

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 PropertyHistoric name: Weippe Community Hall

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: 216 East First StreetCity or town: Weippe State: ID County: ClearwaterNot For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

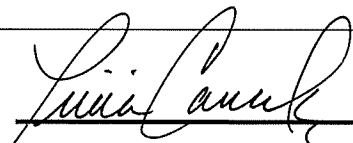
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

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 C D7-31-25Signature of certifying official/Title: Tricia Canaday, Deputy SHPO

Date

Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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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

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

EDUCATION/school

RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Rustic Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: STONE: cement

Walls: WOOD: Log – Shake

Roof: METAL: Steel

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 Weippe Community Hall is located at 216 East First Street in Weippe, Idaho (pop. 420¹), a city in Clearwater County in north central Idaho. It is a two-story, front-gabled log building with a rectangular plan, symmetrical massing, and a one-story, gabled projecting front porch. Built in 1924, the rustic building sits on a partially raised concrete foundation and features a metal roof with shed dormers and cedar shake-clad gable ends. Other character-defining exterior features include the symmetrical fenestration pattern on both stories, wood shutters, and exposed rafter tails. Primary spaces on the first floor include a large main hall with a stage, kitchen, storage area, and restrooms while the second floor contains a second sizable hall and a large kitchen area. Throughout, the interior exhibits exposed log rafters, tie beams, and joists. The building is

¹ World Population Review, 2024 data for Weippe, ID, Accessed March 2024
<https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/weippe-id-population>

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in good condition and retains integrity across the seven aspects despite minor alterations.

Through its character-defining features and original materials, the building clearly conveys its function as a rural community hall, as well as its historic associations and period of construction.

Narrative Description

Location and Setting

Weippe is situated at an elevation of 3,015 feet in an upland prairie bordered by pine forests that people refer to as “The Hill” above the Clearwater River in North Idaho. Located in Clearwater County, the city is nestled amidst wheat farms and hay fields scattered on the nearby meadows. Jim Ford Creek runs through the rural community before it drops into a deep canyon on its way to the Clearwater River. The canyon of Lolo Creek lies to the south of town. Orofino (pop. 8734),² the county seat, is located approximately 26 miles to the northwest of Weippe while the state capital, Boise, lies approximately 261 miles to the south. Clearwater County spans some 2,488 square miles, 89% of which is forest land, and its economy is heavily dependent on natural resource-based industries such as timber production.³ The Empire Lumber Company is the largest local employer.

Located at 216 East First Street, the Weippe Community Hall is situated on a 0.41-acre parcel owned by the Weippe Community Club in the central area of the town. The city is rural in character with scattered concentrations of residences, and a few commercial buildings, with the Empire Lumber Company log yard being a dominant feature of the town. Highway 11, the principal thoroughfare through the southern section of Clearwater County, begins at Greer on the Clearwater River and provides the primary access to the city and serves as its Main Street. Bounded by an unnamed drive to the west, East 2nd Ave. to the north, East 2nd Street and a large park beyond to the east, and residences to the south, the nominated property is rectangular in shape.

The Weippe Community Hall building occupies roughly the center of the property. It faces west toward a gravel drive and parking area and a wood-frame meeting house beyond that sits on an adjacent parcel.⁴ South of the building is a small grassy area. To the east there is a gravel parking area between the rear of the building and East 2nd Street. North of the community hall building on the same parcel is a parking area and a small grassy area bordering East Second Ave.

² The US Census Bureau, Clearwater County Profile, Accessed March, 2024

https://data.census.gov/profile/Clearwater_County_Idaho?g=050XX00US16035

³ University of Idaho Policy Analysis Group, Clearwater County, Accessed March, 2024 https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/UIDaho-Responsive/Files/cnr/research/PAG/idaho-forest-factbooks/county-sheets/clearwater_sheet.pdf?la=en&hash=B54ED1B3A5F368129E1203DD71B14AE309E1008F

⁴ Built as Burt Heywood’s Boarding House or cookhouse on Main Street, this building later served as the Seventh Day Adventist church. The congregation built a new building and moved its predecessor to its present location in 1972. Following 25 years as a senior center, the building, now owned by Hilltop Alano, Inc., serves as a meeting place for people recovering from alcohol and addiction.

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Exterior

The Weippe Community Hall is a two-story, front-gabled log building with a rectangular-shaped footprint, symmetrical massing, and a one-story, gabled projecting front porch. Built in 1924, the rustic rural community hall sits on a partially raised reinforced concrete foundation. Its walls are untreated lodgepole pine logs hand-hewn on three sides, with the outside face rounded.

Horizontal peeled lodgepole pine logs approximately 8 inches in diameter are secured to vertical logs every 10 feet with mortise and tenon joints and large spikes to create the side walls.

Traditional oakum chinking (twisted jute fibers) seals the cracks between the logs. Windows are 6-over-1 double-hung wood sash throughout, each covered with a pine wood shutter. The first story windows are centered between each of the ten vertical logs. The roof is clad in corrugated metal and features shed-roof dormers on the north and south sides, each with four windows. The gable ends of the main block and projecting front porch are clad in shake. Other character-defining exterior features include the largely symmetrical fenestration pattern on both stories and exposed rafter tails.

The **west (front) elevation** faces west toward a gravel parking area and East 1st Street. A front-gabled projecting porch supported by wooden posts and with six cement steps shelters the primary entrance. Windows with wood shutters flank each side of the main entry porch; the window to the left is double the width of the one to the right (an exception to the otherwise symmetrical fenestration pattern throughout the building). The original main entry door is made of 2 x 4-inch boards joined with cross boards on the bottom half and is accented with decorative metal hinges and pull handle. The six-light transom window above the main entry door is covered with wood on the outside, and four small windows in the door have also been covered with wood. A door opening to the right of the main entry is infilled with logs. The porch floor is untreated wood plank decking. On the second floor, four windows with wood shutters are located in the gable end.

The **north (side) elevation** faces 2nd Avenue East across a parking area and small lawn. Nine windows of the same size with pine wood shutters occupy the first floor. The windows are symmetrically arranged between each vertical log position and spaced 10 feet apart. A shed dormer is centered on the corrugated metal roof and features four windows with shutters.

