



# United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Pullman High School  
other names/site number Gladish Building,

### 2. Location

street & number 115 NW State Street  not for publication  
city or town Pullman  vicinity  
state Washington code WA county Whitman code 075 zip code 99163

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.

I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 6.26.98  
Signature of certifying official Date

David M. Hansen, Acting State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. 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:)

Edson H. Beall 8.6.98

[Signature]  
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

USSDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Property Name Gladish School

County and State Whitman County, WA

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property		
		contributing	noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)			
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a Register: N/A)

No. of contributing resources previously multiple property listing: 0

listed in the National

**6. Functions or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Education: Secondary school

Education: School

Social: Civic

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)

Collegiate Gothic

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Tin

other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Education

1929-1948

1929

Architecture

1929-1934

1929, 1934

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

N/A

Rasque, George M.

\_\_\_\_\_

Rounds, Fred G.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 three acres

UTM References

1	<u>1/1</u>	<u>4/8/6/0/8/0</u>	<u>5/1/7/5/0/8/0</u>	3	<u>1</u>	<u>1111</u>	<u>11111</u>	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>1</u>	<u>1111</u>	<u>11111</u>	4	<u>1</u>	<u>1111</u>	<u>11111</u>			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard K. Hines

organization Washington State University date 28 November 1997

street & number Dept. of History 4030 telephone 509-335-5139

city or town Pullman state WA zip code 99164-4030

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

- Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Friends of Gladish

street & number PO BOX 231 telephone 509-332-8081

city or town Pullman state WA zip code 99163

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County and State Whitman County, Washington

The present Pullman High School, which is the subject of nomination, consists of buildings built between 1929 and 1934. The school site itself has been the location of several earlier buildings and additions, none of which survive, but are described to illustrate the long-standing presence of a public educational facility at this location. In addition, there are three compatible additions, made in the 1950s, which are not considered significant at this time.

At the time of construction of the 1929 building, an earlier Queen Anne style school (known as the Lincoln School) and a 1913 addition existed. The task at hand was to link the earlier buildings in a compatible manner, while enlarging the overall school to accommodate unprecedented growth in the community. The Pullman School District secured the services of Spokane architect George M. Rasque to draw plans for a new school building that could be enlarged at a later date. The first stage of this project came to fruition in 1929, and this portion of the current building remained the focal point of further development (this 1929 section was known as the Gladish School). A 1934 addition mirrored the architectural accouterments of the first building and stands at the center of the structure. Further additions were added in 1950 to the rear of the building, in 1953 on the south side, and in 1954 to the north end of the structure. Although not part of the current request for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, these last three additions illustrate a somewhat harmonious design approach to the buildings erected in 1929 and 1934.

Keeping in mind the need to erect an establishment that could be expanded in the future, Rasque designed a 60 x 144 foot Collegiate Gothic building constructed with a polychrome raked brick exterior arrayed in spandrels bearing geometric designs between the windows of the two upper floors. Just below the high parapet there is a detailed terra cotta cornice with four petal Tudor rose medallions. Forming the oldest part of the School, this unit contained a gymnasium and four classrooms, and was located just slightly southeast of the old 1892 Lincoln School site. Although the original entrance, with its Tudor arched doorway with terra cotta ornamentation and heightened parapet, has been obliterated by an addition to this side of the building, some of the decoration on the upper part of the bay, which now serves as a connection between the 1929 unit and the 1953 addition, can still be seen. Nearing completion in September 1929, this building, known as the "New Unit," or the "New Lincoln School," housed the 7th and 8th grades.

After fire ravaged the 1892 Lincoln School on the morning of April 29, 1933, the school board, noting the extent of the damage coupled with the fact that the "ancient style of architecture

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County and State Whitman County, Washington

was a misfit in the group of buildings,” decided that construction of a new unit, as envisioned in the 1929 proposed educational complex, would be in order. In this regard, the board attained the services of Tacoma architect Fred G. Rounds to sketch the complex, and prepare a detailed plan for the construction of the middle section of the building to replace the old Lincoln School. Originally on the architectural engineering faculty of Washington State College, Rounds later served as the director of buildings and grounds for the college.

This 128 x 40-foot building connected the 1929 unit with the 1913 High School in a continuous facade on the State Street side of the property. Intended to be the center of the complex, the 1934 unit contained eight classrooms in a three story building constructed in similar style and materials as the 1929 unit. The exterior of the first floor of the structure contains a reddish multi-colored raked brick topped with a course of plain terra cotta. The raked brick of the upper two floors is a lighter, multi-colored yellow-red with vertically laid courses forming panels between the two floors. The detailed cornice and parapet are similar to the 1929 unit, but instead of using a geometric brick design between the windows, Rounds used buttress-like piers with copings to accent the nine bays that contain the windows. The bay on the southern most end of the building projects outward from the structure and houses a Tudor arch doorway ornamented with a shield displaying a “P” and a greyhound (the symbol of Pullman High School), and surrounded with terra cotta torches and Tudor roses. The parapet of this bay is ornamented with terra cotta quoins. The bay directly south of the northern most one houses the main entrance to the building. Again, this is a Tudor arched portal that projects outward from the structure. Similarly decorated with terra cotta torches and roses, this entrance is further ornamented with the inscription “Pullman High School” on an unfurled scroll, an open book with the date “1934,” and a shield bearing a lit oil lamp (the symbol of learning). This bay additionally houses the main stairway of the building, and its elongated windows, coupled with the fact that it is slightly taller than the rest of the building, gives it the impression of being a tower.

