

# CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT COVER SHEET

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Title of Report: Cultural Resource Survey for the Fife School District's New Elementary School and High School STEAM Center of Innovation Project, Pierce County, Washington

Date of Report: May 30, 2019; Revised March 31, 2020

County: Pierce Section: 7 Township: 20 North Range: 4 East

Quad: Puyallup, WA, 7.5-minute, 2019 Acres: 8.7

PDF of report submitted (REQUIRED)  Yes

Historic Property Inventory Forms to be Approved Online?  Yes  No

Archaeological Site(s)/Isolate(s) Found or Amended?  Yes  No

TCP(s) found?  Yes  No

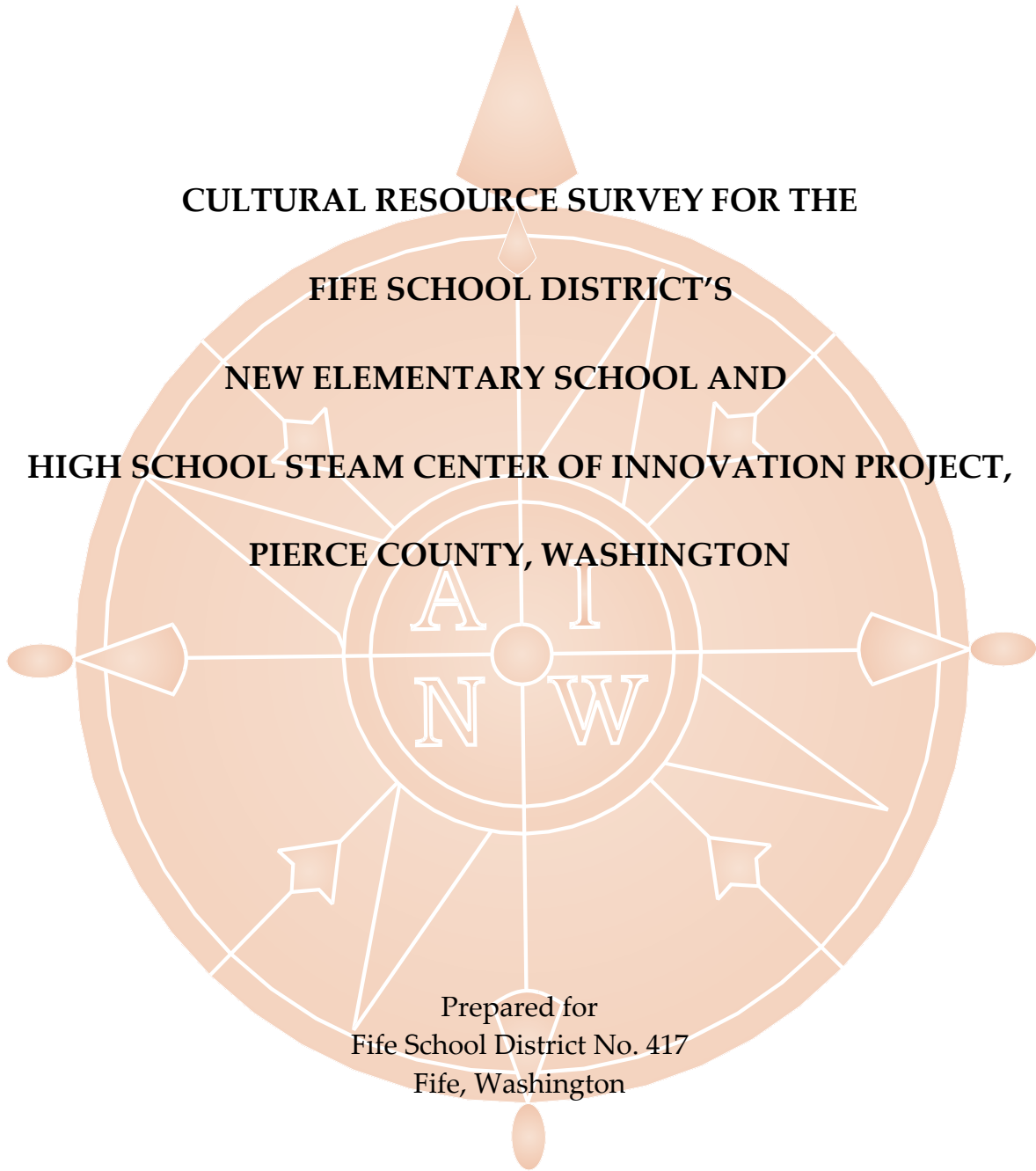
Replace a draft?  Yes  No

Satisfy a DAHP Archaeological Excavation Permit requirement?  Yes #  No

Were Human Remains Found?  Yes DAHP Case #  No

DAHP Archaeological Site #:

45PI1464



**CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY FOR THE**

**FIFE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S**

**NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND**

**HIGH SCHOOL STEAM CENTER OF INNOVATION PROJECT,**

**PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Prepared for  
Fife School District No. 417  
Fife, Washington

May 30, 2019

*Revised March 31, 2020*

REPORT NO. 4206

**Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc.**

**CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY FOR THE  
FIFE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND  
HIGH SCHOOL STEAM CENTER OF INNOVATION PROJECT,  
PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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**PROJECT:** Development of Fife High School to add an additional building for a STEAM Center of Innovation, construct a new elementary school, and remove the existing Fife Public Schools Administration Building

**TYPE:** Cultural resource survey

**LOCATION:** Section 7, Township 20 North, Range 4 East, Willamette Meridian

**CITY:** Fife

**COUNTY:** Pierce

**USGS QUAD:** *Puyallup, WA, 7.5-minute, 2019*

**PROJECT AREA:** 8.7 acres

**AREA SURVEYED:** 8.7 acres

**FINDINGS:** Archaeological Resource:

- One historic-period archaeological resource (site 45PI1464) was identified and delineated in the proposed location of the high school STEAM Center of Innovation. The site is recommended to be not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A permit from the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) will not be needed.

Historic Resource:

- One historic resource, the 1952 Fife Public Schools Administration Building, is within the project area. This resource is recommended to be not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Fife School District plans to construct a new elementary school in the existing sports field at Fife High School, remove a group of circa 1990s portable units to construct a STEAM Center of Innovation (STEAM Center) at the high school, and remove the existing Fife Public Schools Administration Building that was constructed in 1952. The project will impact land owned by the Fife School District at 5616 20<sup>th</sup> St E and 5802 20<sup>th</sup> St E, Fife, Pierce County, Washington (Figure 1). The other Fife High School buildings will not be modified by the project (Figure 2). The project will receive funds from the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and will therefore be subject to review under the Governor's Executive Order 05-05 as well as under the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc. (AINW), has completed a cultural resource survey in compliance with Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) Standards. The work was conducted by AINW staff meeting the professional qualifications standards of the Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation. The cultural resource survey included a background review, a pedestrian survey, excavation of 20 shovel tests, and documentation of the Fife Public Schools Administration Building that will be removed (Figures 2 and 3).

