

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Union School  
other names/site number IHSI #83-16951

2. Location

street & number 21337 US Highway 30 N/A not for publication  
city or town Filler N/A vicinity  
state Idaho code ID county Twin Falls code 083 zip code 83328

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide X locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments. )

Kenneth C. Reid 31/01/03  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
KENNETH C. REID, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments. )

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- 1 entered in the National Register.  
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 the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 3/20/03

Union School  
Name of Property

Filer, Twin Falls County, Idaho  
City, County, and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☐ private  
☒ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

### Category of Property (Check only one box)

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |
|--------------|-----------------|
| <u>1</u>     | buildings       |
|              | sites           |
|              | structures      |
|              | objects         |
| <u>1</u>     | Total           |

### Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Public School Buildings in Idaho

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/  
Museum  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

No style  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls BRICK  
WOOD  
roof SYNTHETICS  
other

## Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

City, County, and State \_\_\_\_\_

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

### Period of Significance

1914-1947

### Significant Dates

1914

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

## Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ 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

- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Union School  
Name of Property

Filer, Twin Falls County, Idaho  
City, County, and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/1 7/0/1/2/0/0 4/7/1/5/0/5/0 B 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1/1  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1/1 D 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1/1

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roxane Mitro, Architect; Renee Magee, Planner  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date July 31, 2002  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone 208-522-4030  
city or town Idaho Falls state ID zip code 83402

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Maps:** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

- **Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

- **Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

## Property Owner

name Twin Falls County  
street & number 21337 US Highway 30 telephone 208-736-4675  
city or town Filer state ID zip code 83328

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Name of Property Union School

County and State Twin Falls County, Idaho

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Flanked by large, deciduous trees, Union School sits behind a low, basalt retaining wall on U.S. Highway 30, midway between the cities of Twin Falls and Filer, Idaho, on approximately two acres near Curry Crossing. To the north are agricultural fields like those surrounding the school when it was built in 1914. Today a mobile home park, residences, and commercial uses are scattered to the west and immediate south. Rural commercial uses, primarily mobile home sales, and a radio station and tower are located to the east.

The school is a one-story, yellow brick building constructed in a stretcher or running bond pattern on a poured-concrete foundation. The building, which has approximately 2,400 square feet on the main floor, is a pavilion plan with a central projecting portal. The school is symmetrical in massing and fenestration. To each side of the entrance is a pair of two-over-two, double-hung windows with concrete window sills and heads. The entry is recessed and sits above eight concrete steps with side walls. A rectangular transom window is located above a pair of wood doors, each having a large, single light. Inside these doors are wooden screen doors. The entry is framed by brick, fluted pilasters. Above the recessed entry is the school's name in metal letters on a concrete background. A roof overhang with false beams at the corners encircles the building and has been covered with sheet metal. Rising above the roof overhang is a parapet wall of brick capped with concrete. The parapet on the portal is triangular above the entrance.

The east and west elevations are dominated by two sets of three windows, each a two-over-two, double-hung window below a segmental transom. The lower sash has been removed or covered with plywood. On the east elevation, below the concrete ledge, are two brick insets and two basement awning windows; on the west, there are four brick insets, one containing the wooden door to the coal chute.

The recessed, central portion of the south elevation also has two sets of three windows, each a two-over-two, double-hung window below a segmental transom. Again, the lower sash has been removed or covered. To the west of these windows, near the brick chimney, is a small two-over-two, double-hung window. The basement windows are awning windows.

Concrete trim is a major decorative element of the building. The concrete ledge delineates the floor level of the classrooms. A concrete bandcourse defines the lower edge of recessed rectangles created by engaged brick columns at the corners of the building. The concrete coping on the entry surround extends as a bandcourse across the portal and becomes the coping on the parapet of the classroom wings. The coping on the parapet of the portal is concrete. The engaged brick columns are capped with concrete.

The only exterior intrusion is the shed addition built over eight concrete steps with side walls leading to the basement. The shed addition has a flat roof and vertical wood siding. Two double doors, each

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Name of Property Union SchoolCounty and State Twin Falls County, Idaho

with one-over-one lights, open to the steps. The basement was not used until consolidation in 1948, when a kitchen and cafeteria were located in the basement. The basement also contains the furnace and former coal bin.

