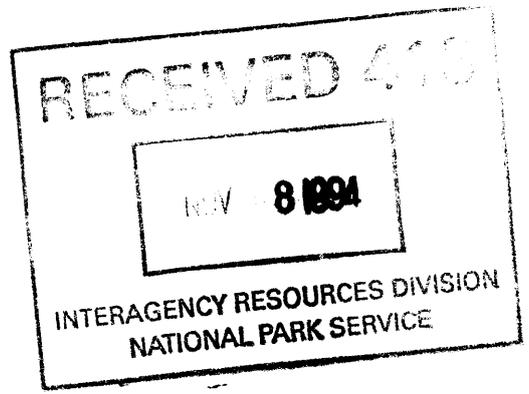


1439

NPS Form 10-900  
OMB No. 1024-0018  
(Rev. 10/90)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Port Stanley School

other names/site number WA 055-8

### 2. Location

street & number Port Stanley Road  not for publication

city or town Lopez Island  vicinity

state Washington code WA county San Juan code 055 zip code 98261

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary M. Thompson 10/21/94  
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary Thompson, State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
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:

- 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Paul R. Suroegui 12/9/94

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action



Property Name Port Stanley School

County and State San Juan County, WA

**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

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**Period of Significance**

1917-1938

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**Significant Dates**

1917

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**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

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**Significant Person**

n/a

**Architect/Builder**

Noderer, Lee

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Property Name Port Stanley School

County and State San Juan County, WA

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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:  
San Juan County Ping Depot

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Approx. 2

UTM References

1	<u>1/0</u>	<u>5/0/9/1/2/0</u>	<u>5/3/7/4/5/1/0</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Nancy McCoy, Curator

organization Lopez Island Historical Society date July 15, 1994

street & number PO Box 163 telephone (206) 468-3447

city or town Lopez Island state WA zip code 98261

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner** (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

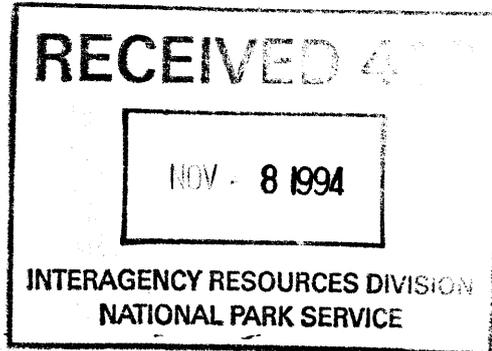
name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**



Section number 7 Page 1  
Name of Property Port Stanley School  
County and State San Juan County, Washington

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**Description**

The Port of Stanley School is a one-story, three-room, rectangular frame building with a gabled roof running east and west. The Arts and Crafts style is evident in the use of exposed rafter tails, knee brace brackets and grouped windows. Overall dimensions are forty-six feet by twenty-eight feet. A small gabled, entry porch, long removed, sheltered the door at the northeast corner. The outline of the missing porch is apparent on the east facade and is documented with historic photographs. A concrete foundation wall supports eight-inch-by-ten-inch floor joists. The exterior walls are sheathed with shiplap siding. The roof is finished with wood shingles and has a wood gutter system and a simple brick flue. Two, one-inch-by-six-inch knee brace brackets are exposed under the north and south twelve-inch overhangs, with ends covered by one-inch-by-six-inch fascia. There are four, inch-by-six-inch knee brace brackets under the east and west overhangs at the ridge and quarter points.

From the northeast doorway, one enters a narrow cloakroom. This is separated from the large, single classroom by a full-height partition into which grilled openings are cut for air circulation. A third room in the rear (west) originally served as the teacher's office and library and has a separate outside entry on the west wall. The building was heated by a wood stove located at the west end of the classroom. The ceilings are covered by lath and plaster, as are the walls. There is a beaded, one-inch-by-four-inch wood wainscot in all rooms.

