

AUG 14 1985  
SEP 12 1985

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

NOMINATION: Kootenai County Rural Schools thematic group

SITE NAME: Rose Lake School II

SITE NUMBER: 6

LOCATION: Northwest corner of Queen Street and State Highway 3, Rose Lake

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Kootenai School District #274  
Harrison, ID 83833

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Kingston, 7.5'

ACREAGE: 3.61 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nomination includes the Rose Lake School and the property on which it stands, Block 3, Town of Rose Lake, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/539700/5264975

DATE OR PERIOD: ca. 1914

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, exploration/settlement

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: fair, original site, altered

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTORY BUILDINGS: 2

NON-CONTRIBUTORY: 1

DESCRIPTION:

Rose Lake School II is one of the large and expressively designed schoolhouses in the thematic group. It is a rectangular wood-frame building, approximately 54 by 63 feet, with front and rear entry wings and an attached lunchroom building. The roof and front (south) porch configuration of the main classroom building are reminiscent of the bungalow/Colonial Revival style residence that was widely popular at the time the school was constructed.

A gently pitched east-west running ridged-hip roof with swept windowless dormers centered on the lower third of the north, east, and west slopes covers the main building. Over the front entry wing is a second hipped roof that intersects the main roof ridge and eaves several feet lower on the vertical plane. A smaller, more steeply pitched gable-roofed dormer with a decorative paneled fan centered on the gable end rises over the front entry. An open balustraded belfry is offset toward the front of the gable ridge and a brick chimney toward the back. A fourth roof line is formed by a shed roof extending over both the front porch and the enclosed hallway leading to the lunchroom building. All roof surfaces are covered with asphalt roll roofing.

The paneled and multi-lighted entry door is surmounted by a three-pane transom light and is encased within a projecting three-sided bay. Double-hung multi-paned windows flanking the entry door match three similar windows on the building's front exposure. About two-thirds of the main building's east and west facades are covered by multiple panels of single sash double-hung windows. A rear hip-roofed entry wing and small gable-roofed open porch are centered on the building's north facade. Both the classroom and the lunchroom building are clad with painted clapboard siding. The classroom building is in fair condition.

The first Rose Lake schoolhouse was built around the turn of the century about one-quarter mile northeast of the present school site. After the present school was built, the first school was acquired by the county road department and moved to the north bank of the Coeur d'Alene River, where it was used as a garage. The building still stands today, although subsequent alterations have rendered it ineligible for National Register listing. Rose Lake School II was built around 1914 when the town was bustling with sawmill activity. Later, a second detached one-room school building was erected on the school grounds to accommodate a surplus of students in the lower grades. This building was moved from the school yard about 1957 and was converted to a garage. The school gymnasium building was constructed on the school grounds in the 1930's; the lunchroom building was added in the 1950's.

Rose Lake School II is the only schoolhouse in either the thematic group and the county-wide survey that continues to be used as a schoolhouse. In the past year an attempt was made to discontinue use of the building for school purposes and bus the Rose Lake area students to the Harrison Flats area, about ten miles to the southwest. However, the consolidation effort--which would have been the last in the county's fifty-year rural school consolidation movement--failed because the enabling bond levy was defeated.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

Rose Lake School II is significant for its historic association with the initial development of the Rose Lake community. The building is also significant as the clearest example of the influence of bungalow/Colonial style architecture on Kootenai County rural schoolhouse design.

Rose Lake School II is situated in the Upper Coeur d'Alene River study unit. Of eight schoolhouses that have been identified in the study unit, this is the only building that has survived with sufficient architectural integrity to be eligible for the National Register.

Rose Lake School II is located off Idaho Highway 3 near the north bank of the Coeur d'Alene River about midway between Rose Lake and Bull Run Lake. The Rose Lake area was within the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation until Congressional ratification of the Treaty of 1889. In late 1889 the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company inaugurated railroad service through the district. Shortly thereafter homesteaders and lumbermen were drawn to the area by the fertile bottomlands adjacent to the lakes and river and the extensive stands of white pine timber. After the turn of the century a townsite was platted and Rose Lake became an important mill town for a quarter of a century.

In 1910 a large band sawmill, capable of producing well over twenty million board feet of lumber annually, was erected. The mill cut white pine almost exclusively until it was closed in 1928 because of deteriorating market conditions and a growing shortage of the species. After the decline of the mill, the Rose Lake area became predominantly agricultural in orientation. Today about two dozen families continue to reside at the Rose Lake townsite, although no commercial activity remains.