On the interior of the school, the vestibule contains a closet on each side of the entry doors. There was a second set of double doors below a transom window that separated the vestibule from the hallway. The second set of doors has been removed. To the east of the vestibule, with the entrance from the hallway, is the former boys' restroom; the girls' is to the west. The door to the center classroom is directly across the hall from the school entrance. The center classroom housed the third, fourth, and fifth grades. At the western end of the center classroom was a cloakroom, which had a door to the front hall and west classroom. The cloakroom has been removed and the center classroom expanded in size. The west classroom housed the first and second grades. The sixth, seventh, and eighth grades met in the east classroom. Between the center classroom and the east classroom was a wooden partition that slid into the walls. For school events the partition was pushed into the walls and a stage was placed adjacent to the cloakroom. In the early years of the school, two stoves, one in the west classroom and one in the central classroom, provided heat.<sup>1</sup> Each classroom is sized roughly twenty feet by thirty feet to accommodate the voice of the teacher, and has a bank of windows on one side to provide natural light. The hardwood floors have not been carpeted, and although the lower one-half of the walls have been covered with paneling, the original lathe and plaster walls are exposed on the upper portion of the walls. Acoustic materials on the walls and ceiling are original.

A lava rock retaining wall separates the school grounds from the parking area adjacent to U.S. Highway 30. It was built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s. The wall was originally three to four feet in height. However, the elevation of U.S. Highway 30 has been raised since 1968, and the height of the wall reduced to approximately one foot. The WPA also constructed two outhouses to replace earlier structures. The outhouses have been removed. The original flagpole is located south of the wall.

The site is now used as a county museum, and several buildings have been moved there for museum purposes. These include a metal-sided pole barn; a former farm house; a chicken coop; an outhouse; a large, three-sided shed; an old smithy; and a utility shed. The playground equipment and ball field have been removed and a large, metal storage building has been situated between the school and a former teacherage, located in the southeast corner of the property. Therefore, the original two-acre school site, as a whole, has lost integrity; the boundary of the historic site includes only the ground on which the school itself sits.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Name of Property Union School

County and State Twin Falls County, Idaho

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The Union School at Curry Crossing is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A for its significance to the history of education in the Twin Falls area. The property meets the registration requirements set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation "Public School Buildings in Idaho."

Union School is located approximately three miles west of Twin Falls, a city owing its existence to the Carey Act of 1894 and the Milner Dam. After successfully establishing his own agricultural operation at Blue Lakes, a few miles below Shoshone Falls on the Snake River, Ira B. Perrine organized an effort under the Carey Act to irrigate 500,000 acres. With the initial investment from Stanley Milner, a Salt Lake City banker, Perrine incorporated the Twin Falls Land and Water Company in 1900, filed notice for diversions from both the south and north sides of the Snake River, and began to sell 270,000 acres of land at 25 cents an acre and water rights at \$25 per acre. Milner Dam at The Cedars was completed in 1905, and water became available to 60,000 acres of farmland. The project ultimately included 244,000 acres of land on 1,295 farms watered by the Snake River. Twin Falls, Hansen, Filer, Kimberly, and Buhl sprang up, the last two reflecting the names of two Pennsylvania investors in the Twin Falls Land and Water Company, Frank Buhl and Peter Kimberly.

As water came to the agricultural fields, school districts were formed to serve the growing farming population. Although a small school had existed in the Twin Falls area about 1884, the first major effort to address school needs in Twin Falls was organized by Ira B. Perrine. By 1904, a school building was erected in Twin Falls and 104 students were registered. Filer's first school was constructed and started in 1906. Classes were held in Maroa, west of Filer, in September 1905, and the Maroa District was formed in 1906. Union School District No. 8 was probably formed in these same years, if not earlier. By the spring of 1907, at least 18 children were enrolled in District No. 8 and were taught by Jessie W. Borden. *The Twin Falls Times* described the District as "a compact and rapidly growing district adjoining the Twin Falls District on the west side."<sup>2</sup> By October of 1907, the *Twin Falls Times* reported that M. H. "Dad" Pape had just completed a two-room schoolhouse for District No. 8 at Curry. It measured 24 feet by 60 feet and was oil finished.<sup>3</sup>