The south facade is dominated by two groupings of windows; to the rear remains a four-part transom of six-light windows, the lower folding casements have since been removed. Illuminating the classroom is a long opening formerly containing identical windows. Today, the twelve-light folding casements are missing, however the six-light transoms remain. Window openings are currently boarded over with plywood for security. The windows have plain surrounds and sills with molded drip caps. The north facade features three, one-over-one, double-hung sash, now boarded over. The west (rear) facade also contains a single window opening of grouped windows and transoms. This, as well as a northwest door are boarded up.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2  
Name of Property Port Stanley School  
County and State San Juan County, Washington

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Interior door and window casings are of flat grain fir. Floors are one-inch-by-four-inch, tongue-and-groove, with one-inch-by-twelve-inch baseboards. Fir, paneled doors that originally separated the rooms are missing. Large slate boards were originally found on the north and east walls of the classroom. Originally sheathed with shingles, the roof currently features a shake roof. A brick chimney rising toward the rear of the building marks the original location of the stove.

The school stands at a quiet rural corner along the Port Stanley road. A mix of deciduous trees and conifers forms a boundary behind the building, while a broad landscape of open fields provides a pastoral setting to the southeast. The building and the landscape in which it is located have remained virtually unchanged during its seventy-seven years. Over two hundred acres of cattle pasture across the road, south and east of the schoolhouse, are now preserved in farmland conservation easements with the San Juan Preservation Trust. The property to the north and west of the building is in the process of being placed in conservation easements.

Currently, the Port Stanley School is in poor condition, as it has been unused since Lopez Island voters chose to consolidate their four regional school districts in the late 1930s. With only minor alterations evident, the removal of the small entry porch and the loss of portions of some windows, the structure retains its original character both on the exterior and interior. In a recent building inspection in May 1993, the foundation was found to be sound, and since it is a relatively new building (1917) all materials used in construction are still readily available. The schoolhouse and property have been offered to the Lopez Island Historical Society as a gift with the provision that the building be placed in the National Register of Historic Places and restored to its original appearance. Today's island community is very supportive and eager to help make this project happen. Since this offer has been made public, former students have donated many historic school photographs and offered useful information about the school's history.

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Section number 8 Page 1  
Name of Property Port Stanley School  
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Statement of Significance

The Port Stanley School, while modestly designed and suffering from neglect, remains the best-preserved example of early education on Lopez Island. Equally significant is the rural landscape component which envelopes the school site and validates the historical values of the island's settlement period.

Port Stanley, located at the northeast corner of Lopez Island, was one of three, very small rural community centers on the island. Each community consisted of a community hall, a post office, a general store and a grammar school. Residents living on one part of the island rarely traveled to the other community areas of the island. The Port Stanley community was given its name, after the British explorer, Sir Henry Stanley, whose book, In Darkest Africa, was a sensation in the early 1890s. The area was developed by Frank P. Balm, attorney, newspaper owner/publisher, prohibitionist and real estate promoter. With a group of like-minded men, he bought up property around a small lagoon on Lopez Island's Swift Bay. William W. Mallory, a Methodist preacher better known in some circles as the "Kansas Cyclone", was president of the company, Baum was the secretary. The men called themselves the Port Stanley Townsite Development Company.

Port Stanley came into being in June 1892. Baum was appointed postmaster and built a combined post office, store and residence, which also housed his newspaper office, the "Graphic." Lots were sold sight unseen, many under water at high tide. The national economic panic in 1893 put the Port Stanley company abruptly out of business.

In 1889 a two-story community hall was built at Port Stanley with church services conducted on the first floor and meetings and dances held upstairs. In 1902 approximately fifty families of the community organized the Port Stanley Rochdale Company, a cooperative store patterned after the British Rochdale Company. A community dock became a regular stop for steamer traffic between Anacortes, the San Juan Islands and Bellingham.

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Around the outbreak of World War II, California investors established the Puget Sound Potash and Kelp Fertilizer Company at Port Stanley. They harvested kelp with the vessel "Harvester King" and extracted potash for wartime-needed explosives in a large, three-story building complex they built at the water's edge. At the end of the war, the market for potash collapsed, the company dissolved and the building fell into ruin. The community never recovered from this loss and is now no more than a row of summer cottages along the bay.

