

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: South Municipal Pool

Other names/site number: South Pool

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 921 S Shoshone Street

City or town: Boise State: Idaho County: Ada

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

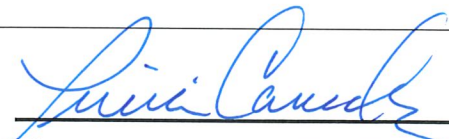
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 X A B X C D

 _____ Signature of certifying official/Title: Tricia Canaday, Deputy SHPO	<u>8-2-22</u> _____ Date
_____ Idaho State Historic Preservation Office	
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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--

South Municipal Pool
Name of Property

Ada County, Idaho
County and State

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: _____ **Date** _____

Title: _____ **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government** _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
- ___ determined eligible for the National Register
- ___ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ___ removed from the National Register
- ___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

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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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE:

Sports Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT:

Moderne

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK; CONCRETE

roof: CONCRETE

other: GLASS

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The South Municipal Pool (South Pool) in Boise, Idaho is a one-story, ovoid-shaped above-ground swimming pool built in 1953. Located in the Depot Bench neighborhood, the Streamline Moderne style pool building occupies a small rectangular-shaped lot adjacent to the South Junior High School. This Wesley Bintz-patented pool sits on a concrete slab foundation and has concrete block and brick exterior walls finished with a cement plaster skim coat, glass block windows, and a board formed, concrete upper-level pool deck surrounded by a chain link fence. Facing east, the entrance projects from the ovoid and features inset, stylized block lettering for "Municipal Pool." The pool itself sits above ground; the locker rooms wrap around the sides of the inset pool at the ground level, with the roof serving as the upper-level pool deck. Its interior includes a vestibule and check-in lobby inside the main entrance, women's and men's locker rooms that wrap around the south and north sides of the pool, a storage room, and a mechanical room at the west end of the building.

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The pool has undergone few major alterations since its construction and retains good integrity. Notable changes include the application of a cement plaster skim coat to the exterior concrete block and brick walls, replacement of the original wood-frame windows with glass blocks, the chain link fencing added around the upper-level pool deck in place of the original wood fencing, the storage room additions at the west end of the building, but these alterations do not detract from the pool's overall integrity. Through its setting, placement, form, materials, and character-defining features, the building clearly conveys its original function, historic associations, and period of construction.

Narrative Description

Location and Setting

Boise (2020 pop. 235,648) is located on a broad, flat plain along the Boise River in southwest Idaho. The Rocky Mountain foothills rise northeast of Boise and the Owyhee Mountains are to the southwest. Boise's Depot Bench neighborhood is situated on a broad, relatively flat river terrace to the south and west of downtown. At an approximately 60-foot higher elevation than downtown, this geologic feature is locally known as the Depot Bench. Located at 921 S. Shoshone Avenue, the South Pool sits on a 0.56-acre property owned by Boise Parks and Recreation Department. The rectilinear property is bounded by Shoshone Street to the east, single-family residences to the south, and the expansive grounds of the South Junior High School to the west and north. The sprawling one-and-a-half story concrete block school building situated to the north and west dominates the pool's immediate surroundings, while the wide, tree-lined surrounding streets feature an assortment of single-family residences built between the 1930s and 1960s, a handful of small-scale commercial buildings, and several churches.

Facing east towards Shoshone Street, the South Pool occupies roughly the western half of its rectangular-shaped lot, while the eastern section contains a lawn with a pair of large deciduous trees and a small, irregular-shaped parking lot. The concrete sidewalk along Shoshone Street extends in a perpendicular direction into the pool property to define the western edge of the parking lot and connect to a concrete walk leading directly to the pool's main entrance. To the south, the pool is surrounded by a lawn and a line of trees and shrubs that define the property line. The lawn to the west of the pool is contiguous to the South Junior High Football Field. To the north, a narrow strip of lawn is defined by an asphalt drive that provides access from Shoshone Street to the maintenance and storage rooms at the rear of the pool building. The school's tennis courts are situated on the north side of the access road.

Exterior

The South Pool is a one-story, ovoid-shaped, Streamline Moderne style "Bintz-type" above-ground swimming pool.¹ Built on a concrete slab foundation, the pool building is about 77 feet

¹ The existing structure is approximately 4,673 square feet.

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wide (north to south) by 120 feet long (east to west) and almost entirely constructed of poured concrete. It was constructed so that the open-air pool is inset into the center of the building, with the surrounding upper-level concrete deck forming the roof of locker rooms on either side. A board formed, concrete system makes up the upper-level pool deck structure, spanning from the cement plaster-coated concrete block and brick exterior bearing walls to the foundation bearing wall that makes up the perimeter of the pool. The rectilinear entrance hall extends outward from the ovoid-shaped main pool building to the east and features inset, stylized block lettering for "Municipal Pool" and a curved parapet. Around the curving north and south sides of the pool building, the high windows are glass block. The upper level houses the pool deck enclosed by a chain-link fence, the concrete pool, and an observation area.

Facing east towards Shoshone Street, the entrance hall sits at ground level and extends outward from the ovoid-shaped main pool building. Its Streamline Moderne style façade consists of a pair of fluted pylons of differing height that frame the offset recessed entry, a projecting concrete canopy, and a dramatically curved parapet. The name MUNICIPAL POOL is inset into the concrete; the Moderne block lettering for MUNICIPAL runs horizontally in the space above the projecting canopy over the doors and those for POOL run vertically to the right of the recessed entrance. To the right of the entrance, a dedication plaque commemorating the construction of the pool is set into the pylon. The inset letters and fluting are painted purple, while the remainder of the façade is turquoise.

The north and south elevations of the ovoid-shaped main pool building consist of curved concrete block and brick walls coated in a cement plaster skim coat. The upper section of each wall has a ribbon course with ten inset rectangular glass block windows that provide light into the locker rooms. Each window is four glass blocks high and ten blocks wide, measuring approximately 2x5 feet in size. An additional glass block window in the south elevation of the projecting entrance hall provides light into the vestibule. On the west (rear) elevation, the rectilinear mechanical room extends outward slightly from the main ovoid-shaped pool building. A metal smokestack extends upward from the upper wall at the southwest corner of the building. On the west elevation, a pair of storage shed additions are attached to the northwest corner of the mechanical room. The smaller of them is concrete block with a composition shingle shed roof, while the larger has metal panel walls and a metal shed roof. Both the mechanical room and storage room additions are accessible only from the exterior.

Upper-Level Pool Deck and Swimming Pool

The upper level of the building has a textured, exposed concrete deck that runs around the periphery of the ovoid-shaped open-air pool. A chain-link fence bolted to the concrete deck encloses the entire upper level. Three stairways lead from the pool deck to the interior; two stairways located at the west end of the pool deck provide swimmers separate access from women's and men's lockers rooms. A third staircase is located above the main entrance at the east end of the pool, providing spectators access from the entry vestibule to an observation area in the southeast section of the pool deck. Another row of chain link fencing separates the observation area from the main pool deck. A single low diving board sits on the east end of the pool.

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Measuring 60 feet wide by 90 feet long, the concrete pool's greatest depth is 12 feet at the east end; its shallowest depth, at the west end, is three feet. The depth markers are a series of concrete blocks rising from the deck with painted numbers. An imbedded scum gutter, designed to remove surface water contaminants, encircles the entire pool. The main intake of the pool's filtration system is located at the bottom of the deep end of the pool.

Interior

The interior of the building wraps around the ovoid-shaped swimming pool below the upper-level pool deck and consists of an entrance vestibule, check-in lobby, women's and men's locker rooms, a storage room, and a mechanical room on the ground floor.² Throughout, the interior is utilitarian in character. The exterior walls are painted exposed concrete block and brick while those on the pool side are poured concrete. Floors and ceilings are concrete. Exposed lengths of electrical conduit and pool pipework of varying size run along the ceiling and walls in the lobby and locker room areas. The lighting is in the form of fluorescent fixtures mounted on the ceiling.

Inside the east-facing main entrance, a rectangular-plan vestibule contains a wall-mounted drinking fountain on the left and to the right, a stairway provides access to the observation area at the southeast section of the pool deck. The small adjoining check-in lobby wraps around the east end of the pool and contains a reception desk and concrete block partition walls that partially screen the locker rooms. To the left, the women's locker room wraps around the south side of the pool in a curved fashion. This long and narrow space holds several lockers and benches for changing along the interior wall. There are showers, toilets, and sinks at the west end, where stairs behind an original wooden door climb to the southwest section of the pool deck. The men's locker room, located to the right of the check-in lobby, is a nearly identical long, narrow, and curved space with lockers, benches, showers, toilets, and sinks. At the west end of the men's locker room, an original wooden door closes off stairs that climb to the northwest section of the pool deck. To the left of the stairs, a narrow door provides access to a small storage room. The mechanical room, which curves around the west end of the pool, contains the pool filtration system and is accessible only from the exterior.

Change Over Time and Integrity

The South Pool functioned as a municipal swimming pool from its opening in 1953 until its closure in 2019. During its operation, the property has undergone changes typical of extant Bintz pools to accommodate repairs and evolving functional and safety requirements. Unfortunately, limited information is available to determine when these changes occurred. City of Boise permit records document a renovation in 1993; earlier alterations are apparent from a comparison to photographs dating to the 1950s.

- Date Unknown: Replacement of the original wood fencing surrounding the upper-level pool deck with a chain link fence.

² The total interior space is approximately 2,536 square feet.

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- Date Unknown: Removal of the two light towers located on the north and south ends of the upper-level pool deck.
- Date Unknown: Removal of the original high and low diving boards and their replacement with a single low diving board located at the east end of the pool.
- Date Unknown: Application of a cement plaster skim coat to the exterior concrete block and brick walls.
- Date Unknown: Removal or plastering of the decorative tilework framing the recessed entry and in the inset panel in the south pylon of the entrance façade.
- Date Unknown: Replacement of the original wooden double entrance doors which each had three small windowpanes with hollow metal doors.
- Date Unknown: Addition of the attached storage sheds at the west end of the building.
- 1993: Replacement of the wood frame windows in the locker room areas with frosted glass blocks in the original openings.
- 1993: Updates to the locker rooms, including updates to cabinets, changing rooms, lighting, and restrooms.

