

Oregon Historic Site Record

| LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| address: | 7528 S Mark Rd Canby, Clackamas County (97013) | historic name: | Mark Prairie School & Monument |
| assoc addresses: | | current/other names: | Mark Prairie Community Club |
| location descr: | Marks Prairie | block/lot/tax lot: | N/A / N/A / 00400 |
| | | twshp/rng/sect/qtr sect: | 4S 1E 20 |
| PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS | | | |
| resource type: | Building | height (stories): | 1.0 |
| elig evaluation: | eligible/significant | total elig resources: | 2 |
| prim constr date: | c.1900 | second date: | 1948 |
| | | total inelig resources: | |
| primary orig use: | School | NR Status: | |
| second orig use: | Meeting Hall | date indiv listed: | |
| primary style: | Vernacular | orig use comments: | |
| secondary style: | | prim style comments: | |
| primary siding: | Horizontal Board | sec style comments: | |
| secondary siding: | | siding comments: | Lap siding w/corner boards, rake boards and frieze |
| plan type: | Schoolhouse | architect: | |
| | | builder: | |
| comments/notes: | | | |
| Ceased use as school in 1946; became meeting hall for Mark Prairie Community Club | | | |
| GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS | | | |
| Survey/Grouping Included In: | Type of Grouping | Date Listed | Date Compiled |
| Clackamas County Historic Landmarks | Survey & Inventory Project | | 2008 |
| SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY | | | |
| NR date listed: | N/A | 106 Project(s): | None |
| ILS survey date: | 09/30/2007 | Special Assess Project(s): | None |
| RLS survey date: | 12/30/1991 | Federal Tax Project(s): | None |
| ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION | | | |
| <i>(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)</i> | | | |
| <p>SCHOOL ROOF FORM AND MATERIALS: Gable PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: Four-over-four double-hung sash casement w/ plain surrounds OTHER: Enclosed, full-width porch w/ hip roof, e. elev.; paneled door; gable roof ell, w. elev.; interior chimney; open gabled belltower ALTERATIONS: Front porch enclosed, e. elev. (n.d.); ell added, w. elev. (1949). The school has had some exterior alterations since the historic period. The front porch was enclosed and an ell was added. A shed, which originally stood about fifty feet southeast of the front door, was moved to the west end of the building in 1949 to form a kitchen. These changes do not detract from the historic character of the subject building. Assoc Resources: memorial (SHPO 680) Outhouse: ESTIMATED DATE BUILT: c. 1930 STYLE: Vernacular PLAN/TYPE/SHAPE: Rectangular NO. OF STORIES: 1 FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Post-and-beam ROOF FORM AND MATERIALS: Shed w/ sheet metal WALL CONSTRUCTION/STRUCTURAL FRAME: Wood/stud EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Lap siding OTHER: Hinged door</p> <p>The Mark Prairie School is an example of the Vernacular style of architecture. Composed of a single rectangular volumes, the school was built circa 1900. Architectural evidence supports this date of construction. During the late 19th century, school and other public buildings were generally rectangular buildings with steep to moderately steeply pitched gable roofs. Windows from the late 19th century were usually the long double-hung sash type. Interior chimneys, such as the one found in the Marks Prairie School, were used for heating the one-room school house. Monument: DATE BUILT: 1948 FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Concrete EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Concrete</p> <p>DECORATIVE FEATURES: Concrete base surmounted w/ obelisk LANDSCAPE: Mature deciduous trees</p> <p>The Mark Prairie School, Mark Park and Monument are located on the south side of Mark Road, a quiet two-lane thoroughfare and an early 20th-century road. The school and monument are set back from the road. The site is level with many mature oak trees. Across the road, on the north, is nursery stock. On the east there is a mobile home and an early 20th-century house. On the west there is a farm complex. On the south there is an orchard. The area is predominantly in agricultural use. The property is within the A.K. Mark donation land claim. The subject property is located approximately one and one-half miles east of the Pudding River, one-half mile west of Gribble Creek, and approximately two and one-half miles south of the Canby city limits.</p> | | | |
| HISTORY | | | |
| <i>(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)</i> | | | |
| <p>SUBJECT PROPERTY According to county records, School District #38, the original owner, purchased the subject property from A.K. and Mary S. Mark in 1879 and 1893. When classes were discontinued in 1946 when the district joined the Canby District No. 86, ownership of the property reverted back to the Mark family who then gave it to the Mark Prairie Community Club. Mark Memorial Park and Monument are a memorial to the Mark family. John Mark, for whom Mark Prairie was named, settled a claim in the area in 1847. John Mark traded a yoke of oxen and either a wagon or a mare for 640 acres with a cabin on it. He married Fannie Mark in 1918. Alexander Mark, the eldest son of John and Fannie, claimed land adjoining his father's farm in 1851. His sisters and their husbands staked claims adjoining Alexander's land. In 1879, Alexander deeded two acres of land to School District #38, on which a building was to be constructed for educational and religious purposes. In 1893, Alexander and his brother Samuel deeded a right-of-way for a road so people could drive to the building. According to Vesta Mark, a log school house was built in the swampy part of the property before the wood-frame Mark Prairie School was built circa 1900 from lumber which was hauled from Cole's Sawmill, located on the south bank of the Molalla River. The school was a focus of the community until 1946 when it ceased to be used as a school because the district consolidated with Canby District #86. The deed to the property stated that the land reverted to the heirs when the school was discontinued. The Mark heirs, the daughters of A.K. Mark, Julia Allen and Gertrude Maddock, decided to give the building and land to the people of the community to take care of and use for social purposes. A Community Club was organized in 1947. The building served the needs of the community in providing a meeting place for family reunions, wedding receptions, Christmas and other parties, picnics, church groups, 4-H clubs, a mothers' club, an Extension club and monthly meetings of the Community Club. The club secretary, Miss Vesta Mark, granddaughter of the land's donor, still lived on the original Mark claim in 1991. Vesta Mark died in Canby in 2006. In 1948, the remains of the Mark pioneers were relocated to the present location. The tombstones from the original Mark cemetery were used to form the monument which was dedicated July 1948. The property was named Mark Memorial Park by county officials. The Mark Prairie School is an example of the Vernacular style of architecture. Composed of a single rectangular volumes, the school was built circa 1900. Architectural evidence supports this date of construction. During the late 19th century, school and other public buildings were generally rectangular buildings with steep to moderately steeply pitched gable roofs. Windows from the late 19th century were usually the long double-hung sash type. Interior chimneys, such as the one found in the Mark Prairie School, were used for heating the one-room school house. The school has had some exterior alterations since the historic period. The front porch was enclosed and an ell was added. A shed, which originally stood about fifty feet southeast of the front door, was moved to the west end of the building in 1949 to form a kitchen. These changes do not detract from the historic character of the subject building. In addition to the school, there is</p> | | | |

