

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000988 Date Listed: 8/8/91

<u>Mountain Home High School</u>	<u>Elmore</u>	<u>ID</u>
Property Name	County	State

Public School Buildings in Idaho MPS
Multiple Name

 This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

<i>Antonietta J. Bee</i>	<u>8/8/91</u>
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Description: The foundation material is stucco.

This information was confirmed with Elizabeth Eggleston of the Idaho State historic preservation office.

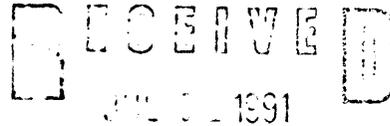
DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS Form 10-9000
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Mountain Home High School

other name/site number: Mountain Home Junior High School

2. Location

street & number: 550 E. Jackson

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Mountain Home

vicinity: N/A

state: ID

county: Elmore

code: 039

zip code: 83647

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building(s)

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

Public School Buildings in Idaho

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.

Henry J. Green 6/25/91
Signature of certifying official Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
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 Autumnella Place 8/8/91
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

for Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: EDUCATION Sub: School

Current : OTHER: Sub: Education/Community Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Classical Revival

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation concrete roof asphalt
walls brick other concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A & C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: EDUCATION
ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1926-27 _____

Significant Dates : 1926 1927 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Scott, Carl W.
Welch, George, & Company

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 # _____

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: 6 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>11</u>	<u>606750</u>	<u>4776280</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ____ See continuation sheet.

Block 15 of Mountain Home Townsite.

Boundary Justification: ____ See continuation sheet.

The boundary is based on the legally-recorded boundary lines of the property and contains the area that has historically been associated with the Mountain Home High School.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Elizabeth Egleston, State Architectural Historian

Organization: State Hist. Preserv. Office Date: 3/4/91

Street & Number: 210 Main Street Telephone: (208) 334-3861

City or Town: Boise State: ID Zip: 83702

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The Mountain Home High School is situated on a triangular lot in a residential area of Mountain Home, Idaho (population 8,900). The school has a prominent location, as it constitutes a visible landmark as one enters the community. It has a high degree of integrity; boarded windows are the only feature that mar the integrity on the exterior. The interior also has maintained much of its original appearance, although a few classrooms have been panelled with incompatible sheathing and some of the lockers have been removed.

The classroom and entrance wings have flat roofs; a front gable with a very shallow pitch delineates the gymnasium. The walls consist of red, combed brick, and the foundation is concrete with a plain stucco finish.

The plan is a split-level "T," divided into three blocks. One block is oriented east and west at the south end of the property and contains classrooms and offices within two stories. The stem of the "T" is perpendicular to this wing, and contains the boys and girls dressing rooms and classrooms for mechanical arts and domestic science at the basement level, the gymnasium/auditorium are situated above. The third block projects to the north of the gymnasium and serves as an entrance. To the right of the entrance hall is a storage room, and to the left is a staircase that leads up to the gymnasium and down to the classrooms below (see figures 4-6).

The windows of the classrooms are rectangular, divided into five rows of four lights, for a total of twenty. They are placed in sets of three on the south wall and sets of two on the north wall of the classroom wing; a single set is located on the second floor over the east and west entrances. Twelve-light windows illuminate the basement level. The fenestration of the gymnasium and the entrance wings consists of an arched window, resembling a fanlight, with a substantial spandrel and a rectangular window below. The rectangular window has twenty-four lights: four rows of six lights each. The spandrels demarcate the balcony of the gymnasium. All of the windows have metal muntins and concrete sills; the sills of the gymnasium windows have abstracted brackets.

The school is typical of the Georgian Revival elements employed by the architects during the period from 1925 to 1929: pilasters, arched windows, a distinct cornice and red brick. Scott and Welch emphasized these references in the Mountain Home School by including concrete "voussoirs," interspersed with soldier bricks, and exaggerated keystones that embellish the entrances. The concrete capitals of the pilasters

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Mountain Home High School

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are embellished with small shields. Scott and Welch made the most of the masonry: that of the walls is coursed in running bond, but the rectangles evident on the east and west walls of the classroom wing and the north wall of the gymnasium, as well as the spandrels of the arched windows, are coursed in Flemish bond. This provides a subtle but decorative contrast. Masonry was also used for other decorative effects. Courses of soldiers, rowlocks and stretchers suggest a cornice that connects the concrete caps of the pilasters, and soldiers outline the arched windows and the panels or rectangles and squares on the walls.

