

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

OCT 11 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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 Mayflower School  
other names/site number Douglas Island Community Center AHRS Site No. JUN-300

2. Location

street & number Corner of St. Ann's and Savikko Streets  not for publication  
city, town Douglas  vicinity  
state Alaska code AK county Juneau code 110 zip code 99824

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
n/a

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.

Judith E. Bettner 9-30-88  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Alaska

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:)

Betsy J. Savage 11-21-88  
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)

Government: government building

---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls wood

roof metal

other

---

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Mayflower School is located in Douglas, Alaska on Douglas Island. The two-and-one-half story, wood frame structure is at the corner of St. Anns and Savikko Road on the north-west corner of Savikko Park. The building sits on a banked slope overlooking Gastineau Channel, and Juneau Island can be seen to the northwest. Mayflower School is a long building with its axis oriented in a NW-SE direction.

Mayflower School is rectangular in plan, with a corrugated metal, gable roof and extended eaves with enclosed soffits. The building sits on a concrete foundation and is covered with 8" horizontal bevel wood siding. It is built halfway into an embankment; the front entrance is at ground level and leads from a parking lot into the second floor. The rear entrance is also at ground level, but opens into the first floor.

On the main (second) and top half-floor, the majority of Mayflower School's windows were originally double-hung 6/6. The rest, on the east, have fixed transoms. Most of the windows on the top floors are still 6/6, some have been converted to 1/1 and fixed, single pane windows. The windows on the first floor were double hung 6/6 on the open east side and 6-lite revolving sash on the bermed west side. Some of the 6-lite windows have been converted to single pane windows. On the south side there is a Palladian window in the center of the gable. The building's most outstanding features are its entry doors on the west, north and east sides. On the north and west sides there are small stepped porches with wrought iron railings and balusters leading up to tall, single doors. The west, main door has fluted pilasters supporting a swan's neck pediment. The door frame displays three recessed panels on either side of it. On the north end, the fluted pilasters are repeated and are capped by a pediment with a half-round arch above the door. Recessed panels appear on either side of the door frame and extend into the arch above the door. There is a sunburst motif elliptical window in the arch above the doorway. The east, rear of the building has a similar doorway with an arched/pediment, supported by fluted pilasters. The school has a single, unadorned fire escape door at the second floor level of the south end.

There is a small, framed storage shed addition attached to the east side. It is covered with plywood and has a standing seam metal shed roof. It sits on a concrete foundation and has a single, sliding plywood door on the east side. The south end has a free-standing wood fire escape leading from the second floor door to the ground level.

**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    n/a

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Education

Period of Significance  
1933-1934

Significant Dates  
1934

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation  
n/a

Significant Person  
n/a

Architect/Builder  
N. Lester Troast, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs

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

The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs built Mayflower School in 1933-1934 to serve as a model for Native schools in Alaska. The Bureau wanted the school to provide vocational education for Native children and to serve as a community center for the Douglas Tlingits. The Daily Alaska Empire (10/13/35) informed its readers that the operation of Mayflower School was a "radical departure from the old." The handsome building was a source of great pride to the Douglas Native community. Today, Mayflower School is the only Native school building in the Juneau-Douglas area still standing. It is the only Colonial Revival Bureau of Indian Affairs school in Alaska. It represents a significant tie with the past for many Douglas Native people.

Education of Alaska Natives began when the Russian-American Company and Russian Orthodox Church opened schools in Alaska at their major posts to provide education and vocational training for Creole and Native children. After the transfer of Alaska to the United States in 1867, the church continued to support several schools around Alaska. The U.S. Government did not undertake responsibility for educating all Alaska Native children until 1885, although it required the Alaska Commercial Company to operate schools for the Aleut children on the Pribilof Islands as a condition of the company's 20-year exclusive lease to hunt fur seals on the islands. Shortly after the transfer, the residents of Sitka supported a public school for all children interested in attending, but it closed in 1870 when the city's economy declined. The Presbyterian Home Mission Society was the first American missionary group to open schools in Alaska for the Native children. In 1877 their first school opened at Fort Wrangell, and by 1884 the Presbyterians had schools at Sitka, Haines, Hoonah, Fort Tongass and Howkan. Finally, in 1885, Congress provided for the establishment and support of public schools in Alaska "for Native and non-native children" and appropriated \$25,000 for this purpose. After Alaska became a territory (1912), the Territorial Legislature established a Department of Education in 1917. Most of the schools supported by the Territory were in the larger non-Native communities. Control of education for Alaska Natives was transferred from the Secretary of the Interior to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- Alaska Business and Professional Directory, 1938-1939 (Seattle, Washington: Schooley Company, 1938).
- Daily Alaska Empire, October 13, 1935, p. 2.
- Douglas Island News, May 5, 1899.
- Eppebach, Sarah, editor. The Centennial Gazetteer, A Guide to Juneau, Alaska Place Names (Juneau: Centennial Commission, 1979).
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984).
- Public Works Administration, Record Group 135, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.
- Tillotson, Marjorie. History of the Schools in the Gastineau Channel Area, ms. on file at Alaska Historical Library, Juneau, 1973.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- n/a

