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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	N/A moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Glems Ferry School is a rectangular school building of native stone that sits centered in its park-like setting, an entire town block. It is two and one-half stories tall on a raised basement story. The building is divided into ten vertical bays on its front (northwest) exposure, eleven on the southeast, and six on each of the side walls. The rusticated stone walls are laid in random courses. An outset tower, centered on the front wall rises above the hipped roof of the building's main block. The tower has a two-tiered pyramidal roof. Windows are one-over-one-light double-hung sash throughout the building. Stairwell windows on the front of the tower and on the back wall have additional transoms. Windows are set in plain milled lumber frames and sash, all of which are painted white. Stone lintels and sills form continuous bands across the facade, in a lighter stone than that of the walls. The main entrance to the building is through the tower. Centered double panel doors are set into a Romanesque arch crafted in light stone that matches the lintels and sills. Above the doors are curved, fixed panes set into the arch. The rear wall has centered double panel doors. All doors and their frames are painted white. The hipped roof is covered with an early composition material, the tower roof with wood shingles. An interior white brick chimney is set left of center. Centered at the southwest wall is a tall white brick chimney, also interior.

The Romanesque Revival style of the Glems Ferry School is expressed in the tower, with its large round-arched entry and its four corner piers rising above the pyramidal roof, suggestive of tower crenellations. Other, more eclectic decorative elements include under-eave modillions, metal roof finials, curved stone "brackets" underneath and in the upper corners of the half-story tower windows.

Although somewhat deteriorated, the building's architectural details remain quite intact. On the northeast wall a second story window has been altered into a fire escape door, although no escape is extant. The present doors on the main (northwest) facade replaced the original inset doors sometime between 1909 and 1920.

The property also includes a contributory lavatory building located immediately behind the school. Built between 1911 and 1928, the lavatory is a one-story brick structure with a pyramidal roof.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1909 **Builder/Architect** John W. Smith

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Glens Ferry School is architecturally significant as a highly intact example of the Romanesque Revival style schools that were typical of small southwest Idaho communities around the turn of the century. The school is associated with the growth of Glens Ferry as a regional institutional supply and transportation center for the surrounding agricultural settlements. It is also exemplary of the design work of a Boise-based architect, John W. Smith.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Idaho Statesman, Boise. 2 May 1909, p. f, c. 3; 18 August 1911, p. 4, c. 4-5; 23 March 1981, p. 5B, c. 3-6; 11 October 1982, p. 3C, c. 1-3.  
San Born Fire Insurance Maps. September 1911; July 1928; 1931.  
Groefisma, Olive. Elmore County: Its Historical Gleanings. Caldwell: Caxton Printers, Ltd. 1949. p. 108-190, 112, 114, 343-344.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 2 acres.

Quadrangle name Glenns Ferry

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

### UTM References

A 

1	1	6	3	8	7	2	0	4	7	5	6	5	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nomination includes the Glenns Ferry School and the property on which it sits, block 53 in Glenns Ferry South Addition.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer Eastman Attebery, State Architectural Historian

organization Idaho State Historical Society

date 2 July 1984

street & number 610 North Julia Davis Drive

telephone 334-3356

city or town Boise

state Idaho

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Merle Wells*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 28 July 1984

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 9-7-84

*for Helene Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Glenns Ferry School

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

The Glenns Ferry School was built soon after plans were completed by Boise architect John W. Smith in May 1909. The building closely matches its appearance in photographs of about 1910 and in Sanborn fire insurance maps of 1911, 1928, and 1931. As a highly intact example of the Romanesque revival style schools of this period, which were built throughout southwest Idaho in rapidly developing towns like Glenns Ferry, the Glenns Ferry School has achieved regional architectural importance. Most of its southwest Idaho counterparts have been greatly altered, demolished, or extensively added to. The school is also exemplary of the work of Boise architect John W. Smith, who designed the Nampa Carnegie Library (not extant), the Jones Building, Boise (not extant); the Montandon Building, Boise (already listed in the National Register); schools in Middleton, Vale, and Jordan Valley, Oregon; and numerous residences and other commercial buildings. Smith began his Boise career in 1905, working with Tourtellotte and Hummel for about a year before opening his own office in March of 1906. His best-documented designs--the Montandon Building, Nampa Carnegie Library, and the Glenns Ferry School--are representative of the use of local stone and the eclectic use of Romanesque and classical forms.

The Glenns Ferry School was built during a period of rapid growth for southwest Idaho towns, and it represented to townspeople substantial investment in local education. Platted near the site of a major Snake River ferry crossing for Oregon Trail emigrants, the present town of Glenns Ferry was an Oregon Short Line Railroad division point by 1886. A regional school district, later subdivided, was established in 1884, and in 1890 a frame schoolhouse was built that served the community until the stone school of 1909 was constructed. By then Glenns Ferry had become the supply, transportational, and institutional center for the agricultural settlements of southeast Elmore County. The stone school served Glenns Ferry and its vicinity as a general school until 1923, when a new high school was built nearby. Thereafter it served as an elementary school.