One archaeological resource and one historic resource were recorded within the project area. One historic-period debris scatter, site 45PI1464, was identified and delineated. A site form for the resource is provided in Appendix A. The site is located in the proposed location of the high school STEAM Center, and is recommended to be not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A Historic Property Inventory has been prepared for the Fife Public Schools Administration Building and is provided in Appendix B. The Fife Public Schools Administration Building is recommended to be not eligible for listing in the NRHP, either individually or as part of a historic district. No further cultural resource study is recommended for this project, and a permit from DAHP will not be needed.

## LOCATION AND SETTING

The Fife School District New Elementary School and High School STEAM Center of Innovation project is in the city of Fife, Pierce County, Washington, in the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 7, Township 20 North, Range 4 East, Willamette Meridian (Figure 1). The 8.7-acre project area includes a section of the sports field between 20<sup>th</sup> Street E to the north and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street E and a housing development driveway to the south, on the east side of Fife High School. Construction of a new elementary school is proposed in this portion of the project area. The proposed STEAM Center is just south of 20<sup>th</sup> Street E and east of an unnamed road on the west side of Fife High School, where concrete walkways and several portable structures used as classrooms were constructed in the 1990s (Figure 2).

The project area is in the Puget Trough physiographic province, within the southern Puget Lowland, which marks the outwash plain of the Puget lobe of the Cordilleran ice sheet (Booth and Goldstein 1994; Collins and Montgomery 2011; Franklin and Dyrness 1973:6-7). The ice sheet briefly reached its maximum southward extent circa 16,950 years ago (Porter and Swanson 1998). The soils

within the project area itself were not formed within these Pleistocene glacial deposits. The soils within the project area were formed in more recently deposited fluvial alluvium on floodplains, and Sultan and Briscot silt loams are mapped for the area (Schuster et al. 2015; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service [USDA-NRCS] 2000, 2005, 2019). Within the Puget Lowland floodplain, Fife High School was historically near a low-lying swampy area, and is near sea level at an elevation of 4 to 5 meters (m) (13 to 16 feet [ft]) (U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] 1900). In the Puyallup River Valley, water sources are plentiful near the project area, and the closest creeks, Wapato and Hylebos, are 350 m (1,150 ft) to the south and 900 m (2,950 ft) to the northeast, respectively.

Immediately following the glacial retreat, the climate was cool and dry, and the local environment was dominated by prairie vegetation and patchy pine forest (Ashworth and Nelson 2014:251-252; Egan et al. 2016:144-146). The grasslands persisted until about 14,000 years ago, when forest began to encroach from further south (Ashworth and Nelson 2014:251-252). Pollen records from Moss Lake, 63 kilometers (km) (39 miles [mi]) to the northeast of the project area, show that the climate rapidly warmed and moist conditions prevailed after about 12,000 years ago, and grasslands were replaced by Douglas-fir and alder woodland (Egan et al. 2016:144-146). The earliest evidence for human settlement in the Puget Trough area dates to this time period, at the transition from the late Pleistocene to the early Holocene. The nearby Bear Creek site, 51 km (32 mi) to the northeast of the project area, had Archaic-period tool types and a calibrated radiocarbon date of 12,770 to 12,596 years ago (Kopperl et al. 2015:117-119).

Here and throughout Washington, the last 5,000 years saw the establishment of the vegetation communities observed by Euroamerican settlers in the nineteenth century (Whitlock 1992:14-15). Mild and moist conditions persisted through the middle Holocene (Egan et al. 2016:144, 149). Prairies made way for woodlands of western hemlock, western redcedar, and Douglas-fir (Egan et al. 2016:144, 146; Franklin and Dyrness 1973:88-89). Within the project area, no native forest remains, and it has been developed for the school and its sports fields.

## CULTURAL SETTING

### Native Peoples

The project area is within the traditional lands of the Southern Coast Salish-speaking people in the Puget Sound Basin. The people who inhabited the project area vicinity spoke the southern dialect of Lushootseed, which is a Salish language (Suttles and Lane 1990:485). The Southern Lushootseed speakers inhabited villages along rivers, creeks, and the Puget Sound shoreline, and on the foothills of Mount Tacoma (Rainier). The Puyallup resided at the mouth of the Puyallup River, 5 km (3 mi) northwest of the project area. The groups who lived inland to the east, along the Green and White rivers, were later known as the Muckleshoot (Puyallup Tribe of Indians 2018a; Ruby et al. 2010:197, 237). Neighboring tribes interacted and intermarried throughout the Puget Sound region.

Nineteenth-century ethnohistorical accounts document that the Southern Coastal Salish relied upon the seasonal exploitation of plant and animal foods, including salmon, and a range of shellfish. Fish were caught using weirs, and deer and elk were hunted with bow and arrow. Gathered plants included sprouts, roots, bulbs, and berries. Cedar woodworking was important for manufacturing canoes and

plank houses, while cedar bark was used for cordage, mats, blankets, and baskets (Smith 1941; Suttles and Lane 1990:485-493).

The project area is within the Puyallup Reservation, but the land is owned by the Fife School District and is not under Tribal jurisdiction (Puyallup Tribe of Indians 2018b; Washington Geospatial Open Data Portal 2019). As Euroamerican settlers arrived in the region, the Treaty of Medicine Creek was signed in 1854, resulting in tribes ceding most of their land. The Puyallup tribe was allotted land for a 1,280-acre reservation (Bonney 1927:202-205; Ruby et al. 2010:237). The boundaries of the Puyallup Reservation were expanded in 1857 to include parts of Puyallup, Fife, Milton, and Tacoma, spanning 18,062 acres (Bonney 1927:202-205; Marino 1990:169-170; Ruby et al. 2010:237; U.S. Office of Indian Affairs 1879).

As Tacoma and surrounds grew, most of the reservation lands were under non-native ownership by the late 1800s and early 1900s, resulting in diminishing rights to land, subsistence, and commercial fishing ventures. Legal and political action throughout the twentieth century led to the development of the current Puyallup tribal facilities within the reservation boundaries established from 1857 to 1874 (Marino 1990:171-179; Puyallup Tribe of Indians 2018b; Ruby et al. 2010:237-240; U.S. Office of Indian Affairs 1879).

### **Historic-Period Development**

The project area is within the historic boundaries of the Puyallup Indian Reservation (General Land Office [GLO] 1864). Even before the General Allotment Act of 1887 was enacted, individual members of the Puyallup Tribe and non-Native people purchased private parcels from land held in trust by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) within the reservation boundaries. The entirety of the project area is within the 35-acre claim of Hannah Hadley and Maggie Hadley, purchased in 1866 (U.S. Bureau of Land Management 1866). It is unclear if the Hadleys were members of the Puyallup tribe or connected to it through Hannah Hadley's marriage to John Fisher, who appears to have been a member of the Puyallup Tribe from BIA census records (BIA 1886).