Most of the interior features are intact. The hallways have a chair-rail of tiles in foliated patterns. Drinking fountains, which are no longer extant, were set in colorful mosaic frames. The wooden doors of the classrooms have six lights, and it is evident that a mosaic pattern also decorated some portions of the walls. The stairwalls still have their wooden coping, and on top of the coping are large discs, which presumably discouraged students from sliding down the bannisters. The gymnasium has also maintained a high level of integrity. An open metal balustrade surrounds the balcony and the truss ceiling with its metal girders is still apparent.

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The Mountain Home High School is significant under Criterion A for its association with public education in Mountain Home. Its provision for an expanded curriculum and its role as a high school indicates that the school district had reached a phase of stability and maturity, which in turn represents the growth and development of the community. Architecturally, the school is significant as the only identified example in Idaho of the Utah architectural firm of Scott and Welch and because it exhibits the changes that occurred in school design around 1900. It is thus eligible under Criterion C.

The present site of Mountain Home was platted in 1883 in response to the building of the Oregon Short Line Railroad. The name "Mountain Home," however, dates back to 1879 and refers to a transfer point for stages going to the South Boise mines from the Overland and Kelton Road. The Mountain Home stage stop was originally known as Rattlesnake Station; it was located about six miles northeast of the present town.

Mountain Home's economy was based on supplying the surrounding mining communities and raising livestock. Mining towns such as Rocky Bar, Atlanta and Pine, although they were located many miles from Mountain Home, depended on the railroad service in Mountain Home; this enabled the town to grow rapidly in its first twenty-five years. Unlike much of southern Idaho, Mountain Home and its environs did not have the irrigation infrastructure necessary for large-scale agricultural development; instead, livestock-raising sustained the town's economy. Cattle and horse industries were substantial, but the greatest volume of business involved sheep. Mountain Home was one of the largest wool shipping points in the West. Although Mountain Home can still be characterized as a center for rural, out-lying communities and as a shipping point for livestock, its current economic impact is due to the proximity of the Mountain Home Air Force Base, which was established in 1942 as the "Mountain Home Army Air Dome."

The physical evolution of the school parallels that of schools in other parts of the state. The first settlers lost no time in establishing the public institutions they had known elsewhere, and they quickly organized a subscription school in a tent. An early photograph, entitled "First Public School in Mountain Home" portrays a clapboard, side-gabled building that contained two rooms, an entry porch and a belfry. In 1893, Mountain Home could boast of a "\$20,000 brick free-school" that could hold approximately four hundred pupils. This served all grades, and was located just south of the 1926-27 high school. Constructed of brick, this school had few stylistic references with the exception of a

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Romanesque arch emphasizing the entrance, and a round-arch window beneath the building. With its blocky appearance it resembled many schools built throughout America between 1880 and 1910.

By the summer of 1925, however, it was apparent that the existing school was deficient, as the high school studentbody was large enough to warrant its own structure. Furthermore, the school board wanted to expand the curriculum. Several months earlier, members announced domestic science and manual training would be available to high school students. As a result of the increased number of students and the addition of new classes, the board surmised that portable classrooms might be necessary. In June the newspaper announced that the present school was too crowded, as three makeshift classrooms were established in the basement, and "the cluttering up of the school grounds with a number of temporary frame structures does not reflect well on the community."

The school board's concern was heightened by a report submitted by the Idaho architectural firm of Wayland and Fennel, who stated that the auditorium roof was unsafe. A few weeks later, architects Scott and Welch submitted their report, writing that the auditorium, which was on the third floor, was in a dangerous location. It was accessible only by two narrow wooden staircases that would be blocked in the event of a fire. Moreover, the interior basement supports in the rear of the building "are continuously rotting because of their contact with the earth," the heating was incapable of raising the temperature to 70 degrees and that ventilation was non-existent. By the end of August, Scott and Welch had submitted their plans for the new high school building.

