

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

NOMINATION: (BOISE PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

SITE NAME: Lowell School

SITE NUMBER: 5

LOCATION: 1507 North 22nd Street, Boise, ID 83702

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

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

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise North, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: 9.5 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Lowell School and the property on which it stands, bounded on the south by Lemp Street (328.4'), on the southwest by State Street (343.9'), on the west by North 30th Street (164.5'), on the northwest by Sand Creek (731.3'), and on the east by North 28th Street (845'). The property includes a 1950s art-deco swimming pool, which though not now age-eligible may be considered eligible years hence.

UTM(S): 11/562687/4861320

DATE OR PERIOD: 1913, additions 1916, ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Heath and Twitchell
1926, 1948 of Tacoma, Washington

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Education

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

Lowell School is a large two-and-a-half-story brick and stone building with low hipped roof, wide eaves with paired brackets, and a pair of hipped-roof dormers. There are arched entrances on either side of the main facade, with the entry on the left set in a one-story portico. The basement story is marked by a continuous band of windows, and two banks of five large windows each span the facade on both floors. There is decorative brickwork between the first and second stories, and large windows are seen above the entrances. At the right of the main facade is a hipped-roof addition (1926) which displays the same paired eave brackets and basement window treatment as the original building. A decorative band of brick ornaments the windowless wall facing the street, visually relating it to the fenestration of the facade. A one-story brick and concrete addition with a larger two-story section behind is at the south end of the building. The flat roof is interrupted at the left side by a shallow, stepped gable and the large multi-paned windows are separated by wall buttresses. A large bow window is at the left, beneath the gable. The alterations described are compatible with the historical character of the building and constitute all major alterations.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The significance of Lowell School stems from its place in the evolution of school buildings and their functions. Lowell represents the stage reached when school boards and architects were realizing that buildings must be flexible enough to accommodate growth and changing educational programs. With these needs in mind, Washington (1911) and Lowell (1913) were the first schools in the Boise District built on the unit plan, which allowed for future additions to be made with ease and at minimum expense. Lowell continues the trend toward horizontal massing, lower roofline, large window areas, and larger size begun with Longfellow, Central (not extant), and Park (not extant). Stylistically Lowell represents a middle ground between the more ornamental impulses of earlier buildings, which were influenced by Queen Anne, Romanesque, and Gothic revivals, and the simplicity of the later, flat-roofed schools.