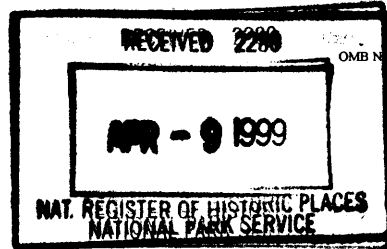


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name HOOD RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

other names/site number Hood River Middle School

2. Location

street & number 1602 May Street n/a not for publication

city or town Hood River n/a vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Hood River code 027 zip code 97031

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jane Hamish / Deputy SHPO December 22, 1998
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.
See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall 5/5/99
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s), district, site, structure, object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with columns for Contributing and Noncontributing resources, listing counts for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Education: School

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Education: School

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Jacobethan

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete, walls Concrete/Brick veneer, roof Asphalt Comp. Shingles, other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Hood River High School, Hood River, Hood River County, Oregon

COMMENTS OF THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE:

The Hood River High School was built in 1927 in the Jacobethan style. It was designed by Raymond W. Hatch, an architect who worked extensively in north central Oregon before moving to Portland in 1924. The school is located on a prominent site overlooking the Columbia River and Mt. Adams to the north. It is on a nine-acre parcel of land in a residential and commercial area of Hood River. There is an athletic field on the site, auxiliary buildings, and a new library. Lawn and mature trees, sidewalks, drinking fountains, courtyards, parking lots, and other improvements are located on this site.

The school is U-shaped in plan, is three stories high on the north side, and is two stories on the south side to fit the sloping site. The building has a concrete foundation and is constructed of concrete faced with a tan brick veneer laid in a common bond pattern. Jacobethan stylistic elements include the steeply pitched gabled roof with gabled parapets decorated with terra cotta coping and finials. The decorative brickwork including the soldier courses at the tops and bottoms of the windows, at the watertable and top of the walls, are evidence of the style. Other features include the multi-light windows, some with tracery, thick mullions and arched openings. Some of the windows have been infilled with boards. Most of the original windows and sash remain. A horizontal banding is created by the groupings of windows within each bay on each of the three floors on the north side. On the south side, portal type entrances with gothic openings are in each end of the U-wings. Wrought-iron lantern fixtures flank the outer entrance doors.

The interior of the Hood River High School retains a high degree of integrity. The woodwork features have their original varnished finish. The high ceilings, plaster walls, unpainted picture and chair rails, doors, and baseboards remain throughout most of the rooms. The central hall plan with classrooms on either side remains on two of the three floors. Some of the original blackboards are in place, and the original boiler remains.

The auditorium is located in the east wing. In the auditorium lobby, the ceiling is decorated with arched plastered beams and brackets that incorporate the acanthus design. Three original

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Hood River High School, Hood River, Hood River County, Oregon

pendant Gothic light fixtures with pebble glass shade panels hang from the middle of the room. The floors are oak and original varnished wood doors lead into the main auditorium. Tiered rows of original auditorium chairs line the balcony. They are of hardwood, have Art Deco design on the side panels, and many have the original wire hat rack under the seat. Art Deco pendant fixtures and wall sconces remain. The stage has original plaster trim and a mural, painted by Percy Manser in 1934, surrounds the face of the stage. The mural depicts the Barlow Trail pioneers and Native Americans on the west side and a Hood River Valley harvest scene on the east. Restoration of the mural was undertaken in 1985 and completed in 1998.

The original gymnasium, located in the west wing of the school, is a large open room with maple floors (replaced in 1997), bleachers in the east balcony, horizontal bead board on the north wall, and an open truss ceiling. A few modifications to the interior have occurred. In 1977, the ceilings were lowered and florescent lights were installed in the principal's office area. The original cafeteria has been turned into a classroom. On the second floor, the central hall has been incorporated into making larger classrooms, the ceilings have been lowered and covered with acoustic tiles. Some of the classrooms have florescent lights that were installed in the 1950s. The bathrooms have been remodeled to meet ADA standards, and a rock climbing wall was installed on the west wall of the old gymnasium.

Other buildings on the site include a new multi-purpose building located on the west side of the school, built 1971-72, which is non-contributing. It serves as a gym, cafeteria, and shop department. A new library, built 1994-95, is located directly east of the school. Designed by Portland architects, BOOR/A, it is compatible in design. A maintenance shop/music building (originally used as a garage), built in the late 1940s or early 1950s, is located northeast of the main school. A contributing brick fountain, built in 1928, has one of two drinking spouts that function. A contributing athletic field consists of a gravel quarter-mile track with a grassy playing field and original concrete stairs which now function as the bleachers (original wood bleachers removed).

The school system was organized in 1865. News schools were built as the student population grew. When the high school that had been built in 1908 was overcrowded by 100 students, the plans for the new high school began in 1924. This school opened on September 6, 1927, well equipped with an auditorium that accommodated 1200, a gym that sat 1000 people, tennis courts, an athletic field, thirteen classrooms, student lockers, a study hall, a library, and offices for the

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Hood River High School, Hood River, Hood River County, Oregon

superintendent, the dean of women, and the class president. Telephones connected all the classrooms with the office and the classes were announced with an automatic bell system.

Many rented the auditorium, including the Chautauqua, Boy Scouts of America, the Men's Brotherhood of the Riverside Church, dramatic and lee clubs, the Japanese Society, the American Legion, and other civic organizations (the Harlem Globetrotters used the gym in 1938). Work continued into the 1930s, fences and sidewalks were built, grounds were further landscaped, bleachers for the athletic field were built, additional lockers, and shades were purchased. The painting of the auditorium was commissioned in 1934 as part of a WPA project. During the 1940s, additional rooms were needed to meet the increase in student population. C.N. Freeman, a Portland architect, was hired to design additional space to house a home economics department and an additional classroom, and a shop and music building, completed in 1942 (burned in 1971). Additional classrooms were built along the north side of the ground floor at the west end of the hall in the 1950s. In 1971, the school was converted to a junior high.

The Hood River High School is significant for its association with the development of early secondary education in Hood River. It was the second high school built in Hood River and the only historic one remaining (the original 1908 school was demolished in 1957). It was constructed as a result of a marked increase in the student population in 1920s. A bond was passed in 1926 for its construction, with plans that there would be provisions for a large auditorium, gymnasium, and playing field to be used by the entire community as well. This building was used extensively by the community for meetings, sports events, musical productions, plays and miscellaneous gatherings. This school signifies the prosperity of the 1920s before the budget cuts of the Great Depression.

It is also significant as an excellent example of the Jacobethan style with its formal massing, gable parapets, terra cotta trim details, finials, multi-pane windows, brick construction, and arched openings. The school was designed by Raymond Walter Hatch, who designed many public and educational buildings in North Central Oregon during 1915-24. Hatch began his career in Pendleton, designing several residences and buildings in Umatilla County including the Adams High School (1919), the Bank of Echo (1920, listed), the Milton Carnegie Library (1918), the McLaughlin Union High School (1922), the Griswold Union High School (1923), and the Stanfield High School (1921). They were designed in a variety of historic period styles. He died of blood poisoning at age 44, six months after this school was completed.

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Hood River High School, Hood River, Hood River County, Oregon

The Jacobethan style was based on 16th and 17th century styles during the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I. It was popular in the United States during the first part of the 20th century and in Oregon during 1910-1935. It is a style that was used for many larger university and public buildings. There is only one other building designed in the Jacobethan style in Hood River--the Hood River County Carnegie Library (1913-14), a smaller and more modest example. It has similar characteristics including brick construction, decorative masonry trim and coping, operable multi-pane windows, gable parapets, arched entrance portals, and formal massing.

There are no other buildings constructed in the style and scale of the Hood River High School in the Columbia River Gorge. This building is one of the largest and most distinctive buildings in Hood River and it remains an important presence in the neighborhood. The building retains its historic integrity and contributes to the qualities of Hood River.

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SUMMARY

The Hood River High School in Hood River, Oregon was completed in 1927. Built in the Jacobethan style, the building was designed by Raymond W. Hatch who worked extensively in North Central Oregon before moving to Portland, Oregon in 1924. The school was constructed on a prominent site overlooking the Columbia River and Mt. Adams to the north.

The Hood River High School is an excellent example of the Jacobethan style in its formal massing, gable parapets, terra cotta trim details, finials, multi-pane windows, brick construction, and arched openings. There is only one other building in Hood River designed in this style; the Hood River County Library (1913). The Hood River High School building, now used as a junior high, retains its original function as an educational facility and community center.

SETTING/LANDSCAPE

The Hood River High School is located at 17th and May streets (tax lot 6500, Adams Paradise Acres) and is sited on the north shoulder of a hill commanding a view of the Columbia River and Mt. Adams to the north. The building was constructed on a nine acre parcel bounded on the south by May Street, west by 18th Street, north by residential buildings, and east by commercial and residential buildings. The school building is located on the south half of the parcel; the athletic field is north of the school building.

East Grounds

A lawn area abuts the school building on the east elevation. Low shrubs line the foundation and a deciduous tree is planted near one of the side entrances. A conifer is in the northeast corner of the lawn that surrounds the school. The side lawn is separated from the auxiliary buildings on the east side by a driveway. A small concrete pad (built 1997) used for disabled parking spaces is near the southeast corner of the building; this parking area connects to the east side driveway.

The new library (a separate building) is located east of the main school building on level ground once used as a tennis court. A green lawn area surrounds the library. The eastern property line, behind the library, is defined by a chain link fence. Mature fir trees are between the library and the maintenance shop/music

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building which is directly to the north. The maintenance shop/music building is at the juncture of the east and north driveway and is at the edge of the slope that descends to the athletic field. Deciduous trees line the eastern property line behind the building.

North Grounds

The majority of the grounds north of the school building are encompassed by the athletic field. A driveway and slope, directly north of the main school building, separates the playing fields from the building. The main driveway extends north from May Street, then extends west across the north side of the building to 17th Street. An original built-in concrete drainage gutter is located along the south side of the north driveway. Lawn is between the driveway and the school building. Shrubs line the edge of the school along the north elevation. Stairs from the north driveway lead to the central sidewalk to the north (front) entrance doors. Two conifers flank the walkway.

Small maintenance sheds and a ticket booth are located around the athletic field. A set of concrete stairs, used as bleachers, leads down to the playing field. A small ticket booth/concessions stand is above the bleachers. The athletic field has a graveled quarter mile track around the perimeter of the interior lawn area. Goal posts are at the east and west ends of the field; a score board and maintenance shed are also at the western edge. Deciduous trees and shrubs line the east and north property lines, and black locust trees and a chain link fence define the western edge of the property west of the track. A small maintenance shed and bicycle storage area enclosed with a chain link fence are near the west end of the driveway.

