

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM  
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

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1. NAME  
Historic Robert Alexander Long High School

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and/or Common R. A. Long High School

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2. LOCATION  
Street & Number 2903 Nichols Boulevard

UTM References: See continuation sheet  
Zone \_\_\_\_\_ Easting \_\_\_\_\_  
Northing \_\_\_\_\_  
- not for publication

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City, Town Longview - vicinity of

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State Washington County Cowlitz

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3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership: public private both  
Status: occupied unoccupied work in progress  
Present Use: agriculture commercial educational entertainment government  
industrial military museum park private residence  
religious scientific transportation other:

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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name Longview Public School District #122  
c/o Grant Hendrickson, Superintendent

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Street & Number 2903 Nichols Boulevard

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City, Town Longview - vicinity of State Washington  
98632

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5. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Long-Bell Files. Longview History Room. Longview Public Library  
McClelland, Jr., John M. R.A. Long's Planned City, The Story of Longview. Bicentennial  
Edition, Longview. Longview Publishing Co. 1976

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6. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title Michael L. Neuschwanger, Architectural Apprentice

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Organization City of Longview Date  
Urban Services & Permits Department March 10, 1985

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Street & Number 1525 Broadway Telephone

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City or Town Longview State Washington  
98632

## 7. DESCRIPTION

Condition: excellent good .fair deteriorated ruins unexposed  
Circle one: unaltered altered  
Circle one: original site moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance  
attach photo

R. A. Long High School is located one block west of Nichols Boulevard and Lake Sacajawea Park, fronting the park across tree lined lawns. On the central east-west axis of the building, a block long drive, Kentucky Streets, leads to the school. It connects with 25th Avenue, which runs parallel to the building, curving back on both sides to converge with other residential streets at Nichols Boulevard.

The main block of the building is two stories in height, composed of four gabled wings which wrap the auditorium in the core. The main block and pavilions to the rear are bilaterally symmetrical about the central east-west axis. The dominant frontal wing features a centralized pedimented portico and bell tower. Projecting blind faced, gabled ends of the flanking side wings contain the frontal elevation. The two story side and rear wings are subordinate to the frontal wing, in the height of the eaves, and in the depth of the bays.

To the rear, the first pavilion arranged behind the main block, is the dining hall, (see continuation sheet)

Verbal boundary description: Blocks 7,8,9,10  
Olympic Addition No. 2  
Acreage: 25 acres USGS Quad: Kelso, WA-OR Scale: 1:24,000  
UTM References: a. 10/503720/5109700 b.10/503370/5109690

c. 10/503370/5109320 d.10/503690/5109220

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

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Specific dates	1928	Builder/Architect	Architect W. B. Ittner
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a. Level of significance: local  
History

Robert A. Long High School was financed privately by Long as a gift to the City of Longview. The school was designed by William B. Ittner of Kansas City, Missouri, in the Georgian Revival style, following a succession of Georgian influenced settlement buildings by Kansas City architects for Long-Bell in Longview. The original grounds of the building were designed by the landscape architectural firm of Hare and Hare, the city's principal planners, who also designed Lake Sacajawea Park, which the building fronts. The school is one of several civic or cultural buildings constructed during settlement which front the park, several of which are included in the thematic nomination.

The building was built in 1928, five years after the city was founded, when Long-Bell was reeling from the high cost of the northwest expansion, and a lumber recession.  
(see continuation sheet)

b. Evaluation of Significance

The Robert A. Long High School is significant to the planned city of Longview, as a fine example of Georgian Revival architecture. Historically, the building is important by its association with Robert A. Long, Chairman of Long-Bell Lumber Company, and Longview's city founder, who's benevolence financed the school. It is clearly associated with city planning efforts by its style, which is consistent with other civic and cultural buildings financed by Long and Long-Bell, as well as by its grounds' design, which was prepared by city planners, Hare and Hare, of Kansas City. The building is important as the center of higher education in Longview for the city's first three decades, as the first high school, and the only high school built during the settlement period.

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7. DESCRIPTION - continued

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separated from the rear wing by a light court. The transverse gabled structure is connected to the main block by open arcades on either side of the court. Abutting the rear of the hall is the boiler room, a singular parapeted block with a flat roof. The massive boiler chimney terminates the building's central axis, playing off the dominant bell tower to the front. A few yards behind the boiler room, a small brick hip-roofed "Transformer and Gas Machine House", with blind arches, adds a post script to the central axis of the grounds.