The City of Fife was incorporated in 1957 (Fife History Museum n.d.). Fife was initially known as Gardenville. Its name was officially changed at incorporation, but earlier documents interchangeably refer to the city by both names (Metsker 1951, 1955, 1960; Writers' Program 1941). Fife is most likely named after William J. Fife, a prominent Tacoma lawyer, lieutenant colonel of the U.S. Army, and one of the founders of the Tacoma Petroleum Company (Brannon 2005). The town's economy revolved around dairy farming and truck gardening of produce to sell at local markets, including daffodil bulbs, hops, and berries (Writers' Program 1941).

Beginning in 1860, Native American children of the Puyallup Tribe and other nearby tribes were required to attend Cushman Indian School (formerly Puyallup Indian School) as a result of treaty negotiations between the tribe and the U.S. Government (HistoryLink.org 2003). Like other Indian schools, Cushman Indian School was part of a wide-reaching and concentrated effort on the part of state and federal government to forcibly assimilate Native children into dominant Western cultural and epistemological paradigms and separate these children from their tribal language culture, religion, and relationships (Douglas 2019a; Marr 2000). Also like many other Indian schools, Cushman provided a substandard education to its students (Marr 2000).

Henry Sicade, a member of the Puyallup Tribe, was one of the students obligated to attend Cushman Indian School (Douglas 2019b). As a result of his negative experience while attending Cushman, Sicade was determined to provide a superior public school alternative that welcomed children of both the Puyallup Tribe and non-Native residents of the town. The Fife public school system was founded by Sicade and William Wilton, a fellow member of the Puyallup Tribe, in 1903 (Douglas 2019b). This public school alternative, which provided both traditional academic courses and practical training for the residents of the small farming town, was so popular and successful that Cushman Indian School was nearly shut down in 1908 and was permanently shuttered in 1920 (Douglas 2019a, 2019b).

Fife High School was the first school in the new Fife public school system. The high school served a diverse population of Puyallup, Japanese, and white students. Today, Fife School District and tribal-run Chief Leschi Schools together serve students within the City of Fife, The Puyallup Reservation, and parts of several surrounding cities.

The first building constructed on the ever-developing Fife High School campus was completed in 1912. The newest building was constructed in 2007 (Fife School District n.d.; Pierce County n.d.). The Fife Public Schools Administration Building was constructed 1952 to serve as Fife Elementary School. In 1992, the elementary school was moved and the building was converted to serve the administrative needs of the district, which today consists of five K-12 school campuses. The building was heavily renovated in 1964 (Andrew Twyman, personal communication 2019).

## PREVIOUS CULTURAL RESOURCE STUDIES

### Archaeological Resources

AINW conducted a review of records using the DAHP Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD) and the AINW library. The literature search was completed to determine if resources have been identified in or near the project area, and to determine whether cultural resource surveys have been previously conducted near the project area. The statewide predictive model on WISAARD maps the project area within a moderate to high probability area for pre-contact archaeological resources. The project area has not been previously surveyed for cultural resources.

The nearest pre-contact archaeological resources to the project area were identified near water sources in the Puget Lowland floodplain, and included shell middens, fish weirs, and lithic scatters along Hylebos and Clear Creeks and near the Port of Tacoma (Munsell 1976; Shong and Miss 2011a; Shong and Rinck 2015; Shufelt 2009). The closest pre-contact archaeological resource is site 45PI488, 0.7 km (0.4 mi) northeast of the project area, near Hylebos Creek. It is a possible campsite with fire-cracked rock, lithic debitage, and one unifacial scraper. A sample from a charcoal lens was dated to  $920 \pm 50$  years before present. Site 45PI488 has been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP (Luttrell 2004; Yamamoto et al. 2015).

The nearest historic-period archaeological resources represent the diverse history of the Fife area. The closest historic-period resource, site 45PI1235, 0.6 km (0.4 mi) east of the project area at the site of the Fife Library, is composed of early twentieth-century debris concentrations with Japanese porcelain

ceramics and glass bottles (Shong and Miss 2011b). The site was recommended to be eligible for listing in the NRHP. Other nearby historic-period resources include a segment of the Puget Sound Electric Railway Grade, debris scatters dating from the late nineteenth century, and a circa 1920s wooden drainage pipe (Earley 2004; Jones & Stokes 2005; Luttrell 2004; Shufelt 2009).

Within 1.6 km (1 mi) of the project area, at least 20 cultural resource studies have been conducted. Few of these nearby studies resulted in the recording of archaeological resources. Directly north of the project area, a study was conducted along 20<sup>th</sup> Street E but did not include shovel testing and did not identify archaeological resources. Historic resources were recorded, including the Puyallup Indian Memorial in front of Fife High School and two of the high school buildings (Luttrell 2007). Archaeological monitoring near the Port of Tacoma, 1 km (0.6 mi) to the northeast, identified a circa 1925 to 1930 bottle in fill deposits (Hartmann and Dietrich 2012). Other nearby studies with subsurface testing did not identify archaeological resources (Chambers and Baldwin 2014; Earley 2008; Ferland 2010; Flenniken and Trautman 2013; Gillespie et al. 2008; Kaehler 2006; Kassa 2015; Kramer et al. 2017; Luttrell 2006; Parvey 2011; Sharpe et al. 2009; Shaw et al. 2009; Stevens and Stcherbinine 2017).

Near the project area, pre-contact sites, particularly near water sources and wetlands, and historic-period resources with evidence of Euroamerican and Asian American occupation near the city of Fife have been identified. The project area is in close proximity to Hylebos and Wapato Creeks and Puyallup River, and has the potential for intact pre-contact archaeological deposits. Fife High School itself is over 100 years old and the grounds have the potential for historic-period resources. Historic-period Native American resources are also possible within the project area due to its location within the Puyallup Reservation.

### **Historic Resources**

AINW staff reviewed DAHP records made available in the WISAARD database, materials in the AINW library, and local historic inventories to determine if historic resources had previously been identified in or adjacent to the project area. While several nearby buildings have been noted in the WISAARD database, including Fife High School and a Puyallup Indian Memorial Marker on the same parcel, no NRHP eligibility determination has been made for any of these resources as of March 2019. No nearby resources have been recorded in the Pierce County Register of Historic Places (Pierce County 2019).

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SURVEY METHODS AND FINDINGS**

The archaeological pedestrian survey and shovel testing were conducted between March 18 and 20, 2019, by AINW archaeologists Lea Loiselle, B.A., and Colin Skinner, B.S., under the field supervision of AINW Supervising Archaeologist Carmen Sarjeant, Ph.D., R.P.A. The project was under the overall supervision of AINW Senior Geoarchaeologist Eva Hulse, Ph.D., R.P.A.