West Grounds

A service driveway abuts the school building on the west side and separates the tennis/basketball courts and new gymnasium from the school building. There are few perimeter foundation plantings on this elevation; low shrubs are planted near the southwest corner. The courts are directly west of the building and the new gymnasium is directly north of the courts. A high chain link fence encloses the courts on three sides; the new gym defines the north edge. Two mature conifers flank the sidewalk that lead to the courts from the service driveway. A brick drinking foundation is on the north side of the sidewalk. This drinking foundation, designed

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with Tudor details that match the school, was installed in 1928 by the class of 1927. Mature conifers and maple trees define the west edge of the property along 17th Street.

South Grounds

The school is sited slightly below May Street on the south elevation. A sidewalk and parking strip parallel the street. Two flights of concrete stairs lead down to the auditorium and gymnasium wings. The entrance doors to these wings front May Street and were historically used as the public entrances for events. A lawn area extends across the entire south elevation of the building. Mature maple trees line May Street at the east and west ends of the property. A parking lot associated with the school and the community swimming pool and tennis courts, is located across May Street to the south.

The two wings flank a courtyard in the center of the south elevation. The courtyard is planted in grass with perimeter foundation plantings (shrubs and conifers), conifers, and flowering deciduous trees. A small area in the center of the courtyard houses the small satellite dish for the school. The area is enclosed with a chain link fence partially obscured by plantings.

Sidewalks, flanking the courtyard, lead to the interior stairhalls. The sidewalk on the eastern side of the courtyard has been modified (compatibly) by the installation of a wheel chair ramp.

PLAN

The Jacobethan style Hood River High School is U-shaped in plan and measures approximately 238 ft. east-west, and 146 ft. north-south axis. Symmetrical in plan, the building has three stories (ground, first, and second) on the north elevation and two stories on the south elevation. The site slopes down to the north thus exposing the second story on the north elevation. Two wings extend to the south from the main volume of the school and house the original gymnasium and auditorium.

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GENERAL EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Hood River High School has a steeply-pitched complex gable and hip roof system covered with gray asphalt composition shingles. The eaves are shallow and have built-in gutters. A series of metal downspouts with rainwater heads connect to the gutter system. An ornate brick octagonal cupola-type chimney caps the ridge of the building. The chimney is capped with decorative terra cotta trim. Another chimney is located near the eave line on the south side of the main body of the school. Metal vents have been added to the roof over the years.

Full height dormer projections, on all the elevations, are finished with stepped gable parapets. These gables are decorated with cream colored terra cotta trim and multi-pane windows punctuate the wall surface.

All the building's multi-pane wooden windows are generally grouped in pairs or threes; wide wood mullions divide the grouped windows. The windows are capped with a soldier course of brick and the sills are made of terra cotta. The windows are recessed in the building's surface. Most of the lower sashes open for ventilation (awning windows).

The building is constructed of concrete faced with a rug-faced brick veneer laid in a common bond pattern. The brick is tan, reddish-brown, and tannish-red in color. A brick soldier course defines the top of the brick walls and the watertable. Terra cotta tiles decorate the corners of the watertable. The building has a concrete foundation.

North Elevation

The north elevation, originally the main entrance, is composed of five major bays. The end and central gable bays project slightly from the building surface and have intersecting gable parapets finished with terra-cotta trim. An inset terra-cotta panel in the middle of the central parapet has the carved initials "HRHS" (Hood River High School). Pilasters flank projecting gables and are capped with terra cotta finials. Small tracery windows are inset in the center projecting bay.

The wide central bay includes the main entrance doors, which are the focal point of the elevation. Four brick pilasters, two stories high, frame the entrance doors and flanking windows. The

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brick pilasters are capped with terra-cotta finials that are embellished with recessed panels decorated with carved apples. The multi-pane windows directly above the entrance doors are embellished with tracery work. The second floor windows on the central bay visually form a continuous band of multi-pane windows; a thin terra cotta label molding is above the windows. The main double entrance doors (newer metal doors) are flanked by original multi-pane doors. Another multi-pane door with a transom above is located directly west of the entrance doors.

Grouped multi-pane windows are located between the projecting bays. The windows have terra cotta sills; a brick soldier course extends along both the top and bottom of the windows. Vents are spaced evenly beneath the windows on each floor.

East Elevation

The east elevation is composed of the main body of the school and the auditorium wing. Two gable parapets embellish the north end of the elevation; the parapets are trimmed with terra-cotta. Two small arched recessed niches are located below the gable parapets. An arched window, under the smaller gable parapet, is two stories high. This multi-pane window is divided horizontally by recessed wood panels decorated with raised shields and edging.

A series of bays with five round arch windows separated by raised brick pilasters capped with terra-cotta capitals define the auditorium wing. These windows retain the original wooden divided lights in the upper sash; the original lower leaded glass sashes have been removed. Tape imitating the leaded glass panes have been applied to the boarding that covers the interior of the windows (west side auditorium windows have same treatment). Only one of the original leaded glass windows remain on the auditorium wing—the northern most window above the double side metal entrance doors. The auditorium windows are separated in the center by a wooden recessed panel with a circular design. All the sills are terra-cotta. The southern most bay on the auditorium is a two-story stairhall bay that has a crenelated parapet; a tall multi-pane window punctuates the center of the bay. A terra-cotta label mold embellishes the top of the window.

There are three entrances on this elevation. The original doors, which had divided lights in the upper panel, have been replaced with metal doors with a glass upper pane. Two sets of double

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doors lead to the east stairhall and the auditorium. The central single door leads to a classroom under the stage (this door was originally a window). An iron fire escape ladder is on the northern most bay of the auditorium wing; the ladder extends to the second floor.

South Elevation

This elevation is characterized by its "U" shape; the main body and the two wings. The entrances to the auditorium and original gymnasium are located on this elevation. The main body of the elevation is composed of multi-pane windows on both exposed stories. The windows are flanked by two-story projecting corner entrance bays (bays lead to interior stairhalls). The corner entrance bays have gable parapets trimmed with terra-cotta. Decorative wooden shields are in the middle of the parapet. The shield on the west bay has the City of Hood River seal. The seal depicts Mt. Hood and the Columbia River with the "City of Hood River, Oregon Incorporated 1895" carved in the wood. The seal on the eastern bay has the State of Oregon seal which depicts the mountains, ocean, an eagle, wagon and oxen, and a ship. The seal says "State of Oregon 1859 The Union".

Tall windows, divided by panels with a raised wooden shield, embellish the upper stories of the bays. Terra cotta label moldings are above the windows and doors. The double entrance doors on the two bays are metal. The eastern entrance bay has a wheel chair access ramp built into the sidewalk. A simple metal railing lines the ramp which was installed in 1997. Service stairs, that descend below grade to the ground floor, parallel the main body of the school between the bays.

The south elevations of the gymnasium and auditorium have the entrance doors that lead to the interior vestibules; the two facades are almost identical in design. The entrance bays have a stepped gable parapet trimmed with terra cotta with a brick stretcher course below. The front of the two wings have three recessed Gothic arch entrance doors with transoms. Terra cotta lines the soffit of the arch. These doors are separated by raised brick pilasters capped with terra cotta panels with carved apple designs in relief. The pilasters are capped with small Gothic arches and ornamental pinnacles. The tracery windows between the top of the pilasters are paired and are Gothic in their design.

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Although the muntins and mullions are intact on in the gymnasium windows, the panes have been painted and/or covered over from the inside.

Wrought-iron lantern lights flank the outer entrance doors. There is only one original entrance door that remains; this door is the western most entrance door on the gymnasium wing. This double door has vertical panels below and multi-pane windows above. The remainder of the doors on the two wings have been changed to double metal doors with a single glass pane above. Concrete stairs lead up to the doors. All the windows on the east and west elevations of the gymnasium wing have been enclosed either with concrete block or boarding; the sash has been retained on the east side windows.

West Elevation

The west elevation includes the west side of the original gymnasium and the main body of the school. The gymnasium wing is characterized by a series of seven bays; the two outer bays have stepped parapets punctuated by tall multi-pane windows. The gymnasium bays are separated by raised brick pilasters.

Stairs, below grade on the gym wing, are located near the center and northern end of the wing. These lead to the girls and boys locker rooms. The center door has been modified; originally the door had sidelights and a transom; these have been enclosed and stuccoed over. A double entrance door with multi-pane transoms is located at the north end of the west elevation. The doors lead into the west stairhall. The multi-pane windows have a soldier brick course above.

INTERIOR PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The interior of the Hood River High School is composed of three floors; the ground, first, and second floors. The floors originally were designed with a central east-west hall with the flanking rooms. The ground and first floors retain the original east-west hall configuration; the second floor has been altered by the removal of the central hall. The auditorium encompasses the east wing and the original gymnasium encompasses the west wing.

Most of the interior woodwork on the first and ground floors have retained the original varnished finish. Carpet covers the hallway

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and the classroom floors are covered with tiles or carpeting. Most of the rooms and the hallways retain the original high ceilings, plaster walls, unpainted picture and chair rails, doors, and baseboards.

Ground Floor

The ground floor (rooms 99-123) retains the central hall plan with classrooms and facility rooms along the north side, and maintenance and storage rooms, the boiler room, and a classroom on the south side. The north side of the hall was finished later than the south side. The north side was finished in phases: the eastern end rooms were completed in 1942 and the western half completed in the 1950s.

Stairs in the center of the hall on the north side lead to the main entrance vestibule and stairhall to the first floor. Stairs to the outside grounds and the upper floors are also located at the east and west ends of the hall. The ground floor hall has varnished plywood paneled and plaster walls, a 3 1/2 inch chair rail, 5 1/2 inch varnished wood baseboard, carpeted floors, and perforated ceiling board (similar to peg board). Metal lockers cover some of the wall space.

A large classroom (rm 99) is located underneath the auditorium stage on the south side of the central hall. Stairs on the west and east walls of the room lead to the stage. This room was originally the girls and boys dressing rooms for the auditorium and were two separate rooms. The room is now finished with painted baseboards, a chair rail, and carpeted floors. A small door on the south wall leads to the crawl space under the auditorium.

The boiler room (rm 109) is near the center of the south wall. Stairs lead down to the concrete boiler room floor. The main room includes the furnace for the steam heating system, the water tank, a sink, and an anti-room that has the fan ventilation system.

The massive furnace was manufactured by the Pacific Boiler Company, Serial # 8392, catalogue #2220 and was patented in Waukegen, Illinois on August 29 and November 21, 1916 and August 7, 1917. The boiler was originally fueled by oil but was later converted to natural gas. The water main, electrical servicepanels, and an original sink are also located in this room.

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The small anti-room directly east of the boiler room has the fan system that cools the auditorium and other rooms.

