

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ 7A)

✓ SITE NAME: Roswell Grade School ✓ SITE NUMBER: 106

✓ LOCATION: <sup>ID 18</sup> Highway 18, and Stephan Lane, Roswell, Canyon County (027), Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Parma School District  
Parma, ID 83660

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Wilder, Idaho, 7.5 minute      ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Roswell Grade School on the southeast corner of Highway 18 and Stephan Lane, NW 1/4 of NE 1/4, Section 29, T5N, R5W, Section with a 25-foot margin on the east and south side and the space intervening between the Roswell Grade School and the public rights of way on the north and west sides of the Roswell Grade School. Legal description on file at the Canyon County Courthouse, Caldwell, Idaho.

UTM(S): <sup>BMW 8/1/03</sup> 11/5,03,190/48,43,770

DATE OR PERIOD: 1921

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Education

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good                      altered                      original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Roswell Grade School is a one-story structure present a 139 foot, 2 inch lateral block with a hip-and-ridge roofline to Highway 18, on the east edge of the crossroads village of Roswell. The long, low building displays elements of classical revival, bungalow, and contemporary commercial modes. The surface is red brick with concrete trim forming a wide base strip, window sills, a continuous lintel strip, geometric insets, and a parapet coping.

The structure was originally minimally U-shaped, though that is now apparent mostly from the interior plan. A single-depth strip of classrooms and administrative rooms along the front and sides is backed by a U-shaped corridor, which in turn is wrapped around an auditorium space that extends to the full depth of the rear-facing end wings. Partly as a result of a Hummel Hummel and Jones rear addition in 1956, the rear elevation is now essentially solid. The front and side have been altered only by the reglazing of windows, replacement of doors, and asbestos re-shingling of roofs.

The classicizing qualities of the design include symmetry and the hipped roof. The main roof is laterally ridged; the end wings have front-to-back ridgebeams at an even lower pitch. The front elevation is exactly symmetrical. It displays a low peaked parapet at each end, entrances on the inside margins of the end bays formed by these parapets, and triple restroom windows beside each door flanking a centered contiguous set of five large windows, the middle ones surmounted by a stepped rectangular cresting of the parapet.

The low pitch of the roofs is a generalized testament to the pervasive influence of the bungalow style. A more specific reference is the doubled figure-four brackets which support the hipped overdoors. The influence of contemporary commercial design is apparent in the treatment of the pragmatic red brick and concrete materials. The angular parapet crests, peaked or rectilinear in shape, are embellished with rectangles and squares of flush-set header brick, with corner squares in the contrasting material. The parapet is finished with thick, notched concrete coping.

As mentioned above, the primary external alteration has been re-filling of the openings. The entries, each originally a pair of double doors with a contiguous single one, all with a deep common transom, have been infilled and re-fitted with centered double doors. The triple windows to the right and left, respectively, of the left and right entries fairly closely resemble their early appearance because of their distinctive frames: deeper windows capped by shallow ones (now filled with air circulation units) separated by wide coffered frames. The large central windows, which extend from the waist-high base band to the lintel strip which runs continuously around the front and side elevations, are more altered in appearance. The original multi-light glazing has been replaced with large vertically bisected sheets. The side-elevation windows matched those of the front and have been similarly reglazed.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

Roswell Grade School is architecturally significant as almost the only smalltown or country schoolhouse represented in the Group--the only one at this scale; as an example of the stylized commercial/classical style, here in an institutional application; and as the major architectural presence in the village of Roswell.

Although Tourtellotte and Hummel designed a number of schoolhouses of small and intermediate size, both in Boise and in other Idaho towns and throughout the history of the firm, very few have survived in adequate condition to be included in the Thematic Group. The Boise High School Campus (site 49) represents their accomplishments in this field, but at the same relatively grandiose scale that St. John's Cathedral and its associated buildings (site 37) represents their work for the Catholic Church. The inclusion of Roswell School in the Group, along with that of the tiny and considerably later West Point schoolhouse (site 139), to some degree corrects this imbalance.

The school is also individually significant for its style. The geometricizing treatment of the cornice line and the masonry ornament, on a classically symmetrical building, are in line with those seen on commercial commissions such as the Bryant Garage (site 92). The hipped roof, in addition to being classicizing (which may have seemed particularly apt for a structure of this functional type) and together with the bungalow overdoor brackets, lends a more homey and domestic quality to this building than is possessed by the commercial examples.

The schoolhouse is the major piece of architecture in Roswell, which otherwise consists of a general store and several residences loosely grouped around the intersection of two county roads. The school has an unusual local role as a focus for the surrounding farm community, an irrigated benchland several miles south of Parma. The building was originally designed as a comprehensive school but now serves elementary grades only.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 307. Collection book references 1921. Frederick Hummel retrospective file. Drawings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.