

AUG 14 1985  
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INVENTORY SHEET FOR GROUP NOMINATIONS: IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BOISE, IDAHO

NOMINATION: Kootenai County Rural Schools thematic group

SITE NAME: Bellgrove School II

SITE NUMBER: 9

LOCATION: East side of Hamaker Road, about 1/4 mile north of Rockford Bay Road

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Bellgrove Grange #369  
Ed Joy, Treasurer  
Star Route  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Rockford Bay, 7.5'

ACREAGE: about 1 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nomination includes the Bellgrove School and the property on which it stands, beginning at the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, Section 1, T48N, R5W; thence west 208'; thence north 208'; thence east 208'; thence south 208' to point of beginning; all in Section 1, T48N, R5W.

UTM(S): 11/506400/526400

DATE OR PERIOD: ca. 1918

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, exploration/settlement

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTORY BUILDINGS: 4

DESCRIPTION:

Bellgrove School II is one of the moderate-sized and expressively designed schoolhouses in the thematic group. It is an essentially square wood-frame building, about 33 by 36 feet, with a gable roof covered with metal sheeting. Although primarily vernacular in design, the building exhibits several features that are characteristic of bungalow/Colonial Revival style architecture, including upper and lower gable roof lines, gable end windows, and exposed rafters.

The schoolhouse is a one-room, one-story structure clad with painted clapboard siding. The east (front) and west gable ends are each decorated with wood shingles and contain two centered attic windows topped by louvered vents. The attic windows are now boarded over. An interior brick chimney is offset about six feet from the east end of the roof approximately three feet north of the roof ridge. A gable roof covers the open front porch.

A bank of seven double-hung four-light windows cover about half of the surface of the south facade. Two similar windows are offset to the right on the building's north facade and two similar but smaller double-hung windows are spaced to the left and right of the front entry double doors. The entry doors have five equally proportioned panels each, and are surmounted by a four-pane transom light. A cloak-room window on the east end of the north facade has been removed and the rough opening is now covered with horizontal boards. This alteration has had little effect on the building's overall historic appearance. A similar window on the building's south facade is unaltered. The building is in good condition, and its architectural integrity remains intact.

A small wood-frame gable-roofed shed (possible used as a woodshed) stands several feet from the north end of the building's west facade. An outhouse is adjacent to the west wall of the shed and a second outhouse sits about seventy-five feet from the southwest corner of the building. All three outbuildings are contributory to the property.

SIGNIFICANCE:

In summary, Bellgrove School II is significant for its association with the early development of the Bellgrove area and its status as one of only two surviving and relatively unaltered rural schoolhouses in the southwestern quarter of Kootenai County. It is also one of the expressively designed buildings in the thematic group, exhibiting several design features common to the bungalow/Colonial Revival style of architecture.

Bellgrove School II is situated in the Central Westlake study unit. Of fifteen schoolhouses that have been identified in the study unit, it is the only schoolhouse that has survived with sufficient architectural integrity to be eligible for the National Register.

Bellgrove School II is located on the benchlands adjacent to Bellgrove Creek, about two miles northwest of Rockford Bay on the west side of Coeur d'Alene Lake. The Bellgrove area was within the bounds of the Coeur d'Alene Reservation until the early 1890's, when about twelve square miles of tribal land adjacent to the northwest end of Coeur d'Alene Lake was relinquished to the U.S. government by treaty. It is about a mile north of the present Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation that was opened for white settlement after the allotment of 1909.

Shortly after the Treaty of 1889 was ratified by Congress, white homesteaders entered the part of the Bellgrove area that lay north of the latter reservation boundary line. The principal attraction of the area at the turn of the century was the virgin stands of salable timber that homesteaders and lumber companies sought to harvest. By 1910 the area was relatively well populated by lumber camps and homestead claimants. Following the end of World War I, the combined effects of heavy logging and the 1910 fire led to a general depopulation of the area, and many of the original homesteads were abandoned. By the early 1930's, however, the Great Depression and drought in the plains states brought an influx of settlers to the Bellgrove area and the community began to develop again, this time with an agricultural orientation.

Bellgrove School II, built about 1918, is the fourth building to serve the Bellgrove community. It was preceded by Bellgrove School I, built at the same site, and two log schoolhouses in the adjacent Fighting Creek area. The three earlier schools were built at about the turn of the century. Classes were discontinued at Bellgrove II several years after World War II when the school was consolidated into the Worley School District. Since then the school building has been used as a community hall by the Bellgrove Grange.