Other rooms on the south side of the hall include a small storage room (rm 106), a supply room (rm 111), and maintenance personnel office and storage area (rm 115). The small storage room in the northeast corner of the boiler room has wide wood plank floors, duct work, and poured concrete walls. Some of the original French doors to the school are stored in this room. Two sets of staircases abutting the interior of the auditorium and gymnasium walls lead to the upper floors.

The north side of the hall has several classrooms including the home-economic rooms. The home-ec rooms are located at the east end of the hall and include a kitchen, a small living room, and a sewing room (also used for a general classroom). These rooms have tile floors, fiberboard ceiling panels, an exposed ceiling pipe sprinkling system, windows along the north walls, painted woodwork, and florescent lights.

The kitchen (rm 101) has six work stations which include built-in cabinets below and above the counters, and a stove. The room configuration and most of the cabinetry are original to their 1941-42 construction. An original blackboard is on the west wall. A door on the west elevation leads to a small living room (rm 102). This room was originally used as a living room/dining room: classes learned to set tables and serve guests. Two original built-in corner cupboards are in the southwest and southeast corners of the room. The door to the hall on the south wall is flanked by two storage closets. A French door, on the west elevation, leads into the main home-ec room and classroom.

The main classroom (rm 102) is a large rectangular room and has built-in painted bookcases, drawers, and cabinets/closets on the east wall, and built-in full length cabinets/closets on part of the south wall. Original blackboards are on the south and west walls. Another classroom (rm 105) is directly west of the home-ec room and is a large room with carpeted floors, painted woodwork, a drop ceiling with flush mount florescent lights, and a blackboard along the east wall. The door to the hall is on the south elevation. These eastern rooms are divided from the west half of the ground floor rooms by the central stairhall that leads up to the first floor.

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The western portion of the north side of the ground floor is composed of a faculty breakroom which includes a kitchen, a small entrance vestibule, and the vault. The kitchen area (rm 110) is along the east wall and includes varnished wooden cabinets and cupboards on the east wall and the floor is covered with tile flooring. A pass through counter is opposite the cupboards.

The main breakroom (rm 112) has carpeted floors, acoustic tile ceiling, wood paneling on the lower portion with acoustic tiles on the upper one-third of the walls. Windows along the north elevation light the room. Another sink and preparation area is located along the south wall. A small vestibule in the northeast corner of the room leads to the multi-pane entrance door that opens to the north sidewalk. A door on the west wall leads to a small office (rm 117) and two doors on the south elevation lead to the hallway. A vault is in the southwest corner of the room.

The remainder of the rooms west of the faculty breakroom includes two larger classrooms, restrooms, and a custodial closet (rm 118). The small closet has an original deep basin sink intact, cement floor, and shelving on the west wall.

The two classroom (rms 119 and 122) at the western end of the north side of the hall are carpeted, have acoustic tiles on the ceiling and the upper third of the wall, wood paneling on the lower portions of the wall, and windows along the north wall (rooms completed in 1956). A small storage closet (rm 123) under the western end staircase have plywood walls and a concrete floor. The student supply room (rms 120 and 121) is constructed of varnished plywood panels. The south side of the room has a counter with an opening for selling student supplies (built after 1958).

Stairhall

Steps from the ground floor hall lead up to the main stairhall which accesses the north entrance doors. Original double wooden panel doors with multi-panes in the upper portion and a transom above separated the ground floor hall from the main stairhall. The stairhall walls are constructed of plaster with a varnished wood chair rail and baseboards. The floor is carpeted. Openings (doors removed) on the north side stairhall lead to a small vestibule that accesses the entrance doors. The walls in the

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vestibule are constructed of partial wood panels and the floor is carpeted. A closet is under the stairs in the southeast corner of the vestibule (rm 108).

A bronze plaque in the stairhall memorializes the school board, the architect, and builder that contributed to the construction of the new school. The plaque reads "Hood River High School Erected 1927 Board of Directors R.W. Sinclair - Chairman A.S. Keir Mrs. Sybil C. Lewis G.B. Marsh Albert T. Case I.R. Acheson - Clerk A.M. Cannon - Sup't Raymond W. Hatch Architect Anderson Construction Co. Contractors".

The stairs to the first floor, along the east wall of the stairhall, are U-shaped in plan and have plaster walls and baseboards and varnished wood (clear fir) chair and picture rails. The landing between the two floors is illuminated by tall tracery windows, Gothic in design. The solid half stair wall is finished with a wide fir cap. Round wooden handrails flank the stairs.

First Floor

The first floor is designed around a central hall plan with one classroom and the doors to the auditorium and gymnasium on the south side, and offices and classrooms on the north side. The hall retains the original high ceilings, plaster walls, and varnished wood picture and chair rails, and 7 1/2 inch baseboards. The ceiling support beams, covered with plaster, form a series of slightly pointed arches down the hall. Metal lockers line both sides of the hall and the floor is covered with carpet. A suspended sprinkler system (piping) and florescent lights have been added to the hall ceiling. All the doors to the classrooms retain the original varnished wood paneled doors. Original built-in trophy and display cases are located around the middle of the hall on both sides.

The staircases at the east and west end of the hall retain the original detail including the plaster walls, varnished wood baseboards, chair rail, and picture rail. These stairhalls are lit by tall multi-pane windows. Double metal doors on the landing between the ground and first floors lead to the east grounds. The doorway descending to this landing has a large multi-pane wooden transom. The cap on top of the stair wall is made of varnished fir. The western end stairhall is similar in detail.

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The staircases, along the inner walls of the auditorium and gymnasium, lead to the upper and lower floors. The stairs are constructed of concrete with concrete baseboards. The handrail is wood. The easternmost stair on the south wall nearest the auditorium originally had French doors that opened in the main hallway on the first floor. The multi-pane sidelights and transom are still intact.

The two easternmost classrooms (200 and 203) on the north side of the hall were originally one room (library and study hall); a partition has been added between the rooms. The eastern most room has the original varnished wood picture rail, chair rail, and baseboards. The floor is carpeted, and florescent lights and sprinkler system have been added to the ceiling. Windows and radiators are along the north wall. A door on the west wall leads into another classroom (rm. 203). This room has the same original details including a blackboard on the south wall. A built-in bookcase and cabinet are directly east of the entrance door on the south wall. The floors are carpeted.

The other rooms (205, 208, 210) on the eastern half of the north side of the hall include a conference room, teachers workroom, and the Dean's office. Originally, these rooms were used as the library. Some of the original details such as the picture rail and chair rails have been retained. The central stairs to the ground floor are located directly west of these rooms.

The school and principal's office (211) are located on the west side of the stairhall. This area was modified in 1977. The ceilings were lowered and new florescent lights installed. Several smaller rooms and a vault are located within the office. A dumbwaiter is in the center of the south wall near the vault. Two original doors that lead to the hall near the southeast corner were removed in the 1977 remodeling; large single pane windows (looking onto the hall) were installed across part of the south wall. Original windows along the north wall light the room.

Two other classrooms (rms 220 and 221) are west of the office. These two rooms have original blackboards on three walls, varnished fir baseboards, chair and picture rails, and plaster walls. Original built-in closets are in each room. The floors are carpeted.

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Besides the auditorium and the gym, the only rooms on the south side of the hall is a classroom (originally the cafeteria and study hall, rms 209 and 212) and the restrooms (207 and 214). The original cafeteria is a large room with tile flooring and windows along the south elevation with book shelves below. A small anti-room, with plywood walls, is in the west end of the room. An original dumbwaiter is in the northwest corner of the room; this was used to bring food up from the original kitchen on the ground floor. The restrooms, on the south side of the hall, retain the original configuration and ceiling height, but the interior finishes and fixtures have been replaced.

Gymnasium

The original gymnasium is located in the west wing of the school. The large open room has maple floors (installed 1997, original floors removed), board form concrete outer walls, bleacher in the east balcony, horizontal beaded boarding on the north wall, and an open truss ceiling.

Stairs in the northeast corner lead to the ground floor girls locker rooms and the balcony. The face and soffit of the balcony projection is clad with the original beaded board siding. There are four rows of benches in the balcony which has fir floors. An enclosed storage area has been constructed underneath the balcony. The balcony originally extended across the south wall of the gym. This area has been enclosed with T-1-11 siding and is currently used for storage. Stairs in the southeast corner of the upper balcony descend to the entrance vestibule.

Two original entrance doors have been blocked on the south elevation; only the easternmost door currently accesses the interior of the gym. A storage room has been built on the west side of the vestibule; a storage closet and ticket booth on the east side. An original storage room is located in the southwest corner of the gym. This small room retains the original maple floors, plaster walls, and chair rail. The stairs down to the boys locker room are in the southeast corner gym. A door near the northeast corner of the room leads to the first floor hall.

The girls and boys locker rooms are underneath the gymnasium. There are two outside doors on the west elevation that lead to the locker rooms. The girls locker room is under the northern half of the gym and the boys in under the southern half. The locker rooms

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are large with several smaller rooms. Lockers, restrooms, showers, offices, and storage rooms are in the locker rooms. The walls and floor of the rooms are concrete.

Auditorium

The auditorium, located in the east wing, is the most ornate room in the school. The main entrance to the auditorium is located on the south elevation; three Gothic style doors lead into the lobby. The lobby is a rectangular room with staircases ascending to the balcony level on the east and west ends, and doors to the main auditorium on the north elevation. Two small rooms, located under the staircases, are used for storage (west room) and a ticket booth (east room).

The ceiling of the lobby is decorated with slightly arched plastered beams extending north-south. The ends of the brackets are decorated with an ornate plaster acanthus design. Three original pendant light fixtures hang from the middle of the room. These brass fixtures are Gothic in design and are made with amber colored pebble glass shade panels.

The walls of the lobby are plaster; a high chair rail divides the wall horizontally. The floors are oak and the staircases to the balcony are constructed of fir. Three sets of original varnished wood doors lead into the main auditorium.

The auditorium is a large room with three sections of seating; the middle section (largest), and flanking side aisle sections. There are 21 rows in each section. The central and side aisles slope down gradually towards the stage on the north elevation. All the theater chairs are original and are made of hardwood. The side panels of the chairs are metal and are designed with an Art Deco geometric design. The legs of the chairs are fluted. Most of the chairs retain the original wire hat rack under the seat.

The floors are oak and the walls are plaster with a varnished wood chair rail. The arched auditorium windows have been boarded over from the interior (restoration of the windows is slated for 1998-2000). Double doors on the lower level lead to the west side hall. A wheel chair ramp has been added to the west aisle near this door (1997). The ramp was designed compatibly with the finishes and design of the auditorium.

