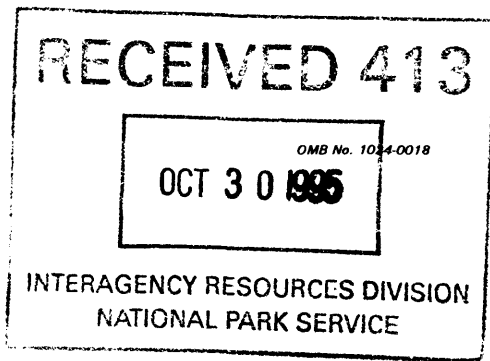


1402



NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10/90)

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any 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 Priest River High School  
 other names/site number Priest River Junior High School

### 2. Location

street & number 1020 West Albeni Highway n/a not for publication  
 city or town Priest River n/a vicinity  
 state Idaho code ID county Bonner code 017 zip code 83856

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments. )

Robert M. Yohe II 10/19/95  
 Signature of certifying official Date  
Robert M. Yohe II, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
 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 commenting or other official 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 12.7.95

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Property Name Priest River High School

County and State Bonner County, Idaho

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a

Public School Buildings in Idaho

**6. Functions or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: school

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: school

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Moderne

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation CONCRETE

walls CONCRETE

roof ASPHALT

other n/a

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Property Name Priest River High School

County and State Bonner County, Idaho

**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.) n/a

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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.)

Architecture

Education

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1939-1941

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1940, 1941

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

Pehrson, Gustav Albin

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

Property Name Priest River High School

County and State Bonner County, Idaho

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): none  
\_\_\_ 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:  
X State Historic Preservation Office  
\_\_\_ Other State agency  
\_\_\_ Federal agency  
\_\_\_ Local government  
\_\_\_ University  
\_\_\_ Other  
Specify repository:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property c. 1.75

UTM References

1	<u>1/1</u>	<u>5/0/6/1/4/0</u>	<u>5/3/3/6/2/0/0</u>	3	<u>/ /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>/ /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>	4	<u>/ /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>

\_\_\_ 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 Nancy F. Renk, Contract Historian  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date April 20, 1995  
street & number 8500 Sunnyside Road telephone 208-263-7697  
city or town Sandpoint, Idaho state ID zip code 83864

**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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Bonner County School District  
street & number 1123 Lake Street, Suite 2 telephone 208-263-2184  
city or town Sandpoint state ID zip code 83864

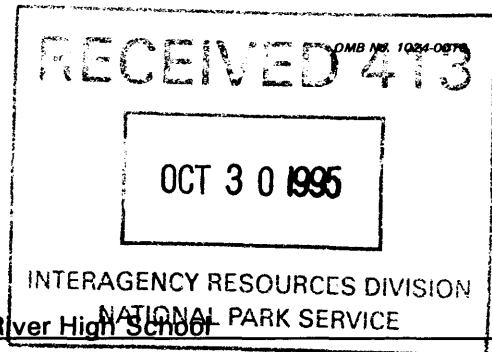
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Name of Property Priest River High School

County and State Bonner County, Idaho



### Narrative Description:

The Priest River High School is an excellent example of the simple Art Moderne style of architecture that characterized many of the buildings designed and built by the Work Projects Administration during the 1930s and early 1940s. The school building is set on a large flat lot that is landscaped primarily with grass and a few trees. A semicircular asphalt drive passes in front of the school building. The classroom section of the building has a tall raised basement, full first story, and a second story in the center section only. Wings set back on either end contain the auditorium and gymnasium. The horizontal lines of the poured-concrete structure are emphasized by long bands of windows, horizontal grooves in the walls, and flat roof lines. The central entrance is reached by a long flight of poured-concrete stairs. Although most of the window openings in the side and rear walls have been filled in recent years, the school remains remarkably unchanged since its construction in 1940-1941, and the completion of the auditorium in 1952.

The Priest River High School sits on the north side of U.S. Highway 2 on the western edge of town. The large grassy lot allows a generous setback from the busy road. The track and playing fields are located to the rear of the lot, while a later manual arts building and a newer classroom are set to the west. An unpaved parking lot is located at the eastern end of the school, next to the gymnasium.

Built in three stages, the school is U-shaped in plan. The center classroom section has a full raised basement and first story topped with a second story in the center section only. Two side wings, containing the gymnasium and auditorium, are stepped back from the symmetrical facade.

