side of an entry which shelters a rear stairway. On the interior, a landing leads to stairs up to the classroom and down to the half basement. The wood frame double doors each have a fixed glazed unit with ten panes with a four-pane fixed transom light. The gable porch roof has log supports on a stone base and extends east forming a covered walkway to the open play shelter.

The interior of the schoolhouse consists of a large space that can be partitioned into two rooms by large wooden folding doors (creating a hallway in the middle). Doorways have rounded log moldings or surrounds. The original wainscoting is below the blackboards and along the rear hallway and stairs.

The main building is connected to an open play shelter by the gable roof walkway which is supported by log posts. The log frame shelter has a gable roof with wood shingles and vertical logs in the gable ends. The stepped corner supports are built of stone; elsewhere, the structure is supported by upright logs on stone bases (repeating the feature used on the main entry on the schoolhouse). To the north of the shelter and school is a playfield with a backstop.

6/5/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

The property is owned by the Pierce County Department of Parks and Recreation and is used as a community center and place for religious services. It is well maintained and in excellent condition. The only noticeable exterior or interior alteration is the north window on the west (front) wall which could be returned to original condition by replicating the extant original window on the south bay.

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

1938

Significant Dates

1938

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

Works Progress Administration

Alfred Perry

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

The Arletta School is significant for its association with the history of public education in rural Pierce County. Constructed as a Works Progress Administration project in 1938 (during the last phase of rural school expansion), the school is a well preserved example of the Federal government's involvement in local education during the Great Depression. In addition, the school is the outstanding example of a Rustic style school in the county, incorporating the use of native materials. Finally, the school is the only extant property closely associated with the community life of Arletta and the only remaining schoolhouse in this part of the Gig Harbor peninsula. Although less than 50 years old, the property is of exceptional significance for its strong associations with the educational, community, and architectural history of the area. The school property retains excellent integrity and includes a rustic style play shelter, original school grounds and setting, and a well preserved interior with all the traditional features of a two-room schoolhouse.

Historical Background: Like other counties in the Puget Sound region, Pierce County was settled in the mid and late 19th century by Americans from more eastern states and by European immigrants attracted by the area's vast forests, rich mineral deposits, fertile farmland, and saltwater harbors. Given these physical features, it is not surprising that the economy was dominated by extractive industries--principally logging but also mining, fishing, and farming. Even in the 1930s, when other industries (notably manufacturing) had developed in urban areas, the county's rural economy was fueled by the products of its forests, fields, and the Sound.

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Without exception, each of these small rural communities established a school district shortly after the first settlers arrived. As elsewhere in the state, the creation of a district and the construction of school buildings signalled the formation of a community and reflected a belief in both the importance of universal education and the permanence of the community itself. The school buildings were often the first and sometimes the only public structures in the area, and thus served as social and cultural centers as well as centers of education. The typical schoolhouse served all school age children in the area and often doubled as a meeting place for their parents. Between

See continuation sheet

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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:

Pierce County Dept. of Planning & Development, Tacoma, Washington

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property less than one

UTM References

A 1,0 5,2,5 2,4,0 5,2 3,7 2,0,0
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

Quadrangle name: Fox Island

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Arletta School is located on the southeast corner of 96th Avenue and 36th Street in Arletta. It is in Section 22, Township 21 North, Range 1 East, W.M., legally described as Parcel No. 01-21-22-3-012.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire parcel that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Caroline Gallacci, Preservation Planner</u>	(Edited by <u>L. Garfield, OAHF</u>)
organization	<u>Pierce County Planning Division</u>	date <u>December 20, 1986</u>
street & number	<u>2401 S. 35th St.</u>	telephone <u>206/591-7172</u>
city or town	<u>Tacoma</u>	state <u>WA</u> zip code <u>98409</u>

6/15/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

1853, when Washington became a territory, and the 1940s, when rural school consolidation resulted in the construction of larger schools serving several communities, the small community schoolhouses were the primary public structures on the Pierce County rural landscape and today they often are the only surviving evidence of the once thriving rural communities that dotted the county.