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Beautiful Art Deco style metal pendant light fixtures hang from the ceiling (see auditorium photograph). A rich dark patina finish is on the metal portions of the lights and frosted white glass covers the petal-like design on the underside of the lights. Rigid mica shade panels, in the interior of the metal frame of the fixture, are deep gold in color. These lights are lowered by a winch system in the attic for servicing. Matching wall sconces are along the walls of the balcony and main level. The balcony lights are similar in design to the main auditorium lights except they are not suspended as much.

The balcony extends around three sides of the auditorium. Tiered rows of the original theater chairs line the balcony. A pipe railing is on top of the half balcony wall. The outer face of the balcony wall is clad with plaster with decorative recessed niches spaced at intervals. The inner face is clad with narrow varnished beaded board. Doors on the east side lead to the fire escape, doors on the west side lead to a hallway, and two sets of varnished paneled wooden double doors (with original black metal hardware) on the south side lead to the balcony lobby.

The balcony lobby is a rectangular room with stairs at each end, tracery windows along the south elevation, plaster walls with a high varnished wood chair rail and oak floors. Pendant lights, with a bare bulb suspended by a chain, light the room. A metal door in the middle of the room on the north wall leads to the original projection room. The small room is lined with sheet metal and a window overlooks the auditorium on the north elevation of the room.

The stage is along the north wall of the auditorium. The wide plaster trim around the stage is slightly rounded and decorated with raised wooden quatrefoil designs. A mural, painted by Percy Manser in 1934, surrounds the face of the stage. The mural depicts the Barlow Trail pioneers and Native Americans on the west side and a Hood River Valley harvest scene on the east side. The east side mural shows Mt. Hood, orchards, pickers, and a woman holding a basket of fruit. An urn is at the woman's feet. The woman, her cloths, and urn are more reminiscent of Greek painting and symbolism. A banner across the spandrel between the two paintings reads, "How Manifold are Thy Works. The Earth is Full of Thy Riches." Restoration work was completed on the murals in 1985 and 1998. A plaque on the west side of the stage

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commemorates Manser. The plaque reads, "Percy L. Manser 1886-1973. Mural donated in 1928 (this date is incorrect) by World Renowned Hood River artist".

Stairs on either side of the stage lead to the original dressing rooms underneath the stage; currently used as a classroom. Two stage doors on the north wall of the back stage area lead to the first floor hall.

Second Floor

Two U-shaped stairhalls at the east and west ends of the hall lead to the second floor, as well as the two staircases that are located along the inner walls of the auditorium and gymnasium. The stairhalls have original detailing. Double metal doors at the east end of the hall open onto several classroom. The second floor has been modified extensively from the original central hall plan.

The main east-west hall axis was closed off in 1970-71 during remodeling. The original hall has been incorporated into the classrooms, creating larger rooms. Some of the classrooms have been separated from one another by accordion doors. The ceilings in the second floor classrooms have been lowered and covered with acoustic tiles. The floors are either covered with tile or carpet. The original, tall multi-pane windows are intact; the drop ceiling has been constructed so that light wells are created that do not block the windows. Two restrooms are also located on the floor. A door, on the east side of the western stairs leads to the staircase to the attic. A small custodial closet is found at the base of the stairs which includes an original sink.

Attic

The attic is an unfinished space that has plank walkways leading to various areas of the floor. The main brick chimney and the ventilation system duct work are located in the attic. A small door near the western end of the attic on the south wall opens to the north wall of the original gymnasium. A motorized winch system, still operational, is above the auditorium. This winch is used to lower the chandeliers in the auditorium for cleaning and servicing. The attic rafters are constructed of 2 inch by 10 inch boards.

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MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

Currently (1997), the building is heated by radiators. The steam heating system consists of a cast iron sectional boiler in the ground floor boiler room that heats water that is pumped to the attic and then gravity fed to radiators located under the windows on the lower floors. A single thermostat on the first floor controls the heating system. Two five-ton split system heat pump units provide an air cooling vents and mild weather heating for the main floor. Ventilation air for the facility is provided by operable windows. The existing pipes for water distribution system are made of galvanized steel. An electric water heater, located in the ground floor boiler room, provides hot water.

AUXILIARY BUILDINGS/FEATURES

New Multi-Purpose Building (Non-Contributing)

The "new" multi-purpose building is located on the west side of the school. The building was constructed in 1971-72 and measures approximately 108 ft., east-west, and 64 ft., north-south. The building is completely detached from the main school building and constructed of concrete. A hip roof covers the building which has metal entrance doors on all elevations. The concrete walls have decorative square scoring. The foundation is concrete.

The entrance doors on the south and north ends of the east elevation are recessed under the roof overhang. Windows along the basement or ground level of the shop rooms on the north side are composed of large multi-pane metal awning windows. Two single metal entrance doors are also on the north elevation. A high concrete retaining wall encloses the stairs that lead up to the doors on the west elevation. The tennis and basketball courts abut the building on the south.

The building has three main functions; a gym, a cafeteria, and a shop department. The upper floor houses the gymnasium, the kitchen, a maintenance/storage room, and two restrooms. The lower floor includes the classrooms for the shop department.

Library-(Compatible Non-Contributing)

A new detached library was constructed in 1994-1995 and is located directly east of the main school building. The library, designed by Portland architects BOOR/A, is compatible in design with the

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original school building. Features such as the stepped gable parapet and brick facade, dominant in the original school design, were incorporated into the design for the new library.

The building, rectangular in plan, is one-story in height and constructed with concrete. The gable roof is covered with gray asphalt composition shingles. Stepped gable parapets are on the south and north elevations. Three large full length fixed pane windows with three smaller windows above compose the south elevation. These windows mimic the fenestration of the main school building. Full length aluminum frame windows are on the west elevations, two small windows on the north elevation, and two full length windows are on the east elevation,

Brick veneer covers the lower three-fourths of the gable ends and one-third of the building on the east and west elevations. The double entrance doors are located on the west elevation and are slightly recessed with transom and sidelights.

The entrance doors lead into the vestibule which has doors to the bathrooms and double wooden doors to the main reading room. The reading room is rectangular in plan and has an open truss roof system with drop strip florescent lights. The floors are carpeted. The circulation desk is directly east of the vestibule doors and is semi-circular in plan. A small work room is located in the northeast corner of the reading room.

Maintenance Shop/Music Building (Compatible Non-Contributing)

The maintenance shop/music building (on site in the late 1940s/early 1950s) is located northeast of the main school building. The long, rectangular building has a gable roof with composition shingles that extends north-south. The building is constructed of wood and has wood panels in a vertical board pattern. A large sliding garage door and a single door are located on the west elevation. At one time, the building was used as an auto garage. The building was converted into the music room around 1972.

Fountain (Contributing)

The fountain is located directly east of the main chain-link doors to the tennis courts. Built in 1928, the foundation was a gift from the Class of 1927. The brick fountain has two drinking spouts (only one is functioning) and is constructed from the same

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brick as the school. The detailing on the fountain also mimics the Gothic and Tudor influences of the school. The fountain has a gable-shaped back. Recessed bricks, on the south face of the base, make a cross pattern.

Athletic Field (Contributing)

The athletic field is located north of the school buildings and is composed of a gravel quarter mile track with a grassy playing field in the center. Bleachers were originally on the north and south sides of the field; only concrete stairs (that function as bleachers) on the south side remain. The field was part of the original plans for the school complex and was used as the major sports field until the Hood River Valley High School's field was built in 1970.

Sheds (not counted as features)

There are three small shed buildings located north of the school. One shed is located directly above the athletic field and is used as a ticket and refreshment stand. The small structure has a shed roof and vertical board siding. A door is on the west side of the building. The shed is in good condition.

Another small storage shed is located directly north of the new gymnasium. The building has a shed roof which covers the building and a covered area. The building is constructed of T-1-11 siding. Posts support the overhang and open storage area. The building is in fair-good condition. A third shed, used to store maintenance equipment, is located in the northwest corner of the athletic field. The building is rectangular in plan, constructed of wood, and has a gable roof.

MAJOR NON-HISTORIC ALTERATIONS

- 1950s Painted gym windows to reduce glare.
- 1951 East side door installed near stage rooms.
- 1954 Re-roofed building including removing original clay tile roof, shed dormers, and two chimneys.
- 1955 Fluorescent lights installed in some of the classrooms.
- 1956-58 Finished commercial rooms on ground floor; install wood paneling and upper acoustic tiles on walls and ceiling.

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New tile floor covering over wood floors in halls and some classrooms.

1961 Replaced two entrance doors with metal doors.

1966 Sprinkler system installed throughout school; suspended from ceiling.

MAJOR NON-HISTORIC ALTERATIONS: Continued

1969 Auxiliary shop/music building burns.

1970 Converted second floor of main school building into current configuration. Removed central hall plan to create larger classrooms. Converted high school into junior high school;

1971 New multi-purpose building built on west side of school.

1972 Remodeled auto shop building, east of school, into music rooms.

1977 Altered current office, remove doors to hall and installed windows, interior room alterations, and suspended ceiling installed.

1983 Removed windows on west side of gym and filled in with concrete block. Stucco over exterior of window openings.

1993 Removed lead base paint and rehabilitated existing multi-pane windows.

1994 Constructed new library building on site. Built partitions in original library on the first floor of main school building to create two classrooms and a conference room.

1996 Remodeled bathrooms to meet ADA standards.

1997 Installed wheel chair ramp on west side of auditorium and disabled parking space. Added wheel chair ramp on interior of auditorium. Re-roofed main school building.

1998 Rock climbing wall installed on west wall of "old" gymnasium.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1927 to 1942

Significant Dates

1927

1942

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Walter W. Hatch: Architect

Anderson Construction: Contr.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Hood River Co. School District

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hood River High School, erected in 1927, meets National Register Criterion "A" for its association with the development of early secondary education in Hood River, Oregon. The building was constructed three years after the Hood River high school program became accredited. The building represents the second high school built in Hood River; the original 1908 high school building was demolished in 1957. The "new" school was constructed as a result of a marked increase in the student population in the 1920s. The Hood River High School was the only high school building in Hood River County until 1951 when Wy East High School was built in the Hood River Valley.

The community backed the new high school when voters passed a bond measure in 1926 for its construction. Plans for the school building included provisions for a large auditorium, gymnasium, and playing field that would not only be used by students but by the community. After the building was completed in 1927, the facility was used extensively by the community for meetings, sports events, musical productions, and plays. The new Hood River High School also served as an important community center. The completion of the high school signifies the prosperity of the 1920s before the budget cuts of the Great Depression.

The Hood River High School is also significant under Criterion "C" as an excellent intact example of the Jacobethan style. More reminiscent of public and educational buildings in larger cities, the building displays distinct characteristic of the style in its formal massing, gable parapets, terra cotta trim details, finials, multi-pane windows, brick construction, arched openings, and its prominent site.

