

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

NOMINATION: (BOISE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TR)

SITE NAME: Cole School and Gymnasium

SITE NUMBER: 1

LOCATION: 7415 Fairview Avenue, Boise, ID 83704

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Independent School District of Boise City
1207 Fort Street
Boise, Idaho 83702

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Cloverdale, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: about 7 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Cole School and Gymnasium and the property on which they stand, a tract of land in the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 12, Township three north, Range one east, B.M., described by metes and bounds as follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of said Section 12, thence south along the section line 295 feet; thence north 89°01' west parallel to the north boundary of said section, a distance of 320 feet; thence south, parallel to the east boundary of said section a distance of 213.2 feet; thence north 89°01' west, parallel to the north boundary of said section, a distance of 538 feet; thence north, parallel to the east boundary of said section, a distance of 508.2 feet to a point on the north boundary of said section; thence south 89°01' east, along the north boundary of said section, a distance of 858 feet to the point of beginning.

UTM(S): 11/558560/4829583

DATE OR PERIOD: 1903, additions 1937,
1941, 1951

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Campbell & Wayland
(1903); Tourtellotte and Hummel
(1937 gymnasium)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Education

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

Cole School, built in 1903 as a four-room country school, is located on the southwest corner of Cole Road and Fairview Avenue, now one of the busiest intersections in the state. The two-story stucco-over-brick building, designed by the architectural firm of Campbell & Wayland, has a lateral hipped roof with secondary hipped roofs on the end bays. The symmetrical facade has a central recessed entrance framed by a large Romanesque arch. The round-arch motif is repeated in the stone window heads on the triple windows of the second story. The first-story windows have straight stone lintels which repeat the line of the course marking the base-

ment level. A small central wooden hipped-roof dormer is on the roof; so is the original school bell, although the cupola which housed the bell is now gone. The broad eaves are bracketed. The original one-story wooden porch has been replaced by a fire-escape platform above the entry, with the fire-escape steps crossing the facade at the right. This portion of the building retains the vertical massing and tall narrow window openings grouped in two and threes which were typical of the schools of the period.

Later additions include a four-classroom section at the rear, similar in style and proportion to the original building, and a two-story concrete gymnasium designed by Tourtellote and Hummel. A long low classroom wing extends to the rear at the right of the school. The separate concrete gym displays art deco influence in its stepped parapet roofline and engaged multiple pilasters. The symmetrical facade has a triple entrance, the placement of which is echoed on the second-story windows, which are balanced by large single windows above. The alterations described are compatible with the historical character of the building and constitute all major alterations.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The significance of Cole School lies in the fact that it is the oldest building in the district which has not seen major alteration to the original structure. It is the last of the old two-story, four-room box-type brick schoolhouses surviving with most of its features intact. The original Garfield, Hawthorne, Franklin, and Washington schools are gone and Whittier has been significantly altered, leaving Cole as the single example of this type of building in the Thematic Group. Even at the time Cole was built, new influences were being felt which were to change the style and functions of the schools. Also significant is the fact that Cole School and its gymnasium are the work of the two architectural firms that were responsible for the design of the majority of the school buildings in the Thematic Group.



Boise Public Schools
Cole School and Gymnasium (site 1)
7415 Fairview Avenue
Boise, Ada County, Idaho

Photograph by Ron Pisaneschi
July, 1982

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

View from East

Photograph 1 of 1