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acres of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 

0	8	5	3	5	7	4	0	6	4	5	9	3	4	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the south half of Lot 12 and the north half of Lot 25, of Block 32, Tyee and Millsite addition of the Douglas Townsite, and is roughly 36' x 72' in size.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the building that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Gabrielle LaRoche, Planner; Glenda Choate, Historian

organization City and Borough of Juneau date January 19, 1988

street & number 155 South Seward Street telephone (907) 586-5235

city or town Juneau state Alaska zip code 99801

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2 Mayflower School (AHR Site No. JUN-300)

---

Designed to serve the community, the Mayflower School contained something for everyone in Douglas. The ground floor had a library, kitchen, and recreation room open for use by community residents. It also contained community laundry facilities, showers and lavatories. On the second floor was a library, classroom and facilities for home economics. The floors are of local hemlock. The top half-story had living quarters for the teacher(s) and included a bathroom and bedrooms. An oil burner supplied heat and hot water for the school.

Mayflower School has been leased since 1982 to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation for office and laboratory purposes. Former classrooms and recreation rooms have been converted into offices, laboratories, and storage areas. Although there has been some arrangement of space with the addition of dividers, the original character-defining architectural details and features have been retained throughout the building. Still in place and in sound condition are the hardwood floors, stairways with wood risers, turned wooden handrailing and spindles, wood doors, window trim and woodwork, built-in wood cabinets, light fixtures and book cases. There is even a blackboard still in its original, recessed portion of a wall.

Vinyl tile has been placed over much of the wood flooring, but this is a reversible measure. The classroom has been partitioned into smaller work spaces, but this is also a reversible measure. In the living quarters in the top half-floor, the bathroom retains its original fixtures and linoleum floor covering. Shelving has been installed for storage purposes and insulation and plasterboard has been put up in some areas. Despite these changes, the area is still recognizable as living quarters.

There have been few exterior changes. A bell tower was centered on the ridge line; it has been removed. Window shutters have also been removed. Some of the windows have been modified but neither the trim nor the openings have been changed. The original paneled doors with lites have been replaced with modern doors and, in the case of the main door, a smaller door was installed and the larger opening temporarily filled in with plywood. These modifications are also reversible and were done to assure security for the building.

The accentuated doors with decorative pediments and pilasters, symmetrically-balanced windows and center door, double hung sashes and multiple panes are indicative of the Colonial Revival (1880-1955) style. The school's details are generally accurate, falling into an Adamesque sub-type that was built after 1910. It departs from other versions of side-gabled buildings that displayed exaggerated detailing and were constructed before 1910. Broken pediments and extensive use of machine-made finishes on the trimwork are further indications of the way the Colonial Revival style copied, in this case, the Adamesque style. (See continuation sheet No. 7-5, showing evolution of Colonial Revival - Adamesque.) The plain boxed cornice, without dentils or modillions, is correctly Colonial. The rectangular windows with double-hung, multi-lite sashes are

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 Mayflower School (AHRS Site No. JUN-300)

---

also accurate, even the Palladian window is historically accurate. Mayflower School represents a departure from a general rule in the continental U.S. that post-1920 Colonial Revivals were built of masonry. Since architectural styles often reached Alaska somewhat after the style had peaked in the continental U.S., wood construction in Mayflower School is not unusual.

Mayflower School is also unusual as a sub-type within the Colonial Revival style because it is a pure example of an Adamesque revival. "The Georgian and Adam styles form the backbone of the Revival, with secondary influences from Postmedieval English or Dutch Colonial prototypes. Details from two or more of these precedents are freely combined in many examples so that pure copies of colonial houses are far less common than are eclectic mixtures." (Daily Alaska Empire, 10/13/35.)

Mayflower School has the architectural distinction of being the only Bureau of Indian Affairs school of its type in Alaska. No other examples are known to exist in Alaska of what appears to be a standard, regional Bureau school. The building was designed by N. Lester Trost, Superintendent of the Southwestern District for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Trost, A.I.A., also worked as an architect with William A. Manley on the three-story bunkhouse (1938) at Independence Mines (listed in the National Register of Historic Places). For a time Trost was project architect for the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, a federal agency created in 1934 to resettle farmers from Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan to Alaska's Matanuska Valley.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2 Mayflower School (AHRS Site No. JUN-300)

---

The community of Douglas started as a mining camp in 1881 and grew due to the success of the adjacent lode gold Treadwell Mines. Many Natives moved to Douglas and worked at the mines. The Friends Society of Kansas sent Elwood W. Weisner and Francis W. Baugham to Douglas to establish a school and home for Natives in the summer of 1887. The home accommodated 14 boarding students and the same number of day students. Because it was the only school on Douglas Island, it was attended by both Native and non-Native children. It operated until 1902, when the missionaries moved to Kake, another Southeast Alaska community.