The building was designed by Portland architect Raymond Walter Hatch, who designed many public and educational buildings in North Central Oregon from 1915 to 1924 during his residency in Pendleton, Oregon. Hatch then moved to Portland in 1924. The Hood River High School was one of the last building Hatch designed; his career was cut short when he died of blood poisoning at age 44 in Portland. Hatch died six months after the Hood River High School was completed.

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The period of significance dates from 1927 to 1942. The start date represents the construction date of the high school and the end date represents the date of the last significant classroom additions to the school's ground floor. The areas of significance include architecture and education. The high school currently functions as a junior high, retaining its historic use as an educational facility.

HISTORIC CONTEXT: DEVELOPMENT OF HOOD RIVER

Mary and Nathaniel Coe were Hood River's first permanent Euro-American settlers, claiming 319.92 acres in 1854. The Coe home served as the community center, courthouse, church, and funeral parlor. Dependent on the river for transportation, Hood River developed slowly until 1882 when the railroad was completed on the south side of the Columbia River Gorge. The railroad connected the small river settlement with other towns across the nation. The town of Hood River was platted during the time that a commercial core developed around the railroad depot. The railroad ushered in a new period of growth; the population more than tripled from 201 people in 1890 to 622 people in 1900.

The population continued to increase after the turn of the century as the fertile Hood River Valley was developed. The completion of the Mt. Hood Railroad from Hood River up the valley to Parkdale in 1910 further improved the transportation links in the region and brought more business into Hood River. Hood River became the economic center of the Hood River Valley.

The buildings in downtown Hood River reflect the influx of wealth that occurred in the first two decades of the 20th century as the tourism, fruit, and timber industries grew. Between 1901 and 1914, half of the commercial buildings in downtown Hood River were built. These brick structures represent the second building phase in the town's history when brick buildings slowly replaced smaller wooden structures. The public library, fruit warehouses, depots, fraternal lodges, and commercial buildings were constructed during this period of rapid growth.

The next building boom occurred in the second decade of the 20th century as a result of the popularity of the automobile and the completion of the Columbia River Highway from Portland through Hood River. The automobile changed the face of Hood River as

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service stations and car dealerships were built in the mid-teens through the 1930s. Governmental buildings such as the Hood River City Hall and the U.S. Post Office were built during this period as well as numerous fruit packing, canning, and cold storage warehouse. The new Hood River High School was built in an undeveloped area southwest of the town's center during this age of the automobile.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM IN HOOD RIVER

The Hood River County Public School system was officially organized on October 28, 1865, when Wasco County School District No. 14, was created (Hood River County was part of Wasco County until 1908). District No. 14 was the predecessor of District No. 3, the current school district that includes the 1927 former Hood River High School.

The first school in Hood River opened in 1863, prior to the formal organization of District No. 14. Two years later, District No. 14 was officially organized and on November 11, 1865, the first meeting of the new school district board was held at the Coe's home in Hood River. Laban Stilwell, James M. Bensen, and T.M. Ramsdell were elected as directors, Nathaniel Coe as chairperson, and Charles Coe as clerk.

On June 16, 1866, the school board authorized the construction of a new school building on land the district purchased for \$10. The building was located around what is now 25th and Belmont streets in Hood River and cost \$206.94 to build. The first teacher in the new school, William B. Stilwell, was paid \$30 per year for his services. The building was used for three months out of the year; the length of the school year (it wasn't until the 1880s that the school year was extended to five months).

Wasco County School Superintendent, O.D. Doane, issued an order in June 1882, which divided the original District 14 into two districts; Districts Nos. 14 and 63. The eastern part of the new district, District No. 14, encompassed the developing commercial center of Hood River and the western portion, District No. 63, included the Frankton area, west of the town center.

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Plans to construct a new school in District No. 14 were underway by July 1882, near what is now downtown Hood River. Henry and Kittie Coe donated the land for the new school on March 17, 1883, and the new building was constructed on the site of the current Hood River County Courthouse (5th and State streets). In 1885, another school, Park Street School, was built as the number of students increased.

On February 11, 1890, Wasco County changed the numbering system of the districts; District No. 14 was changed to District No. 3. Other changes occurred in the education system after the turn of the century. A ninth and tenth grade was established in 1902; the first classes were held at Park Street School. In 1906, the first class of nine students graduated from the tenth grade.

A new \$35,000 school was built between 9th and 10th on May Street in 1908 to accommodate a senior high; the school was known as the first Hood River High School. By 1909, 18 student had graduated from the new school. An annex to the school was constructed in 1916 which housed an auditorium and additional classrooms. The Hood River High School was a fully accredited school by 1924.

As the number of students continued to increase, the need for a new high school building became apparent. The high school's enrollment exceeded the normal capacity of 300 by 100 students. The school board and the public began discussing the community's need for a larger and more "modern" high school" with a separate gym and auditorium, more classrooms, and better equipment. This building would not only serve as an educational facility but as a community center.

THE "NEW" HOOD RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

Plans for the new high school began in July 1924, when the school board purchased a 4.8 acre parcel of land for \$3,000 for the purpose of constructing a new high school. The property was part of William Jenkin's Donation Land Claim No. 38 and was later platted as Adams Paradise Acres. Another 4.3 acres were purchased from Leonore Adams Mortimer; bringing the total number of acres to nine for the new high school grounds.

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The water source for the site was a spring at the county's gravel pit located nearby at about 18th and Taylor streets. The water was piped from the spring, downhill to the school site. Water rights were secured in 1925.

The school district began the task of raising funds for the new school building in 1925. By early 1926, the school board and the city superintendent had allocated about \$70,000 for the new building. At the March 8, 1926 school board meeting, Portland architect Raymond Hatch presented floor plans for the proposed school (the official architect had not been chosen at this time). These plans were used to estimate a cost of the new school building.

An \$89,000 bond measure was put before the voters in May 1926, to raise the additional funds needed for the construction of the new high school. Editorials in the local papers supported the idea of the new school. One editorialist wrote in the April 4, 1926, *Hood River Glacier*:

The building would place Hood River in the front ranks of secondary education, would attract many people to come here, and make homes, bringing wealth and refinement with them. The campus grounds would make Hood River the center of interscholastic events of various kinds in the Mid-Columbia region.

Even before the bond measure was passed, the school board solicited qualifications from architects. At the April 5, 1926, school board meeting, letters from interested architects were reviewed; no architect was chosen at that time.

The voters of Hood River approved the bond measure for the construction of the \$169,000 high school building in May 1926. Four-hundred and eleven people turned out to vote; 253 voted for the bond measure and 158 against. The new high school was soon to become a reality.

A preliminary decision concerning the project architect was made at the May 6 board meeting. Three architects were interviewed, Mr. Stokes, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Hatch. On May 11, 1926, the board voted in favor of hiring architect Raymond Hatch and his \$8,236.75 contract was signed by the middle of May.

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The City Superintendent of Schools went in front of the City Council on May 20 to request the City's approval for widening May Street (in front of the new school site) from 40 feet to 60 feet. He told the Council that, "it is our aim to get our plans under way and start our excavation as soon as possible. We desire to start our construction work by mid-summer and have the new building under cover before the winter rains begin" (*Hood River Glacier*, 20 May 1926). The City deferred the decision until a later meeting.

Architect Hatch presented preliminary plans to the school board on June 2, 1926. The board discussed the plan and suggested the building be constructed of concrete with brick facing rather than hollow clay tiles as specified by Hatch. At the June 7 meeting, the board again reviewed the plans and voted to adopt Washington brick for the surfacing of the building.

Bids for the new building were solicited in August 1926. When the bids were opened, there were 14 general contractors that bid on the project, and seven heating and plumbing contractors. The low bids were awarded on September 2, 1926; the contract was awarded to Anderson Construction of Portland (\$132,789), the plumbing awarded to Sturges & Sturges (\$6,097), and the heating contractor was Rushlight Hastorf Lord Inc. (\$16,443).

The contract with Anderson Construction stipulated the auditorium was to be completed by May 1, 1927, so the graduating class of 1926-27 could use the facility for commencement. The building's completion date was stipulated as June 1, 1927. Editorials in the local paper praised the new building design as it not only served the needs of the school but the needs of the community. The auditorium, seating 1200 people, was designed to serve as a meeting space for the Hood River Valley residents and a facility for community events. An article in the September 10, 1926, edition of the *Hood River News* stated that:

The new building, which will be of concrete, faced with brick, with a clay tile roof, will contain 13 classrooms, besides an auditorium and gymnasium and other rooms and offices, and will be one of the most beautiful schools in the State of Oregon. The site for the school commands views of both Mount Hood and Mt. Adams and of the Columbia

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River and the foothills. With a plentiful supply of irrigation water, it is expected that the grounds will be maintained in a very attractive condition. The board plans to develop a splendid playing field on the north side of the big track, with special facilities for viewing the games.

By the beginning of October 1926, the excavation work was completed, footings laid, and the concrete auditorium walls formed. Work progressed rapidly on the building and in January 1927, architect Hatch requested that bids be solicited for finish hardware, 1200 auditorium opera chairs, steel lockers, stage curtains, electric light fixtures, and interior furnishings. E.A. Franz Hardware, a local business (still in operation), was given the contract for the hardware; Corbin Stanley was the hardware supplier. Plans for a bronze plaque bearing the name of the school board, the architect, and general contractor were also approved at the February meeting (currently hangs in the north entrance vestibule).

As the new high school building neared completion, architect Hatch requested an extension on the finish date at the February 21 school board meeting. The board granted the contractors a 60 day extension on the completion of the auditorium and an 30 day extension on the entire building. Rumors began circulating that the structure was unsafe. At the March school board meeting, engineer George E. Goodwin gave a report that dispelled these rumors. He stated the building could carry three or four times the expected weight, to the satisfaction of those concerned.

The final finishes were made to the school in August 1927, by the beginning of the new school year. Before the school board accepted the building, however, certain projects still had to be completed. A letter was drafted to Anderson Construction Company stating that work such as repairing the plaster, cleaning the building site, repairing the cement stairs, and cleaning the masonry had to be done before final payment was made. By the middle of August, the school board accepted the high school on behalf of the tax payers.

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The first group of students held their classes in the building on September 6, 1927. The new high school was touted as:

A beautiful building on a wide tract of land at the west end of May street, facing the slopes of Hood on the south, and Adams and the Columbia River on the north. With its tan, light red, and orange brick walls, the graceful contours of Colonial style of architecture, Gothic arched over the entrances and Tudor outlined roof, it was completed in September, 1927, and immediately occupied by a large group of enthusiastic and proud students. The new school, its large classrooms, excellent gymnasium, and wonderful auditorium proved many times the wisdom of the people of Hood River in planning for its construction.