The **east (rear) elevation** faces 2nd Street East and the park beyond. It features a one-story hipped roof extension that projects outward from the main rectangular front-gabled block, with wooden doors on the left and right ends of its east elevation. A window covered with plywood is located to the right of the left door. The 1998 woodshed projects from the back of the building, featuring wood-cladding and a shed roof pitched toward the east. A covered cement handicap access ramp extends from the door on the north end. It is supported by wooden posts and has a shed roof pitched to the north. On the second level, four windows with wood shutters are located in the gable end.

The **south (side) elevation** overlooks a lawn and neighboring residential yards and is a mirror image of the north elevation. Nine windows of the same size with pine wood shutters occupy the first floor. The windows are symmetrically arranged between each vertical log position and

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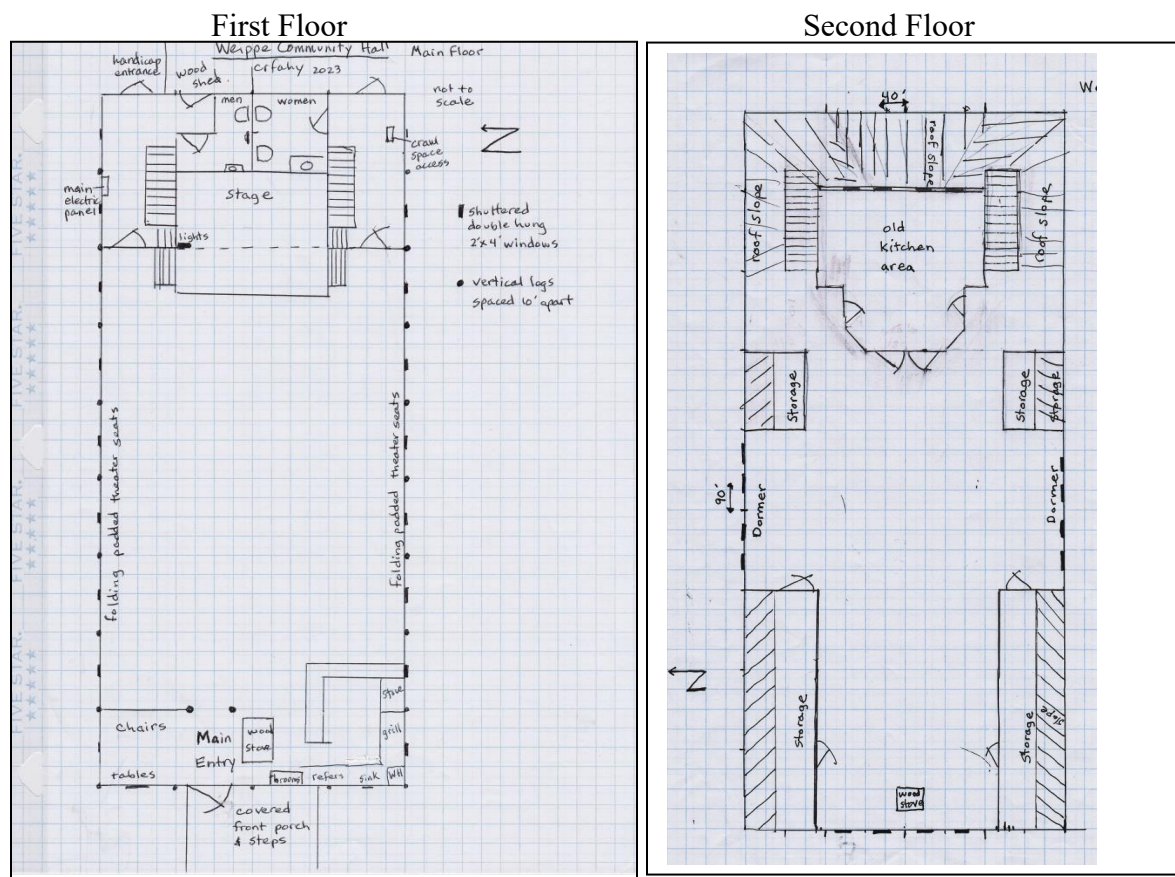
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spaced 10 feet apart. A shed dormer is centered on the corrugated metal roof and features four windows with shutters.

Interior

The interior is rustic in character with exposed log construction and accommodates generously sized community gathering spaces on both the first and second stories. Primary spaces on the first floor include a large main hall with a stage, kitchen, storage area, and restrooms (the latter are part of a 1960 addition) while the second floor contains a second sizable hall and a large kitchen area. The first and second floors have exposed wooden floors throughout. Most of the interior spaces feature exposed log rafters, tie beams, and joists. Horizontal pine boards clad the walls in the primary spaces.



The **main hall**, located just inside the primary entrance, is approximately 2,600 square feet and occupies most of the first story, with additional ancillary spaces and the stage area at the east end. Its ceiling is approximately 12-foot high, with six large (14 inch) log cross beams that span the walls at the 10-foot vertical upright positions. Smaller (7 inch) exposed log joists run transversely between the bigger crossbeams to support the upper-level floorboards. Metal ductwork runs along the center of the main floor ceiling from a wood stove centered on the west wall towards the stage to disperse heat. Exposed conduit runs from the center along the main

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joists to power the bare light bulbs on each side of the hall. Horizontal pine boards painted white dating to 1949 clad the log walls. Two upright 8-inch diameter logs are tied to a cross beam in the ceiling to frame the primary entrance and connect to a log dividing rail that defines a storage area for tables and chairs in the northwest corner of the room. To the right, the southwest corner of this large space contains a kitchen area added in 1962. Padded yellow folding stadium type seating lines the south and north walls. The proscenium and projecting stage at the east end of this large space are the main hall's focal points; stairs at the north and south sides of the stage provide access to this area from the main floor. The waxed hardwood flooring, installed in the early 1940s over the original floor, has a pattern that draws the eye toward the center of the room.

The first-floor **ancillary spaces** and the staircases to the second floor are located off hallways through the wooden doors to the left and right of the stage. Each hallway has exposed log walls that clearly show the original broadax marks. The hallways provide access to the backstage area via a small staircase immediately through the doors from the main hall, restrooms, staircases to the upper level with small storage areas below the steps, and the original wooden exit doors on the east (rear) elevation. The south corridor contains an entry panel to the crawl space below the building while the north corridor provides access to the woodshed attached to the east (rear) elevation.