The interior of this structure contains three classrooms on the ground floor, three classrooms on the second, and two laboratories on the third floor. The hallways and stairway floors are terrazzo with accenting patterns at each of the classroom doorways. The south end hallways extend into the 1929 unit, and the hall of the first two floors connects with the 1913 High School.

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Rising enrollment necessitated the 1949-50 construction of an additional seventeen rooms directly behind the building erected in 1934. Plans for this three-story addition were drawn by the Spokane architectural firm of Funk, Molander, and Johnson. Completed in May 1950, the addition provided an enlarged cafeteria with a new kitchen, storage and custodial rooms, as well as art and mathematics classrooms on the first floor, home economics and a faculty room on the second floor, and a commercial department as well as an English classroom on the third.

A new gymnasium and an additional four classrooms were completed in 1953. This new addition, also designed by Funk, Molander, and Johnson, covered up the south side of the 1929 unit, but included specific details in an attempt to harmonize with the other structures. The exterior walls are constructed with the same reddish multi-colored raked brick used on the ground floor of the 1934 unit. Adjacent to the doorway facing State Street is a vertical panel with four cast concrete squares with the Tudor rose design found on parts of the older structures.

By 1953 the school board decided to replace the 1913 High School with a new wing that would include a 967-seat auditorium, twelve classrooms, library, band and choral room, general shop and offices. Again employing the firm of Funk, Molander, and Johnson, work began on this project by early 1954. Although many aspects of this new wing of the Gladish School are more modern in design, Funk, Molander, and Johnson incorporated many of the architectural elements of the existing units to maintain a continuity of design.

Located where the front portion of the 1913 school originally stood, the auditorium extends toward State Street. Its hallways connect to the extensions of the 1929 and 1934 buildings as well as utilize the main stairwell of the 1934 tower. The exterior of the new wing incorporates the same reddish multi-colored raked brick used on the ground levels of the older units. Additionally, the three bays used to join with the 1934 unit are similarly defined with buttress-like piers beyond which is a terra cotta cornice that provides a smooth transition between the modern style of the new addition and the Tudor-Gothic design of the 1934 building. The front of the auditorium is a curved brick wall supported by six columns and is ornamented by six square medallions near the roofline.

In 1976 the administrative offices of the Pullman High School closed its doors and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students were moved into the elementary schools while the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grader students

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attended Lincoln Middle School. Spaces in the building were rented out to the Montessori School, a day care, a church, and the Whitman County Historical Society. However, overcrowding in the elementary schools soon necessitated that kindergarten classes be half at Gladish as well as other grades during enlargement and remodeling of Sunnyside Elementary. In the fall of 1995, the school district's administrative offices were moved into the new Pullman High School and the Gladish School was listed "For Sale." Although there were some interested buyers, past graduates of the school and concerned citizens increasingly sought its preservation as a community center. By the end of 1996, the local School Board accepted an offer from the Friends of Gladish (FOG) group to purchase the school and preserve it for the citizens of Pullman.



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County and State Whitman County, Washington

The Pullman High School is historically significant for its long-standing role as the public educational center for the town of Pullman as well as its architectural merit as the only example of Tudor Revival/Collegiate Gothic design within the city. In many respects, the growth of the local community has been reflected in the continued development of this educational center, which has been continually used by the City of Pullman since 1891. Furthermore, the School has provided an important educational link with Washington State University facilitating a mutually beneficial interaction between these two institutions of learning. The 1929, and 1934 additions of the School are the significant sections of the structure currently under consideration for nomination and are representative of the design capabilities of some of the best known architects in the state. The later additions, which remain visually distant from the significant buildings, although not currently eligible under the National Register fifty-year benchmark, are only a few years away from being considered as contributing elements of the entire educational complex.

Although the structure is currently only marginally utilized by the Pullman School Board, the members of the community thought the building important enough that an independent organization of Pullman citizens purchased the property in 1996 so as to preserve its use for the town as a Community Center. Currently managed by this group, the School is used by a local church, a private Montessori School, the Whitman County Historical Society, a day care, and other groups that offer various forms of educational opportunity.

Historical background and significance

In 1891 Whitman County School Superintendent C.W. Bean noted that “the purse of the honest farmer, mechanic and tradesman is always opened willingly and his hard earned dollars cheerfully brought for to pay a school tax or in any other legitimate way contribute to the support of education.” As evidenced by the struggle to locate the State Agricultural College and School of Science in Pullman, so too does the School represent the community’s support and encouragement of education.

