

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000417

Date Listed: 5/5/92

North Side School  
Property Name

Boundary                      ID  
County                              State

Public School Buildings in Idaho MPS  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for* *Barbara A. Lee*  
Signature of the Keeper

5/8/92  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**Function or Use:** Under current function, the nomination is amended to read: work in progress.

This information was confirmed with Don Watts of the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS Form 10-9000  
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: North Side School/ 006259

other name/site number: Burkholder, Jim and Ruth house

2. Location

street & number: 218 W. Commanche

not for publication: n/a

city/town: Bonnors Ferry

vicinity: n/a

state: ID county: Boundary code: 021 zip code: 83805

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u>	buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: Public School Buildings in Idaho

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.

Thomas J. Luer Signature of certifying official 3-19-92 Date

Idaho 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 Autumneth A. Rice 5/5/92  
 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): \_\_\_\_\_

for Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: EDUCATION Sub: school

Current : DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Classical Revival

Other Description: n/a

Materials: foundation concrete roof asphalt  
walls brick other terra cotta

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : n/a

Areas of Significance: education  
architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1914-1942

Significant Dates : 1914

Significant Person(s): n/a

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: Keith and Whitehouse  
Cox, J. G.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): n/a

- 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: 1 acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>11</u>	<u>550480</u>	<u>5394470</u>	B	___	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___	___

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Lot 19 of Waterman's Acres

Boundary Justification:  See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Elizabeth Egleston, State Architectural Historian

Organization: Id. State Hist. Presv. Office    Date: 1/5/92

Street & Number: 210 Main Street    Telephone: (208) 334-3861

City or Town: Boise    State: ID Zip: 83702

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   7   North Side School, Bonners Ferry, ID Page 1  
=====

The North Side School is a two-story brick structure that sits on a high basement. It is located on a hill in a residential neighborhood, and overlooks the town of Bonners Ferry, the Kootenai River and the Purcell and Cabinet mountain ranges. The school has a flat roof with a curved parapet over the entrance bay. The foundation is concrete.

The school was planned so that an additional wing could later be constructed that would be compatible with the original building. Such an addition, however, was never constructed, and thus the school has a lopsided appearance, unusual in a school with this degree of formality. The street elevation (the building faces southeast) can be divided into two bays. The left bay contains three double banks of windows on each floor; the windows are six-over-six light and are double-hung sash. The right bay, which contains the entry and interior stairwell, is narrower and is slightly outset. Double wooden doors, flanked by a narrow set of windows on either side and a transom, give access to a vestibule. A flat roof, which extends the length of the right bay, provides shelter to those entering the school. This roof is supported by four oversized brackets. Above the entrance are two sets of windows, separated by a concrete panel with the inscription "Bonners Ferry School District No. 14." Centered underneath the lower set of windows is a small panel that states "Idaho Standard School;" this is not evident in an early photograph of the school.

Fenestration similar to that of the street elevation can be found on the rear, or northwest wall; a fire escape is centered on the southwest elevation. The current owners have added a deck and a one-story, shed roof garage to the northeast, but this is the only exterior alteration the school has undergone.

Several features provide the school with a distinct, if abstracted, Classical Revival style. The school has a full entablature, and the masonry pattern of the basement resembles rustication. Inventive brickwork was also used to indicate exaggerated voussoirs and key stones above the basement windows.

The plan and many of the interior details are intact. Two classrooms and one "recitation" room were located on each floor. Cloakrooms divided the classrooms, and on the second floor, a rolling wooden partition separated the classroom from the recitation room. When the partition was open, this space served as an auditorium. Originally, it had a stage, but this was removed in the 1950's or 1960's. Much of the hardwood flooring and all of the chalk and bulletin boards remain. The present owners, who want to use the school as their residence, plan to make as few alterations as possible, retaining much of the original layout, materials and furnishings.

The North Side School has an unusually high degree of integrity, especially when one considers that it continuously served as a school from 1914 until June, 1990. Surrounded by a large open space and located on a prominent site in Bonners Ferry, it has retained its original appearance in terms of setting, feeling and association. It is also intact in terms of materials and workmanship, and with the exception of the garage and deck addition, design.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   8   North Side School, Bonners Ferry, ID Page 1  
=====

The North Side School is historically significant for its representation of the stability and maturation of the public education system in Bonners Ferry, which in turn is associated with the development of this community. Constructed in 1914, the school was built during a period of economic and political consolidation in Idaho, and Bonners Ferry was not immune to the growth and prosperity that was experienced throughout the state. Architecturally, the building is an example of the more advanced phase of school design seen in Idaho schools from 1890 to 1930. It has a multiple-room plan, is constructed of brick and exhibits architectural details, representing a progression from the frame, one- or two-room schools of vernacular design that are associated with a more tenuous phase of a community's development. The North Side School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A & C.