The **second story**, accessed by wooden staircases on the north and south sides of the building, contains an approximately 1,580 square-foot meeting hall and a kitchen area of about 450 square feet. Six-inch tongue and groove wood flooring runs the length of the entire second floor. In the **upstairs hall**, exposed 12-inch log tie beams span the width of the room at the same 10 foot spacing as the downstairs. Metal rods tie the log straining beams into the downstairs log crossbeams at the 10-foot intervals. The ridgeline is approximately 18 feet from the floor. Exposed log rafters support chip board sheeting along the vaulted ceiling. Horizontal wood boards line the 8-foot-high walls to create storage closets that run along both sides of the sloped roofline. Shed roof-type dormers on both the south and north sides of the hall create more usable space. There is a small wood stove on the west end and two ceiling fans to circulate the heat. Light fixtures with bare blubs are centrally mounted on the north and south walls between the straining beams.

The **upstairs kitchen** is on the east end of the second floor, accessed from the south and north stairways and has double doors that open into the second-story hall to the west. Cabinets line the south wall, and a refrigerator and cook stove are on the north wall. Four shuttered double hung windows line the east side. The ceiling is tongue and groove with a storage area above in the attic.

Change Over Time and Integrity

The Weippe Community Hall has functioned as a community center from its opening in 1924 until the present. During its 100 years of operation, the property has undergone minor alterations typical of a rural community hall to accommodate its continued use, evolving functional

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requirements, and to address maintenance issues. The known alterations to the property after the historic period are as follows:

- 1990: The Weippe Community Club constructed a 16 x 10-foot covered front porch addition on the west elevation.
- 1992: The City of Weippe installed an RV dump station and public water access facility on the east side of the community hall.
- 1995: Upgrades to first-floor community hall kitchen.
- 1996: A Farm Bill grant funded the replacement of the community hall's leaking metal and shake roof with a new metal roof. The project also included the replacement of the sheetrock ceiling on the second floor with oriented strand board (OSB).
- 1996: Contractor Randy Bitler and local volunteers constructed a new foundation. As originally completed, the community hall sat on log sills that rested on a gravel base. The sill logs, especially those under the outside walls decayed over the years, and the building settled. The interior sill logs that supported the floor did not decay as quickly. The differential settlement created a very noticeable hump in the center of the floor, which got worse over time. A grant funded the replacement of the rotted logs, the construction of a new reinforced concrete foundation, and the addition of a drainage system.⁵
- 1998: Woodshed addition measuring 14 x 14 feet built on the east elevation.
- 1999: Concrete front stairs built following the completion of the new foundation.
- 2005: Stage was extended; curtains and a sound system installed.
- 2006: Upgrades to building's electrical wiring completed.
- 2019: The women's restroom in the main hall remodeled and 3 x 6-foot broom closet built on west wall between the kitchen and wood furnace.

⁵ The foundation project started with adding support by laying small pieces of carpet on the floor. Then 6"x8"x 8" timbers were laid on the floor where upright post would go to stringers holding the upstairs floor. Tunnels were then dug to place two 90"x12"x12" steel beams crosswise on top of 12"x12" beams. 8" beams carried the floor joists so that the timbers underneath could be replaced. The building was then raised to 3' about finished grade. Excavations for footings were done and footings for cross timbers were then poured. They are 8"x18" with two #5 bars of rebar steel. Concrete columns were poured for cross timbers. The outside perimeter footing was then poured, 8"x24" with three #5 rebar steel. 10" concrete stem wall was poured on top of footing. Walls have vertical #4 rebar steel on 2' centers, 3 #4 rebar on 2' centers, and 3 #4 rebar horizontally, with Simpson mud sill anchors on 6' centers. 2"x10" pressure treated mud sill was placed on top of foam sill seal on wall. All timbers were replaced before walls were poured. The building was then set back down on the new foundation, the steel removed, and the vents installed.

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The Weippe Community Hall retains integrity across the seven aspects, including location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It remains in its original location where it was built in 1924 in the center of the small rural community of Weippe and thus retains its integrity of location. The property also retains integrity of setting, despite minor alterations to the neighboring park with the installation of new amenities.⁶ Despite alterations to the building since the period of significance (as noted in the above list), the property clearly exhibits the characteristics of a purpose-built, early 20th century rural community hall and later alterations are modest in terms of its overall design and do not significantly impact the character-defining features. As a result, it remains an excellent example of its type that clearly conveys its original function, historic associations, and period of construction.

⁶ These changes include improvements to the adjoining park such as the installation of horseshoe pits in 2001, new playground equipment in 2006-2009, and a basketball court in 2016.

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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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1924-1975

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

George McKinnon (builder)

Arthur Eaton (contractor)

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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.)

The Weippe Community Hall is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) at the local level of significance. It is eligible under NRHP Criterion A in the area of significance of ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION for its association with the Weippe Community Club and the long history of community events held in the building for the past 100 years. It is also eligible under Criterion A in the area of significance of SOCIAL HISTORY for its association with the Weippe Community Club's role as a key community service organization in north-central Idaho. It has been an integral part of the town's history and continues to serve its original function as a meeting place and recreational center for the local community. The period of significance is 1924-1975, reflecting the community hall's operation from its completion until the present and the NRHP's fifty-year-old age convention.

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

Early History of Weippe

Weippe, a small city in north-central Idaho, occupies the ancestral lands of the Nimiipuu (Nez Perce) people. Today, the federally recognized Tribe is based in Lapwai, Idaho located approximately 64 miles to the west of Weippe. Nimiipuu settlement patterns traditionally consisted of both permanent winter villages in lower elevation canyons along such rivers as the Clearwater, Salmon, and Snake, and also temporary summer camps at higher elevations. Traditionally, during the summer months, the Nimiipuu would come to the Weippe Prairie to harvest roots and berries and to hunt wild game. Nestled against the foothills of the Bitterroot Mountains, the Weippe Prairie has long been home to several Nimiipuu bands.

In mid-September 1805, the Nimiipuu made their first known contact with Euro-Americans when they encountered members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition near present-day Weippe. The Nimiipuu offered the expedition hospitality, feeding them buffalo, dried salmon and berries, as well as camas roots cooked in various ways. The expedition returned to Weippe in June 1806 on their eastward journey. Three Nimiipuu guides helped the expedition travel onward from Weippe when deep snow in the nearby mountains threatened to thwart the latter's homebound journey eastward.