### **Pedestrian Survey**

The pedestrian survey was conducted across the project area in transects spaced no more than 10 m (33 ft) apart (Figure 2). Visible ground surfaces were carefully examined for evidence of

archaeological deposits. Ground surface visibility was generally poor (10%) across the project area due to grass coverage in the sports field (Photo 1). At the location of the proposed STEAM Center, portable structures and concrete pathways covered much of the ground surface (Photo 2). The project area encompassed most of the sports field area, as well as a small section of a parking lot and driveway from 23<sup>rd</sup> Street E. The periphery of the Fife Public Schools Administration Building was also surveyed.

The project area was generally flat and the sports field appeared to have been filled. The southern boundary of the project area in the field was slightly lower and formed a drainage swale (Photo 3). A larger drainage ditch with standing water was observed outside of the project area along its eastern margin. A low-lying area with standing water was in the northwest corner of the sports field, next to the tennis courts (Photo 4). Ornamental shrubs have been planted around the administration building and in the parking lot, and riparian trees were dotted around the perimeter of the sports field, outside of the project area. One sandy baseball infield was within the project area. No pre-contact or historic-period artifacts were identified during the pedestrian survey.

### **Shovel Testing**

A total of twenty shovel tests (ST-1 to ST-20) were excavated across the project area (Figure 3). The shovel tests measured 30 centimeters (cm) (12 inches [in]) in diameter, and were excavated to a minimum depth of 50 cm (20 in) below the surface (Table 1). Many of the shovel tests were extended with a 15-cm (6-in) diameter hand auger to reach native soil below fill deposits. The soil was screened through nested 6.4- and 3.2-millimeter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ - and  $\frac{1}{8}$ -in) mesh hardware cloth. Artifacts were bagged and reburied in the shovel test from which they were excavated.

Fourteen shovel tests (ST-1 through ST-14) were excavated to sample areas proposed for the new elementary school and STEAM Center, and six additional shovel tests (ST-15 through ST-20) were excavated to delineate archaeological discoveries (Figure 3). A buried layer of historic-period artifacts and burned material was recorded as site 45PI1464. No pre-contact archaeological deposits were encountered during shovel testing.

Areas where known buried utilities were located were avoided, and these were common surrounding the administration building and on the east side of the proposed STEAM Center footprint. Irrigation pipes were present throughout the sports field, and some of these were encountered in shovel tests since the exact locations of these alignments were unknown at the time of the survey (Fife School District Maintenance, personal communication 2019).

Much of the school was constructed on top of fill within a previously marshy area, and gravelly, sandy fill deposits were found throughout sports fields where construction of the new elementary school is proposed. The fill deposit capped native soils that were consistent with a buried marsh. A 9-cm (4-in) sod cap was on top of the sand fill. The fill deposits ranged in depth across the field but were typically between 60 and 70 cm (24 and 28 in) deep, and shovel tests were dug to reach the depth of the abrupt transition to native soil. The sand fill contained medium to coarse grained sand with subrounded granules, pebbles, and cobbles. The former marsh soil was iron-stained dark gray silt without gravels. The soil was increasingly moist and had increasing frequencies of iron concentrations with depth. Roots, wood debris, and some charcoal were present in the marsh deposit.

Modern disturbance was noted across the project area. Intact irrigation pipes were encountered at 30 cm (12 in) below the surface in the wall of two shovel tests (ST-3 and ST-20), which were excavated below the pipes. Modern and nondiagnostic debris was found in several shovel tests across the project area (Table 1). A 1963 Northwestern Glass Company amber bottle base was found between 60 and 70 cm (24 to 28 in) below the surface within the sports field fill, in shovel test ST-3. Two additional shovel tests (ST-19 and ST-20) were excavated near shovel test ST-3 to determine whether the bottle base was an isolated artifact. Shovel tests ST-19 and ST-20 encountered no additional historic-period artifacts. With guidance from DAHP, the bottle base has not been recorded as an archaeological isolate, due to its lack of historic context within the sandy fill of the sports field.

The shovel tests within the proposed STEAM Center footprint also exhibited evidence of historic and recent disturbances. One shovel test, ST-16, was generally consistent with the Sultan series mapped for the area with silt loam that was slightly sticky with a subangular blocky structure (USDA-NRCS 2000). Gravelly sand fill was found between layers of silt loam in shovel test ST-17, and a similar deposit was noted above a layer of very fine sand in shovel test ST-18. Historic-period artifacts were found on top of and within a distinct layer of gravelly silt loam mixed with coarse sand and burned material from 20 to 40 cm (8 to 16 in) below the surface in two shovel tests, ST-14 and ST-15 (Photo 5). These artifacts are described further below as historic-period site 45PI1464.

#### **Historic-period site 45PI1464**

Archaeological site 45PI1464 is a historic-period debris scatter in the northern portion of the proposed STEAM Center location (Figure 3; Photo 2). The site is 8 m (26 ft) south of 20<sup>th</sup> Street E, and 20 m (66 ft) east of an access road on the west side of Fife High School. Historic-period artifacts were encountered in two shovel tests (ST-14 and ST-15) between two portable structures. The historic-period deposit was very low in density, and was associated with a layer of sediment exhibiting evidence of burning. The site is bounded by shovel tests without artifacts to the north and south (ST-16 through ST-18), and by the portable structures to the west and east. The site measures approximately 9 m (30 ft) from north to south and 5 m (16 ft) from west to east.

A total of 12 artifacts were found in shovel tests ST-14 and ST-15 between 10 and 30 cm (4 and 12 in) below the surface, on top of and within a layer of burned sediment that was encountered from 20 to 40 cm (8 to 16 in) below the surface (Table 1). One aluminum State of Washington sales tax token was found at 20 cm (8 in) below the surface in ST-14, above the burned layer (Photo 6). These tokens were valued at 1/5 cent and were used to pay for sales tax on purchases of less than 10 cents. They were produced starting in 1935, and were discontinued by 1951 (The Vintage News 2016; Washington State Department of Revenue 1988). One colorless glass bottle base marked with "SANF..." is the remnant of a Sanford ink bottle (circa 1910 to 1930) (Photo 7), and was found between 10 and 20 cm (4 and 8 in) below the surface, above the burned layer, in shovel test ST-15 (Lindsay 2017). Nondiagnostic whiteware (n=1), metal (n=2), and brick (n=2) fragments were also associated with the deposit in shovel test ST-14. Five pieces of ceramic, which may be roofing tile, were found from 20 to 30 cm (8 to 12 in) below the surface within the burned layer in shovel test ST-15. Slag fragments, very small pieces of calcined bone, and charcoal were found within the burned layer.

The diagnostic artifacts at the site are contemporary with the circa 1930 construction of Fife High School. Aerial photos show that the site is located where concrete footpaths once crossed an open area

between 20<sup>th</sup> Street E and a school building that stood just to the south of the site (USGS 1941, 1957). In the 1990s, the school building was removed and the portable units were constructed, which may have disturbed the archaeological deposit (Google Earth 1990, 2002).

