

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



80

1. Name

historic Damascus School
and/or common Damascus Pioneer Craft School

2. Location

street & number 14711 SE Anderson Road not for publication
city, town Damascus vicinity of congressional district 3rd
state Oregon code 41 county Clackamas code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Miller, Jr.
street & number 52815 E. Marmot Road
city, town Sandy vicinity of state Oregon 97055

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clackamas County Courthouse
street & number 8th and Main Streets
city, town Oregon City vicinity of state Oregon 97045

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The original volume of Damascus School, built in 1876, is a single-story, one-room, cedar-shingle gable-roofed frame building, rectangular in plan, measuring 24 x 36 feet and oriented south to north. Clad with shiplap siding and simply finished with detail derived from the Classic Revival, the building has plain corner boards and frieze boards under boxed eaves. The sills initially rested on stone piers, but the foundation is presently concrete. Straddling the roof ridge at the south (front) gable end is a square louvered belfry, which originally was unenclosed, with pyramidal shingled roof and overhanging eaves. Window openings are elongated and fitted with double-hung sash with four over four lights. Originally there were three window bays in either side elevation, and the facade organization was symmetrical with a single bay on either side of a central entry sheltered by an aedicula-like gable-roofed porch. The porch had chamfered posts with capitals and shadow pilasters. The brick stove chimney which originally straddled the roof ridge at the center was removed at an early date.

In the period between 1902 and 1911, growing enrollment necessitated enlargement, and the following changes were made. The central classical front porch was supplanted by an 11-foot deep vestibule offset to the east side of the facade. The original east window of the facade was re-installed on the west side of the facade. The vestibule facade had a central entry flanked by double-hung windows. A perpendicular gable-roofed classroom wing measuring 24 x 28 feet was added to the east side of the school, thus making an L-shaped configuration. Finish material closely followed the original. Outer bays in the west wall of the original volume were converted to paired openings with double-hung sash with trim matching original treatment.

In 1922, it is reported, plumbing was installed, and consequently the vestibule was extended ten feet to provide access to basement toilet rooms. In 1935 a 14-foot deep kitchen lean-to with drop siding and exposed rafters was added in the angle of the "L" on the north side. This addition was enlarged to a 35-foot long kitchen/utility lean-to in 1956 when the property was acquired by the Damascus Community Church. The final changes to the building's exterior were made in 1967 when multi-paned picture windows were added in north and east end elevations and doors with diapered glazed upper panels were installed in openings in the vestibule, the north end of the original volume, and in the kitchen wall.

Interior finish is primarily wood. Ceilings in the original volume and vestibule are tongue and groove boards. Tongue and groove boards laid horizontally cover interior walls of the original volume. Beveled tongue and groove boards are laid similarly in the vestibule. The classroom wing of 1902-1911 presently has an acoustic tile ceiling, and its walls are overlaid with paneling of recent vintage. The kitchen ceiling is plywood panel with battens at the joints. Walls are fir tongue and groove boards and hard surface panels. Floors throughout, except for concrete in the kitchen/utility area, are 1/4-inch hardwood tongue and groove boards. All ceiling and wall surfaces are painted. Floors and kitchen cabinetry are varnished. The original front door is still in use between the vestibule and original volume, though its location has been altered.

In 1968, to correct termite damage, the area under the east classroom wing was excavated and concrete reinforcement was added to the original foundation. A new cedar shingle roof was placed over the original roof cover at the same time.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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		

(enlarged)

Specific dates 1876, 1902-11, 1935 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The one-story white frame schoolhouse which was built in the old settlement of Damascus on the Foster-Barlow Road in west Clackamas County in 1876 is significant as one of the oldest rural schoolhouses standing in the state. As such, it is a distinctive and well-maintained example of a dwindling resource. Most of Oregon's one-room rural schoolhouses are abandoned and in extremely dilapidated condition. Damascus School was altered by accretion in the period 1902-1911, about 1922, and again in 1935, but the original volume is intact, with some modification of window and door openings spanning the earliest and latest remodelings. The alterations, in fact, are responsible for the building's continued use, for the building has evolved to meet the community's educational needs virtually without interruption since it was opened over 100 years ago.

The community of Damascus developed along the old Foster-Barlow Road in 1852, but did not receive its name until 1866. The latter, a spur of the old Oregon Trail, developed as a shortened route to Portland by-passing Oregon City. It later served as a major market road by which farm produce was delivered to Portland.

