

NOMINATION: Long Valley Finnish Structures (Thematic Group)

SITE NAME: Elo School SITE # 11

LOCATION: One-and-one-half miles southeast of Highway 55 on Farm to Market Road, on the west side of the road.

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Frank K. Gallagher, 7632 S.E. Flavel Street, Portland, OR 9720

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: McCall, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: about one acre
 The nomination includes ~~the Elo School Building and the property on which it stands;~~
 VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: beginning at a point 350 feet south of the northeast corner
the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 23 of Township 18 North, Range 3 East, thence running 183 feet west
thence 340 feet south, thence 138 feet east, thence 340 feet north to the place of begin
ain

UTM(S): 11/5,74,280/49,70,50

DATE OR PERIOD: School, 1906 EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: State
Cottage, 1915

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Education

SCHOOL: good condition altered original site

This frame structure measures twenty-four-by-sixty-four-feet with a small enclosed porch and bell tower on the east end. It contains two rooms, the south room measuring twenty-four-by-forty, and the north room measuring twenty-four feet square. It has a metal roofing over the shingles, but is otherwise in much the same condition as originally. The south room was the original and the square room on the north was added in about 1915. The building was once white with brown trim, but it is now peeling and weathered.

Significance:

The Elo School, named for Reverend John William Eloheimo, an influential Finnish Evangelical minister who chose to settle in Long Valley, was constructed in 1906 by Abram Pekkala at a cost of \$612. The north addition was constructed in 1915 by Finnish carpenters, John Heikkilä and John Ruuska. The property on which the school stands was donated to "District 24," an almost completely Finnish school district, by Nickolai Nasi. One of the first teachers in the school, Eva Eloheimo, was a daughter of the man for whom the building is named. Reverend Eloheimo, a well-educated man, was very concerned that the settlers' children be provided with a school, and he organized District 24 and helped to raise the money for the building. The school was in operation until the late 1940's. Aside from the Long Valley Finnish Church, this and the teacher's cottage behind it are the only public Finnish buildings left in Long Valley.

TEACHER'S COTTAGE: good condition altered original site

This bungaloid frame structure measures twenty-five-by-twenty-five-feet and stands just northwest of the Elo School building. It was constructed by the Finnish carpenters John Heikkilä and John Ruuska for the teachers of the Elo School. Elo, a predominately Finnish district, was named for Reverend John William Eloheimo, one of the most influential Finnish settlers in Long Valley. The building contains two rooms, a bedroom on the north end and a living-kitchen area on the south end. A sawed-log porch area, a relatively recent addition, is attached to the east side. The building is painted white.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Elo School (Continued) (Site 11)

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TEACHER'S COTTAGE: (Continued)

Significance:

As one of the last remaining community buildings of the Finnish settlement in Long Valley, the Elo School Teacher's Cottage is a visual reminder of a time when the schoolteacher was expected to live near her school so she could start the fire in the morning and take care of the building in addition to her other duties. The cottage, last used by teachers in the late 1940's, is in remarkably good condition. It is named, like the school, for Reverend John William Eloheimo, a prominent Finnish minister often mentioned in histories of the Finns in America. Together with the school building the teacher's cottage recalls the era of the once tightly-knit Finnish community in Long Valley, and a time when rural residents organized and ran local school districts. The cottage also demonstrates the Finnish carpenters' adaptability to popular styles like the bungalow.