

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

APR 16 1990

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**NATIONAL  
REGISTER**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See Instructions 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 10-900-a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Rochester Elementary School

other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number 10140 Highway 12 S.W.

city, town Rochester

state Washington code WA

county Thurston

code 034

zip code 98579

not for publication  
 vicinity

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>—</u>	buildings
<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	sites
<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	structures
<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Rural Public School Buildings in Washington State

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.

*Jacob E. [Signature]*  
Signature of certifying official

4/3/90  
Date

Washington State Department of Community Development Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
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.

Entered in the  
National Register

*Mark J. Baker*  
Signature of the Keeper

17 May 1990  
Date of Action

- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

*[Signature]*  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: school

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education: school

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**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival: Georgian Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls brickroof asphaltother

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Rochester school occupies a prominent position at the northeast corner of the main intersection of Rochester. Surrounded by broad lawns and paved playground areas, the school is characterized by its Georgian Revival detailing, dentillated cornice and molded frieze boards, and pilasters. The school retains its original fenestration of distinctive 12-over-12 pane awning sash. The gymnasium, built as part of the 1936 construction, still adjoins the school. Despite some additions, the school strongly conveys its historic importance as a representative of 20th century educational facilities in rural Thurston County.

The one-story structure has stretcher-bond brick facing and sits on a poured concrete foundation. The U-shaped original building has a hip roof which terminates in a simple wooden cornice. The front (south) facade extends forward at the east and west corners to form pavilions. The recessed front entry at the central main entrance is topped by a pedimented gable with dentillated cornice and molded frieze boards. Dentillated returns supported by engaged, rusticated pilasters flank the entry. Beneath the cornice, a plain tympanum extends down to an arch with molded surround and keystone which frames the fanlight of the entry door. The door, which is a modern metal replacement, is flanked by narrow sidelights and topped by a transom and fanlight. The sidelights are in turn flanked by full-length, narrow, multi-paned windows. Narrow multi-paned sidelight windows flank the main entry. These windows are framed by four porch columns spanned by iron railings which support cornice panels on either side of the arch. Fenestration of the main wing is bands of tall awning sash with twelve-over-twelve lights sharing a common brick sill.

At the northwest corner of the main wing, a one-story, flat-roofed newer brick building extends to the north and connects with the gymnasium building. The gymnasium is a rectangular, one-story brick structure with a gable roof built with close eaves. A small gable-roofed vestibule extends from its west facade. It has a double entry door with blind transom and wide molded surround topped by a prominent head molding. The vestibule is flanked by two windows which have been boarded over, as have all the building's windows, but the original sash remains intact.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

 nationally     statewide     locallyApplicable National Register Criteria  A    B    C    DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A    B    C    D    E    F    G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Education

Period of Significance

1936-1939

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Floyd Naramore, Architect

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

The Rochester School is historically significant for its association with public education in rural Thurston County and with the development of the Rochester community. Built in 1936 to replace an earlier two-story school, the nominated schoolhouse and gymnasium served as the grammar school and high school for a consolidated district, and represents the final era in rural education in the county before contemporary, regional schools were built. The classic detailing, large windows, and adjacent brick gymnasium all illustrate the substantial character and progressive curricula adopted by consolidated rural schools built in the 1930s. Designed by one of the region's leading architects, Floyd Naramore, the school's design has retained integrity for over 50 years. The property meets the registration requirements established for the type in the Rural Public Schools multiple property documentation form.

**Historical Background:** Although Rochester was platted in 1890, the surrounding prairies had been among the earliest sites of American settlement in Washington. The James family located at Grand Mound in 1852 and was soon joined by the Goodells, Sarjents, Axtells and others. The early settlers' devotion to education is illustrated by the school that was conducted in 1855-56 in a stockade at Ft. Henness at Grand Mound near Rochester during the Indian Wars of those years. Early schools were also at Jamestown, home of the large James clan, at Goodell's Point, and atop the Grand Mound itself.

Farming, stock raising and logging were early occupations in the area. When the Northern Pacific Railroad arrived in 1890, the town of Rochester was platted on land owned by Julia Fleming, who named the new community for her hometown of Rochester, Indiana. In its first decade, the town boasted saloons, a hotel, stores, post office, and livery stable. After the first growth timber had been harvested in the area, dairying, poultry raising and strawberry growing flourished, and two barreling plants in Rochester and Grand Mound processed strawberries during the 1920s and 1930s. Despite a decline during the depression era, Rochester became an educational center for this part of the county when a union high school and consolidated grade school were located here.

The nominated school was built near the earlier wooden school, which was later razed. In order to finance construction of the new consolidated facility, a community-wide fund-raising campaign was held during the height of the depression. The school was designed by Floyd Naramore who was a prominent Northwest architect, a graduate of MIT, and school district architect in both Seattle and Portland. This was his only Thurston County commission. When opened, the new school served both grammar and high school students who came from a wide area including the former Mima, Bordeaux, Gate, Grand Mound, Riverside, Meadows, and Independence school districts. The school, which is still in use as an elementary facility, is the most important public building in the area.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

"Floyd Naramore, Noted Architect, School Planner," Obituary, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, October 31, 1970.  
James, David. From Grand Mound to Scatter Creek. State Capitol Historical Association, Olympia, 1980.  
'Pioneer Brothers Raised on Site of Rochester," Thurston County Independent, May 31, 1935.  
"Pioneer Life on Mound Prairie is Described," Thurston County Independent, March 29, 1935.

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 #

See continuation sheet

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 five acres

UTM References

A	<u>10</u>	<u>492760</u>	<u>5185220</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located in the west half of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of the south quarter of Section 31, Township 16 North, Range 3 West, W.M., and is described as Parcel #13632330000.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/title Shanna Stevenson, Preservation Planner  
 organization Thurston County Historical Commission  
 street & number 2000 Lakeridge Dr. S.W.  
 city or town Olympia

date May 1989  
 telephone (206) 786-5554  
 state Washington zip code 98502

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

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photographs Page 1

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Rochester Elementary School, Photograph #1  
Rochester vicinity, Washington  
Tom Costantini  
February 26, 1985  
Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
111 West 21st Avenue  
Olympia, Washington  
Southeast corner  
N/A

Rochester Elementary School, Photograph #2  
Rochester vicinity, Washington  
Tom Costantini  
February 26, 1985  
Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
111 West 21st Avenue  
Olympia, Washington  
South facade  
N/A

Rochester Elementary School, Photograph #3  
Rochester vicinity, Washington  
Tom Costantini  
February 26, 1985  
Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
111 West 21st Avenue  
Olympia, Washington  
West front facade  
N/A