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

NOMINATION: Kootenai County Rural Schools thematic group

SITE NAME: Upper Twin Lakes School

SITE NUMBER: 10

LOCATION: North side of Twin Lakes Road, about 1/4 mile east of the west boundary line of Section 36, T53N, R4W.

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Lakeland School District
Rathdrum, ID 83858

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Spirit Lake West, 7.5'

ACREAGE: .9 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nomination includes the Upper Twin Lakes School and the property on which it stands, Lots 16 and 17, Lake Park Acre Tracts (in southwest 1/4 Section 36, T53N, R5W).

UTM(S): 11/506710/5304360

DATE OR PERIOD: 1920

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, exploration/settlement

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTORY BUILDINGS: 1

DESCRIPTION:

Upper Twin Lakes School is one of the medium-sized and expressively designed schoolhouses in the thematic group. It is a square one-story building, approximately 28 by 28 feet, with a raised basement and a small 10 by 16 foot wing extending from the north end of the west facade of the building. It has a pyramidal hipped roof broken midway down the front (south) slope by a hipped dormer with two fixed-sash multi-light windows. An open hip-roofed porch extends from the front of the building and covers about two-thirds of its south facade. The porch roof is supported by four piers that are clad with the same type of clapboard siding used to cover the building's exterior wall surfaces. A nine-tred stairway with railing ascends to the front porch, which is enclosed by a wooden balustrade that repeats the geometric pattern formed by the intersecting muntins in the dormer windows.

In comparison with the other schoolhouses in the survey, the Upper Twin Lakes School has an unusually large number of multi-light windows. The building's east facade is nearly covered with seven double-hung nine-over-nine-light windows. The west facade has five double-hung nine-over-nine-light windows and on the south facade, in addition to the dormer windows already mentioned, there is a double-hung multi-light windows on either side of the front, nine-light glass-paneled door and transom light. The exterior of the building is in good condition. Although lacking a sufficient number of design features to clearly associate it with a particular architectural style, the Upper Twin Lakes School is in some respects reminiscent of the Colonial Revival style, with its hipped roof, symmetrical front facade, detailed eaves, and projecting central porch with column-like roof supports.

The interior of the bulding is in good condition also, with a portion of the original woodwork, plaster walls, wood floors, and light fixtures still intact. Alterations include the use of wood sheet-paneling on some interior wall surfaces and the installation of a lowered accoustical board ceiling in part of the building. These alterations do not significantly affect the building's architectural integrity.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Upper Twin Lakes School is significant for its association with early community development in the upper Twin Lakes district and for its representation of a type of rural schoolhouse architecture that incorporated a greater number of expressive design elements than did the more functionally designed school buildings. In this regard, Upper Twin Lakes School, like several other examples in the county-wide survey, adds to our understanding of the variety of architectural forms that the more expressively designed schoolhouses utilized in the early decades of the twentieth century.

Upper Twin Lakes School is situated in the Central Prairie study unit. Of the ten schoolhouses that have been identified in this group, only this and Prairie School have retained sufficient architectural integrity to be eligible for the National Register.

Upper Twin Lakes School is located midway along the northern side of Upper Twin Lake, about one-quarter mile distant from the lake shore. Twin Lakes was apparently among the first areas in the county to be commercially logged when, in about 1882, a sawmill and sash and door outfit were established at the foot of Lower Twin Lake. Shortly thereafter, logging operations and later a sawmill were established in the Upper Twin Lakes district. Following these developments came an influx of mixed farm and timber homestead settlement. After the Idaho and Washington Northern Railroad was built adjacent to Lower Twin Lake in 1908 a logging spur was extended along the northern shore of Upper Twin Lake. Although the Idaho and Washington Northern mainline greatly expanded the seasonal recreation and excursion activity that had begun to develop around the lake at the turn of the century, the community served by Upper Twin Lakes School remained largely oriented toward the mixed farm and timber economy.

The first school to operate in the Upper Twin Lakes district was the Shove School, situated about a mile above the head of the lake. It continued to serve the logging community in the Upper Twin Lake drainage on an intermittent basis for about the first third of the twentieth century. Upper Twin Lake School continued to operate until consolidation with the Lakeland (Rathdrum) School District after World War II. Since that time the building has been used as a meeting hall by the Twin Lakes Community Association.