Pierce County's rural schoolhouse construction reflected three general periods of development. Shortly after initial settlement, a one-room log or frame schoolhouse was constructed on land usually donated by an early homesteader. As the community grew, two or four-room frame schoolhouses were constructed, indicating increased community stability, the growth of the school age population, and the expansion of the school curriculum. Schools built between statehood (1889) and World War I often reflect this second period of growth and expansion. A third phase of growth is reflected in buildings constructed after World War I, when many frame buildings were replaced by larger brick structures and ancillary structures--including gymnasiums and play shelters--were constructed adjacent to the schoolhouse. This period, which lasted through the 1930s, included structures built by the federal Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression. This third period ended by 1940 when the last WPA projects were constructed and the move toward full-scale rural school consolidation was well underway.

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In 1938, the school was too small for the Arletta community and WPA funds were obtained to construct a new two-room building. Both the stone and logs used in the new building came from the area surrounding Arletta. A local mason from nearby Cromwell did the stone work. Alfred Perry supervised the project. At the completion of the project, the community sent a letter to Perry commending him for the "constant and intelligent supervision besides considerable actual work...to say nothing of the time and expense of rounding up materials and attending to the many details of the work," all completed within budget. (See letter of appreciation to Perry from Horsehead Bay Improvement Club, April 2, 1939.)

6/15/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3

The Arletta schoolhouse and covered play shelter are architecturally distinct in Pierce County. While the interior exhibits features typical of small rural schoolhouses, the exterior Rustic design incorporates an unusual combination of local materials--stone, log, timber, and stucco--and is unique among schoolhouses in Pierce County (although the WPA-constructed play shelter at Wollochet and the gymnasium at Longbranch reflect a similar style). The schoolhouse was used for classes until 1959 when it was replaced by a newer school structure. The building was then purchased by the Hales Pass Improvement Club which was an offshoot of the Horsehead Bay and Warren-Arletta Improvement Clubs. In 1974, the property was donated to the Pierce County Department of Parks and Recreation which continues to maintain the building.

Criteria Consideration: The Arletta School is less than 50 years old but has exceptional importance in Arletta history because of 1) an association with the development of schools in the area; 2) an association with the WPA program of the Great Depression era; and 3) as an example of Rustic style architecture using local materials and builders. Specifically:

1) The Arletta School is the only remaining school building in either Arletta or Warren. Earlier schools in both communities have been demolished. The school is also the only extant property strongly associated with the larger community life of the area. The community hall from the period has been demolished. Also demolished are structures associated with the community's economic and social history including the original store, warehouse, and dogfish fertilizer plant. At Warren, only the deteriorating piers that once supported the community dock reflect the activity of that historic community.

2) The school is one of five Works Progress Administration school projects in the county. All five school buildings were constructed between 1934 and 1939 and all five were built in communities on the Gig Harbor peninsula in anticipation of increased settlement following the construction of the Narrows Bridge (a major WPA project in Pierce County). The bridge, however, collapsed shortly after its construction in 1940 and the school buildings remain the only testimony to federal government involvement in the development of the area during the last years of the Great Depression. The Gig Harbor communities were not connected to the mainland of Pierce County (except by auto ferry) until a second Narrows Bridge was completed in the 1950s.

Methodology: The project of surveying and documenting Pierce County's rural schools was conducted by James Widrig, architect of the Pierce County Landmarks Board, and Caroline Gallacci, Preservation Planner for Pierce County. The nominated schools were drawn from a list of 84 school buildings and associated sites included in the countywide historic sites survey. The project followed federal survey guidelines and the results are filed in the Washington State Inventory of Cultural Resources at the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation in Olympia. Each property was physically evaluated to determine its integrity. In addition, traditional research methods were used to place the building in its local historic context as well as to evaluate the property within the statewide context of rural public education.