Four months later an election was held to vote on the issuance of \$100,000 in bonds for a new high school building and to make repairs on the existing grammar school; it passed by a wide margin. The next decision involved site selection; the school board had three choices. They could build on the triangle-shaped property adjoining the present school house, which was considered more attractive because it was located across from the city park. The two schools could then share a heating plant, thus decreasing maintenance expenses. The triangular site was the most expensive, however, as the school district would have to pay \$1,750 for the property plus \$255 in back taxes. The second choice was an orchard across the street; this had the advantage of being visible from the local depot, and was offered to the district for \$1,500. The location of the third possibility is unclear; the school

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board considered it because the owners were willing to donate the land.

A petition was posted so that Mountain Home citizens could express their opinion, and almost unanimously the triangular piece of ground was favored. Ground was broken on June 21, 1926. The cost of the project totalled just over \$100,000, with T.G. Rowland of Logan, Utah successfully bidding as general contractor. This amount covered not only the cost of the new high school, but also the repairs to the grammar school, including the reconstruction of the present fire escapes, the installation of two new fire escapes and the strengthening and closing of the third floor.

The new high school opened early in 1927, and although frequent references to a dedication ceremony are mentioned before the opening, research did not reveal an article that specifically mentioned the ceremony or the date. The building served as the high school until 1953; after this date it was used as a junior high school. The school was closed five years ago, and now it is used for auxilliary educational purposes such as detention and band practice. It also serves a civic use, as the police force uses the gymnasium.

Architecturally, the school is significant as an example of the work of Scott and Welch, a Utah architectural firm formed in 1914. It is typical of the style the architects employed in their educational commissions from 1925 to 1929. Carl Scott graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in mining engineering and was the dominant force in the firm; George Welch, about whom less is known, moved to Salt Lake City after graduating from Colorado College. The two met about 1912, while working in the office of Richard K.A. Kletting, one of Utah's most prominent architects. Kletting was working on the Utah State Capitol at the time, and Scott and Welch were assigned to work on the plans for the foundation.

Scott and Welch provided designs for a variety of clients, but their most lucrative commissions before 1941 (the year that Welch left the partnership) came through three sources: the Utah Copper Company, men they knew as Masons and Shriners, and school districts. Although the firm was formed in 1914, few known works were designed before 1923. Scott and Welch do not seem to have been very active before this year; however, starting in 1925 the firm provided designs for schools throughout Utah.

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Attributing one style to the firm would be problematic and misleading: like thousands of architects across the United States, Scott and Welch worked in a variety of styles. Aesthetically, they put their buildings through a brisk evolution; this was most apparent in their schools. Those of the mid-twenties have characteristics of the Georgian Revival: arched windows, string courses, balustrades, and pilasters. At the end of the twenties Scott and Welch gave schools a Collegiate Gothic, Art Deco, or "Gothic Deco" cast, and during the 1930's the firm's schools were consistently Streamlined Moderne. The Mountain Home High School is similar to several educational buildings constructed in Utah before 1929: the Midvale Junior High, the Riverton Junior High and the Tintic Gymnasium in Eureka. The pilasters, lunette windows, exaggerated keystone over the gymnasium entrance, and the allusion to voussoirs around the doors give the building obvious classical references.

Scott and Welch were proficient at incorporating inexpensive ornamentation. They used devices such as varying the bond patterns of the masonry, and employing intricate brick patterns for cornices, sills, string courses and watertables. Cast concrete was used for capitals, ornate floral motifs, and in the case of the Mountain Home High School, for pastiche voussoirs and keystones. This ability, along with the firm's experience in school construction, served the firm well during the Depression, as Scott and Welch received many educational commissions in Utah funded by the Public Works Administration, ensuring the continuation of the firm. The firm is still a going concern in Salt Lake City, operating under the name Scott, Louis and Browning. Scott's son, Walter, is one of the partners.

The school is also architecturally significant because it incorporates the improvements that administrators and architects instigated in school design between 1890 and 1910. During this twenty-year period, educators throughout America were concerned with fire safety, broadening the use of the school for community activities, and improved lighting. Architects discontinued the use of a single, central stairwell and wooden stairs, and situated auditoriums and gymnasiums near the main entrance so that the public would not have access to the whole building when the school was not in session. Windows were located along the wall to the students' left, in the belief that this would alleviate glare. Scott and Welch responded to these concerns, as these concepts are evident in the Mountain Home High School.

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"Auditorium is Declared Unsafe," Mountain Home Republican, 26 June 1925, p. 1.

