

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

NOMINATION: (BOISE PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

SITE NAME: Pierce Park School

SITE NUMBER: 3

LOCATION: 5015 Pierce Park Lane, Boise, ID 83703

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Independent School District of Boise City  
1207 Fort Street  
Boise, Idaho 83702

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Eagle, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: 8.36 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Pierce Park School and the property on which it stands, in the Nels T. Jemen Tract of section 19, township 4 north, range 2 east, Boise Meridian, commencing at the northeast corner of lot 4 of the Nels T. Jemen Tract, thence south 448', thence westerly at a right angle for 813', thence northerly for 448', thence easterly 813' to the point of commencement.

UTM(S): 11/559000/4834823

DATE OR PERIOD: 1911, additions 1947, 1950, 1959

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Education

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

In 1911 a four-room one-and-a-half-story country school was built at Pierce Park. The small stucco-on-brick structure was unpretentious in scale, with a flat roofline, the entrance at the left, and a band of large windows spanning the facade. The ornamental detail is limited to a Tudor arch at the entry and a decorative brick course emphasizing the flat roofline. Several additions to the building have been made since its annexation to the Boise District in 1947. At the north end of the building is a low one-story addition with a blank facade and entry at its left. An added wing at the south end of the building creates an L-shape and is compatible with the original structure in height, roofline, and materials. While the fenestration of this wing is somewhat different from that of the original structure, it is not obtrusive. A large one-and-a-half-story concrete block addition with a blank facade is at the extreme left and is connected to the original building by an enclosed one-story corridor. The alterations described are compatible with the historical character of the building and constitute all major alterations.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Although the extensive additions to the school are obtrusive and detract somewhat from its appearance, they do not obscure the original building. As an example of school architecture, Pierce Park was forward-looking. The use of a flat roof was not to become common for another ten years, and all the other schools in the area were built as two-story structures at this time. Heated debate still raged a decade later over the relative merits of one-story schools, and it would seem that this small school was ahead of its time, at least in its area. For this reason, Pierce Park deserves inclusion in the Thematic Group, although the large blank appendages added in later years detract from its appearance.