



## Community Planning & Economic Development

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# Thurston County Historic Register Nomination Form

This form is required to nominate properties to the Thurston County Historic Register of Historic Places. Type all entries and complete all applicable sections. Contact the Historic Preservation Office with any questions at 360-867-2117.

Staff Use Only	Date Stamp
LABEL	

**PROPERTY INFORMATION**

1. Historic Property Name: Delphi School
2. Historic Property Address: 7601 Delphi Road SW, Olympia, WA 98512
3. Tax Parcel Number: 13711120100

**PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION**

Owner: Delphi Community Club Email:

Address: 6330 Shawn Dr., SW, Olympia, WA 98512

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**FORM PREPARER**

Name: Shanna Stevenson Phone: 360-798-8778 Email: heritageservicesolympia@hotmail.com

Address: 3515 Kensington Ct. SE City: Olympia State: WA Zip Code: 98501

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: August, 2024

**NOMINATED ELEMENTS**

Please indicate below significant elements of the property that are included in the nomination by checking the appropriate box(es) below. These elements should be described specifically in the narrative section of this form.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Principal Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Additions	<input type="checkbox"/> Accessory Buildings/Outbuildings
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Interior Spaces/Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Landscaping, Fencing, Walkways, etc.

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

### EXTENT OF CHANGES

Please summarize the changes that have been made to the original plan, exterior, materials, cladding, windows, interior, and other significant elements by selecting the choices below. If the property has been previously documented, these may be indicated on the Washington State Historic Property Inventory Form. These changes should be described specifically in the narrative section of this form.

#### ORIGINAL MATERIALS INTACT

Plan (i.e.: no additions to footprint, relocation of walls, or roof plan)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Original cladding/exterior materials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Windows (no replacement windows or replacement sashes)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Interior (woodwork, finishes, flooring, fixtures)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Other elements	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION NARRATIVE

Describe in detail the original (if known) and present physical appearance, condition and architectural characteristics of the site (context, location), exterior (all four walls), and interior. Please include a list of known alterations and their dates (use additional sheets if necessary)

Located in the Delphi Valley, once a verdant old growth forest, about seven miles southwest of Olympia, the Delphi School is a rectangular, one-story wood frame structure on a poured concrete foundation. Its gable roof is covered with composition shingles-and-has open eaves with exposed rafters and wide gable-end fascia boards supported by ornamental brackets. Walls are clad with drop siding and corner boards. A hip roofed extension at the southeast corner holds the vestibule. A full width porch on the front (east) facade supported by turned posts shelters the main entry door. To the right of the door are four small three-paned windows

The Delphi Community Association has recently installed new storms on that façade to reveal the original windows. The porch was restored following the original configuration. Above the porch is a sign reading, "Delphi School – Dist. 313 - 1910-1942." Another porch along the south facade leading to auxiliary door is a later addition along with an accessible ramp. The north facade has a row of tall, narrow double-hung windows with six over six lights which are covered by hinged plywood panels. The rear of the structure which was the woodshed has been removed.

The original hipped roof bell tower on the vestibule section was removed by the mid-1980s but a re-created tower was installed in 2002. The interior has the original vestibule, large classroom and book storage room. A kitchen (recently updated) and bathrooms have been added at the rear. The original chimney was replaced. The building has its original beaded-board walls and blackboards. The schoolhouse is adjoined by the historic schoolyard, which is included in the nomination. The property is notable for its blue camas plants, visible in May. The property received Special Valuation in 1990. It was re-roofed in 2017. The property was listed on the Thurston County Historic Register in 1989 and is listed on the Washington Heritage Register and the National Register under the MPD "Rural School Buildings in Washington State," in 1990.

Historic Features Identified in Thurston County Historic Register Listing:

1. One story, wood frame structure on a poured concrete foundation.
2. Gable roof extends to exposed rafters and wide gable-end fascia boards supported by ornamental brackets.

3. Walls are clad with drop siding and corner boards.
4. Hip roofed extension at southeast corner holds vestibule.
5. Full-width porch on the front (east) facade supported by turned posts shelters the main entry door
6. Four small three-paned windows are to the right of the door.
7. Row of tall, narrow double-hung windows on north facade with six-over-six lights.

Interior:

1. Beaded-board walls.
2. Original blackboards.
3. Vestibule.
4. Book storage room.

## HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

### CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION

The County Historic Register recognizes properties that are at least 50 years old (or of lesser age if of exceptional importance), and which are important for one or more of the following reasons:

- xHistorical Importance -- the property is: the site of an historic event with an effect upon society; identified with a person or group who had some influence on society; or exemplifies the cultural, social, religious, economic, political, aesthetic or engineering history of the county.  
Architectural Importance -- the property is: (a) an individual building that embodies those distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type, period, style or method of design or construction; is the work of an architect or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the county; or (b) a group of buildings that may lack distinction individually but together are easily distinguished as a unit and characterize an earlier era, way of living, and construction of the built environment.
- Archaeological Importance -- the property has yielded or may be likely to yield archaeological information important in pre-history or history.
- Birthplaces, Graves , Cemeteries -- the property is: a birthplace or grave of a person of outstanding historical importance; or a cemetery significant because of its age, distinctive design features or association with historic events or cultural patterns.