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Bureau of Land Management and Idaho State Historical Society. Emigrant Trails of Southern Idaho. Boise, Idaho: 1989.

Durand, Charles and Ransel, Sandra. Crossroads The History of the Elmore County Area. Mountain Home, ID: Elmore County Historical Research Team, 1985.

Egleston, Elizabeth, "Scott and Welch: the History of a Utah Architectural Firm, 1914-1938." M.A. Thesis, Cornell University, 1989.

LeFevre, Jerrill. Mountain Home School District 193, Mountain Home, Idaho, 23 January 1991.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

"Architects Give Detailed Report on Condition of Local Schools." Mountain Home Republican 31 July 1925, p. 1.

"Auditorium is Declared Unsafe." Mountain Home Republican 26 June 1925, p. 1.

"High School Building for Mountain Home Now Assured." Mountain Home Republican 27 November 1925, p. 1

"Majority Prefer Triangle Site." Mountain Home Republican 5 March 1926, p. 1.

"Plans Made for New High School Building." Mountain Home Republican 28 August 1925, p. 1.

"Various Sites are Inspected." Mountain Home Republican 26 February 1926, p. 1.

"Work Started on New High School." Mountain Home Republican 25 June 1926, p. 1.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 15, Mountain Home townsite

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Section number 10

Mountain Home High School

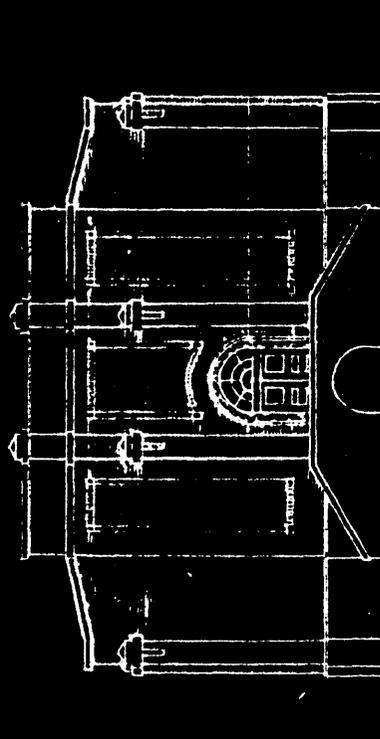
Page 2

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

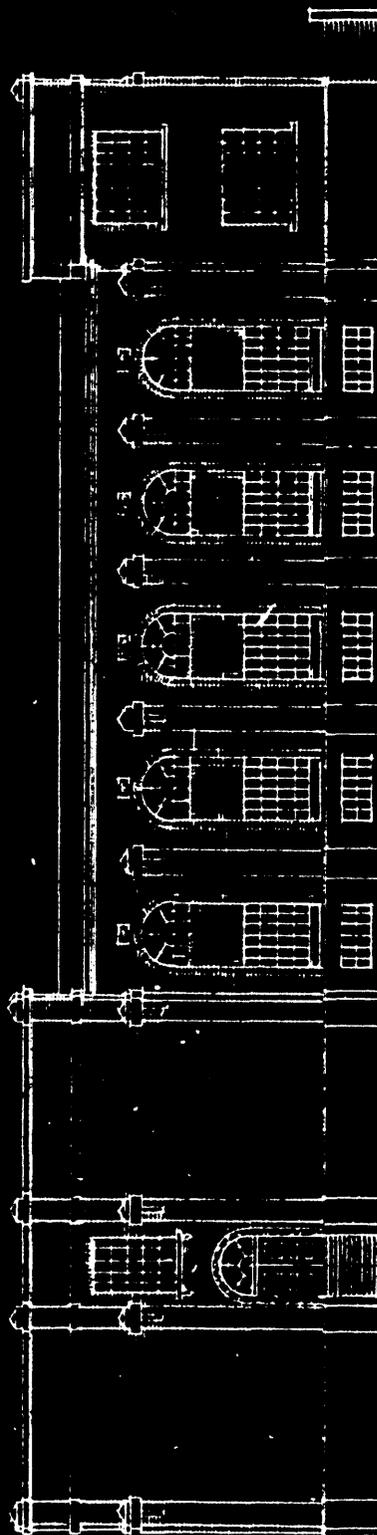
The boundary is based on the legally recorded lines of the property. The boundary includes the building described in this nomination, as well as the area which has historically been associated with the Mountain Home High School.

