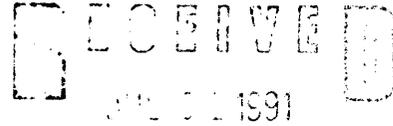


NPS Form 10-9000  
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Pleasant Valley School

other name/site number: O'Marra, Pat and Margaret house

2. Location

street & number: 3501 E. 3100 N.

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Kimberly

vicinity: X

state: ID

county: Twin Falls

code: 083

zip code: 83341

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>      </u>	buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

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.

Ronald J. Green Signature of certifying official 6/25/91 Date  
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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 Antonio de Bue 8/8/91  
 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): \_\_\_\_\_

in Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: EDUCATION Sub: School  
Current : DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Bungalow/Craftsman

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Stone roof Wood: shingle  
walls Wood:weatherboard other \_\_\_\_\_

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

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: EDUCATION  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1910-1941

Significant Dates : 1910

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Newman, Cris

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than 1 acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>11</u>	<u>716900</u>	<u>4702540</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:  See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification:  See continuation sheet.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Elizabeth Egleston, State Architectural Historian

Organization: Idaho State Historical Society Date: April 10, 1991

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

City or Town: Boise State: ID Zip: 83702

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Pleasant Valley School

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The Pleasant Valley School, oriented to the north, is situated in a rural area six miles south of Kimberly, Idaho. The building is surrounded by cultivated fields and neighboring farms. On the north, west and south borders, the property is surrounded by a basaltic rock wall with a concrete coping.

The building is one-story and has a hipped roof; it rests on a rock foundation. Clapboards cover the wood frame and wood shingles sheath the roof. An interior brick chimney can be seen in the center of the north slope of the roof. The entrance, double wooden doors with six lights each and a fixed, seven light transom, is located in the center of the north wall. The entrance is protected from the elements by a porch with a front-gabled roof, and two benches extend from the wall to the wooden members supporting the roof. At either end of the north wall are two front-gabled projections. The pediments of these projections, as well as that of the entrance, are sheathed with shingles.

On the north wall, the fenestration consists of double-banked, two-over-two light windows on either side of the entrance and in the front-gabled wings. Ten windows of single panes, divided into sets of five, comprise the fenestration on the south elevation. The windows on the south wall were originally sash windows with small panes, and the present windows are the only exterior alteration.

Although the school is now used for a private home, much of the original floor plan is intact. Originally, classes were held in two school rooms, and a stage was located along the west wall of the west classroom. The current owners removed the wall that divided the classroom, and inserted walls to form a bedroom and hall at the west end of the building. The stage is still evident in the bedroom. Along the north wall were several small rooms: a library, an entrance hall, two cloakrooms and the principal's office. These rooms now serve as a bathroom, a kitchen, a bedroom and a workroom.

The privies are still extant on the property. They are located along the west border, and are clapboard with shed roofs. The foundation of the teacherage is visible; this can be seen behind the school to the east.

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Section number 8 Pleasant Valley School Page 1

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The Pleasant Valley School is eligible for National Register listing under Criteria A. It is historically significant for its association within the context of public education in Idaho, and for its association with the settlement of the eastern half of Twin Falls County. It is located six miles south of the town of Kimberly in south-central Idaho, a few hundred feet south of Rock Creek Canyon. At this point the canyon is broad and shallow; it is part, however, of an extensive system of deep fissures that zig-zag through the otherwise flat terrain south of the Snake River Plain.

The school, which is now used as a private residence, is situated in a rural area surrounded by farmland. Built in 1910, it served the children of farmers who arrived about this time to settle land recently reclaimed under the Carey Act of 1894. Under this legislation, settlers could receive federal land in arid areas after private investors supplied the capital to build the necessary dams and canals. The investors would recoup their money by selling water rights to the settlers, and once the farmers had successfully reclaimed their land, they could apply for a deed. Milner Dam, located about sixteen miles northwest of the school, and its related canal system were built in 1904 through this partnership of federal involvement and private investment. Towns such as Kimberly, Milner, Murtaugh, Buhl, and Twin Falls (almost all were named after the investors) were built almost overnight and supplied the settlers who were rapidly moving to the area and establishing farms.

The farms surrounding the school raised various grains, hay and beans. Farmers also had milk cows, as dairy products were the most consistent source of cash. Milk was picked up early every morning and taken to the creamery in Twin Falls.

