

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 5 1986
date entered SEP 11 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Sandpoint Community Hall

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 204 South First Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Sandpoint N/A vicinity of

state Idaho code 016 county Bonner code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: community hall

4. Owner of Property

name City of Sandpoint

street & number Sandpoint City Hall, 110 Main Street

city, town Sandpoint N/A vicinity of state Idaho 83864

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bonner County Courthouse

street & number 201 South First Avenue

city, town Sandpoint state Idaho 83864

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Idaho State Historical Society

city, town Boise state Idaho

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Sandpoint Community Hall is one of the first buildings a visitor sees as he follows the curve of Highway 95 into Sandpoint from the south. The low log building sits on a spacious First Avenue lot across the street from the Bonner County Courthouse. The lawn, trees, and evergreen shrubs soften the lines of the hall while annual flowers provide bright spots of color during the summer months. The original portion of the one-story Community Hall is basically rectangular in plan, with two small ells facing the front (east) and a much larger one projecting at the center rear. The five-bay symmetrical facade is flanked by the two ells, whose gable roofs are slightly lower than the ridge of the main gable. Centered in the facade is a shallow front porch whose gable roof mirrors those of the ells but at an even lower level.

The use of logs as the primary building material for the original part of the hall reflects the logging economy of this North Idaho town and the popularity of the Rustic Style in the WPA period. Logs are used commonly in vernacular buildings in rural areas but are rarely found in architect-designed public buildings in towns. These logs are peeled tamarack, about 9 to 13 inches in diameter, left completely round and joined at the corners with an uncommon V-notch. Four- to six-inch gaps between the logs are filled with a sand-based chinking. This chinking is not obvious on the exterior, however, since the walls are painted solid brown.

The one-story frame addition to the south, built in 1944, blends in well with the original hall. The addition is covered by an extension of the main gable roof and windows and gable details match. The addition originally was sided with asphalt shingles, but wide clapboard planks painted to match the logs on the original part of the building was added sometime later. The addition has a full basement.

The main entrance to the Community Hall is centered on the facade. The single door, which has one light, is flanked by sidelight panels and topped with transoms. This entry is sheltered by a shallow porch whose gable roof is supported by round log posts atop a low porch wall. The shingled porch gable forms a pediment punctured by a semi-circular louvered vent. Other gable ends are treated similarly, with the substitution of smaller rectangular vents. Windows are all wooden frame, most being one-over-one double-hung sash set in groups of three.

The interior of the hall is spacious and open. The log walls remain exposed; the logs are treated with a clear finish and the chinking is painted white. The focal point of the interior is the cobblestone fireplace and chimney centered in the north wall. Simple wooden cabinets flank the fireplace beneath clerestory windows. The west ell contains restrooms and a large kitchen. The addition contains two large rooms, one of which has been used by the local Boy Scouts for years. Maple flooring is found throughout the hall. The building has been well maintained and appears much as it did when it opened fifty years ago.

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The idea behind the Community Hall originated with the local Boy Scout organization early in 1935. It was difficult to find meeting places for the three Sandpoint troops, especially during the winter months, "and for that reason the council decided to build a log cabin for the use of the Boy Scouts and other local groups,"¹ reported E. E. Hunt, president of the Bonner County Boy Scout council. Other groups soon became involved and the project became community-wide in scope.

Local support for the building grew quickly. By early February the city had volunteered to create a relief program for the construction of the hall and application was made to the I.E.R.A. for the labor needed for the job. The building committee then launched a drive to raise \$3600 in materials and money as the community's share of the project. Most of the money came in small pledges and the effort was finally capped in May with a \$1000 donation from the city. The county commissioners donated the lots across from the county courthouse.

Actual construction on the hall began in June 1935. Local architect H. L. Mountjoy's plans called for a building of peeled tamarack logs topped with a roof of hand-split shakes. The logs were secured from Humbird Company lands, apparently without charge. I.E.R.A. funds paid for the labor on the building, with the committee having to pay only for the foreman, A. E. Dimmitt. By late September the shell of the hall was done and work proceeding on shingling the roof.

At this point in the construction, however, the I.E.R.A. was phased out and replaced by the W.P.A. It was announced that the hall project would be continued under a W.P.A. setup but the actual changeover took months to complete. In the meanwhile, the new log hall stood boarded up for the winter.