FIGURE 1
Mountain Home High School
National Register Nomination



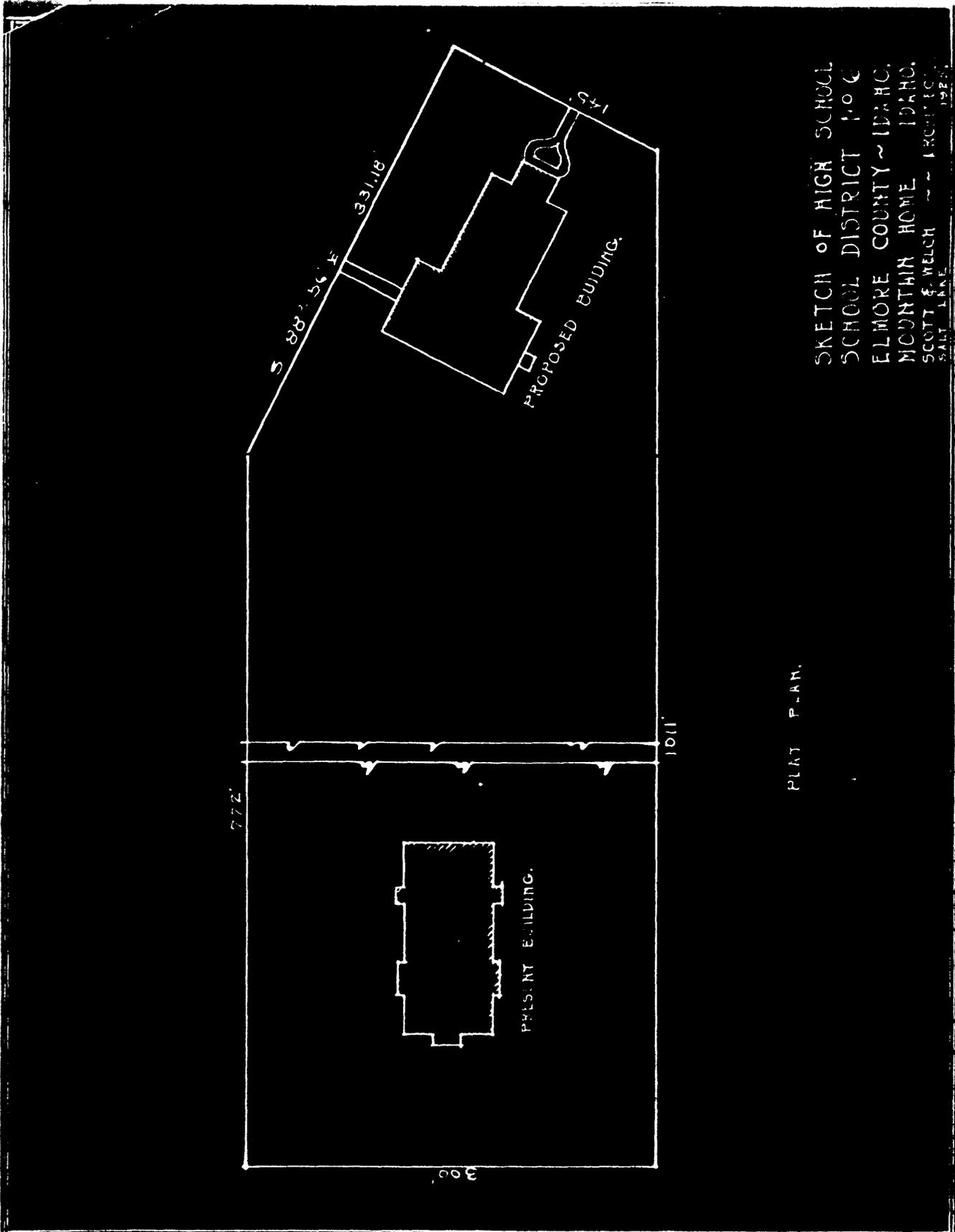
SKETCH OF HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL DISTRICT No 6
ELMORE COUNTY - IDAHO
MOUNTAIN HOME IDAHO
SCOTT & WELCH - ARCHITECTS
SALT LAKE 1925.