The Port Stanley School served as one of four regional schoolhouses on Lopez Island, Washington from 1917 to 1938. Each schoolhouse was built by an independent, rural island school district formed by the heads of the families of the neighboring community. They elected directors among themselves, secured a place for holding a school and raised money by taxation or voluntary contribution for support of the district and employment of a teacher. The schools were an important focus of community life, an element of cohesion and identity on an island isolated from the mainland. They also reflected the islander's belief in the value of universal education.

The Port Stanley School was the third schoolhouse in the Port Stanley School District. The first was a drafty log cabin probably built in the 1880s. The second, located approximately one mile from the present building, sheltered school children at the turn of the century. Land for the third building, the nominated Port Stanley School, was donated by a community member, Mr. Erb. The building was designed in a simple Arts and Crafts style by seventeen-year-old Lee Norderer in 1917. Norderer had studied mechanical drawing for a year at Lincoln High School in Seattle.

Within the context of Lopez Island, only the Port Stanley School retains the essential qualities of integrity not found on any of the island's earlier school buildings. The Lopez School, located near the community of Lopez, is a wood frame building built in 1894. The Victorian-style school with central tower has been moved, and three gabled wings have been added, thereby making it ineligible for listing. The two-room Center School, now used as a

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grange hall, was built in the early 1900s, but no longer retains its bell tower. A conversion of the 1909 Mud Bay School to a private residence resulted in the installation of a plywood slider door, removal of original fir flooring, and reroofing with tin. Though abandoned and neglected, the Port Stanley School remains one of the few visual reminders of the island's early development. Its pastoral setting in a large, unaltered acreage further defines the historic context.

Today San Juan county is one of the fastest growing areas of the state. Over half of its population has resided here for less than five years. The one surviving village on Lopez Island has been rapidly changing to accommodate the growing demands of this new population. The Port Stanley Schoolhouse area, however, has remained unchanged and still reflects the rural, isolated lifestyle of earlier years in the San Juan Islands. The Port Stanley Schoolhouse continues to reflect its important role in a rural, isolated landscape.

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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- Noderer, Lee C. Monograph. Lopez Island Historical Museum. 1983
- Tonkin, Les P. Interview and video. Lopez Island Historical Museum. May 8, 1993
- Tonkin, Les P. Lopez Island Historical Museum. May 17, 1993
- Washington State Historical Property Inventory Form, Site 0558. 1985

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1 Name of Property Port Stanley School  
County and State San Juan County, WA

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The south 208.1 feet of the East 208.1 feet of the following described property:

A portion of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 13, Township 35 North, Range 2 West, W.M., Lopez Island, County of San Juan, State of Washington, described as follows:

Commencing at a concrete monument marking the west quarter corner of said Section 13; thence along the westerly boundary of said Section 13, South 11 feet 58 inches East, 1,338.43 feet to the southwest corner of the north one half of the said southwest quarter; thence along the southerly boundary of the said north one half of the southwest quarter, North 89 degrees 47 feet 59 inches East, 1329.77 feet to the southwest corner of the said northeast quarter of the southwest quarter; thence along the southerly boundary of the said northeast quarter of the southwest quarter, North 89 degrees 47 feet 59 inches East, 664.885 feet to the true point of beginning of the parcel to be described; then continuing along said southerly boundary, North 89 degrees 47 feet 59 inches East, 664.885 feet to a point on the easterly boundary of the said northeast quarter of the southwest quarter; then along said easterly boundary, North 30 feet 5 inches West, 1,167.16 feet to the southeast corner of the North 5 acres of the said northeast quarter of the southwest quarter; then along the southerly boundary of the said north 5 acres, South 89 degree 57 feet 10 inches West, 663.35 feet; thence leaving said southerly boundary, South 25 feet 32 inches East, 1,168.93 feet to the true point of beginning, EXCEPT county road along the South and East boundaries thereof.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Nomination boundaries are based upon a parcel of approximately two acres which historically constituted the original land donated for the purposes of constructing a school. Although the adjacent undeveloped lands lend continuity from the historic period and create a landscape backdrop, the nominated property is associated only with the parcel of land originally deeded for the school building.