United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
APR 2 1980
received MAY 7 1980
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms* Type all entries—complete applicable sections

historic Draper Park School			
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and/or common			
2. Location			
street & number 12441 South 900 1	East		not for publication
city, town Draper	vicinity of	congressional district	02
state Utah code	049 county	Salt Lake	code 035
3. Classification			
Category — district — public — private — both — object — in process — being considered	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercialX educational entertainmentX government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
name Draper City		·	
street & number 12441 South 900	East		
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7. Description

Condition	d - 4 of 4 of	Check one	Check one	•-	
ex ¢e llent good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	unaltered /altered	moved	te date _	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John R. Park School in Draper is a two-story yellow brick structure located on the southeast corner of 12400 South and 900 East. The front (west) part of the school was built in 1912 and shows influence of the Classical Revival, a style popular for public buildings in the early years of the twentieth century. The southeast rear auditorium was added 1928 and a northeast rear classroom wing was added 1954, giving the school a "U"-shaped plan. Inside the "U" nestled between the classroom wing and the original school is a one-story steam heating plant which dates from 1914.

The 1912 building has a parapet roof with stone coping and dentilled cornice. Three bays project from the symmetrical front facade. The wide center bay has a stone hood molding over the four center second-story windows. Below these windows is the main entrance to the school sheltered by a one-story portico that has a cornice and doric columns of stone. The two end bays on the front facade have stone name blocks above the cornice on the parapet. The north bay's inscription reads "Park Grade School" while the south bay is engraved "Draper Jr. High School". On the north side of the building, facing 12400 South, is the second entrance to the school, a projecting bay with paired brick pilasters on the first story. There are belt courses around the building above the first and second story windows as well as a "water table" above the foundation, all possibly red sandstone but now painted grey. The original wooden windows were replaced with metal frame units in 1954 at the time the new classroom wing was added.

Inside the original building at the south end of the main first floor hall is the most interesting feature of the Park School, a mural depicting the history of education in Draper. A Works Progress Administration project, it is painted on canvas and signed by artist Paul Smith with the date 1938. Against a background of the Wasatch Mountain Range are scenes of the pioneer fort town at Draper, the original adobe schoolhouse on this site, the building committee planning the new school, Principal Reid Beck and members of the 1938 School Board, and the Park School building as it looked in 1938 with a glimpse of the village behind it. The mural culminates in a central panel showing Draper pioneers and present residents sending the town's sons and daughters off the college. The portraits of the townspeode are Draper residents of the day, some of whom are still living in the town, while the group of pioneers include prominent Utah educator and early Draper resident, John Rocky Park, after whom the school is named. College is represented by the Park Building of the University of Utah, the state universtiy over which Park presided with much distinction.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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To the rear of the 1912 school building are two wings. The auditorium to the southeast with its parapet roof was added in 1928 and it has little exterior trim other than three large round-arched window openings on each side. The windows themselves are metal frame units probably dating from a 1954 remodeling. Inside the wing the combination auditorium/gymnasium on the second floor has heavy wood beam-like decoration across the ceiling supported by stylized brackets. The 1954 classroom wing at the northeast has simple stone trim and vertical bands of windows common in that period. The one-story 1914 steam heating plant is marked by a square tapered smoke-stack of brick.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications		landscape architectur law literature military music t philosophy politics/government	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
Specific dates	1912,14,28,38	Builder/Architect C.A	. Talboe; N. Edward	Liljenberg

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Draper Park School, 1912, is significant as a structure illustrating the growing educational needs and desires of one of Salt Lake City's repidly growing suburban areas. Named after Dr. John R. Park, a leading figure in Utah's educational history, the school remains a tribute to Park who also served as an early local school teacher in Draper. In addition, the building houses a mural painted by artist Paul Smith in 1938 as a Works Progress Administration project. The mural depicts the history of education in Draper utilizing real characters as models, and allows present residents one opportunity to appreciate visually their past.

Draper was settled about 1850 and from its beginning showed a special interest in education. Proud of its local reputation as the "Cradle of Education" the history of Draper is marked by the construction of several school buildings to meet the educational needs of the community's youth. The work of John Rocky Park was regarded as the first rural high school in Utah, he later became president of the University of Utah.