FIGURE 2
Mountain Home High School
National Register Nomination



SKETCH OF HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL DISTRICT N° 6
ELMORE COUNTY - IDAHO.
MOUNTAIN HOME IDAHO.
SCOTT & WELCH - ARCHITECTS
SALT LAKE 1925.

FIGURE 3
 Mountain Home High School
 National Register Nomination



PLAN P-AN.

SKETCH OF HIGH SCHOOL
 SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6
 ELMORE COUNTY ~ IDAHO.
 MOUNTAIN HOME ~ IDAHO.
 SCOTT & WELCH ARCHT'CS.
 SALT LAKE ~ UTAH 1928.

FIGURE 4
Mountain Home High School
National Register Nomination

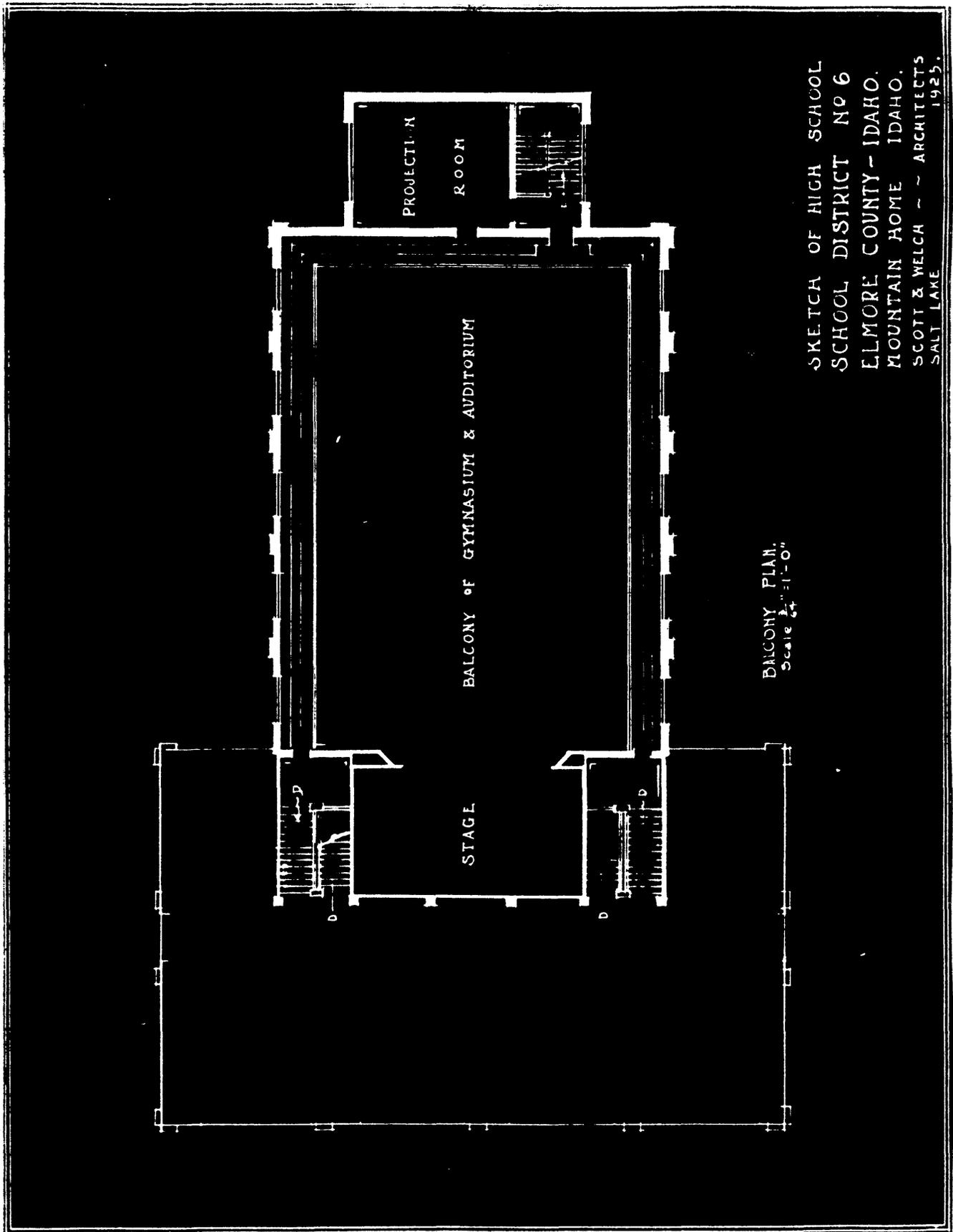
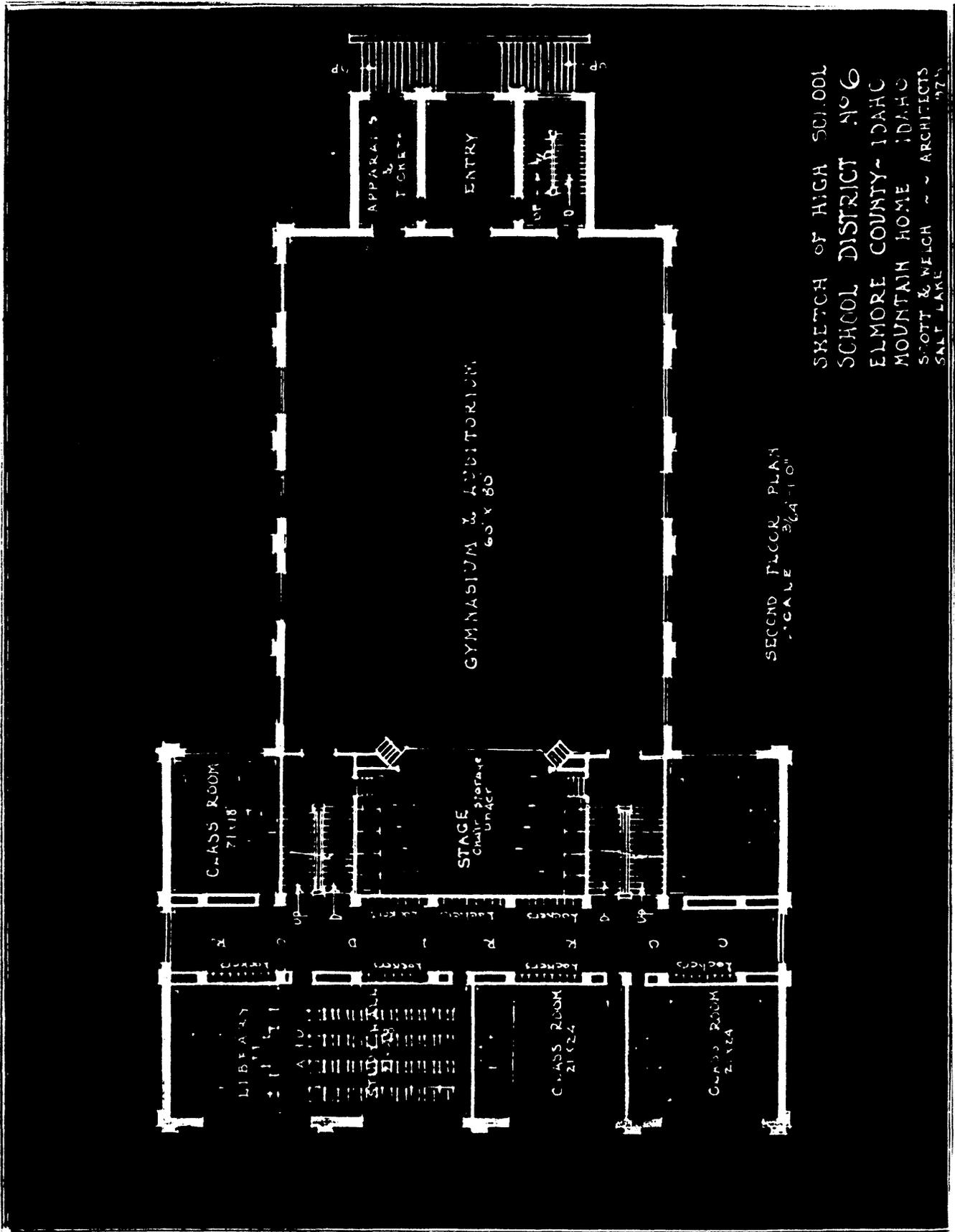


