

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 16 1989

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 Lambert School
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 21814 N.W. 11th not for publication
city, town Ridgefield vicinity
state Washington code WA county Clark code 011 zip code 98642

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	_____ 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	_____	_____ objects
		1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Rural Public School Bldgs. in Wash. 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.

John E. Shaw
Signature of certifying official Date 2/7/89
Washington State Office of Archaeology & 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:)

A. Loree Byer Entered in the National Register 3/16/89

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/Civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)OTHER/hipped roof vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls brick

roof asbestos (composition)other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Lambert School in rural Clark County, Washington, is situated on a grassy, open hilltop with a view of surrounding farmland and the Cascade Mountains to the east. In good weather Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Adams and Mt. Hood are clearly visible from the school yard. The town of Ridgefield lies three miles to the northwest.

The school is a one-story brick building, rectangular in shape, which measures approximately 62' x 36'. A raised, covered wooden porch provides entry to the school interior via double doors. This porch is on the east side of the building; the end walls, north and south, are windowless. The western elevation is lined with windows and faces a grassy meadow with fir trees beyond.

The brick walls, laid in Flemish bond, sit on a concrete foundation. A full cement basement houses the original wood burning furnace. A simple wood frieze wraps around the building under narrow boxes eaves. The low, hipped roof is covered with composition shingles.

The entry porch is flanked on either side with two small 6/6 double hung, wood sash windows. On the opposite side of the building are ten large (approximately 4' x 8') 6/6, double hung wooden sash windows. In addition, the western facade has a door in each corner of the building designed for ventilation and fire escape purposes.

Since its construction in 1926, the Lambert School has undergone only one exterior alteration. In 1953-54 when the building was re-roofed, the belltower on top of the building was dismantled and not rebuilt. The bell, which had been used on the frame school (1890-1926) as well, was purchased by a former pupil who lives in the neighborhood.

The entry doors open onto a small foyer with drinking fountain. To the right (north) is the hallway to the boy's bathroom, the door to the basement, and an entry door to a classroom. To the left is another door to a second classroom and a single door which originally provided access to the girl's restroom. In 1953-54, this lavatory, a coatroom and library were removed and the space was converted into a kitchen, which opens onto the former south classroom space. The classroom, which housed grades 5-8, no longer has its original blackboard or light fixtures.

The classroom on the north side of the building which served grades 1-4, retains its blackboard and coatroom, minus its coathooks. The coatroom also has been shortened in order to make way for another bathroom. Ceilings in both rooms, formerly smooth plaster, now have a rough plaster finish and 1950s-era light fixtures. The fir floors throughout the building have been painted, but are otherwise intact.

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The large interior space can be divided by means of 12' high, folding doors which slide in floor tracks to meet in the middle. According to former pupils, these tall, three-panel fir doors were closed and the two classrooms were separated except for an occasional all-school songfest or holiday celebration.

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

Period of Significance
1926-1939

Significant Dates
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Blaine Ackley, Designer
E.S. Schwantes, Contractor

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

The Lambert School is associated with the development of public education in rural Clark County. Built in 1925, the brick schoolhouse was the major public institution in the Lambert area, a small farming community three miles southeast of Ridgefield, which was settled mostly by German-speaking immigrants. The school meets the registration requirements for physical integrity and historical associations established in the Rural Public Schools in Washington State Multiple Property Documentation Form.

Historical Background: By the time the first wagon train arrived overland following the Oregon Trail into Oregon City in 1843, Irish emigrant James Carty had already been settled on land near present-day Ridgefield for three years. A former employee of the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Vancouver, he apparently remained the sole resident of the area until approximately 1850, when passage of the Donation Land Law gave impetus to claims on surrounding land. Although there are no figures which indicate the population growth of the Lambert area, Clark County itself grew slowly until after the arrival in Portland of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1883. The population of Clark County which registered 2,384 in 1860, and 5,480 in 1880, leapt to 26,116 by 1910.

Many of the new arrivals who settled in the Lambert area were German-speaking immigrants from Germany, Switzerland or Russia, or first-generation Americans from the upper midwestern states, such as Minnesota, Wisconsin or the Dakotas. For the most part, they were farmers attracted by the mild climate of southwest Washington, its good soil, timber and reliable water supply. Their farms were soon providing dairy products, poultry, produce, fruit and grain to the growing metropolitan area.