In late 1860, the discovery of gold at Pierce, 12 miles from Weippe, led to a gold rush in the Clearwater area the following year that resulted in mass settler trespass into Nimiipuu land. The settlement of Weippe began with the arrival of Wellington (the Duke) Landon in 1874. After mining in Elk City and the Pierce mining district, he took a claim in the area in 1875 and built many improvements on his homestead. Following the loss of his improvements and stock during the Nez Perce War of 1877, Landon operated a store and saloon and acquired additional land.

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In 1880, Patrick Gaffney settled with his family on property contiguous to Landon's land and managed the area's first post office. Gaffney named the fledgling community "Weippe," a misspelling of "o-yi-pe," the Nimiipuu name for the area. (The name became official in 1888). The U.S. government surveyed a large area of land between Lolo Creek and the North Fork of the Clearwater River in 1884, and the official opening of this territory was immediately followed by new waves of settlers. By 1891 all the land on the Weippe prairie was taken up by homesteaders farming in the rich prairie soil. The following year Landon platted over forty acres of his homestead as the original Weippe townsite. In 1913, the newly established Clearwater Improvement Company, commonly referred to as the 'Townsite Company,' purchased 160 acres from A.M Roberts and R.J. Anderson's ranch to expand the city limits.

By 1920, Weippe's population had grown to 297.⁷ Between 1900 and 1930, half of all men in northern Idaho and eastern Washington were employed in the lumber industry, outranking all other product manufacturing during that time.⁸ A large lumber mill was a prominent feature of Weippe in those days and continues to be the major industry in the area.

The Weippe Commercial Club and the Development of the Weippe Community Hall

The development of the Weippe Community Hall is a result of the efforts of the Weippe Commercial Club, which recognized the growing rural community's need for a gathering place for entertainment and social events.⁹ From the outset, the group's efforts attracted considerable regional interest. In addition to Weippe businessmen and area farmers, the crowd of over 100 attendees at the club's inaugural meeting held at a local boarding house on February 12, 1924, included delegates from Greer, Lewiston, Orofino, and Pierce. The group immediately took up its task, formally establishing itself and electing nine directors to lead the development of a community meeting hall.¹⁰ Just ten days later, the Commercial Club held a special meeting to plan a hall to be used for public functions. The group determined that a log building could easily be constructed at comparatively small expense by utilizing the cheap timber readily available in the vicinity. With the proper planning and consideration of an artistic setting among the trees, the group envisioned that the proposed building would be an additional item of beauty to the community, besides serving as a center for church and social purposes. The club appointed a special committee to investigate the matter and submit plans and their findings at the next meeting.

⁷ 14th Census of the United States 1920 Bulletin, Accessed April 24, 2024

<https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1920/bulletins/demographics/population-id-number-of-inhabitants.pdf>

⁸ 'Soaked Timber in Idaho's Clearwater River' Accessed April 2024

<https://www.intermountainhistories.org/items/show/104>

⁹ Much of the information in the nomination concerning the development and early history of the Weippe Community Hall comes from Eva Wolf, a Weippe historian, who published an article on the property in the *Clearwater Tribune* on March 16, 1989. She was the longtime secretary for the Weippe Community Club and maintained the records, deeds and memorabilia for the Community Hall.

¹⁰ The delegates were John Gaffney, Pierce; M.B. Erb, Greer; W.W. Parker, Fraser; Wm. F Schmidt, Lolo area; E. Nat Brown, Harvey J Waters, R.G. Hamilton, E.X. Durant and H. Burt Heywood, Weippe.

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By March 1924, the committee had not yet determined the location of the planned community hall, although discussions had initially focused on a site in the local park. The park occupied a large tract of land located north of the Weippe Grammer School that had been purchased by a group of Weippe businessmen from the Clearwater Improvement Company for public park purposes and partly developed with a community ballpark. Ultimately, the committee was unable to secure a location in the park itself for the new community hall and instead selected a site on an adjoining block to the west. The Clearwater Improvement Company, which owned the land, agreed to donate a portion of this block for the new building.



The Weippe Community Hall in 1924 (Photo from the Hilltop Heritage Museum)

Following the selection of the building site, construction of the hall proceeded immediately and concurrently with additional fundraising efforts. A March 1924 article in the local paper reported that the financial committee for the community building showed excellent progress in fundraising and the building committee was going ahead in raising subscriptions of labor. Various benefits occurred during the summer of 1924 to add funds to the building campaign. Pierce residents, for example, organized a highly successful fundraising dance and midnight supper in May that attracted 175 people from throughout the area.¹¹

Volunteer labor constructed the new log building, working under the supervision of Arthur Eaton, a local contractor. Weippe residents donated most of the logs used to construct the hall, and local farmers and loggers brought in their teams to help clear the wooded site. George McKinnon of Orofino was the principal builder, overseeing the axmen who hewed and shaped the logs used for construction of the hall. Reputedly, he was the best broadax man in Clearwater County.

¹¹ Longtime Weippe residents later recalled that the town was deserted that evening and that nearly every car, truck, and wheelbarrow was on the road to Pierce.

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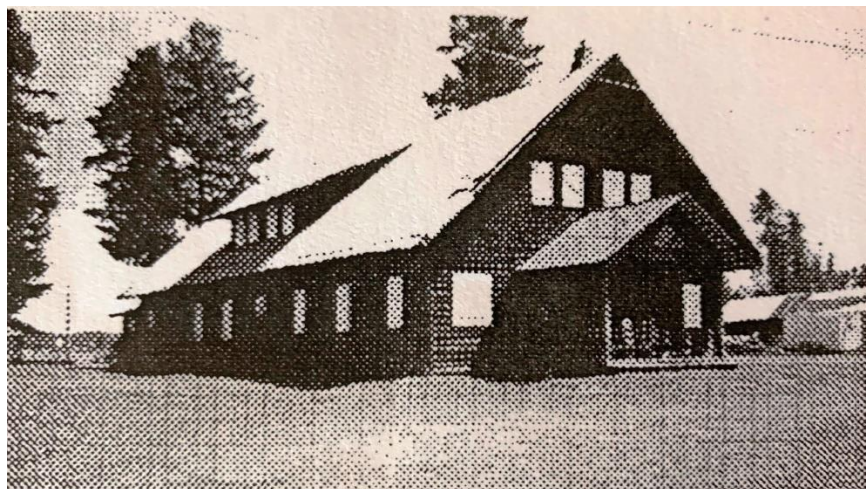
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The opening of the Community Hall was a major event for Weippe and the surrounding area. In June 1924, as the building neared completion, the Weippe Commercial Club and the Ladies Community Club formed committees to plan for a big get-together to be held on the Fourth of July to celebrate the opening. The celebration began at noon with a free community meal of barbecued beef, baked beans, and bread. The Weippe Commercial Club sold candy, ice cream, pie, and soda. Later in the day, the nearly complete Community Hall was dedicated. Events lasted into the evening, culminating in a dance in the new hall that lasted until 4:00 am.

