

Historic Property Report

Historic Name: Dieringer Gym

Property ID: 732956

Location



Geographic Areas: SUMNER Quadrangle, Pierce County, Pierce County Certified Local Government, T20R05E07

Information

Number of stories: N/A

Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1921	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Education	Education - Education Related
Education	Education - Education Related

Historic Context:

Category
Education

Architect/Engineer:

Category	Name or Company
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Thematics:

Local Registers and Districts

Name	Date Listed	Notes
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Project History



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Project Number, Organization, Project Name	Resource Inventory	SHPO Determination	SHPO Determined By, Determined Date
2023-11-07024, , SEPA-2023-0010 Cultural Resource Desktop Review for the Dieringer School Project at 1808 East Valley Highway E (Parcel 9520000152), Sumner, Pierce County, Washington		Survey/Inventory	

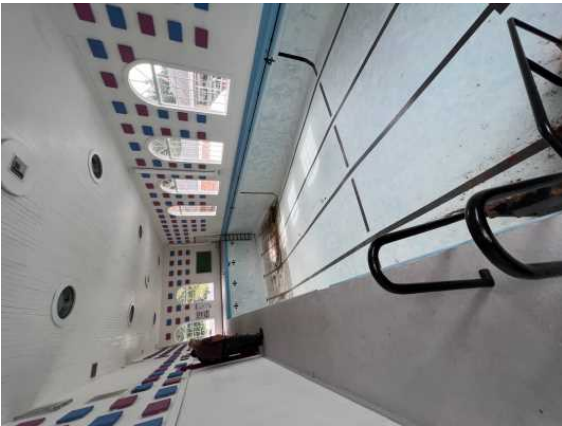
Photos



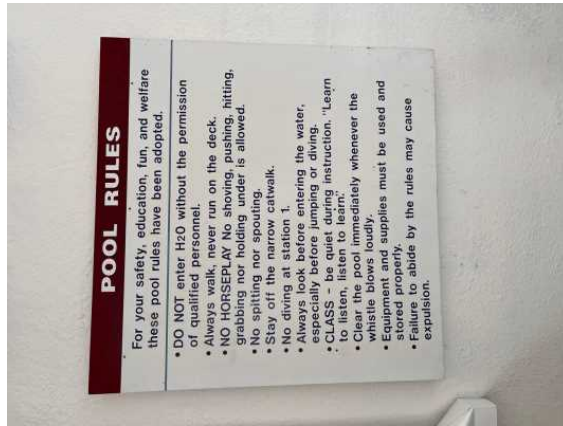
1023N_24Jan2024_eag (207) - Copy.JPG



IMG_6281.jpeg



IMG_6283.jpeg



IMG_6284.jpeg



IMG_6285.jpeg



IMG_6279.jpeg

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1023N_24Jan2024_eag (201) - Copy.JPG



1023N_24Jan2024_eag (202).JPG



1023N_24Jan2024_eag (204).JPG



1023N_24Jan2024_eag (203).JPG



1023N_24Jan2024_eag (209).JPG



1023N_24Jan2024_eag (208).JPG

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1023N_24Jan2024_eag (205).JPG



1023N_24Jan2024_eag (199).JPG



1023N_24Jan2024_eag (197) - Copy.JPG



1023N_24Jan2024_eag (196).JPG



1023N_24Jan2024_eag (170) - Copy.JPG

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1023N_24Jan2024_eag (169).JPG



1023N_24Jan2024_eag (173) - Copy.JPG



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1023N_24Jan2024_eag (162).JPG



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1023N_24Jan2024_eag (164).JPG



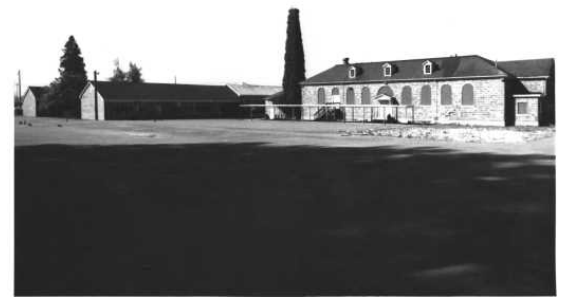
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1023N_24Jan2024_eag (163).JPG