Bonners Ferry was established in 1864 as a trading post catering to prospectors en route to the Kootenay gold rush in southeastern British Columbia. Its location, at the confluence of the Kootenai and Moyie Rivers, made it a logical terminus for ferry transportation into the mining districts. The local economy gained further momentum with the exploitation of the surrounding timber stands for the logging industry, and the discovery that the climate and soil were conducive to fruit growing. Bonners Ferry became a commercial and civic center for the northernmost region of Idaho; by the second decade of this century it could boast of all the trappings of a permanent community: brick buildings, access to two railroads, fraternal and civic associations, and a hospital. Bonners Ferry became the county seat of Boundary County when that county was established in 1915.

The building of schools in Bonners Ferry followed a typical progression seen throughout Idaho. The first school was held in a one-room log cabin, which would have provided expedient and available shelter. Details of subsequent schools remain unclear, but written accounts by long-term residents indicate that simple frame buildings were used before a large, graded school was built. A newspaper article from April 1911 states that grammar school children attended school in a nine-room structure with a capacity of 300 to 400 students. The high school was the only high school north of Sandpoint and had an enrollment of 21 students. (1)

The town's schools at this time, however, were overcrowded, and by the end of 1912 the school board put forth a bond issue for \$40,000. A local newspaper pointed out the advantages of building with brick, stating that if brick were not used, "...they will proceed to erect as they did last year, another two-, three- or four-room frame building." (2)

This bond issue failed, but by the beginning of the 1913 school year it was apparent that the school system was overcrowded, having increased from 251 to 305 students in the past year. Most options considered by the school board focused on building new schools for District 4, which encompassed the area south of the Kootenai River, but it was District 14, which included the recently-sprouted neighborhood north of the river, that received a new building: the North Side School.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 North Side School, Bonners Ferry, ID Page 2  
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Located on a steep slope overlooking the town, the North Side School replaced an earlier two-room school on the same site, and was to serve the most rapidly growing neighborhood of Bonners Ferry. After bids were accepted at the end of September, the contract was awarded to J.G. Cox of Spokane. The architectural firm of Keith and Whitehouse, also of Spokane, drew up the plans. Although a bond issue for \$10,000 had been previously passed, the *Bonners Ferry Herald* reported that the school's final cost totaled \$15,000. The school opened on January 24, 1914, serving northside residents until 1990. The next year, Jim and Ruth Burkholder purchased the building, and at this writing are renovating the school for use as their home.

Architecturally, the North Side School is associated with the town's role as a center of the northern panhandle. The parapet over the entrance bay, the oversized brackets under the porch roof, the terra cotta trim and the rusticated brickwork of the basement level give the building a degree of formality not seen in schools of the surrounding communities. It typifies the "third wave" of school construction, in which officials could employ more mainstream design, approve the use of substantial materials, and in this case, hire architects to provide the plans. The school was designed so that another wing could be added that would be compatible with the existing building; however, this was never undertaken, and the school has an asymmetrical appearance, making it rare among Idaho schools.

The building maintains a very high degree of integrity, and with its prominent siting its original purpose is easy to discern. The Burkholders have added a garage on the northeast wall, but its scale is small when compared to the overall mass of the structure. The school has suffered few, if any interior changes, and the Burkholders are planning to leave the original plan intact.

Footnotes

1. "Bonner County, the Banner County of Idaho," *Bonners Ferry Herald*, 15 April 1911, p. 3.
2. "Should Vote for Bonding Issue," *Bonners Ferry Herald*, 6 December 1912, p. 1.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   9   North Side School, Bonners Ferry, ID Page 1  
=====

Newspaper Articles

"Accept New Schoolhouse." *Bonners Ferry Herald*, 23 January 1914, p. 1.

"Bond Issue Lost." *Bonners Ferry Herald*, 13 December 1912, p. 1.

"Bonner County, the Banner County of Idaho." *Bonners Ferry Herald*, 15 April 1911, p. 3.

"Increase of Pupils is Great." *Bonners Ferry Herald*, 5 September 1913, p. 1.

"Let Bids for New School." *Bonners Ferry Herald*, 26 September 1913, p. 1.

"New Schoolhouse Soon Ready." *Bonners Ferry Herald*, 19 December 1913, p. 1.

"Should Vote for Bonding Issue." *Bonners Ferry Herald*, 6 December 1912, p. 1.

Other Sources

Conversation with Ruth Burkholder, Bonners Ferry, Idaho, 25 September 1991.

*History of Boundary County, Idaho.* Bonners Ferry, Idaho: Boundary County Historical Society, 1987.

Sanborn maps, 1910, 1921.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 North Side School, Bonners Ferry, ID Page 1  
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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is based on the legally-recorded boundary lines of property. It contains the area which has historically been associated with the North Side School.