Organized in the fall of 1880, Pullman school district (#59), under the direction of John D. Lyman, Mrs. Dan McKenzie, and L.C. Crawford hired Bessie Fullerton (Mrs. N.S. Hunt) as its first teacher. After a failed attempt to hold class in a log cabin near the Colfax road, the first three month school term had to be finished in the home of D.G. McKenzie. The next year, the town erected a one-room schoolhouse on the site of the current School.

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School began in January of 1882 under the tutelage of Bessie Hunt. Although the first class only numbered twenty-four students, by 1885 the existing building proved to be inadequate in size requiring that a class be held in the Methodist Church building. In 1888, to accommodate the growing needs of the community, the school district erected a larger wooden frame building on the same school grounds. However, within two years more room was needed requiring expansion of the structure. By the fall of 1890, the building had three classrooms. Mrs. Walling taught in the primary room, Mrs. Cynthia Farris in the intermediate room, and Principal W.H. Harvey utilized the newly constructed second floor for the advanced class. In total, the School now housed 105 pupils.

In 1891, classroom conditions had again become overcrowded and the town passed a \$25,000 bond issue for the construction of a new school. The old school had four classrooms and 200 students. Dedicated on Columbus Day 1882, the new, two-and-a-half-story brick building had a four story octagonal tower. Designed by Spokane Architect Herman Preusse in the Queen Anne style, this structure, known as the Lincoln School, was constructed just south of the 1888 two-story wooden schoolhouse, which was eventually sold and torn down in 1902.

Although the Franklin School and the Edison School had been built in other sections of town by 1913, the Lincoln School still served as the high school, but apparently had become overcrowded because the citizens of Pullman passed another bond issue for \$25,000 to erect a new high school. Located forty feet north of the 1892 school, this two-story structure designed by architect W.M. Swain contained an auditorium, library, six classrooms, a laboratory and a gymnasium. This structure remained in use until 1954 when it was torn down. In 1929, once again beset by growing pains, the Pullman School Board sought the development of a new high school complex that resulted in the current Pullman High School.

The most original section of the Pullman High School (Gladish School) was designed by Spokane Architect George Melville Rasque. Although renowned throughout the state, Rasque is best known for his design of public buildings throughout eastern Washington. Through the years, Rasque designed many of the buildings on the campus of Eastern Washington University, Eastern State Hospital in Medical Lake, the Veterans Administration Hospital in Spokane as well as courthouses in Benton, Ferry, Stevens, Prosser, Republic, and Colville. Aside from these monumental edifices, Rasque's true legacy can be found in nearly sixty additional communities where his school buildings provided a harbor for the future leaders of the state and the nation.

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Clearly, the rapid growth of Pullman necessitated numerous additions to the School, and Rasque only participated in the initial phase of this construction. However, his Collegiate Gothic design, the only of its type in Pullman, became the focal point of future designers who sought to maintain the architectural integrity begun by Rasque.

Although the less-than-fifty-year-old, final addition to the School does not meet exceptional requirements for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, there are some considerations that must be noted. Clearly community growth facilitated further expansion of the school, but even more importantly, the school district lacked a suitable auditorium for educational activities such as plays and concerts. To fill this need, Spokane architects Funk, Molander and Johnson were contracted to design a facility that would fill this void. Best known for their designs of the St. Charles Roman Catholic Church, Mater Cleri Seminary, the Garland Theater, and the St. Charles Parish School and auditorium, this firm's experience proved vital in the design of an addition that continued the Pullman community commitment to educational excellence as well as maintaining the architectural integrity begun in 1929 by George Rasque. Not only used by the high school, this auditorium became the focal point of various productions produced by all of the town's schools. Despite the fact that the School has passed out of the hands of the Pullman School District, its auditorium is still used in this capacity.

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**Bibliography**

*Inland Catholic Register.* 21 November 1945

*Inland Catholic Register.* 15 October 1967

*Pullman Herald.* 14 February 1913

*Pullman Herald.* 8 March 1929

*Pullman Herald.* 8 February 1929

*Pullman Herald.* 6 September 1929

*Pullman Herald.* 5 May 1933

*Pullman Herald.* 7 September 1934

*Pullman Herald.* 20 July 1934

*Spokane Daily Chronicle.* 22 October 1977

*Spokane Daily Chronicle.* 26 September 1986

*Spokesman Review.* 28 July 1935

*Spokesman Review.* 21 November 1945

**Secondary Sources**

Edwin P. Garretson, "The Gladish School," Unpublished essay.

*History of Whitman County, State of Washington.* W.H. Lever, Publisher, 1901

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Section number 10 Page 1 Name of Property Pullman High School

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**Verbal boundary description**

All of lot 56, Old Town of Pullman

**Verbal boundary description**

This entire lot was historically set aside for educational purposes, and has always served as the location for the Pullman High School. Rectangular in shape, the boundaries of the school's property correspond to the legal description, and include the entire structure of the school, including both significant and non-significant sections.

Pullman High School  
Pullman, WA



## GLADISH SECOND FLOOR