Pleasant Valley School is typical of many one-and two-room schoolhouses built throughout the county to serve students who could not travel a long distance to town, and illustrates how rural children were educated before consolidation. Originally, the grounds included two privies, one for each gender, a stable and playing ground and playing equipment, such as a merry-go-round and a swingset. A three-room teacherage was erected about 1935. Local men built the stone wall and landscaped the grounds under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration during the 1930's. The privies, the wall and the foundation for the teacherage are extant. The land was donated by John Deeds, who probably owned the adjacent land, and Cris Newman built the school. Little is known about either of these men. The first class enrolled in 1910.

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Pleasant Valley School

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The school was constructed as one room, with an entrance hall, a cloak room and storage space to the north. A stage was located along the west wall. By 1911, another classroom, with auxillary spaces identical to the original building, had been added to the east. The desks were aligned in rows with the students facing the teacher, whose desk was at the west end of the room. Since the windows were along the south wall, the building adhered to the modern tenets of classroom lighting with as little glare as possible. Blackboards were located at either end. The school did not have indoor plumbing; children used the privies and a well was dug by hand in 1919.

According to an interview with two Kimberly residents who attended Pleasant Valley School in the 1920's and 1930's, usually there were approximately twenty-five students in a classroom, with six or seven in a grade. Grades one through four were located in the east classroom, with grades five through eight in the west room. Teachers had to maintain a strict schedule in order to handle several grades, and although the curriculum was directed toward each grade, some activities, such as spelling bees and flashcard competitions, involved all the students in each classroom at one time.

Although Pleasant Valley School was never a town in the usual sense of the word, with a Main Street and public and commercial buildings, it was the center of a community that consisted of the farmers who lived in the area. The school was the center of Pleasant Valley, and the teachers and parents worked together to provide activities and amenities for the families and the children. Christmas parties, box-lunch auctions and picnics were held at the school. It also served as the meeting place for the grange and bible school. Teachers, often assisted by the children, were responsible for the daily maintenance, but the parents took care of the big projects, such as painting and repairs. Because many children lived too far from school to go home for lunch, they brought their lunch. In response to this, several of the mothers of the students organized to provide something hot for the children, such as soup or hot chocolate.

The Pleasant Valley School educated students through the eighth grade; if they continued their education they attended high school in Kimberly. Although Kimberly was only a few miles away, such a move was a big upheaval in the lives of rural schoolchildren, as there was a tangible social division between those students who attended grammar school in a rural setting versus those who lived in town. The experience of May Hamby, who attended the Pleasant Valley school from 1929 to 1937, is

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Pleasant Valley School

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illustrative. Her family did not have a telephone or a radio until the 1940's, but since her Pleasant Valley classmates had similar backgrounds, she did not feel this was unusual. This perception changed when she attended high school. The division existed not only because of social and economic differences, but also for practical reasons, as young people who lived in town could stay for extracurricular activities, but those from the country had to catch a schoolbus home.

Because of consolidation, the Pleasant Valley School closed in 1947. The school was used as a voting poll, and the grange and other local groups, such as 4-H and women's clubs, continued to use the school until it was sold to the current owners, Pat and Barbara O'Marra. They bought the schoolhouse at an auction in 1972 for \$100, and began renovating the school into a house in 1974. By the next year the building was ready for occupancy, and the O'Marras continue to reside in the school today. They have made few alterations to either the exterior or the interior, and the structure continues to convey its original purpose -- that of education and community solidarity -- in surroundings that are very similar to the year in which the school was built.

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Hamby, May and Robert. Kimberly, Idaho.  
Interview, 25 January 1991.

O'Marra, Margaret and Pat. Vicinity of Kimberly, Idaho.  
Interview, 20 March 1991.

"Pleasant Valley School Auctioned Off 25 Years After Closing of Last  
Class." The Idaho Statesman, 18 June 1972, sec. B, p. 8.

Rosholt, John A. "Milner Dam and Main Canal of the Twin Falls Canal  
Company." Historic American Engineering Record. National Park  
Service, Western Region, San Francisco, Ca., 1989.

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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National Park Service

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

T11S, R18E, Sec. 28  
NW 1 acre NW1/4 NW1/4

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is based on the legally-recorded boundary lines of the property. It includes the original school house, privies and area historically associated with the Pleasant Valley School