By 1860 Draper had outgrown its first school house. A small adobe building called the Vestry was erected. In 1863 the main hall was added. It was in this "Old White Meetinghouse" that Dr. John R. Park taught his famous village school. He came to Draper in the fall of 1861 and went to the home of Absolom W. Smith where he asked for work. Mr. Smith told him that most of the farm work was done, but he could stay there if he wished. Park told him that he would rather work; so after a good meal, Mr. Smith put him to work husking corn. Mr. Smith was a councilor to Bishop Isaac M. Stewart and also acted as one of the local school trustees. He soon discovered that Mr. Park was an intelligent, well-educated man holding an M.D. degree. Mr. Smith, with the help of other leading men, persuaded Mr. Park to remain in Draper as a school teacher. He boarded that winter at the home of Bishop Stewart and received a salary of \$60 per month, one third in cash, one third in potatoes and one third in wheat.

In 1883 a new school was built where the present Draper Park School stands. This building was known as the Central School. William M. Stewart was the first principal and taught for four years. By 1890 two other schools had been built, one in the eastern part of town known as the East Side School, the other in the southern part of the community known as the South side School. These three schools operated about seven months each year and had one teacher. In 1898 the three schools were consolidated and all the pupils went to the Central School. The East Side School was torn down and the South Side School was remodeled into a residence.

9.	Major Bibl	iographica	I Refere	nces		
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street	& number 307 W	200 South		telephone	533-6017	
city or	town Salt Lake	City		state UT		
12.	State His	toric Pres	ervation	Officer	Certifica	ation
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Draper probably had the first rural high school in the state of Utah. In 1861 Dr. Park introduced high school subjects into the curriculum and this practice continued whenever the teacher was qualified to give such instruction. In 1902 a recognized high school was begun with J.C. Spiers as principal. It's credits and diplomas were accepted by the University of Utah.

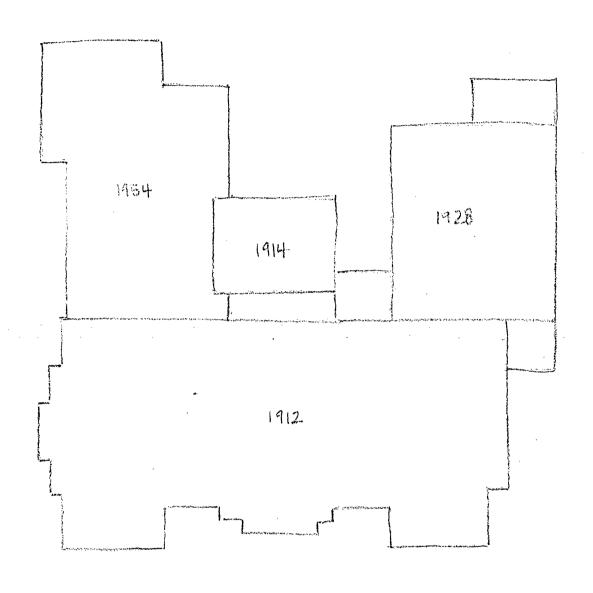
In 1912 the Draper School again felt the need to expand. The old building was razed and the present building was erected. It contained eleven classrooms and the principal's office. Sources indicate the architect was N. Edward Liljenberg, architect for the School District, with C.A. Talboe awarded the contract. Nils Edward Liljenberg, a native of Sweden, was considered a leading Utah architect. He designed buildings for the Y.M.C.A. and Westminster College in Salt Lake City, and designed "many" public schools.

To provide more room and facilities for the junior high school, a new wing was added on the south of the building in 1928. This wing provided an auditorium, work shops, a domestic science section, a music room, stage, locker space, showers and restrooms. It was designed by the firm of Scott and Welch.

With some improvements and changes this building housed the junior high and elementary schools until 1954. In that year the Mount Jordan Junior High School was completed in Sandy, Utah, and students in the seventh, eighth and ninth grades went to school there. The Draper Park School was then remodeled with a new wing being added on the northeast corner. The interior was also redecorated to take care of the six elementary grades. It has thirteen classrooms equipped with modern visual aids, teachers, work-rooms, a faculty room, a sick room, auditorium, music room, library, and an up-to-date cafeteria and a modern gas heating plant.

In the lower main hallway of the Draper Park School is a beautiful mural. It depicts the history of education in Draper. The theme of the mural is "Onward and Upward".

Current plans are to use the building as a community center.



JOHN R. PARK SCHOOL
DRAPER, UTAH