While the site has stratigraphic integrity, the number of historic-period artifacts and the extent of the burned layer are limited. The site appears to reflect informal debris disposal practices dating to the early years of Fife High School. It is not associated with any important historical events or persons, and is unlikely to yield significant information about the past. The site is recommended to be not eligible for listing in the NRHP. No further archaeological work is recommended at site 45PI1464. The site form for 45PI1464 is provided in Appendix A.

## HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY METHODS AND FINDINGS

The survey for historic resources was conducted on March 18, 2019, by AINW architectural historian Samantha Gordon, M.S. For the purpose of this survey, historic resources are defined as buildings, structures, sites, and objects that were constructed at least 45 years before the date of survey (i.e., in or before 1974) and are located on parcels within the project area. Although a resource must generally reach fifty years in age before consideration for listing in the NRHP, this survey held to a 45-year age minimum to ensure that resulting data would remain relevant throughout the project planning and construction phases. Additionally, the survey for historic resources expected to find a single resource based on recommendations made by DAHP in earlier project phases.

The historic Fife Public Schools Administration Building was photographed to capture its current context and character-defining features, and notes were taken to document physical characteristics, integrity, and details difficult to represent in photographs. Landscape features and outbuildings were similarly documented in order to evaluate the potential of the Fife Public Schools Administrative Building to contribute to a historic district or cultural landscape; after survey, it was determined that the resource had no potential to contribute to such a district or landscape, if present. The resource form for the Fife Public Schools Administration Building is provided in Appendix B.

### Results

The AINW survey identified one historic resource, the Fife Public Schools Administration Building (Photo 8). Alterations to the resource and to surrounding buildings from the historic period have diminished its integrity for the purposes of NRHP eligibility evaluation. The building is not recommended to be eligible for listing in the NRHP, either individually or as part of a potential historic district. The location of the resource, along with outbuildings and landscape features, is shown on Figures 2 and 3.

The Fife Public Schools Administration Building was constructed in 1952 to serve as Fife Elementary School, and became an administrative building for the district in 1992 (Andrew Twyman, personal communication 2019). Two additions to the south and east wings of the building were completed in 1964. These are substantial and sizeable alterations to the original design. The building's modified plan, in addition to changes to original cladding, windows, interior spaces, and landscaping, diminish its historical integrity and appearance.

While the Fife Public Schools Administration Building is part of a general pattern of developing education infrastructure in Fife, this association is not historically significant, and is diminished by the building's poor historical integrity (Criterion A). The school has no known association with a notable historical figure in local, state, or national history (Criterion B). Diminished historical integrity leaves the building with no distinctive characteristics of a particular style, method of construction, or the work of a master (Criterion C). The property does not meet any of the required criteria, and is recommended to be not eligible for listing in NRHP.

## SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AINW has completed a cultural resource survey for the Fife School District's new elementary school and high school STEAM Center of Innovation. The project area is occupied by the existing Fife Public Schools Administration Building that the project plans to remove, the high school sports field where the proposed elementary school is to be constructed, and portable structures used as classrooms where the STEAM Center is to be built. Twenty shovel tests were excavated in areas likely to be impacted by the proposed development.

One historic-period archaeological resource, site 45PI1464, was identified during the survey in the northwest corner of the school, at the location of the proposed STEAM Center, just south of 20<sup>th</sup> Street E. The historic-period archaeological deposit consisted of a low-density debris scatter associated with layer of sediment containing burned materials such as charcoal, slag, and small fragments of calcined bone. The historic-period artifacts are contemporary with the circa 1930s era of Fife High School. The site is unlikely to yield additional significant information about the past. AINW recommends site 45PI1464 to be not eligible for listing in the NRHP. No further archaeological work is recommended for the project, and a DAHP permit will not be needed.

The Fife Public Schools Administration Building was documented as a historic resource. The building was originally constructed in 1952, but has since undergone extensive interior and exterior modification and the addition of substantial new wings. The building is recommended to be not eligible for listing in the NRHP, both individually or as part of a historic district. No further work is recommended.

Should unanticipated archaeological or historic resources be encountered during construction for the project, all ground-disturbing activity near the find should be halted, and DAHP should be promptly notified. If evidence of human remains is encountered, all ground-disturbing activity in the vicinity must be halted immediately and protected from further disturbance. DAHP, the Pierce County Medical Examiner's Office, and the Fife Police Department must be contacted. If the medical examiner determines the remains are non-forensic, then DAHP will take jurisdiction and will notify the appropriate Tribes.

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**TABLE 1**  
**RESULTS OF SHOVEL TESTS**

Shovel Test No.	Depth of Excavation (cm)	Depth of Cultural Materials (cm)	Historic-Period Archaeological Materials			Notes
			Ceramic	Glass	Metal	
ST-1	55					
ST-2	56					
ST-3	200 Augered from 70 cm	60 – 70		1  1963 Northwestern Glass Company bottle base: "63 / C29" "NO...LED"		Bottle base found in fill (60 to 70 cm below the surface), and it was not recorded as an archaeological isolate  Nondiagnostic materials: 50 – 60 cm: 1 round nail
ST-4	100 Augered from 80 cm					
ST-5	100 Augered from 77 cm					
ST-6	85 Augered from 70 cm					
ST-7	90 Augered from 70 cm					
ST-8	90 Augered from 80 cm					Nondiagnostic materials: 0 – 13 cm: 1 colorless and 1 amber glass fragments
ST-9	67					
ST-10	71					
ST-11	83 Augered from 65 cm					
ST-12	100 Augered from 70 cm					
ST-13	65					25 – 35 cm: irrigation pipe in wall

TABLE 1, continued

Shovel Test No.	Depth of Excavation (cm)	Depth of Cultural Materials (cm)	Historic-Period Archaeological Materials			Notes
			Ceramic	Glass	Metal	
ST-14	65	20 – 30	3 1 whiteware fragment, 2 brick fragments		3 1 State of Washington Tax Token (1935-1951), 2 metal fragments	<b>Site 45PI1464</b>
ST-15	71	10 – 30	5 Roofing tile	1 Sanford ink bottle base (1910-1930)		<b>Site 45PI1464</b> 20 – 40 cm: slag, calcined bone fragments, charcoal
ST-16	51					Nondiagnostic materials: 0 – 20 cm: 2 metal fragments
ST-17	55					Nondiagnostic material: 0 – 15 cm: 1 metal fragment
ST-18	55					Nondiagnostic materials: 0 – 40 cm: 1 concrete fragment, plastic fragments
ST-19	64 Augered from 50 cm					Nondiagnostic materials: 0 – 30 cm: 2 colorless and 1 amber glass fragments
ST-20	80 Augered from 65 cm					30 – 40 cm: irrigation pipe in wall
<i>Total</i>			8	2	3	