The horizontal lines of the facade are broken in the center with a slightly outset bay and its long flight of concrete steps to the recessed first-story entry. Access is through a pair of double doors topped with transoms. In addition, this entry bay features three tall, narrow windows topped with small square windows on the second-story level. Crowning the top of the bay is a slightly outset panel containing three round medallions.

The overall design of the school features strong horizontal lines rather than vertical divisions. The facade contains three rows of evenly spaced, multi-light, metal-frame windows that form one of the dominant design features. Deep grooves at regular intervals in the concrete walls further emphasize the horizontal lines. Finally, flat roof lines with contrasting dark tile capping the parapet walls continue the horizontal design.

The exterior wall structure of the Priest River High School is poured concrete, from the footings to the roof line. Deep horizontal grooves at regular intervals provide the only decoration; the spacing

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Name of Property Priest River High School  
County and State Bonner County, Idaho

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of the grooves is closer on the classroom section than on the gymnasium and auditorium wings. Stylized Art Deco lettering is used to designate "GYMNASIUM" and "AUDITORIUM" above the entrances to these two wings.

The building interior remains little altered over the half century of use. The school features wide central hallways with classrooms and school offices to either side; the first-story hall is lined with built-in metal lockers. The original poured-concrete floor is carpeted in the first-story hallway and exposed in the second story; classrooms have hardwood floors. Walls are plastered, while the high ceilings are plastered in some areas and covered with acoustical tile in others. Original wooden doors and wood trim remain unchanged. There are two stairwells to provide access to all three levels of use. The school district hopes to provide handicapped access in the near future but has not yet decided on a plan.

A one-story, concrete-block addition is attached to the eastern wall of the gymnasium wing. With its modest scale, flat roof line, and similar materials, it makes an unobtrusive addition to the original building.

The most significant alteration to the school building is the removal of windows and the subsequent filling of the original openings. All side and rear windows in the gymnasium and auditorium have been removed, along with most of the rear windows in the classroom section. A few of these remain to provide a minimum of natural lighting for each room. These changes were made as part of energy conservation measures. All filled openings are stuccoed on the exterior.

The school grounds contain other buildings, including a yellow brick shop building constructed ca. 1953, a new single classroom unit of pebble-panel construction, three sheds, and a boxcar. None of these dates from the period of significance, and thus all have been excluded from the boundaries.

In 1977 a new high school was constructed. As a result, Priest River High School was converted to a junior high and reopened as Priest River Junior High in January 1978. It continues to be used as a junior high school.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 Name of Property Priest River High School  
County and State Bonner County, Idaho

### Narrative Statement of Significance:

The Priest River High School is significant within the context of public education in Idaho, and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C as a public building designed and built under the auspices of the Work Projects Administration. As such, it is a good example of a public school dating from the fourth period of Idaho school buildings, 1930 to 1947. The school exhibits the simple Art Moderne style typical of many WPA projects, with poured-concrete walls, flat roof, and horizontal bands of multi-light, metal-frame windows. The building retains its original massing and facade as well as the central hall plan of the interior. More than fifty years after its construction, it still serves the people of Priest River as a school building as well as a lasting legacy of the WPA.

Idaho and other western states benefitted extensively from New Deal programs during the depression of the 1930s. The state's economy had faltered long before this, however. Encouraged by high prices and a feeling of patriotism, agriculture, mining, and the timber industry all expanded during World War I. The brief boom was followed by collapse, however, and Idaho headed into depression by 1921, never regaining strength before the even more severe depression hit in the next decade. Federal expenditures of \$321 million between 1933 and 1939 helped Idaho on the road to recovery; nearly \$23 million of this went to the WPA.<sup>1</sup>

Close to eighty schools in Idaho were built with funds expended mostly by the Works Progress Administration. By early 1939, the northern Idaho towns of Cataldo, Hayden Lake, Osburn, Plummer, and Rathdrum had new schools; Bonners Ferry, Clark Fork, and Post Falls paid for school additions; and Kellogg and Sagle schools built new gymnasiums.<sup>2</sup> The federal agency changed its name to Work Projects Administration in 1939 and continued to fund a variety of construction projects until it shut down in 1943.

