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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

OCT 8 1987

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 Blue Mountain School
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number Blue Mountain Road
city, town Port Angeles
state Washington code 053 county Clallam code 009 zip code 98362

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 Schools in Washington MPS
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: [Signature] Date: 9/29/87
Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

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:
[X] 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:)
Signature of the Keeper: [Signature] Date of Action: 11-5-87

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: SchoolFunerary: Cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant: not in useFunerary: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: front gable vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation woodwalls wood: weatherboard

roof wood: shingleother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Blue Mountain School is a one room, gable roof, wood frame schoolhouse located in the foothills of the Olympic Mountains. Constructed in 1903, the building sits on a five acre parcel of land that includes the schoolhouse, playfield, shed, outhouse, and a two and one-half acre cemetery surrounded by dense coniferous forests. The schoolhouse, grounds, and ancillary structures retain outstanding integrity and clearly reflect a strong association with the history of education and community life in the remote region.

The Blue Mountain School is a wood frame structure built on a simple rectangular plan measuring approximately 18 by 14 feet. A small hipped roof belfry straddles the roof ridge near the front (west) gable end and an enclosed entry porch (or vestibule), with engaged hipped roof, projects about four feet from the facade. The structure rests on a wood post and pier foundation, the walls are sheathed in cedar drop siding and trimmed with corner-boards, and the steeply pitched roof is covered with cedar shingles. The eaves of the roof are boxed with a plain fascia and soffit and underscored with a plain frieze board.

The side walls of the school are punctuated with three regularly spaced windows with simple wood surrounds and sills. The windows on the south side are two-over-two double-hung wood sash units; the windows on the north side were covered with drop siding shortly after construction to improve lighting in the classroom. The rear elevation features two sets of paired windows with vertical muntins. The enclosed entry porch includes two-over-two double-hung wood sash windows on the side walls and a centrally placed single leaf, five panel front door on the west wall. A worn wood step leads to the front door. The belfry, which no longer contains the bell, has openings on all four sides and is surmounted by a wood flag pole. An octagonal wood frame plaque, inscribed "Blue Mt. School, District #41" is mounted on the front facade and dates from the year of construction. A brick chimney (reconstructed sometime after 1908) rises from the rear of the roof ridge. The interior of the school retains the original undivided classroom space, with simple wainscoting to chair-rail height and flush tongue-and-groove boards on the upper walls, floor and ceiling. The windows have plain surrounds and a blackboard is still mounted on the east wall.

The schoolhouse faces the Blue Mountain Road, although the building was moved a few feet east from its original location sometime in the early 20th century. The schoolhouse is surrounded by large, grassy open playfields. To the immediate southeast of the school is an open-sided shed constructed of cedar poles and a gable roof sided with shakes. Further southeast is a gable roof outhouse with drop siding, corner boards, and a shake roof. Directly east of the schoolhouse is the historic Blue Mountain cemetery, a grassy area with headstones marking the burial places of members of the community. The grounds and out-buildings retain excellent integrity.

See continuation sheet

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
Social History

Period of Significance

1903 - 1935

Significant Dates

1903
c. 1910 (moved)

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

The Blue Mountain School is historically significant for its enduring association with education and community life in the rural foothills of the Olympic Mountains. Built in 1903 with community labor and materials, the structure was the first permanent schoolhouse in a sparsely settled region of dense forests and subsistence farms. To the rear of the school, Blue Mountain residents established a community cemetery, underscoring the central role of the property. Until consolidation forced closure in 1935, the schoolhouse was the sole educational facility in the district; today, the cemetery association continues to maintain the schoolhouses, cemetery, grounds, and ancillary structures, and the property clearly reflects the pioneer heritage of the area.

The Blue Mountain area was a heavily timbered district first settled in the late 19th century by farmers who cleared the land and maintained small homesteads. Despite relative proximity to Port Angeles, the area was isolated by rugged topography and heavy forests and the first school district was not established until the late 1890s. By 1898, District 41 had been established and school was conducted in a log structure located across the road from the present building. According to county superintendent reports, the schoolhouse was worth about \$20, served 16 students (from a school age population of 20) and employed one teacher who conducted classes during the three summer months when students could travel easily to the school.

By 1902, the school district decided to construct a permanent structure on land located near the log cabin. Supervised by George Campbell, who had skill in practical carpentry, the local menfolk constructed the new frame building, hauling lumber from the Long Mill in Sequim. Getting building materials to the site was no easy task, and wagons had to be partially unloaded for the final ascent to the schoolyard.

When completed, the structure was valued at \$400, furnished with about \$25 worth of furniture, and large enough to accommodate 19 students and one teacher in an ungraded classroom. The first year, 13 of the 29 school-age children in the district attended. As with the earlier school, classes were taught by one teacher who conducted school during the three summer months. Shortly after construction, a school bell was purchased with funds raised by students through box socials held at the schoolhouse.

About the time that the district built the new school, Blue Mountain settlers formed a cemetery association, purchased land behind the schoolhouse, and established a community

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

County Superintendent's Reports, Clallam County, 1898-1905, State Archives, Olympia.
Fish, Harriet. What's Down that Road? (Port Angeles, 1979).
Russell, Jervis, ed. Jimmy Come Lately: History of Clallam County. (Clallam County Historical Society, Port Angeles, 1971).
Keeting, Virginia, ed. Dungeness: Lure of a River. (Sequim, 1976).

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 5 acres

UTM References

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The nominated property is a five acre tract of land described thusly: beginning at a point approx. 5,000 feet north of the NE corner of Blue Mountain Road and Gellor Road, proceed easterly approx. 500 feet, then proceed northerly approx. 450 feet, then proceed westerly approx. 500 feet, then proceed southerly along Blue Mountain Road to the point of beginning. Said property is located in the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 36, Township 30 North, Range 5 West, Willamette Meridian.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the five acres historically associated with the Blue Mountain School and community cemetery.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Harriet Fish and Leonard Garfield
organization Clallam County Heritage Advisory Board date May 11, 1987
street & number P.O. Box 900 telephone (206) 452-9195
city or town Carlsborg state Washington zip code 98324

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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cemetery at the site. Most residents of the area joined the association and paid for their lots by working on the maintenance of the grounds. When a funeral was held at the cemetery, the school bell, normally rung to call children to class, would toll for the passing of one of the area's citizens.

The Blue Mountain School continued to operate as an ungraded common school until 1935 when the district was consolidated with others in the region. Between that date and 1965, the cemetery association assumed maintenance of the school and grounds, and community groups, including the Blue Mountain Community Club, the Hill Billy Club, civil defense and first aid classes, and others used the centrally located facility. Today, the Blue Mountain Cemetery Association continues to maintain the property and was awarded the Clallam County Historical Society's Heritage Award in 1987 for their efforts in preserving the school and grounds.

Related Multiple Property Nomination: The Blue Mountain School is an outstanding example of rural public education in the state, representing the characteristic property types associated with the theme (as established in the Rural Public Schools in Washington multiple property document) and reflecting the dual role of the rural public school as a center for local education and the focal point of larger community life.

Criteria Exceptions: Although the school was moved a few feet early in the 20th century, the integrity and historical associates of the schoolhouse were not impaired. In addition, the cemetery on the property meets National Register criteria because of its association with the establishment of the school and the development of the Blue Mountain community.