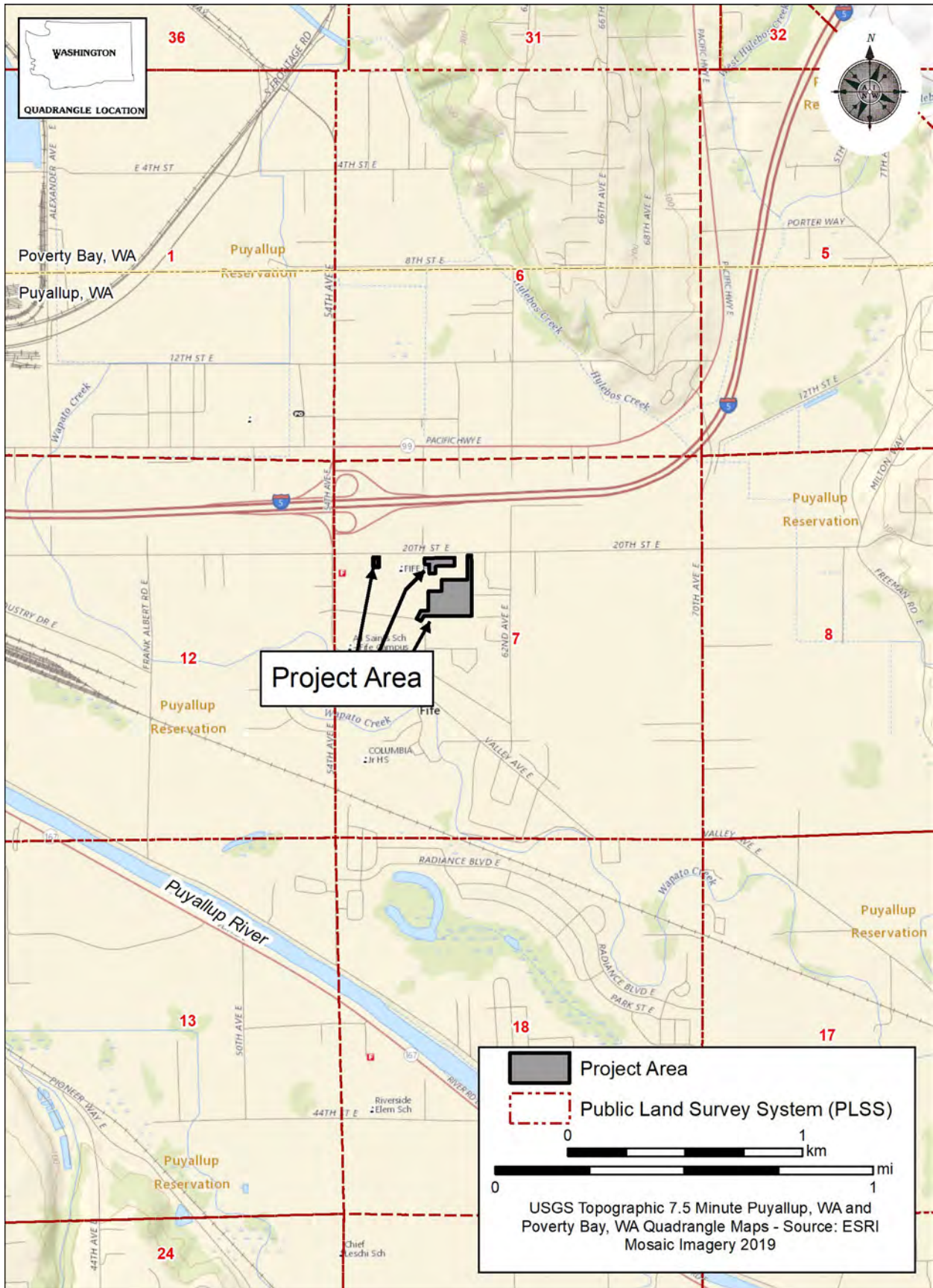


Figure 1. The location of the Fife School District’s New Elementary School and High School STEAM Center of Innovation project in Fife, Pierce County, Washington.