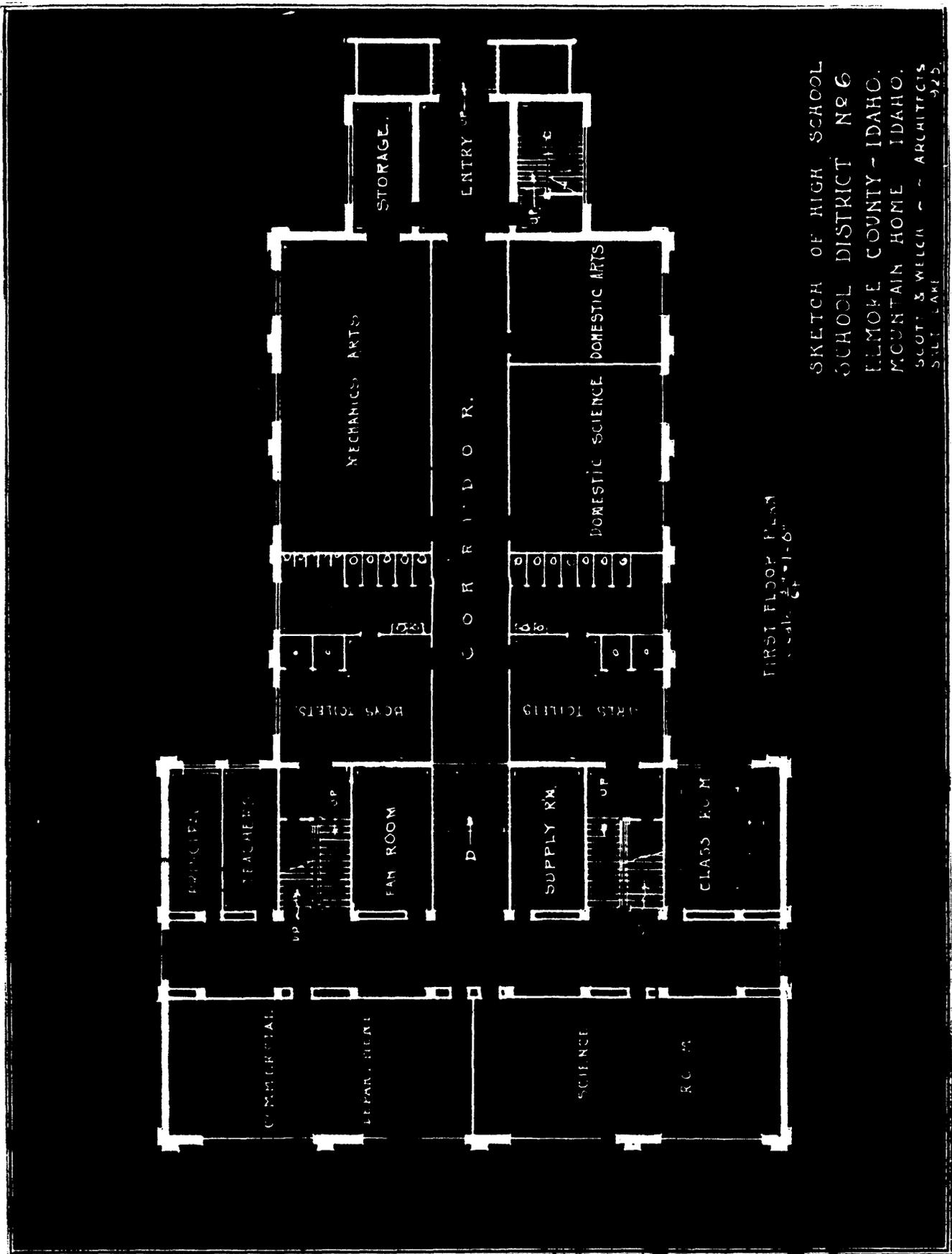
FIGURE 5
 Mountain Home High School
 National Register Nomination



SKETCH OF HIGH SCHOOL
 SCHOOL DISTRICT No 6
 ELMORE COUNTY- IDAHO
 MOUNTAIN HOME IDAHO
 SCOTT & WELCH ARCHITECTS
 SALT LAKE '27

SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE 3/4" = 10'

FIGURE 6
 Mountain Home High School
 National Register Nomination



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

SKETCH OF HIGH SCHOOL
 SCHOOL DISTRICT No 6
 ELMORE COUNTY - IDAHO.
 MOUNTAIN HOME IDAHO.
 SCOTT & WELCH - ARCHITECTS
 SALT LAKE 925