

**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:** 90001229

**Date Listed:** 8/17/90

Kimberly High School  
**Property Name**

Twin Falls  
**County**

ID  
**State**

N/A  
**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* *Anthony J. Lee*  
**Signature of the Keeper**

9/11/90  
**Date of Action**

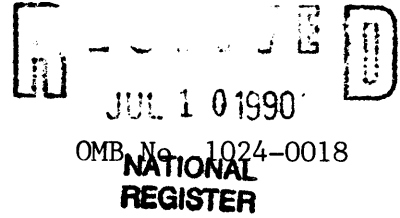
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**Classification:** The ownership of property should be corrected to read public/local.

This information was confirmed with Elizabeth Egleston of the Idaho SHPO.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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



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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Kimberly High School

other name/site number: Kimberly Junior High and District Office / 015781

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2. Location

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street & number: 141 Center Street West

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Kimberly

vicinity: N/A

state: ID county: Twin Falls code: 083 zip code: 83341

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building(s)

Number of Resources within Property:

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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. Seer Signature of certifying official 7/3/90 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 Antonieth Mae 8/17/90  
 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: School Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

Current : EDUCATION: School Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

No style

Other Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation concrete roof asphalt  
walls brick other concrete

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: 1916-1917

Significant Dates : 1916-1917

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Nesbit, B. Morgan  
Allen, Harding F.

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>716390</u>	<u>4712140</u>	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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

Lots 17-21, Block 37, Kimberly Townsite.

Boundary Justification:  See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Elizabeth Egleston, State Architectural Historian

Organization: Idaho State Historical Society Date: May 10, 1990

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

City or Town: Boise State: ID Zip: 83702

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Kimberly High School

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Constructed in 1916, the Kimberly High School is oriented to north and is located in a small farming community of the same name. It is near a small, but distinct, downtown area and is in a neighborhood of single-family residences. For many years most of the block on which the school is located was vacant, and the empty land served as the students' playing ground. Over time, however, several educational buildings were erected on the block, including a gymnasium, an elementary school, a structure housing a cafeteria and library, a vocational/technical building, a high school, two portable classroom units and a house. Currently the subject of this nomination is used as a junior high and as the district office, but it will be referred to as the high school, as this was its original purpose, throughout this narrative. Although the school has suffered alterations, it retains a high degree of integrity.

The school has two stories and a full basement. It is built of reddish-brown brick in a running bond pattern. The roof is flat and has a stepped parapet wall on the primary (north) facade and concrete coping. The foundation is concrete; basement windows are located around the perimeter of the structure, but most have been closed with boards. The plan of the school is a "T." Classrooms and offices are located in the two-story block that faces the street and extends east and west. Rooms on the basement level that were once used for maintenance are now used as classrooms. On the first floor, offices are now housed in previous classrooms, and on the second floor, the library and an office have been converted to classrooms. For the most part, however, the integrity of the plan of this wing has been maintained. An auditorium, also used as the cafeteria, was originally housed in the one-story ell that is located to the south of the two story block. On the basement level of the ell was the gymnasium. The gymnasium retains its original appearance, but the space above has been divided into a band room, a detention area, and a smaller auditorium.

The north facade is symmetrical and is divided into seven bays. The outside bays have no openings and are embellished with masonry in the form of large rectangles and the letter "K." The second and sixth bays contain the entrances, as well as windows that indicate the presence of stairwells. The double doors, obvious replacements, are made of plate glass. A transom once existed above the doors but this area has been filled in with wood panelling. Above the doorways are simple concrete arches with pendants. Double sets of fixed windows with two-over-two lights are located above the entrances. This fenestration, as is that of the first and second stories of the classroom wing, is not original, as the uppermost portion of the sash has been replaced with wood

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panelling. While it constitutes a loss of integrity, the panelling is more compatible with the original appearance of the school, and is not as intrusive as the panelling in the transoms. These windows have concrete sills and lintels. The year the school was built is included in the parapet of these bays. The third, fourth and fifth, or center, bays are composed of windows that are one-over-one double-hung sash. The windows of both stories have continuous concrete sills. The windows of the first floor have a continuous concrete lintel; those of the second floor are shaded by a slightly projecting roof supported by brackets. Basement windows are located around the perimeter of the building, but have been closed with boards. This fenestration pattern is repeated on the east and west elevations of the two story block.

The south facade of the classroom wing is also symmetrical, as are the elevations of the one-story projection. Raised masonry decorates the windowless outside bays of the two-story wing; the two other bays are marked by a large entrance and by triple sets of windows on both stories. A once-substantial entrance has been reduced to a single plate glass door, and the rest of the original egress has been closed with wood panelling.

All the windows of the auditorium, now boarded, have concrete sills and lintels. On the east and west elevations are two large windows; on the south elevation are two sets of single windows and one set of triple windows. Raised bricks in a pattern that resemble an abstracted thunderbird decorate the south wall of this wing.

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The Kimberly High School is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A. It documents a period of stability and prosperity for this small community in southern Idaho, and it reflects a third wave of school building in this town that is consistent with the community's growth. In its form, design and setting, the Kimberly High School has maintained a high degree of integrity, and reflects the town's community life before World War I.

The school is located in the small town of Kimberly, population 2,630, in the southern Idaho county of Twin Falls. The establishment and settlement of Kimberly occurred in 1905 through one of the most successful reclamation projects completed under the Carey Act of 1894 and the Reclamation Act of 1902. Although the landscape of Twin Falls County resembles the rest of the sagebrush desert of the arid west, its proximity to the Snake River and rich soil meant that large-scale reclamation could transform this region into productive farmland.

