



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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Lincoln School

other name/site number: Lincoln Elementary School/015782

2. Location

street & number: 238 Seventh Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Twin Falls

vicinity: N/A

state: ID county: Twin Falls code: 083 zip code: 83301

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building(s)

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	sites
<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	structures
<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<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. Lee Signature of certifying official 7-2-90 Date

Utah State Historical Society - 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 Antonieta Mesa 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:

Classical Revival

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

Materials: foundation concrete roof asphalt  
walls brick other terra cotta

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 & C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Education  
Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1937-38

Significant Dates : 1937-38

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: McQuaker, Andrew  
Poynter, Herb

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

X 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: 2.5 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>11</u>	<u>707330</u>	<u>4715030</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: X See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: X See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Elizabeth Egleston, 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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The Lincoln School, built in 1937, faces west and is located in a residential neighborhood of Twin Falls near the downtown commercial district. The Lincoln School in this nomination represents the second of three phases in the construction of this complex; all three schools either were or are located on this property. The first building was erected in 1908, and when the 1937 school was constructed to the north the two were connected by a covered passageway. The 1908 school was demolished in 1975, and in the same year an additional building expanded the capacity of the 1937 structure. This most recent building is located to the east of the 1937 school, and while not similar in style, it is compatible in materials and scale. The 1937 school retains a high degree of integrity, and is an example of a simplified, abstracted version of the Classical Revival style.

The school has two stories and a one-story ell that extends to the east. It is built of red brick in a running bond pattern. It has a flat roof with a parapet wall in the center of the west facade. The foundation is concrete. Historically the school housed eleven classrooms, the principal's office, an auditorium which also served as a cafeteria, a gymnasium, and the kitchen. Much of the original plan remains, except that the school now opens up to a passageway leading to the 1975 building. This newest structure now houses the administrative offices, as well as classrooms and auxiliary educational programs. The interior of the school retains all of its original features, such as the linoleum, the doors to the classrooms, all of which have six-light windows, and small bumps on the banisters which discourage children from sliding.

Entrances are located on the west, north and south elevations; the 1975 building obscures much of the east facade. The doors on the north and west elevations are contained within slightly projecting blocks. Blocks, corners and the windows of the central bay on the west elevation are demarcated by pilasters; these are embellished with simple terra cotta entablatures and bases. The cornices of the pilasters meet a terra cotta belt course. The hopper windows are composed of five rows of four lights. They have terra cotta sills and brick lintels in a soldier configuration.

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The primary, or west, elevation is symmetrical, and is composed of five bays. The center bay contains what was once the main entrance, before the construction of the 1975 building. The entrance is demarcated by a terra cotta surround and a plain entablature; the double doors are recessed. Above the entrance is a tripartite set of windows; two sets of windows flank the entrance on the first floor. The bays flanking the central projection have five sets of windows. The projecting outside bays have no openings, and are instead decorated with masonry rectangles of soldier bricks.

On the north elevation, the rectangular appearance of the school is broken by the two-story arch that contains the entrance and a second floor, multi-pane window. The entrance and the window are separated by a brick spandrel and are deeply recessed. Three rows of bricks surround the arch, and are broken by projecting sets of bricks that provide an abstraction of quoins. This facade is also symmetrical, as the arch is flanked by sets of five windows on each story on both sides. The south elevation once had an arch surrounding the entrance, but this was removed several years ago, probably when the 1908 school was razed, as the connecting passage would have provided access there. The south elevation is divided into three bays. The left bay contains sets of five windows on each floor, the center bay consists of an entrance and a rectangular window that illuminates the second floor, and the third bay contains one set of windows on both floors. The one-story block is evident on this facade -- on the south elevation it has six multi-pane windows.

The 1975 building extends along the entire east length of the school, and juts out to the south. It is one story, is composed of a variety of geometric forms, and has few windows, all of which are deeply recessed. An asphalt playground with basketball hoops is located to the south of the school; grass playing fields are at the rear. The school property is surrounded by a chain link fence.

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The Lincoln School is historically significant for its association with the development of a small city in south-central Idaho, as well as public education in Twin Falls County. At the time of its construction from 1937 to 1938, the school was part of the most expensive building campaign that had occurred in the community, and was part of the town's efforts not only to improve educational facilities but also to create jobs and generate income. Architecturally, it is significant as a provincial example of the use of the Classic Revival style that was extensively used for public architecture throughout the United States after 1893.

The school is located in Twin Falls, a town that was erected almost overnight as settlers arrived in the region to reclaim newly irrigated land. Such reclamation was possible because of the construction of the Milner Dam and its related canal system, built under the auspices of the Carey Act of 1894. This legislation provided federal land to settlers in arid areas after private investors supplied the capital to build the necessary dams and canals. The investors would recoup their money by selling water rights to the settlers, and once the farmers had successfully reclaimed their land, they could apply for a deed.

