AUG 1 4 1985

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

NOMINATION: Kootenai County Rural Schools thematic group

SITE NAME: Cougar Gulch School III SITE NUMBER: 12

LOCATION: Southeast side of Cougar Gulch Road, about 1/2 mile west of Miller Road.

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Bruce M. Blackburn, et ux.
9900 West Cougar Gulch Road
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Post Falls, 7.5' ACREAGE: about 1 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nomination includes the Cougar Gulch School and the property on which it stands, commencing at the east quarter corner of Section 35, T50N, R5W, B.M.; thence west along the east-west centerline of Section 35, 1043'; thence south, 50' to the true point of beginning; thence south 208.71'; thence west 208.71'; thence north, 208.71'; thence east 208.71' to the true point of beginning; all in the W 1/2, E 1/2, SE 1/4, Section 35, T50N, R5W, B. M.

UTM(S): 11/505920/5275700

DATE OR PERIOD: 1923 ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, exploration/settlement

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: fair, altered, original site

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTORY BUILDINGS: 2

DESCRIPTION:

Cougar Gulch School III is one of the small, functionally designed schools in the thematic group. It is a rectangular, one-story wood-frame building, approximately 21 by 30 feet, with a wood-frame shed-roofed addition attached to the rear (south) end of the building. The schoolhouse has a gable roof covered with corrugated sheet metal. The building is clad in painting clapboard siding with corners finished with plain vertical boards. The gable ends are wood-shingled and the verges are supported by two figure-four brackets. The eaves are open, without fascia boards and the rafters are exposed. A bank of presently boarded-over windows covers over half of the building's east facade. A front porch has evidently been removed. A brick chimney is offset several feet back from the north end of the roof ridge. A small boarded-over opening--leading to an attic, is centered on the front gable end above the five-panel door. An outhouse, reportedly built by the Works Progress Administration, still stands approximately twenty-five feet east of the schoolhouse; it is contributory to the site. The building is in fair condition. The building's only apparent alteration--the removal of the front porch--does not significantly detract from the schoolhouse's overall historic character, which remains well expressed through its size, massing, fenestration, and exterior siding.

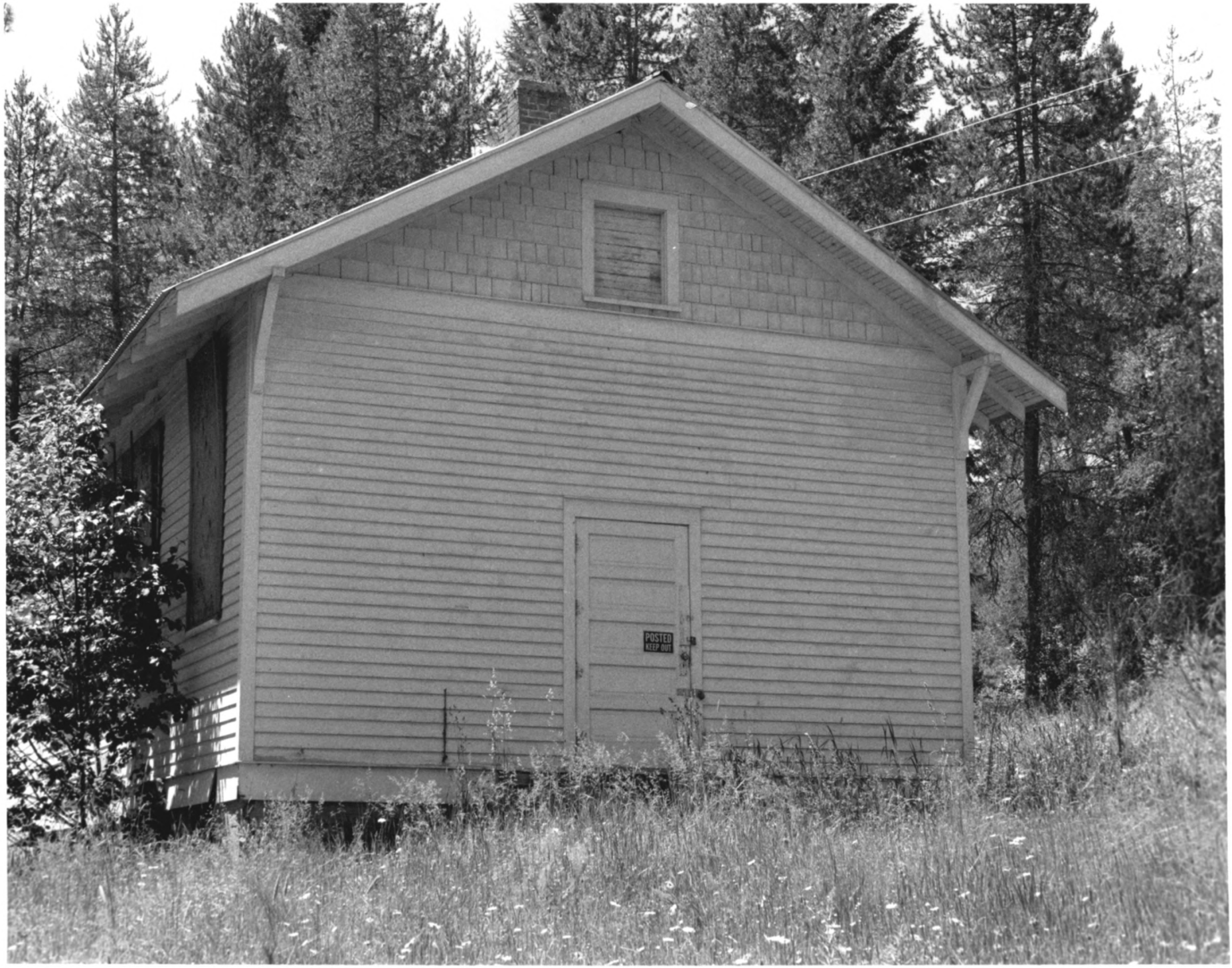
SIGNIFICANCE:

Cougar Gulch School III is significant for its association with early community development in the Cougar Gulch district. The schoolhouse also has countywide significance because its size, massing, plan, and utilitarian wood-frame construction are representative of many other schoolhouses that were once found throughout the county but now have either lost their historic character or have been destroyed.

Cougar Gulch School III is situated in the Upper Westlake study unit. Of eight schoolhouses that have been identified in the study unit, this is the only building that has survived with sufficient architectural integrity to be eligible for the National Register.

Cougar Gulch School III is located approximately five miles up the Cougar Creek drainage, about midway between the northwest shore of Coeur d'Alene Lake and the Washington-Idaho state line. The Cougar Gulch district was within the bounds of the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation until the early 1890's, when about twelve square miles of tribal land adjacent to the northwest end of Coeur d'Alene Lake were relinquished to the U.S. government by treaty. Compared to other areas in the study unit that are closer to Coeur d'Alene Lake, the upper Cougar Gulch district was apparently settled more slowly. By the first decade of the twentieth century, however, enough permanent settlers were at hand to organize a school district. The first settlers pursued a mixed logging and farm homestead existence.

The first schoolhouse in the upper Cougar Gulch area was a small, gable-roofed log building. It was in operation as early as 1904. The log school was succeeded by a wood-frame one-room schoolhouse, approximately 15 by 25 feet. Cougar Gulch School II was located about a quarter mile north of the present site of Cougar Gulch School III and was torn down about 1920. For the next year or two upper Cougar Gulch students traveled to Meadow Brook School, about three miles down the Cougar Creek drainage. In 1923 Cougar Gulch III, the third and last school building to serve the upper Cougar Gulch district, was built. It continued in operation until about the time of World War II, when the Cougar Gulch school district was consolidated into the Coeur d'Alene School District. The Cougar Gulch schoolhouse is now vacant and apparently unused; it is in fair condition.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Kootenai County Rural Schools Thematic Group
Cougar Gulch School III (site 12)
T50N, R5W, Section 35

Photograph by Dave Osterberg
5 July 1984

Negative on file at the Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho

View from northeast

Photograph 1 of 1