Six years later, in early December 1913,<sup>4</sup> the frame building built by Pape for District No. 8 burned to the ground, apparently due to mice or rats gnawing matches. By the following fall, the Union School District trustees opened a new building at the same location:

The trustees of the Union School district, at Curry, have this year erected a handsome and substantial brick school house with four rooms and full basement, at a cost of about \$15,000, and the children are now enjoying the modern structure after a long period in a temporary wooden shack. The Union School District is one of the first formed in the county and has used the centralized idea for nearly all of its existence.<sup>5</sup>

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Name of Property Union School

County and State Twin Falls County, Idaho

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Until 1947, the Union School District was one of the numerous school districts in Twin Falls County. When the state code changed, the District was consolidated into the Twin Falls School District No. 411. Although the seventh and eighth grades were moved to Twin Falls, Union School continued to be used for the elementary grades, and a kitchen and cafeteria were installed in the basement. In 1968, Union School had 84 elementary students and three instructors when the school board for District No. 411 decided to close the school, the last of the country schools to be operated in the District. Elementary enrollment throughout the District was falling, and the board found the cost of operating Union School prohibitive.<sup>6</sup> In the fall of 1968, the school building and its grounds were sold to Twin Falls County for use as a museum by the Twin Falls Historical Society.

### SIGNIFICANCE

For over fifty years Union School served the agricultural community west of the City of Twin Falls. It is an excellent example of the rural schools characterizing education in most of Idaho in the early twentieth century as outlined in the Multiple Property Listing "Public School Buildings in Idaho." First established as a frame, two-room school building, growth, spurred by irrigated agriculture after the construction of Milner Dam in 1905 and a fire started by mice, mandated the construction of a new school in 1914. This new school was larger and sturdier and served the surrounding community for 30 years before statewide consolidation of schools meant the small, rural school could no longer meet the newly imposed requirements. The school is representative of Idaho schools during the historic period prior to 1947 when the state school code changed, bringing them into the modern period. The Union School is an excellent example of an independent, rural school serving an agricultural community in the first half of the twentieth century.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Name of Property Union School

County and State Twin Falls County, Idaho

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### ENDNOTES:

1. Interview, Richard "Dick" Tucker, June 15, 2002.
2. "Union School," *Twin Falls News*, May 3, 1907, page 1.
3. "'Dad' Pape, The Veteran Builder," *Twin Falls News*, October 18, 1907.
4. "Curry Schoolhouse Burned," *The Twin Falls Times*, December 2, 1913, page 1.
5. "Union School in New Home," *The Twin Falls Times*, October 2, 1914, page 1.
6. "Last of Country Schools in T. F. District To Be Closed this Fall," *The Twin Falls Times*, April 2, 1968, page 1.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Name of Property Union School

County and State Twin Falls County, Idaho

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Arrington, Leonard J. *History of Idaho, Volume 1*. Moscow: University of Idaho Press, 1994.

Grant Deed, School District No. 411, Twin Falls County, to Twin Falls County, Idaho, dated November 12, 1968. Instrument No. 593710. Twin Falls County Recorder's Office.

Gulliford, Andrew. *America's Country Schools*. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1991.

Moon, Howard J. *A Centennial History of Schools of the State of Idaho*. Idaho School Boards Association, 1988.

Tucker, Richard "Dick." Former student, Union School, 1935-43, Filer, Idaho. Interview, June 15, 2002.

"Curry Schoolhouse Burned: Fire Thought to Have Been Started by Rats Gnawing Matches," *The Twin Falls Times*, December 2, 1913. Page 1.

*Twin Falls News*. "'Dad' Pape, The Veteran Builder," October 18, 1907, page 2.

*Twin Falls Times News*. "The Little Red School House is Now a Grange Hall, A Museum, or Would You Believe a Home?" October 13, 1968, Page B-1.

*Twin Falls News*. "Union School," May 3, 1907. Page 1.