The building is constructed of masonry, on a steel reinforced concrete basement and foundation. The basement features in extensive network of concrete tunnels which originally functioned as a natural plenum, initiating in the boiler room, and drawn out through the bell tower. Perimeter walls are faced in red brick laid up in Flemish common bond. Bays are typically spanned by a concrete floor system, set into the brick walls. The longer spans of the auditorium are constructed of steel trusses. Gables are constructed of wood trusses, and are sheathed in slate. Eaves are boxed, with a simple molded fascia and copper gutters. Gabled ends feature pilaster returns, which are in alignment over the quoined brick corners.

The dominant pattern of fenestration occurs in the openings of the main block, which are jack arched, and trimmed in brick. Although the openings themselves are of Georgian proportions, the horizontal solid to void ratio is lighter than the system which the style traditionally dictated. In the frontal wing, second story openings of the library are taller, with stone keys. The stair halls in the flanking wings are lit by larger simicircular arched openings, with stone imposts and keys. All of the gabled ends are vented by circular openings, trimmed in stone, with keys at the quarter points.

The entry portico and tower are constructed of ashlar sand stone, enriched with carved architectural elements and motifs. The monumental portico is tetrastyle, of the Corinthian order, with a raked and modillioned cornice and a festooned tympanum. The columns are fluted, with stylized capitols of acanthus leaves and a bead and reel motif. The plain frieze is carved with the inscription "Robert A. Long High School" in capital letters. The central bell tower is inset at the apex of the portico gable, to the front of the library wing's transverse axis. The tower is composed of a brick base, which supports a receding stone pedestal and lighted pavilion, upon which rests a smaller, octagonal pavilion and cupola. In the base, the circular clock faces are trimmed in stone, and set on the front and sides between stout pilaster strips. A stone cornice carries a balustrade with small pedestals and urns marking the corners. The subsequent stone pavilion develops this theme, featuring coupled pilasters, stylized capitols, and a full entablature. The final pavilion and copper, domed cupola is octagonal shaped, with three quarter round engaged pilasters supporting a delicate entablature which breaks forward over the capitols.

#### Rooms

The interior of the school retains several rooms which are in good condition and have preserved their architectural integrity. These are the entry vestibule, the auditorium, dining hall, library and its adjacent gallery. Additionally, there remains a significant amount of original fabric throughout the building, such as terrazzo floors and plaster walls and wood trim.

The entry vestibule, three bays wide, is faced in ashlar, with stylized Corinthian

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pilasters which support a beamed, coffered ceiling defined by a moulded wood fascia. The six transomed doorways echo the architrave surrounds of the exterior portico door trim. The exterior doorways are bracketed, supporting cornices. The central door features a broken segmental, arched pediment, with a central urn. In the vestibule, the end doors are also bracketed, with a flat cornice. The floor is terrazzo, checkered in grey-green tones, with a large diamond shaped focus. The ceiling retains the original brass chandeliers, hung centrally within each bay.

The auditorium, located in the core of the main block, has an orchestra floor with a full balcony and flyloft. The balcony is shaped in a gentle arc, which corresponds to the thrust of the stage. The stage features a flat proscenium arch, which is flanked by monumental pilasters. The pilasters support a frieze which runs unbroken around the room. The frieze contains a simplified pattern of triglyphs and medallions. The room features a rusticated base which is constructed of pressboard. Walls are plaster with niches along the sides and front. The niches along the side walls were originally windows into the light courts. The wood trimmed plaster ceiling is coffered, with decorative panels of geometric tracery, also of plaster, containing brass light fixtures. Seats in the balcony are original, constructed of formed plywood and iron frames. The orchestra floor seating has been replaced. Other noticeable alterations are the stage lights, set along the balcony edge and in a few banks on the walls.

The library, located on the second floor, runs the entire thirteen bays of the frontal wing. The concrete, barrel-vaulted ceiling is faced in plaster and trimmed in geometric Gothic tracery. The room is subdivided centrally by two columns and beams, which support the bell tower and define the librarian's area. A continuous paneled wainscot contains the recessed bookshelves, arranged in sets along the interior wall, and between the windows against the exterior wall. The deeply set window jambs and soffits are paneled with cupboards under each window. The interior wall has transomed, double-leaf, paneled doors with architrave trim, at the central and end bays. The central door features a plain frieze and cornice. An alteration to the room is the addition of hung florescent lights along the room's entire length.

The gallery, located on the second floor, between the library and the auditorium, runs the length of the frontal wing. The roof is sky-lighted along the entire length. The room is lit by a series of four multi-paned monitors which correspond to the gabled skylights. The monitors are segmentally vaulted, with wood frames and iron muntins set within the frames. The walls are relieved by large panels with architrave trim, a plain frieze and cornice.

