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

NOMINATION: Kootenai County Rural Schools thematic group

SITE NAME: Lane School II

SITE NUMBER: 5

LOCATION: East of intersection of Lanz Road and State Highway 3, Lane, Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Runge Furniture Company  
303 Spokane Avenue  
Coeur d' Alene, ID 83814

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Lane, 7.5'

ACREAGE: about 1 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nomination includes the Lane School and the property on which it stands, Block D, Grimm's Addition to Lane, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/535030/5261390

DATE OR PERIOD: ca. 1914

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, exploration/settlement

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: deteriorated, original site, altered

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTORY BUILDINGS: 1

DESCRIPTION:

Lane School II is one of the large expressively designed schoolhouses in the thematic group. It is a rectangular wood-frame building, approximately 30 by 54 feet, with a raised, mortared stone basement and a wood-frame gable-roofed front (north) entry wing that measures about 12 by 30 feet. The main roof is hipped and both it and the roof of the gabled entry wing are covered with metal sheeting over wood shingles. The eaves are boxed with long, narrow boards. The building is clad with painted clapboard siding and the entry wing gable is finished with wood shingles.

The facade of the front entry wing offers a pleasing combination of arched and angular shapes. The paneled, double-leaf entry doors and adjacent side lights and panels are slightly recessed, giving the appearance of a small arch nested in a larger arch formed by the boxed cornice and semi-circular soffit. Centered in the gable above the entry doors is a boldly trimmed Palladian window. Four large window openings extend over at least half of the east and west first floor facades; similar window openings cover smaller portions of the rear and front facades.

With respect to architectural style, Lane School II is among the most interesting schoolhouses in the thematic group and is unique within the group. While exhibiting various design features common to the Colonial Revival style, such as a symmetrical front exposure, a Palladian window, and a projecting central bay with pediment-like returned eaves, the building also incorporates other design influences--including the recessed central bay arches and contrasting colors and textures of wood shingles and horizontal siding. As a result of the latter features, as well as the building's overall massing, Lane School II is probably best characterized as an example of eclecticism.

The building is deteriorated but unaltered, and enough of its original fabric survives to represent the period in which the school served Lane.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Lane School II is significant for its historic association with the boom period of development in the town of Lane. The building is also significant as a stylistically unique schoolhouse design in the thematic group, and as such it offers one example of eclectic schoolhouse architecture in Kootenai County.

Lane School II is situated in the Central Coeur d'Alene River study unit. Of nine schools that have been identified in the study unit, this and Cave Lake School are the only former schoolhouses that have retained sufficient architectural integrity to be eligible for the National Register.

Lane School II is located in the former townsite of Lane, about one-third mile south of the Coeur d'Alene River and approximately midway between Rose and Killarney lakes. Lane was within the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation until Congressional ratification of the Treaty of 1889. In late 1889 the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company inaugurated railroad service through the area and a station was established at Lane. Homesteaders began to enter the Lane area in the early 1890's. After the turn of the century, Lane became a significant lumber town with several modern saw-mills, hotels, general stores, blacksmiths, a church, post office, doctor, and dance hall and a population of 400 to 500. By the time of World War I, however, the local saw mill industry had entered a period of long-term decline. In 1917 a disastrous flood inundated adjacent farmland with toxic residues from upstream mine wastes and hastened the decline of the Lane community. By the 1950's only a tavern remained from the town's earlier period of commercial activity; in 1982 the tavern was destroyed by fire.

The first school in Lane was reportedly a one-room building erected at about the turn of the century. Lane II was built about 1914 and continued until 1947, when the area was consolidated into the Kootenai (Harrison) School District. Since then the building has been used to store hay. Aside from a few residences, the Lane School II is all that remains of this once important Coeur d'Alene River Valley mill town.