Bonner County, with its dependence on the timber industry, faced hard times during the depression. Like neighboring towns, Priest River became well acquainted with federal aid programs. In addition to thirteen CCC camps operating in western Bonner County, the town received money to construct a new city hall.<sup>3</sup> A few years later, when faced with the need for a new high school, residents once again turned to Washington, D. C. for help. A federal grant of \$32,000, matched by \$58,000 from a local bond election in October 1939, gave patrons of Independent School District No. 13 the opportunity to construct a new school, one with adequate classroom space for manual arts and home economics programs deemed necessary for high school students.<sup>4</sup>

Architect G. A. Pehrson worked primarily in Spokane, Washington, where he designed some of the city's landmark buildings. Known for a wide range of styles, Pehrson's credits include the 1924

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2 Name of Property Priest River High School  
County and State Bonner County, Idaho

Italian Renaissance Revival Chancery Building, the 1929 Spanish and Moorish Paulsen Center, the 1930 Art Deco Rookery Building, and the 1939 Art Moderne Victor Dessert home.<sup>5</sup> He continued in this last style with his design for the Priest River High School.

Despite approval of federal funds and the school bond, work progressed slowly on the new school. The school board did not select a site until late October when they agreed to buy a ten-acre tract near the western edge of town. A month later, a crew of twenty-five men began work clearing stumps and excavating the basement. Although most of the footings were poured in January 1940, a shortage of carpenters hampered the project, and construction of forms took longer than expected. Crews poured the basement walls in April and had completed the upper-story walls by mid-July. Work picked up and the school was completed in time for the grand opening on September 30, 1940, when students marched in a parade from the old school to the new building.<sup>6</sup>

As workmen were finishing up details on the classroom section, other crews began work on the gymnasium, which had been approved for federal funding in August 1940. Timbers for the roof were salvaged from a storage shed at the defunct Humbird lumber mill in Sandpoint. Work progressed steadily through the following spring and summer on the floors, roof, fire walls, and interior finish work. Local residents celebrated the completion of the new gym with a dedication dance on November 1, 1941.<sup>7</sup>

Before the gym was completed, the school board decided to continue with the third phase of the project, constructing the auditorium. WPA officials informed the local school board in September 1941 that \$1100 remained in project funds for materials, along with enough man-hours to finish the auditorium. Construction was underway that month, with footings poured by mid-October. Work evidently halted within a short while, however, possibly because of the United States' entry into World War II. Building resumed more than ten years later following the original plans, and the auditorium was completed in December 1952.<sup>8</sup>

The school retains a high degree of integrity. The massing, roof lines, and exterior materials remain unchanged, as does the facade. Most of the windows have been removed from the west, north, and east walls, however, and the openings have been filled in and stuccoed on the exterior, all a part of an energy savings campaign in the 1980s. Since the building remains a public school, the interior has changed little over the years.



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3 Name of Property Priest River High School  
County and State Bonner County, Idaho

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### Endnotes

1. Arrington, Leonard J. "Idaho and the Great Depression." Idaho Yesterdays 13 (Summer 1969): 3, 5.
2. Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, Projects and Statistics Division. "Alphabetical Index to Non-Federal Projects." February 8, 1939: 25-27.
3. Hudson et al. Appendix E, CCC Camps in North Idaho through December, 1940. In A Cultural Resource Overview for the Colville and Idaho Panhandle National Forests and the Bureau of Land Management - Spokane and Coeur d'Alene Districts. Vol. I. Sandpoint, Idaho: Cultural Resource Consultants, Inc., 1981, pp. 364-367; Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, Projects and Statistics Division, "Alphabetical Index to Non-Federal Projects," February 8, 1939, p. 26.
4. "Reasons Why We Should Vote For This New Building Next Saturday," Priest River Times, 5 October 1939, 1:2-4.
5. William R. Hottell. "Building Respect: Architect Pehrson deserves recognition," Spokesman-Review, 3 September 1993: D-1.
6. "Work on School May Be Started By November 6th," Priest River Times, 26 October 1939, 1:1; "WPA Officials Visit Here In Interest of New School," Priest River Times, 25 January 1940, 1:5; "High School News," Priest River Times, 11 April 1940, 1:2; "Ground Cleared For H. S. Football Field," Priest River Times, 8 August 1940, 1:3; "Program, Parade Marks Opening Of New High School," Priest River Times, 3 October 1940, 1:1.
7. "2nd Project For High School Approved," Priest River Times, 29 August 1940, 1:1; "Funds Are Available To Complete Gymnasium," Priest River Times, 20 February 1941, 1:5; "High School Project Is Started Thursday," Priest River Times, 13 March 1941, 1:5; "Work On High School Gym Is Progressing Steadily," Priest River Times, 1 May 1941, 1:1; "Pouring of Fire Walls on Gym is Started Today," Priest River Times, 5 June 1941, 1:6; "Work On Gymnasium Is Progressing Smoothly," Priest River Times, 26 June 1941, 1:2; "High School Gym Is Now Entirely Enclosed," Priest River Times, 14 August 1941, 1:3; "Gym Dedication Dance Draws Record Crowd," Priest River Times, 6 November 1941, 1:4.
8. "Construction Of Auditorium Is Under Way," Priest River Times, 25 September 1941, 1:6; "Gymnasium To Be Ready For Dedication Dance," Priest River Times, 23 October 1941, 1:4; "Priest River School News," Priest River Times, 18 December 1952.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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County and State Bonner County, Idaho

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### Bibliography:

#### Miscellaneous

Arrington, Leonard J. "Idaho and the Great Depression." Idaho Yesterdays 13 (Summer 1969:2-8.

Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, Projects and Statistics Division. "Alphabetical Index to Non-Federal Projects." February 8, 1939: 25-27.

Hottell, William R. "Building Respect: Architect Pehrson deserves recognition." Spokesman-Review, 3 September 1993: D-1.

Hudson, Lorelea, Sharon Boswell, Caroline D. Carley, Wayne Choquette, Christian Miss, David H. Chance, and Michael A. Stamper. A Cultural Resource Overview for the Colville and Idaho Panhandle National Forests and the Bureau of Land Management - Spokane and Coeur d'Alene Districts. Vol. I. Sandpoint, Idaho: Cultural Resource Consultants, Inc., 1981.

#### Articles from Priest River Times

"Vote on Bond Issue Oct. 7th." Priest River Times, 28 September 1939, 1:3-4.

"Reasons Why We Should Vote For This New Building Next Saturday." Priest River Times, 5 October 1939, 1:2-4.

"School Bond Election Carries By Large Vote." Priest River Times, 12 October 1939, 1:1.

"Work on School May Be Started By November 6th." Priest River Times, 26 October 1939, 1:1.

"Construction of New High School Building Now Under Way." Priest River Times, 30 November 1939, 1.

"WPA Officials Visit Here In Interest of New School." Priest River Times, 25 January 1940, 1:5.

"High School News." Priest River Times, 11 April 1940, 1:2.

"Mears Awarded Bid to Furnish Roofing Material." Priest River Times, 11 July 1940, 1:1.

"New School Ready In Early September." Priest River Times, 18 July 1940, 1:4.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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County and State Bonner County, Idaho

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- "Paul Mears Is Low Bidder On School Contract." Priest River Times, 25 July 1940, 1:6.
- "Ground Cleared For H. S. Football Field." Priest River Times, 8 August 1940, 1:3.
- "2nd Project For High School Approved." Priest River Times, 29 August 1940, 1:1.
- "Plans Complete For Opening Of New High School." Priest River Times, 26 September 1940, 1:2-5.
- "Program, Parade Marks Opening Of New High School." Priest River Times, 3 October 1940, 1:1.
- "Contract Is Let For Gymnasium Timbers." Priest River Times, 5 December 1940, 1:6.
- "Funds Are Available To Complete Gymnasium." Priest River Times, 20 February 1941, 1:5.
- "High School Project Is Started Thursday." Priest River Times, 13 March 1941, 1:5.
- "Work On High School Gym Is Progressing Steadily." Priest River Times, 1 May 1941, 1:1.
- "Pouring of Fire Walls on Gym is Started Today." Priest River Times, 5 June 1941, 1:6.
- "Work On Gymnasium Is Progressing Smoothly." Priest River Times, 26 June 1941, 1:2.
- "High School Gym Is Now Entirely Enclosed." Priest River Times, 14 August 1941, 1:3.
- "Construction Of Auditorium Is Under Way." Priest River Times, 25 September 1941, 1:6.
- "Gymnasium To Be Ready For Dedication Dance." Priest River Times, 23 October 1941, 1:4.
- "Gym Dedication Dance Draws Record Crowd." Priest River Times, 6 November 1941, 1:4.
- "Priest River School News." Priest River Times, 18 December 1952.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1 Name of Property Priest River High School  
County and State Bonner County, Idaho

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### Verbal Boundary Description:

The Priest River High School is set on a portion of Tax 41 in the SE 1/4 SE 1/4, Section 23, Township 56 North, Range 5 West, Boise Meridian. The boundaries form a rectangle with the following four sides: The south side is the northern edge of U.S. Highway 2, known as the Albeni Falls Road; the east side is set twenty feet outside the eastern wall of the gymnasium addition; the north side is set twenty feet outside the northern walls of the gymnasium and auditorium; the west side is set twenty feet outside the western wall of the auditorium.

### Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the school building and the front lawn that sets the building off from the highway. It excludes excess open areas as well as later buildings and outbuildings that are not from the period of significance.