The South Pool's setting was altered by the demolition and subsequent replacement of the adjacent South Junior High School in 2008.³ Built in 1947-1948, the original Streamline Moderne school building was located at the corner of Shoshone and Cassia streets. A wing of the irregular-shaped building extended south along Shoshone Street to the site of the present tennis courts immediately north of the pool. Together with the South Pool, the school building formed an impressive ensemble of Streamline Moderne architecture. Following the demolition of most of the school building, a small fragment of its library facade was preserved and converted into an outdoor amphitheater.⁴ The new building was constructed to the west of the original footprint, and the remainder of the site is now occupied by a large parking lot. Despite this change, the setting retains the character of an early-to-mid-20th century residential district and the association of the pool with the neighboring educational institution remains intact.

Although the above-noted changes have impacted the property's historic integrity in terms of materials, workmanship, and setting, it remains an excellent example of a rare building type that clearly conveys its original function, historic associations, and period of construction. The removal or concealment of some historic materials is noteworthy, but these changes are modest in terms of the overall design and do not impact the character-defining features. Currently, the pool is in fair condition due to deferred maintenance and is in need of upgrades for code

³ Boise Schools webpage. Accessed January 25, 2022. https://www.boiseschools.org/our_district/district_history

⁴ Rich Binsacca, *Boise Double Take* (Boise, Idaho: Gate House Publishers, 2011), 69.

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compliance, but these issues do not detract from its integrity.⁵ The property retains excellent integrity of location, design, feeling, and association, and good integrity of materials, workmanship, and setting.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes 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" in all the boxes that apply.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

⁵ These issues include leaking pipes, broken concrete, broken glass blocks, and exposed rebar. Full details are found in "Facilities Assessment: South and Lowell City Pools," Cushing Terrell and Aquatic Design Group, January 2021. Accessed on July 10, 2021 <https://www.cityofboise.org/media/12845/january-2021-facilities-assessment-south-and-lowell-pools.pdf>.

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

Criterion A: 1953-1972

Criterion C: 1953

Significant Dates

1953 (Construction)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wesley Bintz (Civil Engineer, Designer)

Jordan & Son (Builder)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

South Municipal Pool is significant under National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria A and C, at the local level of significance. It is eligible under Criterion A in the area of significance of ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION for its association with the development of public swimming pools in Boise. South Municipal Pool is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of significance of ARCHITECTURE as an excellent example of the work of Wesley Bintz, the designer of innovative above-ground public swimming pools built across the United States.

The Period of Significance for Criterion A is 1953 to 1972, beginning with the pool's opening and ending roughly fifty years from the present, reflecting its continuous use as a public swimming pool until its closure in 2019. The Period of Significance for Criterion C is 1953, the date of the pool's completion.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Early Settlement of Boise and the Development of the Depot Bench

Boise is situated along the Boise River, a tributary of the Snake River, in the high desert of southwest Idaho. It occupies the ancestral lands of the Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute tribes, which encompassed vast stretches of land in present-day Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, and Montana. Tribes to the north included the Nez Perce, the Coeur d'Alene, and others. The fertile Snake River Valley and its tributaries were important sources of life in this arid region, serving as important transportation corridors, not only for native tribes but also for European-American fur traders, missionaries, gold-seekers, and Oregon-bound settlers in the 19th century.⁶

The arrival of gold-seekers and miners in the early 1860s prompted the establishment of Idaho Territory in 1863 and the formation of Fort Boise, a military post along the Boise River. The new fort marked the beginning of Boise City, a small trading post settlement that was platted on July 7, 1863. It was named the county seat when Ada County was created in 1864. The lack of a developed transportation network attracted few to the large, rugged, and arid Idaho Territory, where only 14,999 residents lived in 1870. The first railroad to develop into Idaho Territory was the Utah Northern, a narrow-gauge line built from Ogden to Franklin in 1873-1874. With its continued development and the arrival of the Northern Pacific and Oregon Short Line railroads in the late 1870s and early 1880s, the population doubled. The Oregon Short Line (OSL) and Union Pacific (UP) railroads developed through the Snake River Valley in the 1880s, and a branch line connecting Boise with Nampa was completed in 1893. In 1890 when Idaho became a

⁶ Information on Boise's settlement and history is reproduced from Sarah J. Martin. "Corilla J. and Orlando Robbins House," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2020), Section 8, page 10.

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state, Boise was established as the capital city. The original town center, which is referred to as Old Boise, was a thriving commercial and civic district located around 5th, Capitol, Front, and Bannock streets.⁷

The Depot Bench, where the South Pool is situated, began developing in earnest in 1878 with the completion of the first segment of the Ridenbaugh Canal. This seven-mile canal brought irrigation water to the arid desert land above the Boise River and quickly transformed the area into fertile farmland. The Depot Bench was characterized by small family farms for the next half a century.⁸ In April 1925, the opening of the Boise Union Pacific Depot designed by Carrère and Hastings on the Depot Bench made the neighborhood a transportation hub and, alongside the availability of personal automobiles, attracted residential development to the neighborhood.⁹ Development of the area accelerated during World War II with the establishment of nearby Gowen Field, a military airfield. Airfield workers and their families needed housing, and the government built a 100-unit housing complex on the Depot Bench. During the postwar years, increased automobile ownership allowed Boiseans to live farther away from downtown, leading to intensified residential development in the Depot Bench. Developers frequently subdivided the neighborhood's ample agricultural lands allowing for relatively large home plots. New amenities for area residents followed: South Junior High School, the second such institution in the city, opened in 1948 to serve the growing number of area children, and Idaho's first suburban shopping center, Vista Village, opened in 1949.¹⁰

Criterion A: Early Development of Public Swimming Pools in Boise

Southwestern Idaho's arid climate means that water has always held an attraction during the hot and dry summer months in the region, and ponds and swimming holes along the Boise River provided the first publicly accessible swimming locales in what is now the City of Boise. The city's first purpose-built public swimming pool, the Natatorium, opened in May 1892 at the end of a trolley line running east from downtown along Warm Springs Avenue (Figure 7). Owned and operated by a private entity, the Boise Water Corporation, "The Nat" emerged as a destination recreational center in the region. Designed in a fanciful Moorish Revival style by the architect John C. Paulsen of Helena, Montana, the landmark building had carefully balanced six-story towers and wide side wings with picturesque keyhole arches.¹¹ Inside, the massive \$150,000 building featured a 125-foot-long pool with a two-story copper slide and artificial waterfall, along with a gymnasium, dining room, clubrooms, a saloon, and dance floors (Figure 8).¹² The pool itself had a depth varying from two to 16 feet and was heated with geothermal water.¹³

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Binsacca. *Boise Double Take*, 34.

⁹ Binsacca. *Boise Double Take*, 66.

¹⁰ Binsacca. *Boise Double Take*, 69 and Anna Webb, *150 Boise Icons* (Boise, Idaho: The Idaho Statesman, 2013), 144-145.

¹¹ Information on the Natatorium is from Jennifer Eastman Attebery, *Building Idaho: An Architectural History* (Moscow, Idaho: University of Idaho Press, 1991), 59-60.

¹² "City May Take Over Old Nat and Construct Municipal Pool." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), August 3, 1934: 1.

¹³ "Approach of 55th Swimming Season," *Idaho Daily Statesman*, (Boise, ID), May 25, 1947: 25.

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In 1934, a windstorm caused significant structural damage that led to the Natatorium being condemned and closed. The facility was subsequently rebuilt as an outdoor swimming pool and reopened in 1936 (Figure 9).¹⁴ Following the reconstruction, the city rented the Natatorium from its private owners to allow youth swim lessons Monday through Thursday, which were offered free of charge to Boise residents.¹⁵ In 1952, after much deliberation, the city took ownership of the Natatorium.¹⁶ When voters passed the bond later the same year to construct the Lowell and South pools, the city also allocated funds to refurbish the Natatorium.¹⁷

The city's second publicly accessible swimming pool was located in the basement of the downtown Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) building, which opened in 1920 (Figure 10). Designed by the regionally significant architectural firm Tourtellotte and Hummel, the indoor pool was part of a \$165,000 facility at 11th and Idaho streets that also included lodging and a ballroom.¹⁸ The indoor pool allowed the YMCA to offer year-round lifeguarding and swimming lessons to the public.¹⁹ The YMCA Pool remained open for the next several decades until 1968 when the new downtown YMCA building with a pool was completed at 10th and State Streets.²⁰

Development of the Lowell and South Municipal Swimming Pools

Boise's first purpose-built municipal swimming facilities, the South Municipal Pool on the Depot Bench and the Lowell Municipal Pool in the North End, opened in the summer of 1953. This event was the culmination of a nearly 20-year campaign by citizens and civic organizations for a city owned and operated public swimming pool. Boise's existing publicly accessible pools, the privately managed Natatorium and YMCA, could not serve its growing population and were inconveniently located for the increasing number of residents living outside downtown.

Boiseans' decades-long struggle to secure the city government's commitment to construct a municipal pool began in 1930. That year the city declined an offer of land from the local building and engineering company of Morrison-Knudsen for a pool, citing the lack of a clean water source and funding.²¹ In February 1932, when the Boy Scouts obtained honorary control of city

¹⁴“Work Moves Ahead at Pool,” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), April 26, 1936.

¹⁵ Boise City Department of Arts and History. “A Municipool History.” Accessed December 3, 2020. <https://www.cityofboise.org/media/14247/municipal-pool-history.pdf#:~:text=In%201947%2C%20the%20Boise%20Junior%20Chamber%20of%20Commerce,The%20Jayces%20estimated%20roughly%201000%20citizens%20signed%20postcards.>

¹⁶ “Voters Okeh Swim Pool Bond Issue: Project Approved by Narrow Margin of 134 Ballots.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), July 16, 1952: 1. .

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Binsacca. *Boise Double Take*, 94.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ R.L. Polk and Company, *Boise City Polk Directory* (Detroit, MI: R.L. Polk and Company, 1967), 895 and R.L. Polk and Company, *Boise City Polk Directory* (Detroit, MI: R.L. Polk and Company, 1968), 587.

²¹ Boise City Parks and Recreation, “A Municipool History.”