Settlers lost no time in establishing the community institutions and amenities they had known elsewhere. In 1904 the Twin Falls News, itself a recent creation, reported that residents had raised \$600 in one hour to build a school and hire a teacher. One of the town's first frame structures was built for this purpose, and housed one teacher and seventy-two pupils. This simple school was the first in a six-year period in which a new school was built every two years.

After this initial surge, school construction slowed, and few, if any, schools were built until 1937; reasons for this can only be surmised. Most likely, capacity was sufficient through 1918, and when commodity prices plummeted after World War I, Twin Falls, whose economy was based on agriculture, could not afford to construct new schools during the twenties. In the thirties, however, the Twin Falls area was caught in an unusual situation: while people suffered the constraints of the Depression, the disastrous drought that affected the Midwest did not harm the land under irrigation. At the onset of the Depression, county officials thought that people would leave the area, but no exodus occurred, and the population grew as agricultural workers arrived from the Dust Bowl. Thus, the school district had to house more students, but on little money.

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Newspaper articles indicate that by 1937, the schools were in bad shape. Wooden, open central stairways were featured as example of dangerous firetraps; the use of portable classrooms was similarly lamented. Enrollment hit an all-time high of 3,577, and the elementary schools were so crowded that sixth-graders were moved from the elementary schools to the junior high. In response to this, the city held elections for a bond issue for \$350,000, which passed on May 25, 1937. This money was to be divided five ways: \$50,990 for improvements at the high school, \$139,410 to rebuild the Bickel School, \$28,560 to enlarge the Washington School, and \$107,900 for the new, eleven room building at the Lincoln School. The balance of the money was to be used to improve the lighting systems at the existing schools. The new construction was enthusiastically supported, as it represented additional income for many residents. The architect for all four schools was Andrew McQuaker. The construction contract for the Lincoln School was awarded to Herb Poynter of Pocatello.

Surprisingly, this building campaign was not financed by the Public Works Administration (PWA), and the relief workers of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) were only used to salvage materials for the Bickel School. Shortly after the bond issue was passed, Chamber of Commerce members and school district officials investigated the possibility of increasing the funding of the project to \$600,000 through PWA monies, but unfortunately, they were too late for previous grants and were ineligible for the influx of money poured into the PWA under 1937 legislation.

Construction on the new Lincoln School began in November of 1937, and opened for public view on September 2, 1938. This building was connected by a covered passageway to the old school, which had been constructed in 1908 and was also known as Lincoln. The new school would relieve the crowded conditions in the original school, and contained eleven classrooms, a gymnasium, an auditorium that also functioned as the cafeteria, and a library. With the increased space, classes would no longer have to be held in the basement.

Architecturally, the school is an example of a simple, local expression of the Classical Revival. This style is less commonly seen in schools of this time than the Colonial Revival style, but was used frequently for public structures. Its popularity grew because of its extensive use at the Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893, and since one-

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quarter of the American population attended the fair and its sights were widely promoted, it is not surprising that the style quickly became identified as appropriate for institutional structures.

The Lincoln School is a pared down example of this style. While it does not fit the usual Classical Revival image of white buildings with elaborate colonnades, it has several details that give it the simplicity and grace associated with the style. These include pilasters that extend the full height, a full cornice that accentuates the parapet wall, a symmetrical facade and the suggestion of a central block with wings. The passageway, now demolished, that was located between this structure and the original school was embellished by a pediment; this would have provided an additional Classical Revival detail.

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Burkhart, Mrs. John. "Our Heritage." Magic Valley Story #6, document in the Idaho Room of the Twin Falls Public Library, Twin Falls, Idaho.

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, Idaho: Idaho State Historical Society, 1979.

"Approval of School Bonds Would Boost Building." Idaho Evening Times, 4 May 1937, p. 13.

"Chance for PWA Funds is Killed." Idaho Evening Times, 20 July 1937, p. 2.

"Digging Starts on Lincoln Unit." Idaho Evening Times, 26 November 1937, p. 12.

"Fire Trap at Old School." Idaho Evening Times, 20 May 1937, p. 1.

"Lincoln School Contract Voted." Idaho Evening Times, 19 November 1937, p. 1.

"New School Buildings Open to Public View." Twin Falls News, 2 September 1938, p. 7.

"New Schools Present Interesting Contrasts." Twin Falls News, 2 September 1938, p. 13.

"PWA Funds May Help Work Here." Idaho Evening Times, 13 July 1937, p. 1.

"PWA Shuts off New Cash Plea." Idaho Evening Times, 15 July 1937, p. 4.

"75 6th Graders Change Schools." Idaho Evening Times, 30 November 1937, p. 5.

"\$350,000 Outlay Seen as Major Aid to Business." Idaho Evening Times, 4 May 1937, p. 3.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of block 51, all of block 52 except 18.47' to the highway, and all of block 66, all of street between blocks 52 and 66, in Twin Falls townsite.

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is based on the legally-recorded boundary lines of the property, and contains the area that has historically been associated with the Lincoln School.