*The Twin Falls Times*. "Fine Prospects of County Schools," August 14, 1914, Page 1.

*The Twin Falls Times*. "Last of Country Schools in T.F. District To Be Closed This Fall," April 2, 1968, page 1.

"Union School in New Home," *The Twin Falls Times*, October 2, 1914. Page 1.

Wright, Mareda. Interview, correspondence. August 3, 2002, and August 6, 2002.

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Name of Property Union School

County and State Twin Falls County, Idaho

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### **BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary of the site includes only the Union School building and the ground on which it stands.

### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

Although the building sits on what was originally a two-acre school site, the larger site has lost integrity due to the addition of non-associated buildings, landscape elements, and the removal of playground equipment. Therefore, only the building itself retains integrity and is included in the nomination.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Name of Property Union School

County and State Twin Falls County, Idaho

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### PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Union School

Twin Falls County, Idaho

Photographs taken by Renee Magee, June, 2002, and August, 2002

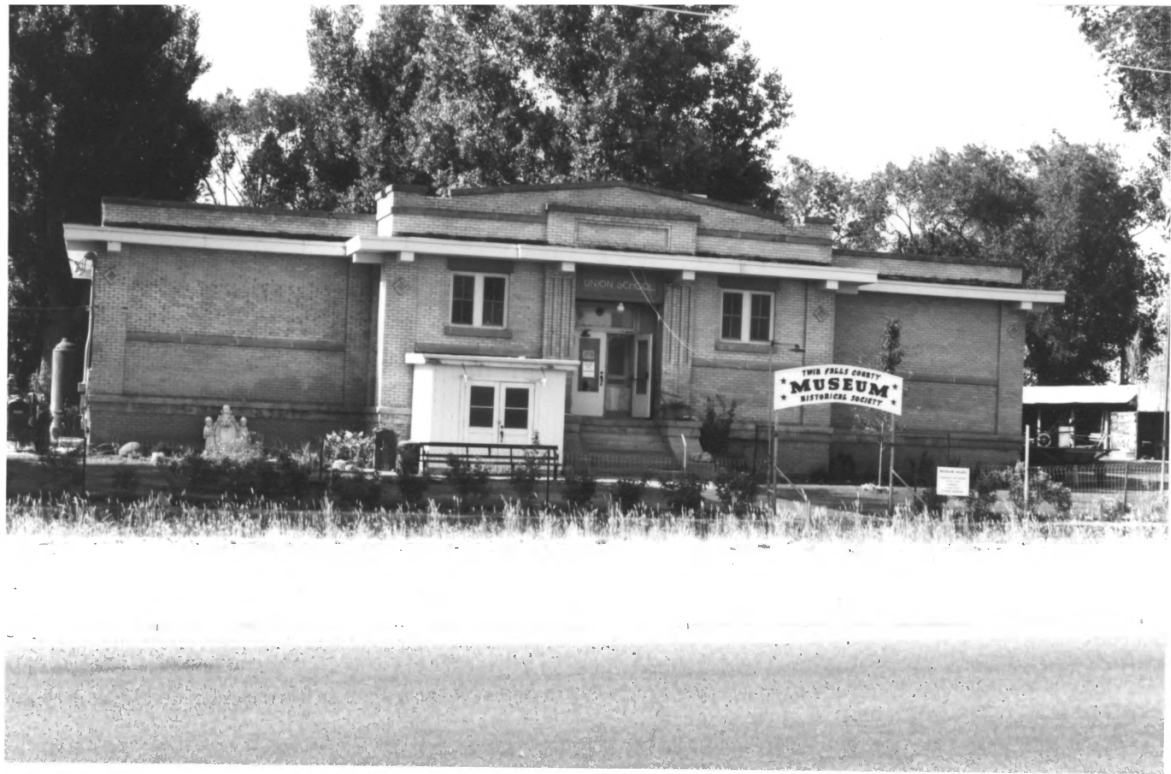
Original negatives on file at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