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government for a half day, they passed an ordinance calling for a city pool.²² Unsurprisingly, their efforts ultimately did not lead to much progress on the matter. Following the Natatorium's closure in 1934, Boise Mayor John J. McCue expressed a desire to take over the facility as a municipal pool on a 5-year lease. That plan, too, eventually failed in 1935.²³ In 1947, the Boise Junior Chamber of Commerce (known as the Jaycees) led a postcard campaign to hold a bond election to fund a municipal pool. The Jaycees obtained 1,000 signatures and saw the bond proposal make it to the ballot in 1949.²⁴ However, the bond attracted skepticism and lacked support from key groups including the *Idaho Daily Statesman*.²⁵ Ultimately, Boiseans voted down the proposal.²⁶ With little progress being made towards constructing a municipal pool, the City Recreation Department debated damming a segment of the Boise River for sanctioned public swimming in 1952.²⁷

The Boise Exchange Club, undeterred by two decades of setbacks, launched a successful initiative to build municipal swimming pools for the community in April 1952. Following six months investigating options for swimming facilities in Boise, the organization shared its findings and proposed to the Boise Chamber of Commerce a \$200,000 bond issue to construct two new pools in Boise and modernize the existing Natatorium pool.²⁸ The Exchange Club recommended that the city construct two identical "Bintz-type" above-ground pools measuring 60 x 90 feet, one on the Depot Bench and one in the North End, for \$77,000 apiece. They also proposed allocating \$38,000 toward the updating of the Natatorium.²⁹

For its part, the city appeared receptive to the plan. Boise's need for municipal swimming pools had only increased since 1930. In 1952, the city's public schools had over 11,000 children.³⁰ The Natatorium was seeing up to 1600 swimmers a day, sometimes with wait times as long as three hours to swim.³¹ Notably, the Natatorium, now owned by the city, was making a profit for the first time in its history. Accordingly, the city recreation director believed that the two proposed new pools would pay for their own operating and maintenance costs through admission fees. There were concerns about the proposed pools not being of Olympic size to allow for swim

²² "Scouts Manage City Half Day: Boy Councilmen 'Pass' New Ordinance Calling for Swimming Pool." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), February 21, 1932: 5.

²³ "Council Drops Pool Proposal: City Decides Against Taking Over Natatorium on Five-Year Lease Plan." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), August 6, 1935: 7.

²⁴ "1000 Sign Petitions for New Jaycee Municipal Swim Pool." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), September 5, 1947: 2.

²⁵ "The City Council Plans for Vote on \$450,000 in Bonds Individual Voting on Several Issues Seems Advisable," *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), May 29, 1949: 4.

²⁶ "Bridge, Fire Station Bonds Clear Boise Voting Hurdles: Two of Three Proposed Municipal Improvement Plans Win Approval." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), June 29, 1949: 1.

²⁷ "Junior College Faces Forfeit of Swim Pool." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), February 2, 1952: 10.

²⁸ Ibid and "City Council To Eye Lease Of Natatorium." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), April 22, 1952: 6.

²⁹ "Exchange Club Proposes Bonds for Boise Swimming Facilities." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), April 18, 1952: 15.

³⁰ "Swimming Pool Backers Urge Voter Turnout: Committee Contends Pools are Necessary for Summer Program." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), July 13, 1952: 7.

³¹ "Preliminary Plans for Boise Swim Pool Drive Mapped." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), June 19, 1952: 7.

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meets. However, the city ultimately determined that the primary purpose of any new pools would be to accommodate as many swimmers as possible for recreation and not to hold swim meets.³²

The location of the two proposed pools was the subject of much debate among city officials. School Board President Bowden stressed that he did not believe the school district “should get into the swimming pool business.”³³ The city originally considered Whitney Park and Elm Grove Park as sites for the new pools.³⁴ Ultimately, the city council and the school board jointly agreed that schools would be the best location for the pools given that the latter would operate only during the former’s summer break. They also felt that having the municipal pools on school property matched well with the summer recreation programs. In May 1952, the school board approved a motion for the proposed pools to be located at the Lowell Elementary School in the North End and South Junior High School on the Depot Bench. These locations would be included on the future ballot.³⁵

The Boise Exchange Club proposal had more momentum and support than previous municipal pool initiatives, obtaining the crucial backing of the *Idaho Daily Statesman*, which had not supported the 1947 effort. Several community organizations worked together to create a steering committee and what was later known as the Boise Swimming Pool Committee.³⁶ By May 1952, at least 22 community groups had adopted resolutions favoring the swimming pool proposals. Together they were able to again get the city bond initiative on the ballot. On election day, 3,200 voters cast ballots in each of the City’s 15 precincts. By a narrow margin of 134 votes, the \$200,000 pool bond passed on July 15, 1952.³⁷

In August 1952, the City of Boise met with and soon after contracted Wesley Bintz of Lansing, Michigan to design the new municipal pools at Lowell and South and to repair the Natatorium.³⁸ Bintz, a nationally known designer of above-ground municipal swimming pools, personally visited Boise on several occasions during the design and construction phases of the project.³⁹ After deliberating over three different bids on the project, Boise City hired the local construction

³² “City Council Studies July Election Date.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), May 27, 1952: 7.

³³ “School Board to Aid City in Buying Pool.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), May 6, 1952: 6.

³⁴ “Council Starts Swimming Pools Bonding Move: Superintendent Tells School Board’s Choices for Sites.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), May 22, 1952: 2.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ In addition to the Boise Exchange Club, these included the Boise Junior Chamber of Commerce, Capital City Kiwanis, Kiwanis Club of Boise, Ad Club, Lions Club, Soroptimist, Optimist, Rotary Club, and the Parent Teachers Association, and Boy Scouts. “Service Clubs Unite to Push Pool Project: Committee Launched to Urge Proposed \$200,000 Bond Issue.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), May 8, 1952.

³⁷ “Voters Okey,” *Idaho Daily Statesman*.

³⁸ “City Council Starts Action on New Pools: Designer of Plunges Promises Swim Tanks In Use Next Summer.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), August 26, 1952: 14.

³⁹ “City Council Sells Bonds for New Pools: Contractors Puzzled by Plunge Details, Bid Opening Delayed.” *Idaho Daily Statesman*, January 6, 1953: 2 and “Pool Designer Seeks Advice from Council.” *Idaho Daily Statesman*, (Boise, ID), September 16, 1952: 2.

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firm J. O. Jordan and Son to construct the new pools.⁴⁰ The final cost of construction for the Lowell Pool was \$72, 631.⁴¹

The construction of the new pools began in early 1953, and both facilities were completed in time for the swimming season that year. Following some debate, each pool ultimately took its name from the adjacent school.⁴² The Lowell Pool was originally slated to open on June 5th, but the late delivery of part of the filtration system delayed its completion.⁴³ It officially opened on Saturday, June 20, 1953, followed ten days later by the South Municipal Pool on Tuesday, June 30, 1953 (Figure 11).⁴⁴ The remodeled Natatorium officially reopened in mid-August.⁴⁵

For the next 16 years, the South Pool, Lowell Pool, and the Natatorium remained the only municipal swimming facilities in Boise. It was not until 1969 that the Boise Parks and Recreation Department began opening additional neighborhood pools; Borah Pool opened in 1969, Fairmont Pool in 1974, and Ivywild Pool in 1998.⁴⁶ Today, the city owns and operates a total of six outdoor municipal pools located in neighborhoods across the city.

History of the South Municipal Swimming Pool

The South Municipal Pool has been a staple of the Depot Bench community since 1953. This new swimming facility adjacent to the South Junior High School provided many young families living in this fast-growing part of Boise with an additional outdoor recreation opportunity during the postwar years. The pool's opening day in 1953 attracted a capacity crowd of approximately 600 children and adults, and its popularity in the community endured for decades.

During the pool's first year of operation in 1953, the city charged an admission of 10 cents for children under the age of twelve, 25 cents for students, and 35 cents for adults. Season tickets were \$5 per individual and \$8 per family.⁴⁷ From its start, the pool had a strong emphasis on a learn-to-swim campaign for area children. On a typical summer day, the pool would open every day from 1pm until 5:30pm. It would reopen for business in the evenings again from 7pm until 9

⁴⁰ "Boise Company Wins Swim Pool Contract: J. O. Jordan & Son to Build Plunges, Repair Natatorium." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), January 27, 1953: 5.

⁴¹ Idaho State Archives. Jordan-Wilcomb Construction Company Inventory, Building Permits, MS 535, page 5.

⁴² Initially, Boise Mayor R. E. Edlefsen suggested to pool designer Wesley Bintz that the Boise pools be named Pools One, Two, and Three. "That way we can hold down the number of complaints from people who will be dissatisfied, no matter what we name the pools," Edlefsen said. "Pool Designer Seeks Advice from Council." *Idaho Daily Statesman*.

⁴³ "Opening of Lowell Pool Waits on Filter System." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), June 16, 1953: 6.

⁴⁴ "City's Second Plunge Opens to Swimmers." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), July 1, 1953:6.

⁴⁵ The Natatorium renovations included shortening the deep end and removing the stone diving platform. "Work Progresses in Rehabilitation of Swimming Pool." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), July 15, 1953: 16 and "Work on New Pools Inspected by Designer's Representative." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), February 25, 1953: 16.

⁴⁶ "Lack of Well Leaves New Boise Pool Dry." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), June 11, 1974: 1, "Woman gave so kids could swim," *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), March 30, 2001: 1, "Take a Dip Saturday, Pools Open." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), May 31, 1974: 29, and "Swimming Pool Constructed in Boise Park." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), September 10, 1968: 2.

⁴⁷ "Youngsters Swarm at New Lowell School Swim Pool." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, ID), June 21, 1953: 12.

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pm.⁴⁸ Hundreds of Boise children learned to swim and enhanced their swimming skills through the classes offered at the pool.

By the early 1990s, after nearly 40 years of heavy community usage each swimming season, the pool was in need of repairs and upgrades. The city retained Armstrong Architects of Boise to renovate the South Pool and its sister facility in the North End in 1993. Work at the South Pool included concrete repair, plumbing work, the installation of the present glass block windows throughout the building in place of the wood frame originals, and upgrades to the locker rooms.

In recent years, the South Pool typically opened the last day of the Boise School District semester and closed the first weekend in August. Swimmers at South Pool could purchase general admission (drop-in) passes or a summer pool pass. In 2019, from May through August, 3,958 visits were tracked at South Municipal Pool. The group with the highest attendance was pool pass holders between the ages of 12-18 followed by those 11 years of age and younger.⁴⁹

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of all Boise public swimming facilities following the 2019 season, and the South Pool remains closed as of summer 2022.⁵⁰ During this period, the City of Boise assessed the condition of the pool and found it to be lacking ADA and code compliance.⁵¹ Local citizens are currently working to see it rehabilitated and reopened.