The old schoolhouse was constructed on land donated to Union School District #26 by James and Margaret Chitwood in April 1876. The one-room school opened in 1877. A second classroom and vestibule were added to meet growing enrollment sometime between 1902 and 1911. There are no records to document when the vestibule was enlarged and basement toilet rooms added, but these changes undoubtedly date from 1922, when plumbing was installed. The enlarged schoolhouse continued to operate as a primary school through 1956. The Damascus Community Church purchased the school in June 1956, enlarged the kitchen and used the building for meetings and Sunday School classes until 1967, when the property was acquired by Joseph and Amy Miller. At this time, basic repairs were made, windows were added on the east and north sides, and the kitchen area remodeled. The schoolhouse was re-opened as the Damascus School for Pioneer Crafts in April, 1968.

In the twelve years that the building has served as a private craft school, the surrounding area has developed markedly. Predominantly farm land in 1968, the unincorporated community of Damascus is now a rapidly growing suburb of Portland. Census figures show the 1970 population to have been 3,378, and the projected 1980 figure was set at 5,156. The latter projection was made in 1975, and may prove to be conservative. The school remains as the sole community-oriented structure surviving from the early settlement period of the Damascus area. Recognition of this local landmark will contribute to its continued preservation and protection through Oregon's land use planning program.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Days and Ways of Old Damascus Oregon, Maybee, Lottie and Forbes, Forrest D., Damascus Road Press, 1962.
 Free Land for Free Men, Vera Lynch, 1973.
 Personal Interviews, 1976: Helen Wright, Damascus Community Church; Mabel Wescott, former school board member; Mrs. Rumsfeld; and Mr. Charles Smith.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one (0.37 acre)
 Quadrangle name Damascus, Oregon Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1,0</u>	<u>5,4,2</u>	<u>4,4,0</u>	<u>5,0</u>	<u>2,9</u>	<u>1,1,0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting		Northing				Zone	Easting	Northing
C							D			
E							F			
G							H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Damascus School is located in NE 1/4, Sec. 8, T2S, R3E, W.M., in Clackamas County, Oregon. It is legally described as Clackamas County Tax Lot 500 in the aforementioned quarter section.

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 Audrey Moore, Barbara Miller, Dolores Gannett, Amy Miller

organization Damascus Pioneer Craft School, Inc. date April 28, 1980

street & number 14711 SE Anderson Road telephone 503/658-2704

city or town Clackamas state Oregon 97015

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

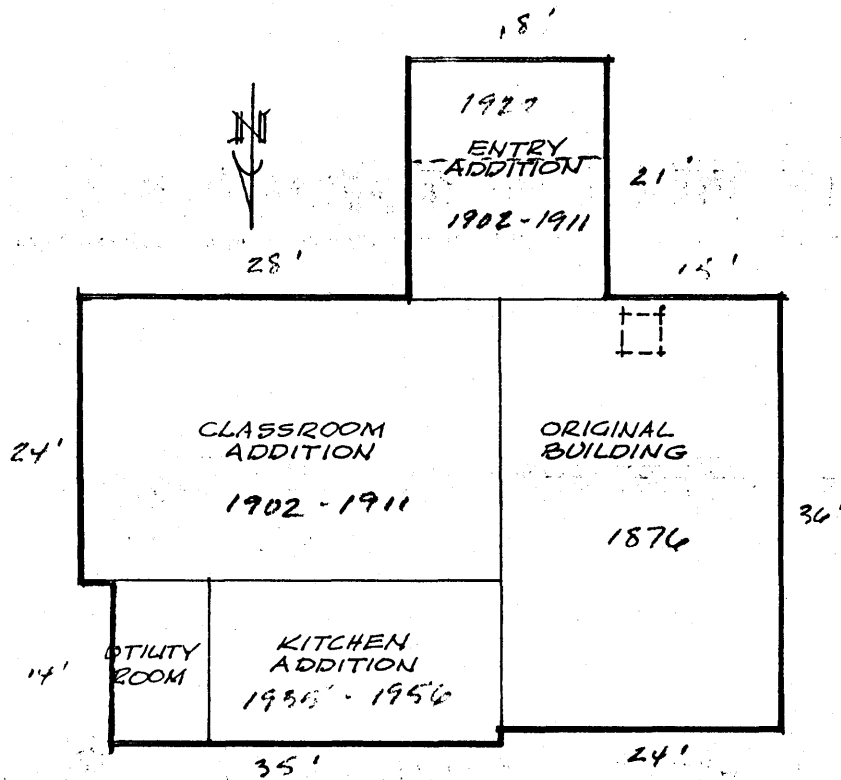
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature] date September 25, 1980

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.	
<u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of the National Register	date <u>12-3-80</u>
Attest <u>[Signature]</u> Chief of Registration	date <u>12-2-80</u>



DAMASCUS SCHOOL

THE CLASSROOM AND ENTRY ADDITIONS WERE FIRST-DATE ?
 THE KITCHEN AND UTILITY WERE SECOND ADDITIONS -DATE ?

OCT 6 1980

2 1000