History of the Weippe Community Hall 1924-1975

The Weippe Community Hall quickly established itself as an important gathering place for the surrounding rural community, serving as the venue for a wide variety of events from the outset. In the 1950s, for example, the hall hosted Valentine's and St. Patrick's Day events for the local gun club, Thanksgiving for the Rebekah's, the Odd Fellow's at Christmas, and roller skating. Dances have been especially popular throughout the decades and served as a steady source of income for the club. Rental fees for the hall brought in revenue to cover its ongoing expenses such as electricity, insurance, repairs, and other miscellaneous costs like piano tuning.¹² In addition to events in the hall itself, the club organized baseball teams and provided free transportation for community members to travel to Orofino for swimming lessons.



The Weippe Community Hall in 1996. Photo from 1996 grant application for foundation.

The Weippe Commercial Club became the Weippe Community Club when it incorporated in 1948, emerging as a key community service organization in rural north-central Idaho.¹³ Its inaugural board of directions was comprised of members from various community organizations,

¹² In 1950, for example, the fee to rent the hall was \$2.50, with an additional \$5.00 fee if it was not cleaned after use.

¹³ Business Filings with the Idaho Secretary of State show three different listings for The Weippe Community Club, Inc. 1948-1973 (85254), 1989-1990 (279072) and 2002-current 2024 (435930). The Club was designated as a 501 (c) (3) organization in 2002 as a public charity organization. Members pay a five-dollar fee to join the club. In the 1950s, the membership fee was fifty cents. During these years, membership lists record over 275 members. Members can vote for board members and any proposals put before the membership.

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including the American Legion, local churches, the Grange, and the Odd Fellows.¹⁴ In June 1949, the Clearwater Improvement Company donated the deed for the Community Hall and surrounding property to the Community Club, specifying that the land must be used for community purposes only. In addition to overseeing the operation and maintenance of the hall, the Community Club dedicated itself to activities that would benefit the small rural community. Among its earliest such endeavors was assisting with local Boy Scout meetings. In the 1950s, the club participated in planning for a local hospital and to improve sanitary conditions in the area. During the 1960s, the Community Club voted to sponsor a local volunteer fire department to be known as the Weippe Community Voluntary Fire Department. Ultimately, the Community Club purchased and donated land to build the fire house. The club began also leasing portions of its property to the city for the development of a park and to the local school district in the 1960s.

In addition to serving as a vital local venue for recreation and entertainment, the Weippe Community Hall emerged as the focus of sustained community engagement and volunteerism. Led by the Community Club, volunteers worked continually throughout the hall's first 50 years both to improve and maintain the hall and surrounding property. During a particularly productive workday in May of 1949, community members cleaned the grounds of the Community Hall, repaired the cesspool, fixed the front porch, and installed aluminum roofing. Volunteers, with the use of donated Clearwater County and state equipment, subsequently worked to level and improve the ballpark located on the Community Club's property to the east of the hall. Later that same year, volunteers covered the log walls in the main hall with horizontal pine boards, which they then painted white. During the 1950s, volunteers removed dead trees around the building and cut them into firewood. They also completed repairs to the roof. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, volunteers facilitated the installation of water lines and toilets in the hall. While the Community Club hired a local builder to construct the restrooms in the east end of the hall, volunteers dug ditches, sawed logs, and installed windows.

Later History

The Weippe Community Club, today designated as a 501 (c) (3), has continued to operate the Community Hall for the past 50 years.¹⁵ During this period, the hall has been the venue for innumerable events that brought local people together and provided an important role in the welfare of the community, including dances, fundraisers, funerals, HeadStart programs, meetings, school reunions, Special Olympics events, and weddings. For many years, until 1978, the Community Hall served as a local polling precinct before Clearwater County transferred voting to the Weippe City Hall.¹⁶ The local Hilltop Theater group, which was active from 1991 through 2017, staged entertainment two to three times per year at the hall.

¹⁴ The Weippe Community Club's inaugural board of directions included John Gatz of the Odd Fellows, Eldon Hutchins of the American Legion, Lawrence Judd of the Grange, A.O. Wells/Harmon Bonner with a local church, and Robert Hamilton of the Community Club.

¹⁵ In 2024, the Community Club has 12 active members. The non-profit has continued its philanthropic efforts in the local community as well. These activities have included leasing a portion of its land to the local school district from 1963 to 2009 and partnering with the city to develop another parcel as a park.

¹⁶ Clearwater County transferred voting to the city hall after determining that lighting in the Community Hall was not sufficient for election purposes.

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Notably, the Weippe Community Hall hosted the Camas Festival each May between 2000 and 2020. Programs commemorated the 200+ years since the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery explored what is now Idaho, especially the Weippe/Orofino area. The festival offered different venues from Dutch oven dinners, programs by local, state, regional and national historians, music and dancing by Nimiipuu dancers and guest dancers leading round and square dances, local Community Theatre and guest theatre productions. The Retreat to Weippe run/walk allowed hundreds of people to participate retracing the steps that the Corps walked, then reliving the stories at functions at the Community Hall. The Community Club sponsored fundraising breakfasts each year. The impact the Community Hall made hosting this event over two decades led to its establishment of the Weippe Discovery Center in partnership with the Clearwater County Free Library District, allowing for the community to continue telling the story of the Nimiipuu encounter with Lewis and Clark.



The Weippe Community Hall in 1992. Photo from Hilltop Heritage Museum

In 1989, Eva Wolfe, local historian and Community Club secretary, published an article in the *Clearwater Tribune* about the early history of the Weippe Community Hall that led to renewed interest and investment in this landmark that continues today. Most notably, the volunteer-led ongoing rehabilitation of the building has included the installation of a new concrete foundation, a new roof, a new front porch, and kitchen and restroom upgrades.

