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NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Metaline Falls School

other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 302 Park ☐ not for publication

city, town: Metaline Falls ☐ vicinity

state: Washington code: WA county: Pend Oreille code: 051 zip code:

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☐ private	☒ building(s)	2	____ buildings
☒ public-local	☐ district	____	____ sites
☐ public-State	☐ site	____	____ structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure	____	____ objects
	☐ object	2	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Jacob E. Thoe — 7/28/88

Signature of certifying official — Date

Washington State Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:) _____

Entered in the National Register — 9/8/88

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Education: School	Education: Education related facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls brick
roof wood shingle
other cast stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Metaline Falls School is a well-preserved brick schoolhouse designed by the Spokane architectural firm of Cutter and Malmgren and constructed in 1912. Located on a two acre site at the edge of the city's residential district, on a bluff 150 feet above the Pend Oreille River, the school is a two-floor, 10-classroom structure distinguished by a Neoclassical facade. The school, together with the adjacent playfield and gymnasium, is the most substantial public facility in the community and stands in marked contrast to both the surrounding natural beauty of the nearby mountains and the small scale structures of the adjacent neighborhood.

The Metaline Falls School is built on a modified T-plan, with a central gabled pavilion projecting from a perpendicular, hipped roof classroom wing. The classroom wing measures approximately 125 feet wide by 57 feet deep, while the pavilion projects 21 feet from the face of the classroom wing and measures 46 feet wide. The entire structure rests on a concrete foundation and raised basement, with upper walls constructed of low-fired local red brick laid in a Flemish bond. The school is sheltered by a hipped and gabled roof sheathed in original double course wood shingles, exposed seven inches to weather. The eaves of the roof overhang the wall by three feet, exposing rafter tails. One of the original two brick chimneys remains.

The central pavilion serves as the visual focal point and the main entrance to the school. The pavilion is dominated by a central entry set within a round-arched opening. Access is gained through double doors (non-historic) beneath a transom light. The doors are reached by a flight of eight concrete steps, leading to a concrete platform (added about 1940). The entryway is framed by cast stone pilasters with Corinthian capitals, crowned by a full entablature with architrave, frieze (inscribed with the name of the school), and dentillated cornice. Above the cornice is a fanlight with radiating muntins, set within a cast stone arch. The surrounding archivolt is ornamented with an egg and dart molding.

To either side of the entry are double hung, eight-over-eight wood frame windows, with cast stone lintels and sills, set within round arched openings. The lunette of each arch features a cast stone panel ornamented with leaves and a roundel. Above the entry at the attic level are three round headed windows framed with cast stone surrounds. The frieze of the front pavilion is decorated with a cast stone course and a band of circular and diamond shaped medallions.

The hipped roof classroom wing is perpendicular to the central pavilion, and is characterized by the expansive use of six-over-six, double hung wood frame windows. The windows are grouped in bands of four on the front facade and five on the rear. Each band of windows is unified by continuous cast stone sills, lintels, and surrounds. Beneath each

[x] See continuation sheet

window is a cast stone panel (some with air vents). A cast stone course serves as a continuous lintel for the first floor windows and articulates the horizontal divisions of the facade.

The interior of the school is organized along a T plan, with the administrative offices and library on either side of the stairway in the entry pavilion. The original staircase was replaced sometime after the school was expanded to include a high school curriculum in the 1920s. Classrooms (five on each floor) stretch out along the perpendicular wing on either side of a broad hallway (eight feet wide with 13 feet high ceilings). Each classroom measures about 32 feet by 22 feet, with a cloakroom, and is well lighted by bands of windows. The flooring of the main level is fir, the walls are plaster and lath, and the trim includes restrained picture rail moldings, chair rail moldings, blackboard trim, and window and door casings. The original plan featured movable partitions on the north end of the building, allowing the space to be used alternately as two classrooms or one large auditorium. The walls have since been made permanent (although the trusses which supported the large open space are still visible in the attic). The attic is a tall unfinished space, with exposed ceiling rafters (two feet x six feet roof rafters, 16 inches on center) and joists. The deck of the hipped roof has been sheltered by an unobtrusive metal cap.