The dining hall, located behind the main two story block, is spanned by an exposed timber king-post truss system. The trusses feature carved brackets, collar ties and purlins, upon which rests the king-posts and principals, which in turn support the butt purlins of the roof. The room is eleven bays in length, with a Palladian window motif at both ends. Also lighting the room is a set of openings into the court between the main block and the dining hall. The room retains the original chandeliers, plaster walls and terrazo floors. Alterations include the addition of tie rods and of angle irons at the junctions of the trusses. Several of the side openings have been partially or completely faced in brick. Paneled wainscoting, originally stained dark, has been removed.

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Building and Grounds: Additions and Alterations

The school house is set in extensive grounds, upon which several additions have been built through the years. All of the additions are smaller than the high school and are positioned to the side or to the rear of the main block. Three of the additions -- the wood shop, the gymnasium, and the vocational building are compatible in position, style, and character, with the original school. Although the vocational building and gymnasium are not fifty years old, the buildings represent early evolutionary patterns of campus growth which are supportive of the dominant school house.

The wood shop, a dependency located on the northern side of the main block, was designed in accordance with developmental drawings by the original architect, William Ittner, and constructed in 1931, three years after the completion of the main block. The construction drawings and specifications for the shop, by F. A. Naramore of Seattle, indicate a careful integration of the brickwork and interior trim with the original building. The brickwork is laid up in common bond, with semi-circular arched windows, and decorative stone panels. The wood, post and beam interior structure acts in conjunction with the masonry perimeter walls.

The gymnasium, built in 1938, and designed by Architect Norman Torbitt, of Seattle, in the Georgian Revival style, subtly plays off the forms of the dominant school house. Torbitt, who was active during the early settlement period in Longview, was responsible for the Longview Public Library, which is also Georgian. The Library, built in 1925, was an antecedent to the high school. The central block of the gymnasium is flanked by side wings, which project to the east in a manner similar to the main school house. The projecting end wings contain the frontal elevation, which features the tripartite semicircular arched openings of the entry hall. The clerestory windows of the interior balconies give the flanking wings the appearance of being two stories in height. Perimeter walls are constructed of concrete, with a brick veneer laid up in Flemish bond. Exterior details -- such as brick quoining, boxed eaves with pilaster returns, circular vents with stone keys, and the slate roof -- show further influence of the main school house. The gymnasium has been altered in the replacement of the original multi-paned sash windows by wood single-paned windows with plastic inserts. Several of the original openings have been filled in with brick. A modern addition to the gymnasium, constructed in 1969, of brick, in Flemish common bond, is located toward the rear of the southern wing.

The vocational building, reassembled in 1947, is located behind the gymnasium to the west. The wood frame structure is basic in plan, with the dominant central bays oriented north-south. Three sides of the building, which are oriented to adjacent streets and the school yard, are faced in brick, laid up in Flemish common bond. The fourth side is clapboarded. The corners of the end walls are quined. The brick openings are jack arched, with keystones marking the openings located in the central bay. The windows are wood, multi-paned sash -- features which the school house and the gymnasium lack. A one story clapboarded kitchen wing, constructed in 1968, directly abuts the south side of the building. The raised central bay features a hipped, pavilioned roof.

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Other later additions include a one story wood frame vocational-arts building (1938), which is located behind the main school house to the northwest; a one story wood frame Progress Center (circa 1970), located on the southwest corner of the site; and a one story science wing (1969), which is connected to the main school house by an open arcade. The science wing is faced in brick, laid up in Flemish common bond. The addition features a semi-circular arched arcade along its frontal side which is similar in scale, and to an extent, in appearance, to the 1931 dependency abutting the northern side of the school house. It is the only building addition less than fifty years old that is directly connected to the main block of the school house.

The school house and grounds underwent an extensive renovation in 1984-1985. In the interior classrooms and corridors received hung ceilings, for the purpose of accommodating environmental control heating and cooling systems. The windows, originally of multi-paned sash, dominantly nine over nine, set in wood frames and muntins, are now one over one wood frames with plastic inserts. A notable alteration of the interior was the construction of classrooms within the light courts which originally flanked the auditorium. The courts provided light and ventilation to the auditorium and lavatories within the core. The grounds received new sidewalks flanking the frontal wing, in their original positions. The grounds also received new foundation-like plantings and other beds which are not as sensitive to the original, in type and position. Also altered was the walk directly in front of the entry portico, which originally contained a central planting bed and flanking side walks. The plant bed has been removed and a broad sidewalk has been constructed from the street steps to the steps of the portico.

Contributing Elements:

Robert A. Long High School, Architect W.B. Ittner, (1928).

Woodshop (northern dependency), Architect W. B. Ittner, Architect F. A. Naramore (1931).

Transformer and Gas Machine House, Architect W.B. Ittner, (1928).

