

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

NOMINATION: (BOISE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TPO),

SITE NAME: Longfellow School

SITE NUMBER: 2

LOCATION: 1511 North Ninth Street, Boise, ID 83702

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

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

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise North, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: 2.26 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Longfellow School and the property on which it sits, the block bounded by North 15th Street on the east, Lemp Street on the north, North 16th Street on the west, and Ridenbaugh Street on the south.

UTM(S): 11/564700/4830748

DATE OR PERIOD: 1911

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Heath and Twitchell
Tacoma, Washington

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Education

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good, unaltered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

Longfellow School is a two-story brick building designed by the architectural firm of Wayland and Fennell. It was built to accommodate the rapid growth in the north end of the city which occurred in the first years of the twentieth century. The low lateral hipped roof is intersected by a central curvilinear gable with arched windows showing Mission Revival origins. The projecting end bays have low hipped roofs, and the paired recessed entrances are marked by columned, flat-roofed porticos. The large windows are grouped in fours, outlined by decorative brickwork, and additional ornamentation is noted in the large intricate brackets supporting the wide eaves. The rusticated sandstone basement contrasts with the smooth brick of the body of the building. This handsome school has seen no additions or major alterations since its construction in 1906.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Longfellow School achieves significance through its handsome design and unaltered state. It is also the oldest example of the new type of school which developed around the turn of the century in response to the changes in the curriculum and

rapidly growing population. Incorporation of manual training and domestic science into the educational program called for special classrooms which were included in the Longfellow design. In addition, Longfellow was built with a library, a principal's office and storage room, and spacious halls for physical drill in bad weather. Longfellow was constructed with all classrooms receiving light from one side only, an innovation which received much attention at the time.

The architectural firm of Wayland & Fennel (formerly Campbell & Wayland) chose a horizontal massing, a lower-pitch roof with side bracketed eaves, and Mission Revival elements in its design for Longfellow. The vertical massing of the box-like schools is seen here giving way to changes in form and function, and Longfellow is the earliest example of this evolution in schoolhouse design in the Thematic Group.