The high school was well equipped with an auditorium that accommodated 1200, a gym that sat 1000 people, tennis courts, an athletic field, thirteen classrooms, student lockers for storage, a study hall, a library, and offices for the superintendent, the dean of women, and the class president. The building was designed with steam heat and a ventilating system which cooled each classroom. Telephones connected all the classrooms with the office and the classes were announced with an automatic bell system.

The girls and boys lockers, the janitor's rooms, the boiler room, kitchen, and storerooms were located on the ground floor. Only the south one-half of the ground floor was finished; the school was designed to accommodate future growth. The new high school accommodated 387 students the first year it opened; the 1927-28 school year.

The high school building was not only viewed as an institution of learning but a community center. Even before the building was finished, the auditorium was rented. The Chautauqua was the first group to use the auditorium for a July production. After the formal dedication, diverse groups began renting the auditorium including the Boy Scouts of America, the Men's Brotherhood of the Riverside Church, dramatic and glee clubs, the Japanese Society which brought in a Japanese soprano, the American Legion, and other civic organizations (Harlem Globe Trotters used gym, 1938).

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As the 1927-28 school year progressed, work continued on the high school and grounds. A Steinway piano was purchased for the auditorium, a tennis court fence was constructed, the grounds were landscaped, a drinking fountain was installed near the tennis courts (courtesy of the class of 1927), sidewalks were built, and problems with the roof were fixed. Near the end of the school year in April 1928, the school's architect, Raymond Hatch, died in Portland from complications from an infection at the age of 44 (see biographical information). At the time of Hatch's death, the school district was in correspondence with the contractor and Hatch over leaks in the roof that caused damage to the auditorium and gymnasium. The school board did not want to pay for expenses for fixing this problem and a law suit was filed against Anderson Construction Company. The dispute was finally resolved four years later in March 1932.

Work continued on the building into the 1930s. Interior shades were purchased, the grounds were further landscaped, more sidewalks were installed, bleachers for the athletic field were built, the attic was insulated, flood lights were purchased for the field, additional lockers, and a new hot water heater were installed, a book room and storeroom were constructed on the ground floor, and a fence was constructed around the athletic field. Some of this work was completed under the Works Progress Administration Program (WPA).

A painting around the auditorium stage was commissioned in March 1934, as part of a WPA project. The well known local artist, Percy L. Manser, was commissioned to paint the mural (Manser's career spanned the period between 1919 and 1973). The mural was dedicated in June 1934 at the commencement exercises and depicted the Barlow Trail pioneers with Native Americans, and the harvests of the Hood River Valley. Across the top of the stage a painted banner between the two paintings reads, "How Manifold Are Thy Works ... The Earth Is Full Of Thy Riches."

In 1939, discussions of adding new classrooms to the high school because of increased enrollment was initiated at the school board meetings. Since the first class graduated from the new high school in 1928, the number of students had increased from 387 students to 539 students in 1939; an increase of almost

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200 students. This increase correlates to the number of people getting married and having children after World War I. The year 1939 was the peak year of enrollment in the high school.

By the spring of 1940, the school board began the task of soliciting funds for the new classrooms. The old county garage, located directly south of the high school across May Street, was purchased for \$1,200. Plans were made to convert this structure into a manual arts and music building. Local builder L.C. Baldwin received the contract for the conversion of the building. Work started in December 1940.

The school board hired Portland architect C.N. Freeman to work on designing the additional rooms that would be added to the ground floor of the high school. These rooms included facilities for a home economics department plus an additional classroom. Completed plans for the rooms were accepted in February 1941, and the rooms were completed in July 1942. The shop/music building was completed in September 1942.

The home economics room was located on the north side of the ground floor at the east end of the hall. The other rooms completed as part of this work included a small dining and demonstration room, a sewing room, and another classroom that was used for English classes. The rooms were finished for a cost of \$10,000. About one half of all the female students enrolled in the home-ec class. The new rooms were touted in the November 7, 1942 addition of the *Hood River News* as the:

latest thing in modern designing and are finished in white and lighted with six large florescent lights. Included in the equipment are four electric ranges, two gas ranges, and a forced air drying room for drying towels and other kitchen linens. Plenty of cupboard space has been provided the culinary students with drawers being constructed underneath the all work tables and above the kitchen sinks which alternate between work benches on three sides of the room. The north side of the room is entirely devoted to windows above the sink level

The manual arts and music building (burned in 1971) was used for classes in music, wood working, plumbing, electricity, sheet metal, and welding. The building and equipping of these

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classrooms were funded in part by the National Defense Fund. The government was promoting training classes for members of the community that would be beneficial to the war effort. The program also emphasized training youths in these various professions. The music/manual arts building was used for these training classes throughout the war.

Any additional work on the building ceased during World War II. The prosperity of the 1950s/1960s brought another wave of construction projects at the school. Additional classrooms and a teacher's room were constructed along the north side of the ground floor at the west end of the hall in the 1950s. Other changes in the 1950s and 1960s included the covering the original wood floors in the halls with tiles, the installation of the sprinkling system and florescent lights, and re-roofing the building.

Changes in the school district also occurred in the 1960s. In 1961-62, the two school boards of Hood River County, District #3 (the city district) and District #1 (the county district), authorized a joint study about the feasibility of consolidating the two school districts. The report indicated there would be advantages to consolidation and on November 12, 1962, Hood River County residents voted two to one to consolidate the two districts. The unification took place on July 1, 1965. The unified district started studying their various school facilities and making recommendations for new schools and modernizing existing schools. Plans to convert the Hood River High School into a junior high began.

The burning of the music/shop building, south of the main high school, in 1969 spurred on changes to the high school building. As a result of the loss of the shop/music building, a new combination shop and gymnasium building was constructed west of the main school. The upper floor served as the "new" gym and cafeteria, and lower floor was used for shop classes. The old bus storage garage and auto shop building east of the building was converted to music rooms (1972).

Changes to the interior of the original high school were also made. The most extensive change included the reconfiguration of the second or top floor in 1970. The main east-west hall was incorporated into classrooms; the center hall was eliminated. All the ceilings were lowered and new finishes on the walls and floors

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were installed. The bottom two floors maintained the central hall plan (see list of major alterations for other changes to the structure).

The Hood River High School served the community until 1971 when the current Hood River Valley High School was completed. At that time, the 1927 high school building was converted into the Hood River Middle School. The middle school serves students in grades 6-8 from the Hood River area and enrolls approximately 404 students (January 1998). The Hood River Middle School retains its original function as an educational, social, and cultural center for the Hood River community.

HOOD RIVER HIGH SCHOOL: THE JACOBETHAN STYLE

The Jacobethan Style was based in 16th and early 17th century styles during the reigns of Elizabeth I, 1558-1603, and James I, 1603-1625 (Clark, Architecture Oregon Style). The Jacobethan style, popular in the United States in the first decades of the 20th century, was a popular period building style for many larger university and public buildings. The style was popular in Oregon from approximately 1910 to 1935.

There are only two buildings designed in the Jacobethan style in Hood River: the Hood River County Carnegie Library (built in 1913-14) and the former Hood River High School (1927). The Hood River County Library is an earlier, smaller, more modest example of the Jacobethan style; the Hood River High School is reminiscent of larger, more formal academic buildings designed in the first two decades of the 20th Century in larger cities such as Portland, Oregon. Although the two buildings were built almost fifteen years apart, they share similar characteristics of the style in their brick construction, decorative masonry trim and coping details, operable multi-pane windows, gable parapets, arched entrance portals, and formal massing.

The Hood River High School is an excellent example of the Jacobethan style; there are no other buildings constructed in this style and scale in the Columbia River Gorge. The symmetrical facades, brick construction, decorative finials, gable full height dormer bays, multi-pane windows, steep roof with decorative chimney, arched openings, and terra cotta trim are distinctive characteristics of the style.

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Constructed 71 years ago, the school is still one of the largest and most distinctive buildings in Hood River. Although the area around the school has become more developed with residential dwellings, the school still maintains an important presence in the neighborhood.

The high school has maintained the integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Only minor modifications have been made to the exterior of the building; the removal of the shed dormers and chimneys when it was re-roofed in the 1950s (re-roofed again in 1997), and the modification to the gymnasium and auditorium windows. The interior maintains a majority of the original finishes including the plaster walls with a varnished wood chair rail and picture rail, high varnished wood baseboards, tall ceilings, built-in trophy and display cases, blackboards, and built-in closets in the classrooms. The stairhalls and staircases are original and the ground and first floor central hall configuration has been retained (the second floor has been altered). The auditorium is perhaps the best preserved room in the school. Original pendant lights, wooden chairs, oak floors, balcony and stage area details, and wall murals decorate the beautiful interior of the room. The Hood River High School is a tribute to architect Raymond W. Hatch's legacy as a designer of school buildings and other public buildings in North Central Oregon.

ARCHITECT: RAYMOND WALTER HATCH

Raymond Walter Hatch began his practice in Pendleton, Oregon as a supervising architect during the construction of the Umatilla County Library. Hatch was born in 1883 in Denver, Colorado, and at the age of 19 moved to Boise, Idaho, with his parents. Hatch then attended the University of Pennsylvania's School of Architecture and graduated in 1909. He then returned to Boise and in 1910 married Nettie Bunn in Denver.

Hatch began his career in Pendleton on January 1, 1915, while working with architect Folger Johnson during the construction of the Umatilla County Public Library (listed in the National Register of Historic Places). He was issued his architectural license in 1919 under the auspices of the new Oregon State Board of Architect Examiners, via the grandfather clause for architects

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already in practice. He had his office in the Despain Building while practicing in Pendleton and lived at 415 NW Wilson (currently NW Furnish Street).

During his ten year practice in Pendleton, Hatch designed several Pendleton residences and many prominent buildings in Umatilla County including the Adams High School (1919, not in use), the Bank of Echo (1920; listed in the National Register, used as a museum), the Milton Carnegie Library (1918, still in use as a library), the McLaughlin Union High School in Milton-Freewater (1922, extant), Griswold Union High School in Helix (1923, currently used as a school), and Stanfield High School (1921, demolished). These buildings were designed in a variety of historic period styles including the Beaux Arts, Tudor, English Cottage, and Renaissance styles.

Hatch moved to Portland around 1924 to further his career, moving his office to the Henry Building. While in Portland, he served as deacon of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, one-time President of the Exchange Club (a Portland business person's luncheon club), and was a member of the Knights of Pythias.

On April 15, 1928, Raymond Hatch's career ended when he died at the age 44 of blood poisoning due to a nose infection. He left his wife Nettie, a six year old daughter, Winifred, his mother Mrs. Isabel Hatch, and his brother, A.M. Hatch of Boise. The Hood River High School was one of Hatch's last designs.