Criterion C: Wesley Bintz and the Development of Above-Ground Municipal Swimming Pools

The South Municipal Swimming Pool is a “Bintz-type” above-ground swimming pool designed by Wesley Bintz (1891-1967), a civil and structural engineer based in Lansing, Michigan (Figure 17).⁵² Born in Stanberry, Missouri, Bintz grew up in Hiawatha, Kansas, Zion City, Illinois, and Canada before his family settled in Charlotte, Michigan in 1908, where he attended high school. He later studied at the University of Michigan, obtaining a bachelor’s degree in engineering in 1916 and master’s degree in the same field in 1918. Following graduation, he spent two-and-a-half years working in the city engineer’s department in Flint, Michigan. In 1921, he relocated to Lansing, Michigan to work as a structural engineer for that city’s engineering department. A year-and-a-half later he was appointed Lansing City Engineer.

⁴⁸ “SJH Pool Has Large Crowd.” *The Boise Journal* (Boise, ID), July 3, 1953: 1.

⁴⁹ Boise Parks and Recreation. “South Pool Information.” Handout presented at South Pool Focus Group Meeting, December 7, 2021.

⁵⁰ The final event held at the Lowell Pool prior to its closure was the Lowell Parent Teacher Student Association’s Back-to-School Swim Night in August 2019.

⁵¹ “Facilities Assessment: South and Lowell City Pools,” Cushing Terrell and Aquatic Design Group, January 2021. Accessed on July 10, 2021 <https://www.cityofboise.org/media/12845/january-2021-facilities-assessment-south-and-lowell-pools.pdf> and “City of Boise Outdoor Pools Will Not Open in 2020.” City of Boise. May 1, 2020. Accessed December 3, 2020. <https://www.cityofboise.org/news/parks-andrecreation/2020/may/city-of-boise-outdoor-pools-will-not-open-in-2020/>.

⁵² Background information on Wesley Bintz is from “Wesley Bintz, Consulting Engineer,” *Lansing State Journal* (Lansing, Michigan), July 13, 1958: 10 and Tegan D’Arcangelis Baiocchi, e-mail to Laura Bainbridge, February 20, 2022.

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Wesley Bintz developed the Bintz-type above-ground swimming pool during his years working for the cities of Flint and Lansing. Following involvement with the construction of two swimming pools in Flint, he designed Lansing's J.H. Moores Memorial Natatorium (commonly known as the Moores Park Pool; NRHP ##85000096) in 1922 while working as the Lansing City Engineer. The resulting entirely above ground ovoid swimming pool was the prototype of what became known as a Bintz-type pool or more simply a "Bintz pool." This design was innovative in that it was an above-ground building, with the bottom of the pool resting on the ground and the pool deck on the roof. The bath house, containing changing rooms, showers, restrooms, and a mechanical room, was placed around the pool beneath the pool deck, which could be accessed via two sets of stairs. Most subsequent Bintz-type pools were ovoid, or egg-shaped like the prototype in Lansing, but rectangular variations were also popular.

During the 1920s, public swimming pools were growing in popularity in the United States, particularly in landlocked cities and towns in the Midwest. In 1923, Bintz left his position with the City of Lansing to design and build swimming pools full time and capitalize on the growing number of such projects across the country. He patented his "Bintz-type" swimming pool that same year (Figures 18-19). By 1958, Bintz and his firm had designed 135 swimming pools across the country, including several traditional sunken pools. Approximately 100 of these projects were Bintz-type pools, which were constructed in at least 94 communities in 24 states.

Bintz promoted his above-ground pool design as having several distinct advantages over traditional rectangular sunken swimming pools.⁵³ Foremost, they were reputedly more efficient and cost effective in terms of their construction and operation. In the late 1930s, he advertised Bintz-type pools as 25% to 40% cheaper than sunken pools for equal size and features.⁵⁴ By combining two structures – the pool and the bath house – into one, construction required a smaller footprint and fewer building materials. Because it was above ground, it also required less excavation, and the finished pool would allow attendants to service pipes and other systems from inside the bathhouse. Even the ovoid shape was designed with efficiency and cost-cutting in mind. Bintz preferred an ovoid pool over a rectangular pool for several reasons, including the fact that corners were not conducive to swimming and required more building material than a curved wall. The ovoid shape also allowed for a larger shallow end, where most swimmers would congregate, and a smaller diving end. Still, Bintz conceded that while ovoid pools worked best in parks and large open areas, rectangular pools were better within tighter lots in the city where they would be bounded by other buildings, sidewalks, or streets.

The Bintz-type pools built across the United States from the 1920s through the 1950s were remarkably standardized, with even late examples of the type exhibiting the shape, use of curtain walls and reinforced concrete construction, and location of support rooms established in the 1922 prototype in Lansing. Variables included size (ranging from 35' x 40' to as large as

⁵³ Information on the advantages of Bintz-type pools is from Debbie Sheals, "Fayette City Park Swimming Pool," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1999), Section 8, page 10.

⁵⁴ This is noted in an undated Bintz advertisement reproduced in "Charles F. Johnston Pool, Johnson City, New York," Historic American Engineering Record HAER No. NY-57 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, no date), Written and Descriptive Data, page 18.

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130' x 240'), curtain wall material, design of the main entrance, and architectural style. In addition, some examples incorporated additional features such as fountains, wading pools, and water slides.

Bintz-type pools were designed in a variety of contemporaneously popular architectural styles, including Classical Revival, Gothic-influenced, Spanish Colonial Revival, and Art Deco (Figures 21-23). The Streamline Moderne style exhibited by the Lowell and South pools appears to have been popular in examples constructed after World War II. There were at least two other Bintz-type pools with identical Streamline Moderne façades completed later the same year as the Boise examples: the Memorial Pool in Bremerton, Washington and the Middleport Pool in Middleport, Ohio, both no longer extant (Figure 24). The extant World War II Memorial Pool (1951) in North Attleborough, Massachusetts is a simplified variant of the same basic design. Streamline Moderne, which reached its zenith of popularity in the 1930s and 1940s, emphasized horizontal lines, curving forms, and smooth stucco exteriors to give the impression of sleekness and modernity. The Bintz-type Streamline Moderne pools dating to the early 1950s are late examples of the style.

Most Bintz pools were constructed as public municipal pools and financed through bonds or financial gifts, though the pools were also popular as New Deal projects during the 1930s. Other Bintz pools were private facilities constructed for amusement parks, resorts, or hotels. Several of Bintz's pools are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to the aforementioned Moores Park Pool in Lansing, Michigan, these include the Fayette City Park Swimming Pool of 1936 in Fayette, Missouri (NRHP #99000457); Randlett Park Swimming Pool of 1926 in Anadarko, Oklahoma (NRHP #03000878); and Margaret Manson Weir Memorial Pool of 1934 in Weirton, West Virginia (NRHP #93001230).

Wesley Bintz's firm continued to bid on municipal pool projects into the mid-to-late 1950s, according to newspapers, placing the two examples in Boise in the last phase of Bintz-type pool construction, which began following the Second World War. In 1953, the firm completed 10 swimming pool projects across the country, four of which were Bintz-type pools of similar size, shape, type, detail, and equipment.⁵⁵ These four virtually identical pools were the Memorial Pool in Bremerton, Washington, the Lowell Pool in Boise, the South Pool in Boise, and the Middleport Pool in Middleport, Ohio. Notably, only the two Boise pools are extant.

During the mid-1950s, the Bintz firm employed the Boise pools as the latest model to promote Bintz-type pools across the country. One of its advertisements of this period included a bird's eye view of one of the Boise pools and listed the building costs of both as representative of recent projects (Figure 20).⁵⁶ In 1954, the same bird's eye photograph was published in the *Ithaca Journal* to illustrate what a proposed Bintz-type pool would look like in that community.⁵⁷

⁵⁵ Undated Bintz advertisement reproduced in "Charles F. Johnston Pool, Johnson City, New York," Historic American Engineering Record HAER No. NY-57 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, no date), Written and Descriptive Data, page 16.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ "Meeting on Proposed Swim Pool Planned." *Ithaca Journal* (Ithaca, NY), March 13, 1954: 3.

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The South Municipal Swimming Pool is an intact example of Wesley Bintz's patented swimming pool design that retains the character-defining features of the type: it is an above-ground swimming pool, it incorporates the bath house (lockers, changing rooms, showers, etc.) into the swimming pool structure beneath the pool deck, and it is ovoid in shape. Other distinct features common on Bintz swimming pools are also present, including the prominent main entrance façade with its stenciled lettering, the scum gutter encircling the inside of the pool, and the bronze dedication plaque near the entrance. Bintz pool experts have identified the South Pool as one of only sixteen Bintz-type pools still standing out of the approximately 100 constructed across the United States.⁵⁸ Boise's two examples of the type, the South and Lowell pools, represent the last known surviving "sister" pools, or two or more Bintz pools constructed within the same city or town. Several communities constructed multiple Bintz-type swimming pools; Flint, Michigan and Indianapolis, Indiana each had two pools; while Beaumont, Texas, and Grand Rapids, Michigan, each had three. Today, Boise is the last city that retains multiple Bintz-type pools.

Summary

The South Municipal Pool is significant under Criterion A in the area of ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION, for its association with the development of public swimming pools in Boise. Following its 1953 completion, the pool served as a public mainstay and gathering place for children and adults in Boise's Depot Bench Neighborhood for nearly seven decades until its closure in 2019. It remains a testament to the city's rapid post World War II population growth that prompted the much-debated development of municipal swimming facilities. South Municipal Pool is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of significance of ARCHITECTURE as an excellent example of Wesley Bintz's patented above-ground swimming pool design. It retains integrity across each of the seven aspects and is one of the few remaining examples of this rare building type.

⁵⁸ Tegan D'Arcangelis Baiocchi, e-mail to Laura Bainbridge, February 20, 2022.

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"Junior College Faces Forfeit of Swim Pool," 2 February 1952.

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"Opening of Lowell Pool Waits on Filter System," 16 June 1953.

"Pool Designer Seeks Advice from Council," 16 September 1952.

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“Take a Dip Saturday, Pools Open,” 31 May 1974.

“The City Council Plans for Vote on \$450,000 in Bonds Individual Voting on Several Issues Seems Advisable.” 29 May 1949.

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“Woman gave so kids could swim,” 30 March 2001.

“Work Moves Ahead at Pool,” 26 April 1936.

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Tegan D'Arcangelis Baiocchi, e-mail to Laura Bainbridge, February 20, 2022.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property 0.56

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

South Municipal Pool
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Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 43.595439 | Longitude: -116.219340 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The South Municipal Pool is located in Section 16, T3N, R2E in Ada County, Idaho. The parcel number is R8112007900. The property description is as follows, according to the Ada County Assessor: Parcel #7900 of Lot 51 – State Subdivision 381/390.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The above noted property includes the entire 0.56-acre property owned by the Boise Parks and Recreation Department on which the pool is located.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ryan Rulon
organization: Friends of the Boise Historic Pools
street & number: 3101 Kootenai Street
city or town: Boise state: Idaho zip code: 83705
e-mail: mrryanrulon@hotmail.com
telephone: 208-322-3563
date: 04/01/2022

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Figure Log

- Figure 1: Regional Location Map
- Figure 2: USGS Quadrangle Map
- Figure 3: Parcel Map
- Figure 4: Local Location Map
- Figure 5: Historic Aerial View, 2006
- Figure 6: First Floor Plan
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- Figure 11: Formal opening of the South Pool, 1 July 1953
- Figure 12: Bird's Eye View of Boise Bintz-Type Pool
- Figure 13: South Pool, Boise, Idaho, Exterior View, c. 1953
- Figure 14: Lowell Pool, Boise, Idaho, View of east elevation looking west, c. 1985

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- Figure 15: South Pool, Boise, Idaho, View of pool deck and pool, 1953
- Figure 16: South Pool, Boise, Idaho, View of pool deck and pool, 1961
- Figure 17: Pen Portrait of Wesley Bintz, 1958
- Figure 18: Bintz-Type Pool Patent, Elevation, 1926
- Figure 19: Bintz-Type Pool Patent, Floorplan, 1926
- Figure 20: Wesley Bintz Advertisement, c. 1954
- Figure 21: Athletic Park Swimming Pool, Anderson, Indiana, Exterior View
- Figure 22: Municipal Pool, Rutland, Vermont, Exterior View
- Figure 23: Montevideo Municipal Pool, Montevideo, Minnesota, Exterior View
- Figure 24: Middleport Pool, Middleport, Ohio, View of façade

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: South Municipal Pool

City or Vicinity: Boise

County: Ada

State: Idaho

Photographer: Idaho SHPO

Date Photographed: Various (see below)

Photo Number	Description	Photographer	Date
1 of 16	View of primary (east) and side (north) elevations. Camera facing southwest.	Idaho SHPO	May 22, 2020
2 of 16	View of primary (east) elevation. Camera facing west.	Idaho SHPO	May 22, 2020
2 of 16	View of primary (east) elevation. Camera facing west.	Idaho SHPO	May 22, 2020

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4 of 16	View of dedication plaque on primary (east) elevation. Camera facing west.	Idaho SHPO	May 22, 2020
5 of 16	View of primary (east) and side (south) elevations. Camera facing northwest.	Idaho SHPO	May 22, 2020
6 of 16	View of side (south) and rear (west) elevations. Camera facing northeast.	Idaho SHPO	April 26, 2022
7 of 16	View of rear (west) and side (north) elevations. Camera facing southeast.	Idaho SHPO	April 26, 2022
8 of 16	View of side (north) elevation. Camera facing southwest.	Idaho SHPO	April 26, 2022
9 of 16	View of pool deck and pool. Camera facing west.	Idaho SHPO	April 26, 2022
10 of 16	View of pool deck and pool. Camera facing northwest.	Idaho SHPO	April 26, 2022
11 of 16	View from entrance vestibule into check-in lobby. Camera facing west.	Idaho SHPO	April 26, 2022
12 of 16	View of entrance vestibule stairs to pool deck. Camera facing north.	Idaho SHPO	April 26, 2022
13 of 16	View from check-in lobby towards women's locker room. Camera facing south.	Idaho SHPO	April 26, 2022
14 of 16	View of women's locker room. Camera facing west.	Idaho SHPO	April 26, 2022
15 of 16	View of men's locker room. Camera facing west.	Idaho SHPO	April 26, 2022
16 of 16	View of men's locker room and wooden door to pool deck stairs. Camera facing west.	Idaho SHPO	April 26, 2022

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

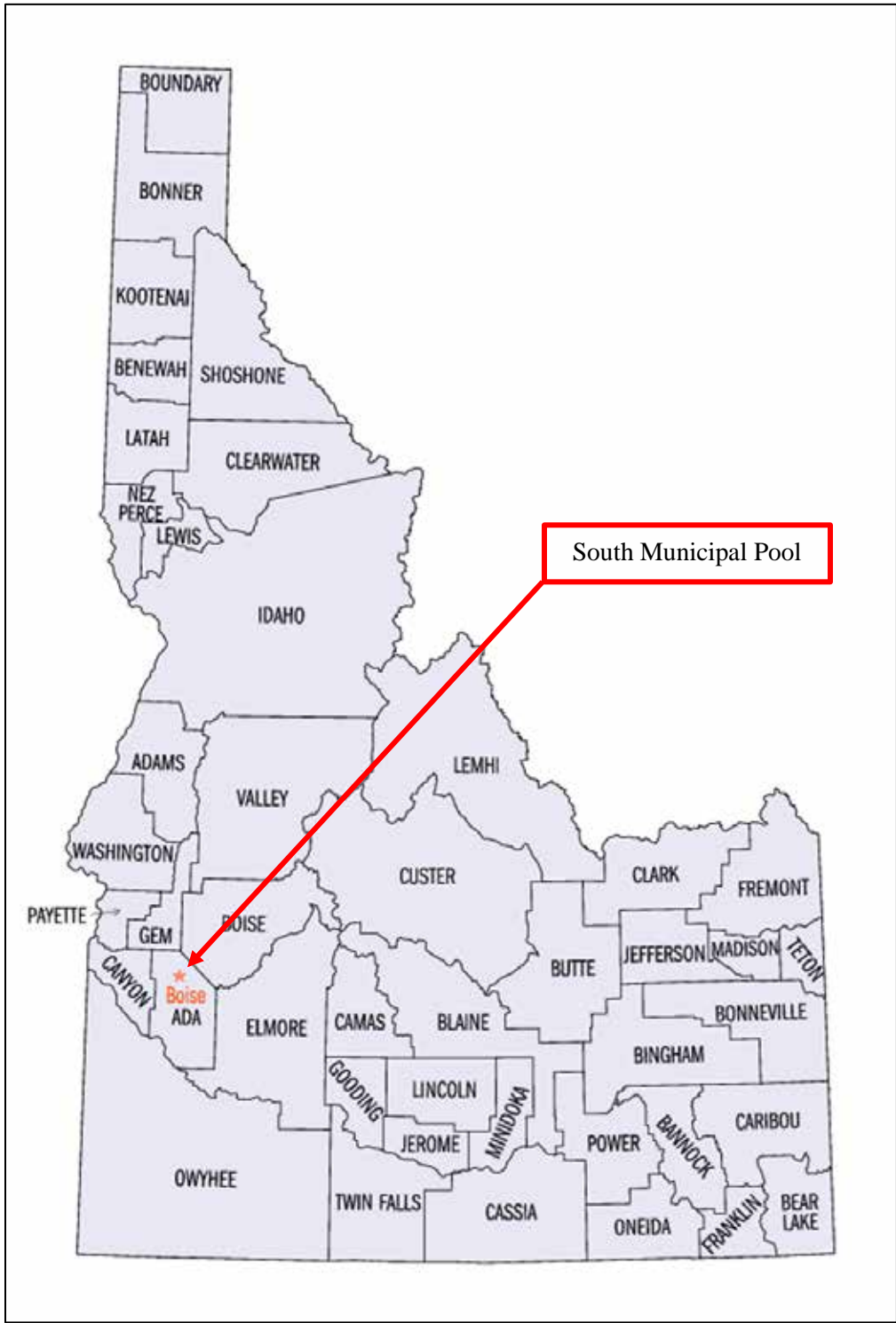
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Figure 1: Regional Location Map



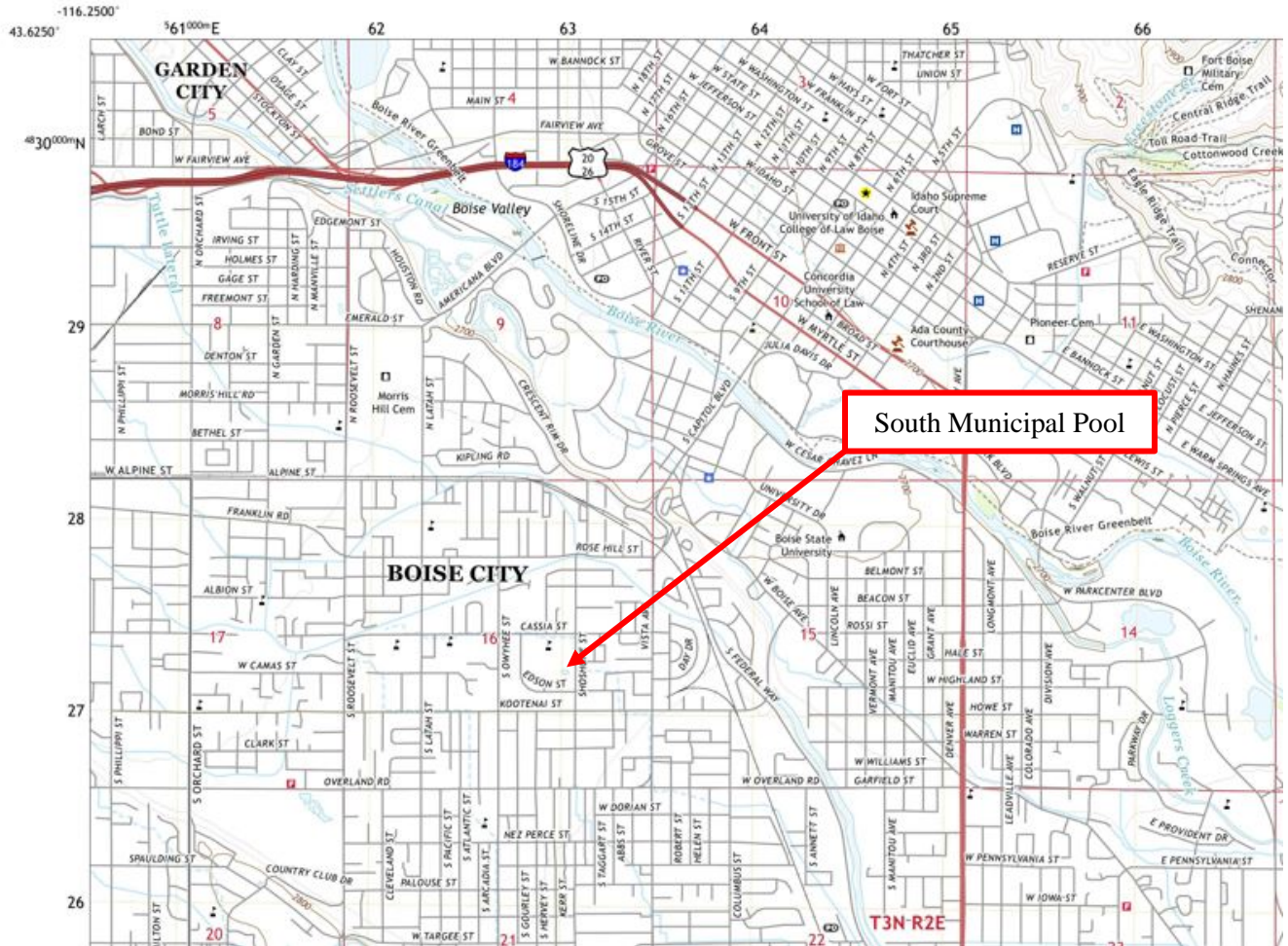
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Figure 2: USGS Quadrangle Map (Partial Image)
Boise South, Idaho Quadrangle, 2020, 7.5-minute series, Scale: 1:24,000



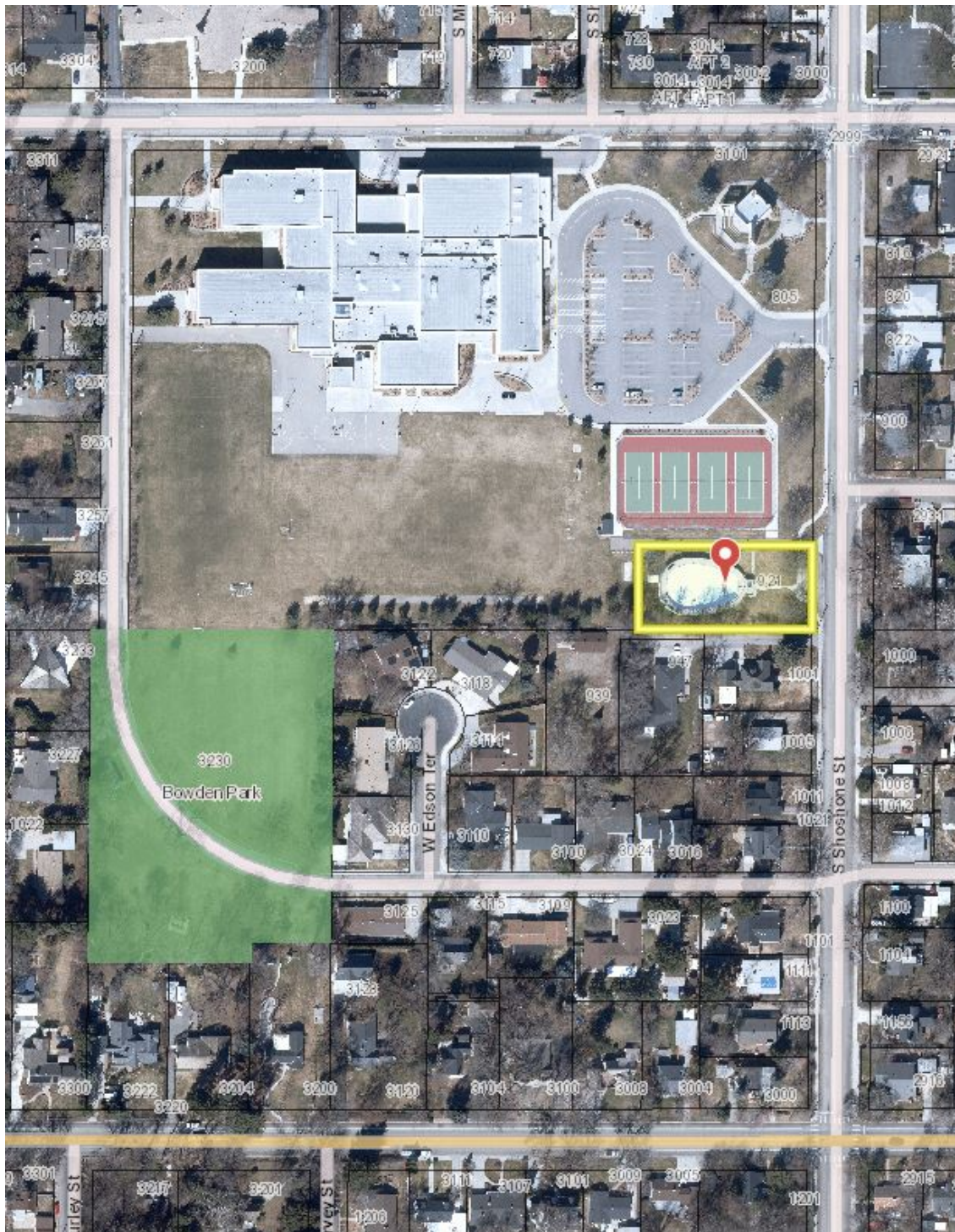
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Figure 3: Ada County Parcel Map (Boundary Map)
South Pool at 921 S. Shoshone Street outlined in yellow. Parcel no. R8112007900 (North at top)



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Figure 4: Local Location Map, Google Earth

South Pool at 921 S. Shoshone Street. Parcel no. R8112007900 (North at top)



Latitude: 43.595439 **Longitude:** -116.219340

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Figure 5: Historic aerial view, October 2006, Google Earth
The relationship of the original South Junior High School building to the South Pool (North at top)



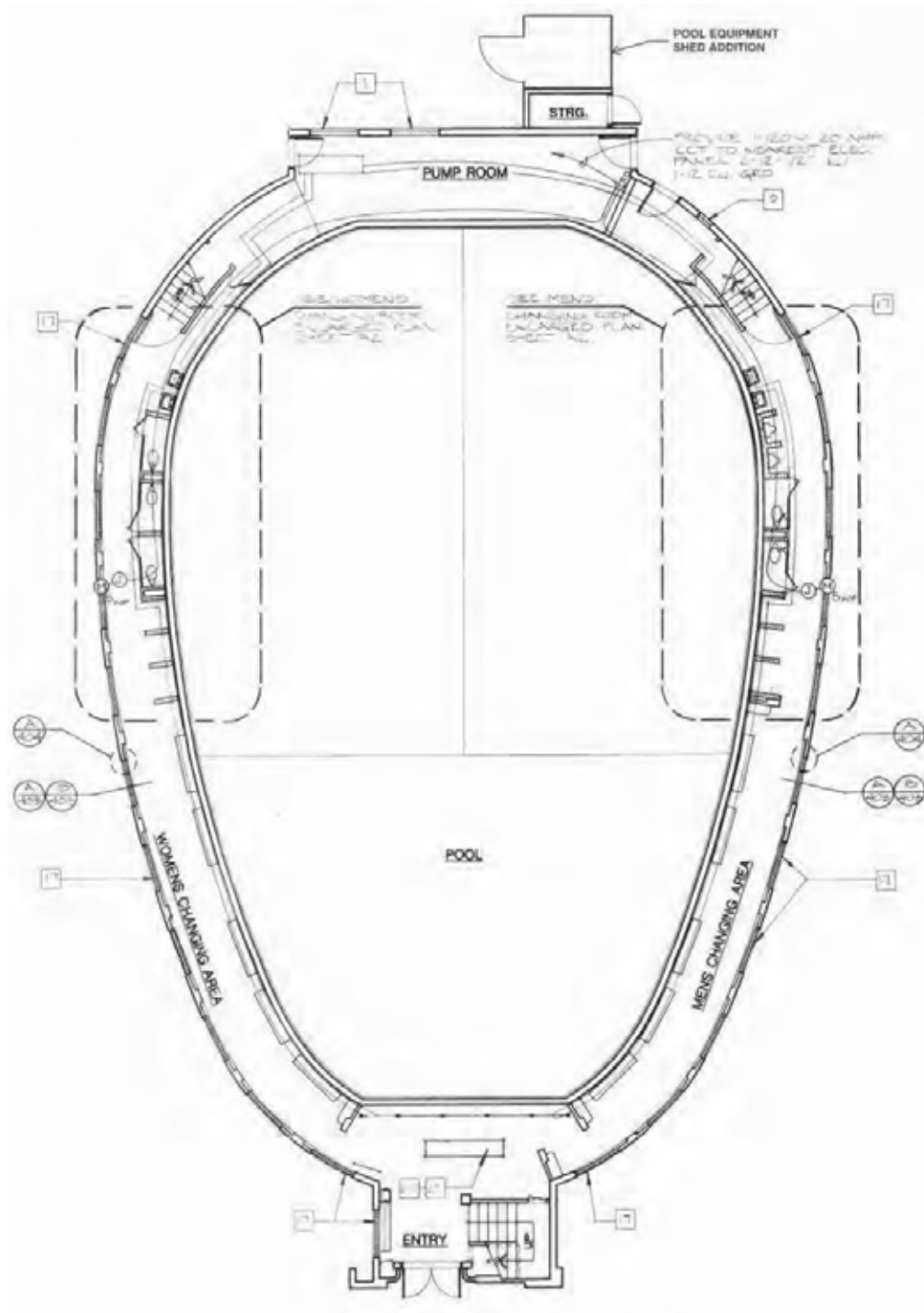
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Figure 6: First floor plan
Source: City of Boise and Armstrong Architects



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Figure 7: Natatorium, Boise, Idaho, Exterior view, Date Unknown
Source: Idaho State Archives.



Figure 8: Natatorium, Boise, Idaho, Interior view, Date Unknown
Source: Idaho State Archives



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Figure 9: Natatorium, Boise Idaho, Aerial view of open-air pool after 1936, Date Unknown
Source: Idaho State Archives



Figure 10: YMCA Swimming Pool, Boise, Idaho, 1920s
Source: Idaho State Archives



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Figure 11: Formal opening of the South Pool on June 30, 1953

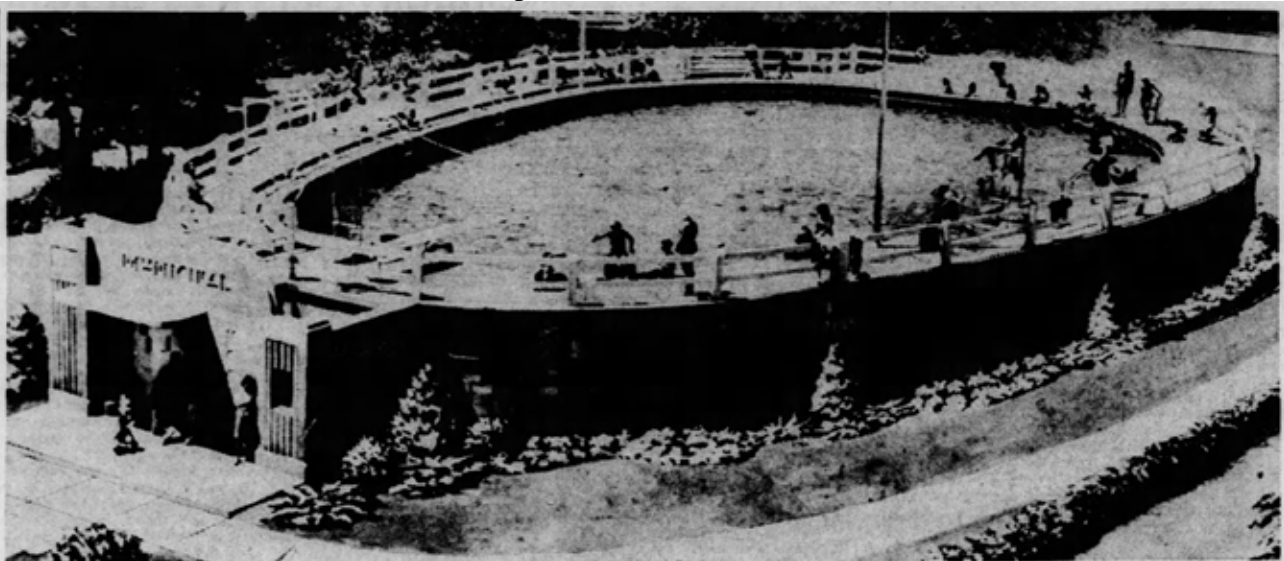
Source: *Idaho Daily Statesman*, 1 July 1953, p. 6.



A CAPACITY CROWD of swimmers Tuesday enjoyed the newly-completed facilities of the South Junior high pool. The pool was the second new pool to be completed in Boise during the summer. The Lowell pool opened about 10 days ago. Rebuilding at the Natatorium will continue another month.

Figure 12: Bird's Eye View of Boise Bintz-Type Pool, c. 1953

Source: *Ithaca Journal*, 13 March 1954, p. 3.



PICTURED ABOVE is a 60x90 foot ovoid swimming pool at Boise, Idaho, a duplicate of one that has been proposed for Stewart Park. An elevated, heated pool with an attached spray pool, it could be built for \$85,000, according to Wesley Bintz, a consulting engineer of

Lansing, Mich., who specializes in the design and construction of swimming pools. Bintz told Mayor Cook's special aldermanic committee last week that the cost would include locker rooms, filtration plant, showers, toilets and equipment.

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Figure 13: South Pool, Boise, Idaho, Exterior view looking west, c. 1953
Source: Idaho State Archives



Figure 14: Lowell Pool, Boise, Idaho, View of primary (east) elevation looking west, c. 1985
Original color scheme of the Lowell and South pools and non-extant tile framing recessed entry
Source: Stacy Kral



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Figure 15: South Pool, Boise, Idaho, View of pool deck and pool, 1953

Source: Idaho State Archives



Figure 16: South Pool, Boise, Idaho, View of pool deck and pool, 1961

Source: Idaho State Archives



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Figure 17: Pen Portrait of Wesley Bintz, 1958
Source: *Lansing State Journal*, 13 July 1958, p. 10.



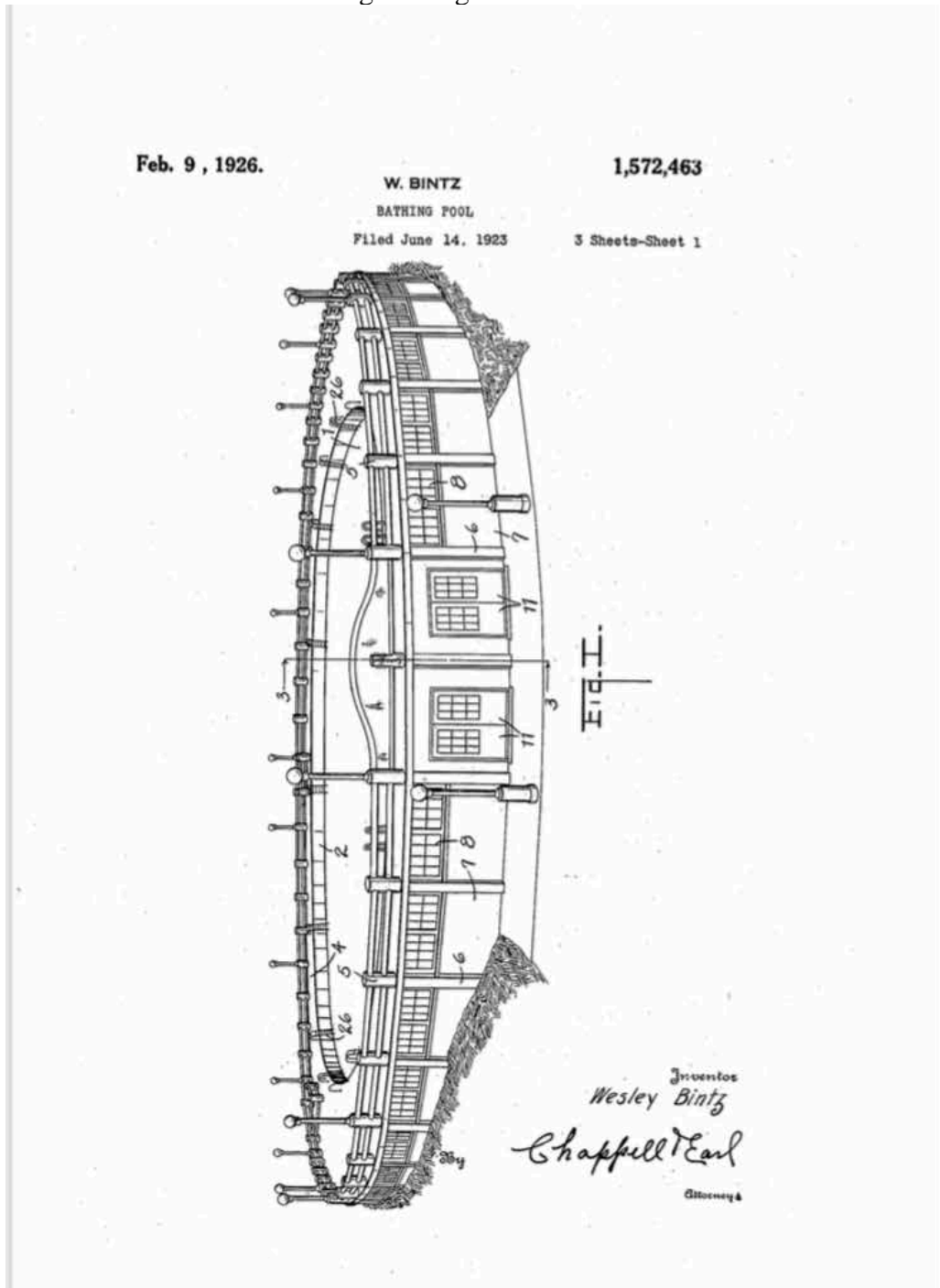
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Figure 18: Bintz-Type Pool Patent, Elevation, 1926
Source: Historic American Engineering Record



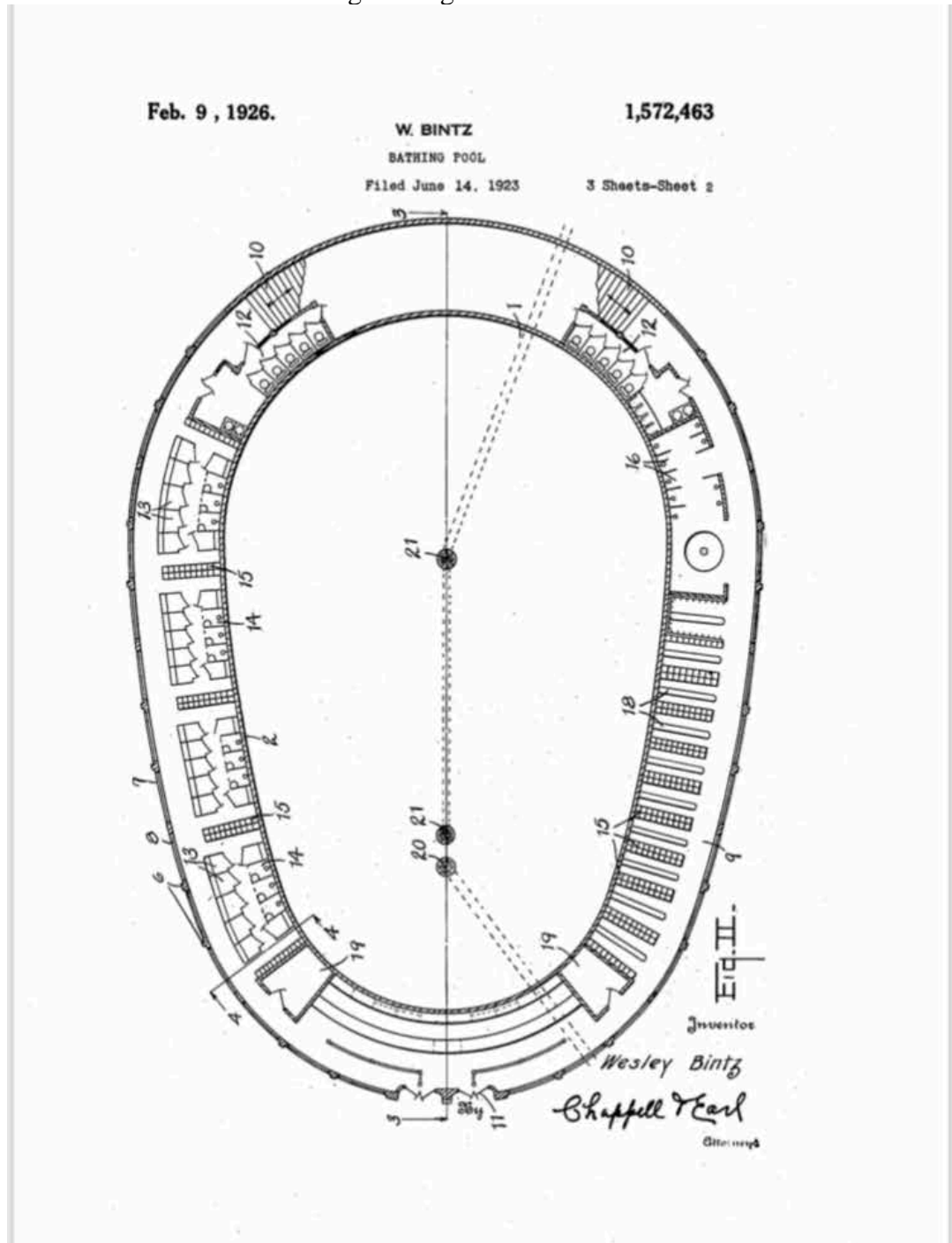
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Figure 19: Bintz-Type Pool Patent, Floorplan, 1926
Source: Historic American Engineering Record