The adjacent gymnasium, constructed in the late 1930s, rests on a concrete foundation and is constructed of brick walls with a flat roof. The plain brick facade is punctuated with double hung windows located on the upper half of the front facade. The windows are arranged in groups of three, with each group separated by projecting piers capped with cast stone trim. The entry is sheltered by a portal with a recessed double doors. The gymnasium retains good exterior integrity and retains essentially the original interior, with a large open playing court with wood floors. In the 1940s, the gymnasium and the school were connected when a small shop was constructed between the two structures. But the connecting annex does not seriously detract from the original historic character of the property.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Education	1912-1938	N/A
Architecture		

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: Kirkland Cutter and Karl Malmgrem

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Distinguished by an imposing Neoclassical facade and sturdy brick construction, the Metaline Falls School is closely associated with the development of education and community life in the small Pend Oreille County town. The structure was the first and, until 1956, only public school in Metaline Falls, served both primary and high school students, and was the site of numerous town meetings and community events. Designed by the Spokane architectural firm of Cutter and Malmgren, and constructed in 1912, the building is the finest example of civic architecture in town.

The town of Metaline Falls was platted in 1910 by miner, metallurgist, industrialist, and promoter Lewis Larson. Born in Denmark in 1876, Larson came to the United States in 1895, and explored the remote Metaline area around the north Pend Oreille river as early as 1904. Attracted by its mineral resources, Larson successfully promoted the area; by 1911, he had attracted the Idaho and Washington Northern Railroad, organized the Pend Oreille Mines and Metals Company, induced the Inland Cement Company to establish a plant, incorporated the Metaline Falls Light and Water Company, and founded the Larson Realty company. Larson's ambitions for the community were grand, reflected in the scale of the hotel (Washington Hotel; National Register, 1979) and office building he constructed. The new school was also larger than typical of a small community, but the design could accommodate the growth that Larson and others envisioned.

In selecting architects Cutter and Malmgren, Pend Oreille School District # 2 chose a firm that had recently designed Larson's own residence in Metaline Falls (National Register, 1979). Kirtland Cutter and Karl Malmgren were partners in the most prominent architectural firm in Eastern Washington in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Their commissions included large scale commercial structures like the Davenport Hotel (National Register, 1975), industrial facilities like the Washington Water Power Company power station, and houses and estates for the leading entrepreneurs of the Inland Empire (including homes for A.B. Campbell (National Register, 1976), J.P. Graves (National Register eligible, 1985), John Finch (National Register, 1976) and Patrick Clark (National Register, 1976). The house for Larson, designed in 1910, reflects a rustic cottage idiom appropriate to the rural setting. For the school, however, the firm designed a Neoclassical brick and concrete structure, a design that seems scaled to a much larger community. The school is one of only three schoolhouses in Washington State known to have been designed by the firm. (The others are in Spokane and Walla Walla.)

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Reports to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, (State Architves: Olympia, 1912-1938.

Drawings including elevations, sections, and plans, available at Cutter Collection, Eastern Washington Historical Society, Spokane.

☐ See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2 acres

Quadrangle Name: Pend Oreille Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	11	472580	5411860
B			
C			
D			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

All of Block D and Lots 31-35, Metaline Falls.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the school.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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organization Office of Archaeology & Historic Pres. date April 1988
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As built in 1912, the new school included three classrooms on the main floor as well as an additional two classrooms that could be converted, when the partitions were removed, to an auditorium. The school also housed a library and offices, and had an unfinished basement capable of accommodating additional classrooms. Initially, the school served grades one through eight, and all students were taught by a single teacher. In the 1920s, however, as the student body expanded, high school students (who had been attending school in Spokane, where they boarded for the winter) were taught in the five lower level classrooms. In the late 1930s, the school district constructed a brick gymnasium on the grounds, which has remained in continuous use.

As with schools in other small towns, the Metaline Falls School was more than just a classroom. The building was a center of civic life. Town meetings and community groups used the building on a regular basis and at least one congregation (the Metaline Falls United Church of Christ) held its first meeting in the school shortly after construction. In the 1950s, a new elementary school was constructed across the street, and the Metaline Falls School continued to serve high school students until the 1960s when consolidation led to the removal of the high school curriculum. After that time, the school was a junior high until closed to students altogether in 1974. Today, the property is maintained by the Selkirk School District. The schoolhouse is used for storage and the gymnasium is still used for athletic events.