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Hood River High School
Name of Property

Hood River Co., OR
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 9.0 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

4

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 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sally Donovan

organization Donovan & Associates date 7/13/98

street & number 1615 Taylor telephone 541-386-6461

city or town Hood River state OR zip code 97031

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Hood River County School District

street & number 1020 Montello telephone 541-386-2511

city or town Hood River state OR zip code 97031

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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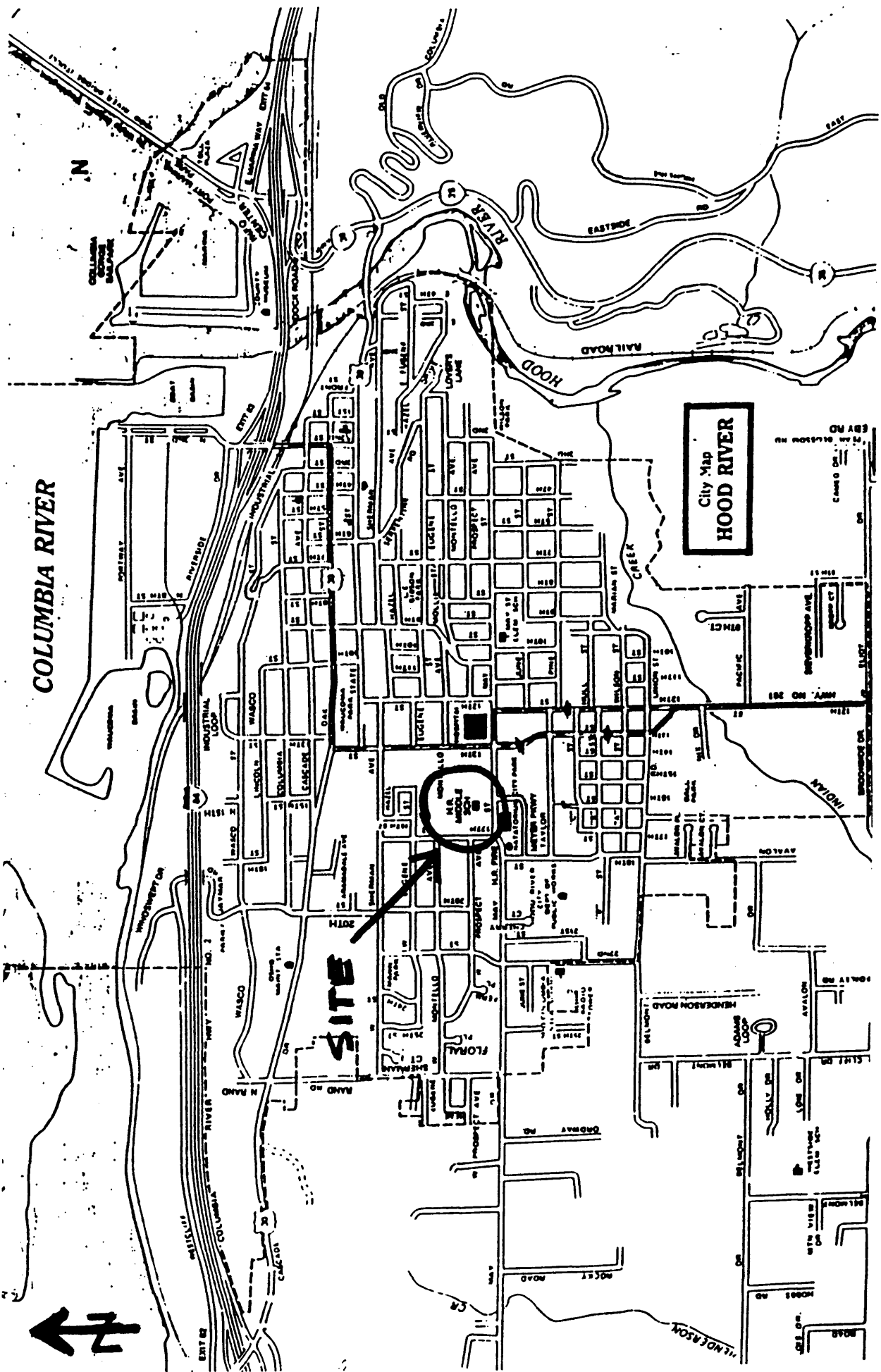
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VERBAL DESCRIPTION

The Hood River High School is located in Adams Paradise Acres in Hood River, Hood River County, Oregon, on tax lot 6500, Section 35AA, T3N, R10E, Willamette Meridian. The school is bounded on the south by May Street and the west by 17th Street.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated area encompasses the entire tax lot (tax lot 6500) that the school is located. The tax lot defines the current property boundary and the approximate historic property boundary. The lot encompasses nine acres.



COLUMBIA RIVER

City Map
HOOD RIVER

SITE



CANCEL 1102 3700 5800 600
1075 SW 10 35AA

STATE STREET

101	200	300	400	500	600	700
9	8	7	6	5	4	3
100						2
						25
						35
						36

1400	1300	1200	1100	1103	1000	800
9	8	7	6	5	4	3
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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2600	2500	2400	2300	2200	2100
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STREET

3N 10 35AA

SW Cor Reutheritz
Cor DLC No 37

See Map 3N 10 26DD

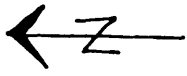
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MAY STREET

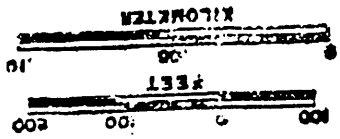
MAY STREET

See Map 3N 10 35AA



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DEPT. OF REVENUE
STATE OF OREGON

