

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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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 BEAVER SCHOOL
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Highway 101 North, west side not for publication
city, town Beaver vicinity
state Washington code WA county Clallam code 009 zip code 98305

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	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Rural Public Schools of WA 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.
Mary M. Rempner 9/29/92
Signature of certifying official Date
Washington 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. Austrieth Allee 11/19/92
 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 Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation	concrete
walls	brick
roof	asphalt
other	wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Beaver School is a one-story classroom structure located in a rural Olympic Peninsula community 11 miles north of Forks in Clallam County. Built in 1916, the structure reflects the vernacular Craftsman influences of the era, and is characterized by a brick facade with battered walls, expansive banks of casement windows, and a projecting central pavilion with arched entry portal and shaped parapet. The school is located on a large yard that rises slightly from the road, providing expansive views of surrounding forests and farmland. Also located on the nominated two-acre property are a one-room frame schoolhouse built in 1928; a historic power plant; an older noncontributing frame garage; and a new noncontributing carport/storage building. The former teachers' cottages, water tower, and play shed were removed. A large frame gymnasium, built in 1937, still stands on an adjacent parcel; it has been remodelled into a residence, is under separate ownership, and is not included in this nomination. The school property is bordered along the road by a wire fence attached to metal posts every ten feet and anchored at the entry and corners by river rock pylons.

The Beaver School is a rectangular structure that measures 84 feet across the east facade and west rear elevation and 23 feet on the north and south side elevations. The one-story, wood frame building rests on a concrete foundation and is faced with a brick veneer laid in a variation of a common bond pattern. The corners of the building are reinforced by engaged battered brick piers that contribute to the Craftsman character of the design. The building is sheltered by a hip roof with widely overhanging eaves. The eaves are open, with exposed rafter tails (restored) and paired kneebrace brackets at the corners. Raised bricks form decorative geometric patterns at the frieze. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles.

The east facade of the school reflects strict bilateral symmetry (reflecting the original two-room configuration), with large banks of windows flanking a central entry pavilion. Each bank includes five multi-light wood frame double leaf casement windows. The windows are surmounted by transoms, set within segmental arched openings, and rest on brick sills above recessed panels. The windows are separated by narrow piers (one brick in thickness) which rise from the watertable to the cornice.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Section number 7 Page 2

The central pavilion projects about one foot from the facade and rises the full height of the building, terminating in a decorative shaped parapet that rises through the eaves. The parapet is faced in brick and trimmed with coping, and originally bore a tin nameplate embossed with the words "Beaver School." (The nameplate will be restored in the current rehabilitation.) The pavilion features battered corners, reflecting the lines of the main building, and is punctuated by a arched entry portal which leads to the front double doors. The doors (which are replacements of the original) are paneled and feature an operable transom. The sides of the pavilion (which originally housed cloak rooms) are lighted by narrow round arch window openings with multi-light casements and transom lights.

The north and south side elevations have solid brick walls, while the rear elevation features a projecting rear entry with double leaf doors with sidelights. The rear entry is flanked by restroom bays, which are lighted by arched openings with casement windows. A lean-to playshed once abutted the southwest corner of the building but was removed after the historic period. Two additional single leaf rear doors (placed near the north and south corners of the rear elevation) and a small window were added after the historic period.

Originally, the interior plan of the school featured two large classrooms on either side of a broad central hall. The hall, which bisected the building, featured flanking cloakrooms on the east and flanking restrooms on the west. The classrooms, which measured about 32 feet by 22 feet, were entered through single leaf doors with transoms and were lighted by banded windows which rose the full height of the east wall.

In 1976, the interior plan of the schoolhouse was remodelled to accommodate its new use as a Mormon chapel. The cloakrooms were removed in an attempt to widen the hallway into a large room; new entry doors were placed in the interior walls that separated the classrooms from the hall; and the north classroom was subdivided (and the ceilings lowered) to create a series of smaller classrooms and offices, accessed by a new rear door and lighted by a new rear window. The south classroom was left largely intact, except for the addition of a new single leaf exterior door on the rear wall. At the same time, exterior changes included removing the original front entry doors and boarding the arched entry portal. The playshed on the rear was removed and the sidelights flanking the rear entry covered.

Today, following a careful rehabilitation that began in 1989, all the exterior additions and interior changes from the 1976 remodelling have been removed. The original flooring in the south classroom was restored;

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Section number 7 Page 3

all the original casement windows were repaired and preserved; the front entry portal was opened; the interior hallway was restored to its original configuration; the rear sidelights were replaced; and additions under the eaves were removed. Today, the north classroom is divided into living areas for the new residence while the south classroom retains its original character. The interior ceilings were restored to their original 12 foot height. Interior doors were replaced and now feature upper glazed panels and operable transoms. Exterior doors to both the front and rear have been replaced with new double doors and transoms have been replaced in kind or restored.

The electrical and plumbing systems were replaced and the electrical service placed underground; new ceiling, floor and wall insulation was added and drywall installed. The wood flooring and subflooring was removed from the hallway and north classroom, and all wood flooring was salvaged. The crawl space was excavated, a vapor barrier installed, and vent spaces created by removing vertical bricks at intervals above the concrete foundation level. The joists were repaired by sistering. A new subfloor was installed, and the original wood flooring was reinstalled in the hallway; flooring in the south classroom remained intact during the rehabilitation.

About 40 feet south of the schoolhouse is a one-story wood frame primary classroom structure built in the 1920s to accommodate the expanding school population. The rectangular structure measures 42 feet along the sides and 22 feet across the gable ends. The building rests on a concrete block foundation, is faced in drop siding, and is sheltered by a gabled roof covered in wood shakes with overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, and bargeboards along the gable ends. The north gable end features a projecting gabled entry vestibule and restroom annex added in the 1930s, with an open porch on the northwest corner.

The frame building is lighted by banded windows against the east wall. Each band is composed of four contiguous one-over-one double hung wood frame windows. There are no windows on the west side. The school is accessed by a single leaf paneled door beneath the entry porch in the north end, and a single leaf paneled door in the rear. The interior of the school includes an undivided classroom space with tongue and groove walls, fir floors, and original chalkboards. To the rear of the classroom building is a wood frame gable roof garage and a small wood frame power plant. The power plant is faced in drop siding, has a gable roof, and rests on a concrete foundation. The roof has overhanging eaves with exposed rafters, trimmed with bargeboards, and is sheathed in asphalt shingles. The plant is accessed through a single leaf paneled door and lighted by wood frame windows.

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) Period of Significance Significant Dates

Education 1916-1942 1916, 1928

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

H.H. Ginnold, architect; Harry Cotton, builder

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

Built in 1916 to serve a newly consolidated district on the Olympic Peninsula, the Beaver School functioned for 50 years as the center of education and community life in a rural farm and timber community. Designed by Seattle architect H. H. Ginnold and built by contractor Harry Cotton, the two-room schoolhouse was distinguished by its Craftsman character—including battered walls, banded casement windows, and entry portal with shaped parapet. Although insensitively remodelled in the 1970s, the property recently has been rehabilitated and, together with an adjacent classroom and large schoolyard, strongly reflects its historical associations with public education in Clallam County.

Historical Background: The Beaver Prairie north of Forks on the west side of the Olympic Peninsula was first settled in the 1880s when it served as a halfway stop for travelers en route from Clallam Bay's steamboat landing on the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Forks and other West End settlements. A halfway house was kept by pioneer settlers William Crosby and Charles Harris.

In 1891, August Konopaski, a native of Poland, came to the Beaver Prairie where he established a homestead claim. His homestead included the halfway house, which by then had an annex to house lodgers. Konopaski had a team of packhorses, and later a wagon and oxen, to freight supplies from Clallam Bay over the Burnt Mountain Road to Beaver. From the late 1910s, he also operated a general store that housed the post office and, on the second floor, a dance hall which was the scene of many lively affairs.

The history of the west end of Clallam County, and the Beaver area in particular, was changed dramatically during World War I when the U.S. Army's Spruce Production Division was committed to supply spruce for the production of combat aircraft. Clallam County's remote spruce stands were among the most abundant anywhere, but their distant locations made a railroad necessary. In 1918, the projected route of Spruce Railroad # 1 was planned to end near Lake Pleasant on the Beaver Prairie. The town of Siemscarey emerged overnight as a construction camp; the track was completed at Lake Pleasant in November, 1918, providing a valuable infrastructure for future logging activity.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Section number 8 Page 2

Following the war, the Bloedel Donovan timber company gained control of many of the timberlands in the area. They established their headquarters camp at Beaver, with other camps at Sappho, Calawah, and Forks. Edward R. Murrow worked for the Beaver Camp as a timber cruiser in the mid-1920s.

The operations at the Beaver Bloedel Donovan camp were moved down to the A Road near Forks around 1935 or 1936, and gradually Beaver died back. A shingle mill was built on Lake Pleasant near Tyee and in 1941 the Beaver post office was moved to Tyee. The Bloedel Donovan operations in Clallam County were sold to Rayonier in 1945.

Beaver School District: Beaver School District #8 was organized in 1885. Gradually other districts were formed in the vicinity including District #21 in 1891; District #30 in 1892; and Districts #39 and #51 in 1896. On September 12, 1914, Districts #8, #39, #21, and #30 were consolidated to form the new Beaver School District #303. District #51 was disorganized and added to #303, as well. R. H. and Priscilla Kidd, settlers to the Beaver Prairie in 1910, donated three acres of land to the school district on June 22, 1916, and later that year the district secured plans from Seattle architect H. H. Ginnold to build a new structure for the consolidated district.

H. H. Ginnold practiced in Seattle architectural firms from about 1902 to 1939, during which time he designed several Clallam County school buildings. From 1902 until about 1917, Ginnold was employed as a draftsman in the architectural offices of James Schack and, later, C. Lewis Wilson. From 1915 to 1936 he was listed in city directories as an architect practicing alone.