assessor_image.jpg



1997_gym.JPG

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1997_gym-2.JPG



1931_historicaerial_PS.jpg



1940_historicaerial_PS.jpg



1955_historicaerials_PS.jpg



196X_historicaerials_PS.jpg



1969_historicaerial_PS.jpg

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1970_historicaerials_PS.jpg



1977_historicaerials_PS.jpg



1980_historicaerial_PS.jpg



1985_historicaerial_PS.jpg



1995_historicaerials_PS.jpg



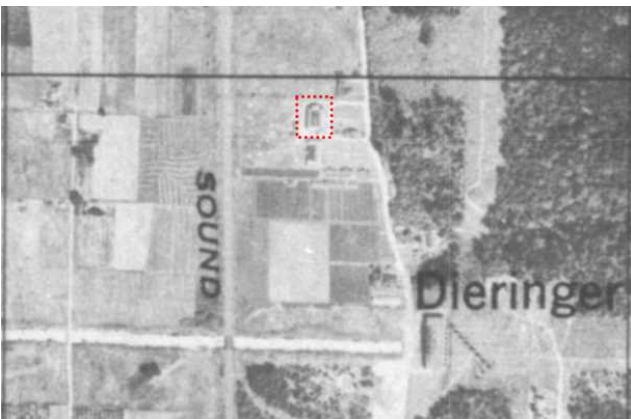
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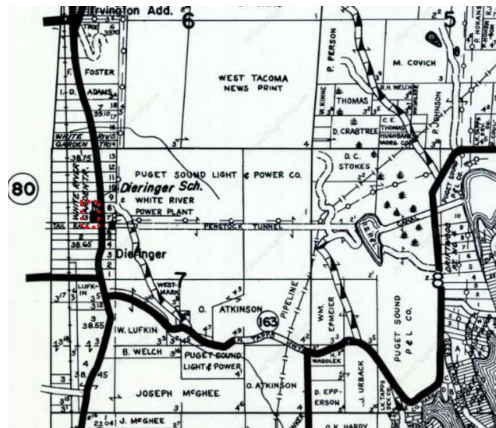
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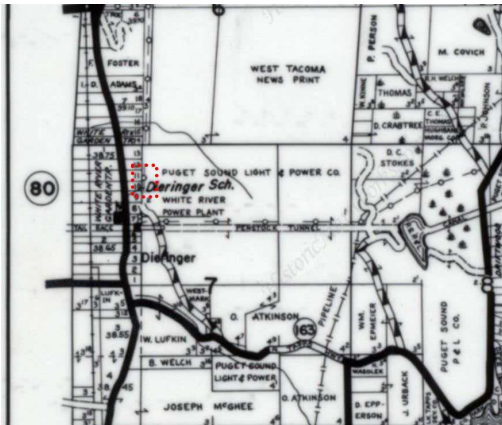
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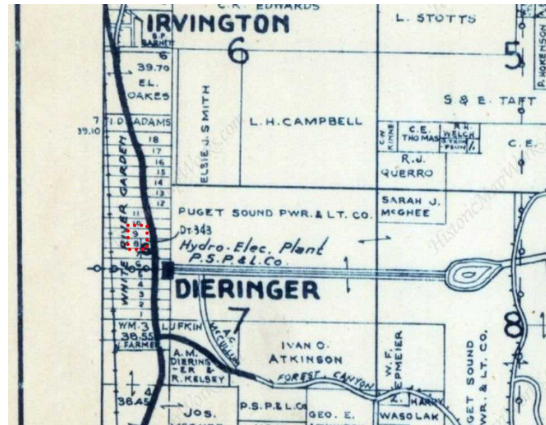
1945_pierce_county_PS.jpg



1960_metsker_map_PS.jpg



1965_metsker_map_PS.jpg



1951_metsker_map_PS.jpg



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Inventory Details - 1/31/2024

Common name:

Date recorded: 1/31/2024

Field Recorder: Stephen Austin

Field Site number:

SHPO Determination

Detail Information

Characteristics:

Category	Item
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Roof Type	Hip
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition
Cladding	Brick
Plan	Rectangle

Styles:

Period	Style Details
Early 20th Century Revivals (1900-1940)	Georgian Revival

Surveyor Opinion

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: Yes

Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local): Yes

Significance narrative: Built in 1921, the Dieringer Gym is a single-story masonry building listed in the National Register of Historic Places in April 1997. The Gym is listed as a contributing component within the Dieringer School National Register Nomination Form. The Gym and other buildings, the school and boiler plant, were determined eligible under Criterion A for their role in the development of Pierce County's rural communities and public educational resources within Dieringer and Washington state. Additionally, both resources were determined eligible under Criterion C for their Georgian Revival architectural design. According to the NRHP-form, "the Dieringer School campus is significant as the last remaining group of buildings that can be associated with the historical development of the Dieringer community."