The federal government built a school in Douglas for Native children in 1890 at a cost of \$900. In 1902, a second school was constructed on the beach near the Native village that served until it burned in 1926. In their annual reports to the Bureau of Education, teachers repeatedly complained about the poor condition of the school. The fire of October 11, 1926 burned the entire Douglas Indian village that included 42 homes, the school, stores and churches, as well as a number of homes outside of the Native village. After the fire, the teacher, Rose Davis, requested permission to rent quarters for herself and the school. From 1926 to 1934 Native children in Douglas attended school in a variety of locations. One informant recalls classes being held in the upstairs of an old theater.

In 1933-1934 the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs constructed a number of school buildings throughout Alaska from a Public Works Administration (PWA) grant of \$175,000 supplemented by \$30,000 in Territorial funds. By September 1934, new schools stood at Teller, Buckland, Little Diomed Island, Hydaburg, and Douglas. The Douglas School cost \$9,500. The name Douglas Indian Community Center was replaced with Mayflower School. This name was derived from Mayflower Island, a tiny island located in Gastineau Channel off Douglas Island. The school built by local citizens under the direction of the Southwestern District of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska region, was a handsome white, Colonial Revival, green-shuttered building.

Mayflower School operated as a school for Douglas Native children only for six years. In 1940 it merged with the Juneau Government School. Native children from Douglas and Juneau were divided by grades between the two schools. In 1948 the school system for Native children merged with the local public school system. The Bureau of Indian Affairs turned over the school to the City of Douglas to be used for school purposes. Douglas and Juneau public schools consolidated in 1955. Juneau and Douglas city governments consolidated in 1970 and Mayflower School was added to the real estate holdings of the new political incorporation.

Rose Davis taught Native children in Douglas for 20 years, and was the principal teacher at Mayflower School from 1934 to 1942. The Daily Alaska Empire reported on June 2, 1934 that starting July 1st Mrs. Davis would advance to all-year service because the Bureau of Indian Affairs envisioned Mayflower School as a "real community center in connection

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page   3   Mayflower School (AHRS Site No. JUN-300)

---

with the wonderful facilities of the new school building." The newspaper quoted Charles W. Hawkesworth, Chief of the Bureau, in its October 13, 1935 issue on the new approach to education that Mayflower School would pursue. It would have a more home-like setting, and emphasize "a practical type of education." Children would learn vocational skills such as taxidermy, boat and furniture building, coffin making, weaving, and rug making. In the classroom, the children had tables and chairs suited to their size instead of benches and desks. Mrs. Davis opened the library to the community in the evenings. The recreation room had a basketball hoop, and was also open after school hours. The Native community was encouraged to use the showers, laundry facilities, and kitchen in the school.

The Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood regularly held meetings at the school, and the organizational meeting of the Douglas Indian Association took place in the recreation room. Former students recall happy memories and the sense of community provided by the school.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_ Mayflower School (AHRS Site No. JUN-300)

