

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 1 1979  
DATE ENTERED OCT 4 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Northport School  
AND/OR COMMON Northport Grade School

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER On the corner of South and 7th Street  
CITY, TOWN Northport STATE Washington VICINITY OF CODE COUNTY Stevens CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Northport School District # 211  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Northport STATE Washington VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Auditors and Engineers Offices, Stevens County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 217 South Oak Street

CITY, TOWN Colville STATE Washington

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Washington State Inventory of Historic Places

DATE August 16, 1976  
\_FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN Olympia STATE Washington

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Northport School is a two story square structure approximately sixty by sixty feet. It is situated near Silver Crown Mountain, in a residential area of Northport, (p. 500). The exterior walls are red brick masonry, set on stone rubble foundation walls. The interior bearing walls, floors and roof are all of wood frame construction. Four single-stack brick chimneys once rose from triangular gables on the north and south slopes of the roof. The chimneys fell down during a storm in the 1920's.

The hipped roof has boxed cornices and a triangular gable over the entrance. The roof used to support a large wood bell tower decorated with ornately carved brackets and arches. The bell is four feet in diameter and has the date of manufacture, c. 1890, inscribed upon it. The bell is now the property of a local resident who will return it when the bell tower is restored. A circular window was set into the front of the tower and two arched windows were set, one on either side, of the tower. The tower had a bell cast hip roof with decorative triangular dormers which echoed the dormers on the main roof. The tower was pulled down in the 1930's due to its deteriorated condition. It could be fairly accurately reconstructed from photographs.

The entrance to the building is set off by brick pilasters and a wide arch with three rows of radiating voussours. The double door is recessed about ten feet behind the facade and elevated four feet above grade. It is reached by a flight of five stairs.

The windows are two sash double hung throughout the building except for the window over the entrance which is four sash. The head surrounds are arched with three rows of radiating voussours.

The interior space is divided into four rooms on each floor. A twelve foot hallway runs east to west with a narrower hall running north to south. Restroom facilities are in the basement. Also in the basement is an unfinished crawl space once used for wood storage for the wood stoves which sat in the corner of each classroom.

Wood fire escapes were added to the north and south walls (c 1950). The structural integrity of the original exterior is not affected by the fire escapes which are poorly constructed and need to be dismantled. This could be accomplished without injury to the building.

The interior of the school is in good condition. All of the rooms have hardwood floors and wainscoting. Above the wainscoting are the original slate chalk boards which extend the length of the windowless walls. The doors have glazed transoms which are pivoted. The hardwood surrounds of the doors and windows have wide moulded trim. There are two separate stairways leading to the second floor. They each have a mid point landing, turned railings and a carved newel.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Northport School built in 1903 is significant for its historic associations with the development of Northport and early education in Stevens County. It is the oldest brick school building in existence in Stevens County. The simple style and solid construction of building, combined with the ornate decoration of the once existing bell tower testify to the growing prosperity and confidence of the wilderness boom town.

The townsite of Northport was laid out in 1892 by the railroad magnate, D. C. Corbin and his associates. They chose the site, located on the Columbia River twenty miles south of the Canadian border, for the northern terminal of the Spokane Falls and Northern Railroad. The town boomed quickly due to the one-thousand railroad workers headquartered there. Within the first year a sawmill, newspaper, frame school and many temporary residences, saloons and businesses had been established in Northport. The town continued to grow after the railroad was completed due to the rise in mining activity in the area and the building of the copper smelter in 1897. Better transportation to the copper mines in Rossland B.C. necessitated the building of another railroad and a bridge across the Columbia. By 1903 the population was approximately one-thousand and the future looked promising.

School enrollment had begun to exceed the capacity of the two frame school buildings in town. The decision to build a more permanent and larger school was widely approved and the school directors, Mr. Thomas A. Peirott and Mrs. M.E. Howes began to look for a suitable building site.

The site chosen was on a bench above the town center and was owned by D. C. Corbin. Corbin acquired the land in 1891 from one of the three original homesteaders in the area, Fred Farquaher. According to local sources, Corbin donated the land for the school, however, no legal record of this donation can be found.

The building was constructed from high quality bricks made in a local brickyard. Bishop Brickyard in Northport was also the source for the bricks used in the copper smelter (C1897), now in ruins and an early store (C1894), still in use.

Eight thousand dollars in bonds were sold to finance the school. Construction began during the summer of 1903 and classes commenced in the fall of 1904 with two hundred and fifty students. All twelve grades were taught in the school with the first through sixth grades located on the first floor and the seventh through twelfth grades located on the second floor.

An iron woodstove sat in the corner of each room providing heat to those nearest it. The wood box and a pail with a dipper used by all the students for drinking water were located in the unheated hallway. In 1916 steam heating was installed in the school which provided a more even heating system for the students. Other structures which were once on the school property included a large barn for the students who rode horses and two rows of outhouses.

See Page 2 attached.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Miss Carrie Allen and Mrs. Margaret Evans, Northport, 2/1/79  
 Mr. Frank Heritage, Northport, 7/19/78  
Northport News June 20, 1903, May 1915, Nov. 29, 1916, June 13, 1919  
 Steele R., Rose A., An Illustrated History of Stevens, Ferry, Okanogen and Chelan Counties, Western Publishing Co. 1904 pg. 149  
 Fahey, J. Inland Empire, E.C. Corbin and Spokane Seattle, U. of Washington 1965 pg. 1

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.17 Ac.

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1,1</u>	<u>44,26,2,0</u>	<u>5,41,79,4,0</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies Tract A, a 200' x 250' lot within Corbins Addition to Northport as shown by the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Corbin's Addition to Northport, Stevens County, Washington"

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Claudia Himmelberg, Director of Cultural Resources	DATE March 13, 1979
ORGANIZATION Stevens County Planning Department	TELEPHONE 509-684-2401
STREET & NUMBER 217 South Oak Street	CITY OR TOWN Colville
CITY OR TOWN Colville	STATE Washington 99114

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Jeanne M. Welch 7/27/79  
 TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>Carol Hull</u> DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	<u>[Signature]</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE <u>10-4-79</u>	DATE <u>10/4/79</u>
ATTEST: <u>W. Ray Luce</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

Statement of Significance

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The town's hopes for the future were dashed in 1905 when the smelter was shut down. The population of Northport fell drastically but the new school remained open. When a new lead smelter was built in 1915 Northport experienced a brief period of prosperity which brought the towns population up to two thousand. In 1921 the smelter was closed again due to management difficulties.

The school continued to operate however, throughout the next fifty years. As school districts in the rural farm areas surrounding Northport were forced to consolidate during the 1940's through the 1960's due to the lack of pupils they began sending their students to the Northport school. In 1970 the Northport School District was comprised of 360 square miles and had a total enrollment of 371 even though the Town of Northport had a population of barely five hundred.

The decision to condemn the school in 1976 was based on its inability to meet prevailing codes. A new school was built in 1978.

The original School is now abandoned and up for sale. A concerned group of local citizens hope to purchase the building, rehabilitate it and turn it into a multi-purpose community center/ museum/ library. If this group is unable to raise the money the building will be probably sold for its bricks.