The Weippe Community Hall, the only building in the area large enough to accommodate as many as 300 people, remains both a prominent local landmark and the location for numerous community and family activities each year. Most nearby residents have attended activities in the Community Hall and have special memories associated with the building, as expressed in the dedicated group of volunteers who are vital to its ongoing maintenance and operation. Importantly, the Weippe Community Hall remains not only a part of the history and contemporary life of Weippe itself but also for the residents of surrounding rural communities in Clearwater County, who travel to the city for activities in the hall.

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Summary

The Weippe Community Hall is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION at the local level of significance for its association with the Weippe Community Club and the long history of community events held in the building during the past century. It is also eligible under Criterion A in the area of SOCIAL HISTORY at the local level for its association with the Weippe Community Club's community service in north-central Idaho. Built in 1924 as the result of community engagement and volunteerism, the building is an excellent example of a rural community hall and has remained a vital part of Weippe and a gathering place for local area residents. Community activities associated with the building include dances, fundraising benefits, memorials, theater productions, and weddings, among many others. Despite minor alterations following the 1924-1975 period of significance, the Weippe Community Hall retains integrity and clearly conveys its original function, historic associations, and period of construction.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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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 nominated property is located on a parcel of approximately 0.41 acres in Section 15, Township 35 North, Range 4 East, Boise Principal Meridian. The parcel number is RPC0200017004B and is described as follows: WEIPPE BROWNS 2ND ADDN SEC 15 35N 4E LOTS 4, 5, 6 BLK 17 LOG COMMUNITY HALL IMP 63-105L

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property comprises the parcel owned by the Weippe Community Club containing the community hall building and its immediate surroundings.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Colleen Fahy/Treasurer
organization: Weippe Community Club
street & number: 363 Woods Rd.
city or town: Weippe state: ID zip code: 83553
e-mail: crfahy@gmail.com
telephone: (208) 435-4693
date: May 13, 2025

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Additional Documentation

The following items are included with the completed form:

Figure 1: Regional Location Map

Figure 2: Local Location Map

Figure 3: Clearwater County Parcel Map (Boundary Map)

Figure 4: Exterior Photo Key

Figures 5-6: Interior Floor Plans and Photo Keys

Figure 7: Weippe Community Hall in 1924

Figure 8: Weippe aerial view c. 1930

Figure 9: Weippe Community Hall in 1992

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: Weippe Community Hall

City or Vicinity: Weippe

County: Clearwater State: Idaho

Photographers: Colleen Fahy and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

Date Photographed: April 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 24: Overview of Weippe Community Hall from Main Street. Camera looking southeast.

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2 of 24: Overview of Weippe Community Hall from parking lot on neighboring property.
Camera looking east.

3 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, view of west (front) elevation. Camera looking east.

4 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, view of west (front) and south (side) elevations. Camera looking northeast.

5 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, view of south (side) elevation. Camera looking north.

6 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, view of south (side) and east (rear) elevations. Camera looking northwest.

7 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, view of east (rear) elevation. Camera looking west.

8 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, view of east (rear) and north (side) elevations. Camera looking southwest.

9 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, view of north (side) elevation. Camera looking south.

10 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, view of north (side) and west (front) elevations. Camera looking southeast.

11 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, detail of porch on west (front) elevation. Camera looking northeast.

12 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, detail of main entrance on west (front) elevation. Camera looking northeast.

13 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, main hall from main entrance looking towards stage.
Camera looking east.

14 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, main hall looking from stage towards main entrance.
Camera looking west.

15 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, detail of kitchen area in main hall. Camera looking southwest.

16 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, detail of storage area in main hall. Camera looking northwest.

17 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, north stairway corridor. Camera looking east.

18 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, entrance to stage from north stairway corridor. Camera looking southwest.

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- 19 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, north stairway corridor. Camera looking west.
- 20 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, upstairs hall. Camera looking west.
- 21 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, upstairs hall. Camera looking east.
- 22 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, detail of entrance to former kitchen in upstairs hall.
Camera looking east.
- 23 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, detail of upstairs former kitchen area. Camera looking east.
- 24 of 24: Weippe Community Hall, view of south upper stair landing and kitchen. Camera looking northeast.

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: Local Location Map, Google Maps

Weippe Community Hall at 216 East First Street (North at top). Note: East 2nd Street mislabeled as Birch Street on Google Maps.



Latitude: 46.223884 Longitude: -115.560980

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Figure 3: Clearwater County Parcel Map (Boundary Map). Clearwater County Assessor Weippe Community Club at 216 East First Street outlined in red. Parcel No. RPC0200017004B. (North at top)



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Figure 4: Exterior Photo Key, Google Earth

Arrows indicate direction of camera (North at top). Note: East 2nd Street mislabeled as Birch Street on Google Earth.