In 1916, Ginnold received several Clallam County commissions including Lincoln School in Port Angeles (now owned by the Clallam County Historical Society), and schoolhouses in Blyn and Forks (both gone) as well as Beaver. All of his school designs reflected a handsome Craftsman character, often distinguished by battered walls, expansive windows, and central entry bays flanked by classroom wings. In 1921, Ginnold designed an addition to the Lincoln School and designed Washington School (demolished, 1977) and Jefferson School (extant), all in Port Angeles.

When Ginnold submitted his plans in 1916, the Beaver School District hired Port Angeles builder Harry Cotton to supervise the construction. Cotton, his wife and young son lived in a tent on the school grounds as the new brick building was rising. Born in 1880, Cotton formed the Straits Construction Company, and was responsible for constructing many of downtown Port Angeles' commercial blocks including the original Elks Lodge (extant). In 1914, his firm built a pier and cannery at Neah Bay.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Section number 8 Page 3

During World War I, Cotton was commissioned a captain in the Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Worden, lived in Port Townsend, and dissolved the construction business. But in later years, Cotton achieved regional prominence, serving as president of the Olympia Pile Driving Company and its successor, later known as Cotton Engineering and Shipbuilding Corporation. As a heavy construction contractor, Cotton's firm built highway bridges and, during World War II, ships and barges for the government. The firm also built the Crown Zellerbach plant in Port Townsend. Along with Harry Peterson and Harry Legear, Cotton was instrumental in instigated the construction of the Hood Canal Bridge. He served as a president of the Washington Good Roads Association and was state president of the Automobile Association of America.

The new Beaver School was completed in the fall of 1916 at a cost of \$6,000 and the building was dedicated at ceremonies on November 18, 1916. According to the newspaper, the speeches and enthusiasm of the dedication signalled a "a greater interest and a greater willingness to cooperate in all matters pertaining to the school." In 1928, a one-room wood frame classroom building was built on the property to house the growing enrollment. In ensuing years, teachers' cottages, a light plant, and playshed were added to the school property, and in the summer of 1937, the gymnasium—also serving as a lunchroom and auditorium—was built to the north, on a parcel that is now under separate ownership.

Initially, the Beaver School served students through the eighth grade. But beginning in the 1920s, the high school students were transported by bus into Forks to attend the Quillayute Union High School. Eventually, Beaver School District #303 was consolidated into the Quillayute School District and the building was last used as a schoolhouse in 1968. In 1971, the district sold the structure to a private individual who, in turn, sold the parcel with the schoolhouses to the Mormon Church. The interior was extensively remodelled into a sanctuary with small classrooms and offices, and the playshed and teachers' cottages were removed. But since its sale in 1987 to the present owners, the Beaver School has been extensively rehabilitated, and today the property reflects its historical character as the educational center of a rural community.

The Beayer School meets the registration requirements established for the property type in the Rural Public Schools in Washington Multiple Property Documentation Form.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clallam County Historical Society, Jimmy Come Lately; History of Clallam County (Port Orchard, 1971).

Gail Evans and Gerald Williams, "Over Here, Over Here: The Army's Spruce Production Division During 'The War to End All Wars'," Olympic National Park, Port Angeles, n.d.
Minutes of the Beaver School District No. 303

Minutes of the Clallam County Superintendent of Schools, 1889-.

John J. Reddin, "Harry Cotton 'Retired' but Working Hard," Seattle Times, July 14, 1961.

"Architect Ginnold's Pains Accepted," Port Angeles Evening News, June 17, 1916.

"\$6,000 School House at Beaver Dedicated," Forks, November, 1916.

"Beaver School doors remained closed this year," Port Angeles Evening News, August 20, 1967.

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 2.08

UTM References

A 1 0 4 0 2 3 6 0 5 3 2 4 0 0 0
 Zone Easting Northing

C
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D
 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Beginning at the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 36, T 30 N, R 13 W; thence S 5'38" along the west line of the NE quarter of the NE quarter a distance of 150 feet to the POB; then S 89° 39' 01" E a distance of 250.33 feet to the NW ROW of SH 101; thence SW along said ROW a distance of 539.97 feet to the intersection with the W line of the NE quarter of the NE quarter; then N 00° 05' 38" E 166.89 feet; then N 89° 39' 03" W on a line parallel to the N line of the NE quarter of the NE quarter for 66 feet; then N 00° 05' 38" E 312 feet; then S 89° 39' 03" E 312 feet; then S 89° 39' 03" E 66 feet to POB.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the historic schoolyard property including schoolhouses, ancillary structures, school yard and fencing, but excluding that portion of the original 3 acre schoolyard that contains the historic gymnasium and is now under separate ownership.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Susan Goff, owner; Leonard Garfield, OAHF
 organization
 street & number P.O. Box 387
 city or town Beaver

date August 1, 1992
 telephone (206) 327-3827
 state WA zip code 98305