Non-contributing Elements:

Gymnasium, Architect Norman Torbitt (1938); Addition (1969).-

Vocational-Arts Building, Architect Norman Torbitt (1938). -

Vocation Building, Architect Wolff and Phillips (1947); re-assembled from Vancouver--

Barracks, original date unknown; Addition (1968).

Administration Building, (1965).-

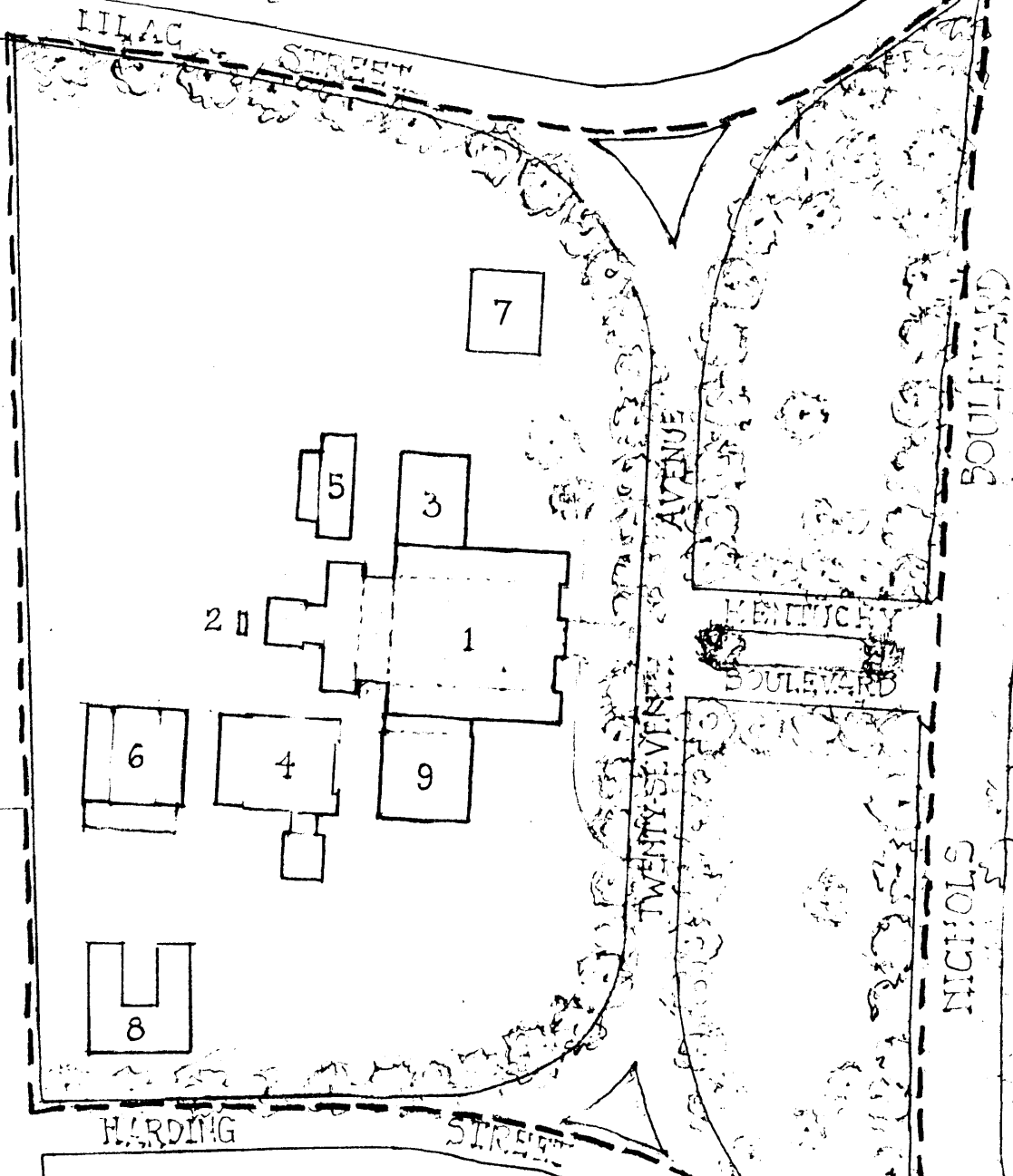
Progress Center (circa 1970). -

Science Wing (southern dependency, 1969)



# ROBERT A. LONG HIGH SCHOOL

Buildings and Grounds



1. Robert A. Long High School
2. Machine House
3. Woodshop
4. Gymnasium -
5. Vocational-Arts Building -
6. Vocational Building
7. Administration Building
8. Progress Center
9. Science Wing