Photo No. 1 of 4: Union School, view looking south

Photo No. 2 of 4: Union School, entrance, view looking south

Photo No. 3 of 4: Union School, west elevation, view looking southeast

Photo No. 4 of 4: Union School, east and south elevation, view looking northwest



Union School Historic District  
21337 US Highway 30  
Filer Idaho 83328

Twins Falls County, Idaho

Renee R. Magee August 3, 2002

Idaho SHPO

Union School front elevation, looking south

No. 1 of 4

UNION SCHOOL

OPEN

ROYAL  
SCHOOL OF  
ARTS & CRAFTS  
CLASSES BEG. 9/1

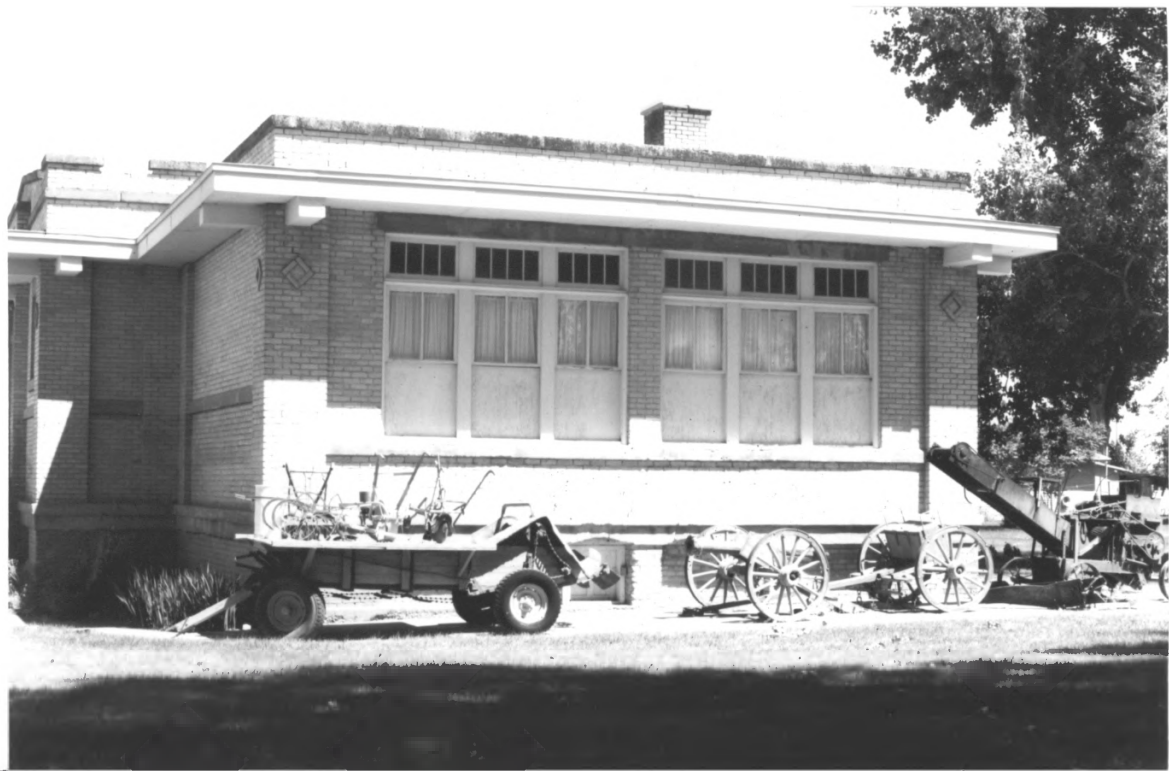


Union School Historic District  
21337 US Highway 30  
Filer Idaho 83328

Twin Falls County, Idaho

Renee R. Magee June 15, 2002  
Idaho SHPO

Entrance, view looking south  
No. 2 of 4



Union School Historic District

21337 U.S. Highway 30

Filer Idaho 83328

Twin Falls County, Idaho

Renee R. Magee June 15, 2002

Idaho SHPO

West elevation, view looking southeast

No. 3 of 4



Union School Historic District

21337 U S Highway 30

Filer Idaho 83328

Twin Falls County, Idaho

Renee R. Magee August 3, 2002

Idaho SHPO

East and south, elevation, looking northwest

No. 4 of 4