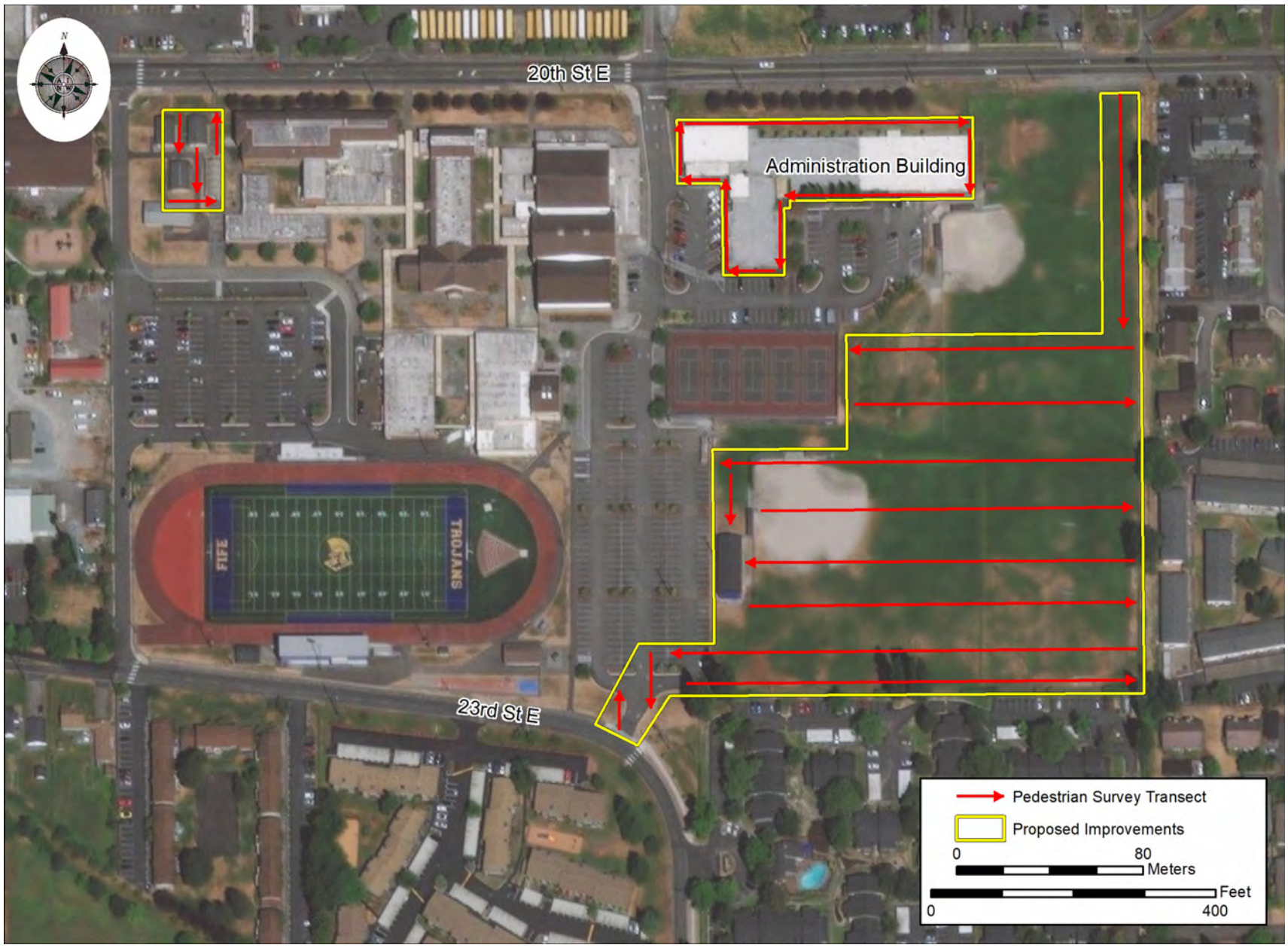


Figure 2. Aerial overview of the project area with pedestrian transects. Each transect line represents three archaeologists spaced no more than 10 m (33 ft) apart.



Photo 1. Overview of the Fife High School sports fields where construction of the new elementary school is proposed. The view is towards the south.



Photo 2. Overview of the northwestern portion of the project area where the Fife High School STEAM Center of Innovation is proposed. Site 45PI1464 was found between the two portable structures in the foreground. The view is towards the southeast.



Photo 3. Overview of the Fife High School sports fields where construction of the new elementary school is proposed. On the right, an artificial drainage extends west to east along the southern boundary of the field. The view is towards the east.



Photo 4. Overview of a low-lying area with standing water adjacent to the sports fields at Fife High School where construction of the new elementary school is proposed. The view is towards the southwest.



Photo 5. The north wall profile of shovel test ST-15 in site 45PI1464, at a depth of 71 cm (28 in) below the surface. The red line at 20 cm (8 in) below the surface identifies the top of a 20-cm (8-in) thick layer of gravelly silt loam mixed with coarse sand and evidence of burning with charcoal, slag, and calcined bone. Historic-period artifacts were found on top of and within this layer.

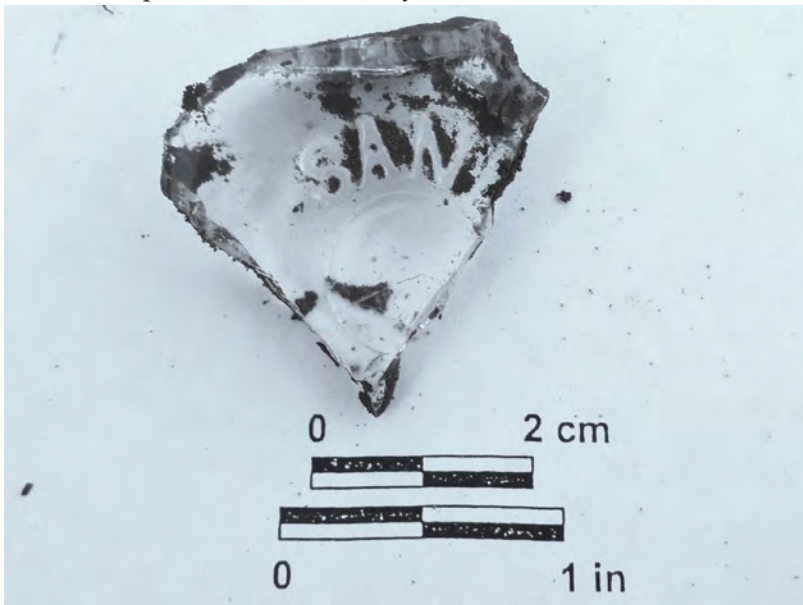


Photo 7. One colorless glass bottle base marked with "SANF..." is a fragment of a Sanford ink bottle (circa 1910 to 1930) that was found between 10 and 20 cm (4 and 8 in) below the surface in shovel test ST-15 at site 45PI1464.

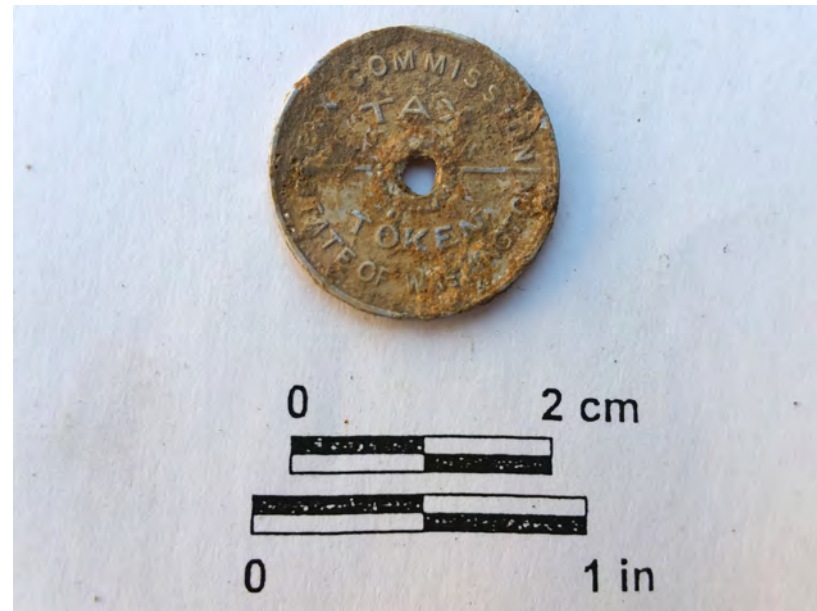


Photo 6. One aluminum State of Washington sales tax token was found at 20 cm (8 in) below the surface in ST-14 at site 45PI1464. They were produced from 1935, and discontinued by 1951.



Photo 8. The Fife Public Schools Administration Building is to be removed for the project. The view is towards the southeast.