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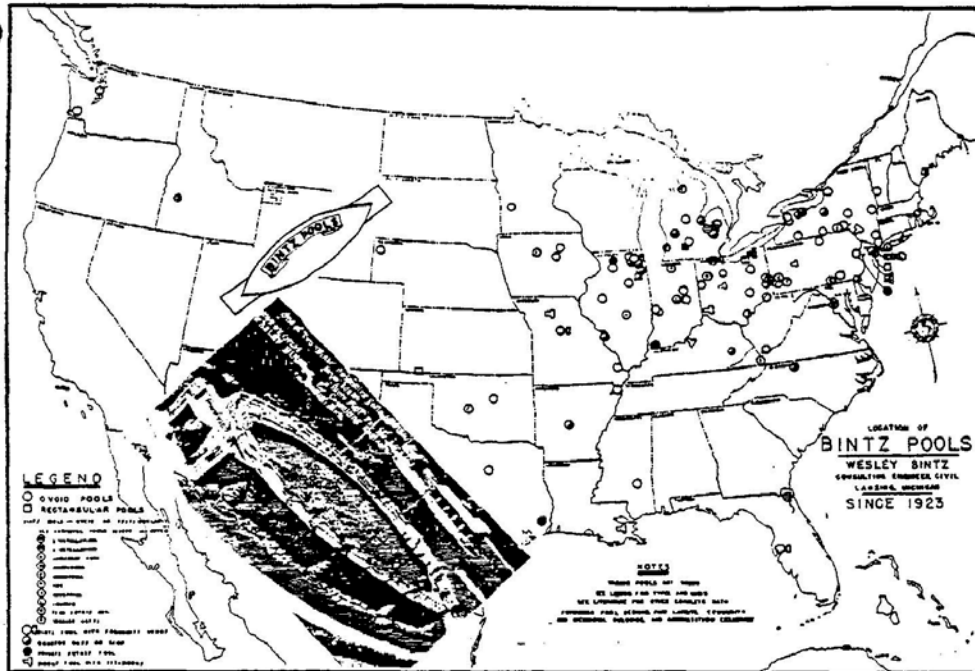
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Figure 20: Wesley Bintz Advertisement featuring the Boise Pools, c. 1954
The advertisement includes an illustration of one of the Boise pools and lists the costs of both as representative of the current cost to construct a Bintz-type pool
Source: Historic American Engineering Record

THERE IS ALWAYS A LEADER



SINCE 1923 The map above locates the many Bintz designed swimming pools which have been built the past 1/2 century. This wealth of experience, probably unequalled, is available to those who contemplate the construction of a swimming pool for any use.

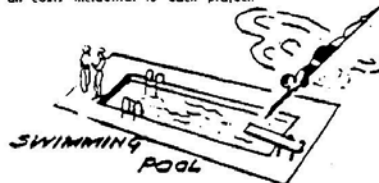
A **SWIMMING POOL** is not a hole in the ground, but more complicated in design, in certain ways, than a water treatment plant, or a sewage disposal plant. It is strictly an engineering project, and requires years of experience to properly design, specify, detail and co-ordinate pool, bathhouse, concourse floor and equipment.

IN 1953, of the ten Bintz designed pools completed that year, four were of similar size, shape, type, detail and equipment, but located in widely separate parts of the country.

ACTUAL COSTS of these four pools are tabulated at left with complete breakdown of items. Note how low bids parallel the Engineer's Estimate. Also bear in mind the total costs are for a complete operable pool and bathhouse to serve a population up to 10,000, and include all costs incidental to each project.

RESUME OF LOW BIDS, as received at
Bremerton, Wash., 2/2/53, two at Boise, Idaho, 1/13/53, and
Michigan, 2/2/53
All "BINTZ" POOLS, 60' x 90' Ovoid, C.F. 8'-6"

	BREMERTON	BOISE	MIDLEPORT	ESTIMATE
GENERAL CONTRACT c.	\$36,445.00	\$31,207.68	\$58,400.00	\$32,585.84
Painting	1,100.00	1,100.00	600.00	1,890.00
Plumbing-General	12,181.00	10,700.00	111	10,695.32
-Public Toilets	7.7	1,324.00	111	957.92
-Filter Installation	7.7	1,824.00	111	1,719.20
Water Heating-Sheers S.	(1,344.00)	(1,344.00)	none	1,274.02
-Pool	(1,320.00)	(1,084.00)	none	(10 Totals)
Electrical	1,909.00	1,876.00	111	1,540.93
Pool Equipment	454.00	778.00	453.50	566.50
Baskets and Backs	1,129.44	1,200.00	1,123.78	1,196.48
Purification System	7,550.00	11,800.00	6,117.00	10,401.90
Vacuum Cleaner	345.00	396.00	111	451.20
Brace Plates	111	125.00	111	101.97
Piling d.	(4,500.00)			
Sales Tax d.	12,207.84			
Total as per "a"	\$59,016.44	\$61,926.68	\$67,308.86	\$61,118.08
Plus 20% f	11,803.29	12,385.34	13,461.77	12,223.62
Total	\$70,819.73	\$74,312.02	\$80,770.63	\$73,341.70
Total including "d"	\$82,821.17	\$78,890.02		



NOTES: a. All General Contracts and/or sub-contracts are about alike. Cost of this project is \$79,000 complete, not including "d" or local conditions. b. As prepared for Boise's two pools. c. Does not include items listed below, except as noted by a or b. d. Not in original presentation. e. Pool and Piling only. f. Engineering, Service Lines and Landscaping. x, y, z. Included in item marked by same letter.

LABOR AND MATERIAL COSTS: Cement \$4.10/bbl; Aggregate \$2.24/CuYd; Lumber \$12.74; Concrete block \$0.28; Carpenters \$1.10/hr; Masons \$1.00/hr; Common Labor \$1.45/hr.

POOL DATA: Overall 77'x120' Ovoid; Pool 60'x90' Ovoid; pool area 4,434 sq ft; pool depth 3'-11"; volume 171,958 gal.; perimeter 1,025'; width 70.8% concourse floor width, 4,519'; area 2,591.7 sq ft; bathhouse area 2,183'; soft-seat, 816'; equity, 25'x95'; capacity (110 shallow; 210 deep) bathhouse, at one time 357, daily 1,275; for communities of 6-10,000 population; serves outlying population.

WE DESIGN ANYTHING in swimming pools, Community and Memorial Buildings, Band Shells, Park and Recreation Layouts and Developments and Combination Indoor & Outdoor Swimming Pools. We have designed numerous Sunken Pools and Bath-houses. Our experience counts just the same. But we, as well as others, can't beat our own "BINTZ POOL" Design.

FREE "MODERN SWIMMING POOLS."—Our 70-page pamphlet with complete and detailed information on "BINTZ POOLS" and "VOID" and "VASOID Shape" Pools. Many pictures and actual photographs.

WESLEY BINTZ, P. E., Swimming Pool Designs & Consultation Exclusively
301 S. Washington Ave. Lansing, Mich. **PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER**

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Figure 21: Athletic Park Swimming Pool, Anderson, Indiana, Built 1925

Early Bintz-Type Pool of the 1920s closely following the patent design

Source: Idaho State Historic Preservation Office



Figure 22: Municipal Pool, Rutland, Vermont, Built 1929-1930

Example of a Bintz-Type Pool with a Gothic influence

Source: Idaho State Historic Preservation Office



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Figure 23: Montevideo Municipal Swimming Pool, Montevideo, Minnesota, Date Unknown

Example of a Bintz-Type Pool with Art Deco façade, decorative sidewall brickwork, and a water slide
Source: Idaho State Historic Preservation Office



Figure 24: Middleport Pool, Middleport Ohio, Exterior view, Built 1953

Example of Bintz-Type Pool with identical Streamline Moderne façade to the Boise examples
Source: Idaho State Historic Preservation Office



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Photo 1: View of primary (east) and side (north) elevations. Camera facing southwest.



Photo 2: View of primary (east) elevation. Camera facing west.



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Photo 3: View of primary (east) elevation. Camera facing west.



Photo 4: View of dedication plaque on primary (east) elevation. Camera facing west.



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Photo 5: View of primary (east) and side (south) elevations. Camera facing northwest.



Photo 6: View of side (south) and rear (west) elevations. Camera facing northeast.



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Photo 7: View of rear (west) and side (north) elevations. Camera facing southeast.



Photo 8: View of side (north) elevation. Camera facing southwest.



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Photo 9: View of pool deck and pool. Camera facing west.



Photo 10: View of pool deck and pool. Camera facing northwest.



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Photo 11: View from entrance vestibule into check-in lobby. Camera facing west.



Photo 12: View of entrance vestibule stairs to pool deck. Camera facing north.



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Photo 13: View from check-in lobby towards women's locker room. Camera facing south.



Photo 14: View of women's locker room. Camera facing west.



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Photo 15: View of men's locker room. Camera facing west.



Photo 16: View of men's locker room and wooden door to pool deck stairs. Camera facing west.



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