---

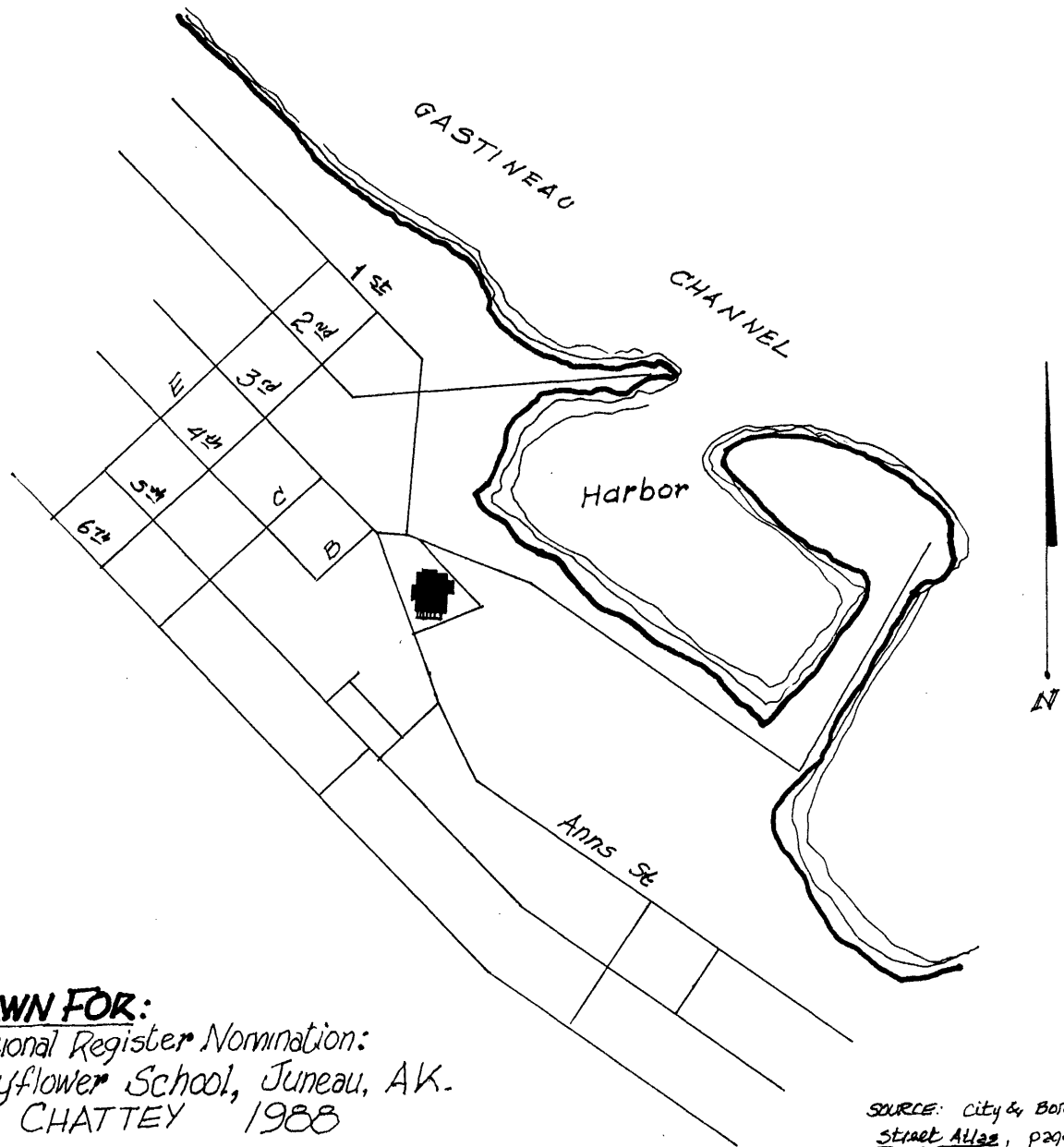
Photograph identification:

1. Mayflower School (AHRS Site No. JUN-300)  
Douglas, Alaska  
Unknown  
1938  
Alaska Historical Library, P.O. Box G, Juneau, Alaska 99811  
Looking at north and west facades
2. Mayflower School (AHRS Site No. JUN-300)  
Douglas, Alaska  
Gabrielle LaRoche, City & Borough of Juneau, 155 South Seward Street, Juneau,  
Alaska 99801  
1987  
Looking at west and south facades
3. Mayflower School (AHRS Site No. JUN-300)  
Douglas, Alaska  
Gabrielle LaRoche, City & Borough of Juneau, 155 South Seward Street, Juneau,  
Alaska 99801  
1987  
Looking at north and west facades
4. Mayflower School (AHRS Site No. JUN-300)  
Douglas, Alaska  
Gabrielle LaRoche, City & Borough of Juneau, 155 South Seward Street, Juneau,  
Alaska 99801  
1987  
Looking at east and north facades

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_ Mayflower School (AHRS Site No. JUN-300)



**DRAWN FOR:**  
 National Register Nomination:  
 Mayflower School, Juneau, AK.  
 P. CHATTEY 1988










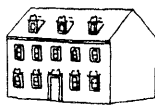



SOURCE: City & Borough of Juneau  
Street Atlas, page 2-004-0

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_ Mayflower School (AHRS Site No. JUN-300)

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1984, page 323.

ORIGINAL EXAMPLES		
 Georgian	 Adam	 Dutch
REVIVAL EXAMPLES		
paired, triple, or bay windows never found in originals 		front-facing gambrel roof with cross gambrel never found in originals 
one-story side wings, either open or enclosed, usually with flat roof if found on original probably an addition 		steeply pitched gambrel containing a nearly full second story originals with moderate- to low-pitched roofs 
broken pediments segmental, triangular, or ogee only ogees found on originals and even these not common 		continuous dormer across front and/or Federal or Georgian entry detail dormer never in originals 
brick houses with Georgian doorways originals primarily in Virginia, Maryland, or landmark examples 		Be certain to check range map, page 114, for Dutch Colonial houses. Originals occur <i>only</i> within the range shown on this map.