By late February 1936 Jack O'Rourke, W.P.A. administrator for northern Idaho, announced that W.P.A. officials in Washington, D.C. had agreed to fund the rest of the Community Hall project. Funding was provided for labor and for the remainder of the building materials. The city added an additional \$500 to cover the cost of the project foreman and skilled carpenters, and construction was underway again.

The Community Hall was finished by early June 1936 and was shown to the public during an open house on June 14. Three days later the grand dedication included speeches and entertainment by the Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls and the high school band, followed by dancing to the music of a local orchestra. Sandpoint could rejoice in the fulfillment of a community dream, although some debts remained to be paid on the \$8000 building.

The Community Hall took on a national scope, however, soon after Farragut Naval Training Base was constructed at the southern tip of Lake Pend Oreille in 1942.

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For the next two years Farragut had a population of about 42,000, making it the largest city in Idaho. In June 1943 the city of Sandpoint leased the Community Hall to the Y.M.C.A. for use as a U.S.O. club. Busloads of sailors came to town every day to relax and socialize in the log meeting hall.

It was during its tenure as a U.S.O. club that the frame wing was added to the south wall of the Community Hall. Early in 1944 the U.S.O. decided that the hall was not adequate for its needs and determined that more room was necessary. The New York office prepared the plans and the Spokane firm of Hazen and Clark was awarded the \$11,000 contract in September. The new wing added two large rooms and followed the original design as much as possible.

The use of logs in the Sandpoint Community Hall is both unusual and logical at the same time. While log buildings are common throughout rural North Idaho, they are rarely found within an urban setting. There are only two other log buildings in Sandpoint, one a very recent turned log duplex and the other a small dwelling. There are few other examples of Rustic Style public buildings made of logs in other North Idaho cities.

At the same time, the choice of logs for the Community Hall seems quite reasonable. The town was attempting a large construction project in the middle of the Depression. While the I.E.R.A. agreed to provide the labor for the project, the community had to supply the materials. Logs were abundant and readily available at no cost. On top of that, the techniques for building with logs were probably well known. The Boy Scouts' dream of a "log cabin" evolved into the Community Hall.

Aside from the 1944 wing, which leaves the original design intact and clearly distinguishable, the Sandpoint Community Hall remains basically unchanged from when it was built in 1935-1936. The building is well maintained by both the city and the groups who use the facility. Boy Scouts still meet there along with numerous other community organizations.

¹ "Building Meeting Set for Monday," Daily Bulletin, February 1, 1935, vol. 11, no. 28, p. 1, c. 6.

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Daily Bulletin (Sandpoint), January 23, February 1, 5, 6, 27, March 22, April 4, 5, 16, 27, May 4, 17, 24, June 7, July 6, September 26, October 8, November 4, 1935, February 4, 27, March 5, 27, April 28, May 7, 15, 28, June 5, 17, 18, 1936.

Northern Idaho News (Sandpoint), February 8, March 22, April 5, 12, 26, May 17, June 14, 1935, February 7, 28, March 6, April 3, 17, May 1, 1936, June 19, 1936.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1935-1936 **Builder/Architect** H. L. Mountjoy, architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Sandpoint Community Hall, built in 1935-1936, is significant historically for its association with the Idaho Emergency Relief Administration and the Works Progress Administration and the local impact of those government relief programs. Additional significance comes from its later use as a U. S. O. club which served sailors from nearby Farragut Naval Training Base during World War II. The log building is also significant architecturally as an unusual example of an architect-designed public building in an urban setting which uses native logs as the primary building material, achieving a Rustic Style much more common in public works projects for the Forest Service and the Park Service.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Sandpoint

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UTM References

A

1	1	5	3	3	6	4	0	5	3	4	6	3	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nomination includes the Sandpoint Community Hall and the property on which it stands; block 7, lots 3-7, Weil's Addition to Sandpoint, Idaho.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy F. Renk, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization Idaho State Historical Society date May 16, 1986

street & number 610 North Julia Davis Drive telephone (208) 334-3861

city or town Boise state Idaho 83702-7695

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Thomas J. Greer

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/29/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

William B. Bushong date 9/11/86
for Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration