

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

NOMINATION: (BOISE PUBLIC SCHOOLS 711)

SITE NAME: Whitney School

SITE NUMBER: 8

LOCATION: 1609 South Owyhee^{St.}, Boise, ID 83705

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

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

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise South, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: 8.85 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Whitney School and the property on which it stands, bounded on the north by Overland Road, on the east by Owyhee Street, on the south by Nez Perce Street, and on the west by Atlantic Street.

UTM(S): A. 11/562760/4826400
C. 11/562580/4826127

B. 11/562760/4826127
D. 11/562580/4826400

DATE OR PERIOD: 1929, additions 1937,
1948

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Wayland & Fennell

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Education

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

Whitney School is a low, horizontal one-story stucco-over-brick building with parapet roof and large multi-paned windows. Three entrances display fanlights and other stylized ornamentation derived from classical motifs. The central entry is set in a projecting bay and flanking entrances are spaced irregularly in the facade. Simple geometric designs adorn the stucco walls, and there is an additional arched entry in the north facade. The original central unit of the school was designed by Wayland & Fennell in 1926 to replace an old box-type school which burned down. In 1936 Tourtellotte and Hummel designed additional wings for the north and south ends of the building, and finally in 1946 a large wing was added to the south end of the school. The result of all these additions is that the school has a somewhat sprawling effect, although this is counteracted by the consistent use of classical detail and uniform roofline, fenestration, materials, and scale throughout. The alterations described are compatible with the historical character of the building and constitute all major alterations.

Used data from text per Bruce M. - Wanner 11/9/83

SIGNIFICANCE:

Whitney School is one of two one-story schools in the Thematic Group. Controversy over the merits of the one-story building still flourished, but in this case the school board chose the new concept of the single-story design over the traditional two-story building. However, it was not until after the Second World War that the single-story school building was widely accepted by the area; thus Whitney was an unusual departure from accepted practice.

In 1936 when WPA labor was available, a wing was added to each end of the building, providing additional classrooms and a lunchroom/kitchen/playroom facility. The provision of hot lunch in school was an innovation shared with Cole and Central schools and reflected the expanding social role of the schools.



Boise Public Schools
Whitney School (site 8)
1609 South Owyhee
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