

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

NOMINATION: BOISE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SITE NAME: Roosevelt School

SITE NUMBER: 6

LOCATION: 908 E. Jefferson^{ST.} Boise ID 83702

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Independent School District of Boise City
1207 Fort Street
Boise, Idaho 83702

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise South, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: 1.8 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Roosevelt School and the property on which it stands, all of block 12 in the East Side addition to Boise.

UTM(S): 11/566029/4828665

DATE OR PERIOD: 1919, additions 1948, ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Wayland & Fennell
1951-1952

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Education

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

Roosevelt School is a two-story brick and concrete flat-roofed school designed in 1919 by the architectural firm of Wayland & Fennell. The horizontal massing is emphasized by the parapet roof and bands of large windows which extend across the facade on both the first and second stories. Lintels above the windows and a course below the parapet roof further this horizontal effect. The entrances placed at either end of the building display a classical vocabulary in the segmental pediments with engaged Tuscan columns and entablature with dentils. A small one-story addition (1946) presents a blank wall to the street; bands of windows and a central entry on the east side of the building are the main features of this unit. The alterations described are compatible with the historical character of the building and constitute all major alterations.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Roosevelt School represents the acceptance of the flat-roofed design and use of classical motifs for the grade schools of Boise. The high school (1908-1912) had been designed in the Neo-Classical style, complete with imposing portico, sculpture, and carved detail. However, this rather grand approach was not applied to the elementary schools of the same period, perhaps because the symbolic value and

role of the high school were considered more important than those of the grade schools. Roosevelt, with its rectangular massing, flat roof, symmetrical facade design, and modest classical detail, can be seen as an indication that classical references were commonly accepted in many applications.

The technological advance of electric lights in the classrooms did not seem to have too much effect on the traditional use of large windows. Roosevelt School retains this feature, with bands of tall windows spanning the facade, although they were no longer necessary as the sole source of light for the classrooms. Roosevelt School also saw innovation in the form of a small gymnasium and an auditorium, reflecting the expanded role and activities of the grade school.