### HISTORICAL DATA (IF KNOWN)

Date of Construction ca. 1911 Other Significant Dates: \_\_\_\_\_  
Architects: \_\_\_\_\_ Builder: \_\_\_\_\_  
Architectural Styles: \_\_\_\_\_ Craftsman \_\_\_\_\_  
Materials: Wood \_\_\_\_\_

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Describe in detail the chronological history of the property and how it meets the criteria for the Register of Historic Places. Please provide a summary in the first paragraph that lists the relevant criteria (use additional sheets if necessary). This section should include a thorough narrative of the property's history, context, occupants, and uses. If using a Multiple Property Nomination that is already on record, or another historical context narrative, please reference it by name and source.

Early emigrant settlers to the Delphi area were Hudson's Bay employees who followed traditional Native American routes. First American emigrant settlers established donation land claims in the area and later homesteaded on open prairie lands. But not until large-scale logging began after the turn of century did population significantly increase in the valley. By 1910, the area was renamed by a local resident who saw it as

"Land of the Gods." Built on land donated by the Draham Lumber Company, the Delphi School was a one-room facility for eight grades. Two other schools in the area--located at North Star and Buckhorn--served the children of loggers, but both are now gone. The Mud Bay Logging Company established its operations in the Delphi area beginning in 1900, bringing an influx of population by 1910 and with it a store and post office. The original Delphi School, built about 1900, was located across the street from this structure but was replaced by the nominated structure in order to accommodate the increase in population. By 1919 Mud Bay Logging had exhausted nearby timber supplies and in 1941 shut down operations entirely. The school was closed the following year.

The school was likely built about 1911 on five acres of land deeded to School District 5 by the Draham Lumber Company in March 1911. Specified in the deed was the area for a school and land for a playground. Another specification was that if the property ceased being a school, it would revert to Draham. Draham incorporated Mud Bay Logging Company in 1910, one of the largest concerns in the area. Newspaper accounts from 1911 indicate that the Delphi School was new when it opened in the fall. It is a design noted in a 1908 document for model schoolhouses. According to a newspaper account, by 1924 there was a teacher's cottage on the property of three rooms—living room bedroom and kitchen.

The school was one of the few public structures built in the area and the only remaining structure from the settlement at Delphi. In 1942, one year after the company ceased operations, the school was closed. The Delphi Community Club was organized just one year later and is still in operation. In 1944, Margaret Draham, widow of Mark Draham and his daughter and son-in-law Margaret and Thornton McGee deeded the school land to the Delphi Community Association. The Delphi Community Association uses the building for community gatherings and rentals.

#### Bibliography:

Don Trosper in cooperation with the Tumwater School District Historical Committee, *A Rich Heritage : Tumwater Area Schools Since 1845*, Tumwater, WA: Tumwater School District, 2008.

Interviews with Marguerite Meyer, longtime resident, March 1985.

Educational Service District 113 Records.

<https://www.thurstontalk.com/2018/01/06/loggers-black-hills-mud-bay-logging-company/>

Thurston County Deeds, Volume 80, pages 322-323. Draham Lumber Company to School District 5, March 21, 1911.

Thurston County Deeds, Volume 185, page 9. Margaret Draham, Marjorie McGee and Thornton A. McGee to Delphi Community Club, May 11, 1944.

"Two Districts to Build Soon," *Morning Olympian*, June 21, 1911, 1.

"W. G. Parker Leaves Excellent Record: \$112,000 Spent During Term—Many Debts Have Been Cleared off—Two Districts Have Less than 8 Months School," *Morning Olympian*, September 10, 1911, 1.

"List of Teachers Nears Completion: Five More Pedagogos in County Schools Than Last Year, Additional Pupils Making It Necessary," *Morning Olympian*, September 17, 1911, 1.

"Around the County in the Schools: Delphi," *Morning Olympian*, March 6, 1924, 4.

John Markham, *Tons of Memories: Black Lake, Delphi Waddell Creek School Pictures and History*. NP: 1998.

John Markham, *Memories*, NP, ND.

<https://www.thurstontalk.com/2016/12/24/delphi-schoolhouse-history/>

<https://www.thurstontalk.com/2013/09/02/first-schools-built-in-olympia-date-back-to-1852/>

James Hannum, "Mud Bay Logging Company Railroad," in *Gone But Not Forgotten : Abandoned Railroads of Thurston County*, Olympia, WA: Hannum House Publishing, First Edition 2002, 155-166.

Delphi Community Club Records.