

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: Cedar Mountain School

SITE NUMBER: 11

LOCATION: Northwest corner of Parks Road and Lewellyn Creek Road

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Lakes Highway District  
P.O. Box 669  
Hayden Lake, ID 83835

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Athol, 7.5'

ACREAGE: 1.7 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nomination includes the Cedar Mountain School and the property on which it stands, commencing at the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of Section 24, T53N, R3W; thence west 300'; thence North 25' to true point of beginning; thence west 260'; thence northerly to abandoned Spokane International Railroad right-of-way; thence northeasterly 300'; thence southerly 340' to true point of beginning.

UTM(S): 11/527260/5307920

DATE OR PERIOD: 1922

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, exploration/settlement

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: fair, altered, moved circa late 1930s

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTORY BUILDINGS: 1

DESCRIPTION:

Cedar Mountain School is among the small and functionally designed schoolhouses identified in the county-wide survey, and it is the smallest school nominated in the thematic group. It is also one of the least adorned schoolhouses. Cedar Mountain School is a rectangular one-story one-room wood-frame building, approximately 18 by 24 feet, with a gable roof and narrow shiplap siding. The roof is presently covered with corrugated sheet metal. A brick chimney is centered on the west half of the front (south) interior wall. A bank of large double-hung windows extends across two-thirds of the building's east wall. A three-tred stairway leads to an open front porch that is enclosed with a simple railing made of plain dimensional lumber. There is no indication that the building ever had a belfry or a roof covering the front entryway. The building is in fair condition. Aside from the apparent replacement of the original roof material with sheet metal, the building exterior shows no signs of alteration.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Despite being moved from its original location, the Cedar Mountain School remains as a nearly unaltered example of the one-room schoolhouse. Its continued significance is further supported by its presence in the same general community and the strong resemblance of the new site to its former location, including similar siting on a county section-line road, similar surrounding landforms and vegetation, and similar proximity to nearby farmsteads.

Cedar Mountain School, more recently known as the Belmont Highway District office, the "road house," and the Farragut Grange, is located in the North Prairie study unit. Of nine schoolhouses that have been identified in this study area, only this and Bayview School II have survived with sufficient architectural integrity to be eligible for the National Register.

The Cedar Mountain School is currently situated about three miles southwest of the south end of Lake Pend Oreille, about 100 yards west of the northwest corner of Parks and Lewellyn roads. Although the Belmont area was transected by the Steamboat Landing Road in the mid-1860's, and lay only three miles east of the Northern Pacific transcontinental mainline that was built in the early 1880's, there was no permanent community until the turn of the twentieth century, when several lumber mills were established in the area.

In 1910 the Bayview branch of the Spokane International Railroad was built through the Belmont area and a stop was established at the present site of the Cedar Mountain School. In 1913 a post office was opened. During the period from about 1900 to 1925, five different schoolhouses were erected within a three-mile radius of the present location of Cedar Mountain School. All of these were one-room schools similar to the surviving Cedar Mountain building. The last to be built was the Cedar Mountain School. It was erected in 1922 about two miles southwest of its current location. Classes were discontinued, probably around the late 1930's, after the consolidation movement was under way. Later the Cedar Mountain School was moved to its present site and has since been used by the Belmont Highway District as a road shop and by the Farragut Grange as a community hall.