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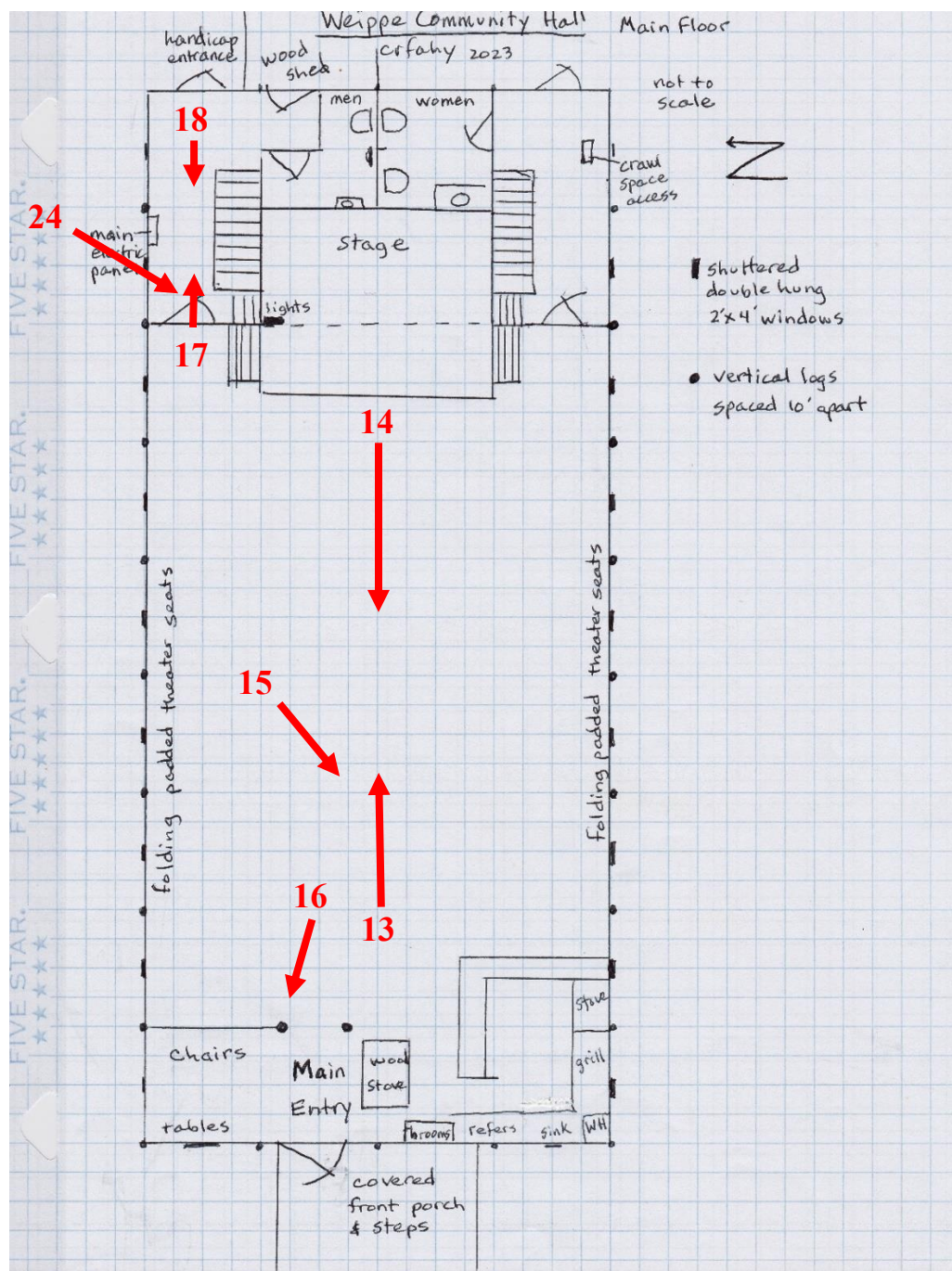
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Figure 5: Main Floor Plan and Photo Key

Arrows indicate direction of camera (North at left)



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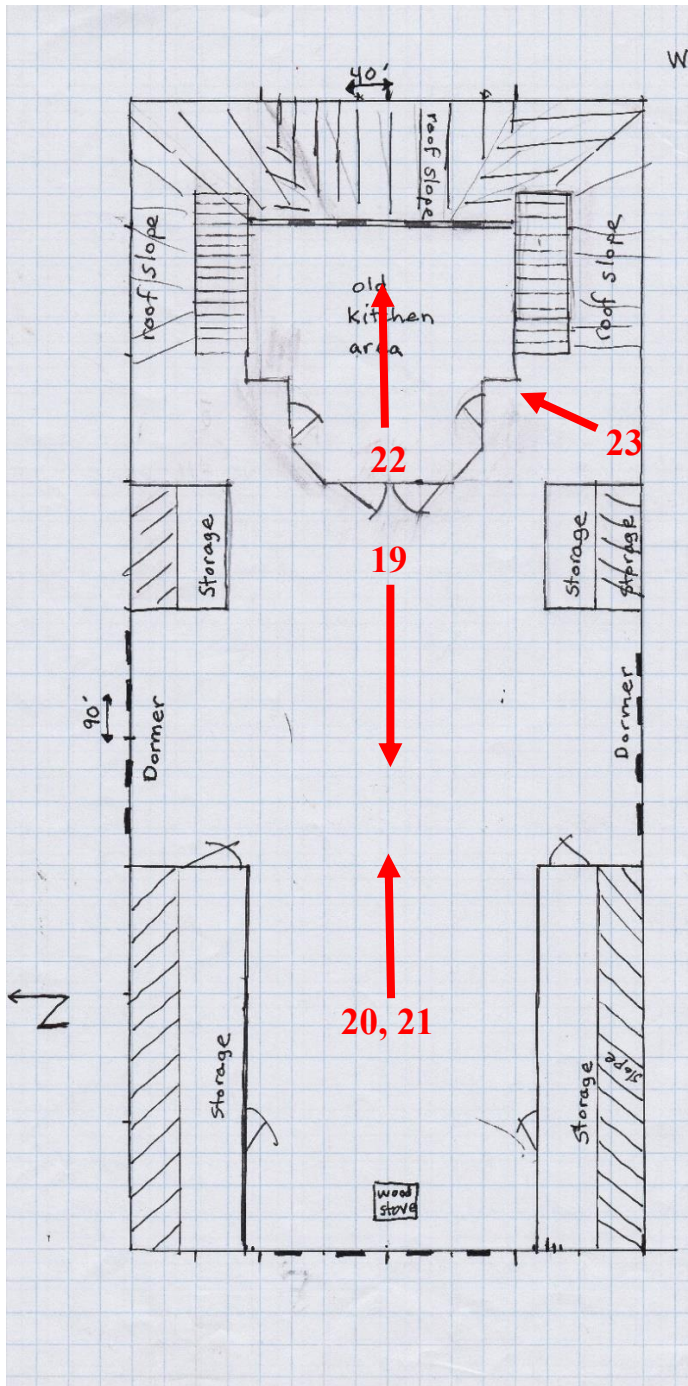
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Figure 6: Upper-Level Floor Plan and Photo Key
Arrows indicate direction of camera (North at left)