Since 1997, modern fixed pane vinyl windows have replaced its existing wood double-hung windows. While the property remained in good condition, substantial changes to its immediate setting have diminished its integrity of settings and feeling. Other alterations to the structure include the removal of a wooden flight of stairs that accessed a pedestrian door located in a window bay on its east façade. This change has resulted in repairs to the threshold and adjoining wall of a window on its east façade. Despite changes to its windows and some moderate repairs to its exterior components, the Gym retains its integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship.



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On May 5, 1888, Joseph C. Dieringer, a restaurateur from Tacoma, became the first postmaster of the community of Norwood located near the Dieringer School. Joseph moved to the Stuck River valley in the 1880s and joined other farmers in the locality to form the settlement. Hops agriculture was a staple of the area and by the mid-1880s there were several growers in the area. In 1891 the town was incorporated with the post office name changed from Norwood to Dieringer.

In 1892 the local hops economy was devastated by an infection of hop lice. This led to local farmers diversifying their crops, switching to berries and bulbs or dairy farming. That same year, the newly formed Dieringer School District purchased a storage shed and the surrounding land encompassing the present school site. Construction on the school facilities began around 1910. In 1912, the Puget Sound Power and Light Company hydroelectric power plant was completed approximately 1,200-feet southeast of the Gym. As a result of the construction of the power plant, a general store, hotel, and gas station were built nearby and formed the nucleus of a community.

In July 1918, the construction of a gymnasium, swimming pool, and auditorium was approved by voters. Dedicated in September 1921, this structure was designed for community use. While no date of construction is given for the boiler room and adjoined smokestack, it is assumed it was built in conjunction with the gymnasium. No architect was identified for the design of the gymnasium by the NRHP form. In 1927, the district approved the construction of the current school building which was completed in 1928.

Homestead data obtained by the Bureau of Land Management reports that the property was originally held by the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. Pierce County Grantor-Grantee records report that the property was obtained by the Dieringer School District. Aerial images taken in 1931, 1940, and 1945 show the gymnasium, boiler plant, and school surrounded by agricultural fields. Metsker maps produced in 1951 show the property located along the White River Garden subdivision.

A 1955 aerial photo shows moderate development of the property, primarily the construction of a paved driveway. Metsker maps from 1960, and 1965 continue to show the property located in the White River Garden subdivision. Aerial photographs taken in 1969, 1970, 1977, 1980, and 1985 show moderate development to the property surrounding the gymnasium as well as a large parcel located to its south.

In 1990, the property was sold to the Petersen Brothers which coincided with all educational activities relocating to newer facilities. An aerial photograph from 1995 reports the largest change to the surrounding area was a large golf course now located to the immediate west of the property. In February 1998, the property was sold by the Dieringer School District to Gary and Arlene Petersen. By 2002, aerial images reported that the school and gymnasium were located on a single paved parcel that included the previous industrial yard to its south. All aerial photos taken show little change in the condition of the property.



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Physical description:

The Dieringer Gym is located in Pierce County, Washington on the west side of East Valley north of the City of Sumner. The Gym is part of a complex of buildings identified as part of the Dieringer School, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997. Its immediate viewshed contains commercial properties to its north, west, and south. Its east elevation is characterized by a two-lane highway (E. Valley Highway East) and a heavily forested right-of-way. The entire parcel is now utilized as a storage area for Dieringer School District vehicles and other related equipment such as trailers and tow-behind LED radar units. The entire area is enclosed by a cyclone fence and paved in asphalt with timber beam planter boxes located throughout the parking area on its east elevation. Its west and south elevations are populated by numerous school district-owned vehicles,

The Gym appears largely unchanged from when it was listed to the NRHP in 1997. However, the majority of its original double-hung wood windows have been replaced with vinyl frame eight-over-eight fixed pane window units. While this change is noticeable, the modern window units were selected to mimic the Gym's original eight-over-eight pattern. Additionally, the Gym retains its original rectangular massing, original brick masonry exterior, and "truncated hipped roof" with three gable dormers on its east and west elevations. Its east and west facades contain eight total fixed pane vinyl frame arched windows, four on each side of a central entry portico.

The Gym's north façade is characterized by three boarded-up arched windows centered in its projected gable roof wing. The windows are flanked by two single-story flat-roofed wings accessed by a single pedestrian door centered in the north façade of each. All windows of these wings are boarded over. A modern rectangular CMU electrical shed built approx. 1980, stands on the northeast elevation.

The Gym's south elevation contains three fixed pane vinyl arch windows centered in the façade. The view from the southeast elevation is largely obscured by the Dieringer School's boiler plant, a one-story masonry building characterized by its square massing topped with a hip roof. The boiler plant is located on the southeast corner of the Gym where it abuts an approximately 65-foot-tall brick smoke stack crowned with a decorative cap of corbelled brick.



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