

SEP 12 1985

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

NOMINATION: Kootenai County Rural Schools thematic group

SITE NAME: McGuires School

SITE NUMBER: 2

LOCATION: approximately 200 feet north of the northwest corner of Corbin Road and Old Highway 10.

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: John L. O'Neill, et al.  
1801 Manitou  
Boise, ID 83706

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Post Falls, 7.5' ACREAGE: about 1.4 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: McGuires School and the property on which it stands, beginning at a point 300' north of the southeast corner of Lot 29, Greenacres Plat, Kootenai County; thence east 255'; thence north 240'; thence west 255'; thence south 240' to point of beginning.

UTM(S): 11/505920/<sup>5375700</sup>~~527700~~

DATE OR PERIOD: ca. 1907

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, exploration/settlement

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: fair to good, original site, altered

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTORY BUILDINGS: 1

DESCRIPTION:

McGuires school is one of the large and expressively designed schoolhouses in the thematic group. It is a square building, approximately 50 by 60 feet, covered by a wood-shingled hipped roof. The building's exterior wall surfaces are covered with an attractive veneer of native cobblestone. The north and south facades are broken by pedimented pavilions; the front (east) facade is dominated by a more massive pedimented pavilion topped with an unusual open, dome-roofed belfry that was added after some time the building was constructed.

McGuires School is most akin to the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Its rough stone texture conveys an overall sense of heaviness, and it has comparatively deep window reveals and entry door openings, massive pedimented pavilions with round-arched entryways, bands of straight-topped windows, and a relatively broad roof plane.

The building includes a raised basement, which housed the furnace and several storage rooms, and a first floor. The latter was partitioned into two teaching rooms on one side of a center hallway and a gymnasium on the other.

Aside from the addition of a small marquee to the front porch roof, the building exterior does not appear to have been altered. The schoolhouse is in fair condition.

SIGNIFICANCE:

McGuires School is significant for its association with early development in the McGuires district. The incorporation of several characteristic features of the Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture also lends significance to the building as an example of one of several stylistic modes from which Kootenai County rural schoolhouse design has been drawn.

McGuires School is situated in the county's West Prairie study unit. During the period 1890 to 1935, fifteen different schoolhouse buildings were in use at one time or another in the study unit. In 1985, only the McGuires School and Pleasant View School II are still standing.

McGuires School is located on the Rathdrum Prairie, about one mile north of the Spokane River and three miles east of the Washington-Idaho state line. The McGuires area lay north of the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation boundary and was therefore legally accessible to white entry at an early date. The area's open prairie, exceedingly rocky soil, and absence of timber did not favor extensive settlement until after the first years of the twentieth century, when several thousand acres of five- and ten-acre irrigated farm tracts were developed and a stop on the electric interurban railroad between Spokane and Coeur d'Alene was established in the district. Within only a few years after these events a thriving farming community devoted largely to fruit orchards and vegetable gardening developed.

McGuires School, built about 1907, was the first and only schoolhouse to serve this community until about 1950 when the countywide school consolidation movement was well under way. Even then, the school was kept in service by the Post Falls School District as a place of instruction for some grades until about 1960.

McGuires School's architectural design is noteworthy for several reasons. Of the approximately 130 schoolhouses recorded in the rural school survey, McGuires School is apparently the only building with an exterior veneer made of cobblestone. (The use of cobblestone is not typical of other study units in the county but is a characteristic of several additional buildings in the McGuires community. Cobblestone is abundant in the area due to glacial rock deposited by the Spokane Floods.) Also, the stone facade, with its massive pedimented pavilions, unique domed belfry, recessed doorway, and fan transom light, make the building one of the most sophisticated designs in the thematic group. Finally, the building's large dimensions, comprising approximately 3,000 square feet, makes it the second largest of the schools surveyed. Aside from its associations with the initial white settlement of the McGuires community and its noteworthy architectural style, the McGuires School's prominent location on the open prairie has made it a well-known landmark to most residents of the greater Spokane Valley.