

DEC 3 1980

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

NOMINATION: Historic Resources of Challis (Partial Inventory: Architectural Properties

SITE NAME: Challis High School SITE # 23

LOCATION: Main Avenue, Challis, Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Challis Joint School District #181, Box 304, Challis, Idaho 83226

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Challis, 15 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nomination includes the Challis High School in block 29 and the property on which it stands with a margin of five feet around the building.

UTM(S): 11/7,20,100/49,31,450

DATE OR PERIOD: ca. 1922 EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

good condition                      altered                      original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Challis High School is a complex structure well unified by its parapet false front and symmetrical side wings. The building echoes the Art Deco movement in its series of outset vertical piers terminating in outset blocks. It echoes the false fronts ubiquitous on Challis' Main Avenue in its parapet, which hides a much more modest gabled structure. The parapet is a very modest echo of the Spanish mission style. The school is constructed of coursed, rough, buff tuff with a rock-faced finish. The outset capping stones, also of tuff, are weathering with exposure to humidity. Facade windows, set between the outset piers, are multi-paned modern replacements, as are the doors in the two wings. They are compatible with the overall style of the building. The building extends six bays deep to the rear, with series of small four-light windows in the second story of the central mass and series of large fifteen-light windows along the one-story wings. A continuous rear addition with the same tuff facing was constructed in the 1940's to house four new classrooms.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Challis High School is a late use of the local tuff in the erection of a large public building. Its construction, a fine example of stonework in spite of the problem of weathering, demonstrates the persistence of the false-front idea in Challis architecture. Here, the false front masks a simpler gabled schoolhouse and projects an image more in keeping with urban schools of the period. The school has been in use since 1922, and the administration has shown an interest in its listing on the National Register.