The Carey Act fostered an unusual three-way partnership between the federal government, state governments and private investors. Through this legislation, private parties would finance the reclamation project under state supervision, recoup their investment through the sale of water rights to settlers, who would apply for a deed to the land they cultivated from the Secretary of the Interior. Eight years later, the Reclamation Act stipulated that proceeds from public land sales went to a revolving "Reclamation Fund" which financed water storage and diversion works in sixteen western states.

In Twin Falls County, coal-mining magnates Frank Buhl and Peter Kimberly, both of Sharon, Pennsylvania, and Stanley B. Milner of Salt Lake City, Utah, financed the construction of the Milner Dam and related canal systems which were completed in 1905. Land companies were quickly formed to sell lots, and once water was available, settlers arrived. Communities sprung up almost overnight, almost all of them named after those associated with the reclamation project: Murtaugh, Hansen, Filer, Kimberly, Buhl and Twin Falls. The Oregon Short Line Railroad built a branch line -- the Minidoka and Southwestern -- that improved access to the region and hastened its growth.

The new residents wanted the amenities and community institutions they had known elsewhere, such as churches, stores, libraries and schools. A school was especially important, because it would serve as the area's primary public structure. Schools throughout the country served a variety of functions, acting as a community gathering place for



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parties, lectures, meetings and political forums. A school was also important because it reflected a town's belief in its permanence as well as its belief in universal education. Although residents built a grange and an Oddfellows hall in the town's early years, schools in Kimberly housed many events and played an important role as the focus of the community.

In Kimberly, the townsite company donated five lots to be used for a school and elections were held in August, 1905 to determine the location. A simple frame building with a front gable was erected within a couple of months, and the town's first school opened on October 19 with thirty-one students. By December, attendance had doubled.

It was soon apparent that school facilities would have to increase their capacity. In 1908, Kimberly residents approved school bonds for \$15,000 in a "hotly contested" election. The school was to be designed by the state's most prolific architectural firm, Tourtellotte and Hummel. The school, now demolished, was a two story structure with eight classrooms and an assembly room. It was constructed of red brick and had a steeply pitched truncated hipped roof, with four small gables that were fronted with parapet walls.

By 1916, however, Kimberly needed more space, and the town wanted to build a high school. The crowded condition of the schools is indicated by an article published in a local newspaper in September of that year that stated:

Negotiations are in progress with the trustees of the Methodist church to secure the basement again this year for school purposes until the new high school is completed, which will not be until the first of the year. The Kimberly schools were terribly overcrowded last year... 1

Several months earlier, in March of 1916, a \$40,000 bond issue was passed for the new building. Plans were prepared by the architect B. Morgan Nesbit, who had established his practice in Twin Falls two years earlier. Nesbit was born in Pittsburg in 1873, and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania architecture program in 1898. He worked in the Boise office of J.E. Tourtellotte and Company from 1903 until 1909. Upon leaving Tourtellotte's office he joined Frank H. Paradise Jr. in a partnership based in Boise. After continuing this arrangement for five years, they dissolved their partnership, with Nesbit moving to Twin Falls and Paradise establishing practice in Pocatello. Harding F. Allen

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of Seattle was the general contractor.

The new school was described as having

...eight class rooms and other connected apartments [sic]. The basement will have a lavatory, furnace room, coal room, janitor room, storage room and gymnasium. The gym will not be completed at once, but provision will be made for its arrangements when needed. There will be four classrooms, principal's room, teachers' room, boys' and girls' lockers and auditorium on the first floor. The second floor will have four class rooms, library, directors' room and lockers. It is estimated that the cost of the structure itself will be \$38,000, while \$2,000 more will be required to properly furnish it. The aim is to erect a buiding which when finished will be a credit to the town and the district, and will be in keeping with the needs of a growing and progressive community.<sup>2</sup>

Excavation for the foundation commenced in June; construction progress was duly reported in the paper. Boise's Idaho Statesman published a perspective and stated that it would be ready for occupancy in early fall.

In spite of this optimism, however, work fell behind schedule and the school did not open until around the beginning of 1917. Available newspaper reports do not mention either the exact day the school opened or any events that might have celebrated the new structure. Within a couple of months, the newspaper announced various community functions that were to occur in Kimberly's new school, and by September, 1917, the sidewalks and landscaping had been completed.

The school served as the high school until 1967. In that year, a new building, housing grades 9-12, was constructed a few feet to the west. Today the Kimberly High School is used as the junior high and as the offices for Kimberly School District #414, and remains a symbol of the growth and optimism of this small southern Idaho town.

1

Twin Falls Times, 7 September 1916, 1/6.

2

Twin Falls Times, 17 March 1916.

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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.

Wright, Patricia. Twin Falls Country. Boise, ID.: Idaho State Historical Society, 1979.

"Kimberly Building in All Directions." Twin Falls Times, 13 June 1916, p. 1.

"Kimberly School Contract is Let." Twin Falls Times, 16 May 1916, p. 1.

"Kimberly Schools Opened Wednesday." Twin Falls Times, 7 September 1916, p. 6.

"Kimberly Votes School Bonds." Twin Falls News, 13 March 1908, p.1.

"This Building will be Kimberly's Boast." Idaho Statesman, 4 June 1916, p. 14.

Untitled newspaper articles:

Twin Falls News, 15 September 1905, p. 1.

Twin Falls News, 19 October 1906, p. 1.

Twin Falls News, 12 June 1908, p. 12.

Twin Falls News, 7 August 1908, p. 5.

Twin Falls News, 17 March 1916, p. 1.

Twin Falls Times, 23 March 1916, p. 1.

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Although the school is located on a large parcel of land, the boundaries of this nomination are restricted to the above boundary description. Eight buildings now occupy the original parcel, and although most are used for education, they do not contribute to the integrity of the school.