See Map 3N 10 35AB



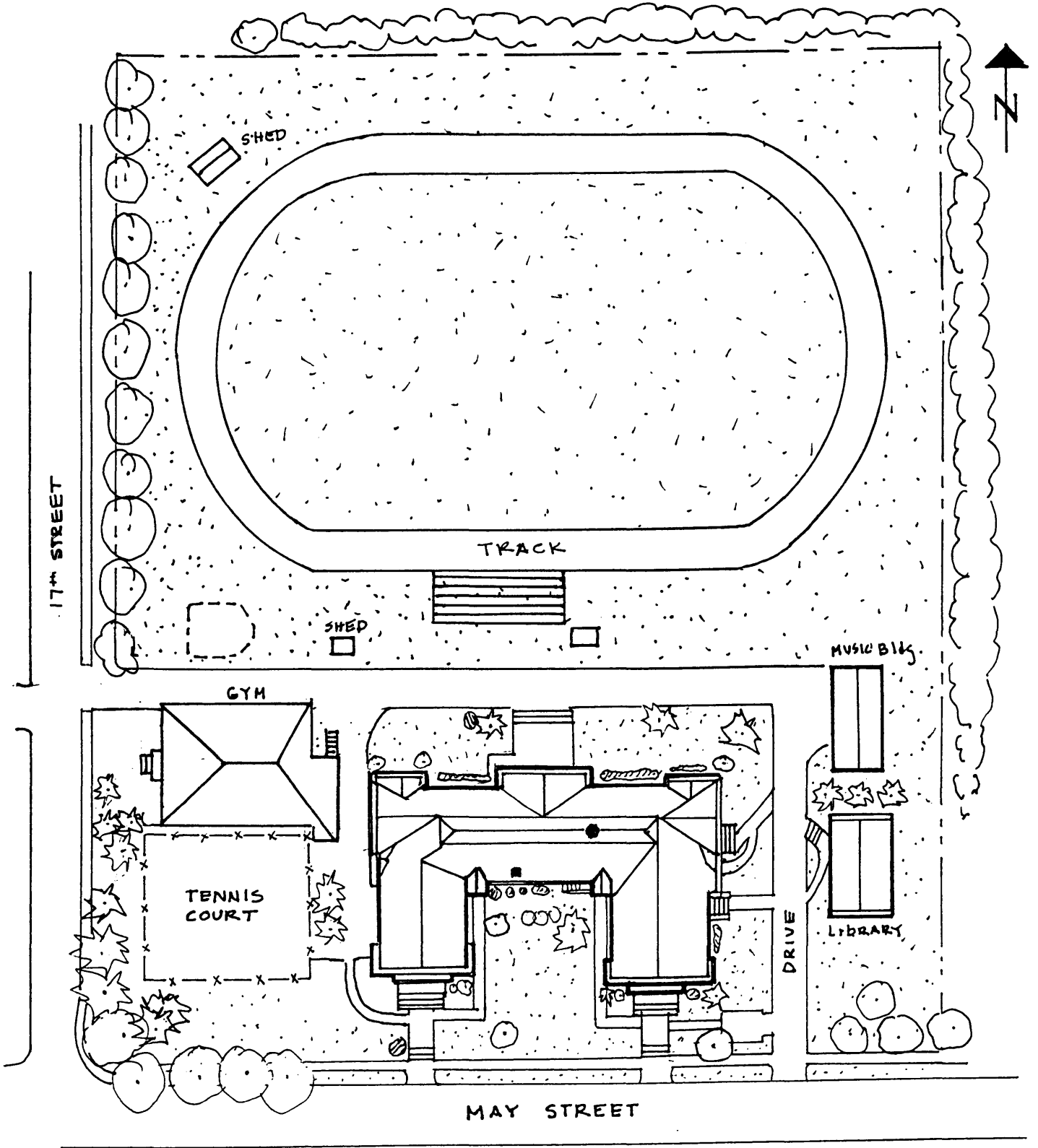
KILWATER

FEET

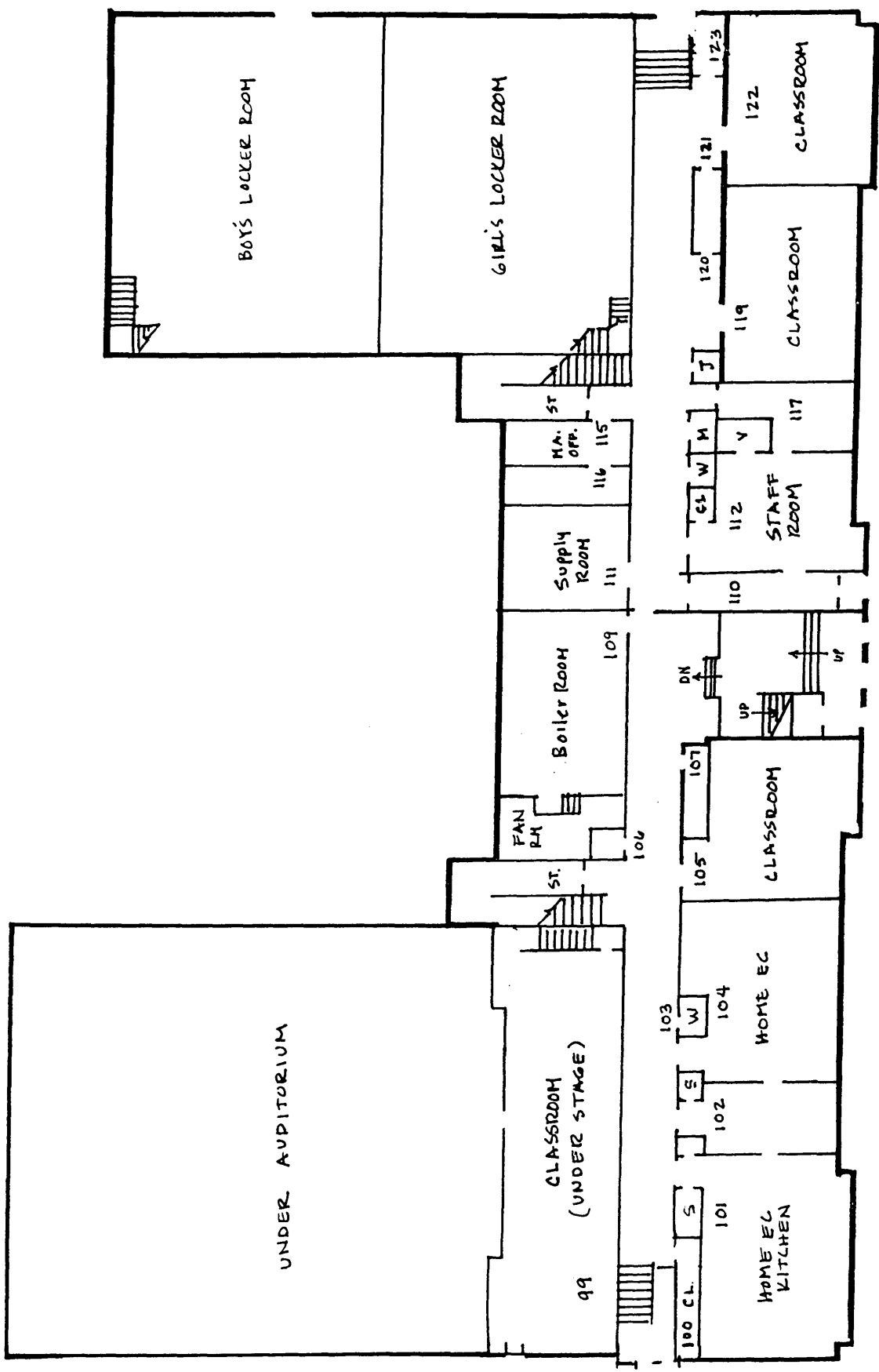
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177 STREET

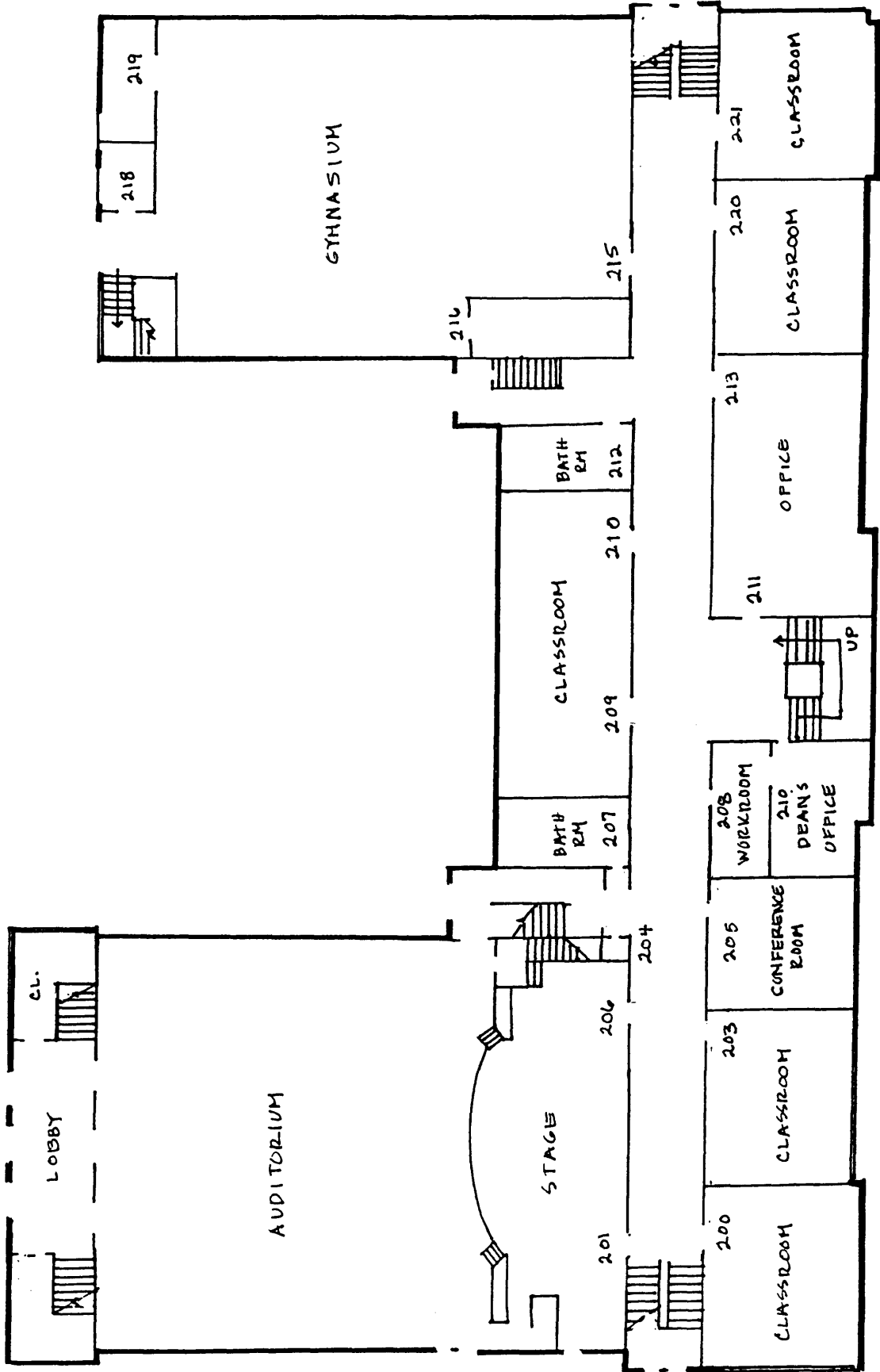
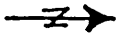
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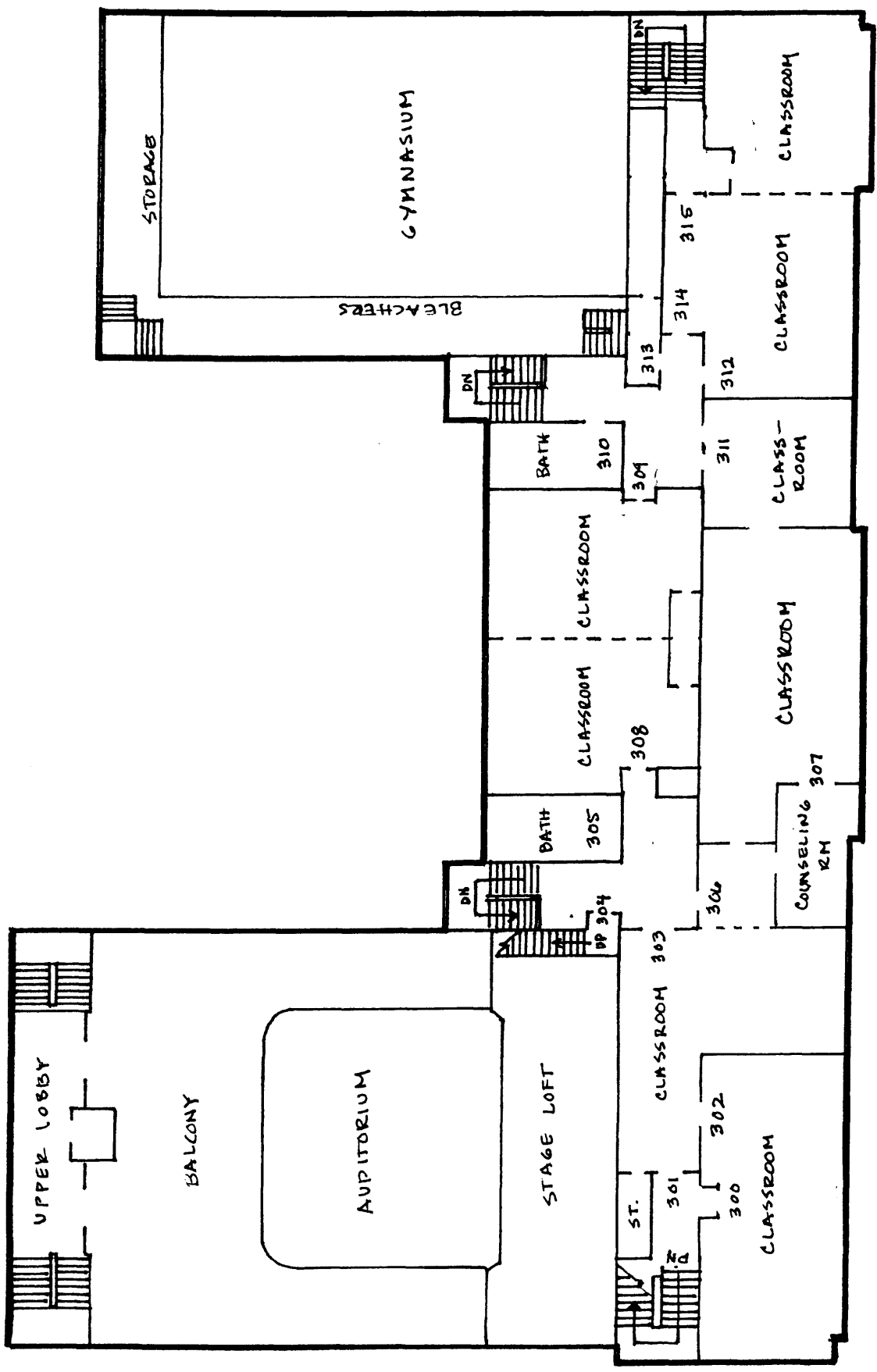
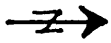
SITE PLAN



GROUND FLOOR
CURRENT PLAN
1998



FIRST FLOOR
CURRENT PLAN
1998



SECOND FLOOR
CURRENT PLAN
1998