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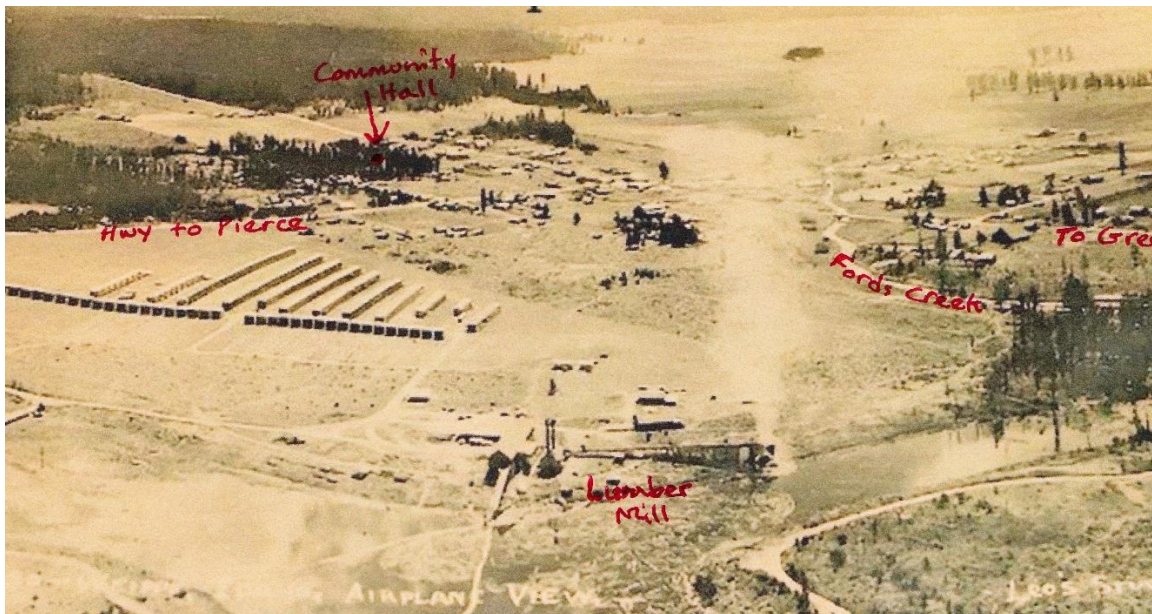
Figure 7: Weippe Community Hall in 1924

Source: Hilltop Heritage Museum



Figure 8: Weippe aerial postcard view c. 1930, Leo Studio, Spokane, Washington, Photographer

Source: Weippe Community Club



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Figure 9: Weippe Community Hall in 1992

Source: Hilltop Heritage Museum



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Photo 1: Overview of Weippe Community Hall from Main Street. Camera looking southeast.



Photo 2: Overview of Weippe Community Hall from parking lot on neighboring property. Camera looking east.



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Photo 3: Weippe Community Hall, view of west (front) elevation. Camera looking east.



Photo 4: Weippe Community Hall, view of west (front) and south (side) elevations. Camera looking northeast.



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Photo 5: Weippe Community Hall, view of south (side) elevation. Camera looking north.



Photo 6: Weippe Community Hall, view of south (side) and east (rear) elevations. Camera looking northwest.



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Photo 7: Weippe Community Hall, view of east (rear) elevation. Camera looking west.



Photo 8: Weippe Community Hall, view of east (rear) and north (side) elevations. Camera looking southwest.



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Photo 9: Weippe Community Hall, view of north (side) elevation. Camera looking south.



Photo 10: Weippe Community Hall, view of north (side) and west (front) elevations. Camera looking southeast.



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Photo 11: Weippe Community Hall, detail of porch on west (front) elevation. Camera looking northeast.



Photo 12: Weippe Community Hall, detail of main entrance on west (front) elevation. Camera looking northeast.



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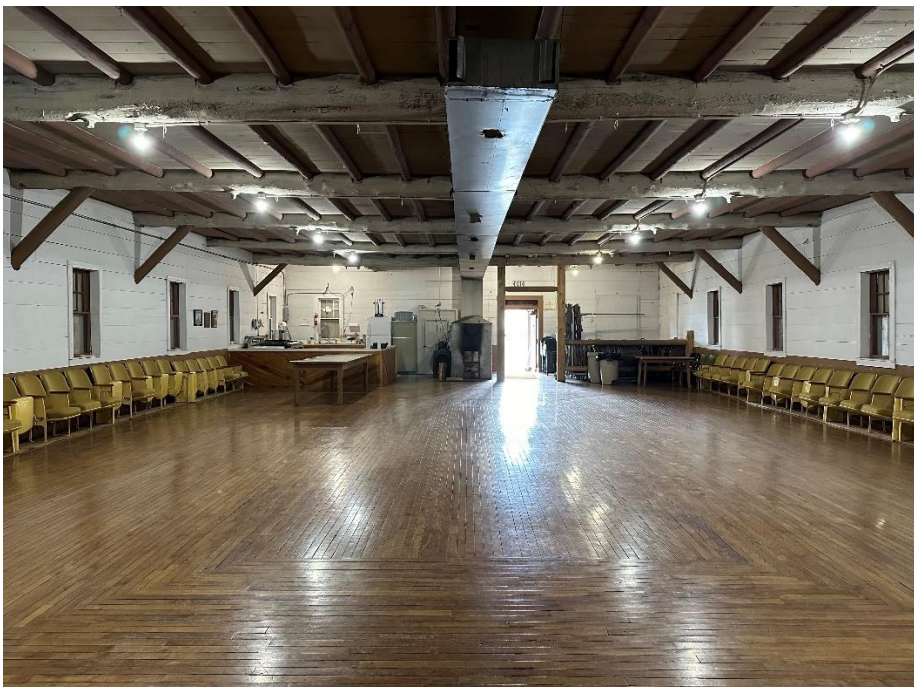
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Photo 13: Weippe Community Hall, main hall from main entrance looking towards stage. Camera looking east.



Photo 14: Weippe Community Hall, main hall looking from stage towards main entrance. Camera looking west.



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Photo 15: Weippe Community Hall, detail of kitchen area in main hall. Camera looking southwest.



Photo 16: Weippe Community Hall, detail of storage area in main hall. Camera looking northwest.



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Photo 17: Weippe Community Hall, north stairway corridor. Camera looking east.



Photo 18: Weippe Community Hall, entrance to stage from north stairway corridor. Camera looking southwest.



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Photo 19: Weippe Community Hall, north stairway corridor. Camera looking west.



Photo 20: Weippe Community Hall, upstairs hall. Camera looking west.



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Photo 21: Weippe Community Hall, upstairs hall. Camera looking east.



Photo 22: Weippe Community Hall, detail of entrance to former kitchen in upstairs hall. Camera looking east.



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Photo 23: Weippe Community Hall, detail of upstairs former kitchen area. Camera looking east.



Photo 24: Weippe Community Hall, view of south upper stair landing and kitchen. Camera looking northeast.