## **APPENDICES**

## **APPENDIX A**

### **STATE OF WASHINGTON SITE INVENTORY FORM**

## **APPENDIX B**

### **HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY**

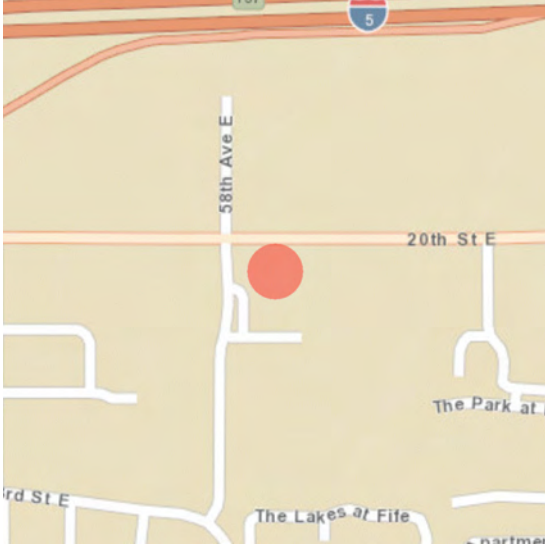


# Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Fife Schools Administrative Office

Property ID: 31900

## Location



**Address:** 5602 20th St E, Fife, WA

**Geographic Areas:** Pierce County, Pierce Certified Local Government, Pierce County, T20R04E07, PUYALLUP Quadrangle

## Information

**Number of stories:** 1.00

### Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1952	<input type="checkbox"/>
Addition	1964	<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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# Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Fife Schools Administrative Office

Property ID: 31900

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## Thematics:

### Local Registers and Districts

Name	Date Listed	Notes
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### Project History

Project Number, Organization, Project Name	Resource Inventory	SHPO Determination	SHPO Determined By, Determined Date
2019-03-01968, AINW, Fife School District No. 417, New Elementary School and High School STEAM Center of Innovation			

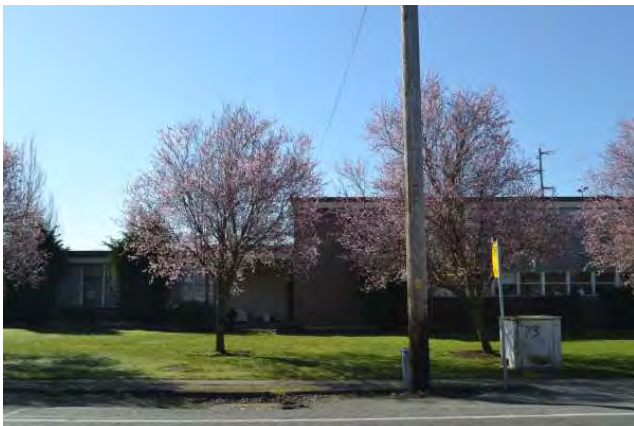
## Photos



Main entry including original building, covered walkway, and south addition, facing north



North and west elevations of original building's west projection, facing east



North elevation segment of original building, facing south



North elevation of east addition, facing south



Interior of main building east wing, facing east



Interior of south wing including original and addition, facing south



# Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Fife Schools Administrative Office

Property ID: 31900



East elevation of south wing addition, facing southwest



South elevation of southern addition, facing north



South elevation of original building west wing and west elevation of southern addition, facing north



Office sign and landscaping in parking lot, facing east-southeast



Segment of north elevation, facing south



Original HPI form(s)



# Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Fife Schools Administrative Office

Property ID: 31900

## Inventory Details - 3/18/2019

**Common name:** Fife Public Schools Administration Building  
**Date recorded:** 3/18/2019  
**Field Recorder:** Samantha Gordon  
**Field Site number:**  
**SHPO Determination**

## Detail Information

### Characteristics:

Category	Item
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Roof Type	Flat with Parapet
Cladding	Brick - Stretcher Bond
Structural System	Masonry - Brick
Plan	L-Shape
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition

### Styles:

Period	Style Details
Modern Movement	Modern

## Surveyor Opinion

**Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places:** No  
**Property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local):** No  
**Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local):** No



## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Fife Schools Administrative Office

Property ID: 31900

**Significance narrative:** Fife's public school system is somewhat unique in that it has served both the Puyallup Tribe and non-Native residents of the town since its founding by Puyallup tribal members Henry Sicade and William Wilton in 1903 (Douglas 2019). The first building on the ever-developing Fife High School campus, which is directly west of the Administration Building, was first constructed in 1912 (Fife Schools n.d.). The most recent building added to the campus was constructed in 2007 (Pierce County n.d.). The school has served a diverse population of Puyallup, Japanese, and white students.

The Fife Public Schools Administration Building was constructed 1952 to serve as Fife Elementary School. In 1992, the elementary school was moved and the building was converted to meet the administrative needs of the district, which today consists of five K-12 school campuses (Andrew Twyman, personal communication 2019). The Fife Public Schools Administration Building was renovated in 1964 including additions to the south and east wings (Andrew Twyman, personal communication 2019). Replacement of the building's cladding and window materials, additions, and interior alterations diminish the building's integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

When the Fife School District Administration Building is considered as part of the overall campus parcel, which includes buildings with a wide range of construction dates, styles, and history of modification, its diminished integrity leads to the conclusion that it would not be a contributing resource if there were a potential historic district on the Fife Public Schools parcel containing the high school and administrative building. The 1952 administrative building's setting is a mix of residential and commercial buildings on the north, east, and south, and the high school campus to the west. The buildings outside the school campus include modern apartments, a car dealership, a church, and postwar office space. The majority of these buildings date to outside the historic period, and represent a wide variety of styles and methods of construction. These buildings, in conjunction with the administrative building, do not provide a cohesive narrative which would support significance as exemplary resources in a potential historic district.

While the Fife Public Schools Administration Building is part of the general history of education infrastructure in Fife, its diminished historical integrity leads to the building's inability to convey its association with this historical pattern (Criterion A). The school has no known association with a notable historical figure in local, state, or national history (Criterion B), and it does not embody distinctive characteristics of a particular style, method of construction, or the work of a master (Criterion C). The property does not meet any of the required criteria, and is recommended to be not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).



## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Fife Schools Administrative Office

Property ID: 31900

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### Physical description:

The Fife Public Schools Administration Building was constructed in 1952 to serve as Fife Elementary School, and was converted to an administrative function in 1992. The single-story Modernist office space's original footprint approximated a T shape, but additions gave the building an L-shaped footprint. The office has a flat roof with a plain metal-capped parapet. It is constructed of standard brick and has a poured concrete foundation. The administration building has two additions, a south wing extension and an east wing extension, that were constructed in 1964 (Andrew Twyman, personal communication 2019).

The fenestration on the original portion and south addition of the building includes modern single- and double-doors and banks of three-light and four-light aluminum frame windows. The western projection of the original building has two-light aluminum windows on the north elevation. This wing is clad in stucco above the windows on the north elevation and in corrugated metal high on the south elevation, where there may previously have been more windows. The east wing addition has aluminum sliding windows of varying sizes. A covered breezeway separates the original portion of the east wing from the addition.

The building interior has been heavily modified. Interior finishing materials appear to be modern replacements post-dating the historic period. The outermost walls are the exterior bricks, which have been painted white. Other interior walls are finished in drywall. Floors are carpeted and the ceiling is acoustical tiling.

Historical aerial photos show the landscaping surrounding the school to include a lawn and walkways on the north elevation and parking on the south and west (USGS 1957, 1968). The landscaping and access paths around the building as of March 2019 include a covered walkway to the south elevation of the main wing; poured concrete walkways surrounding the building; and a line of young cherry trees at the north end of the lawn at the north elevation. Asphalt parking lots are to the south and west, and several historic signs marking the direction of the administration building are scattered throughout.



## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Fife Schools Administrative Office

Property ID: 31900

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