By 1890 there were enough German-speaking residents in the Lambert area (also known as "Germantown" until WWII) to warrant the appointment of a full-time minister by the Pacific German Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. A church was built in that year in which services were conducted in German until 1929, when the ethnic churches became part of the mainstream, English-speaking Methodist churches.

The second community institution in the Lambert area which predates the establishment of the Methodist church, is the common school. The school, constructed in 1925, follows in a succession of rural schools. The first children to attend school in Clark County were taught at Fort Vancouver in 1832, before the area had even been declared part of the Oregon

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Allworth, Louise m. and Bonnie J. Walden, Battle Ground...In and Around. Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1976.
Bowden, Angie Burt, Early Schools of Washington Territory. Seattle: Lowman & Hanford Company, 1935.
"Pioneers Came Early to Ridgefield Area", Clark County History, 1 (1960) 62-64.
The Vancouver Columbian. July 31, 1953.
Ridgefield Reflector, January 7, 1926; June 5, 1926; June 10, 1926; July 22, 1926; September 9, 1926; September 16, 1926.
Vancouver Weekly Independent. January 29, 1880, "School Visits".
Scrapbooks of Lambert Community Club, in possession of Doris Niemann.
Notes of Nellie Haggard Grandberg, n.d., in possession of Doris Niemann.
Unpublished Memoirs of Delia Engel Beckley, 1942.
Taped interview with Bill Bartel's mother, nee Meuler, December 1975.
Telephone and Personal Interviews with former Lambert School pupils: Fred Arndt, Bill Bartel, Margaret (Bartel) Sinclair, Virginia Wulf, Maury Bottemiller, Jack Hutchinson, Doris (Bauer) Niemann.

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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

Quadrangle Name: Ridgefield Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0	5	2	4	7	2	0	5	0	6	9	4	0	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

Zone		Easting						Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot #2 of Section 4 Township 3 North Range 1 East Willamette Meridian

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 Linda S. Dodds with Eileen Fitzsimmons for the Heritage Trust of Clark County
organization History Resources date August 28, 1988
street & number 1665 N.W. 131st Avenue telephone (503) 644-8921
city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97229

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Territory, in 1853. In 1873, when the first report on schools in Washington Territory was given to the legislature, Clark County reported the existence of 26 school-houses. Since the districts were issued numbers in order of application, the Lambert School District 15 (sometimes given as No. 13) must have been formed by 1872, the date when statistics were first collected.

In January, 1880, a county school inspector visited the Lambert school, which was then housed in a log cabin. The 19 children in attendance that day were being instructed by Mrs. Cronk, who was described as "an experienced and successful teacher." This schoolhouse was located in a wooded area on the Meuler family property, approximately one mile southeast of the present school property.

On June 25, 1874, G.T. and Mary Lambert deeded the northeast corner of their land to the Board of Directors of School District 15 to be used as a site for a schoolhouse. However, no construction took place on the property until the early 1890s when it was decided that a new school should be built. After some disagreement as to whether the school should remain on the Meuler property, the Lambert site was selected and a one-room frame school was constructed on top of the hill.

In December, 1925, residents of School District 15 passed a bond measure which authorized the expenditure of \$6,000 for a new graded brick school which would house students from first through eighth grade. At the end of the school year in May, 1926, the old frame structure was demolished and construction began on the present building. The design was by Blaine Ackley, a local resident, and the contractor was E.S. Schwantes, an area carpenter. With the assistance of community residents, Schwantes had the new brick building ready for its dedication on September 9, 1926, at which music was provided by the Melody Makers, an orchestra from the German Methodist Church.

The new structure had large windows on the west, which provided ample daylight for the classrooms, but not the visual distraction of the Cascade Mountains which were to the east. Folding wooden doors divided the single interior space into two large rooms: grades 1-4 on the north end of the building, and grades 5-8 on the south end, with its adjacent library. The wood stove of the previous school had been replaced with a wood-burning furnace in the basement. Other modern improvements included indoor lavatories and running water from a well on the property. The Lambert school remained in service until after World War II, when it was consolidated with other Clark County schools and closed to students.