an outhouse which is believed to date from the historic period. The outhouse is a one-story building clad with lap siding. The monument, dedicated in 1948, is an obelisk on a concrete base. The surrounding park, with many mature oak trees, adds to the historic character of the subject buildings and monument. The Mark Prairie School is significant as an excellent example of a turn-of-the-century Vernacular school and for its association with the Mark family and the Mark Prairie Community. There are eight schools on the Clackamas County Inventory in the Canby-Barlow study area. The subject building is one of four vernacular schools from the Progressive Era. There are two monuments in the study area. The other is located in Barlow. The school may be evaluated as an example of a Vernacular style school building and for its association with the Mark family.

RESEARCH INFORMATION

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| ✓ Title Records | Census Records | ✓ Property Tax Records | ✓ Local Histories |
| Sanborn Maps | Biographical Sources | SHPO Files | ✓ Interviews |
| Obituaries | Newspapers | State Archives | Historic Photographs |
| City Directories | Building Permits | State Library | |

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| Local Library: <input type="text"/> | University Library: <input type="text"/> |
| Historical Society: <input type="text"/> Canby Historical Society | Other Respository: <input type="text"/> |

Bibliography:
 Clackamas County Cultural Resource Inventory, 1984. Clackamas County Tax Assessor records, Oregon City, OR. "Land Laws & Early Settlers of Oregon", Canby Historical Society, 1970. Mark Prairie Community Club, "History of Mark Prairie", 1991. Mark, Vesta. Unrecorded interview w/ Patricia Elliot, 21 April 1992. Renz, Ed. Unrecorded interview w/ Patricia Elliot, 20 April 1992. TICOR Title Company, Oregon City, OR.