

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

NOMINATION: (BOISE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TR)

SITE NAME: Collister School ↓

SITE NUMBER: 4

LOCATION: 4426 Catalpa Drive, Boise, ID 83703 ada Co.

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: about 5 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Collister School and the property on which it stands, the east 1/2 of the southeast 1/4 of the southeast 1/4 of the northwest 1/4 of section 29, R2E, T4N, Boise Meridian.

UTM(S): 11/561040/4833705

DATE OR PERIOD: 1912, additions
1948, 1953

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Tourtellotte and Hummel

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Education

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

Collister School, designed in 1912 by the architectural firm of Tourtellotte and Hummel, is a two-story stucco-over-brick and stone structure with flat parapet roofline and left-of-center recessed arched entry. Banks of large windows span the facade on both floors and a large window with a shallow arch is seen above the entrance. Ornamentation is limited to a course below the parapet roof, keystones in the entry arch and large windows above, and molding treatment of the windows.

The original four-room schoolhouse was added to in 1948 with a small two-story flat-roofed wing at the left end of the building, creating an L-shaped plan. The wall facing the street is windowless but displays a band of decorative brickwork which relates the addition to the original structure.

A long, low flat-roofed one-story wing is seen at the right. Built in 1953, this section of the school is much larger than the original portion and has the continuous bands of metal-frame windows typical of later school architecture. The scale, fenestration, and lack of detail make this wing an unharmonious addition, although it does not obscure or alter the original schoolhouse. The alterations described are compatible with the historical character of the building and constitute all major alterations.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The significance of Collister School lies in its place in the historical development of schools in the area. Collister was constructed on the unit plan, which allowed additions to be made to the original structure with relative ease. This innovation in school design was just coming into use in the area, and Collister is the only school of the old vertical box type in the Thematic Group which was constructed with a forward-looking eye to flexibility.